

The Elgin Review

Wednesday
April 3, 2024

Volume 141, Number 28

1 Section, 16 Pages

USPS Number 172-8220

\$1.00

In Brief

EPS to host next bloodmobile on April 17

To be held at KC Hall.

The date has been announced for the next visit of the Red Cross Bloodmobile to Elgin.

The Elgin Public High School blood drive will be held on Wednesday, April 17. The bloodmobile will be accepting donations from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. that day at the Knights of Columbus Hall. For an appointment, contact the high school at (402) 843-2455 or schedule online at www.redcross-blood.org.

District #18 School Board to meet next week

On April 10 at the high school.

Members of the District #18 Board of Education will gather next week for their regular monthly meeting.

The school board is scheduled to meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10 in the meeting room in the high school building. Among the items expected to be on the agenda is approval of a chair lift replacement. The item was tabled at last month's meeting.

The meeting is open to the public.

St John's annual potato bake to be held Sunday

At Werner Hall.

The annual St. John's the Baptist Catholic Church 'potato bake' in Petersburg will be held Sunday, April 7, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Training exercise held Saturday

The skies were cold and damp and the ground was wet, perfect conditions Saturday morning for Elgin firefighters and EMTs to conduct a training exercise south of town. Beginning at 8 a.m., the house was fully ablaze by 10 a.m. Also on hand were training conductors from Norfolk, O'Neill and Neligh to lend assistance during the practice. The house was the former home of the Harold Heithoff family which was sold along with the farmland.

Former student sentenced for Summerland bus incident

By Sandy Schroth

court reporter

Koda Fernau, 20, of Neligh was an 18-year-old Summerland High School student when he made comments on a school bus and at a Neligh workplace in September 2022, comments that resulted in his arrest on a felony terroristic threat charge.

According to arrest affidavits, while riding on a Summerland bus Sept. 2, 2022, Fernau commented about purchasing a firearm and, while at work on Sept. 9, threatened to "shoot up" a Summerland bus.

Fernau pleaded guilty early this year to a Class 1 misdemeanor charge of third-degree assault (threaten another in a menacing manner), as part of a plea deal with Antelope County Attorney Joe Smith.

On March 27, in the Antelope County district courtroom in Neligh, the Honorable James Kube sentenced Fernau to a 12-month term of probation. Probation terms included, among other things, 90 days incarceration, with credit given for 90 days previously served, and payment of \$390 in probation fees and \$147 costs.

Kube specifically forbid use of any THC/CBD products unless approved by a healthcare provider.

When questioned by Kube, Fernau admitted use of "legal stuff like CBD, not THC," for medicinal purposes.

He also told the judge about mental health diagnoses, prescribed treatment, and effects of the treatment. The

judge cautioned him about self-medication.

"I'm concerned with THC/CDB use," Kube said. "It's so easy to get."

Fernau told the judge he had no memory of the incident on the bus. "I don't remember because with my anger, I get so mad I black out," he said.

Fernau's appointed attorney, Ryan Stover of Norfolk, noted his client's "unstable upbringing, sometimes with mom, sometimes with dad," along with the number of schools he had attended.

The judge acknowledged Fernau's difficult childhood.

Stover said no threats were made directly to kids on the school bus but that comments made later at his workplace were interpreted as threatening.

Two others were also sentenced to probation by Kube on March 27.

Max Kerkman, 35, of Oakdale appeared alongside his attorney, Brad Montag of Norfolk, for sentencing on a Class 4 felony, possession of oxycodone.

Smith, citing a note in Kerkman's file alleging possession of a "fake urine bottle," requested a drug test. Kube said it was "not unreasonable" and ordered the test. Kerkman tested clean.

Kerkman told the judge he has not used drugs since June 2023 and had successfully completed both inpatient and outpatient treatment in August 2023.

"For the first time in my life, I feel like I am going in the right direction," Kerkman told Kube.

Kube ordered Kerkman to serve a

24-month probation term, including payment of \$750 in probation fees and \$137 costs.

He was ordered to serve 90 days in the county jail before probation ends, unless waived, with credit given for 21 days previously served.

Kerkman was arrested following a June 6, 2023, federal post-release supervision search at his Oakdale residence.

Matthew P. Williams, 52, of Omaha, was sentenced to concurrent 18-month terms of probation for a Class 3A felony, terroristic threats and a Class 1 misdemeanor, third-degree assault, both committed June 21, 2022, in Neligh.

Probation conditions include payment of \$570 probation fees and \$137 costs.

He was also ordered to serve 90 days in the Antelope County Jail prior to end of probation, unless waived, with credit for 57 days previously served, and 90 days of continuous alcohol monitoring.

Williams maintained firearms in his possession were not loaded and that he had not pointed a weapon at anyone.

He said he pleaded no contest in January, "just to get case over."

"He hasn't had any kind of violent history at all," Antelope County public defender Pat Carney said. "He received a pretty good beating...was hospitalized and transferred to Omaha."

Smith said a presentence report was "generally favorable to (Williams)."

Cleanup Day now set for April 19

Plans have been finalized for Elgin's annual Community Cleanup Day.

Meeting Monday night, the Elgin City Council was told by City Clerk Kristin Childers that dumpsters have been lined up for the event.

The date will be Friday, April 19.

On that day, dumpsters will be placed on the lot directly north of Elgin Livestock. There, residents will be allowed to bring items to be hauled away.

At the end of the day the dumpsters will be picked up.

Started years ago by the Elgin Community/Chamber of Commerce, the annual event provides residents with an opportunity to dispose of non-trash items no longer needed or wanted.

Also at Monday night's meeting, the Council approved hiring summer pool help. Sue Vanis will return as pool manager as will Ass't. Manager Karin Kinney. Part-time lifeguards hired were Kylie Lichtenberg, Kayton Zwingman, Haley Parks, Tessa Barlow, Brooke Kinney and Camry Kittelson.

Last month the council hired Julie Thiessen as an assistant pool manager along with part-time lifeguards Natalie Burenheide and Kaitey Schumacher. Also, Baylee Busted was hired as office summer help.

Parks elected to BCHC Foundation Board of Directors

ALBION – Boone County Health Center (BCHC) announced Monday the appointment of Anne Parks to its Foundation Board. With a rich background in banking and a deep commitment to community service, Parks brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her new role.

Anne Parks, a native of Petersburg, has served as Vice President at Bank of Elgin for 19 years.

Parks' connection to Boone County Health Center runs deep, having previously served as the Foundation Director from 2001 to 2004.

She brings firsthand experience of the Health Center's evolution and its vital role in the community.

Parks, alongside her husband Ed, a Crop Insurance Adjuster, and their children Brent, Evan, and Jenna, understands the importance of accessible healthcare in rural areas. Her commitment to the Health Center's mission stems from the belief in the invaluable services it provides locally. As a long-term resident of the area, Parks has personally witnessed the transformative impact of Boone County Health Center on her family's health and well-being.

When asked about her motivations for joining the Foundation Board, Parks emphasized the critical support the Foundation offers to the Health Center, underscoring the significance of local healthcare services. She expressed her excitement about BCHC's advancements, particularly highlighting the Rudman Rehabilitation Center, a project she was closely involved with in its early stages.

Parks encourages individuals considering healthcare options to explore Boone County Health Center, emphasizing its exceptional team of providers and comprehensive services available locally. She believes that by choosing Boone County Health Center, patients gain access to high-quality care without the need to travel to urban areas.

Boone County Health Center is honored to welcome Anne Parks to its Foundation Board and looks forward to her valuable contributions towards advancing healthcare accessibility and excellence in the community.



Anne Parks

Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

Notice of Organization — Botha Farm & Truck Repair, LLC

Backflow Prevention — City of Elgin

Annual Water Report — City of Elgin

Notice to Creditors — Estate of Lois Schutt

Notice of Organization — Schindler Brothers Trucking, LLC

Notice of Organization — RJ KOENIG, LLC

The Elgin Review is the official legal newspaper for Antelope County, Antelope County Historical Society, Village of Bartlett, Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District, the State of Nebraska, the City of Elgin and Elgin School District #18.

Weather

The high temperature last week was 55 degrees recorded on Thursday, March 28.

The low during the same period was 9 degrees recorded on Tuesday, March 26.

Altogether, 1.80 of an inch of precipitation was recorded last week.

Following are the high and low temperatures, and precipitation amounts, as recorded by Elgin weather observer Leonard Orlowski.

Date	High	Low	Prec
March 24	38	25	1.56
March 25	25	10	.24
March 26	21	09	.00
March 27	36	15	.00
March 28	55	27	.00
March 29	54	33	.00
March 30	40	32	.00
Total for last week			2.00
Total for March			2.00
Total precipitation 2024			4.03



Stuhrs present large gifts at Development Dinner

As part of PJCC's 38th annual Development Dinner last month, Ken and Joan Stuhr made two large donations. In separate checks they donated \$10,000 to the Lavigne Challenge Grant and \$20,000 to PJCC Development. Accepting the donations was Father John Norman who, earlier in the evening, presented the Stuhrs with the Annual Roncalli Award.

E-R photo/LMorgan

Dole® Chopped Salad Kits....\$2.99
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Red or Green Seedless Grapes.....\$2.99 lb

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Photos submitted

First-place winners of the AMH Move it 2 Lose It Challenge were: Women's Division - anonymous and Team Division (l-r) - Christie Counts, Heather Dawson, Amy Wright and Diann Arehart. A total of 53 individuals participated in the contest, collectively losing 504 lbs.

AMH "Move It 2 Lose It" winners announced

This year, Antelope Memorial Hospital's "Move it 2 Lose it Challenge" was held for ten weeks from January 8th through March 18th. It was coordinated by Vanessa Carpenter, AMH Wellness Director. A total of 504 pounds were collectively lost by the 53 contestants, consisting of eight men, 25 women and five teams of four.



Dr. Troy Dawson

In the Men's Division, the first-place winner was Dr. Troy Dawson, losing 15.8% of his total body weight. Other winners included - second-place: Tim Kester, Jr. (Clearwater) and third-place: Darrel Timm (Neligh). "During the contest, I paid closer attention to what I ate

and exercised more than usual," said Dr. Dawson.

"Participating in the competition really helped me to stay on track in reaching my goals. Plus, the routine texts from Vanessa were very encouraging and helpful too!"

Winners in the Women's Division were - first-place: anonymous, second-place: Peggy Green (Neligh) and third-place: Joyce Blackmore (Royal).

In the Team Division, the first-place team winners were the "Fat Bottom Girls", collectively losing 8.8% of their total body weight. Its members (AMH clinic employees) included Heather Dawson, Amy Wright and Diann Arehart (all of Neligh) and Christie Counts (Tilden).

"I feel the contest really helped me to succeed," said Heather. "When you are part of a team, your teammates help to

encourage and support you in reaching your goals. You don't want to let them down. And being competitive, it drives you to do your best to win! I think Vanessa was also very helpful in offering tips along the way. If we were struggling, she provided feedback on possible reasons and solutions for it while encouraging us to keep going!"

The second-place team was the "Flabulous Four" (all were members of AMH's physical therapy department), consisting of Corrie Reynolds and Sarah Carlin (Neligh), Ryan Gallagher (Norfolk) and Brenda Sokol (Verdigré). The third-place team was "Tachy & Unstable" (AMH employees), consisting of Trish Murray and Megan Funk (Neligh), Crystal Smith (Meadow Grove) and Alexa Brandt (Orchard).

"This was my first year leading the challenge and I was

pleased with the turnout of contestants," said Carpenter. "It was awesome to see the competition between participants in all categories. It was also exciting to see the results at the end of every week and to be involved in everyone's weight loss journey. Some of the participants who were a little apprehensive about joining the challenge - ended up surprising themselves by how much weight they lost. That was rewarding to see!"

Prize donations were made by Antelope Memorial Hospital, AMH Wellness, Overland Rehab, Snider Custom Cuts, Old Mill Truck Sales, Tinsley Grain, 319 Graphics, Neligh Eye Physicians, P.C., Thriftway Market, Clearwater Market, Blood Pharmacy, Subway and Cubby's.

ESU 8 Art Show starts Friday

The 2024 ESU 8 K-12 Art Show will be held at the Antelope County Fairgrounds Building in Neligh.

K-12 student artwork will be displayed from across our seven-county region - Antelope, Boyd, Holt, Madison, Pierce, Stanton, and Wheeler Counties, all served by ESU 8.

The show will be open to the public for viewing from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. each day starting Friday, April 5, through Sunday, April 7, 2024.

There is no fee to enjoy the art and everyone is welcome to attend!

Gateway Theatre
136 South 4th Street
402-395-3394 Albion, NE

Stop in & pick up a **POP & POPCORN TO GO** even if you're not viewing the movie.

Show Time...7:30 pm
Ticket sales begin at 7:00 pm
Concessions begin at 7:00 pm

Fri., Sat. & Sun.
April 5, 6 & 7

KUNG FU PANDA 4
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Next Weekend: Arthur the King

Antelope Family Practice Clinics

Neligh Clinic: 402.887.5440

Early Morning Clinics (7:30 - 9 am) & Sat. Morning

Dr. Troy Dawson
Dr. Roger Rudloff
Dr. Kelli Osborn
Dr. Josh Thoendel

Angela Sucha, PA-C
Amanda Wolff, APRN
Ashley Niewohner, APRN

Clearwater Clinic: 402.485.2277

Dr. Troy Dawson
Dr. Roger Rudloff

Dr. Josh Thoendel
Angela Sucha, PA-C

Elgin Clinic: 402.843.5444

Dr. Troy Dawson
Dr. Roger Rudloff

Ashley Niewohner, APRN

Orchard Clinic: 402.893.5155

Dr. Troy Dawson
Angela Sucha, PA-C

Tilden Clinic: 402.368.5520

Dr. Roger Rudloff
Dr. Kelli Osborn

Amanda Wolff, APRN

Call for an appointment
Antelope Memorial Hospital
Healing Body, Mind and Spirit
amhne.org

PJCC students practicing for 'Wizard of Oz' musical

Pope John XXIII Central Catholic students will present The Wizard of Oz in the St. Boniface Auditorium on Friday and Sunday, April 26 and April 28, at 7 p.m.

This faithful adaptation features all the most beloved songs and moments from the

1939 classic film, brought to life onstage.

Young Dorothy Gale is swept away by a tornado from her Kansas farm to the magical land of Oz. There, she encounters a host of whimsical characters: good witches, bad witches, animals that talk, scarecrows that walk, and things magical to behold.

To find her way home, she must journey along the Yellow Brick Road to see the mysterious and all-powerful Wizard in Emerald City.

Along the way, she makes new friends, but must also brave many dangers, including the Wicked Witch of the West, who will stop at nothing to get her hands on Dorothy's magical ruby slippers. To make it home safely, Dorothy must learn an important lesson: there's no place like home. Contact the high school or any cast member for tickets.

