

# The Elgin Review

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## In Brief

### EPS to host next bloodmobile on April 17

To be held at KC Hall.

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.

Donate blood in honor of Jessica Reich, Maria Kinney and the Boone County Health Center staff.

### District #18 School Board to meet tonight

On April 10 at the high school.

A light agenda awaits the District #18 Board of Education when they meet this week.

The regular monthly meeting will be held tonight, April 10, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the high school meeting room.

Seniors may be interested in the first item on the 'action' agenda. The board will consider approving the graduation list. Seniors are now counting down the days. Graduation will be held Saturday afternoon, May 11.

The three other action items are:  
• Approving teacher requisitions  
• Approve extra duty assignments  
• Approve chair lift replacement.

This item was tabled last month.

Prior to the start of the regular meeting, the Elgin Public School Americanism Committee will hold a hearing, beginning at 7 p.m. The hearing is held annually.



Qualifying for the national convention in Agriscience Fair (Plant Science Division) were Samantha Durre and Chloe Henn (r).



Qualifying for the national convention in Agriscience Fair (Food Science Division) were Kaidynce Schrad and Brystol Buschow (r).

## Elgin FFA members among over 7,700 attending State FFA Convention

With another FFA State Convention in the books, the Elgin FFA members have lot's to be proud of this year. The theme for this year's Nebraska state convention was "Unwritten" and the members listened to the State Officers as well as several keynote speakers speak to this topic. One of the biggest highlights of the convention was listening to Nebraska volleyball coach John Cook give some inspirational tips as well as praise Nebraskans, especial-

ly those working in agricultural industries, on their work ethic and genuine characteristics.

Here is a summary and highlights of the Elgin FFA Chapter at the State Convention:

State Champions and National Qualifiers:  
Carter Beckman - Swine Proficiency  
Kaidynce Schrad & Brystol Buschow: Agriscience Fair, Food Science Div.

Chloe Henn & Sam Durre - Agriscience Fair, Plant Science Div.

State Runner-Ups  
Michael Selting and Justice Blecher - Agriscience Fair, Natural Res. Div.  
Samuel Hemenway - Diversified Ag Proficiency  
3rd Place  
Molly Thiessen & Makenna Mortiboy - Agriscience Fair, Food Science

See FFA, Page 10 ▶

## Driver jailed after getting stuck twice on muddy county road

By Sandy Schroth

court reporter

A plea agreement was initiated in the Antelope County courtroom in Neligh last week, prior to a Beatrice man's arraignment on March 28 charges.

Christopher A. Palmer, 29, pleaded guilty to a Count I as charged, obstruct a peace officer, a Class 1 misdemeanor; and an amended Count II, drive under suspension, a Class 3 misdemeanor.

Antelope County Attorney Joe Smith reduced Count II from a Class 2 misdemeanor, driving under revocation, and dismissed counts III and IV, no proof of financial responsibility and unlawful/fictitious display of plates.

As part of the deal, Smith recommended a total of 14 days in the Antelope County Jail.

The Honorable Donna Taylor sen-

tenced Palmer to 14 days on Count I and seven days on Count II, to be served concurrently. He was given credit for six days served and taxed \$50 costs.

Palmer was arrested by Antelope County Sheriff Bob Moore on March 28 following a foot pursuit through fields about seven miles southwest of Tilden.

According to an arrest affidavit filed by Moore, the sheriff received a call from an area farmer on his personal cell phone. The farmer reported a vehicle was stuck just north of the intersection of 531 Road and 836 Avenue. The sheriff reported the farmer needed "front-wheel assist" to reach the Dodge Durango.

After being pulled out, Moore reported Palmer fled when he saw the police vehicle, attempting to go back down the same road - again getting the Durango stuck in the mud.

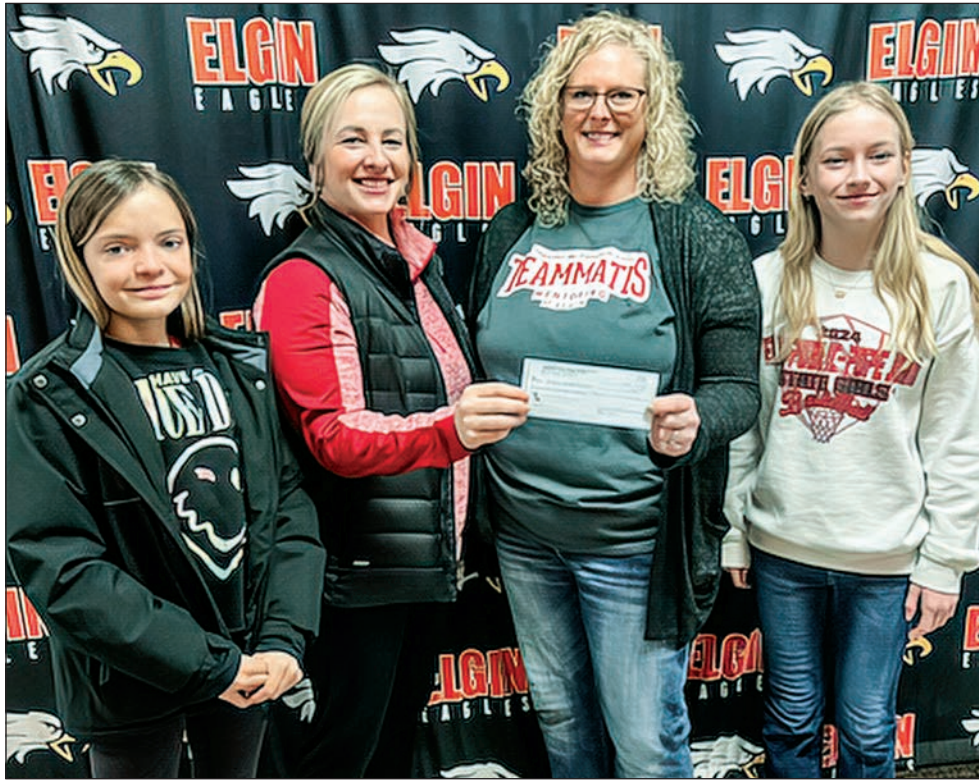
He then fled on foot, prompting Moore to call for additional law enforcement units. Palmer ran "back and forth through two quarters of ground" for about 45 minutes before he was apprehended.

Smith said the sheriff "got ahold of a 4-wheeler" and Palmer got tired of running.

Moore reported Palmer removed a sim card from his phone and ate it just before his arrest. He also said Palmer had no proof of ownership nor insurance for the Durango nor a trailer he was pulling.

Palmer had active warrants out of Madison and Lancaster counties. He asked to "take care of" the Madison County case while serving his jail sentence. A warrant was issued March 8, charging him with shoplifting, a Class

See COURT, Page 3 ▶



## ERPPD supports TeamMates

The Elgin TeamMates Chapter received \$750 from Elkhorn Public Power District for the Community Development Grant. Accepting on behalf of Elgin Teammates are Aurora, Mentor Cassandra Schrad, Mentor Kara Shavlik and Kynlee.

## Sounding of tornado sirens explained

No 'all clear' siren will be blown

Having tested the tornado sirens last month, the City of Elgin has made a change in the process for blowing the tornado siren.

The Elgin City Council has discussed for several months the process for having the siren blown. An arrangement has been so now when spotters see a potential tornado forming/heading towards Elgin the siren will be set off by a dispatcher from the Antelope County Law Enforcement Center.

That's one change, but not the only one.

City Clerk Kristin Childers said the tornado siren will continue to be a three-minute blast.

"It will now be a single 3-minute siren and there will NOT be an all clear siren. If you hear a second siren, take cover immediately as that means there is a new threat," she said.

### Cleanup Day

It's cleanup time in Elgin, well almost. The event is Community Cleanup Day and the date on the calendar will be April 19 (just nine days away).

To be held on a Friday, the drop off location will be the same as past years - the lot directly north of Elgin Livestock. Items which are acceptable to drop off haven't changed from previous years.

Among the items PROHIBITED from being dropped off include pallets, tires, paints, liquids and propane tanks.

Residents are responsible for hauling their items to the drop site. Anyone having questions should contact City Hall during regular business hours.

In other action from last week's council meeting:

Closed session — The council went into closed session for a brief period of time to discuss the potential purchase of real estate property at 311 Cedar Street.

The closed session lasted all of 13 minutes.

Pay hikes — The council approved hourly pay rates for pool manager/assistant managers.

The pool manager (Sue Vanis) will be paid \$18.75; returning assistant manager Karin Kinney will receive \$17.75 and first year assistant manager Julie Thiessen will receive \$16.75 per hour.

Permits — Two building permits were approved at the meeting. They were for Greg Wemhoff and Nathan Van Winkle.

## More events set for 2024 Vetch Days, June 10, 11 & 12

Plans for the 2024 Vetch Days came together quite a bit more at last week's Elgin Chamber of Commerce/Community Club meeting.

