



**Four EPS students medal at Northeast Scholastic Meet**  
See page 2



**Elgin residents reminded of dog license deadline**  
See page 10

SERVING ANTELOPE, BOONE, and WHEELER COUNTIES, NEBRASKA SINCE 1883

# The Elgin Review

Wednesday  
April 15, 2026

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## In Brief

### ECAF Scholarship fund drive total so far is \$2,330

Bank of Elgin accepting donations. Contributions are being accepted for the Elgin Area Community Foundation (ECAF) Scholarship Drive. Altogether, \$2,330 has been raised so far.

Making donations were 118 Insurance LLC/Megan Beckman, Bank of Elgin, Bob & Mary Bauer, Pam & Brian Becklun, Kurt & Linda Blair, Marilyn Clark, Dean's Market, Dave & Janice Eischeid, Betty Getzfred, Mary & Bill Hubert, Bryan Jensen, Duane & Vicki Miller, Randy & Linda Mitchell, Ed & Anne Parks, Jim & Chris Redding, Janie Score, Deb Warren and Sharon Wilkinson.

Since its inception 15 years ago, the scholarship fund has awarded 176 students with more than \$154,000.

Donations can be made to: Elgin Area Community Foundation, PO Box 345, Elgin, NE 68636-0345.

## Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

- Early Voter Registration
- Notice of Organization — Antelope County
- Proceedings — Antelope County Board of Commissioners
- Proceedings — The Elgin City Council

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 83 degrees recorded on Monday April 6. The low temperature during the same period was 25 degrees recorded on Friday and Saturday, April 10-11.

A trace of precipitation was recorded last week.

Following are the high and low temperatures, and precipitation amounts, as reported by the National Weather Service.

Date	High	Low	Prec
April 5	47	30	.00
April 6	66	35	.00
April 7	46	29	Tr.
April 8	50	30	.00
April 9	64	32	.00
April 10	53	25	.00
April 11	53	25	.00
Total for last week			0.00
Total for April			0.82
Total precipitation 2026			2.11



E-R photo/DMorgan

## 'Simply the Best!'

**Wolfpack Boys** Basketball Coach Matt Euse earned an honor few coaches ever receive during their career. Nebpreps recognized Euse with the Coach of the Year award. Euse guided the Wolfpack to a 25-4 record this season, his fourth with EPPJ which ended with team playing in the D2 State Championship game. It marked back-to-back state tournament appearances for the young and knowledgeable basketball coach.

## GOP candidate forum held

NELIGH — They called it a 'candidate forum,' but it felt more like a duel on the plains. The challenger, David Huebner is a new face on the political plains. The incumbent, Congressman Adrian Smith, present via zoom, is seeking to extend his time representing the Third District which encompasses 80 of Nebraska's 93 counties.

And, after an hour, it was clear to those in attendance, Huebner was the favorite of the majority of attendees at the Neligh American Legion Hall.

Each candidate answered all questions posed from the audience. Smith may have had the more polished delivery, but being part of a zoom call made it feel less personal. To his defense,

Smith made it clear early Thursday morning that he would not be coming to Neligh due to a family medical issue. Huebner's expressed views had the feel of a common man's response which, for the most part, resonated

See FORUM, Page 5 ▶



**GOP challenger** David Huebner (l) made his views known Thursday night at a candidate forum held in Neligh. Antelope County GOP chairperson Connie Baker (r) moderated the forum while Congressman Adrian Smith appeared via Zoom in the background.



E-R photo/DMorgan

## Smith told to research clock tower project

**By Greg Tharnish**  
*Special to The Elgin Review*  
The old Antelope County Courthouse "Clock Tower Project" is taking tentative steps forward.

Meeting yesterday, the Antelope County Commissioners (ACC) asked County Attorney Joe Smith to begin negotiations with the anonymous donor interested in restoring the old courthouse clock tower, with the donor's representative, Jim McNally.

The ACC has numerous questions concerning the project including: who the donor is, potential cost, structural integrity of the old courthouse and future maintenance issues.

More to come on this exciting and historical project next month.

Road Superintendent Leigh Kluth presented the ACC with eighteen oversized permits, three access permits and eleven underground permits. All permits were approved except for nine

underground permits, filed by the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD).

NPPD is installing fiber optics, connecting substations between Hoskins and Neligh. The nine permits needed in Antelope County were denied by the ACC because of NPPD's refusal to pay for the permits. The permits, costing \$20 each, will remain unapproved until payment is received by Antelope County.

County Clerk Lisa Payne and a representative for Great Plains Communications discussed monthly billing questions the ACC had about the new phone system. After clarification, the new courthouse phone system is scheduled to move forward.

Finally, the ACC took a rare action and went into executive (closed) session. The session took well over an hour concerning a personnel issue. Immediately after this session ended, the ACC went into another executive session, lasting only twenty minutes. This session involved County Attorney Joe Smith and an undisclosed legal matter. No action was taken on either matter at this time.

## District #18 expected to fill two teaching vacancies

The 'action' agenda is large this month for the District #18 Board of Education.

The school board will meet Wednesday evening. Starting at 6:30 p.m., there will be a meeting of the Americanism Committee.

The regular school board meeting will follow at 7 p.m.

Action items on the agenda are:

- As is the case every April, the board is expected to approve the graduation list for seniors.

Graduation day is less than one month away as it will be held on Saturday afternoon, May 9 in the school gymnasium.

- Teacher requisitions for the 2026/27 school year.
- Amend the 2025/26 school calendar.

- Adopt the Perry Policy Manual, Manual Service, updating service through the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB).

- Approve on first reading Perry Firm recommended policies: 1040 Community Relations; 3540 Business Operations; 5000 Series Table of Contents; 5209 Students - School library Materials and Parent Access; 5601 Students - Asthma/Anaphylaxis and Allergic Reaction Protocol; 7050 New Construction.

- Approve the purchase of a route bus.
- Approve the sell or trade of a route bus.

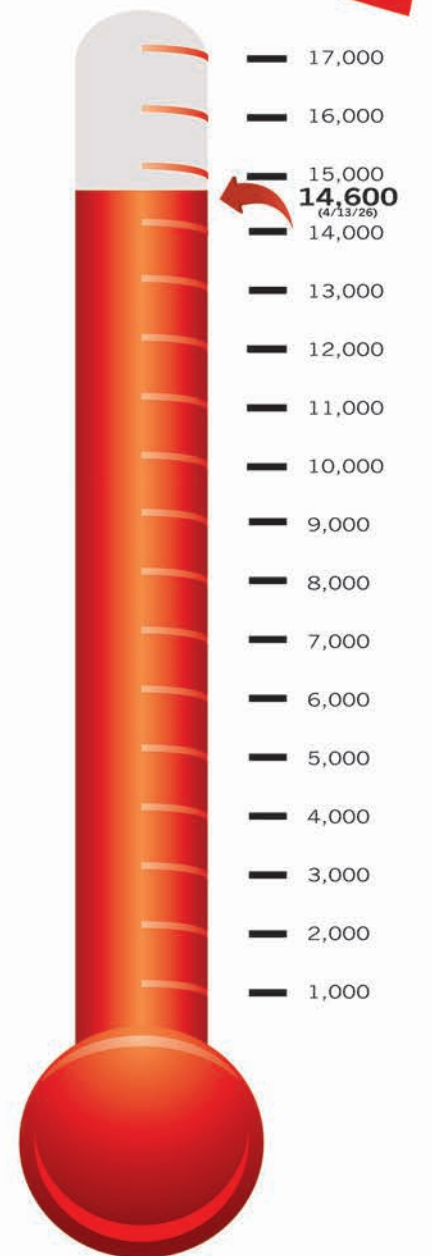
- Approve the replacement of security cameras.
- Approve the teaching contract of Vijendra Boken. According to Superintendent Mike Brockhaus, Boken will be taking the place of Brian McGill. He will be teaching Junior High Math and Algebra I and II. He last taught at UNK.

- Approve the teaching contract for Miranda Rockwood. Rockwood will be teaching Kindergarten as Joyce Wemhoff is moving to fifth Grade since Melissa Buller is leaving the district. She is originally from Pierre, SD, went to college at UNL and has been teaching at an elementary school in Omaha for six years.

- Approve classified salaries for the 2026/27 school year. This item may require a closed session.

## Elgin Community Center FUND DRIVE

**\$16,500 GOAL**



- Handicap-accessible back entrance door
- Repairs to the south side of the building
- Closure mechanism for the front door
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From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

# Salisbury Steak



Good day, Looking for easy and delicious? Here's a simple meat dish you can serve to your family. If you don't like onions, it's not for you.

Serve this along with some mashed potatoes. It's a perfect combination. This is a recipe you can use to stretch that 2 pounds of burger, and it will feed a whole family. It's really delicious!

JoAnn

## SALISBURY STEAK

For Steak:  
1-2 lbs hamburger  
1/2 cup bread crumbs  
1 egg  
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce  
1 tsp garlic powder  
1/2 tsp onion powder  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp pepper

Onion Gravy:  
2 Tbls butter or oil  
1 large onion, thinly sliced  
2 Tbls flour  
2 cups beef broth  
1 Tbls Worcestershire sauce  
Salt & pepper

Mix hamburger with all the steak ingredients and make into patties. Cook in a pan until brown on both sides. Remove from pan. In the same pan, cook the sliced onion until soft and caramelized. Sprinkle the flour over the onions and cook a few minutes, gradually add the beef broth, stir out any lumps, let simmer until it thickens. Return patties to the gravy mixture and let simmer until heated through.

## AMH "Move It 2 Lose It" winners

This year, Antelope Memorial Hospital's "Move it 2 Lose it Challenge" was held for 12 weeks from January 5th through March 27th. It was coordinated by Vanessa Carpenter, AMH Wellness Director. Over 550 pounds were collectively lost by the 46 contestants.

In the Men's Division, the first-place winner (for the second year in a row) was Tim Kester, Jr. (Clearwater). He also lost the highest percentage of body weight among all competitors at 17.9%.



Tim Kester, Jr.

The second-place winner was Brian Hoffman (Brunswick) who lost 12.6% of his total body weight. The third-place winner was Darrel Timm (Neligh) who lost 10.8% of his total body weight.

"I was really glad that I participated in this year's challenge," said Brett Branstitter, a new participant. "It was good motivation for me to lose weight and I had fun competing. I enjoyed the weekly weigh-ins

to help track my weight throughout the contest and made new friends along the way. I'd also encourage others to participate - as you never know how well you'll do until you try it."

Winners in the Women's Division were - first-place: anonymous, second-place: Diann Arehart (Neligh) who lost 13.1% total body weight and third-place: Peggy Green (Neligh) who lost 12.8% of her total body weight.

In the Team Division, the first-place team winners were the "Shrinking Assets", collectively losing 11.8% of their total body weight. Its members included Sarah Luebe (Battle Creek) Joe O'Brien (Stromsburg), Sheila Meyer (Tilden) and a fourth anonymous member.

The second-place team winners were the "Chubby Hubbys", consisting of Ed O'Brien and Keith Meyer (Tilden), Billy O'Brien (Battle Creek) and Ed O'Brien Jr. (Meadow Grove). The team collectively lost 8.4% of their total body weight.

The third-place team winners were the "Skinny Bees", consisting of Shantell Boggs (Neligh), Danielle Van Buren (Verdigre) and two other anonymous members. Collectively, they lost 4.2% of their total body weight.