Director is Mr. Lowgaen Schmidt assisted by Mrs. Karin Kinney and accompanist Mrs. Emily Heithoff.

Courthouse News

All fines in addition to \$49 court costs. *Denotes an amendment of original charge(s).

Anthony Ortega, Plainview, NE 03/12/2024, No operator's license, fined \$75.00- Koch.

Daniel M Garcia, Sioux City, IA 03/11/2024, No operator's license, fined \$75.00- Kavan.

Remigio Jovani Verdin, Creighton, NE, 03/09/2024, No operator's license, Overweight on axle or group of axles, Violate load contents requirements, fined \$225.00- Detlefsen.

William J Demerath, Plainview, NE 03/09/2024, Acts declared unlawful-license/driving, Fined \$50.00- Detlefsen.

James R Witt, Clearwater, NE 03/28/2017, Assault-Threaten/Menacing Manner, Fined \$500.00- Shaver.

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Full-time
Wage: \$25-\$34, based on experience,

PATIENT ACCESS REPRESENTATIVE
Part-time
Wage: \$16-\$19, based on experience



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402-887-4151

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Going in many directions.

Farmer? Rancher?

Many of you are both. So Spring is when things start getting a little crazy. Cows are calving - in good weather and bad - so you have to watch them closely all hours of the day. As the days warm up, those fields are calling to you, saying "it's time", time to get them ready for planting.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Don't let the Sun go down on your wrath

Sing with me -- here comes the sun, doo, doo, doo, doo . . . by the Beatles, 1969. And then, on a sunny day, it's gone, as what's predicted to occur during the total eclipse on April 8th.

Here in the Elgin area, check it out from 12:39 pm to 3:06 pm on that Monday. According to the Eclipse Explorer on the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administrator (NASA) website, partial coverage will be visible in all 48 contiguous states with 73.4 percent of the sun obscured in the 68636 (Elgin and vicinity) zip code area. Total sun coverage stretches on a narrow track from Texas to Maine.

Though a cloudy day can ruin all the fun, if you get a chance to view this phenomenon, get out there. We last saw a total eclipse of the sun on

Community Calendar

* See ad/story in this week's Elgin Review

Wednesday - Friday, April 3-5
Elgin FFA members attending State FFA Convention in Lincoln.

Thursday - Friday, April 4-5
Educational Service Unit #8 K-12 Art Show in Neligh.

Sunday, April 7
St John The Baptist Catholic Church Potato Bake @ Werner Hall from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Petersburg* • Neligh Knights of Columbus Ham & Beef Dinner at the American Legion Hall*.

Wednesday, April 10
District #18 Board of Education regular meeting @ 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17
Red Cross Bloodmobile from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Elgin KC Hall*.

Friday, April 19
PJ/SB Visitation Day* • Elgin Cleanup Day*.

Saturday, April 20
EPS/PICC Junior/Senior Prom.

Events listing courtesy of
ELGIN VETERANS' MEDICAL CLINIC
an outpatient department of Boone County Health Center
116 N 2nd Street, Elgin
402.843.5910

August 21, 2017 down by York, NE. Absolutely spectacular. In the middle of a sunny day, the yellow sphere gets sliced away, little by little, until darkness falls on the land. The automatic streetlights come on, the birds quit chirping, the ambient temperature drops, and a hush of awe falls over the crowd.

Eclipse comes from the Greek word meaning abandonment and the belief that the sun, its rays critical for all life, was abandoning the earth. Some cultures think an eclipse is the harbinger of doom and gloom such as a war or natural disaster.

Certainly, if you don't take precautionary measures when viewing an eclipse, your doom could be permanent eyesight damage. Without special glasses, looking at the eclipse results in retinal damage. Serious eye injury, even while wearing the protective glasses, can also

be caused if you look through a camera lens, telescope, or binoculars. There are fake eclipse glasses out there, too, so be careful. The sun is a massive star in the center of the universe fueled by hydrogen and is estimated to begin 'star death' in five billion years from now. What color is it? No, not yellow; it's actually white.

The earth's atmosphere scatters blue light better than red light. The slight deficit in blue light results in the eye perceiving the sun to be yellow.

Sun exposure can be a good thing for humans, since about 15 minutes a day gives a natural dose of Vitamin D which helps metabolize calcium for strong bones. More than that amount of direct daily sunlight can cause, well, you know, skin cancer, cataracts, unsightly and prematurely aged skin, and hurtful burns. Most sun worshippers think the sun rises and sets on them and have a way of taking these warnings and putting them where the sun doesn't shine.

Everybody longs for glorious, sun shiny days to lift spirits, and those sun-kissed fruits and vegetables from the garden to tantalize the tastebuds. Sunsets are a favorite, too, though the Hawaiians, who brag about the beautiful ones glimmering off the ocean waves have nothing on those we experience right here in Nebraska. A sunset clause in legislation (or a contract) refers to the day the legislation/contract expires.

Some good advice is not to let the sun go down on your wrath, meaning to get conflict worked out before it festers too long. And another -- the sun will come out tomorrow, the first line of the song Tomorrow from the musical Annie. When you never seem to get your day in the sun, remember there's always hope.

And from hubby Rick, a trusted consultant on these bimonthly columns, lots of hit songs focus on sun. He reeled off these lines -- "sunshine keeps falling on my head, walking on sunshine, ain't no sunshine when she's gone, here comes the sun, good day sunshine, and you are my sunshine". Are you humming the tunes?

Yes, each sun-up signals a new day with exciting opportunities. You might say there's nothing new under the sun for you around here. Not true on April 8th. Make hay while the sun shines and take it all in. The next total eclipse of the sun here is August 23, 2044.

Send comments to jane.schuchardt@gmail.com.

Say What?



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Jane Schuchardt

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U2E Fun Run: A Cinco de Mayo celebration for a cause

Boone County Health Center (BCHC) is excited to announce the upcoming U2E (Upgrade to Excellence) Fun Run, a vibrant Cinco de Mayo-themed event aimed at raising funds for new 3D mammography equipment. The event will take place on Sunday, May 5, 2024, starting at the BCHC Medical Clinic at 1:00 p.m.

Participants of all ages and abilities are invited to join in the festivities. They can choose to walk or run a one-mile course or tackle the challenge of a five-kilometer run. Dressing up in Cinco de Mayo attire is encouraged to add to the festive atmosphere.

Awards will be presented to the top three finishers in various categories:

- Kids 1 Mile
- Girls 5K (15 & under)
- Boys 5K (15 & under)
- Women 16+
- Men 16+

Exciting prizes await all participants, with giveaways including a pair of shoes from Fleet Feet Lincoln generously donated by Lori Borer, a \$50 voucher from Main Street Sports courtesy of John Buck, an Arbonne Basket provided

by Kelsie Vandenberg, and a special prize for the best-dressed team or individual runner.

Following the race, participants can refuel with delicious walking tacos and refreshments, which are included in the registration fee. Spectators can make a free-will donation.

Registration for the U2E Fun Run is open now and will remain open until race time. The participation fee is \$25 per runner. The deadline for registration that includes a shirt on race day is April 15. To register, visit the Boone County Health Center's website under the "Who We Are" and "Foundation" sections.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to support a worthy cause while enjoying a fun-filled Cinco de Mayo celebration with your community. Please mark your calendars for May 5, lace up your running shoes, and let's make a difference together!

For more information, please get in touch with Sarah Grape at the BCHC Foundation office at 402-395-3145.

Looking Back

The Elgin Review

Sixty Years Ago

April 2, 1964

Bernard Kluthe, St. Boniface High School sophomore, was named to the Norfolk Daily News Top 20 Team. This is a mythical team, selected from basketball squads from northeast Nebraska. Each member selected received a certificate award.

Married Sunday evening in the home of Mrs. Arthur Bergman were Mrs. Patricia Bergman West and Jerry Lee Sheets. County Judge Royal V. Sheets, uncle of the groom, officiated at the seven-thirty o'clock ceremony. The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Arthur Bergman. Parents of the bridegroom are Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Sheets.

There was an extra large turnout to the forest meeting of the Jubilee Belles' organization Tuesday evening. Bill Hopkins, Mrs. John Riedmiller and Mrs. A. C. Carlson had charge of the meeting along with ladies of the Kum-Dubl Club, who in turn sold the official badges and bonnets to the ladies.

Don Herley, secretary, and Hubert Schrage, were re-elected Saturday night at the annual meeting of the Elgin Rural Fire Protection District. Both were for three year terms.

Pvt. Francis J. Stuhr, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Stuhr, Petersburg, completed an eight-week communications center specialist course at the Army Southeastern Signal School, Fort Gordon, Ga., Mar. 27. The 18-year-old soldier entered the Army in October 1963 and completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Fifty Years Ago

April 4, 1974

Antelope, Knox and Pierce counties have a new Area Home Extension Agent. She is Kay Mumm, replacing Kerrol Skokan. Kay is a 1973 graduate of the College of Home Economics at the University of Nebraska. She has formerly worked with low income families and has worked part time with the Extension Service.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Blanchard of Tecumseh, Mich. and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Busted announce the engagement of their children Deborah Ann to Robert Thomas. The bride-to-be attended Eastern Michigan University and is a Realtor Graduate of the University of Michigan. Debbie is an Associate Broker and Vice-President of Howland-Alder Realty, Inc. of Ann Arbor, Mich.

The Village Board of Trustees has purchased and has installed a new siren located south of the Mrs. Irma Wilkinson residence. As of this writing the siren was coupled only to the fire phones and not to the automatic telephone system which controls the three daytime alarms.

Ron Haskin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Haskin, has enlisted in the Air Force and is taking his basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Petersburg for Leo J. Julich, 67, of Des Moines, Ia. and formerly of Petersburg. Rev. Ralph Lammers officiated and burial was made in the parish cemetery.

Thirty Years Ago

March 30, 1994

A total of \$12,500 in special contributions and memorials were given during the eighth annual Pope John Development Dinner last Sunday evening, March 27, at St. Boniface Auditorium. More than 275 people attended the dinner. Theme of the evening was "Support Catholic Schools."

Chris Sullivan of Elgin High School and Brady Hofer of Pope John Central Catholic have been named Elgin's representatives to Cornhusker Boys State this year. Boys State will be held June 5-11 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The program provides an opportunity for more than 400 boys from throughout Nebraska to learn about state government and citizenship.

Jazz musicians Tony and Joey Gulizia of Omaha combined with various Elgin Public School musical groups to present a concert in the school gym last Thursday evening. The brothers spent a full week serving as artists-in-residence at the school.

Elgin Volunteer Fire Department responded to a rural fire call on Friday, March 25, at 1:30 p.m. The trash fire was located eight miles west, eight miles north and four miles west of Elgin, on land owned by Vera Dell Stuhr. The fire was extinguished in a short time with no damage.

An Elgin Public Schools team placed second in Division II of the "Odyssey of the Mind" Regional Contest held last Saturday, March 26, at Norfolk. The team now qualifies for the State OM Competition in Kearney on Saturday, April 9.

Twenty Years Ago

April 7, 2004

About 100 Elgin area youngsters turned out last Saturday for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, held at the city park.

Four Elgin businesses were burglarized early Wednesday morning, March 31, and the cases may be related to burglaries that occurred in other area towns during the same time period. The burglaries were discovered last Wednesday morning at Central Valley Ag Feed and Elevator Office, the CVA Fertilizer Plant and Boomerang's bar in Elgin, as well as the CVA Service Station north of town. Police Chief Bob Moore said a total of about \$1,000 in cash and tools were stolen in the Elgin burglaries.

New donations this week boosted the total in the Elgin "Dollars for Scholars" 2004 fund drive to more than \$1,000. The fund drive seeks to raise \$3,000 again this year, which would provide six \$500 scholarships for local students. The fund drive total increased by \$150 during the past week, and stood at \$1,021.25 as of Tuesday, April 6.

An irrigated parcel of 182 acres brought a record price for Antelope County Farmland at the Irene C. Moser Estate auction last Friday, April 2, in Elgin. Niewohner Brothers, Inc. was the top bidder, at \$3,340 per acre, for Tract #1, which is located three miles north of Elgin.

About 200 people gathered for the 18th annual Pope John Development Dinner last Sunday evening, April 4, at Werner Hall in Petersburg. Officers of the Pope John Development organization are Dave Beckman, president; Lori Beckman, vice president, and Sandi Henn, secretary.

YOUR VISION IS OUR TRADITION - SINCE 1949.



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"To be persuasive, we must be believable; to be believable, we must be credible; credible, we must be truthful."

Edward R. Murrow

Nebraska Unicameral makes headlines for the wrong reason

Celebrating American Agriculture

"If you can't say something nice, don't say nothing at all." - Thumper "The tongue of the wise makes knowledge attractive, but the mouth of fools blurts out foolishness." Proverbs 15:2 CSB

Nebraska's unique one-house Legislature is back in the national spotlight again, for all the wrong reasons again. Last year it was a session-slowng filibuster accomplished by a couple senators who were upset with a bill restricting access to medical services for transgender youth.

This year, it's a move seeking to censure a senator who personalized a reading from a book about a violent rape by inserting the names of several of his colleagues.

One of them just happened to be involved in last year's marathon filibuster.

A censure resolution was filed against State Sen. Steve Halloran of Hastings for his antics during debate on a bill that would ban some library books.

The bill failed to win first-round approval when the smoke had cleared and the dust settled.

Halloran, during floor debate broadcast to the public, read the graphic account of a rape from a book many want to see banned while interjecting the name "Senator Cavanaugh" several times during the reading, which included a demand for oral sex. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh of Omaha and her brother John both serve in the current Legislature. Machaela earned national headlines last year with her relentless filibuster.

Some senators labeled the Halloran speech as aggressive and hurtful. Halloran said his comments were an attempt to make people listen to his speech and that any outrage should not be directed at him, but at the profane book he read, which is available in some school libraries.

Sorry Senator Halloran, what you did was hurtful. In fact, it was not only unnecessary, but it was also foolish. You should've listened to Thumper. You have certainly given face to the verse from Proverbs.

The chair of the Legislature's Executive Board, State Sen. Ray Aguilar of Grand Island, said he had personally launched an investigation under the Legislature's workforce harassment policy against Halloran.

The investigation must be completed within 45 days. But Sen. Cavanaugh and Sen. Julie Slama of Sterling — who both said they have been victimized by sexual violence — said the legislative investigation was inadequate and wouldn't allow the Halloran comments to be addressed until after the 2024 session ends later this month.

The Legislature has three options to punish a lawmaker under its policies: to issue a letter of reprimand, to censure the lawmaker or to expel the lawmaker.