The group voted to sign the contract for the River City carnival company. The carnival will be set up all three days -- June 10, 11 & 12.

Carnivals are becoming harder and harder to book so the club encourages all who can to come by and take in their rides, game and foods.

Activities finalized (and their day/times) are:

### Monday, June 10

Kids Day  
8 am - 1 pm - Sidewalk Chalk Art  
10 am - Scavenger Hunt, Elgin Library  
11 am - 1 pm - Petting Zoo, Way Out West 4H club  
11 am - ??? - Walking Taco meal, Elgin Community Center

1 - 3 pm - Pool Party, Elgin City Pool  
3-4 pm - Chicken races, new games at the City Park

Evening, time tba - Pizza Puzzle Team Competition, Elgin VFW Auxiliary

### Tuesday, June 11

10 am - Yoga in the City Park  
2 pm - "The Mad Queen of the Prairies" Nebraska Humanities presentation, Elgin Library

Evening, time tba - Poker Walk/Run 5-6:30 pm - Community BBQ, Elgin firehall

7 pm - Parade  
8 pm - Duck Races, EKG  
After parade/races, an old-fashioned Cruise downtown (Duane Esau)

### Wednesday, June 12

10 am - Storytime, Elgin Library  
Afternoon, time tba - youth kickball 5-7 pm - Ice Cream & Pie Social, Elgin Community Center

10 pm - HS/JH age nighttime kickball  
A number of weekend items planned during the months of May and June have pushed back the date for a much-needed fundraiser. The City of Elgin donated funds to help cover the cost of putting on the annual celebration, which the handful of volunteers who work to put it together greatly appreciate.

If you would like to suggest or add an event during one of these days, please contact any Chamber/Club member.

## Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

- Application for Ballot — Antelope County
- Notice of Meeting — AC Commissioners
- Proceedings — Antelope County Board of Commissioners
- Proceedings — Elgin City Council
- 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 64 degrees recorded on Saturday, April 6.

The low during the same period was 26 degrees recorded on Wednesday, April 3.

Altogether, 0.90 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 31	51	32	0.50
April 1	38	32	0.08
April 2	52	28	.00
April 3	51	26	.00
April 4	57	29	.00
April 5	59	37	.00
April 6	64	39	.32
Total for last week			0.90
Total for March			2.50
Total precipitation 2024			4.93

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# Four take top honors in Americanism Essay Contest

Winners have been announced for the American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Essay Contest for students from Elgin schools. Verona Henn, chairperson for the contest said they had 75 total entries in four (4) categories this year – last year 60 entries in three (3) categories! “As usual, quite a few of the entries were well done, making the selection for winners challenging,” she said.

The essay that placed first in each of the Classes has been forwarded to the Department of Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Chairman for state judging. If selected as a winner there, money will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners!

The first place winner in each class at Department/Nebraska will be forwarded to the National Americanism judging, a pretty big deal! There are five (5) Divisions in National and if a first place winner there, \$50.00 will be sent to the winner and a \$50.00 donation will be made in the student’s name to the Children of Warriors National Presidents’ Scholarship fund.

This year’s essay title was “What does Freedom mean to me?” Winners were:

Class I: 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades: 1st - Harrison Lodge; 2<sup>nd</sup> - Emery Borer; 3<sup>rd</sup> - Brooke Borer. Honorable Mention: Elise Hoefler and Aubrey Starman

Class II — 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades: 1st - Chloe Kielty; 2<sup>nd</sup> - Carter Seltling; 3<sup>rd</sup> - Cecil Shavlik. Honorable Mention: Harmon Borer and Liam Pelster

Class IV: — 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grades: 1st - Dannyka Smidt; 2<sup>nd</sup> - Rylen Schwarting; 3<sup>rd</sup> - Kaiden Bode. Honorable Mention: Kyndal Busteded and Mady Kurpgeweit

Class V — 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades: 1st-Samantha Durre; 2<sup>nd</sup> - Landon Kallhoff; 3<sup>rd</sup> - Callie Heithoff. Honorable Mention: Austin Hinkle and Dylan Lu-eking

Here are this year’s winning essays:

### What Does Freedom Mean to Me?

The meaning behind freedom is so complex and different for everyone around the world and is based on their real-life experiences. Freedom to me, however, means to have the ability to express myself the way I desire, knowing that there is no “correct” way life should be. Freedom to me is remembering the soldiers who fought all those battles to keep me and my family safe and protected from harm. Freedom means liberty and enjoying the pursuit of happiness just like my forefather set out for it to be. It means having the ability to make your own choices and to accomplish them, as long as they are not unjust, unessential or obstructive to others.

You can’t talk about freedom without talking about the men and women who risked their lives to fight for it. My dad and my uncle are veterans, and my other uncle is currently active and is stationed in Alabama. My dad was in the military for two years, and before he was deployed to Afghanistan for the second time, someone blew a practice grenade up in his ear, causing permanent hearing loss and ear damage. Due to my family background, I believe that freedom isn’t free. Freedom is something that is worth fighting for and putting your life on your line to protect everyone and respecting and remembering the people who did these things.

Freedom is expressed in different ways based on your background. Your experiences can change the way you interpret freedom and the angle at which you look at things. Asking different people this question can really say a lot about them and where they come from. Freedom doesn’t have to be narrowed down and pinpointed to an exact definition. It can mean whatever you want it to mean and however it feels to you. That is the beauty of freedom and the

word. It doesn’t matter where you come from or how you express yourself in America. You have freedom, and that is the beauty of the word. Freedom is something not to be taken for granted and something that needs to be valued and viewed as precious. Freedom can be broken and can be destroyed and taken away from us at any moment, so you need to look at freedom like it is something that can be taken away because it can be taken away.

Freedom to me means respect, liberty, acceptance, and value. I believe freedom is something that you must fight for and protect. Some even do so with their lives. Freedom means many things to many people, and that is something I love about the word. It’s a beautiful and precious thing, and that is why freedom means so much to me.

**Dannyka Smidt**  
\*\*\*\*\*

“I am no bird; and no net ensnares me; I am a free human being with an independent will.” This quote by Charlotte Brontë stood out to me when trying to find a quote to describe freedom. I believe that freedom is the freedom to do not whatever is wanted, but whatever is right. As a teenager, freedom may seem different to me than it does to others, but my freedom will always be my number one priority.

As a young girl with a seizure disorder, freedom is very important. According to Nebraska law, anyone with a loss of control of their body for frequent and prolonged periods of time, must be episode free for at least three months before operating a vehicle. Since June of 2023, I have had multiple seizures due to a disorder. This law made a few months very difficult to do anything. I wasn’t allowed the same privileges that most kids my age are. I was stuck in the house, in and out of the hospital, and didn’t have much of a choice on what I did or where I went. Since finding a way to work towards controlling my disorder, I have been cleared to drive. Since the whole experience, I have been able to see how such small things can be overlooked. People often overlook everything they haven’t had to earn or what may seem like a normal necessity. Such a simple thing was taken away from me, and I hated it.

I struggle deeply with mental health. Experiencing everything I’ve been through has taught me that I have the freedom to do as I please. I have the freedom to make a choice, to change for the better. I will always try to continue to work to make my life how I want it to be. I don’t have to stay stuck in the same cycle constantly. Because of the men and women who have given their lives for this country, I can be who I’m truly meant to be. I can freely practice my religion and work towards having a better relationship with myself and the Lord. I am not an overly religious person, but I still believe. I strive to be the best version of myself I can be. Growing up on a small ranch, I have always wanted to raise cattle. Although agriculture may seem like a predominant male space, women have been working their way up and continue to do so. Women and young girls like me have the right to do what they please, although we may be looked down on by others.

I’ll always have the men and women serving our country in my prayers because they gave me the freedom to be who I want to be. Without freedom, I would be stuck and lost. Freedom gives me the right to make my own decisions, and having it has made me who I am today.

**Samantha Durre**  
\*\*\*\*\*

What does freedom mean to you? To me freedom means I have the ability to speak, do, and act however I want as long as it is not harming or hurting

anyone. To me religion is one of my biggest freedoms, but I know it isn’t free because the soldiers had to fight for this freedom. Because of this, we have responsibilities and obligations.

One example of freedom is the freedom of religion. This freedom is an important freedom to me because I want to be able to talk about my faith and show my faith to other people. I know people in other countries don’t get to do this and also don’t get to gather together and talk about the Bible, or even go to church. Because of this, I will never take this freedom for granted.

Another freedom I have that I will not ever take for granted is to have a strong military with soldiers that are out fighting for us every day. I know sometimes we don’t know how lucky we should be to have soldiers out defending us. We are also lucky that we don’t have other countries invading our land and our country. For this freedom, I will always be grateful.