"This was my third year leading the challenge and we had another fantastic turnout for Move It 2 Lose It and my group STAC exercise classes," said Carpenter. "It's nice to see the competition in all three categories every year. On average, the women's individual participants lost 10.6% total body weight, men's individual participants lost 13.7% total body weight, and the team participants lost 20% total body weight. It goes to show with a little friendly competition and support you can reach your goals. I also enjoy having a good mix of new and returning participants every year. That's what makes the competition grow!"

Prize donations were made by Antelope Memorial Hospital, AMH Wellness, Overland Rehab, Old Mill Truck Sales, Tinsley Grain, Thriftway Market and 319 Graphics.



Photo submitted

Four EPS students stood out among the best at the Northeast Community Scholastic Contest held earlier this month. Earning medals were (l-r) John Zwingman, Dannyka Smidt, Jarek Erickson and Isaac Hemenway.

## Four EPS students bring home medals from scholastic contest held recently at NECC

Twenty-one students from EPS competed in the Northeast Community Scholastic Contest April 1 at NECC, with four students bringing home medals.

Taking top honors in Geography with a first place finish out of 25 students was John Zwingman.

Dannyka Smidt and Jarek Erickson both finished in second place. Smidt competed with 23 other students in Personal Finance while Erickson competed with 22 other students in Accounting.

Finishing in third place was Isaac Hemenway in Agri-

science, competing against 20 other students.

"Northeast hosts the scholastic contest each year. It is a nice way to promote academics and get students on a campus," commented Mrs. Sonia Rittscher, EPS School Counselor.

## Antelope Family Practice Clinics



**Neligh Clinic: 402.887.5440**

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

Dr. Troy Dawson Ashley Niewohner, APRN  
Dr. Roger Rudloff Angela Sucha, PA-C  
Dr. Kelli Osborn Anita Murphy, PA-C  
Dr. Josh Thoendel Kimberly Wiese, APRN

**Clearwater Clinic: 402.485.2277**

Dr. Troy Dawson Dr. Josh Thoendel  
Dr. Roger Rudloff Angela Sucha, PA-C

**Elgin Clinic: 402.843.5444**

Dr. Troy Dawson Ashley Niewohner, APRN  
Dr. Roger Rudloff

\*This notice is provided to inform patients of primary care services & location.

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Mueller-Oltjenbruns at 402-887-4515.

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**Antelope County Assessor, 501 Main St. Rm 7**

**Neligh NE 68756**

or email assessor@antelopcounty.ne.gov

This position is subject to veteran's preference.

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## Meet and Greet



**Aubrey Ray MILLER**

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# When our kids start questioning

When our children are little, they take everything we say as fact and rarely question us. We are the authority on just about everything. Then the questions start coming. Is Santa real? Is there really an Easter bunny? And as they age, the questions they start asking get harder, more complex. It's essential that we are prepared as they start questioning things that truly matter.

When my oldest started middle school I was not prepared to have the conversation about the birds and the bees so young. Unfortunately, they hear about things from their friends and so I found myself standing in the kitchen and unexpectedly

talking about sex and what the Bible says about it. Luckily, they prepared me as my middle child entered middle school.

Now that my oldest is in high school, the conversations are getting even more difficult. He recently started having a crisis of faith. We have raised them as Christians their whole lives and all three have been baptized.

I know that deep in his heart, he knows the truth. But he's surrounded by others with different beliefs and the recent war with Iran is causing him to have some serious anxiety.

Recently, the war in Iran has made him start realizing

that at any point, we could die. Of course, that's always been true, and not because of war. Tomorrow isn't guaranteed for any of us. Aneurysms, strokes, car accidents, etc. happen every single day.

We all tend to live our lives as if we have years left on this planet, but the truth is, none of us really know when we'll hit our expiration date. And this is the first time that he's truly become aware of this fact.

This has caused him to pause and really reflect on what he believes. Does any of this matter? And if there is God, am I really saved? If I die tomorrow, will I go to heaven? What does the Bible really say about salvation and how do I know that God is Who He says He is, and that we can believe His promises?

As a mom who works in fraud prevention, I don't exactly have a theology degree. I never thought one of my children would question their faith, so this came as quite a shock. I don't necessarily think it's bad to question things. I certainly have at various points in my life. It's okay to question God and really dig into things and find true faith that can stand the test of time and difficult circumstances.

Frankly, I'm glad he's going through this now and not while away at college when I might

not have the opportunity to have these deep discussions. I'm praying for God to give me the words and to help guide my son as he searches for truth. I'm asking God to soften my son's heart and make Himself known so that he can have a true relationship. I want him to have faith so unshakable that no war, no friends, no outside circumstances can rattle it.

This has just highlighted the fact that we, as parents, need to be prepared for the hard questions. We need to be armed with truth so we can help provide them with guidance and allow them to question things without feeling judged. We can provide a safe place for our children to come to us when they no longer just accept everything we tell them.

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

## Tales of a Tired Momma



Elgin Columnist Katherine Cobb

## Elgin Community Center menus

**Monday, April 20:** French onion chicken casserole, green beans, plums, bread & butter, milk.

**Tuesday, April 21:** Runza casserole, French fries, corn, pineapple, bread & butter, milk.

**Wednesday, April 22:** BBQ meatballs, hashbrowns, peas/

carrots, applesauce/Jello, bread/butter, milk.

**Thursday, April 23:** Cream chicken over biscuits, mixed vegetables, lettuce salad, bread & butter, milk.

**Friday, April 24:** Ham, scalloped potatoes, brussel sprouts, mixed fruit, Bread & butter, milk.



Courtesy photo

## WC inducts five into NHS

Five students at Wheeler Central High School were recently inducted into the National Honor Society. They were (l-r) Justin Guggenmos, Hadley Pokorny, Hayes Pokorny and Paige Schlenger. Not pictured: Jackson Wright.



Courtesy photo

## Call Judd a champion!

Judd Schindler, the son of Jake and Kari Schindler, won the nine-year-old boys division at the Knights of Columbus State Free Throw Contest Saturday at Grand Island. He made 21 of 25 free throws.

## Community Calendar

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

**Wednesday, April 15**  
Regular meeting of the District #18 Board of Education.

**Saturday, April 18**  
EPS/PJCC Junior/Senior Prom to be held at the Elgin Knights of Columbus Hall.

**Monday, April 20**  
Teammates End-of-Year/Senior Celebration at EPS cafeteria.

**Monday, April 27**  
EPS PreK-12 Spring Concert in school gymnasium.

**Wednesday, April 29**  
Elgin FFA Chapter Annual Banquet @ EHS gymnasium.

**Sunday, May 2**  
Wheeler Central High School graduation @ 2 p.m.

**Monday, May 1**  
Elgin City Council regular monthly meeting @ 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 2**  
Antelope County Commissioners regular meeting.

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

# Looking Back

Sixty Years Ago

April 21, 1966

Jerry Sheets and George Voorhies the past week were elected to offices on their respective business associations. Friday, George was elevated from treasurer to Vice President of the Nebraska Press Association at their annual convention in Omaha. On Monday, Jerry was elected treasurer of the Nebraska Pharmaceutical Association while in convention at Kearney. Mrs. Jerry Sheets was elected second Vice President of that group's ladies auxiliary.

Tuesday's rain, sleet, and some snow, all of which resulted in ice covered power lines in their area, brought about a 7-hour electrical outage here and at Petersburg. Naturally this brought most business to a standstill. Power lines leading into Elgin, from two to one mile east of town, caused the electrical failure area south of Elgin. Electricity went off at 10:30 a.m. and was turned on again at 5:30 in the afternoon. Eldon Kaschke, local Consumers Public Power District serviceman, stated that five crossarms were down and two spans of wire on the line leading into Elgin were broken. CPPD workmen, Kaschke of Elgin, Don Gabelman and Wayne Morse of Neligh, battled the elements persistently during most of the 7-hour period. The rainfall caused considerable mud and inconvenience in getting trucks near the poles of repair facilities.

Fifty Years Ago

April 21, 1976

Jewell county, Kansas, authorities are reported to have stated Sunday it would be a Nebraska man's responsibility to raise a small airplane from Lovewell Reservoir, where it crash-landed and sank Saturday. Duane S. Koinzan of Elgin put the plane down on the lake northeast of Mankato because it was the only flat spot in the area. The plane apparently was having some type of equipment malfunction, according to Sheriff Douglas Thomas. Koinzan and a passenger, Carl L. Cheatum of Hutchinson, KS, were treated at the Jewell County Hospital and were released. They went to the sheriff's office in the north central Kansas town and made a telephone call to have someone come and get them. The plane crashed about 4:30 pm, 50 yards from shore. As the plane was sinking, the occupants escaped and were swimming when rescuers in a boat retrieved them. The plane was on a flight from Elgin to Hutchinson. Steve Koinzan, Duane's son, and a Norfolk pilot left Tuesday morning for Lovewell Reservoir to attempt to raise the plane.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Meis are parents of a son, Eric Thomas, weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces, born April 14, 1976 at Antelope Memorial Hospital.

Bill Anderson, Steve Heithoff, Kent Beckman and Merle Moser received their degree at the 1976 State FFA Convention.

Thirty Years Ago

April 17, 1996

Pronto Travel Plaza, a new Elgin business, has scheduled its grand opening for this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 19, 20 and 21.

On April 5, Mrs. Paul J Hoefler of rural Elgin reported that someone had been in their horse barn during the previous night. The person had left gates and doors open in and near the barn. A check of the area revealed no apparent damage and no missing property.

Sgt. Daniel Hoefler, his wife, Kara, and son, Loudon, have recently been relocated from Fairbanks, AK, to San Antonio, TX, where he is the "non-commissioned officer in charge" of the Department of Social Work in the new Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston.

Ground breaking ceremonies for construction of the Niobrara/Running Water bridge across the Missouri River will be held this Saturday, April 20, at Niobrara. A program will be held at the Niobrara High School Gym at 1:30 pm, followed by the ceremonial ground breaking at the bridge site east of Niobrara. All interested persons are invited.

Twenty Years Ago

April 12, 2006

Two Elgin Public School students, Connor Kinney and Nick Heithoff, are among more than 200 outstanding middle schools from across the United States to be selected for Junior National Young Leaders Conference scheduled for July 2006, in Washington, DC. Nick is a fifth grade student and the son of Stan and Dorothy Heithoff. Connor is a sixth grade student and the daughter of Tom and Connie Kinney.

Two area men who joined the U.S. Army shortly after their graduation from Pope John Central Catholic High School in 2003 have returned from military service. Thomas Dwyer, son of Mark and Julie Dwyer, rural Bartlett, and Danny Pelster, son of Cyril and Joyce Pelster of rural Petersburg, were welcomed home by their parents last Saturday, April 8. Dan was honorably discharged on March 31 at Fort Irwin, CA. Thomas is currently using accumulated leave time and will be honorably discharged from active duty on April 30. Both men served as Army scouts with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and both saw action in Iraq. Their regiment was split into two squadrons when they arrived in Iraq. Thomas served with the first squadron in western Baghdad. Danny served with the second squadron about 60 miles south of Baghdad. Both men achieved the rank of sergeant before they were discharged.

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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

## Political craziness now includes supposed 'plants' running for U.S. Senate

Editor's note: Opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Elgin Review.

Spring is planting time in Nebraska. But the looming primary election on May 12 for U.S. Senate is also, allegedly, quite a planting session, generating competing claims that candidates are "plants" to help or hurt the two leading candidates.

We're referring to the race between U.S. Sen. Pete Ricketts and Dan Osborn.

Osborn, an independent, is a labor leader and mechanic who ran a surprisingly close race with U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer, a Republican, in 2024.