A censure is a statement of "extreme disapproval" of a senator's conduct or actions.

"We don't need an investigation," Slama told the Nebraska Examiner. "It only serves to slow walk this and sweep it under the rug."

I agree. Halloran is term-limited and will leave office when his successor is sworn in next January. But the Legislature and all Nebraskans deserve better.

Get this thing done sooner than later. If he is somehow exonerated, so be it. I doubt he will be, the video evidence is pretty damning.

Halloran said that constitutional questions have been raised about the free speech protections for state senators when giving floor speeches.

He said he has talked to the attorney general about getting a legal opinion on that issue.

Sure, and walking into a crowded theater and screaming fire should probably be litigated. But it is also a stupid thing to do.

Halloran has made it clear he isn't going to resign, as some have called for. Sadly, any apology he has issued so far has been lame. He needs to do that with the same boldness in which he read from the book.

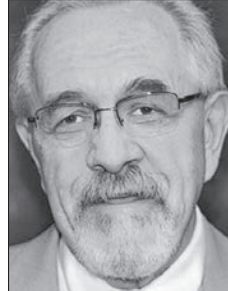
I don't know what you were thinking senator, if you were even thinking. But you've gone too far.

If you survive the censure vote and are adamant about not resigning, at least listen to Thumper. "If you can't say something nice, don't say nothing at all."

J.L. Schmidt has been covering Nebraska government and politics since 1979. He has been a registered Independent for 25 years.

CAPITOL VIEW

Nebraska Press Association



Statehouse Correspondent J.L. Schmidt



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FROM THE HILL



Congressman Adrian Smith

As we transition into spring with farmers and ranchers hard at work, recognizing National Agriculture Week is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate how far we've come in American agriculture. According to a USDA study published in 2020, the seven decades from 1948 to 2017 saw American farmers nearly triple their total output while overall inputs remained nearly constant—a staggering achievement.

In 2023, despite battling severe drought, American producers posted record yields. This is only possible because of the miracle of innovation. Our producers rise early and work until the sun goes down, tirelessly testing and applying new ideas to make the most of the resources God has given. In Congress, I am committed to doing everything I can to support their efforts and reject backward policies which have contributed to elevated input costs.

On September 29, 2023, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) proposed a rule creating a new category of investment companies called Natural Asset Companies (NACs). NACs would allow investors to hold controlling stakes in environmental resources including both public and private lands.

I have serious concerns about the consequences of placing interests in rural areas in the hands of outside interests who may feel the need to restrict productivity in the name of a radical climate agenda. I was pleased to see the proposed SEC rule was withdrawn in January 2024.

Nebraskans' commitment to caring for the land is what makes Nebraska so special. With valuable water resources in the Ogallala Aquifer and more miles of river than any other state, Nebraska has been well served by a unique structure of Natural Resource District (NRD) governance. I recently met with NRD officers from across the Third District empowering dynamic response to local needs and ensuring our state is better positioned for the future.

To continue to succeed, we will need to carry forward our commitment to innovation and sound policy. I have heard from young people and college students who grew up within the agriculture community who are nervous about their future in the industry. Many have a strong desire to come back and work on the family farm.

To make matters worse, a recent change to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form threatens to negatively impact families by eliminating an exemption for certain assets held by family farms and small businesses in its calculation of an applicant's family's net worth. Because this unfairly factors in land and implements which would need to be sold off to access its monetary value, I am a cosponsor of the Family Farm and Small Business Exemption Act. This bill restores the FAFSA exemption ensuring the financial condition of rural Americans is not evaluated unfairly when applying for college.

Third District producers have an incredible calling to feed the world. They are meeting it because producers themselves are utilizing new information to spark advancement and create a more productive environment. I am working hard to support their efforts through sound agricultural policy, such as my work on the Agricultural Trade Caucus, advocating for a strong Farm Bill, and my support for legislation to prevent foreign adversaries from purchasing American farmland. Thanks to scientific advancement and our strength to come together as Americans, there's unlimited potential for greater growth and prosperity.

Surveillance in plain sight

Imagine if at the height of the last Cold War, the Soviet Union had control over the largest television network in the United States. Imagine if its surveillance network tracked the opinions, interests, and movements of millions of Americans. Imagine this propaganda and espionage campaign targeted the next generation of American leaders.

Today, we're facing all of that combined in just one unassuming social media app: TikTok. TikTok has quickly grown into a cultural obsession. It negatively influences an entire generation of young Americans, affecting how they act, think, and even vote.

The app vacuums up tons of information from the phones of the adolescents and adults using it. But there's another side to the story.

TikTok is owned by a Chinese company called ByteDance with clear links to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The CCP's data laws mean the government is authorized to access any and all of that information. U.S. lawmakers and intelligence officials worry the Chinese government are using TikTok to direct algorithms, showing Americans videos aimed to shape their views, including in the upcoming presidential election. People's preferences, what grabs their attention, what they pause to look at on the app — China could use all this to influence how people act, how they think, and how they vote both now and in the future.

This is no conspiracy theory. Both Democrats and Republicans — including the Biden and Trump administrations — have scrutinized ByteDance about privacy concerns, surveillance issues, and human rights abuses in connection with the CCP.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released a report last month verifying that CCP propaganda "targeted candidates from both political parties" via TikTok during the 2022 election cycle. It found that China's influence capabilities, including its use artificial intelligence, are only growing.

The problem isn't ultimately TikTok. The problem is that its ownership allows the Chinese government to manipulate the app for surveillance purposes.

In Congress, we need a unified strategy to combat the surveillance threats we're seeing in new technology and apps, particularly threats from China. While a few legislative solutions have been proposed, it will take significant work to craft a bill we can all agree on.

But we're making headway. The House recently passed H.R. 7521, the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act, with a large bipartisan majority of 352-65. The bill is now ready for consideration in the Senate. I support H.R. 7521, and I'm hopeful that my colleagues will join me in support of this widely bipartisan consensus on a serious national security issue. Key leaders in the Senate have endorsed the bill, but we may have more work to do before everyone gets on board. If we're able to pass it, President Biden has indicated he would sign it into law.

The bill would allow the president to name certain social media apps, like TikTok, as national security threats if they are determined to be under the control of foreign adversaries. Apps deemed a risk would be banned from app stores unless they sever ties with foreign-controlled entities within 180 days. It wouldn't get automatically rid of TikTok, but it would force TikTok to move away from Chinese ownership if the app is to remain accessible here in the U.S. If we get rid of TikTok's Chinese ownership, we'll eliminate this national security threat.

During the Cold War, we would never have allowed the Soviet Union to have such direct access to the American population. We would have defended against sophisticated propaganda and espionage networks. But today, those networks are hidden in plain sight, in the pockets of millions of Americans. It's critical to protect our nation from the CCP's national security threats, and I'm confident we can work together on legislation in Congress that will get the job done.

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator Deb Fischer

Have An Opinion? Express It In A 'Letter To The Editor'

Numbers to Know

President Joe Biden, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20510; phone (202) 456-1111.

U.S. Senate Website: www.senate.gov

Senator Deb Fischer: 825 B Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510. Phone: (202) 224-6551. Fax: (202) 228-1325.

Senator Pete Ricketts: 386A Senate Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Phone (202) 224-4224.

U.S. House Website: www.house.gov

Representative Adrian Smith: 503 House Office Bldg., Wash-

ington, D.C. 20515-2703. Phone (202) 225-6435. Fax: (202) 225-0207. E-mail: http://www.house.gov/writerep/.

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Volume 141, Wednesday, April 3, 2024 Number 28

Published weekly on Wednesday at Elgin, NE 68636 Entered at the Elgin Post Office and Periodicals Postage Paid at Elgin, NE 68636 Telephone: (402) 843-5500



ER Publishing LLC Dennis L. & Lynell M. Morgan Publishers and Editors

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Convicts accused of violating post-release terms

Two defendants who are accused of absconding from post-release supervision appeared in front of the Honorable James Kube in the Antelope County district courtroom in Neligh last week.

Haiden Sleister denied information to revoke his post-release supervision. Kube set an evidentiary hearing for April 24. He was remanded to the custody of Antelope County Sheriff Bob Moore, pending posting of \$5,000, 10% cash bond.

Sleister's court-appointed attorney, Brad Ewalt of Norfolk, requested bond modification to personal recognizance. Antelope County attorney Joe Smith objected.

"I don't think (PR bond) is appropriate," the CA said. "He was on the run when we caught him." Kube denied the request.

Sleister was sentenced by Kube in February 2023 to one year in the Antelope County Jail, to be followed by an 18-month stint of PRS, on a conviction of criminal attempt, possession of a stolen firearm, a Class 3A felony. He allegedly violated the PRS when arrested recently in Madison County.

Harley Snyder admitted violating conditions of his PRS but Smith said the probation

officer reported he was back in compliance. Smith moved for a 60-day continuance to see if he remains in good standing.

Kube continued the hearing to May 29.

"You have a good opportunity here," Kube told Snyder. "(There's a) good chance Mr. Smith may dismiss (motion to revoke PRS) - It's in your hands, do what you need to do."

Snyder is represented by Ewalt. On Dec. 21, 2022, the Honorable Mark Johnson sentenced Snyder to a 24-month term of probation for March 21, 2022, break-ins at two Neligh businesses, Neligh Vape Shop and the Fit Stop. One of Snyder's co-defendants in the break-in, Trinity Graham, also faced Kube - to show cause on a motion for contempt for delinquent restitution payments.

Graham requested court-appointed counsel. Kube appointed Martin Klein of Neligh and continued the show-cause hearing to April 24. Graham was remanded to Moore's custody, to complete a probation sanction he was serving.

Jessica Mace failed to appear to show cause for delinquent payment of restitution. Smith asked the judge to note her failure to appear. Kube so noted.

Proposed state budget will still record balance

Many pieces of legislation will still need to be cut back

This week, the Legislature gave final round approval to the two mid-biennium budget adjustment bills: LB1412 and LB1413. The two bills will increase the state budget by 2.7 percent in this two-year period which is up from the 2.3 percent approved last year.

The primary factor for this growth is due to an additional \$94.1 million increase in state aid to schools which accounts for actual education spending now that LB583 has taken effect. LB583 was passed last year as a revision to the TEEOSA school funding formula to provide \$1,500 in per-student foundational aid and increase state support for special education. The budget package also included \$20 million to cover rising costs for foster care and \$15 million to increase nursing staff at the Lincoln Regional Center, the state-run psychiatric hospital.

The budget will still leave a record balance of \$549.2 million in the state's General Fund by the end of the current budget period. The Appropriations Committee argued that the cushion in this budget cycle is needed to make last year's tax cuts and school aid package sustainable into the future. Based on the Legislative Fiscal Office's projections, this cushion is expected to shrink to \$62.3 million in the next biennium, which ends June 30, 2027.

The newly adopted budget does leave senators with about \$20 million available on the floor. However, current estimates show that if every bill that has cleared at least one round of debate were to pass, the state's General Fund would be about \$272 million short of the legally required budget reserve. As such, many pieces of legislation with a substantial

fiscal impact will need to be cut back or risk not being scheduled again by the Speaker. Meanwhile, the Legislature began discussion on LB388, the Revenue Committee's proposal for property tax relief. This bill as amended proposes to raise the state sales tax rate from the current 5.5 percent to up to 6.5 percent, although that increase could be less if revenues exceed projections, as well as place a property tax levy cap on counties, cities, and villages based on real growth plus 3 percent or inflation. The cap would allow for a cap exemption of 6 percent line-item growth for the salaries of public safety personnel if understaffed. Additionally, the bill would eliminate several sales tax exemptions for discretionary purchases such as soda, candy, pet services, and dry cleaning. To help offset the changes to the sales tax, a tax exemption is provided for residential utility bills, such as for houses and apartments.

The plan is supported by several groups including Nebraska Farm Bureau which contend that the bill will help rebalance what Nebraskans pay in income, sales, and property taxes. According to calculations by Senator Linehan's office, the average Nebraskan in recent years paid about \$2,703 a year in property taxes, \$1,628 in income taxes, and \$1,215 in sales taxes. Supporters of LB388 also argue the bill will slow property tax collections by political subdivisions while still maintaining and respecting local control.

This assessment is contested by several different groups. Organizations like the OpenSky Policy Institute estimate that LB388 will result in a minimal or no net tax cut and argue the bill is a regressive tax policy. Some senators would like to see no sales tax increase. Other senators believe LB388 does not provide enough for property tax relief and instead propose a measure known as the EPIC Option Consumption Tax as outlined in LB79, LR6CA, and

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rescued 112 people. They performed 66 helicopter hoist rescues. They drove nearly 45,000 miles and put in 335 hours of flight time to keep Nebraskans safe.

Government agencies need to prioritize people and provide excellent service, especially after natural disasters. As Governor, I took an all-of-government approach to make sure no red tape was in the way of the response or the recovery. I waived hauling requirements and suspended requirements for trip permits for relief vehicles. I created a housing task force to help displaced Nebraskans find new homes.

I also worked with other Midwestern Governors to demand better customer service of federal agencies. The 2011 floods demonstrated the vulnerability of Offutt Air Force Base, prompting efforts to raise its levees. Yet delays in the permitting process meant important levee upgrades weren't started

before the floods hit again in 2019. It likely cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. That's unacceptable. Red tape shouldn't prevent states from rebuilding and improving protections. I'm proud of how we streamlined processes and improved customer service when I was Governor. I wanted to serve as your Senator to bring those same successes to Washington, D.C. Recently, I introduced bipartisan legislation with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) to do

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Washington Report

U.S. Senator Pete Ricketts

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Prioritizing flood prevention

Five years ago, blizzards and floods caused the most widespread natural disaster in Nebraska's history. The floods claimed lives and caused billions of dollars in damages across the state. Disaster declarations were issued in 84 of our 93 counties, 104 cities and villages, and 5 tribes. On March 14, 2019, 3,300 Nebraska highway miles were impassable due to severe weather. Thousands of homes and businesses were lost.

As usual, we saw countless Nebraskans stepping up to help their neighbors. We saw the grit, resilience, resourcefulness, and generosity that make our state special. Nebraskans rescued residents and pets. They coordinated hay drop-offs, provided meals and shelter, and cleaned up debris. We raised money for those who had lost everything. We created the Flood Heroes initiative to recognize those who saved lives.

I was especially proud of our Nebraska National Guard. They

rescued 112 people. They performed 66 helicopter hoist rescues. They drove nearly 45,000 miles and put in 335 hours of flight time to keep Nebraskans safe.

Government agencies need to prioritize people and provide excellent service, especially after natural disasters. As Governor, I took an all-of-government approach to make sure no red tape was in the way of the response or the recovery. I waived hauling requirements and suspended requirements for trip permits for relief vehicles. I created a housing task force to help displaced Nebraskans find new homes.