One thing we should do because we have all this freedom is carry out our responsibilities. We can’t always rely on everybody else to do our work, so we should still do what we are responsible for. For example we should take care of our veterans who are no longer serving or those who are less fortunate.

In conclusion, we are free because of all these reasons. We have freedoms because of our strong military, but we still have responsibilities we have to do because we have these freedoms.

**Chloe Kielty**  
\*\*\*\*\*

“I hope for nothing. I fear nothing. I am free.” This quote by Nikos Kazantzakis explains that we do not have to worry about a lot because we are free. Freedom allows us to make our own choices and decisions. As free Americans, we can fight for what is right and choose our own school.

Freedom to me means that I can stand up for what I want. I can send letters to my political leaders. I can voice my thoughts and my feelings. I can stand up for what is right.

Choosing our own school to attend, is also freedom. Families can choose a school that best suits their educational needs. It can be based on religious beliefs, where families live, or other important family expectations. Where I may someday send my children is an important freedom to me.

In conclusion, freedom allows us to make our own choices and decisions. It allows us to stand up for what is right and which schools we can attend. Freedom is what makes America so great.

**Harrison Lodge**



Chloe Kielty



Samantha Durre



Dannyka Smidt



Harrison Lodge

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## There's no right answer on when to intervene

If there's one thing I know for sure, it's that kids are mean. Not that all kids are mean all the time, but the collective isn't great at holding back punches. Sometimes it's unintentional, as kids tend to tell the truth without softening it. "Mommy, why is your underwear so big?" However, sometimes it's intentional and targeted. And when it becomes persistent, then it pushes into the realm of bullying.

I would assume that all of us have been teased at one point or another in our lifetime. We've all made mistakes and peers are usually quick to point them out or use our ineptitude as the punch line to a joke. When it's truly in jest, or when it's a one-time offense, it's easier to brush it off and move on. Other times, it's not as easy and can be a very emotional and serious issue.

Our son is in the Boy Scouts and, unfortunately, is enduring some bullying in his troop. I'm disappointed because I thought this was a safe space, but the older scouts tease him and sometimes are downright mean. My instinct is to go all "momma bear" and protect him. I want to remove him from the situation and make it all okay. On the other hand, if I swoop in and spare him the pain every time he goes through something hard, it doesn't teach him how to get through tough things.

This past weekend he had a campout. Leading up to it he was nervous about going. Not only does he get bullied, but he tends to get homesick. He was worried about controlling his emotions, which would then lead to additional teasing. He made comments about trying to fit in and how different he feels. His mind raced as he thought

about all that could go wrong and had a hard time sleeping the night before he left.

He ultimately ended up having a great time. This was the first time in years he didn't get homesick or cry. If I had removed him from the situation in hopes of shielding him from pain, he would have missed out on this great experience. So how do we know when it's time to step back and let them go through something to get some thicker skin? And when do we jump in and say enough is enough? Sometimes teasing helps teach about social situations and what's "acceptable" or not. Kids learn from their peers and overall, it can help them navigate the teenage years. It can help them to learn to brush things off and not take everything to heart. Other times, it can take a serious mental toll on children.

Then there's cyber bullying, a whole new realm that didn't exist when we were growing up. I don't allow my children to have social media. As young teenagers, I don't think there's

any reason for them to be online and expose themselves to the comparison game or open themselves up to online bullying. Middle School is tough enough without the added stress of getting

"likes" and worrying about what everyone thinks. Perhaps there's no right answer when it comes to when to intervene or not. I just pray that God gives us direction on when to step in or not. We need wisdom to know if it's becoming a serious issue or if it will ultimately make them stronger.

Comments are welcome and can be sent to [talesofatiredmamma@gmail.com](mailto:talesofatiredmamma@gmail.com).

### Tales of a Tired Momma



Elgin Columnist Katherine Cobb

## Elgin Community Center Menus

**Monday, April 15:** Bacon cheese-burger, tator tots, corn, mandarin oranges, milk.

**Tuesday, April 16:** Baked chicken parmesan coucous, brussel sprouts, pineapple, garlic stick, milk.

**Wednesday, April 17:** Swedish

meatballs, buttered noodles, peas, apricots, milk.

**Thursday, April 18:** Liver & onions OR ham, baked potato, broccoli, tropical fruit, milk.

**Friday, April 19:** Sloppy joe on bun, corn casserole, carrots/strawberry/peaches mix, milk.

## CVA launches Equine Feed line in partnership with Kentucky Equine Research

Central Valley Ag (CVA) announces the launch of Emphyrean, a new line of high-performance horse feeds developed in collaboration with the Kentucky Equine Research (KER). Emphyrean addresses the specific needs of horse owners in the Midwest, offering year-round nutritional solutions for horses of all types. This innovative feed line promotes gut health, supports weight management, and enhances digestibility.

The Emphyrean lineup currently features two distinct feed options: the Maintenance Pellet and the Performance Pellet. The Maintenance Pellet is formulated for horses needing calories to maintain weight and condition. Soybean hulls in this feed provide sustained energy through slow-release fiber fermentation. The Performance Pellet is designed for working horses with high-energy needs. This formula boasts a readily available, non-structural carbohydrate source to fuel muscle function and deliver essential nutrients.

Produced in a no-med, antibiotic-free facility, Emphyrean prioritizes the well-being of your horse. Stringent quality control measures ensure you can confidently provide a safe and effective nutritional foundation for your equine companion.

"Our Duncan Feed Mill follows strict HACCP processes to ensure the consistency and

safety of our feeds," said Doug Rowse, SVP Feed at CVA. "we are excited to produce Emphyrean at our Duncan location and to bring this exceptional line of feed to the equine market."

Every detail, from the inclusion of essential vitamins and minerals to the selection of gut-supporting ingredients, is meticulously chosen with your horse in mind. With Emphyrean, CVA delivers an elite feed specifically formulated for the needs of Midwestern horses.

"We are excited to partner with Central Valley Ag, providing technical support and micronutrient fortification for its new line of horse feeds, Emphyrean," said Mike Lennox, Director of Operations at KER.

## Court

◀ FROM Page 1

2 misdemeanor alleged Jan. 26 at Walmart in Norfolk. A female codefendant was also charged in the case.

Palmer was represented by Antelope County public defender Pat Carney.

\*\*\*\*\*

The remaining criminal cases on the April 3 docket were continued to April 17 or May 1.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sara Woodard pleaded guilty, by waiver, to a March 10 City of Neligh complaint charging her with allowing a dog to run at large.

She was fined \$25 and taxed \$49 costs. Woodard was cited after police received a complaint that two dogs were running at large near 6th and P streets and one had allegedly bit a Pioneer Homes resident who was walking in the area. The victim alleged the dog "bit at" her with no injury.

However, she reported the bite left a hole in her pants. The officer also alleged the defendant was "very irate" and was detained after she attempted to flee in her vehicle when he initiated contact at her residence.

He indicated the citation followed "repeated warnings."

# Looking Back



The Elgin Review

Sixty Years Ago

April 9, 1964

The Elgin Village Board of Trustees Monday night approved the conversion of present residential street lights from incandescent to mercury lights such as were recently installed near the Mrs. Genevieve Huffman home. The new lights will be 7,000 lumens, compared to 1,000 lumens for the present bulb-type lights.

Mrs. John H. Starman passed away in the Antelope Memorial hospital on April 7, 1964. She had been in failing health the past several years and had been hospitalized two months.

Ten inches of snow fell here Saturday morning during a period of a few hours. It was reported that but a skiff of snow lay on the ground at 5 a.m. and by 8 a.m. around eight inches had fallen here.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Waddington of Neligh will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary Sunday, April 19th with an open house arranged by their children.

Three hundred seventy-four village of Elgin voters trekked to the polls Tuesday to cast their ballots on the "liquor by the drink" question with the issue carrying by a sizable margin. The tally was 212 ballots FOR, and 162 votes AGAINST. Tuesday's turnout of voters was one of the largest in many years. A total of 530 votes were cast which included School Dist. 18 with well of 800 legal voters.

Fifty Years Ago

April 11, 1974

Eileen Sprout of Elgin Public Grade School placed second behind Diane Moser of Dist. 4 in the county spelling contest held at Neligh. The correct spelling of the word "tenement" was missed by Eileen. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Sprout. Diane is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Moser.

The Elgin Women's Bowling League held their annual meeting and banquet at the Legion Club Monday evening, April 8. The American Legion Auxiliary served the meal to the 70 bowlers, substitutes and sponsors in attendance. Trophies were given to the Thunderbird team for first place winners in the league. Members of the team are: Rena Capler, Bonnie Hofacker, Rita Wagner, Mardelle Blair, and Norma Koinzan. Shirley Hestekind received the trophy for the high individual game of 222.

Elgin's FFA Chapter this year had three of its members named State Farmers, the highest degree an FFA member can receive at the state level. Elgin's State Farmers were Scott Beckman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Beckman. Dennis Blair, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Blair and Brian Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Anderson.