Ricketts, a Republican, served two terms as governor before being appointed to the U.S. Senate by Gov. Jim Pillen shortly after Ricketts left the governor's residence.

Several people have asked if Osborn has a chance of unseating Ricketts, a wealthy businessman who has a well-financed political machine. His family, which owns the Chicago Cubs, is among the top contributors nationally to Republican political campaigns.

In today's topsy-turvy political world, I'd say that any incumbent is vulnerable. Voters seem to dislike those in office. And Ricketts hasn't stood for election for eight years, which seems like a long time since he's asked Nebraskans for their votes.

Then, as now, Osborn is facing accusations of being a closet Democrat, who, if elected, would caucus with the Democrats. Osborn rejects that, saying he's a regular guy and registered nonpartisan who will fight for regular folks, claiming that Ricketts hasn't done that.

Ricketts, meanwhile, is running as a tax cutter and one who has supported President Trump's immigration policies. The senator also says he's defended "Nebraska values," a phrase that's sometimes hard to define (Is it that we want the football team to win again, or that we like brown gravy with our roast beef sandwiches?).

What about those "plants"? There's two Democrats, William Forbes, a preacher from Paxton, and Cindy Burbank, as well as a candidate for the Legal Marijuana NOW Party, Mike Marvin.

All three of those candidates have been accused of being unserious, illegitimate and/or "plants."

Follow closely because this gets complicated.

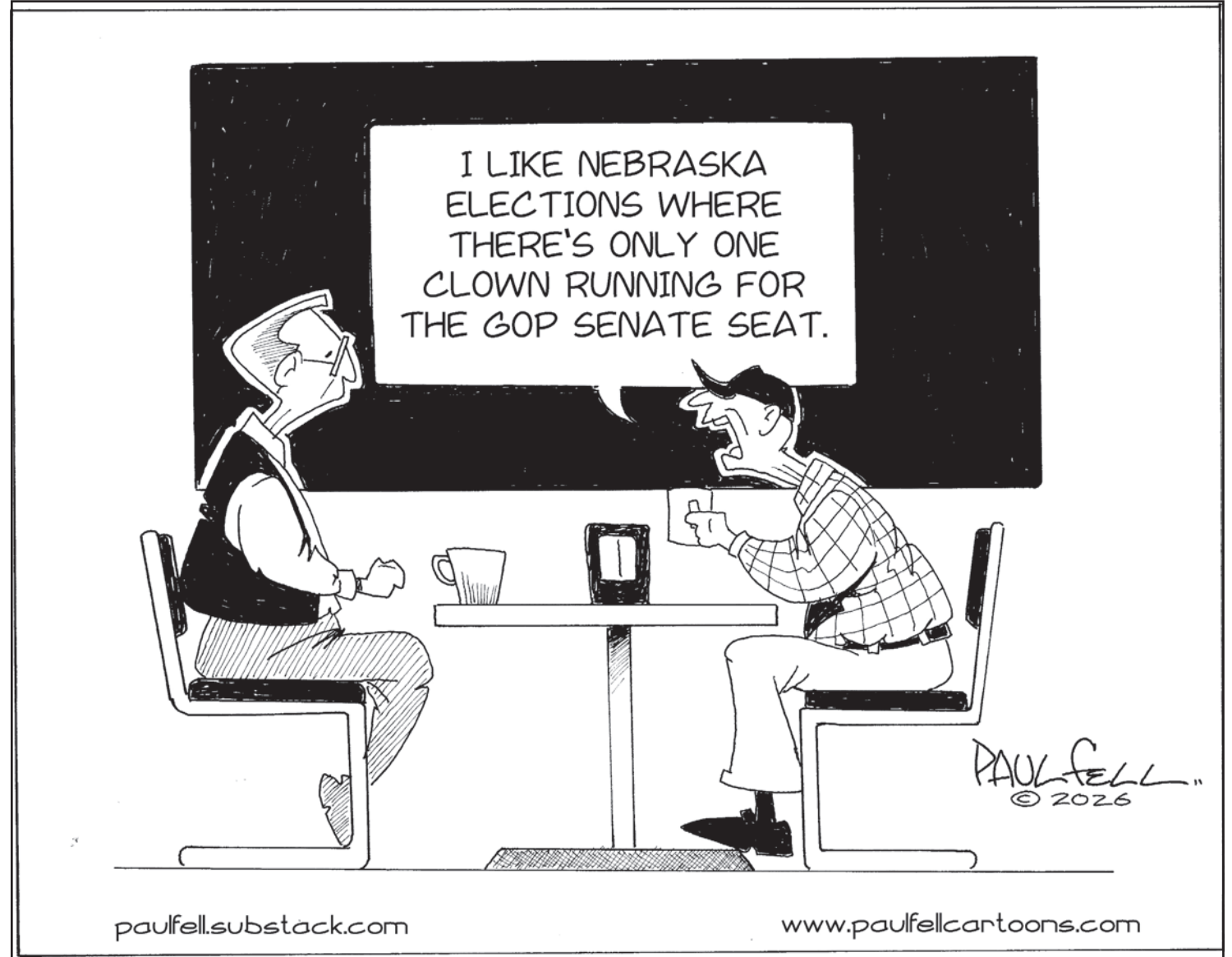
Democrats say that Forbes is a "plant" to help Ricketts (by pulling votes away from Osborn) because it appears that he likes Ricketts, is opposed to abortion rights and has voted for President Trump. And CNN reported that Forbes, despite being a registered Democrat, attended a campaign training camp for conservatives, a camp recommended by the GOP.

Republicans, meanwhile, accused Burbank of not being a "good faith" candidate. Her main goal, they say, is to eventually drop out and throw her support for the third-party candidate, Osborn. Burbank's website touts that she's "not a plant" and that her main goal is to defeat Ricketts.

For a time, she was tossed off the primary ballot by Secretary of State Bob Evnen, but that decision was reversed by the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Then we get to Marvin, a union leader (like Osborn) who once headed the state employees union. Suspiciously, Burbank, a Democrat, paid the \$1,740 filing fee for Marvin to run. It happened just minutes before the filing deadline.

Burbank told the Nebraska Examiner that she paid the fee because a filing fee check sent by Marvin had been rejected and it ticked her off. Republicans, meanwhile, accused Marvin of



### ALL THINGS NEBRASKA



State Correspondent Paul Hammel

being a "plant" to help Osborn.

Get all of that? To be sure, if there's a strong Democrat in the Senate race it would pull votes away from Osborn in the general election.

And, if the Democrats don't have a candidate in November - for instance if Burbank won the primary and dropped out - that would create a two-way race with Ricketts.

That's a lot of craziness to digest

but that seems par for the course in politics these days.

After all, who could have envisioned a pro rassler becoming governor in Minnesota, or a weightlifter/actor being elected in California or a reality TV star occupying the White House.

The sad part is that all of the negative campaign ads and supposedly "planted" political candidates only serves to turn more and more people off from voting or discourages good

people from running for office.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Paul Hammel has covered the Nebraska state government and the state for decades. Prior to his retirement, he was senior contributor with the Nebraska Examiner. He was previously with the Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha Sun. A native of Ralston, Nebraska, he loves traveling and writing about the state.

## Investing in rural health care

Last week, I wrote about my team's work to secure federal tax dollars Nebraskans already sent to Washington to improve the Central Nebraska Regional Airport in Grand Island. This week, I want to update you on my recent visit to Avera St. Anthony's Hospital in O'Neill and share my team's efforts to invest federal tax dollars there as well.

Founded in 1952, Avera St. Anthony's now stands as one of the largest critical access hospitals in the state. The facility provides 24/7 emergency care, along with primary care, surgery, rehabilitation, and specialty services. It is truly a lifeline for O'Neill and the surrounding communities.

But in October 2024, a vehicle struck a gas line and caused an explosion and fire nearby. While thankfully no one was seriously injured, the damage forced the hospital to temporarily close. Despite the setback, hospital staff worked diligently to reopen the emergency department and accept inpatients again just three weeks later. This level of resilience speaks volumes about the people who work there and their commitment to their community.

During my visit, I learned more about both the challenges they've

faced and the progress they've made since that incident. It was a pleasure meeting with the hospital's leadership team, doctors, and nurses, and seeing firsthand how critical reliable infrastructure is to their continued success.

First, we viewed the hospital's boiler system, which was in urgent need of replacement as a result of the explosion and fire that occurred just 17 months ago. Through the federal funding process, I secured a \$3.5 million investment for a new boiler and hot water system at the hospital. Reliable heat and hot water are essential for patient care, sanitation, and day-to-day operations, especially during a Nebraska winter. This practical, necessary investment will help ensure the hospital can continue serving patients safely and effectively for years

to come. This project is a great example of how I use my role on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Let me explain: A significant portion of what Nebraskans pay in federal taxes goes to Washington and doesn't always find its way back home. That's why I push to ensure that Nebraska gets a fair return on what our families, farmers, and businesses are already contributing.

There is also a practical reason this matters for your wallet. Projects like this one, if they weren't funded federally, would be extremely difficult to complete at the local level. Nebraska property taxes are already a burden for many families. When we can direct federal dollars toward these needs instead, it helps alleviate some of that pressure.

## The Plot Act protects Nebraska ag land

Farms and ranches are the foundation of the Good Life in Nebraska. Nebraskans feed the country and fuel the world. Our farmers and ranchers keep America healthy and safe with a secure, reliable food supply. But Communist China can threaten this.

Communist China has pursued a policy of strategically buying ag land. Between 2010 and 2021, Chinese ownership of American agricultural land grew nearly 30 times larger. As of 2023, Communist China owned more than 277,000 acres of farmland. But it's not just about the number of acres that they own. They have targeted sensitive sites

surrounding army bases and airfields. They exploited our legal process to purchase land surrounding Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota and Fort Bragg in North Carolina. This is a national security risk. We cannot let them use American ag land to weaken U.S. national security.

We can't let Communist China spy on American military bases from our cornfields. That's why I introduced the PLOT Act.

The Property Location Oversight and Transparency, or PLOT, Act combats foreign adversaries' efforts to buy American ag land. It does this by strengthening and increasing transparency in USDA's AFIDA reporting system. The hardworking Americans that feed us should benefit

I have always believed that federal funding works best when it starts with listening - taking the time to understand what a community actually needs - and then working collaboratively to deliver real solutions. And I feel strongly that these decisions should be made by people accountable to Nebraska voters, not handed off to unelected officials in Washington who may not understand our communities. That's why it matters to have elected representatives involved in the federal funding process.

Please know that I will keep working to make sure Nebraska's tax dollars come back home and are directed toward even more projects that tangibly improve Nebraskans' daily lives. That's what this work is about: making the Good Life even better.

## Budget bills given final approval

This week, I would like to provide a broader overview of the proposed changes to the state's Brand Law. This session, I introduced LB1187 to allow the ability for the Brand Committee to adjust its inspection fee to help the Brand Committee manage a difficult budget situation. Due to the closure of the Tyson plant in Lexington earlier this year, as well as other factors, the Brand Committee's cash fund has depleted in recent years. Although the Brand Committee has indicated that it could potentially avoid insolvency without a change in its fee structure, it is clear that there is no margin for error, and it would be irresponsible for the Legislature to neglect addressing the Brand Committee's fiscal situation this session.

My bill LB1187 as introduced simply proposed to raise the maximum per-head inspection fee from \$1.10 to up to \$1.50 and replace mileage-based travel charges with a flat surcharge of up to \$30 per inspection stop. This would give the Brand Committee much needed revenue options to manage its budget needs.