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In a world that doesn't always make sense, find answers in faith! Attending church on a regular basis is an integral part of faith communities and adds to an individual's sense of a faith family. If it's been a while since you've attended a service/Mass, come back. You are always welcome.



Peace be with you. That is Jesus' frequent greeting. Don't we yearn for peace amid everything happening today? Peace in our souls? Peace with each other? Jesus imparted peace. We just need to receive it. Draw near to peace-giving Jesus this week in church.

Peace be with you. John 20:19-31 Acts 4:32-35 1 John 1:1-2:2 Psalm 133 Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for Sunday, April 7, 2024 Second Sunday of Easter

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St. Boniface Catholic Church Elgin, NE Fr. John Norman, Pastor Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor Confessions: 5-5:30 on Wednesdays. Weekend Mass: Sunday, 10 am. cppnebraska.org

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church Raeville, NE Fr. John Norman, Pastor Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor Weekend Mass: Sunday, 8 am. cppnebraska.org

Park Congregational U.C.C. Church Elgin, NE Rev. Kate West, pastor Sunday Worship Service: 9:15 am. Sunday School: 10:15 am. Communion Sunday: 1st Sunday of each month. Park Women's Fellowship: 2 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the church. Parish Council: 7:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the church.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Petersburg, NE Fr. John Norman, Pastor Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor Weekend Mass: Saturday, 7 pm. cppnebraska.org

Bartlett United Methodist Church Bartlett, NE Pastor Duane Waddle Sunday Worship Service: 10:45 am. Sunday School: 10 am.

Calvary Bible Church Neligh, NE Pastor Peter Sample Sunday School: 9:30 am. Worship Service: 10:45 am.

St. John's Catholic Church Rural Clearwater, NE Fr. John Norman, Pastor Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor Weekend Mass: Sunday, 11:30 am. cppnebraska.org

St. Paul Lutheran Church Chambers, NE Pastor Leif Hasskari Sunday Worship: 8:30 am. Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:30 am.

Trinity Lutheran Church Elgin, NE Pastor Norlyn Bartens Sunday Worship Service: 8 am. Sunday school follows service. Saturday Evening Service: 6 pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Elgin Community Christian Church Elgin, NE Pastor Jonathan Braden Adult Sunday School: Children Sunday School: 9:30 am. Sunday Worship Service: 9 am. Church Council: 2nd Sunday of each month following worship.

St. John's Catholic Church Rural Clearwater, NE Fr. John Norman, Pastor Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor Weekend Mass: Sunday, 11:30 am. cppnebraska.org

Immanuel-Zion Lutheran Church ELCA Rural Albion, NE Pastor Elizabeth Goehring Worship Service: 9:30 am. Coffee following services Sunday School: 10:30 am. Holy Communion, 1st & 3rd Sundays (facility is handicap accessible plus Facebook Live and broadcasts on cable channel 65, Tuesday at 10:30 am.)

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Wolfpack Girls Basketball End-Of-Season Stats

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Charf, Eisenhauer led most statistical categories during 2023/24 season

Final statistics for the Wolfpack varsity basketball team reflect just how great a season the team had. Qualifying for the Class D1 State Basketball Tournament for the second year in a row, the team compiled a 22-3 record.

Leading the team in scoring was senior Ashlyne Charf who tossed in an average of 13.5 points per game. Right behind her was senior Keyera Eisenhauer who averaged 13.1 points per game.

Team chosen by coaches. Junior Kate Furstenuu averaged almost nine points per game.

Charf led the team in rebounds (242), assists (101), steals (132) and blocked shots (68).

Eisenhauer led the team in three-point baskets, making 38 of 58 (almost 66 percent).

Brenna Martinsen was second on the team in steals (48) and rebounds (103).

As a team, EPPJ recorded 451 steals during the season.

Freshman Mady Kurpgewit was third on the team in rebounds with 97.



Band students attend NVC event

EPS 9-12 band members participated in the NVC Band Clinic in Verdigris on March 18. The event had two combined bands directed by Mr. Brad Weber of Wayne and Mr. DJ Smith of Allen Public Schools.



There's something about a Sunday

More than 50 years ago, an Oxford scholar turned janitor who had a knack of penning songs, gave Johnny Cash one of his biggest hits ever - "Sunday Morning Comin' Down."

The song tells the tale of a man, down on his luck, stumbling to the door to meet the day. He hears children in Sunday school singing, smells the aroma of fried chicken in the air and, sadly sees a kid playin' with a can he was kickin. All these encounters takes the man back to somethin that "he lost somewhere, somehow along the way."

I think about those words a lot, especially now when everything about who and what we once were seems to be disappearing like the dreams of yesterday.

After filling the pickup with gas, I headed up to Randolph for Sunday dinner with Lynell, her mom and family. Lynell went up the night before to spend the night with her 91-year-old mother who needs assistance now and then. Highway 14 up to Highway 20 east to Randolph is the preferred route. Not a lot of traffic, but events on Highway 20 will surprise you if you don't keep your eye on the road.

Anyway, drove past the Catholic church in Neligh and, as expected for Easter, there was overflow parking. The same was true as I gazed at the churches while passing through Plainview.

The scene was in stark contrast to the onset of Covid in March 2019. Then, on Palm Sunday morning I was on the

road south to Sutton and in each town I drove through the church parking lots were empty. Unlike our countrymen on the coasts, flyover country still consists of God-fearing people who believe in prayer, forgiveness and an eternal reward for a life lived right.

My wife attended Sunday Mass at her home church in Randolph. It began at 8 a.m. but she was there at 7:30 a.m. because she knew, as has always been the case on Easter, the church is full of families celebrating 'He is Risen.'

Members from seven different parishes gathered in Randolph that morning. There was precious little room in the pews, but then again that's the way it is in most churches on Easter Sunday. People you might

SPINNING TALES



Publisher Dennis Morgan

See TALES, Page 14

Advertisement for ALBION DENTAL CLINIC, featuring a logo and contact information.

Ricketts

FROM Page 5

just that. Our Flood Protection and Infrastructure Resilience Act will improve flood protection and strengthen agricultural communities across the country.

Our bill has three components. First, it would make long-term flood resilience a priority for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. Right now, EWP assistance cannot be used to improve protection above what existed before a flood occurred.

Second, our bill would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to provide an increased federal cost share for certain grants to rehabilitate aging watershed dams. Many rural communities can't compete for a high local funding match requirement.

Finally, our bill would elevate flood protection as a priority in the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). In 2021, farmers reported \$685.9 million in losses to flooding and hurricanes. However, none of the five major agriculture conservation programs mention flood prevention or mitigation as a key purpose.

Spring Consignment AUCTION advertisement with details for Saturday, April 6, 2024, listing various equipment and vehicles.

WHERE'S THEIR BEEF?

Table comparing EPIC Option and No New Taxes Nebraska. EPIC Option benefits include eliminating burdensome taxes and funding state budgets.

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Advertisement for photo ID to vote, featuring a hand holding a photo ID and text: 'You need a photo ID to vote.'

Advertisement for The Elgin Review, featuring a magnifying glass over the text: 'In a time when there are so many ways to share information, why is more information than ever being deliberately hidden from public view?' and 'Hmmm?'

AGRICULTURE IN ANTELOPE COUNTY



Drones changing how we farm

By Dennis Morgan

co-publisher

Our ancestors found success in the fields of Antelope County, growing crops based on the information and knowledge gathered through years of experience. They understood soil types and what crops grew best in certain locations.

That knowledge has evolved through the decades, thanks to seed companies as well as extension educators through the University of Nebraska.

Just as equipment and understanding how to produce better crops continues to evolve from one decade to the next, new technology has given farmers another tool in recent years to increase yields. Still evolving, the use of drones to improve farming operations continues to fascinate producers, offer new business opportunities and, for educators, provide more data to study and understand.

According to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, to maximize resilience and productivity, researchers, farmers

and natural resource managers are studying how plants and animals, and landscapes as a whole, are affected by changing environmental conditions and other stressors. Remote sensing with drones offers a promising way to characterize landscapes, individual plants and animals, and their various stressors.

Opportunities are endless, considering what universities across the country are learning with every passing month. Among them are:

- Scout pests and diseases in fruit, nut and row crops and apply targeted treatment. These industries face major pest issues that are intensified by limited labor availability and increasing consumer demand for produce with fewer chemical inputs.
- Monitor plant water stress to help farmers target irrigation resources where most needed.
- Enable faster plant screening and new types of measurements and biological discoveries.
- Detect stray livestock herds, create 3D renderings of animals to calculate market value and assess forage quality.

- Monitor quality on a large scale.
- Provide higher resolution data for flood risk models and water resource management.

Croptracker notes how the use of drones in almost every sector of the economy is growing fast, but no faster than it is in agriculture. According to some reports, the ag drone market is expected to reach \$4.8 billion in 2024.

Drone Service at Midplains Ag

Here in Antelope County, producers are fortunate that they don't have to go far to have access to data and services available through drone technology. Indeed, for producers around Elgin, Mid Plains Ag is the place to turn to. Midplains Ag is a full-service precision ag consultation and risk management group which began in April of 2013. Drone services are offered through Midplains Ag by Austin VanHorn. The business sells DJI Drones and is available to schedule a demonstration by calling (402) 843-5342.

Among the services they offer are:

- Monitoring crops and livestock with video and still photos
- Thermal imagery to check

- livestock
 - Sprayer equipped drones to spray weeds
- VanHorn, a native Nebraskan who grew up near Stromsburg, said



Austin VanHorn shows one of the DJI drones utilized at Midplains Ag.

E-R photo/LMorgan

Something to "crow" about

Klein's organic corn used in private label whiskey for local school's fundraisers

By Olivia Klein

elgin review student intern

When it comes to Pope John XXIII Central Catholic High School, many things stand out. The students, the teachers, and most importantly the supporters. Here is a story of all three.

Fundraising is a very important aspect to helping our school stay in service. We have several fundraisers each year, like the grocery sales, Dinner Theatre, Booster Club tickets and the musical. We also have two "larger" important events, the Evening With Friends Dinner and the Development Dinner. At these events people enjoy an elegant meal, entertainment, and are able to bid on silent and live auction items. The committees are always looking for interesting new items for the bid.

This brings me to our story. At the beginning of the school year, Deb Pelster, chairperson of the Pope John Development Committee, approached my mom (PJCC Spanish teacher Amy Klein) with an idea. "If you donate ten pounds of organic corn, we could brew some whiskey." This whiskey would become an auction item for both Evening With Friends and the Development Dinner.

My dad (Neligh attorney Martin Klein) started organic farming with my grandpa over 40 years ago. He enjoys farming because he said "It's a different challenge every year." When my mom brought up the idea of providing ten pounds of our corn to make whiskey he was completely on board and thought that it was a cool idea. My mom mailed in the bag of our organic corn to the Flyover Whiskey Distillery in Monterey, Nebraska. With the Development Committee footing the bill, six months later the Drunken Rooster Whiskey was born.

Why would we name the whiskey Drunken Rooster? Well, my mom named the whiskey after our overly-aggressive rooster, two-year-old Carl. She said "He makes me want to drink every time he chases me around the farm." Which happens frequently to all members of our family except my dad. Sandi Henn, my mom's friend and Development Committee member, helped design the bottle. The bottle has a rooster with a menacing look on his face. It is

something that will be proudly displayed in our kitchen for many years to come.

At the development dinner our family friends, Josh and Maria Kinney, had the winning bid on the live auction. Maria was excited to take home the prize, which also included four whiskey glasses and an ice bucket.

Even though my parents are not whiskey drinkers, they are proud that they had a chance to create something that benefited our school.

Being a Catholic school, we depend a lot on the generosity of the donors. My school allows me to practice my faith, learning how to live out my faith in today's world. Donating to the school will allow students to continue receiving an excellent education and an opportunity to grow closer to Jesus. I am thankful for my parents who see the importance of my Catholic education at Pope John.

I guess I'm also thankful for Carl because he inspired this interesting idea, even though it doesn't paint him in the best light.



NEBRASKA ORGANIC CROPS

In Nebraska corn, barley, edible beans, millet, oats, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa and other forages are grown here and marketed organically. Other organic crops such as amaranth, popcorn, blue corn, and spelt (an ancient wheat) are grown under contract for a premium.

SOURCE: <https://cropwatch.unl.edu/organic/crops>

Friday morning that he began to see the potential of drones and agriculture back in 2018. Originally wanting to pursue a career as a Spanish teacher, his interest in drones changed the direction in his life. "I started working at a research farm and they had some drones there and they wanted me to fly them because they wanted the imagery," he said during an interview at *The Elgin Review* office. "Right away I saw the potential. They (researchers) were explaining to me what they were doing and, from that moment on, I knew that drones would be crucial for the future of agriculture."

The first drone he flew was a Phantom 3 and later he moved on to the Phantom 4. He said the early drones

were limited by short battery life (10-15 minutes). However, that has improved now to the point a single flight can last well over 30 minutes. Another factor which has impacted drones is wind speeds, but that too is getting better due to advances in equipment. Load capacity is another issue being addressed.

VanHorn went on to study Precision Agriculture at Northeast Community College in Norfolk. From there, he learned that Midplains Ag was offering an internship which he sought and was accepted for. Working with owner Richard Uhrenholdt and the staff there, he was able to learn by doing the different things which drones could

See **DRONE**, Page 8 ►

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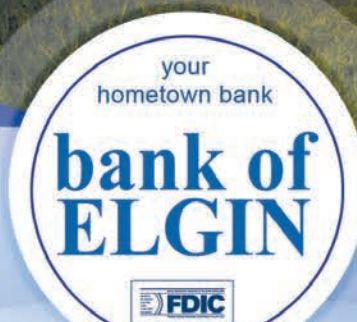
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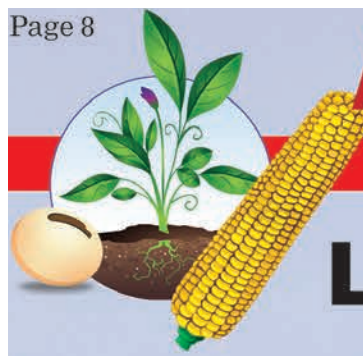


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Livestock producers need to look out for grass tetany

By Ben Beckman

beef systems extension educator

Fresh spring growth is a welcome site for producers looking for animal forage. However, lush spring growth may be the perfect condition for a case of grass tetany. While turn out may be a ways off, mitigating this risk starts now.

Grass tetany is the result of low levels of magnesium in an animal's blood stream. Low magnesium levels in lush, newly growing grass are often a main cause. In lactating animals, low



dietary magnesium paired with a drain on calcium from milk production increases risk even more. Calcium aids in magnesium absorption. This means, high milk producing and older animals are most at risk for developing tetany.