Bob Vanourney left Sunday for Omaha after spending several weeks at the home of Mrs. Frances Schmitt.



**Shown (l-r)** Bob Bernt, Robert Ita, Alan Ramsey, Nadine Bane and Sherry Tetschner. All, excluding Nadine, are new officers for the Wheeler County GOP Convention which was held April 3 in Bartlett. Nadine is running for State Legislature District 41.

## Bartlett News

The Wheeler County GOP Convention was held Wednesday, April 6 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Bartlett. Chairman Ellis Schrunck opened the meeting with 23 attending. Ellis and his wife Lois, who is vice-chair, have chosen to resign their positions. Newly elected officers are Alan Ramsey, Chairman of Wheeler County GOP; Robert Bernt, Vice Chairman; Rob Ita, Treasurer; and Sherry Tetschner, Secretary. Ramsey will be the delegate to state convention with Dwight Nichols as alternate.

Guest speakers were Robert Bernt who spoke against the 'Epic Tax'; Raymond Bernt who encouraged constituents to vote for Candidate Walz who is running for 3rd District Congress against Adrian Smith; and Nadine Bane who is running for District 41 State Senator.

I attended a Christian Women's Retreat at the Burwell Baptist Church Saturday, April 5. Guest speakers were Di Mathis and Courtney Lee- a mother and daughter speaking duo from Lincoln, Nebraska. The topic was three women from the New Testament in the era of Paul. They were Sapphira, Priscilla and Lydia. It was a "Renew your faith," day with Christian women from Burwell and many other communities.

Submitted by Sherry Tetschner

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# Opinion

READ, REFLECT, RESPOND.

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

Edward R. Murrow

## Crunch time in Lincoln, it has ever been thus

It's easy to understand but hard to remember that the one task of the Nebraska Legislature is to pass a balanced budget during the 90-day session and to make adjustments to and pass that budget again in the 60-day session.

Mission accomplished again by the 2024 Legislature which has a little more than a week of session left. The simple task often gets lost in the shadow of high-profile issues such as this year's struggle to find a solution for skyrocketing property taxes. With all eyes on "the proposed solution" (LB388) it's also easy to forget that other measures have passed into law this session.

Governor Jim Pillen has added urgency to the drama by promising to

call a special session to address just the tax issue if one isn't passed before the scheduled April 18 adjournment. Incumbent lawmakers seeking another term don't like special sessions which often give their opponents sound bytes to use against them.

I like special sessions, even though they are costly, because it forces senators to focus on a single issue and deal with it. Pillen claims his plan, to raise the state sales tax and eliminate exemptions on soda pop and candy and increase the tax on vaping products and tobacco, is simply tax restructuring. Others, me included, see that as a tax shift to an income group that cannot afford it.

We'll see how all that plays out. For

now, let's look at some of the things that have passed so far this session.

LB1412, introduced by Speaker John Arch of La Vista at the request of Pillen, is the mainline budget bill. The measure provides, changes and eliminates appropriations for the operation of state government, postsecondary education, state aid, capital construction and federal funds allocated to the state from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. It reflects a 3.1% increase in state spending and leaves approximately \$20 million to fund legislative proposals this year.

LB1004, sponsored by Blair Sen. Ben Hansen, allows a Nebraska resident who is 21 or older and received a Class M license prior to May 1, 2024, to oper-

ate a motorcycle or moped on Nebraska highways without a helmet if they complete a three-hour online motorcycle safety course and submit proof of completion to the state Department of Motor Vehicles. Riders who are 21 or older and receive a license after May 1, 2024, are not required to wear a helmet if they complete the full basic motorcycle safety course and submit proof of completion to the department. Nonresidents who are 21 or older and ride without a helmet no longer are required to show proof of motorcycle rider course completion to a law enforcement officer upon request. They are required to have a motorcycle license issued by another state.

LB894, introduced by Sumner Sen. Teresa Ibach, requires county sheriff candidates to possess a diploma issued by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice before running for office.

The measure also requires newly elected and appointed county sheriffs to obtain certification within eight months of taking office. County sheriffs elected to office before July 19, 1980, are exempt from the bill's provisions.

LB1313, sponsored by Norfolk Sen. Robert Dover, says health benefit plans sponsored by certain nonprofit agricultural organizations which provide benefits under a self-funded arrangement administered by a licensed third-party administrator are not subject to insurance regulation.

### CAPITOL VIEW

Nebraska Press Association



Statehouse Correspondent

J.L. Schmidt

program.

Brewer said the program would not be a "free ride" for veterans to commit crimes, but simply would ensure that the criminal justice system acknowledges how a veteran's service can lead to criminal behavior and attempt to address those issues. A veteran must be eligible for probation to participate in the veteran justice program, which would use deferred judgments.

Upon successful completion, a veteran would be entitled to request that the court dismiss the action without entry of judgment. Courts also would be required to consider veteran status as a mitigating factor at sentencing. Judiciary Committee chair Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne said the bill essentially would put "probation on the front end" and allow veterans a chance to overcome their struggles if they commit crimes related to the lingering effects of their service.

Stay tuned. Crunch time is better than the Final Four and it is certainly more relevant to Nebraskans than any game of sportball."

## Governor's property tax relief bill still being debated

The beginning of April brings us closer to the end of this year's legislative session. There are many bills still left to debate and little time to consider all of the priority bills brought forward this year.

The week began with the resumption of debate on the Governor's proposed property tax relief package: LB388 and LB1331. LB388 initially proposed an up to one percent increase of the sales tax

## Prosperous future needs conservative vision

The United States' constitutional foundation of freedom and opportunity laid the pathway for our nation to become the most prosperous on the planet. Defending the right of each citizen to pursue prosperity while limiting the government's intrusion into our livelihoods and pocketbooks is a proven road to improved standards of living for American households of all income levels. We have nearly two-and-a-half centuries of evidence showing conservative principles yield the best results to grow our economy and safeguard liberties, and I take very seriously the task of applying those principles as a lawmaker.

### FROM THE HILL



Congressman

Adrian Smith

Recently, competing visions for the nation's economic future have been in the political spotlight as President Biden released his Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget proposal, and the federal government faced a deadline to appropriate funding for FY24. The president's budget proposals made it clear: his goal is to expand Washington's reach into the daily lives of Americans, raise taxes, and supersize government spending.

Projected to accumulate \$16.3 trillion in total deficits, the Biden budget contains a long list of far-left policies targeted to increase regulation of the firearm industry, push a radical climate agenda, and promote divisive ideologies through our education system. Furthermore, the proposal includes new tax increases attacking private aviation and signals the White House's willingness to jeopardize family farms and small businesses by once again calling for the repeal of stepped-up basis.

An executive branch with such detached priorities paired with an out-of-touch, Democrat-controlled Senate raises enormous obstacles to getting anything done on behalf of the American people, especially for a House Republican Conference holding its majority by a razor-thin margin. The challenges of divided government demand a unifying vision for everything elected officials are constitutionally obligated to do for the American people. This is crucial when it comes to fiscal policy and coming to terms to appropriate federal funds.

In the appropriations package passed by the House on March 22, 2024, Republicans did not get everything we wanted, but I supported the bill because of the significant policy wins it contained. These wins included rescinding \$10.2 billion in the Democrats' Inflation Act funding for the hiring of 87,000 new IRS agents—a provision originating from my own bill, which was the first bill passed by the House this Congress. The package also provides for a 5.2 percent increase in pay for military servicemembers, improved border security technology, and the hiring of 22,000 more border patrol agents.

The package cuts \$574 million from wasteful climate programs at the Department of Defense, prohibits the Biden administration from banning gas stoves, and requires U.S. diplomatic facilities to fly only the American flag and other official flags. It also maintains annual appropriations riders such as the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits federal funding of abortions, and the Dickey Amendment, which prohibits use of federal funding to advocate for gun control.

The unprecedented, antagonistic environment Speaker Mike Johnson inherited is a symptom of our broken congressional appropriations process.

See DeKay, Page 5



## Biofuels Innovation Movement

Last week, I spoke at an exciting ceremony in York. Ethanol and agri-tech company Green Plains partnered with oil company Shell to open a new facility for biofuels research and innovation.

It's a collaboration across industries that builds on the unique strengths and resources housed in Nebraska.

This new demonstration facility will combine fermentation, mechanical separation, and fiber conversion technologies into one platform.

The goal is to get as much out of the corn kernel as possible. The technologies will liberate corn oil, produce ethanol, and yield feed. This work will enhance our use and understanding of both plant and kernel. It will strengthen our nation's domestic energy resources and generate quality high-protein, high-energy feed for our livestock.

The facility is a remarkable collaboration that demonstrates how the liquid fuel industry can work together to create sustainable fuels for cars on the road today. We know that biofuels like ethanol benefit our environment. Emissions from ethanol are 46 percent

lower than from traditional gasoline, and one study found that corn ethanol contributed to a reduction of 500 million tons in emissions between 2005 and 2019.