However, it is very clear that there is

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



District 40 Senator Barry DeKay

See RICKETTS, Page 5 ►

See DeKAY, Page 5 ►

### Numbers to Know

President Donald J. Trump, 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., Washington, 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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# Ricketts

◀ FROM Page 4

from land ownership in the U.S. Communist China should not. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for overseeing the foreign purchase of ag land.

This authority comes from the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act, or AFIDA. USDA is working to combat foreign land ownership from adversaries. However, Communist China keeps working to bend our rules.

The USDA knows food security is national security. That's why they've implemented tougher regulations. Secretary Rollins established the National Farm Security Action Plan. The administration and I are working to help combat Communist China's farmland purchasing in Nebraska and the country.

The PLOT Act increases USDA's oversight of foreign purchases of American farmland. Currently, reporting requirements are triggered when a foreigner holds at least a 10% ownership interest or when a domestic entity is at least 50% owned or controlled by a foreigner. The PLOT Act would lower this to 5% and 10%, respectively. Lowering reporting thresholds captures smaller foreign ownership stakes that currently go unreported.

The PLOT Act also requires foreign purchasers to provide detailed digital maps of purchased ag land. These maps would be available to USDA, local governments, and the public. That way, every Nebraskan knows where foreign adversaries are purchasing farmland. Nebraska farmers and ranchers should know this information.

The PLOT Act is just one way I'm fighting for more transparency and stricter requirements in the AFIDA reporting process. Last year, I introduced the bipartisan AFIDA Improvements Act. It also strengthens the foreign ag land reporting process. It increases transparency and information sharing. It would also require an online reporting portal for USDA. These provisions were included in the House Ag Committee's Farm Bill. I am fighting for them in the Senate.

Nebraska ag land is passed down generation to generation. Nebraska farmers and ranchers are proud of their land and the crops that grow from it.

We can't let foreign adversaries like Communist China get away with purchasing our land. That's why I'm introducing the PLOT Act.

# DeKay

◀ FROM Page 4

little support from the Agriculture Committee, the Legislature as a whole, and among segments of the industry to give the Brand Committee additional fee authority without changes to the Brand Law. There has been growing sentiment among segments of the livestock industry that mandatory brand inspection creates some competitive disadvantages relative to other states. LB646, as introduced last year, would have exempted registered feedlots from brand inspections, audits, and fees. LB646 as amended would

cal makeup.

Staking out his position, Huebner said more support for ag producers is necessary in the yet-to-be-approved new Farm Bill. He claimed 90 percent of the farm bill is not farm-related, but tied to SNAP and welfare benefits. More focus, he said, is needed on farming issues.

Smith said research dollars are needed in the farm bill so products can be grown and shipped in a "productive manner, and efficient manner."

And on the issue of immigration, Huebner said stricter enforcement is necessary, and opposes birthright citizenship. Smith, too, said he was opposed to birthright citizenship.

The May primary election will be held Tuesday, May 12, across Nebraska.

The forum was organized by the Antelope County GOP. Moderating the event was chairperson Connie Baker.

Smith said he was proud of his record during his time in Washington. In today's political climate, he would be considered a 'moderate.' He touted the successes achieved during the 18 months since Trump has been back in the White House.

Huebner made the claim he is the only candidate in this race "with tractor grease under his fingernails," working seven days a week in small business and agriculture.

His most biting remark may have been when he openly criticized Smith's conservative record saying it does not reflect the views and opinions of the majority of the district's politi-

(1) increase the physical and electronic inspection fee cap to \$1.50 per head, (2) exempt cattle shipped to or from a qualified dairy from brand inspection, (3) amend the registration fee and annual renewal fee for registered feedlots, and (4) replace mileage-based travel charges with a flat surcharge of up to \$20 per inspection stop. LB646 as amended advanced to Final Reading but ultimately did not receive a final vote.

This past week, LB1187 was passed by the Legislature with the amendments offered by Senator Jacobson during earlier rounds of debate. LB1187 as amended by the Jacobson amendments would (1) increase the statutory cap on the per head inspection fee from the current \$1.10 to up to \$1.50, (2) authorize the Brand Committee to collect a uniform travel surcharge of no greater than \$30 per stop, (3) authorize the Brand Committee to adjust the brand renewal fee within a statutory cap of \$400, (4) revise the composition of the Brand Committee, (5) eliminate duplicative inspection of cattle first placed in grow lots before eventually being placed in a registered feedlot, (6) modify how audits of registered feedlots are conducted, (7) change how registered feedlot fees are calculated to

more closely reflect the cost to the Brand Committee to implement the registered feedlot program, and (8) exempt certain dairy-related cattle movements from inspection, such as transfers between development facilities and dairies. LB1187 as amended proved to be much more substantial than what was originally introduced and even LB646 in some regards.

LB1187 has been a collaborative effort by many, including myself, Senator Jacobson, Senator Storer, Senator Ibach, Nebraska Farm Bureau, Nebraska Cattlemen, and others to find a compromise.

Although there are revisions that I am not particularly fond of, LB1187 reflects a compromise that, while not perfect, does provide the Brand Committee with additional resources and keeps the registered feedlots within the brand inspection system and subject to Brand Committee oversight. This compromise will still have registered feedlots continue to contribute to the cost of maintaining the brand inspection infrastructure.

Most importantly, without resolution this year, legislation like LB1258 to end mandatory brand inspection altogether, would have returned next year and probably gained traction. As expressed by multiple senators during debate, LB1187 as amended represents a series of changes that are intended to settle the Brand Law for the foreseeable future.

cal makeup.

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## 'Meet & Greet' for Miller to be held Saturday

A candidate for Antelope County Sheriff will be coming to Elgin Saturday to meet potential voters.

City of Neligh Police Officer Aubrey Ray Miller will be at the Elgin Community Center from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. as part of a 'Meet and Greet' event.

For more information, see the candidate's ad on Page Two.



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**St. Boniface Catholic Church**  
Elgin, NE  
Fr. John Norman, Pastor  
Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor  
Confessions: 5-5:30 on Wednesdays.  
Weekend Mass: Sunday, 10 am.  
[cppnebraska.org](http://cppnebraska.org)

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

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Weekend Mass: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday, 8 am.  
[cppnebraska.org](http://cppnebraska.org)

**Elgin Community Christian Church**  
Elgin, NE  
Pastor Jonathan Braden  
605-430-9171  
Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 am.  
Church Council: 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14  
"BE WATCHFUL, STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH, ACT LIKE MEN, BE STRONG. LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE."

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God has made Him both Lord and Messiah. Acts 2:14a, 36-41

1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

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Sunday, April 19, 2026  
Third Sunday of Easter

**Park Congregational U.C.C. Church**  
Elgin, NE  
Congregational  
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's Catholic Church**  
Rural Clearwater, NE  
Fr. John Norman, Pastor  
Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor  
Weekend Mass: 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday, 5:30 am.  
[cppnebraska.org](http://cppnebraska.org)

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**God has made Him both Lord and Messiah.** Acts 2:14a, 36-41

1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

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Sunday, April 19, 2026  
Third Sunday of Easter

**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**  
Petersburg, NE  
Fr. John Norman, Pastor  
Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor  
Weekend Mass: 2nd & 4th Sunday, 8 am.  
[cppnebraska.org](http://cppnebraska.org)

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

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For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.  
Romans 11:36

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**Bartlett Church of Faith**  
Bartlett, NE  
Pastor Mark Hoffman  
Sunday Worship Service: 9 am.  
Sunday School: 10-10:45 am.

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

**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.)

**Elgin Veterans' Medical Clinic**  
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Dr. Sean Kehl  
Dr. Bridgette Pudwill  
Jason Olnes, PA-C  
Danielle Krohn, APRN  
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~ Proverbs 19:11 ~  
A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an

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**Faith**  
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Hebrews 11:1

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# Elgin Public High School

# SENIOR Profiles

# CLASS of 2026

## Kaiden Joseph Bode

**Parents:** Tammy Bode and Ted Bode  
**Future Plans:** Hauling cattle.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Getting to my senior year.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Getting enough money to buy land.  
**Favorite School Activities:** FFA.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** Work hard to get ahead in life.



Portrait by Antelope Creek Photography

## Kyndal Reese Busteded

**Parents:** Steve and Casey Busteded.  
**Future Plans:** I plan to attend Wayne State College and major in Elementary Education.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Getting 9th place at National FFA and a 2-time State Speech qualifier.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Learning to be on my own and being away from home.  
**Favorite School Activities:** Speech, FFA, National Honor Society.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** Be yourself and make the most out of every situation.



Portrait by Jamie Thiele Photography

## Jaydalynn Dawn Chessmore

**Parents:** Thomas Morrison and Cassandra Chessmore.  
**Future Plans:** Move to a not-too-big, not-too-small town and get an apartment and stable job.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Making it to senior year.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Being financially stable, not spending all my money.  
**Favorite School Activities:** FFA.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** Don't say stupid stuff.



Portrait by Inspired by Soul Photography

## Jarek James Erickson

**Parents:** Aaron and Angie Anderson and J.R. Erickson.  
**Future Plans:** I plan on attending the University of South Dakota in Vermillion to pursue a bachelor's degree in accounting.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** I have maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout my high school career and I was a part of the Class D2 State Runner-up basketball team.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** My greatest challenge ahead is being father away from all my friends and family.  
**Favorite School Activities:** are football and basketball.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** Don't do anything they wouldn't do.



Portrait by Jamie Thiele Photography

## Andrea Faye Hansen

**Parents:** Justin Hansen and Amanda Westerman.  
**Future Plans:** My future plans are to work all summer and go to Norrheast for media arts. After college, I'll be making my way to Puerto Rico.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Getting applied and accepted to college.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Leaving my little brother Ethan.  
**Favorite School Activities:** Journalism.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** Don't worry about anyone else except yourself and take mental health days.



Portrait by On Location Photography

## Creighton J. Harkins

**Parents:** Kayla Vidrich and Derek Harkins.  
**Future Plans:** College, work and back to college.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Getting into college.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Doctorate in mechanical engineering.  
**Favorite School Activities:** Golf and Cyber Patriots.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** There is no such thing as a free lunch.



## Isaac Joseph Hemenway

**Parents:** Ed and Anne Hemenway.  
**Future Plans:** Work on the family farm after I graduate high school.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Making it through high school.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Having money to buy land.  
**Favorite School Activities:** Having FFA.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** if it's wet and not your's, don't touch it.



Portrait by Antelope Creek Photography

## Haley Parks

**Parents:** Aaron and Sara Parks.  
**Future Plans:** Become an RN, get a job that aligns with my life, and get myself all the things I want such as vehicles, livestock and a glamorous house.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Making it through high school.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Getting old.  
**Favorite School Activities:** Getting Best Advice From Your Parents: Don't be dumb.



Portrait by Sierra Walton Photography

## Trey Allan Rittscher

**Parents:** Kevin and Sonia Rittscher.  
**Future Plans:** I want to go to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to pursue a major in agriculture economics. After I graduate I want to come back to the family farm/ranch in the attempt to expand it in growth.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Overcoming a knee surgery that could have been cancerous, but luckily was not.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** College and graduation.  
**Favorite School Activities:** My favorite school activities are football, track and esports.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** if you got something that needs to get done, don't sit and wait to do it, get it done. Also, always flush.