To prevent tetany problems this spring, it's best to wait till grass in pastures has grown to at least 6 inches high before grazing. Legumes like alfalfa or clover, are a good source of magnesium, so grazing mixed grass and legume pastures can help

balance mineral demands.

While cultural practices can reduce risk, providing correct and adequate mineral supplementation may be the most certain remedy. Cattle should be consuming 3-4 ounces daily of mineral containing supplemental calcium and 10-13% magnesium oxide. This should start at least 30 days before grazing begins, to ensure proper intake has been established.

Most high magnesium minerals utilize magnesium oxide, which is bitter tasting and can reduce animal consumption. Mix magnesium fortified mineral with salt into a complete package or

feed with a highly palatable protein or energy supplement to improve intake

High magnesium mineral should be provided for animals until cool season grasses slow down growth and the levels of lush, fresh forage are reduced, around mid-May.

Dealing with grass tetany in the spring doesn't have to negatively impact your herd. Plan now to adjust grazing management or mineral supplementation for a tetany-free spring.

For today's Pasture and Forage Minute, I'm Nebraska Extension Forage Systems Educator, Ben Beckman.

Nurturing Appreciation

The role of Agriculture Education in fostering respect for farmers and ranchers

By Julia Schwartz

elgin ffa advisor

In the hustle and bustle of modern life, it's easy to overlook the profound impact that agriculture has on our daily existence even right here in Elgin. From the food we eat to the clothes we wear, agriculture touches nearly every aspect of our lives. However, amidst the conveniences of living that we have grown probably too accustomed to, the fundamental importance of farming and ranching can often be forgotten.



Agriculture education is a powerful tool that can bridge this gap and cultivate a deeper appreciation for the contributions of farmers and ranchers. By integrating agricultural literacy into schools across the United States, there is the opportunity to instill in future generations a profound respect for the toil and dedication of those who work the land. And perhaps that is just as important as teaching students agricultural practices and skills. Although many of those students won't have careers directly tied to Agriculture, at least they will have the knowledge and respect for agriculture industries and the people who work in them.

In Nebraska, there is no shortage of agricultural education programs. However, there is a shortage of agriculture educators. According to Matt Krefels, a UNL agriculture education and skills and technical sciences instructor, Nebraska has 214 schools that offer Ag Education

programs (with three more being added this coming fall). So far, 55 schools have advertised their positions. Of those, 18 are still looking for teachers, 22 have hired a first-year teacher, 12 hired a teacher who is moving schools, and 3 hired someone other than an Ag Ed teacher (each hired an STS teacher). He goes on, "We are out of student teachers, so schools who are still looking

will need to attract a teacher from another school (which doesn't solve the problem), from out-of-state, a transitional teacher (someone with an ag-related B.S. degree who can take online courses while teaching), a current non-Ag teacher who wants to add the Ag Ed endorsement, or a long-term substitute (which they can do on a one-year grace period before risking losing their FFA chapter)".

Ultimately, agriculture education is not just about preparing students for careers in farming and ranching—it's about nurturing a lifelong appreciation for the contributions of farmers and ranchers to society. By empowering students with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to support sustainable agriculture, we can ensure a brighter future for agriculture and rural communities in the United States and beyond. So, continue to support your local agriculture programs and encourage your students to embrace the program. And if their careers don't pan out in agriculture, at least we can have future generations of informed and passionate advocates for the land and those who work it.

Drone technology is quickly changing how we farm

Continued from Page 7

be utilized for. "Richard was really, really interested in drones ... He knew that if he kept going (with drones) it would turn into a successful business and now we're doing a lot of spraying. We sell drones. There's

a lot of interest now in thermal drones for cow-calf operations.

"Richard has done a really good job of helping me, pushing me a little bit further to get things going."

To that end, VanHorn said Midplains Ag is looking to

hire an additional person to work more on the agronomy side in utilizing drones.

"Agronomy could really help farmers make better decisions in their season," he said. One day after attending a drone conference, VanHorn indicated the market is wide open for qualified people to fly drones, creating job opportunities which will be filled as people learn the value of drone technology to their farm operations. He said work is about to pick up again. At the end of April and the first part of May, there should be a spike in jobs searching for spurge. "We'll be getting the trailer to go out and start spraying," VanHorn said. And looking

ahead to the future? VanHorn wasted no time in expressing optimism for the use of drones by all farmers.

"In five years we'll see the majority of farmers having some sort of drone, whether that'll be to help check pivots, check cattle or spring stuff. Drones are going to be kind of like the auto steer on tractors. At first it was kinda okay, and then once it got really good everyone said they needed this and now it's become a staple.

To learn more about how drones can benefit your operation, contact Austin at Midplains Ag (402) 369-9645.

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Central Valley Ag delivers value to member-owners in the form of \$2 million in equity redemptions

York, NE – Central Valley Ag (CVA) reinforces its commitment to its farmer-owners by returning nearly \$2 million in age-based equity. This distribution exemplifies the cooperative spirit in which CVA operates for the benefit of its member-owners.

The CVA Board of Directors approved this distribution to eligible member-owners who reached retirement age (65 years old) by December 31, 2023.

"We deeply appreciate every member-owner who has helped build CVA's success," said Carl Dickinson, President/CEO. "Returning this equity demonstrates the cooperative's strength that puts it in a position to give back to its membership. We not only

provide essential products and services, but are able to share profits with our members."

Formed in 2003 through the merger of three cooperatives, CVA has expanded its reach through strategic partnerships across Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. Today, it stands as a leading Midwestern cooperative.

"CVA's business model prioritizes a balanced approach," said Dickinson. "We focus on delivering exceptional service, generating profits, rewarding patronage, and strategically reinvesting while returning equity to our members. True success lies in serving our members and sharing the benefits of our achievements."

Annual tractor and equipment safety training dates set for late May, early June

Registration is now open for the two-day safety trainings.

Annual tractor and equipment safety training courses for youth, to be held in eight sites across Nebraska in late May and early June, now are open for registration. The trainings are held in collaboration with Nebraska Extension and the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH) at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health.

The courses are open to all interested in learning more about the safe operation of tractors and equipment.

From 2001 through 2015, 48% of all fatal injuries to young, hired workers occurred in agriculture, and the leading cause of death in these young workers was tractor-related accidents. Federal law prohibits children under 16 from using certain equipment on a farm unless their parents or legal guardians own the farm. However, certification received through this course grants an exemption to the law allowing 14- and 15-year-olds to drive a tractor and to do field work with certain mechanized equipment. Certification is earned by completing a Hands-On Safety Day with a written test on the first day, followed by a tractor and equipment safety training course, including a driving exam, on the second day. Successful completion will result in certification for 14- and 15-year-old youth to be employed on farms and ranches.

List of training locations: Day 1 Training: Hands-on training and written certification exam.

- May 21 – North Platte: Lincoln, Logan, McPherson County Extension Office, 348 West State Farm Road
- May 28 – West Point: Cuming County Fairgrounds, W. Washington St.
- May 30 – Weeping Water: Cass County Fairgrounds, 8400 144th St.
- June 5 – Gordon: Gordon, 613 E 3rd St.
- June 11 – Grand Island:

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Poll: Most rural Nebraskans unfamiliar with farm bill but support programs

Lincoln, Nebraska, Dec. 7, 2023 — Most rural Nebraskans report being unfamiliar with the Farm Bill and federal agricultural policy, according to the 2023 Nebraska Rural Poll.

Two-thirds of rural Nebraskans surveyed are either very unfamiliar (43%) or somewhat unfamiliar (23%) with federal ag policy. Twenty-seven percent are somewhat familiar, and only 7% report being very familiar.

According to the poll, Nebraskans who work in agriculture are more likely than others to report being familiar with ag policy. Just more than 60% of ag workers are at least somewhat familiar. Other demographic groups that are more likely to be familiar with ag policy include those living in or near smaller communities, residents of both the North Central and Northeast regions of the state, older adults, men, married people, and Nebraskans with higher education levels.

Federal agricultural policy, also known as the Farm Bill, encompasses all things related to agriculture and food. This includes not only farm income safety net and conservation programs, but domestic food assistance programs (such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), rural development (which funds services such as broadband, utilities and housing programs) and programs focused on specific producers and crops.

Although most respondents report being unfamiliar with the Farm Bill, they generally support federal spending for most Farm Bill programs. Almost eight in 10 respondents support federal funding for conservation programs (79%), rural development (78%), and research and education programs (77%). On the other hand, just 35% support funding for international food assistance programs.

Domestic food assistance programs, which make up most of the Farm Bill spending, are either greatly or somewhat supported by more than 60% of respondents. Nebraskans from lower income households are more likely

to support funding for such programs. Seventy-three percent of respondents with household incomes under \$40,000 support funding for these programs, compared to about 60% of those with higher incomes.

"It may seem ironic that rural Nebraskans can be both unfamiliar with the Farm Bill yet supportive of the broad categories of Farm Bill programs, but Farm Bills are like many pieces of federal legislation that include numerous programs that appeal to broad groups of citizens," said Brad Lubben, Nebraska Extension specialist in agricultural policy. "The whole may be too complex for many to follow closely, but the pieces are each important to various groups and together lead to the coalition that regularly supports a Farm Bill."

Panhandle residents surveyed were more likely than others to support funding for many of the listed programs: agricultural trade promotion and development, research and education, programs focused on targeted producers (small, beginning, traditionally underserved, etc.), programs focused on plant and animal health protection, and programs focused on specialty crop or local food systems.

Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel, a Nebraska Extension specialist with Rural Prosperity Nebraska, said she wasn't surprised by the strong Panhandle support.

"The Panhandle's diversified agricultural economy has created several unique processing and value-added enterprises," she said. "If you live in the region, you see the connection between agriculture and economic development. Federal programs that provide price stability and grow the agricultural base benefit our residents in the long run."

The Rural Poll is the largest annual poll

gauging rural Nebraskans' perceptions about policy and quality of life. Questionnaires were mailed to more than 6,000 households in Nebraska in late spring and summer, with 1,100 households — representing 86 of the state's

93 counties — responding. The margin of error is plus-or-minus 3%. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Department of Agricultural Economics conducts the poll with funding from Nebraska Extension. For the full report, visit <https://ruralpoll.unl>.



Two-thirds of rural Nebraskans surveyed are either very unfamiliar (43%) or somewhat unfamiliar (23%) with federal ag policy. Twenty-seven percent are somewhat familiar, and only 7% report being very familiar. *Craig Chandler | University Communication and Marketing*



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Tractor, equipment safety training dates

Continued from Page 8 ▶

- Raising Nebraska Building, 501 East Fonner Park, Suite 100
- Day 2 Training:** Tractor and Equipment Safety Training with Driving Exam
 - May 22 - North Platte: Lincoln, Logan, McPherson County Extension Office, 348 West State Farm Road
 - May 29 - West Point: Cuming County Fairgrounds, W. Washington Street
 - May 31 - Weeping Water: Cass County Fairgrounds, 8400 144th St.
 - June 4 - Gering: Legacy of the Plains

- Museum, 2930 Old Oregon Trail
 - June 6 - Gordon: Gordon, 613 E 3rd St.
 - June 7 - O'Neill: AKRS Equipment, 49110 US Hwy 20
 - June 12 - Grand Island: Raising Nebraska Building, 501 East Fonner Park, Suite 100
 - June 13 - Hastings: Adams County Extension, 2975 S. Baltimore Ave.
- The cost of the course is \$35 and includes educational materials, the online learning link (if applicable), and supplies. Payment will be made at the time of the driving exam. Only checks and cash can be accepted. Register at <https://web.cvent.com/event/91b217d1-4370-4688-9d80-e5e8ca58b334/summary>

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Agronomy Isaac Hemenway Jayda Chessmore Haley Parks Taylor Beckman	Floriculture Sara Bode Baylee Busted Callie Heithoff Kate Furstenau	Nursery/Landscape Natalie Burenheide Camry Kittelson Tessa Barlow Sara Bode
Natural Resources Blake Henn Myles Kittelson Dylon Lueking Landon Kallhoff	Farm Business Mgt. Baylee Busted Jarek Erickson Keyera Eisenhauer Nick Anderson	Livestock Judging Grady Druke Kayton Zwingman Jayda Chessmore Haley Parks
Chorus Baylee Busted Brenna Martinsen	Proficiency Samuel Hemenway Carter Beckman	State Star Finalist Samuel Hemenway
		Agriscience Fair Chloe Henn & Samantha Durre Michael Selting & Justice Blecher Ruby Durre & Megan Wright Aubrie Parks & Brooke Kinney Kyndal Busted & Autumn Forbes Braelyn Martinsen & Kylee Lichtenberg Molly Thiessen & Makenna Mortiborg Brysol Buschow & Kaidynce Schrad
		Agriculture Issues Academy Kyndal Busted Dannyka Smidt Zoey Buechter
		State Degrees Nick Anderson Dylon Lueking Steven Nelson Gage Thiessen Keyera Eisenhauer Samuel Hemenway
		Baylee Busted Blake Henn Myles Kittelson Brenna Martinsen Dylon Parks



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AGRICULTURE IN ANTELOPE COUNTY



Survey finds Nebraska ag land values up 5%

By Ryan Evans
department of agricultural economics

Lincoln, Nebraska, March 18, 2024 — The market value of agricultural land in Nebraska increased 5% over the prior year, to an average of \$4,015 per acre, according to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's 2024 Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Survey preliminary report. This marks the third consecutive year of increases, setting another high in non-inflation-adjusted statewide land value.

The report is issued annually by the university's Department of Agricultural Economics and Center for Agricultural Profitability. It is based on a survey of land industry experts across Nebraska, including appraisers, farm and ranch managers, agricultural bankers and other industry professionals.

Those responding to the survey attributed the rise in Nebraska's agricultural real estate values to purchases for farm expansion, current livestock prices, 1031 tax exchanges, the amount of land offerings for sale, and hedges against inflation. Farms or ranches in strong financial positions looked to expand

their operations by purchasing additional land. Competition for land remained strong in the industry, as fewer acres were available for sale.

According to Jim Jansen, an agricultural economist with the university who leads the survey and report, many operations acquired tangible assets, such as land, machinery and equipment, to hedge against inflation and rising prices.

"The Federal Reserve's policies to slow inflation have led to agricultural real estate loans moderating around 8%," Jansen said. "Future changes in the market value of land across the state will be tied to the profitability of farm and ranching, along with long-term interest rates for financing real estate purchases."