Not only do higher ethanol blends of gasoline emit less greenhouse gases, but the corn used in ethanol production soaks up massive amounts of additional carbon dioxide.

During the summer, the Corn Belt of the United States has more photosynthetic activity than even the Amazon rainforest.

I am confident that the creative teamwork represented by this facility in York will set a standard for collaboration that others can follow. As Green Plains and Shell test precision separation and processing technology, they'll pave the way for more research, innovation, and efficiency when it comes to renewable fuels.

Nebraska is the natural home for this sort of innovation. Our state is the second largest producer of biofuels in the nation.

Each year, we generate over two billion gallons of renewable fuel sources from our farmers, who grow a billion and a half bushels of corn. Our 24 operating ethanol plants have created almost 1,500 good-paying jobs.

Our state, our farmers, and ethanol manufacturers all play a massive role in fueling our country. Through this facility, Shell is investing \$90 million in Nebraska. It's an extraordinary vote of confidence in Nebraskans and what we're capable of, and I know it'll be

worth it.

As Nebraska's senior senator, I've supported the biofuels industry and the incredible progress it's spearheading for years. Since 2017, I've been working toward the nationwide accessibility of 15 percent ethanol blends of gas, known as E15. My bipartisan bill, the Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act, would get rid of unnecessary red tape and approve E15 sales across the country.

Over the past several years, we've made strides toward accomplishing goals like this that would lower fuel costs, help the environment, and improve American energy security. Because of all these factors, ethanol enjoys bipartisan support. The Biden administration has said it wants to defend E15 access as strongly as possible.

Here at home, Nebraskans on both sides of the political aisle understand that biofuels are good for us all: they're good for the environment, good for our communities, good for our state's economy, and good for our ag producers.

As I work to promote biofuels accessibility in Congress, it's great to see the innovation and development happening at home. I'm thankful to the leadership of Green Plains and Shell for their work on the new facility at Green Plains' York biorefinery. Nebraska is proud of this investment in our state and in renewable energy. As your senator, I'll keep supporting these initiatives and advancing legislation that liberates the industry to launch more of them.

### Numbers to Know

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

U.S. Senate Website: [www.senate.gov](http://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](http://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/>.

Nebr. Unicameral Website [www.unicam.state.ne.us](http://www.unicam.state.ne.us)

Governor Jim Pillen: Executive Suite, P.O. Box 94848, Lincoln, NE 68509. Phone: (402) 471-2244.

Lieutenant Governor Joe Kelly: Office of the Lt. Gov., P.O. Box 94863, Lincoln, NE 68509-4863. Phone: (402) 471-2256.

District 40 State Senator Barry DeKay: P.O. Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509. Phone: (402) 471-2801. E-mail: [bdekay@leg.ne.gov](mailto:bdekay@leg.ne.gov).



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# Wolfpack Sports



E-R photo/DMorgan

With a toss of 472.75", senior Blake Henn finished in fifth place in the shot put.

## Points few for EPPJ at Battle Creek Henn, Veik score points for the Wolfpack

BATTLE CREEK — Points and medals proved to be elusive Thursday for the Wolfpack track team as they opened the season at the Battle Creek Invitational.

With a team depleted due to the State FFA Convention, only a handful of athletes saw action.

Senior Blake Henn made the finals in his first competition. However, this proved to be a very tough field as Henn's best effort (47"2.75") was only good enough for fifth place. Winning the event was Battle Creek's Trent Uhlir with a toss of 59"7.5".

Landyn Veik scored the Wolfpack's last point, placing sixth in the 800 meter run, finishing with a time of 2:28.78.

Battle Creek easily won the boys team title, it wasn't even close. The Braves scored 147 points, second was Norfolk Catholic with 88. EPPJ finished 13th out of 15 schools, amassing three points.

North Bend Central won the girls championship with 113 points, one better than Norfolk Catholic at 112. EPPJ did not score in the girls meet.

Individual results were:

- Girls**  
 Pole vault — 1. Brooklyn Cahoy, O'Neill, 8'6"  
 3200 meter relay — 1. Elkhorn Valley, 10:41.69; 7. EPPJ (Mady Kurpgeweit, Kaitey Schumacher, Reese Stuhr and Samantha Stuhr), 12:47.43.  
 100 meter hurdles — 1. Eva Hartzell, Norfolk Catholic, 14.81 seconds  
 100 meter dash — 2. Olivia Hupp, Stanton, 12.44 seconds  
 400 meter dash — 1. Eva Hartzell, Norfolk Catholic, 59.75 seconds  
 3200 meter run — 1. Emma Williams, North Bend Central, 13:07.99  
 Discus — Mikayla Settles, North Bend Central, 104'4"  
 Shot put — 1. Jaid Wehrle, Battle Creek, 35'9.5"  
 High jump — 1. Jady Buckendahl, Battle Creek, 34'10"  
 Long jump — 1. Aubrey Barnes Norfolk Catholic, 17:09.35.  
 Triple jump — 1. Jady Buckendahl, Battle Creek, 33'4.5"  
 400 meter relay — 1. North Bend Central, 4:23.40



E-R photo/DMorgan

Reese Stuhr ran a leg of the 4X800 relay Thursday, The Wolfpack finished seventh in the race.

- 200 meter dash — 1. Alexa Brodd, North Bend Central, 26.69 seconds  
 800 meter run — Lindsey Emanuel, North Bend Central, 2:29.18  
 300 meter hurdles — 1. Teya Boyer, Plainview, 50.35  
 1600 meter run — 1. Emma Williams, North Bend Central, 5:50.02  
 400 meter relay — 1. Norfolk Catholic, 51.70 seconds  
**Boys**  
 Discus — 1. Carter Nelson, Ainsworth, 175'1"  
 Shot put — 1. Trent Uhlir, Battle Creek, 59'7.5"; 5. Bake Henn, EPPJ, 47'2.75"  
 High jump — 1. Carter Nelson, Ainsworth, 6'2"  
 Long jump — Carter Nelson, Ainsworth, 22'7.5"  
 Triple jump — 1. Blake Borchers, 41'10"  
 Pole vault — Carter Nelson, Ainsworth, 13'6"  
 4300 meter relay — 1. Norfolk Catholic, 9:14.75  
 110 meter hurdles — 1. Drew Morrow, O'Neill, 15.5 seconds  
 100 meter dash — 1. Mitchell Hupp, Stanton, 10.68 seconds  
 400 meter dash — 1. Dawson Hansen, Elkhorn Valley, 52.33 seconds  
 3200 meter run — 1. Jaxon Kilmurry, Battle Creek, 10:17.13  
 200 meter dash — 1. Mitchell Hupp, Stanton, 21.59 seconds  
 800 meter run — 1. Mavrick Hagemann, Elkhorn Valley, 2:12.68; 6. Landyn Veik, EPPJ, 2:28.78  
 300 meter hurdles — Drew Morrow, O'Neill, 40.77 seconds  
 1600 meter run — 1. Jaxon Kilmurry, Battle Creek, 4:47.17  
 400 meter relay — 1. Battle Creek, 44.16 seconds;  
 1600 meter relay — 1. Battle Creek, 3:38.42.

## EPPJ opens golf season at AAC

NELIGH — Weather conditions were sunny and cool Thursday afternoon for the Wolfpack as they hosted a triangular to kick off their golf season.

At the Antelope Country Club, they were joined on the course by Summerland and Chambers/Wheeler Central, both schools seeing their first action of the season also.

With just three golfers competing at the varsity level, EPPJ did not factor in the team scoring. Summerland won the triangular with a score of 200, CWC came in at 216.

For the Wolfpack, sophomore Karson Kallhoff had the best nine-hole score, finishing with a 45. Junior Kellan Hoefler carded a 47 while senior Jack Barlow came in with a 67.

Wolfpack JV scores were Aiden Klein 76 followed by Gavin Kallhoff 77 and Creighton Harkins 80.

Then, on Monday, the Wolfpack hosted another triangular at AAC, squaring off against CWC and Elkhorn Valley.

The weather wasn't as ideal as it was Thursday, but the Wolfpack put up some impressive nine-hole scores.

Kellan Hoefler and Karson Kallhoff tied for low score with 43s. Senior Gage Thiessen competing in his first Wolfpack tournament shot 58. Other varsity scores were Michael Selting and Jack Barlow each carding 66s.

The varsity posted a team score of 210 to finish third in the team race.

CWC, led by William Jesse who shot a 39, finished with a team score of 198. Elkhorn Valley shot a 196, led by Max Schaffer with a 41.

The Wolfpack JVs finished



E-R photo/DMorgan

Karson Kallhoff tracks an errant tee shot. He led the Wolfpack with a 45 Thursday at AAC.

with a 291 team score. Gavin Kallhoff carded a 66 followed by Aiden Klein 68, Dannyka Smidt

74 and Creighton Harkins 83. Next up is the Summerland Invite today.