Portrait by Avenue Five

## Ticen Richard Sparr

**Parents:** Tom Sparr and Liz Kemling-Sparr, Jackie Olson.  
**Future Plans:** Find a job for the summer then once I turn 18 apply to Horizontal tunneling and boring for about 10 years. After that I plan to come back home and work local, then buy land and build a house.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Making it to senior year.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Getting money to buy land and build a house.  
**Favorite School Activities:** Basketball, FFA.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** Walk with a limp, talk like a pimp - TLC.



Portrait by Marykæ Broberg Photography

## Halle Ryth Lueking

**Parents:** Jill Switzer and Monte Lueking.  
**Future Plans:** Attend Northeast Community College for Veterinary Technology.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Making it this far through high school.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Graduating college.  
**Favorite School Activities:** Esports and Welding.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** Don't let others' opinions affect who you are.



Portrait by O'Neill Photography

## Abigail Schneider



Photo by Jill Schneider

**Elgin Veterans' Medical Clinic**  
 An Outpatient Department of

**Boone County Health Center**



Elgin, NE  
 402-843-5741

**Switzer Welding/Iron Creations Country Crafts**

Tom & Brenda Switzer  
 Brian & Linsey Switzer

402-750-7749  
 402-841-8184

# Rope John XXII Central Catholic

# SENIOR PROFILES

# CLASS of 2026

## Tessa Ann Barlow

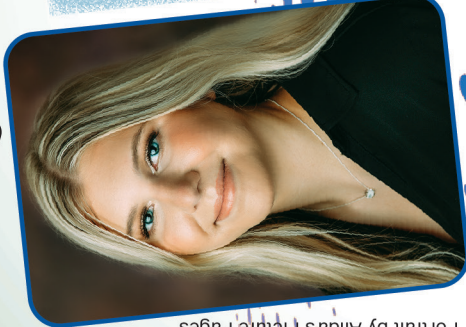
**Parents:** Mike and Rachael Barlow.  
**Future Plans:** Attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for a degree in advertising/personal relations.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Going to State and placing in One Act and Speech.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Living in a new place and navigating the world by myself.  
**Favorite School Activities:** Homecoming activities and going bowling after selling grocery sales.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** Stay true to myself.



Portrait by Elle Michael Photography

## Quinn Felicity Hoefler

**Parents:** Duane and Shelia Hoefler.  
**Future Plans:** Attend Northeast Community College and earn an associates degree in accounting.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Getting my job at Keith Hemmer CPA.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Getting my dream job, being a financial advisor.  
**Favorite School Activities:** One Act.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** Don't let the stress of others determine what you'll do in life.



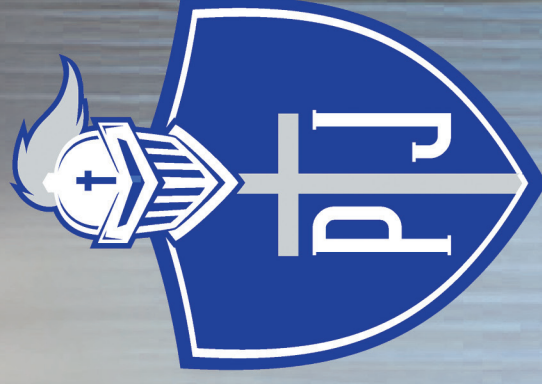
Portrait by Allida's Picture Pages

## Jane Marie Borer

**Parents:** Lauren and Jeremy Borer.  
**Future Plans:** I will be attending Mount Marty University for a degree in Environmental Science.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** I have received third place in Persuasive at State Speech my junior and senior year.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Juggling a full load of classes plus college sports year-round.  
**Favorite School Activities:** My favorite school activity is the "Advent Friends" we do during the Advent Season. It's sort of like "Secret Santa" but we all pray for each other during the weeks.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** In the ups and downs of life, always keep your eyes on God.



Portrait by Saralyn D Photography



## Aiden Valentine Klein

**Parents:** Marty and Amy Klein.  
**Future Plans:** Attend UNL as an accounting major.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Earning three medals at State Speech.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Adjusting to college life at UNL.  
**Favorite School Activities:** Speech, golf and one act were my favorites.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** Always use your God-given talent.



Portrait by Antelope Creek Photography

## Reese Louise Stuhr

**Parents:** Brian and Clarissa Stuhr.  
**Future Plans:** I plan to enlist full time in the United States Air Force.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** My greatest achievement so far is getting second place at State Speech in Senous Prose my junior year.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Being away from my family and going through some challenges on my own.  
**Favorite School Activities:** One Act, Speech, Track TA.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** Anything worth having is worth working hard for - Always keep God at the center of my life. Everything else will work itself out - Never think that you are too important to scrub a toilet.



Portrait by Bekah Scout Photo Co!

## Grady Jarrett Druke

**Parents:** Andy and Kerri Druke.  
**Future Plans:** I plan to attend Nebraska's College of Technical Agriculture to major in Animal Science - Livestock Management.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Making it to State in wrestling.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Graduating from college, getting a job, buying a house.  
**Favorite School Activities:** Football and wrestling.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** Always be persistent towards your goals.



Portrait by Jamie Thiele Photography

## Karson Anthony Kallhoff

**Parents:** Brent and Susan Kallhoff.  
**Future Plans:** To attend Northeast Community College with a major in Accounting and transfer to Wayne State College after two years.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Made it to the state championship game in basketball.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Getting a degree in Accounting.  
**Favorite School Activities:** Basketball and golf.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** I don't care where you go to school or what job you end up with, as long as you are doing something that makes you happy.



Portrait by Bekah Scout Photo Co.

## Camry Ann Kittelson

**Parents:** Ryan and Casee Kittelson.  
**Future Plans:** Attend the University of South Dakota, major in health science on the pre-occupational therapy route.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Medaling in State Volleyball and Speech.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Getting accepted into an occupational therapy program.  
**Favorite School Activities:** Volleyball and speech.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** Enjoy life while you are young.



Portrait by Antelope Creek Photography

## Landyn Parker Veik

**Parents:** Adam and Heather Veik.  
**Future Plans:** Attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and obtain a degree in mechanical engineering. Then I hope to find a job in the Lincoln area or back home.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Getting a medal at State Wrestling.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** Figuring out how to do my own taxes.  
**Favorite School Activities:** Playing sports with my classmates and being able to experience college classes through distance learning.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** That not everything in my life will go my way but I have to keep going.



Portrait by Bob Petlund Photography

## Harlie Marie Tyler

**Parents:** Ashley Kubo and Jacob Tyler.  
**Future Plans:** Go to Northeast Community College and take online classes to major in Early Childhood Development. After graduating from college I plan to open and run my own daycare.  
**Greatest Achievement So Far:** Making it through high school.  
**Greatest Challenge Ahead:** College and starting my own life after I move out.  
**Favorite School Activities:** One Act and Speech.  
**Best Advice From Your Parents:** Dad-Dream big, never settle, follow your heart. Mom-Be careful with your words, they can only be forgiven, not forgotten.

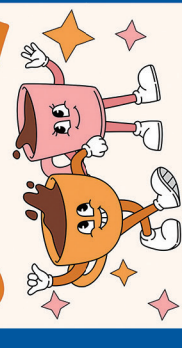


**BLACK BURN**  
**MARKING & FLAGS & MARKING PRODUCTS**



**Dean's Market**  
Eglin, NE

**COFFEE**



**BLEND • BREW 402**  
**DRIVE-THRU**

# The men who signed the Declaration of Independence

Editor's note: This week marks the second installment of a new series tied to our nation's 250th birthday in July 2026. As time draws near to Celebrate 250 years of Independence, it seems appropriate to review the Declaration of Independence and to explore the background of those who created and signed the most important document in our country's history. It is written by Caroline Epp of Giltner, Nebraska.

James Wilson (1742-1798) was born in Scotland, received an education in Edinburgh from some of the best 'thinkers' of that time preparing his entrance to the American scene in 1766. Studying law under John Dickinson in Philadelphia, placed him on the bar within two years.

Through his vocal support of the republican form of government, he became a favorite of the people. His first public involvement came with the local Committee of Correspondence in 1774, which he chaired.

A year later in 1775, elected to the Continental Congress, his influence by the Scottish Enlightenment came forth including from others who had been exposed to the Scottish ideas such as Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Richard Henry Lee, and Alexander Hamilton. Thomas Reid, among his top 'influencers,' believed that human rights came from God, not government.

Mr. Reid believed in the laws of nature; life, liberty and the right to own property (later known as happiness). He also believed common sense was put into every person by God, therefore, able to manage their own lives with little government.

Wilson wrote a pamphlet entitled: Considerations on the Nature and Effect of the Legislative Authority of the British Parliament which was distributed to the Continental Congress, stating: "All men are, by nature, equal and free: no one has a right to any authority over another without his consent: all lawful government is founded on the consent of those who are subject to it: such consent was with a view to endure and to increase the happiness of the governed, above what they could enjoy in an independent and unconnected state of nature. The consequence is that the happiness of the society is the first law of every government."

James Wilson was appointed as one of the first justices on the Supreme Court of which he said, "It only has the power to interpret law, not create law." It was intended to be the lesser of the three branches. We've obviously seen this overstepped.

Further quotes by James Wilson: "Government, in my humble opinion, should be formed to secure and to enlarge the exercise of the natural rights of its members; and every government, which has not this in view, as its principal object, is not a government of the legitimate kind."

"Slavery, or an absolute and unlimited power in the master over the life and fortune of the slave, is unauthorized by the common law. Indeed, it is repugnant to the principles of natural law, that such a state should subsist in any social system. The reasons which we sometimes see assigned for the origin and the continuance of slavery appear, when examined to the bottom, to be built upon a false foundation. In the enjoyment of their persons and of their property, the common law protects all." (I would like to comment here that we have the continuing stench of slavery in our country and around the world in regard to sex-trafficking! May God uncover all who are enslaving and may severe punishment come their way. Unfortunately, we keep feeding the monster through pornography, aiding and abetting through allowance of abortion. This is when governing authority must arise to protect the infringed upon, against those destroying the dignity of others. Our government is, 'We the People.'

Each of us are responsible and have the duty to protect life and the dignity of our fellow citizens from conception till natural death.)

James Wilson, one of six, signing both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, was on a committee to write the first draft of the Constitution. It was said that Gouverneur Morris, who wrote the final version of the Constitution, closely followed Wilson's draft. Both of those men spoke more than any others at the Constitutional Convention. At the Pennsylvania ratification convention, Wilson said: "...I am bold to assert that it is the best form of government which has ever been offered to the world."

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Stay in the know. Read the Public Notices

### NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

#### BAZILE CREEK AGRONOMY, L.L.C.

**NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION**  
The name of the limited liability company: BAZILE CREEK AGRONOMY, L.L.C. The address of the designated office is: 52609 865th Road, Brunswick, Nebraska 68720. The name and mailing address of the initial agent for service of process of the company is

Martin V. Klein, 101 W. 4th Street, P.O. Box 166, Neligh, NE 68756. 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 April 2, 2026, 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. BAZILE CREEK AGRONOMY,

L.L.C.  
Martin V. Klein  
Klein Law Office, P.C.  
P.O. Box 166  
Neligh, NE 68756-0166  
(402)887-4190  
PUBLISH: April 8, 15 & 22, 2026  
ZNEZ

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE APRIL 6, 2026 MEETING THE ELGIN CITY COUNCIL

#### ELGIN CITY COUNCIL Proceedings April 6, 2026

The Elgin City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 7:30 p.m., pursuant to posted notice.

Mayor Schmitt called the meeting to order, and announced the location of the Open Meeting Act.

Councilmembers present were John "Mike" Dvorak, Leigh Kluthe, and Jeremy Young. Craig Niewohner was absent.