The survey reports the market values on seven types of land by region across Nebraska, as well as an average for the entire state. The estimated market value of dryland cropland without irrigation potential rose 3% across the state compared to the prior year. Center pivot-irrigated cropland increased 4%, while gravity-irrigated cropland rose 3%. According to Jansen, lower grain prices contributed to gains in cropland values moderating from the

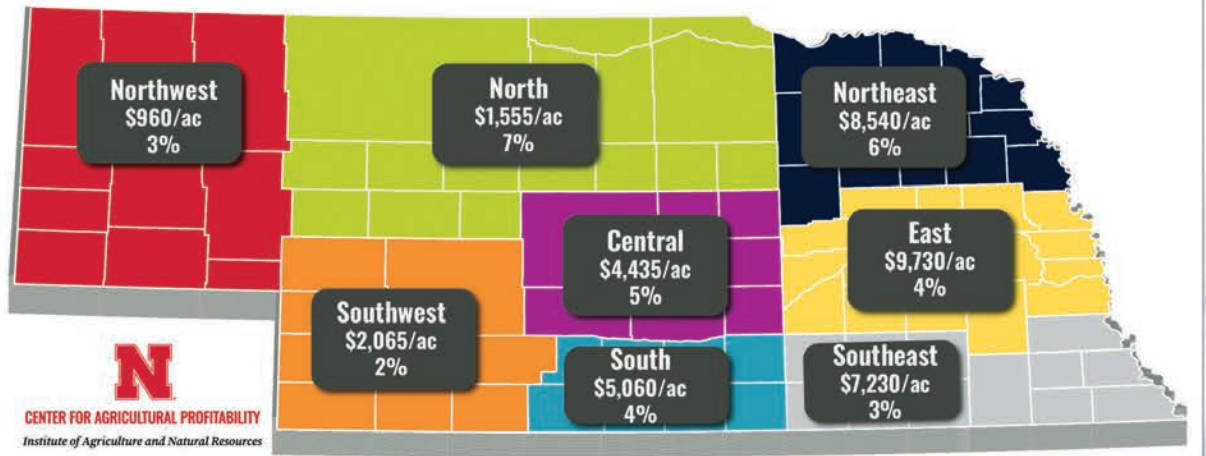
growth seen in 2023.

Jansen also said that rising cattle prices and competition for more acres helped drive grazing land and hayland market values up by an average of 6% to 8% in the state.

The survey found that average cash rental rates for dryland and irrigated cropland are also moderating this year compared to the rates of increase seen in recent years, experiencing between a 7% decline and 5% increase, thanks in part to lower crop prices and favorable yields across the United States.

"Survey participants expressed concerns about drought, input expenses and water availability

Average Value Per Acre of Nebraska Agricultural Land as of Feb. 1, 2024, and Percent Change from Prior Year



Statewide All-Land Average: \$4,015 per Acre (+5%)

for the upcoming growing season in certain regions," Jansen said. "Accounting for actual crop revenue, production expenses or irrigation limitations might be features to consider in a flexible lease for 2024."

The preliminary report is available on the Center for Agricultural

Profitability's website, <https://cap.unl.edu/realestate>. The final report is expected to be published in June.

Two virtual workshops covering land and leasing issues, estate planning, and the newly published land values and cash rental rates were held in March.

Grain safety takes center stage: Nebraska Corn Board and Nebraska Soybean Board promote Stand Up 4 Grain Safety week

LINCOLN, Neb. (March 25, 2024) – The Nebraska Corn Board (NCB) and Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) partnered together for the 2024 Stand Up 4 Grain Safety Week because everyone deserves to go home from work each day. The goal was to raise awareness among farmers and agricultural workers about the importance of safety when working in and around grain bins. This initiative also emphasized the significance of overall safety practices on the farm.

As Nebraska farmers strive for innovation and higher yields, there has been a notable increase in on-farm storage.

According to the USDA NASS report in 2023, there were over 890 million bushels of corn stored on Nebraska farms, an increase of 31% from 2022. Nebraska soybeans also saw a 39% increase over 2022 with 87 million bushels of soybeans stored on Nebraska farms.

An increase in on-farm storage means more risk for accidents associated with grain handling and bin storage. NCB and NSB encourages farmers and those in the agriculture industry to stay focused, planned and safe during "Stand Up 4 Grain Safety Week" and throughout the year.

"Stand Up 4 Grain Safety Week" took place from March 25 to 29 and was organized through a collaboration between the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the U.S. Department of Labor, the National Grain and Feed Association, the Grain Elevator and Processing Society and the Grain Handling Safety Council.



In 2022, at least 42 grain bin entrapments were reported in Nebraska, the highest in a decade. It takes merely four seconds for an adult to sink to knee-deep in the suction of flowing grain, and within 20 seconds, they can be completely engulfed. NCB and NSB encourage those who work in and around grain bins to have a plan in place for safety and to properly learn safety steps. With proper safety procedures, grain bin accidents are preventable.

The only true way to help reduce the risk of grain entrapment on your farm or facility is to strongly discourage people from entering a bin unless it's absolutely necessary. If necessary, follow these seven steps aimed at grain bin safety.

1. Ensure all equipment and power sources for grain handling equipment have been shut off, secured or properly locked.
2. The person entering the grain bin must wear a safety harness and lifeline attached and properly secured, or be seated in a boatswain chair - a device that allows a person to suspend from a rope to perform work in high places.
3. Wear an appropriate dust mask or respirator when entering grain bins. Grain bins contain substantial amounts of dust and/or mold and present a hazard to workers.
4. Never enter a grain bin alone.
5. There must be an observer located outside of the grain bin that is able to monitor the person inside the bin.
6. Ensure the observer and person in the bin can easily communicate.

7. Ensure that rescue resources are available if the person does become entrapped.

If a person does become entrapped, call 911 immediately.

NCB and NSB shared grain bin safety tips on their social media channels last week and continue to throughout the year. More information can also be found at standup4grainsafety.org.

The Nebraska Corn Board is funded through a producer checkoff investment of 1/2-cent-per-bushel checkoff on all corn marketed in the state and is managed by nine farmer directors. The mission of the Nebraska Corn Board is to increase the value and sustainability of Nebraska corn through promotion, market development and research.

The nine-member Nebraska Soybean Board collects and disburses the Nebraska share of funds generated by the one-half of one percent times the net sales price per bushel of soybeans sold. Nebraska soybean checkoff funds are invested in research, education, domestic and foreign markets, including new uses for soybeans and soybean products.



safe during "Stand Up 4 Grain Safety Week" and throughout the year.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

RJ KOENIG FARMS, LLC

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF RJ KOENIG FARMS, LLC A NEBRASKA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
RJ KOENIG FARMS, LLC
Norfolk, Nebraska

Notice is hereby given that RJ Koenig Farms, a Nebraska limited liability company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its initial designated office at 51951 844th Road, Elgin, Nebraska 68636. The initial

agent's name is Karen J. Koenig, and it's street and mailing address is 51951 844th Road, Elgin, Nebraska 68636. This company is organized to engage in and to do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business authorized under the laws of the State of Nebraska as well as any lawful act or activity for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The company was organized and com-

menced on March 18, 2024, and the Company shall exist perpetually unless terminated sooner. The affairs of the limited liability company shall be conducted by its members until such time as their successor or successors are selected pursuant to the Operating Agreement.

Karen Koenig, Registered Agent
 PUBLISH: March 27, April 3 and 10, 2024
 ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

SCHINDLER BROTHERS TRUCKING, L.L.C.

KOLEY JESSEN P.C., L.L.O., Attorneys
1125 South 103rd Street, Suite 800, Omaha, Nebraska 68124
NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
 The name of the Company is

Schindler Brothers Trucking, LLC. The Designated Office of the Company is 51790 836 Road, Elgin, Nebraska 68636-3308. The Registered Agent and Office of the Company is Koley Jessen P.C., L.L.O.,

1125 South 103rd Street, Suite 800, Omaha, Nebraska 68124. This limited liability company commenced business on February 20, 2024.
 PUBLISH: April 3, 10 & 17, 2024
 ZNEZ



Courtesy photo

EPS students attend Capitol Forum

Last week, four juniors (left to right, Samantha Durre, Landon Kallhoff, Taylor Beckman and Austin Hinkle) attended the Capitol Forum in Lincoln. While there, they deliberated topics with schools from all over the state. They also worked together with other schools to create a presentation that discussed possible options for the future of the United States. A few special guests came to speak to the students as well. State Senator Barry DeKay ate lunch and discussed his efforts in the legislature with EPS students. US Senator Pete Ricketts and Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen both spoke to the students and answered questions.

Power pays: NPPD execs receiving six-figure bonuses as rank-and-file gets little

By Destiny Herbers

flatwater free press

John Dent, Nebraska Public Power District's chief nuclear officer, made a base salary of \$646,000 in 2023, a similar amount to other public power executives in Nebraska.

But after a bonus of \$640,280, his total compensation doubled his salary to \$1.3 million.

That bonus made the NPPD executive the highest paid public official of the 14 public agencies analyzed by the Flatwater Free Press — higher even than his boss. But CEO Thomas Kent and a number of other top earners at NPPD all also saw their 2023 salaries padded by significant bonus pay, ballooning their total earnings well above Nebraska's other public servants, including other public power execs.

(Editor's note: The Flatwater Free Press' updated public payroll database now allows you to search the salaries and total compensation of public employees in 14 different organizations, including the State of Nebraska and its largest cities and counties.)

Khalil Dia, an NPPD nuclear site vice president, received a \$261,334 bonus in 2023, around 60% of his base salary. Billy Chapin, a general manager of plant operations, got a \$128,415 bonus, 40% of his base pay.

Sen. Tom Brewer, chair of the Nebraska Legislature's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, said NPPD's compensation is shocking because executives' base salaries are already higher than state officials, including the governor and attorney general.

"Why would you double someone's pay that hasn't done anything that special when you could take that money and roll it into reducing rates?" Brewer said.

Dent, Dia and Chapin are the three highest ranking executives at Cooper Nuclear Station, located in southeast Nebraska, which NPPD says generates enough electricity to provide power to 385,000 customers.

Dent's 2023 bonus, nearly 100% of his base salary, was awarded under a previous nuclear-focused incentive program, Beshaler said.

"If there's any industry in the world where you want to make sure you minimize risk, and maintain staffing, so that there are no gaps there, it's the nuclear industry," Beshaler said. "That's why it is competitive. And that's why you'll see some of those incentives out there."

By contrast, roughly 200 NPPD employees — including line technicians, chemists and engineers — received 2023 bonus pay between \$76 and \$306.

Payments under that "bonus" category in the records NPPD provided for the Flatwater Free

Press' Public Payrolls database include any incentives for qualifications like EMT, fire brigade, nuclear officer licenses and on-call pay.

"If you look during that really cold period we had in early January, there were linemen who were out there in some of the worst conditions," Brewer said.

"Why wouldn't they be the ones that got a bonus? An extra half million dollars could go a long way toward putting a lot of those guys in a position to want to stay as a part of the team." [top earners bar chart]

Kent, NPPD's CEO and president, made a base salary of \$693,665, but a \$207,558 bonus and \$65,890 in miscellaneous pay inflated his total compensation to \$967,113.

As CEO, Kent receives a bonus that is individually determined by the board of directors each year, because the board chair is technically his supervisor, Beshaler said.

Kent's bonus payment alone was nearly double the salary of Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen.

Many Nebraskans are concerned about public power districts because they depend on those services, said Jack Gould, former issues chair for Common Cause Nebraska. They deserve transparency around NPPD's decisions, he said.

"Setting the salary and giving out bonuses and those kinds of things ought to be fully disclosed to the public," said Gould. "How do you justify that in the eyes of the public? What do you do in that job that warrants a bonus? That ought to be fully explained."

NPPD has also compensated its executives since 2007 with yearly contributions to their 401(k) up to the federal maximum, around \$22,000, Beshaler said.

Those payments appear in the "other pay" category of the Public Payrolls database, which also includes wellness incentives and unused vacation day payouts.

Kent takes compensation recommendations to NPPD's board each December, which include any adjustments to executive wages and 401k incentives, Beshaler said.

All other NPPD employees will be eligible to receive bonuses in 2024 based on the goals and percentage scale in the new annual incentive program. The vice president level is eligible for a 30% bonus, outlined in program documents sent to employees.

Under that same program, employees below the supervisor level, called individual contributors, will be eligible for bonuses either 2.5% or 5% of their salaries. The incentive program has been budgeted for 2024 with no increases to NPPD's rates, Beshaler said, and won't have any impact on customers.

NPPD says it sets compensation, especially at the upper levels, to be competitive with both private utilities and data centers, which Beshaler said have been increasingly interested in hiring executives from public power.

Nebraska is the only state in the country that is served entirely by publicly owned utilities, NPPD says. Around 70% of the country is served by private, investor-owned utility companies, said David Pomerantz, executive director of the Energy and Policy Institute.

Those investor-owned utility companies pay CEOs millions more in total compensation than NPPD does, Pomerantz said, mostly through extra incentives based on the company's earnings.



John Dent

"We're looking at big numbers to the average person ... but when you start looking at what Tom Kent, our CEO, could make if he went to Iowa or Missouri and worked for an investor-owned utility, his compensation would be in the millions," Beshaler said. "So it is a challenge for us on a year to year basis to remain competitive, and to create a structure that keeps people here."

Nebraska's two other large public power organizations did not compensate executives with additional pay anywhere near NPPD's scale in 2023.

Omaha Public Power District's CEO Luis Javier Fernandez received no bonus in 2023 and made a little less than his annual salary rate at \$764,330.

Only two OPPD executives received pay that exceeded their annualized salaries: Kathleen Brown received about \$10,000 and Lisa Olson received a little over \$4,000. OPPD employs 2,148 people, a few hundred more than NPPD's 1,814 employees.

Lincoln Electric System does not pay any bonuses to its 532 employees. General Counsel Shelley Sahling-Zart said in an email. Some employees receive additional pay for factors including senior pay, reimbursements and on-call days.

Kevin Wailes received about \$1,700 in additional pay on top of his \$575,693 base salary as CEO of LES in 2023. He retired at the end of the year.

Executive salaries at all three major public power districts are far higher than any State of Nebraska employee or any employee of the five most populated counties and cities, Flatwater's analysis found.

Roger Donovick, the State of Nebraska's medical services director and highest paid employee, made \$408,450 in 2023. Douglas County's medical director Sidney Kauzlarich, the highest paid county official, made \$392,587.

Sen. Brewer and staff members said they were surprised to hear how much more the state's public power executives made than other public officials, especially with NPPD's added bonuses. "I would rather see less pay at the top and lowering user rates, because all of Nebraska benefits from that, not an individual or two or three," Brewer said.

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It isn't a substitute for the legal publishing of public notices but it is a bonus for both the entity publishing the notices and you, our readers.