## Lueking chosen to play in Sertoma 8-Man All-Star Game

Wolfpack senior Dylon Lueking is going to have a very busy June.

Earlier this spring it had been announced that he would play in the Northeast Nebraska

All-Star Classic football game in Norfolk. It was announced last week that he will also be playing in another all-star game.

Lueking will be a member

of the 'West' team playing in the 47th annual 2024 Sertoma 8-Man All-Star game.

The game will be played at Hastings College.

## Spinning Tales

### Opening Day for EPPJ Spring Sports

BATTLE CREEK — It took awhile to get here, but opening day finally arrived for Wolfpack spring sports.

Not quite the fanfare one associates with Major League Baseball (the best) or the National Basketball Association (the worst), there's always excitement when practices are over and it's time to compete against friends, cousins and other assorted wannabes.

EPPJ opened the season Thursday at the Battle Creek Invite.

One slight hiccup to opening day came about through no fault of coaches or organizers.

The State FFA Convention was going on at the same time down in Lincoln. What that meant was Coach Sandi Henn's team, instead of running, jumping and throwing, were at Pinnacle Bank Arena displaying the skills they've learned from FFA Advisor Julia Schwartz.

When you've worked all year to qualify for state, it's acceptable to miss the opening meet of the season.

Not everybody missed the meet. Resembling jetssetters from a bygone era, Dylon Lueking and Blake Henn spent Wednesday at FFA, then caught

a ride to Battle Creek to compete in track before heading back to the FFA convention that night.

Lueking had his white hat on, Henn could best be described as a 'cool' Darth Vader with shades, etc. Competing in the shot put, Lueking's best wasn't good enough to get to the finals. Henn made the finals and placed fifth.

EPPJ boys ended up scoring three points at the meet (Landyn Veik finished sixth in the 800 meter run), the girls failed to score.

On this day, points didn't matter, competing did. And now track season kicks into high gear. I'm anxious to see how the team does.

One side note, many of the people I spoke to at the track meet had other thoughts on their minds - the sudden passing of former Neligh school administrator George Loofe. All were surprised, no one saw it coming.

No need to tell the family story here, it's been well-documented.

To say he and the family have dealt with unbearable sorrow is an understatement. It makes one pause to wonder where, in times like that, does the love of God lie?

From Battle Creek it was time to head to the Antelope Country Club for the Wolfpack's first golf tournament of the season. Another opening day and Coaches Tent Ostransky and Andrew Childers could not have dialed up a better afternoon to play the game. Summerland was there, Chambers/Wheeler

### SPINNING TALES



Publisher  
Dennis Morgan

# End-of-the-season awards handed out to EPPJ wrestlers



(Left) Libby Evans was named the Most Outstanding Girls Wrestler while teammate Dannyka Smidt was presented the Wolfpack award. In a season of firsts, Evans became the first Wolfpack girls wrestler to qualify for state. The duo competed well throughout the season. Photos submitted



Wolfpack wrestlers who earned letters for their performance on the mats during the 2023/24 season were recognized Saturday night. In the front row are Libby Evans, Dannyka Smidt and Jack Barlow. Back row: Samuel Hemenway, Landyn Veik, Isaac Hemenway, Austin Hinkle and Grady Drucke.



(Left to right) Samuel Hemenway was named Most Outstanding Boys Wrestler; Jack Barlow received the Most Improved Award; Landyn Veik and Grady Drucke shared the Wolfpack Award.

# WOLFPACK

## CATCHING FIRE

ELGIN PUBLIC-POPE JOHN

**TRACK**

**VARSITY**

April 11 @ O'Neill ..... 9:00

April 17 @ St. Mary's ..... 9:00

April 23 @ Creighton ..... 1:30

**JUNIOR HIGH**

April 16 @ Burwell ..... 1:00

April 23 @ Genoa ..... 9:00

**GOLF**

April 10 @ Ewing ..... 9:00

April 16 @ Beemer (JV only) ..... 10:00

April 18 @ Scotus ..... 9:00

April 23 NVC @ Tatanka Golf Course ..... 9:00

**OTHER UPCOMING SCHOOL- & YOUTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

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 • EPS K-1st field trip

April 20 EHS/PJCC Jr/Sr Prom

April 22 EPS Spring HS Concert

April 23 PJCC/SB 1 p.m. dismissal

April 24 EPS 4th grade field trip to Lincoln • PJCC Fr/So Retreat @ Tintern • 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 • FFA officer interviews

May 2 PJ/SB Spring Concert

May 3 EPS Grandparents Day • WSC Math Contest • SB only, 1 p.m. dismissal • EPS Elementary Spring Concert

May 6 FFA Banquet

May 7 EHS NHS & Activities/Academics Awards • FFA Greenhouse Plant Sales begin

May 9 PJCC seniors last day/Awards

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### CARD OF THANKS

Words hardly seem adequate to express the gratitude we have for the outpouring of love and support shown to our family with the passing of Darrell. It is an honor to live in a small community where neighbors care so much for one another. Thank you for the calls, texts, visits, food and prayers for our family during this difficult time. We also want to thank the Elgin and Oakdale fire departments for their caring response.

The Family of Darrell Miller



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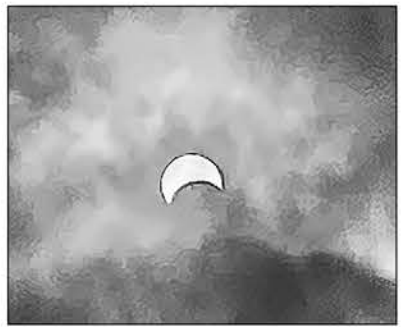
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# All eyes were on the skies



Students from St. Boniface Elementary school and many others from all over Nebraska and the nation put on their special glasses and kept a watch out for the partial (in Nebraska) solar eclipse on Monday afternoon. If you were lucky, you caught a glimpse through the heavy cloud cover. Photo submitted



Eric Lordemann was lucky enough to get a quick view through a break in the clouds Monday afternoon. While the morning showed some promise with only partial cloud coverage, the closer it got to noon, the more clouds moved in.

From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

## Oven Stew, Easy Broccoli Soup



Good day, As I spend my day in the office sharing

some yummy ideas for you all as you do your meal ideas for another week, I hear winter could back in

our forecast. Hearing that, I thought I'd share a couple of delicious and simple soup ideas.

These are two of my all time favorites. The best part is they are even better when there's leftovers.

This "Oven Stew" recipe is one I made every "St. Pats" when I lived in O'Neill. There was a big stew feed and I always made this recipes for it. It's really easy.

The Broccoli recipe doesn't make a lot so if

you're cooking for a lot of people you may want to double the recipe. Sure hope you can add these to your collection. Enjoy!

JoAnn

### OVEN STEW

- 2 lbs stew meat (not cooked)
- 1 can stewed tomatoes
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 cup thinly sliced carrots
- 3-4 medium potatoes, chunked
- 1-1/2 tsp salt

- 1 cup dice celery
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 cup water
- 2 Tbls Tapioca
- Dash of garlic powder

Add all the ingredients in a large roasting pan and still it well to mix. Cover and bake at 325° for 3-1/2 hours.  
Hint: Serve with fresh baked bread.  
Yummy!

### EASY BROCCOLI SOUP

- 4 Tbls butter
- 2/3 cup chopped onion
- 4 Tbls flour
- 4 cups milk
- 2 cups cooked broccoli, diced

- 1 tsp salt
- Dash of pepper
- 4 slices of Velveeta® cheese

Melt the butter, add the onion and cook until done or tender.  
Blend in the flour until mixture is smooth. Add milk, broccoli, cheese and seasonings. Cook until mixture thickens and cheese is melted stirring constantly. DO NOT LET IT BOIL!  
So yummy!

## Time for a Breeding Soundness Exam for your bulls?

A good bull is the cornerstone of any cow calf operation. Cows influence the genetic makeup of only one calf every year, but a bull has the opportunity to impact 20-50 calves depending on the breeding season. Making sure your bulls are able to locate and breed cows this breeding season is vital to success and a good way to test that is with a Breeding Soundness Exam, or BSE.

At a minimum, young bulls entering their first breeding season should have a BSE as well as older bulls that have

had a health problem, injury, or scrotal damage due to extreme cold during the winter. Routinely having a veterinarian perform a breeding soundness exam 4-6 weeks prior to the breeding season on all bulls scheduled to be turned out with cows is a good idea. In light of weather events this winter, producers may want to schedule the exams earlier than normal so any bulls the veterinarian deems below acceptable could be scheduled for a re-test, and plans could still be made to replace any bulls that do not pass and are not expected to pass a re-test, prior to the breeding season. You'll need to contact your veterinarian to set up an appointment which will consist of a physical exam, internal and external evaluation of the

reproductive tract, and semen evaluation.