A complete and accurate copy of the minutes is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the City Clerk's office.

The following agenda items were approved:

- General Checking:** Black Hills Energy, util, 1,198.51; U.S. Post Office, postage, 183.00; Prudential Annuities Service, retirement, 564.15; AMGL CPAs & Advisors, srv, 7,200.00; APPEARA, srv, 126.59; Antelope County Sheriff, srv, 2,850.00; Applied Connective Technologies, srv, 25.00; Barb Bode, travel, 101.50; Beckman Lumber, sup, 435.44; Bishop Business, srv, 2,405.00; Boyd's Electrical Service, Inc., srv, 2,462.81; Bradley Bode, travel, 15.00; Brian Beckman, srv, 175.00; Bud's Sanitary Service LLC, srv, 6,934.10; Comfort Inn, travel, 235.90; Dianne Gunderson, sup, 41.39; Elgin One Stop, fuel & sup, 631.09; Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, util, 3,150.02; Embassy Suites by Hilton Omaha La Vista, travel, 291.90; Fitzgerald, Vetter, Temple, Bartell & Henderson, srv, 350.00; Great Plains Communications, util, 317.52; Kittelson Welding, srv, 195.00; Kristin Childers, travel, 218.95; MacQueen, sup, 281.20; Midwest Laboratories Inc., srv, 314.95; Municipal Supply, Inc. of Omaha, sup, 749.54; NE Public Health Environmental Lab, srv, 61.00; Nationwide Insurance, ins, 308.00; One Call Concepts, Inc., srv, 6.13; PowerManager, sup, 493.04; Sapp Bros, Inc - El-

- gin, srv, 83.68; The Elgin Review, print, 1,607.65; Travelers-RMD, ins, 1,762.00; Trojan Technologies, sup, 3,138.27; Verizon Wireless, srv, 125.49; Nebraska Department of Revenue, tax, 1,328.15; United States Treasury, tax, 5,064.78; American Funds Service Company, retirement, 751.84; Payroll, 12,625.83

**Debit Card:** U.S. Post Office, postage, 33.65

**Rescue Checking:** Bound Tree Medical, LLC, sup, 169.68; Elgin Pharmacy, sup, 8.50; ZOLL Medical Corporation, sup, 28,093.22; One Billing Solutions, srv, 207.41

- Appoint Bradley Bode to utility superintendent effective May 16, 2026

- Set the utility superintendent wage at \$26.35 effective May 16, 2026

- Pool applications: Kerri Drueke and Karin Kinney as managers; Sophia Burke, Kinley Drueke, Kayton Zwingman, Camry Kittelson, Tessa Barlow, and Macy Rokahr as lifeguards; and Sue Vanis as needed for manager and lessons

- Gavin Kallhoff for the 2026 summer maintenance position

- Increase pay rates for summer maintenance, office assistant, and lifeguards to \$15.00 per hour plus \$0.50 for returning employees and \$20.75 for pool managers

- Set the community cleanup day for Friday, April 17, 2026

- Building permits: Alyssa Koinzan, Colton Klabenes

- Regular meeting adjourned at

8:13 p.m.

The following agenda items were discussed:

- Public comment: none
- LB 840 progress update and timeline

- Storm sewer by Boone County Health Clinic is deteriorating
- Sheriff's report: February-56 hours 55 minute and eight 911 calls

- Regularly flushing fire hydrants
- Clerk report: attended many beneficial classes at clerk school
- Next regular meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, 2026

Mayor Mike Schmitt  
City Clerk Kristin L. Childers  
PUBLISH: April 15, 2026  
ZNEZ

### PROCEEDINGS FROM APRIL 7, 2026 MTG. ANTELOPE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

#### ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Neligh, Nebraska April 7, 2026

Chairman opened the meeting. Notice of meeting published as required by statute.

Approved agenda. Approved minutes of March 10th, 2026 Board of Commissioner Meeting. Public comments. Correspondence was reviewed. Treasurer's Fund Balance and Miscellaneous Revenue Report, Sweep Account Statements, and Clerk of District Court Report for March were accepted.

No action on Great Plains Communication, Viking Fire Protection and quarterly jail inspection.

Approved Weed Department Fees, Extension Office hiring summer intern and Catastrophic Inmate Medical Insurance.

No report for Zoning Admin-

trator.  
Thank you for 841st Road follow-up, public defender contract was presented for review. Presentation from Kings Crushing regarding crushed material.

Heard from contractors and legal counsel regarding improvements to the old courthouse building.

Road Superintendent Report: approved 72 oversized permits, four (4) access permits and four (4) underground permits. Approved purchase agreement on skid loader.

Meeting Adjourned.  
Antelope County Board of Commissioners

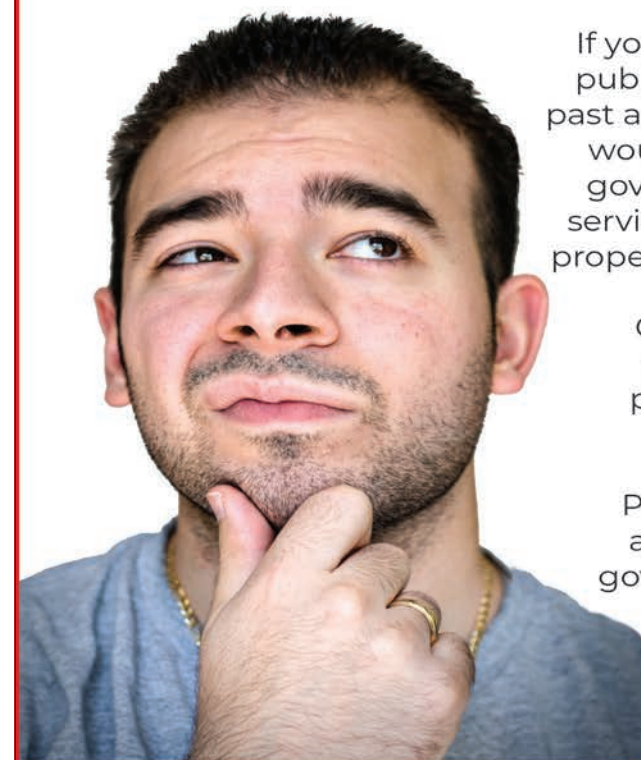
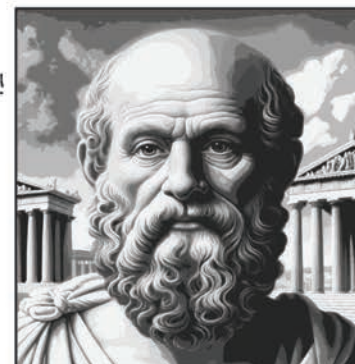
CHARLIE HENERY  
Chairman of County Board  
Attest: LISA PAYNE /s/  
Antelope County Clerk

## Stay Informed by Reading The Public Notices!

A very wise man, Socrates, once said

# "YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW"

this guy!



If your local newspaper didn't publish public notices and write stories about past and upcoming public meetings, you would be left guessing at what your government entities are doing. New service rates, purchases and sellings of property, ordinances and so much more.

Governments are larger, more pervasive and way, way more powerful now than in any time in America's history.

Public notices are MANDATORY announcements of what these governmental bodies plan to do or what they have already set into motion. Therefore, they aren't very popular with governmental officials.

Since we know these notices are critical to keeping the public informed, you can find our legals in 3 places... our print/digital edition, on our website [elginreview.com](http://elginreview.com) and in a statewide data base.

### nepublicnotices.com

Provided to the public by members of the Nebraska Press Association.

## GUESS WHAT? NO MORE EXCUSES.

SEVING ANTELOPE, BOONE, AND WHEELER COUNTIES, NEBRASKA SINCE 1883  
**The Elgin Review**

### EARLY VOTING BALLOT APPLICATION - Primary Election, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Print Voter's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or 911 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I request a ballot be mailed to: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Must provide one (1) of the following:  
Nebraska Driver's License or State ID Number \_\_\_\_\_; or  
Photocopy of other acceptable photo identification; or  
Reasonable Impediment Certification

I am a qualified voter of the State of Nebraska and will not be going to the polls on Election Day; therefore, I request a ballot for the Primary Election to be held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Signature Voter's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Applicant or Agent \_\_\_\_\_

Agent's Relationship to Voter \_\_\_\_\_ Print Agent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

NONPARTISAN ONLY: Any voter who is registered as Nonpartisan may request a ballot for certain offices from any political party. If you choose not to request a partisan ballot, you will be given a nonpartisan ballot only. As a registered Nonpartisan, I request a partisan ballot from the following party: (check only one)

Republican  Democratic  Libertarian  Legal Marijuana NOW

No candidate or any person serving on a campaign committee for a candidate shall act as an agent for any registered voter requesting an early voting ballot unless such a person is a member of the registered voter's family. No person shall act as agent for more than two voters in one election.

Early Voting Deadlines for 2026 PRIMARY Election:  
Request By Mail or Fax: 6:00 PM, Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026  
Request in Person: 5:00 PM, Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Request by Agent: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

All early voting ballots must be returned to the County Clerk's Office by 8:00 PM on Election Day, Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Return completed application by mail to:  
Lisa Payne, Antelope County Clerk  
PO Box 26, 501 M Street, Neligh, NE 68756  
Fax to: 402.887.4719 Email to: [clerk@antelopecounty.ne.gov](mailto:clerk@antelopecounty.ne.gov)

#### Voter Registration Requirements

The last day to register to vote in the May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Primary Election is Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Office of the County Clerk/Election Commissioner. All persons wishing to vote must be United States citizens, a Nebraska resident and at least 18 years of age on or before the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in November of this year, that being November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. Eligible applicants must complete a Nebraska Voter Registration Application providing: their name; residence address; postal address, if different from their residence address; date of birth; party affiliation, or indication of no affiliation; a valid Nebraska driver's license number and their signature.

/s/ Lisa Payne  
Antelope County Clerk/ Election Commissioner

PUBLISH: April 15, 2026 ZNEZ

# CLASSIFIEDS

To place your classified ad, contact us at 402.843.5500 • PO Box 359 • elginreview@yahoo.com

Deadline Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

**SUMMER HELP** wanted, village of Petersburg. Contact village clerk at 402-386-5551. 30-31c

Visit our website [elginreview.com](http://elginreview.com) to view our photo galleries.



**SERVICES:**

**PASSPORT PHOTOS:** Official U.S. and foreign passport and Visa photos available here. Available in under ten minutes. \$12 plus tax (78¢). Appointments highly recommended. The Elgin Review, 116 South 2nd St, Elgin NE. 402-843-5500. tfn

email us at [elginreview@yahoo.com](mailto:elginreview@yahoo.com)

?

HAVE YOU MADE PLANS TO ATTEND THIS YEAR'S VETCH DAYS?

MAY 31 - JUNE 2, 2026



**Trio to be auctioned for fire relief**

This Monday's NE Sandhills Rancher Fire Relief Rollover Auction held at Elgin Livestock raised a great amount of dollars for the cause, nearly \$20,000. A few more items have become available to auction off for the relief fund, including this trio of wolves. Made of metal, they have been painted and would be a great addition to anyone's landscape! They will be auctioned at the April 27th sale at Elgin Livestock Sales. E-R photo/LMorgan

## This year, think twice about applying spring nitrogen

For those with cool-season pasture, hay ground, or spring grains, spring is a typical time for applying fertilizer. However, with fertilizer prices still high and a lot of uncertainty in the market, this is not the year to apply nitrogen by habit. It is the year to be deliberate.