All Elgin Review public notices can also be found on this portal.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC NOTICES

All states require that taxpayers and citizens be legally notified through public notices in newspapers of the activities of their government entities and courts. In Nebraska, that includes information pertaining to notice of meetings, proceedings or minutes of meetings, elections, annexations, budgets, property taxes and hearings, delinquent payments, hearings, ordinances, foreclosures and many other vital official matters of government entities; for courts, examples of required public notices include filings of estates, law suits, dissolutions, custody, assumed names, foreclosures, and many others.

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 Hartley Burr Alexander

The Elgin Review

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION BOTH A FARM & TRUCK REPAIR, LLC

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
The name of the limited liability company; BOTH A FARM & TRUCK REPAIR, LLC.

The address of the designated office is: 86229 531 Ave., P.O. Box 817, Plainview, Nebraska 68769. The name and mailing address of the initial agent for service of process of the company is Leon Botha, 86229 531 Ave., P.O. Box 817, Plainview, Nebraska 68769. It is organized to transact any lawful acts concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska.

This company commenced upon filing the Certificate of Organization with the Secretary of State on December 29, 2023, and its existence shall be perpetual. The affairs of the limited liability company are to be conducted by the members under an operation agreement duly approved by its members.

BOTH A FARM & TRUCK REPAIR, LLC

Martin V. Klein
Klein Law Office, P.C.
P.O. Box 166
Neligh, NE 68756-0166
(402)887-4190

PUBLISH: March 20, 27 & April 3, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LOIS D. SCHUTT, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF LOIS D. SCHUTT, Deceased

State No. PR 24-4

Notice is hereby given that on March 27, 2024, in the County Court of Antelope County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Estate of said Decedent and that Randy A. Schutt of 83630 535 Avenue, Tilden, Nebraska 68781, and Linda E. Renner of 83934 535 Avenue, Tilden, Nebraska 68781, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representatives of the estate.

Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before June 3, 2024 or are forever barred.

Linda Mitchell
Registrar

Prepared and submitted by:
Justin Hochstein # 25404
Hochstein Strategic Legal Planning, LLC 440 Regency Parkway Drive, Suite 147 Post Office Box 24842

Omaha, NE 68124
Tel: (402) 682-8975
Attorney for Personal Representatives
PUBLISH: April 3, 10 & 17, 2024
ZNEZ

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The Elgin Review



City of Elgin

Annual Water Quality Report For January 1 to December 31, 2023

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the City of Elgin water system to provide safe drinking water.

Para Clientes Que Hablan Español: Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

For more information regarding this report, or to request a hard copy, contact:

DONALD POULSEN
402-843-8775

If you would like to observe the decision-making processes that affect drinking water quality, please attend the regularly scheduled meeting of the Village Board/City Council. If you would like to participate in the process, please contact the Village/City Clerk to arrange to be placed on the agenda of the meeting of the Village Board/City Council.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Source Water Assessment Availability:

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) has completed the Source Water Assessment. Included in the assessment are a Wellhead Protection Area map, potential contaminant source inventory, and source water protection information. To view the Source Water Assessment or for more information please contact the person named above on this report or the NDEE at 402-471-3376 or go to <http://dee.ne.gov>.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Sources of Drinking Water:

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from

The source of water used by City of Elgin is ground water.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- * Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- * Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- * Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- * Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- * Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking Water Health Notes:

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. All Community water systems are responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have you water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791), at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead> or at the NDEE Drinking Water Division (402-471-1009).

The City of Elgin is required to test for the following contaminants: Coliform Bacteria, Antimony, Arsenic, Asbestos, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Cyanide, Fluoride, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, Nitrate, Nitrite, Selenium, Sodium, Thallium, Alachlor, Atrazine, Benzo(a)pyrene, Carbofuran, Chlordane, Dalapon, Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate, Dibromochloropropane, Dinoseb, Di(2-ethylhexyl)-phthalate, Diquat, 2,4-D, Endothal, Endrin, Ethylene dibromide, Glyphosate, Heptachlor, Heptachlor epoxide, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, Lindane, Methoxychlor, Oxamyl (Vydate), Pentachlorophenol, Picloram, Polychlorinated biphenyls, Simazine, Toxaphene, Dioxin, Silvex, Benzene, Carbon Tetrachloride, o-Dichloro-benzene, Para-Dichlorobenzene, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,1-Dichloroethylene, Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Dichloromethane, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Ethylbenzene, Monochlorobenzene, 1,2,4-Trichloro-benzene, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, Trichloroethylene, Vinyl Chloride, Styrene.

City of Elgin		TEST RESULTS					Date Printed: 3/8/2024	NE3100307
Microbiological	Highest Number of Positive Samples			MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination	Violations Present	
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2023								
Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90 th Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Likely Source of Contamination	
COPPER, FREE	2021 - 2023	0.131	0.0106 - 0.477	ppm	1.3	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing.	
LEAD	2021 - 2023	0	0 - 1	ppb	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing.	
Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination	
ARSENIC	5/31/2022	4.09	4.09	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.	
BIARIUM	10/5/2022	0.306	0.242 - 0.306	ppm	2	2	Discharge from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.	
CHROMIUM	10/5/2022	1.07	0 - 1.07	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.	
FLUORIDE	10/5/2022	0.319	0.251 - 0.319	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Fertilizer discharge.	
NITRATE-NITRITE	3/7/2023	0.741	0.111 - 0.741	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
SELENIUM	10/5/2022	13.4	0 - 13.4	ppb	50	50	Erosion of natural deposits	
Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination	
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	1/12/2021	1.04	0.561 - 1.04	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits	
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. RADON & U	1/12/2021	13.1	2.52 - 13.1	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits	
RADIUM-226	1/12/2021	0.561	0 - 0.561			0	Erosion of natural deposits.	
RADIUM-228	1/12/2021	1.04	0 - 1.04			0	Erosion of natural deposits	
Unregulated Water Quality Data	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	Secondary MCL			
SULFATE	7/19/2022	10.2	0 - 10.2	mg/L	250			
During the 2023 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations.								
Violation Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period					
No Violations Occurred in the Calendar Year of 2023								

The City of Elgin has taken the following actions to return to compliance with the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act:

There are no additional required health effects notices.
There are no additional required health effects violation notices.

PUBLISH: April 3, 2024

ZNEZ

BACKFLOW PREVENTION AND THE CONSUMER

BACKFLOW PREVENTION AND THE CONSUMER

Helping Keep Our Water Safe! Nebraska's Safe Drinking Water Act requires water systems to implement an on-going cross connection control program. An important part of this program is public education. It is believed that a well-informed public will be more aware of the possibility of cross connections within their property and will take reasonable and sensible precautions to avoid creating cross connections on their property. This brochure is intended to explain what a cross connection is, what causes it, what some of the consequences can be, and how it can be prevented.

What is cross connection?

A cross connection occurs whenever there is an actual or potential physical connection between the public drinking water system and any possible source of contamination.

Sources of contamination can include both high hazard materials, which can cause

illness or death, and low or non-hazardous materials which are mainly just a nuisance and can cause the water to look, taste or smell unpleasant. Although the high hazards are the primary concern in a cross connection control program, your water utility strives to provide both safe and good quality water to its customers. Whenever there is a loss of pressure in the public water supply, these cross connections can allow unsafe substances to enter the public water supply.

What causes cross connections?

Cross connections can be caused by both permanent and temporary "piping". An example of a cross connection being permanently piped in is the drain on a water softener. Many times these discharge lines are connected directly to the sewer line without any type of protection. Hot tub and whirlpool fill pipes and swimming pool and broiler make-up lines are other examples of permanently piped

cross connections.

The most common example of a temporary piped cross connection is the common garden hose. It is estimated that 90% of all cross connections are caused by the inappropriate use of garden hoses. Garden hoses are frequently used to apply fertilizer and pesticides to lawns and gardens. They are also used to fill swimming pools, wash cars, and in rural areas, they are often used to fill stock tanks for watering cattle, horses, and other livestock.

Other temporary piping cross connections occur when hoses are used to fill waterbeds or are connected to utility sinks to fill wash tubs or mop buckets.

What are the consequences of cross connections?

The consequences of cross connections can range from something as simple as "dirty water" to something as severe as serious illness or even death. There are many recorded instances of non-hazardous contamination of public water

supplies caused by cross connections. In one case, a line used for cleaning a distilling vat in a wine bottling company was left open, and an entire vat of wine flowed back into the public water system. Although this was not a health hazard, and most of the customers liked the water they drank, this cross connection could have had far deadlier results if it had been something other than wine in the vat.

There are many instances recorded where people have been made seriously ill or even died due to cross connections. There have been cases where dysentery diarrhea, hepatitis and even polio have been contracted as a direct result of a cross connection.

How can cross connections be prevented?

The best way to prevent cross connections is for each customer to examine the plumbing on their premises and look for any permanent or temporary piped cross connections. Any time there is the possibility of a

cross connection between the water supply and any hazardous or unknown substance, there should be an air gap between the faucet and the questionable use.

In cases where this is not possible, as with a garden hose, a proper backflow prevention device or assembly should be installed on the supply faucet. This will protect both the public water supply and the inhabitants of the building from contamination.

In situations where extremely high hazards exist in a building or location, it is sometimes necessary to contain that entire system from the public water supply with a backflow preventer to protect the public water supply from the substances being used on that site.

What you can do to prevent cross connections and keep your drinking water safe?

1. Check your faucets to be sure that all faucet endpoints are above the flood level of the sink, tub, basin, or other apparatus they supply.

2. Protect faucet extensions by installing proper backflow prevention devices (i.e. hose bib vacuum breakers) on all faucets capable of having a hose or other extension attached.

3. Check drain lines (refrigerator drink dispensers, water softeners, heat exchangers, etc.) to be sure there is an adequate air gap between the drain line and the floor drain or sewer line into which they discharge.

4. Never use unprotected faucets to fill non-drinking water containers (i.e. water beds, wading pools, stock tanks, hot tubs, etc.)

Following these guide lines and using common sense will help to eliminate the possibility of you contaminating your drinking water, your neighbor's drinking water and your community's drinking water. This not only affects the residents of your community, but their visitors and those people who are passing through.

PUBLISH: April 3, 2024
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NOTICE:

PARK CEMETERY ASSOCIATION MEETING, Friday April 5 at 7 pm at Park Congregational United Church of Christ, west of Elgin. Contact Karin Kinney 402-843-5535 or Chris Redding 402-843-2342 for more information.
 26-29c

CARD OF THANKS

On March 9th at midday we had a hundred acre grass fire here at our ranch west of Elgin. We would like to thank the Volunteer Fire Departments from Elgin, Clearwater, Ewing, and Bartlett for their very quick response. Within minutes these departments arrived with their fire equipment along with some local

farmers with their large tractors pulling discs. Within an hour they had the fire contained and controlled. Needless to say, without their help the fire would have continued to burn, perhaps endangering some nearby farmsteads. For that hour their display of competence, dedication, and expertise was both effective and inspiring. Thank you, not only for the time you spent out here containing the fire, but also for the time you have spent learning and honing that competence as well as maintaining all that equipment. You are the best of examples of community spirit.
 Walt and Susi Koziol

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E-R photo/LMorgan

One busy Easter Bunny!

A good number of Elgin kids got a surprise visit by the Easter Bunny on Friday and Saturday. Approximately 1,300 eggs were distributed on various yards throughout town. Here, the Easter Bunny threw out a basket full on the Deb Warren yard...not for Deb but for her grandchildren. Although, if you ask her she may admit to have gotten a bite or two. The bunny's visit was courtesy of the Elgin Community Center's first annual Egg My Yard fundraiser.

Kielty to shoot in State KC Free Throw contest

Congratulations to Reid Kielty. Reid won 1st place in the Regional KC Free Throw competition for the 10 year old boys held March 16 in Albion. He advanced to the State KC Free Throw competition in Grand Island this Saturday, April 6th. Good luck Reid!

E-R photo/ KSchindler



Pest problems?

Different conditions that attract pests to a home.

No homeowner wants pests to invade their homes or their yards. However, it's easy for pests to find their way into and around a home. In fact, certain conditions may be inviting pests to a property.

- Garbage: Piles of garbage offer food and shelter to pests. Removing garbage piles and cleaning up food waste promptly can make a difference.
- Stagnant water: Mosquitoes breed in standing water, which is water not affected by waves, current or a filtration system.
- Moisture or standing water: Additional sources of water and moisture may attract pests like gnats, mosquitoes, stink bugs, and certain spiders.
- Firewood: Firewood may attract a variety of pests, including termites and weevils. Firewood also may contain eggs that were laid before trees were

cut down.

- Clogged gutters: Ignoring clogged gutters can lead to pest problems. Mice, squirrels, birds, ants, and spiders may be attracted to damp leaves in clogged gutters.
- Dirty dishes and indoor trash: Leaving food-covered dishes in the sink invites pests. Leftover food attracts cockroaches, flies, ants, and more.
- Clutter: Clutter provides hiding places for all sorts of rodents and insects, which can hide out in cluttered areas and remain comfortable. Going room to room and clearing out extraneous items may help reduce pest populations. Focus on the garage and basement, in particular.

Pests are attracted to certain conditions, and remedying these issues can help reduce pest infestations.

South Dakota men sentenced to prison, ACJ

By Sandy Schroth

court reporter

Two South Dakota men were sentenced to prison last Wednesday, March 27, by the Honorable James Kube in the Antelope County district courtroom at the courthouse in Neligh.

Christopher Barta, 29, Irene, SD, was sentenced for aiding the consumption of a felony.

Kube sentenced Barta to one year in a facility under the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, the maximum jail sentence allowed for the Class 4 felony. He must serve at least six months before his mandatory release. Barta received credit for 65 days previously served in the Antelope County Jail (ACJ) and was assessed \$157 costs.

He pleaded guilty to the charge Jan. 31, after reaching a deal with Antelope County Attorney Joe Smith. The amended charge carried a potential for up to one year imprisonment and up to a \$1,000 fine, compared to up to 20 years on each of two original Class 2A felony counts, conspiracy to commit theft and conspiracy to commit criminal mischief.

Barta told the judge he was involved in the theft of wire from irrigation systems to help his "ex" who needed the money.

"I can't understand for the life of me, why you would do this," Kube replied. "I don't know why she wasn't convicted of theft."

Barta was arrested July 28, 2023, in South Dakota on

an Antelope County warrant, accused of conspiring "with others" to steal wire from area irrigation systems last spring and summer.

A co-defendant, Kailee Davis of Neligh, was sentenced in September 2023, to 180 days in the county jail for attempted tampering with evidence, a Class 1 misdemeanor. Antelope County public defender Pat Carney told the judge in September that Davis had pending charges in Yankton and would be arrested when she was released from jail on the Antelope County charge.

Barta and Davis were also recently charged with similar crimes in Cedar County. Barta was sentenced there last week, to two years of probation for criminal mischief and ordered to pay \$8,550 restitution, the estimated cost to repair damage to an irrigation system.