The physical exam looks at overall bull health. Bulls exert large amounts of energy during the breeding season, traveling and servicing cows. As such, they typically lose body condition over the course of the season. Because of this, they should go into breeding with fairly good cover. A body condition score of 6 is the target. Sound feet and legs are also important as problems here can impact bull ability to travel and mount. Overall wellness is also noted as injured, sick, or old bulls are less likely to success-

fully mate and may have lower quality semen.

An external and internal evaluation of the reproductive tract is done to ensure there are no obstructions or damage to the reproductive organs. The testes, spermatic cords, epididymis, and external underline are examined. Scrotal circumference is measured and noted as it directly relates to the total mass of sperm producing tissue and sperm cell normality. An internal examination is also conducted to detect any abnormalities in the internal reproductive organs.

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Asst. Ext. Educator  
**Ben Beckman**

Finally, a semen evaluation is done by examining a sample under a microscope. The veterinarian will estimate the percentage of sperm cells that are moving in a forward direction. This estimate is called "motility". In addition, the sperm cells will be individually examined for proper shape or "morphology". Less than 30 percent of the cells should be found to have an abnormal shape. Any bull meeting all minimum standards for the physical

exam, scrotal size and semen quality will be classed as a "satisfactory" potential breeder. Bulls that fail any minimum standard will be given a rating of "classification deferred."

This rating indicates that the bull will need another test to confirm status. Mature bulls should be retested after six weeks. Mature bulls will be classified as unsatisfactory potential breeders if they fail subsequent tests. Young bulls that are just reaching puberty may be rated as "classification deferred", and then later meet all of the minimum standards as they further mature.

Cows may take a lot of our focus when it comes to herd fertility. However, for a complete herd fertility program, don't forget to pay attention to your bull health too.

-Ben Beckman is a beef systems Extension Educator serving the counties of Antelope, Cedar, Knox, Madison and Pierce. He is based out of the Cedar County Extension office in Hartington. You can reach him by phone: (402) 254-6821 or email: ben.beckman@unl.edu

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62	Blk Strs	877	246.25
96	Blk Strs	770	265.00
66	Blk Hfrs	803	231.25
96	Blk Hfrs	712	245.75
30	Blk Strs	875	246.00
110	Blk Strs	987	228.75
104	Blk Strs	885	239.75
109	Blk Hfrs	946	203.50
High Yielding Cows..... 135.00 to 140.00			
Average Yielding Cows..... 125.00 to 135.00			
Lower Yielding Cows..... 110.00 to 124.00			
Bulls..... 120.00 to 168.50			

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### EVENT

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# Man serves consecutive jail terms for criminal mischief, trespass

By Sandy Schroth

court reporter

Andrew F. Clark, 57, of O'Neill was sentenced by the Honorable Kale Burdick in the Holt County courtroom in O'Neill on April 2, for crimes included in two cases.

He was sentenced to consecutive 30-day sentences in the Holt County Jail for criminal mischief, \$1,500 to \$4,999, a Class 2 misdemeanor, and second-degree criminal trespass, a Class 2 misdemeanor that took place July 23, 2023. He was credited for nine days previously served.

In a companion case, that led to the second of his two bond revocations in the first case, Burdick fined Clark \$500 for criminal mischief, less than \$500, a crime committed Aug. 17.

Burdick also ordered him to pay \$50 restitution to the female victim, who submitted a sworn statement that he had squirted an unknown substance at her from a "flesh-colored penis-shaped gun." She said the substance dried to a white "powdery substance."

He was taxed \$64 costs of prosecution in the first case and \$50 in the second. Burdick remanded Clark to the custody of

Holt County Sheriff Ben Matchett for execution of sentence.

Clark pleaded guilty to the three crimes Feb. 6, as part of a plea bargain with Holt County Attorney Brent Kelly. In return, Kelly dismissed counts III and IV in the July 23 complaint, third-degree assault and possession of drug paraphernalia; and counts II and III in the Aug. 17 complaint, possession of marijuana, less than one ounce, and possession of paraphernalia.

In the first case, an O'Neill police officer was dispatched to "an ongoing assault" that was occurring at 49434 865 Road, according to an arrest affidavit filed by the officer. According

to the officer's report, Clark, who had previously been told not to be on the victim's property, "rushed at the victim," who is his nephew, and swung with a closed fist, although he missed the victim. The victim then tackled Clark, held him to the ground and called police. Clark's vehicle, "apparently still running and in gear," according to the affidavit, rolled into a vehicle belonging to the victim, causing approximately \$2,000 damage.

Clark first posted \$1,000, 10% of a \$10,000 bond, July 24. That bond was revoked Aug. 9 and he was arrested Aug. 10, after he failed to comply with

bond terms and repeatedly contacted Kelly's offices after being instructed to correspond only through his attorney and to present any evidence to Holt County sheriff's officers. Bond was reinstated at \$15,000, 10%, which he posted Aug. 15. It was again revoked Aug. 18, with another warrant served Aug. 19. He then posted \$10,000, 10% of \$100,000 bond, Aug. 22.

During August, Clark submitted nine written requests to the court, expressing displeasure with the multiple arrests and demanding he be released from jail.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Breanna G. Vanderford, 26, of

O'Neill pleaded guilty, pursuant to a plea agreement, to an amended charge, driving under suspension, a Class 3 misdemeanor committed Feb. 10. She was fined \$100 and assessed \$50 costs.

Kelly reduced the charge from driving under revocation, a Class 2 misdemeanor.

She was cited in O'Neill. \*\*\*\*\*  
Tumba A. Tambewe, 32, Irving, Texas, pleaded guilty, by waiver, to a Class 4 misdemeanor, fail to have or carry fuel permit. He was cited March 3 near mile marker 161, south of the Chambers turnoff on Highway 281.



Olivia Klein (l) and Kaitey Schumacher

## Klein & Schumacher selected for Leadership Conference

Pope John students' Olivia Klein and Kaitey Schumacher were recently selected to attend the 2024 Nebraska Attorney General's Youth Conference.

Olivia and Kaitey will attend the day-long conference on Monday, April 16 with other selected Juniors from across Nebraska. They will have the opportunity to discuss and debate on topics ranging from the US Constitution, rights, responsibilities to issues facing students and their communities.

The day will also include discussion on current Nebraska bills, a visit with the Honorable Jonathan J Papik, from the Nebraska Supreme Court, and lunch at the Governor's Residence.

Olivia is the daughter of Martin and Amy Klein. Kaitey is the daughter of Kevin and Lisa Schumacher.

## FFA

◀ FROM Page 1

Division

Braelyn Martinsen & Kylee Lichtenberg - Agriscience Fair, Food Science Division

The Elgin Chapter was seventh in the state for the "I Believe in the Future of Ag" campaign. Thank you to all the donors that gave to the Chapter through this campaign.

Eleven members earned their State FFA Degree

CDE Highlights:

• Agriscience Team: 16th out of 144 Teams. All the girls earned a blue ribbon

• Floriculture Team: 12th out of 58 Teams. Baylee Busteded & Sara Bode earned blue ribbons and Callie Heithoff and Kate Furstenau white.

• Livestock Evaluation: Haley Parks was 22nd overall out of 231 individuals and earned a purple ribbon.

• Livestock Management: The team of Samuel Hemenway, Samantha Durre, Jaidyn Schrad, Gemma Miller and Autumn Forbes were 24th out of 58 teams. In the swine division the team was 7th overall, in the horse division they were 9th overall and 8th overall in the sheep division

The annual Chapter Banquet will be held Monday, May 6th at 6:30p.m. in the Elgin Public gym. Parents and supporters are welcomed and encouraged to attend.



Samuel Hemenway (l) finished as state runner-up in Diversified Ag Proficiency while Carter Beckman qualified for the national convention in swine proficiency. Photos submitted

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Elgin FFA members shown with their State FFA Degrees were (front row, l-r): Brenna Martinsen, Keyera Eishenhauer and Baylee Busteded. Back row: Gage Thiessen, Blake Henn, Myles Kittelson, Nick Anderson, Dylan Lueking, Steven Nelson and Samuel Hemenway.



Elgin FFA members who attended the state convention in Lincoln. More than 7,700 members from across the state attended the convention.

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## Community Calendar

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

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

**Monday, April 15**  
Special Meeting of the Antelope County Board of Commissioners @ 8:30 a.m. at the courthouse in Neligh\*.

**Tuesday, April 16**  
Neligh Food Pantry at the American Legion Hall from 2 p.m. to 3:30 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 Community Cleanup Day\* • District Music Contest.