One of the first things to keep in mind is that the nitrogen rate that gives you the most yield is not always the same rate that gives you the most profit. We might call that the difference between yield optimum and economic optimum. You may be able to buy a little more production with more nitrogen, but eventually that extra yield no longer pays for the added fertilizer cost. In a higher-cost year, that economic optimum usually comes at a lower rate than many people are used to.

That means we need to be selective about where nitrogen dollars go. Start with acres that have the best chance to respond. Good stands, strong yield potential, and enough moisture to use the fertilizer are all important. If a field is thin, stressed, or short on moisture, adding more nitrogen may not fix the real problem. The same goes for applying too early. If plants are not actively growing, they are not going to

**IT'S ALL ABOUT BEEF**



Beef Systems Asst. Ext. Educator **Ben Beckman**

take up and use that fertilizer. Nitrogen works best when growing conditions allow the plant to actually capture and use it.

That is especially important this spring. If moisture is limited, be cautious about making a large up-front nitrogen investment. In some cases, split applications can help manage that risk. Rather than putting all your nitrogen out at once, applying part up front and part later lets you better match rates

to rainfall, yield potential, and current conditions. That can reduce the chance of overinvesting early if the season turns dry.

Pasture type matters too. Introduced grass pastures and hay meadows are much more likely to respond to nitrogen than native rangeland. In most cases, native range does not need nitrogen fertilizer, and applications there may at best waste money and at worst encourage unwanted weeds. On rangeland, the better return often comes from proper grazing management, rest, and stocking rate control rather than purchased nitrogen.

It is also worth remembering that not every pound of nitrogen has to come from a fertilizer spreader. Legumes

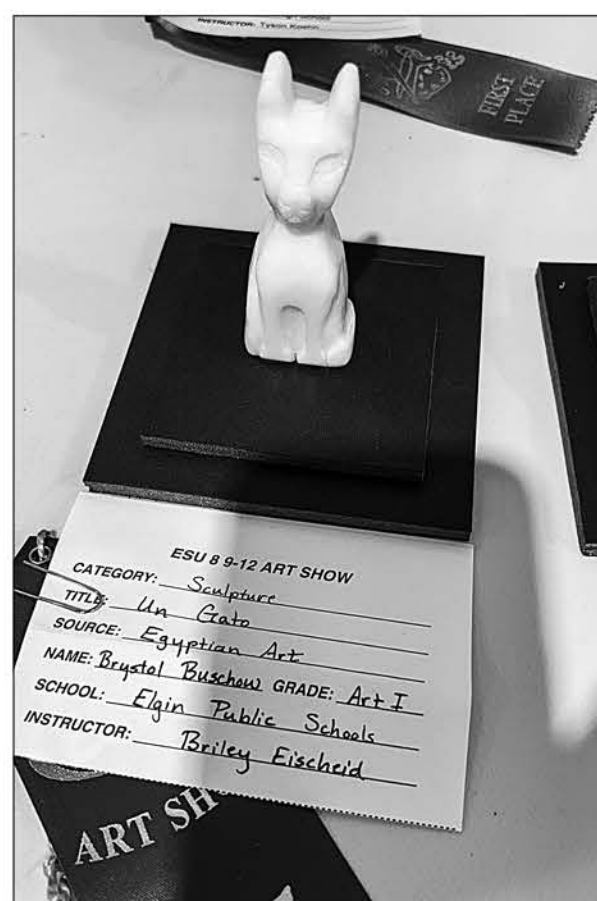
can supply nitrogen over time and reduce purchased fertilizer needs, especially in introduced pastures where they can be maintained. That is not usually a quick fix for this spring, but over the longer term legumes can help lower fertilizer needs, improve forage quality, and spread production risk. The tradeoff is that once legumes are part of the system, herbicide options become more limited. If broadleaf control is a regular need, that should be part of the decision before adding legumes.

Manure can also be a valuable nitrogen source, but only if we treat it like the fertilizer source it is. That means knowing its nutrient content, estimating what will actually be available this year, and crediting those pounds accurately. If we don't, it is easy to either underuse its value or overapply nutrients where they are not needed. Especially with hauled manure, application, transportation, and timing all matter, so running the numbers is just as important there as it is with commercial fertilizer.

When it comes to nitrogen decisions, the goal is not just to grow more; the goal is to make nitrogen pay. Target the acres most likely to respond, be realistic about moisture, consider split applications where they fit, keep nitrogen off native rangeland, and consider alternative nitrogen sources like legumes and manure. This spring, the best nitrogen decision may be knowing where it pays and where it doesn't.

-Ben Beckman is a beef systems Extension Educator serving northeast Nebraska. 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](mailto:ben.beckman@unl.edu)

## ESU8 Art Show highlights works from schools in Elgin



Works of art (like the above pieces) were judged and on display over the weekend at the ESU 8's annual Art Show. This year, the show was held at the Neligh fairgrounds. Elgin Public School submitted 25 high school and 18 elementary school pieces; Pope John XXIII Central Catholic submitted 22 high school and 19 elementary school pieces. Above: A sculpture by Brystal Buschow (left, of EPS high) earned a second place ribbon. Right: Young Quinn Dewey (PJCC elementary) also earned a second place ribbon. Art instructors are Briley Eischeid (EPS) and Connie Henn (PJCC). E-R photos/D&LMorgan

## ELGIN LIVESTOCK SALES INC. NO SALE MONDAY, APRIL 20

Excellent Auction on Monday, April 13th; an amazing day! Thank You to all who donated and participated in our Rollover Auction for Nebraska Sandhills Rancher Fire Relief. It was a GREAT success! We will auction off a couple of more items at the next sale.

**Some prices from Monday:**

Baby Calves.....	975.00 to 1725.00
20 BLK Steers.....	589.....491.00
18 BLK Heifers.....	525.....465.00
18 BLK Steers.....	732.....408.00
19 BLK Heifers.....	521.....485.00
35 BLK Steers.....	698.....415.00
37 BLK Heifers.....	640.....398.00
12 Red Heifers.....	673.....397.00
36 BLK Steers.....	816.....395.00
65 BLK Steers.....	865.....379.00
64 BLK Steers.....	893.....372.00
60 BLK Steers.....	1005.....340.00
256 BLK Steers.....	1099.....323.00
120 BLK Heifers.....	920.....332.25
9 BLK Heiferettes.....	1055.....260.00
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Photo submitted

Lions Vice President Kay Reineke is shown with David Collins (l) and Kimmie Reed (r) who were honored for years of membership of the Bartlett Lions Club.

### Bartlett News

Bartlett Lions Club met at the Bartlett Old Fire hall on Thursday, April 9 with eight members present. Several members were honored for their years as members of the Bartlett Lions Club. Ten-year membership included Mark and Jullie Landgren; David and Marcia Smith; and Jack Reineke. Fifteen years included Kimmie Reed and Tracy Armknecht; 25-years Julie Thorin and Helen Plugge; 45-years David Collins; and 60-years Dwight Nichols. Those present to receive their certificates were Dave Collins and Kimmie Reed. Members discussed honoring these members at the next Ground Hog Supper. Members agreed to donate \$450 toward bounce houses to be used for Wheeler Central Accelerated Reading celebration at the end of the school year. The Lions Club will donate \$50 toward the Spring FFA Banquet auction.

Officers for the coming year will be President Joe Walkowiak; Vice President; Kay Reineke; Secretary/Treasurer Kimmie Reed; News reporter Sherry Tetschner; Tail Twister Dean Miller; Supply Person David Collins; Membership Chair Amy Spencer and LCIF Coordinator Dave Collins.

Members voted to have Kimmie and Delan Reed and Joe Walkowiak on the Bartlett Lions Club Bank account. Scholarship forms were received from Wheeler Central seniors Braelynn Schlenger and Haley Borwege. Each will receive a \$350 scholarship.

## Elgin Community Cleanup Day is Friday

### Bradley Bode to fill position created by Poulsen retirement

The annual Elgin Community Cleanup Day will be held this Friday, April 17.

It will be similar to last year as residents will be able to drop items off Friday from approximately 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., at dumpsters to be located north of Elgin Livestock Sales.

The dumpsters will then be picked up and hauled away. Meeting last week, the Elgin City Council made the hiring of a new utility superintendent official. Bradley Bode, a city maintenance employee, was appointed to fill the utility superintendent's position previously held by Donnie Poulsen, Jr. Poulsen will be retiring on May 15 and Bode will officially take over the position the next day (May 16).

In other action: Time to clean up — Building permits — Permit applications submitted by Alyssa Koinzan (garage) and Colton Klabenenes (fence) were approved.

Sheriff's report — During the month of February, the Antelope County Sheriff's Department provided just over 56 hours of patrol inside the city limits and responded to eight 911 calls.

Update — Todd Heithoff and Hailey Meis provided an update on a housing survey recently completed. More about the update in next week's newspaper.

## EPS, PJCC students earn multi-activity certificates

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) and the Nebraska State College System (NSCS) announce last week 15,246 recipients of the 2025-2026 Nebraska State Colleges Multi-Activity Student Award.

The award recognizes students in grades 9-12 who participated in at least three NSAA sanctioned activities during the academic year.

Each high school student who participates in at least three NSAA activities will be recognized and awarded a certificate of achievement by the NSAA and the Nebraska State Colleges.

Recognized from Elgin Public Schools were Justice Blecher, Libby Evans, Braelyn Mar-

tinsen, Macy Rokahr, Kayton Zwingman, Kierstyn Eisenhauer, Ethan Hansen, Gemma Miller, Megan Wright, Jarek Erickson, Max Henn, Sydney Niewohner, Gentry Zwingman, Jayvin Erickson, Braedon Hinkle, Evin Pelster and John Zwingman.

Earning recognition from Pope John XXIII Central Catholic High School were Tessa Barlow, Gavin Kallhoff, Camry Kittelson, Joseph McNally, Michael Selting, Jovie Borer, Karson Kallhoff, Aiden Klein, Elizabeth Moser, Reese Stuhr, Grady Druke, Matthew Kerkman, Raaf Klein, Lillian Moser, Landyn Veik, Kinley Druke, Brooke Kinney, Cielo Kuhlman and Christian Preister.

## Spinning Tales

### Golf and cold weather, they really shouldn't mix

PLAINVIEW — "You must be kidding me?" That's what I thought Saturday morning after climbing out of my car to spend time covering the Wolfpack golf team.

Golf is not meant for temperatures in the 40s and winds gusting near 30 miles per hour.

If you weren't dressed for the weather, you froze. If you didn't have gloves on, you froze. That's just the fans I'm talking about, the ones who stayed close to the clubhouse and watched golfers teeing off #1 and finishing on #9.

The players? That was another story. You can't golf wearing a parka just like you can't roller skate in a buffalo herd, well maybe those hearty souls in Alaska have found a way. Some wear hoods, others wear stocking caps, anything to preserve body heat.

Yet, here were our hearty Wolfpack varsity players battling the elements as well as the course. Karson Kallhoff posted a score in the mid-80s for 18 holes. Very respectable in my book, but the four other Wolfpack golfers' scorecards finished above 100.

Medalist for the day was a golfer from Creighton who carded a 73. No idea how he was dressed, but he must have found a way to keep his hands warm. It also helps when the course is their home course.

Early April golf in Nebraska is a dicey situation. One day the weather feels like spring, the next day temperatures are, shall we say, bitter?

Don't ever expect this to change. If you want to get a golf season in, during spring, you have to start in April so you can finish in May. Temperatures may be cold now, but come mid-May it will warm up I think.