A warrant was issued for Davis' arrest on criminal mischief and theft allegations related to the theft of wire from multiple spans of irrigation systems in Cedar County, with estimated damages allegedly totaling more than \$50,000.

Jay L. Herrera, 22, of Vermillion, SD faced Kube for sentencing in two cases.

When question about previous unsuccessful probation sentences, he said, "I'm a violent person I guess."

He said he had seen a counselor and was learning to deal with his quick temper in addition to receiving medication for mental health diagnoses. "I feel more stable, more calm," he said.

Antelope County Attorney Joe Smith

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Photos submitted

More than 50 children collected eggs Saturday at the Easter Egg Hunt held in Bartlett. The event was sponsored by the Bartlett Lions Club.



Winnie (l) and Juniper Keyes (r) of Beatrice spend a moment with the Easter Bunny at the Bartlett Easter Egg Hunt held Saturday. They were weekend guests along with Mike and Angela Keyes in the home of Sherry Tetschner.

Bartlett Bits

By Sherry Tetschner

correspondent

The annual Bartlett Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Bartlett Lions Club, was held Saturday, March 30 with 56 children participating.

These children were from various Nebraska communities including; Wheeler County, Fullerton, Burwell, Ord, Elgin, Royal and Beatrice. Lions members helping that day were Bridget and Nick Schmidt, Kay Reineke, David Collins and daughter Kimmie Reed. Pauline Marker played the role of the Easter Bunny. Wheeler Central students who helped hide eggs were Sierra Plugge, Jerrin Kleeb and Lexi Plugge.

Bags, filled with candy and other fun items for each participant, were donated by the Bartlett Lions Club. Farmers and Merchants Bank in Ericson and Cornerstone Bank in Bartlett donated dollar coins that were included in the bags.

Bartlett Church of Faith, formerly the Bartlett United Methodist Church, announced they have a new pastor.

Mark Hoffman will begin serving the congregation Sunday, April 14. Please help us welcome him that morning with a cup of coffee at 8:30 a.m. with church services starting at 9 a.m. Sunday School will follow at 10 a.m.

I hope each of you had a blessed Easter.

Elgin Community Center Menus

Monday, April 8: Ham, scalloped potatoes, carrots, mandarin oranges, milk.

Tuesday, April 9: Taco burgers, lettuce salad, corn, criss cross potatoes, strawberry/banana mix, milk.

Wednesday, April 10: Swedish meatballs, buttered noodles, peas, apricots, milk.

Thursday, April 11: Cream chicken, mixed vegetables, peaches/strawberry mix, bread/biscuit, milk.

Friday, April 12: Breaded pork tenderloin sandwich on bun, criss cross potatoes, macaroni salad, Frito corn salad, tropical

Lawmakers want to erase Nebraska's child care crisis - will it be enough?

By Sara Gentzler

Flatwater Free Press

A single email sent in early March disrupted the lives of 116 Lincoln-area families. The Dimensions child care center at First-Plymouth Church will close for good on May 23, the email said.

The initial response to that announcement: panic. Parents scrambled for alternative care. The center's 27 teachers feared for their jobs.

"That instant shock was hardest," said Dimensions Foundation CEO Tara Schroder.

The center's closure is notable because it marks the end of a child care center that has operated for 55 years. It's also notable because the news is distressingly familiar.

At least two other Lincoln-area centers have closed since November, according to Lincoln Littles, a network advocating for early childhood care and education. And nine Nebraska counties didn't have a single licensed child care facility as of January, according to the nonprofit First Five Nebraska.

The current situation - with too few workers, too expensive tuition and a decreasing number of providers - amounts to what advocates and others call a crisis.

And it has caught the attention of state leaders, including Gov. Jim Pillen and lawmakers of all political stripes. In the current legislative session, they've introduced at least a half-dozen bills intended to address the same problems that are shuttering the Dimensions center just a mile away.

Momentum at the state level now has some sounding optimistic. But with the legislative calendar drawing down and the issue proving pervasive and persistent, it raises the question: Will the current efforts make a dent in Nebraska's child care crisis?

Financially strapped Access to early childhood care is an issue across the country. In Nebraska, 74% of children under 6 have all available parents in the workforce, the 7th-highest percentage in the country, according to U.S. Census data compiled by First Five.

Put simply, there's not enough supply to meet the potential demand. The Bipar-

tisan Policy Center found an 18.5% gap between the number of child care slots offered by licensed providers and the number of young Nebraska children with working parents. The gap widened to over 30% in the largely rural 3rd Congressional District.

That was in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing issues.

The number of child care centers has rebounded from a pandemic-fueled drop, but the number of home providers has declined by over 19% in the metros and over 13% in Greater Nebraska since 2019, according to First Five.

In-home providers are essential, especially in rural areas, said Lindsey Jarecki, a former early childhood teacher who helped start a nonprofit child care center in Boone County. But many of those providers are older, or have closed after not making a living wage, she said.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Nebraska child care workers made an average annual salary of \$28,000 in 2022, or roughly \$13.34 an hour - roughly half the average salary of all employed Nebraskans.

While workers are struggling to earn a livable wage, parents are struggling to afford child care. Over 30% of parents with kids ages 5 and younger said they left the workforce because they couldn't find affordable care, in a 2023 survey commissioned by the University of Nebraska Extension and We Care for Kids.

In Lancaster County, average annual child care costs in 2021 ranged from \$6,901 to \$12,389 depending on the child's age and type of care, according to the Lincoln Vital Signs report.

A worker shortage and the need to keep tuition reasonable led to the Dimensions Foundation's difficult decision to close the center at First-Plymouth, Schroder said.

"Individuals are financially strapped ... a joke that we tell in our circle is that when your youngest goes to kindergarten, that's the biggest raise you'll ever get," Jarecki said.

What legislators are trying Nebraska's child care crisis has motivated state lawmakers across party lines.

There is strong momentum to truly "move the needle"

in the next couple years, said Elizabeth Everett, deputy director of First Five, an advocacy organization behind many of the proposals.

A bill sponsored by Sen. Eliot Bostar, a Democrat, could be "game-changing," she said.

Requested by Pillen, a Republican, Bostar's "Child Care Capacity Building and Workforce Act" would create grant programs to help with upstart costs for new child care providers and establish regional hubs that handle administrative tasks for "micro-centers" that care for up to 12 children.

The bill, which passed unanimously out of committee, was amended this week into a different bill. It passed the first of three rounds of debate.

Another Bostar bill would nix some of the state's "burdensome" regulations on child care providers.

A bill introduced and prioritized this year by Sen. John Fredrickson, an Omaha Democrat, targets a state program that pays some child care costs for parents who meet certain criteria. Child care and preschool workers would qualify for the subsidy under Fredrickson's bill.

The bill may have hit a snag due to its potential \$10 million cost, Fredrickson told the Flatwater Free Press.

The governor's goals for property tax relief, while admirable, have made new investments a difficult sell, Fredrickson said. He hopes to pass some version of this policy with or without the price tag.

Sen. Wendy DeBoer, an Omaha Democrat, has a bill she hopes will bring the state's subsidy rate more in-line with providers' costs. The Legislature gave it first-round approval on March 5.

Teresa Ibach, a Republican from Sumner, has a stalled bill that would, if tacked onto another bill, direct \$2 million to a fund to supplement salaries for child care and early education providers.

Incremental change vs. seismic shift

Dimensions Foundation CEO Schroder sees a need for something bigger than grants, tax breaks and subsidy boosts - as helpful as those are. Both she and Boone Beginnings' Jarecki

See **CHILD CARE**, Page 16 ►

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Tales

◀ FROM Page 6

not see in a pew for weeks or months at a time, will come for Easter just as they show up for Christmas Eve (or Day) Mass.

Lynell said, as she looked around, she could see her class-

mates from 1980, some with sons and daughters and others with grandchildren. The choir, something she always looks forward to hearing, sounded great. When they weren't singing, the babies would start to chime in with their own distinct choruses. After all, what's a church without babies sounding off in the pews?

After Mass, the family gathered for an untraditional Easter meal featuring Italian delicacies. Lynell made a huge batch of lasagna, her sister made a spinach salad (not bad) and her niece made spaghetti and meat sauce. It's good for the niece to be learning how to cook as she's to be married sometime soon. As with Italian food, the wine flowed. Tuscany had nothing on this household on this day.

So where's this gathering of words heading to?

Simple, our family isn't much different than yours. Easter is one of the few holidays where families need to come together,

if for nothing more than just sitting around the table telling stories and catching up. Some sit in silence, others talk (you know the talk, some positive and some, well you know ...

As I stepped outside to come home mid-afternoon, I could hear the sounds of children getting in trouble with Mom just a few houses down the block. Ah yes, Spring is beckoning and children are outside doing what children do. And parents are being parents.

All this took place on the last day of March 2024, as the last patches of snow melt away in parts of northeast Nebraska, where families still do come together to worship God and enjoy each other's company, where corn crops still reach high to touch the Heavens in July in a place where America's virtue still exists on farms and on streets like those here in Elgin.

Yes, that's Sunday morning comin' down.

From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen



Apple or Peach Crisp, Easy Cake

Good day, Desserts! This week's recipes are desserts! This

"Apple or Peach" dessert has been one I grew up

making many times for my family. It's my go-to. It makes an amazing peach crisp from fresh peaches.

Apples are just as good! Serving it warm with vanilla ice cream is the best! Enjoy!

This "Easy Cake" is almost like a "spice cake" and very moist. My favorite way to frost it is by sprinkling it with a little cinnamon and

sugar mixture before I bake it. It's so delicious! Happy baking!

JoAnn

EASY CAKE

1/2 cup butter (1 stick)
1 cup white sugar
1 egg
2 cups flour
1 tsp soda
2 Tbls cocoa

1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp cloves
1/2 tsp nutmeg
1 cup sour milk
1 cup raisins

Cream butter and sugar. Add the remaining ingredients. Bake in a greased 9x13 pan at 350° for 30-40 minutes. If you like, you can frost this with your choice of frosting and you could just dust with powdered sugar or sprinkle it with cinnamon sugar before you bake it. Yummy!

APPLE OR PEACH CRISP

Slice apples or peaches in a pan. Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon to taste.

Mix:
1 cup sugar
1 stick margarine
1 cup flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt.

Mix with a pastry cutter until crumbly.

This will make a 9x9 pan. Double the fruit and topping for a 9x13 pan.

Bake at 375° for 35 to 40 minutes until brown.



Wolfpack Sports

EPPJ golf team ready to start the season

It hasn't been easy, but the Wolfpack golf team is ready to start the season. Due to bad weather (snow last week being the latest setback), the team is scheduled to begin the season this week. The Wolfpack are scheduled to compete Thursday at the Antelope Country Club and, on Saturday, at the Plainview Invitational. Making up the Wolfpack golf team this season are (front row, l-r): Assistant Coach Andrew Childers, Dannyka Smidt, Michael Selting, Jack Barlow, Aiden Klein and Head Coach Trent Ostransky. Back row: Creighton Harkins, Karson Kallhoff, Kellan Hoefer, Gage Thiessen and Gavin Kallhoff.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Museum announces plans for July vendor fair

The Antelope County Museum has announced the dates for an event which, although months away, should be marked on the calendar now. The museum, located in Neligh, will be having a vendor fair and windmill raising on Wednesday and Thursday, July 3-4. To be held on the Antelope County Historical Society's grassy area in Neligh, it is open to any crafters, businesses, farmer's market people, antique dealers and anyone else who would like to participate in the vendor fair. According to organizers, the decision to go forward with the event is because the museum has special events that will be held over the two-day span. Among them will be Ponca dancers performing on July 3 and a windmill will be presented on Independence Day. There will be two food trucks participating in the event as well, according to organizers. For more information, contact the museum at stealthcourthouse@gmail.com.

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Child care

◀ FROM Page 14

would like to see the state provide an ongoing base of funding for operations.

"I personally hate that it has come to a program of 55 years having to close," Schroder said. "But if that's what it would take for the crisis to be seen and known and for something to be done to help ... then that will be the silver lining. We really need the Legislature to see this crisis and to do something about it."

As a whole, funding for early childhood care and education hasn't kept up with the growing economy, according to Cathey Huddleston-Casas at the Buffett Early Childhood Institute. The gap to an ideally-funded system supported by federal, state and private

money has widened, according to research by Huddleston-Casas.

About \$80.9 million in state funding went to the early childhood care and education system in 2021. Even with those dollars and other sources of money that year, the institute found it would take an additional \$569.2 million to reach an ideally-funded system.

"This historically has been a state that has put a lot of effort and resources toward early childhood," Huddleston-Casas said. "Despite those efforts and resources, the gap is not closing."

It's unclear exactly what it will take to solve a crisis that she likened to a Rubik's Cube: Do your best to fix one side, and it'll shift another side.

"There isn't going to be a perfect fix or a silver bullet," she said, "but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try."

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TRACK		
Varsity		
April 4	@ Battle Creek.....	11:30
April 9	@ Neligh-Oakdale (Neligh).....	12:30
April 11	@ O'Neill.....	9:00
JUNIOR HIGH		
April 4	@ Plainview.....	4:00
April 16	@ Burwell.....	1:00
GOLF		
April 4	EPPJ/Summerland/CWC @ Ant. Country Club	4:00
April 5	@ Plainview.....	8:30
April 8	EPPJ/EV/CWC @ Ant. Country Club.....	4:00
April 10	@ Ewing.....	9:00



OTHER UPCOMING SCHOOL- & YOUTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES	
April 3-5	State FFA Convention
April 4-5	ESU 8 Art Show
April 7	St. Boniface First Communion
April 8	PJCC Jr. Job Shadow Day • EPS NECC Early College zoom mtg
April 10	NECC Quiz Bowl • EPS school board meeting
April 11	EPS, NSCAS testing (3-8 grade)
April 13	ACT
April 17	Bloodmobile (EHS host) • EPS & SB Miles of Smiles
April 18	EPS K-1st grade field trip to Columbus
April 19	District Music contest • PJCC/SB Visitation Day
April 20	EHS/PJCC Jr/Sr Prom
April 22	EPS Spring HS Concert
April 23	EPS 5th Grade Field Trip, Stuhr Museum • PJCC/SB 1 p.m. dismissal
April 24	EPS 4th grade field trip to Lincoln • EHS Science Fair
April 26	NVC Art Show @ Rock County • SB Miles of Smiles
April 27	N-O 5th/6th Grade Honor Band
April 26 & 28	PJCC Spring Musical
April 30	PJCC Crusader Jam
May 2	PJ/SB Spring Concert
May 3	EPS Grandparents Day • WSC Math Contest • SB only, 1 p.m. dismissal • EPS Elementary Spring Concert

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