**Saturday, April 20**  
EPS/PJCC Junior/Senior Prom.

**Monday, April 22**  
EPS Spring High School Music Concert.

**Friday, April 26 & Sunday, April 28**  
PJCC Spring Musical.

Events listing courtesy of  
**ELGIN VETERANS' MEDICAL CLINIC**  
an outpatient department of Boone County Health Center  
116 N 2nd Street, Elgin  
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## NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

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**Pride of the WOLFPACK PACK**

**LANDYN VEIK** BOYS TRACK  
A sophomore, Landyn and his teammates finally competed on Tuesday at the Battle Creek Invitational. Landyn finished sixth in the 800 meter run.

**KAITEY SCHUMACHER** GIRLS TRACK  
A junior, Kaitey and her fellow teammates found the competition tough at Battle Creek. She anchored the 4x800 relay which finished 7th.

**KARSON KALLHOFF** GOLF  
A sophomore, Karson and five teammates opened the 2024 season last week at the Antelope Country Club. Karson led the team with 45 strokes.

This week's sponsor: **PRECISION REPAIR OF ELGIN**

# Alcohol Awareness Month



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**Boone County Health Center**  
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## For third consecutive year, BCHC recognized as top 20 Critical Access Hospital Award winner

Boone County Health Center (BCHC) proudly announces its recognition as a Top 20 Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Award Winner for the third consecutive year.

The prestigious accolade is bestowed by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA), underscoring BCHC's commitment to excellence in rural healthcare provision.

This award is not applied for but rather involves NRHA's selection process that evaluates all 1600 critical access hospitals nationwide through the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX®.

This comprehensive assessment measures hospital performance across eight critical pillars, including inpatient and outpatient market share, quality, outcomes, patient perspective, cost, charge, and finance.

The Top 20 CAH Award Winners represent the highest-ranked facilities among the Top 100 CAHs identified by The Chartis Center for Rural Health.

This recognition underscores BCHC's consistent dedication to superior healthcare delivery and its standing as an exemplar within the rural healthcare landscape.

Moreover, NRHA acknowledges the top-performing CAHs in the Quality and Patient Perspective categories, designating them as "Best Practice" hospitals. BCHC's inclusion in these categories reaffirms its unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional quality of care and ensuring unparalleled patient



Photo submitted

Staff members from Boone County Health Center gathered to celebrate being recognized as a Top 20 Critical Access Hospital award winner for the third consecutive year.

satisfaction. "Receiving this prestigious award for the third consecutive year is a testament to the unwavering dedication and hard work of every member of our team. It is because of their

tireless commitment to providing exceptional care and service that we have been recognized among the top critical access hospitals in the nation. This achievement belongs to each and every one of our employees

who consistently go above and beyond to make a positive impact on the lives of our patients and our community," said Caleb Poore, President and CEO at Boone County Health Center.

## TRUCK MONTH

### 2024 RAM 2500 Tradesman Crew Cab 4x4



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### 2024 Jeep Grand Cherokee L Limited 4x4

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Stock image



## First, there must be internal awareness on alcoholism

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. As a mental health provider and alcohol and drug counselor, I ask but one thing: we do just this: gain awareness.

And NO, I am not necessarily talking about facts and statistics about how many youths are drinking alcohol or how many deaths are alcohol-related. I am talking about inter-

nal awareness: Are you aware of how much you drink in a day, week, month, or year? What are the reasons you drink? Has anyone identified this as being problematic? Do you have a loved one struggling with excessive usage? Are you motivated to change anything about your alcohol usage? How does your usage impact your health, mental well-being, relationships, and work production?

We live in an area where alcohol usage and even misusage are normalized. Subtle changes can make a significant impact individually, within family

units, and as a community. Here are some more simple questions to bring aspects of alcohol consumption to your awareness.

Do you keep alcohol in your house? How many community events exist without the consumption or service of alcohol? Is alcohol consumed at birthday parties, holidays, and other family events? When alcohol is served, are there non-alcoholic options available? Is there an AA or Al-anon meeting available in your community?

Do you know what AA or Al-Anon is? Do you know how to help a loved one struggling

with alcoholism? Again, these are meant to bring awareness, not judgment. This is not an exhaustive list, merely food for thought.

Once we begin thinking, then maybe we can have more discussions and, ultimately, prevention. If you or a loved one are concerned alcohol may be a problem, call the SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) hotline at 1-800-622-HELP (4357) or make an appointment to visit your healthcare provider.



Kayla Baker

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# Congratulations!

to these students named to the 2024 Wheeler Central 3rd Quarter Honor Roll & Perfect Attendance recipients.

**Honor Roll** ALL A'S: Justin Guggenmos (8), Olivia Heinz (8), Hadley Pokorny (8), Hayes Pokorny (8), Paige Schlenger (8), Reese Smith (9), Haley Borwege (10), Daniel Kluver, Jr. (10), Braelyn Schlenger (10), Jayna Guggenmos (11), Bobbi Guggenmos (12), Jayden Sheldon (12) and Chloe Smith (12).  
**AB:** Casey Freouf (7), Elexis Plugge (7), Garrett Renner (8), Franklin Schmidt (8), Parker Freouf (9), Jailynn Harrison (9), Brandon Plugge (9), David Keber (10), Keoni Loyd (10), Elijah Heinz (10), Jairo Lazos Hernandez (11), Makayla McCain (11), Cooper Pokorny (11) and Clancey Seamann (11).  
**HONORABLE MENTION:** Hunter Renner (7), Tyler Perkins (8), Sierra Plugge (8), Jackson Wright (8), Kale Hoppenstedt (9) and Wyatt McCain (9).

**3RD QUARTER PERFECT ATTENDANCE**  
First Grade: Rhett Landgren and Quincy Sallach; Second Grade: Willard McCain, Jacob Perkins, Emilia Plugge, Ryker Plugge, Addison Reed, and Madelyn Tucker; Fourth Grade: Reata McCain; Fifth Grade: Paiton Tucker and Ninth Grade: Ben Wilson.

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# THE BACK PAGE



Photo submitted

**Antelope Memorial Hospital** has been recognized as a 2024 Top 20 Critical Access Hospital in America and a Best Practice Hospital in Patient Satisfaction. Pictured are (front row, l-r): Corrie Reynolds, Diane Brugger (CEO), Savannah Henn and Natalie Ward. Second Row: Diane Grosserode, Donna Vice, Adysen Boggs, Cassy Wright, Merry Sprout, Tawnya Jensen, Lesley Flenniken, Karol Michael, Kelly Couch and Sarah Dunn. Third Row: Sarah Carlin, Erin Miller, Lauren Kinney, Amanda Wolff APRN, Anne Labenz, Vanessa Carpenter, Donna Keetle, Frances Barrington, Melodie Funk, Dennis Schwager, Michelle Stearns, Juliana Knutson, Cindy Rice and Deana Bly. Fourth Row: Virginia Seier, Diann Arehart, Philip Hart, Marvi Pruden, Wendy Voborny, Jeanette Henn, Peggy Green, Martha Nelson, Heather Dawson, Karen Dietz, Molly Navratil, Megan Becklun, Kyle Mosel, Diane Carpenter, Jan Heithoff and Shane Livelberger. Back Row: Rande Wright, Jim Meuret (AMH Board Member), Ryan Gallagher and Charlotte Schaffer.

## AMH is a Top 20 CAH in America and the Only “Double-Award” Winner

Antelope Memorial Hospital has been recognized as one of the Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals in America (out of 1,353). This outstanding award is presented by the National Rural Health Association, reflecting AMH's dedication to exceptional care for its patients. The award's criteria are based on eight pillars of excellence: inpatient and outpatient share, quality, outcomes, patient

perspective, cost, charge, and finance.

Antelope Memorial Hospital has also qualified in an additional category of excellence, Best Practices in Patient Satisfaction. AMH is the ONLY hospital in the Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals to achieve a “double win” among the 2024 winners.

“We are truly honored to be recognized as one of the 2024

Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals in America as well as a Best Practice Hospital in the Patient Satisfaction category,” said Diane Brugger, CEO of Antelope Memorial Hospital. “It’s an amazing accomplishment, reflecting our staff’s commitment to patient care excellence. These prestigious awards truly honor our employees who go the extra mile to provide exceptional care for rural Nebraska.”

Brugger added that in an atmosphere of “healing for the body, mind and spirit”, our staff epitomizes compassion, empathy and professional expertise when caring for our patients. We recognize it’s an honor and privilege to be chosen by our patients as a place to receive care. I commend our staff who have helped make these special awards possible.



E-R photo/LMorgan

## Twelve receive First Communion at St. Boniface Catholic Church

Twelve youth received their First Communion this past Sunday at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin. Pictured are, front row l-r: Jaxon Haddix, Max Borer, Owen Childers, Brigham Heying, Ruth Thomas and Carson Funk. Back row: Mason Vanis, Nathan Beckman, Gabe Schindler, Cole Niewohner, Ace Pelster and John Hemenway. Celebrant was Fr. John Norman (far right). Not pictured: Deacon Dennis Wiehn and instructors Sue Vanis and Kelli Tisthammer.

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