\*\*\*\*\*

Speaking of golf, Sunday marked the final round of the Masters Golf Tournament at Augusta, Georgia. I'm surprised at the number of local golfers who have been to Augusta in recent years.

I'm not aware of any who were there for Sunday's final round, but for those fans (primarily CEO's and their wives and children) they saw history. Rory McIlroy made it two in a row, only the fourth golfer in the modern era to accomplish the feat. History was also made by Scottie Scheffler who finished the final 36 holes without a bogey. Nobody dating back to 1942 had every accomplished that. Scheffler came back from 12 down early in the tournament to finish second, just one shot behind McIlroy.

As good as McIlroy is, he doesn't generate the excitement that Tiger Woods used to do. The same goes for Scheffler. We're all waiting for the next wunderkind to arrive.

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Work hours are 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM — 4 days a week. Upon employment, benefit package includes full family health care coverage, 401k retirement and paid holidays. CDL is preferred but not required at the time of hire. Drug tests are mandatory.

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# Wolfpack Sports



## Pelster records PB long jump mark at BC

BATTLE CREEK — In early April, the Battle Creek Invite is a test for Wolfpack athletes since many of the schools competing there are larger in size.

Still, the Wolfpack (competing with just 11 athletes) were competitive and produced several multiple-winning efforts.

Senior Kayton Zwingman led the way, placing third in both the 300 meter hurdles and 400 meter dash. She also was part of the 400 meter relay team which finished seventh. Other relay team members were Reese Stuhr, Anna Dworak and Gentry Zwingman.

Evin Pelster brought home two medals, placing fourth in the 800 meter run and fifth in the long jump with a personal best effort of 19'11.5".

Other top efforts for the Wolfpack were turned in by Ethan Hansen (fourth in the 400 meter dash) and Max Henn who placed eighth in the shot put.

Battle Creek won the boys team title scoring 156 points followed by Elkhorn Valley 102, O'Neill 88, Norfolk Catholic 59, Stanton 55, Summerland 23, Winside 14, LHNE 11, EPPJ 10 and Randolph 6.

On the girls side, Elkhorn Valley won the team race with

111 points followed by Battle Creek 98, O'Neill 76, Norfolk Catholic 70, Winside 43, LHNE 42, Stanton 36, Madison 14, EPPJ 12, Summerland 12 and Randolph 10.

### Boys

100 meter dash — 1. Andy Ricchio, Battle Creek, 10.76 seconds

200 dash — 1. Andy Ricchio, Battle Creek, 23.24 seconds

400 dash — 1. Ryker Sudbeck, O'Neill, 41.79 seconds; 4. Ethan Hansen, EPPJ, 55.56

800 meter run — 1. Miles Clausen, Battle Creek, 2:02.76; 4. Evin Pelster, EPPJ, 2:15.96

1600 run — 1. Miles Clausen, Battle Creek, 4:53.73

3200 run — 1. Miles Clausen, Battle Creek, 10:29.48

110 meter hurdles — 1. Logan Black, Elkhorn Valley, 15.59 seconds

300 hurdles — 1. Logan Black, Elkhorn Valley, 42.16 seconds

400 relay — 1. Battle Creek, 44.01 seconds

1600 relay — 1. Stanton, 3:38.99

3200 relay — 1. O'Neill, 9:12.04

Shot put — 1. Korbyn Greve, Battle Creek, 49'1"; 8. Max Henn, EPPJ, 43'3.5"

Discus — 1. Korbyn Werner, Elkhorn Valley, 148'5"



E-R photo/DMorgan

Wolfpack long jumper Evin Pelster had a personal best last week, leaping 19'11.5" to place fifth at the Battle Creek Invite.

High jump — 1. Ryan Rifer, Summerland, 6'5"

Pole vault — 1. Danny Kolars, Norfolk Catholic, 12'6"

Long jump — 1. Ryker Sudbeck, O'Neill, 22'4"; 5. Evin Pelster, EPPJ, 19'11.5"

Triple jump — 1. Jarett Werner, Elkhorn Valley, 41'7.5"

Girls  
100 meter dash — 1. Lexie Dinkel, LHNE, 12.75 seconds

200 dash — 1. Jamaya Koehlmoos, Norfolk Catholic, 26.25

400 dash — 1. Jamaya Koehlmoos, Norfolk Catholic, 1:05.93; 3. Kayton Zwingman, EPPJ, 1:06.26.

800 meter run — 1. Kiarra Kennedy, O'Neill, 2:25.47

1600 run — 1. Olivia Chapman, Battle Creek, 5:48.32

3200 run — 1. Mazzy Kuchar, Elkhorn Valley, 13:01.63

100 meter hurdles — 1. Kynadal Werner, Elkhorn Valley, 16.42 seconds

300 hurdles — 1. Ali Korth, Battle Creek, 48.11 seconds; 3. Kayton Zwingman, EPPJ, 50.67

400 relay — 1. Battle Creek, 50.85 seconds; 7. EPPJ (Anna Dworak, Reese Stuhr, Gentry Zwingman, Kayton Zwingman), 56.64

1600 relay — 1. Elkhorn Valley, 4:18.80

3200 relay — 1. Battle Creek, 10:37.45

Shot put — 1. Mariah Kallhoff, O'Neill, 39'7"

Discus — 1. Aftyn Schutt, Winside, 114'4"

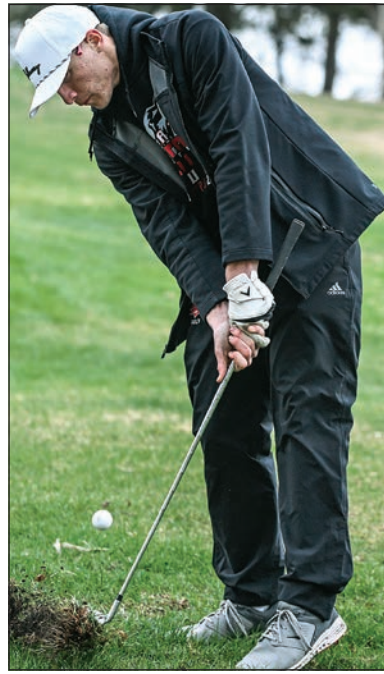
High jump — 1. Lexie Dinkel, LHNE, 5'4"

Pole vault — 1. Rylan Hansen, Stanton, 9'

Long jump — 1. Lexie Dinkel, LHNE, 17'5"

Triple jump — 1. Ali Korth, Battle Creek, 35'3.75"

## Golfers battle cold at Plainview



E-R photos/LMorgan

Junior Gavin Kallhoff (shown here hitting an iron shot during action Saturday morning) shot a 104 at the invite held at the Plainview Country Club.



Wolfpack senior Grady Druke shows perfect form teeing off on Hole #1 Saturday.

PLAINVIEW — Conditions improved as the day went along for golfer competing Saturday at the Plainview Country Club.

Nineteen teams competed at the tournament. Winning the team title was Creighton with a 317, 10 strokes better than Battle Creek at 327.

Other team scores were O'Neill JV 344, Plainview 353, Neligh-Oakdale 367, Summerland 370, CWC 375, Bloomfield 375, LCC 376, Creighton JV 381, West Holt 381, Randolph 384, Crofton 387, Wausa 391, Stanton 397, EPPJ 399, Pierce JV 457, Plainview JV 1316 and Osmond 2200.

"EPPJ golfers battled it out today," Coach Trent Ostransky said after the conclusion of the invite.

Leading the Wolfpack was senior Karson Kallhoff. A state qualifier one year ago, he shot an 86 to finish tied for 15th but lost in a scorecard count back.

Junior Michael Selting and the rest of his teammates had a rough day, all shooting over 100 in the 18-hole tournament. Selting finished with a 102, Gavin Kallhoff carded a 104, Landyn Veik shot 107 and Grady Druke had a 118. Creighton's Calvin Wilmes was medalist with a 73.

Altogether 90 players competed Saturday.

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**ATHLETES OF THE WEEK**

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**GAVIN KALLHOFF**  
BOYS GOLF

A junior, Gavin competed twice last week, at the Elkhorn Valley Quad and Plainview. At Plainview, under cold & windy conditions, Gavin carded 104 over 18 holes.

**REESE STUHR**  
GIRLS TRACK

A senior, Reese — as part of the 400 meter relay along with teammates Anna Dworak, Kayton Zwingman and Gentry Zwingman, finished with a time of 56.64 at Battle Creek.

**EVIN PELSTER**  
BOYS TRACK

A sophomore, Evin set his personal best leap in the long jump at Battle Creek. He leapt 19'11.5". He also finished 4th in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:15.96

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## EPPJ takes 4th at Elkhorn Valley Invite last week

**Kallhoff leads varsity with 48; Smidt tops Wolfpack JVs with 53**

BATTLE CREEK — Wolfpack golfers competed last week at the Elkhorn Valley Invite. EPPJ varsity scores were Karson Kallhoff 48, Landyn Veik 58, Grady Druke 63, Gavin Kallhoff 52 and Michael Selting 52. They shot a team score of 210 to finish fourth.

Other Wolfpack golfers and their scores in the nine-hole tournament were Dannyka Smidt 53,



Karson Kallhoff

Creighton Harkins 58, Joseph McNally 63, Molly Thiessen 73 and Raaf Klein 65.

CWC posted a team score of 187, led by Carter Metschke with a 42.

Elkhorn Valley won the quadrangular with a team score of 179. They were led by Max Schaffer with a 40.

The Summerland Bobcats finished third with a team score of 201. They were led by Bennet Flenniken and Zander Tabbort each shooting 49.

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### PLEASE PLAN AHEAD

The First Half of the 2025 **REAL ESTATE** and **PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX** is due.

First Half Taxes will become delinquent **MAY 1, 2026.**

Interest will accrue on May 1st. Payment must be made by the close of the business day on April 30th or postmarked by April 30, 2026 to be considered on time.

The Antelope County courthouse will be **CLOSED** on **FRIDAY, APRIL 24th** in observance of Arbor Day.

Taxes may be viewed and paid online at [www.nebraskataxesonline.us](http://www.nebraskataxesonline.us) using credit card or echeck.

### TRACK

#### BOYS/GIRLS VARSITY

April 16 @ O'Neill 9:00  
April 22 @ St. Mary's 9:00  
April 28 @ Creighton 1:00

#### JUNIOR HIGH

April 21 @ Burwell 1:00  
April 28 @ Genoa 9:00

### GOLF

#### BOYS/GIRLS VARSITY

April 15 @ Ewing 9:00  
April 23 Lutheran High NE 9:00  
April 28 NVC @ Summerland 9:00

#### JUNIOR VARSITY

April 23 @ Leigh 9:00

#### JUNIOR HIGH

April 23 @ Bassett TBA



### SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

April 15 Early dismissal • NECC HS Quiz Bowl • EPS school board mtg  
April 17 EPS 4th grade field trip  
April 18 EPS/PJCC Jr/Sr Prom  
April 20 Elgin FFA officer interviews • TeamMates end-of-school year/Seniors celebration  
April 22 EPS, no school  
April 24 EPS District Music Contest  
April 27 PJCC HS JAMS • EPS PreK-12 Spring Concert  
April 28 PJCC 1 pm dismissal  
April 29 FFA Banquet  
May 1 EPS Prek-6 NO SCHOOL • NVC Art Show @ St. Mary's • PJCC Spring Musical  
May 2 N-O 5-6th Grade Honor Band  
May 3 PJCC Spring Musical Matinee  
May 5 EPS NHS/Activities/Academic Awards



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**Heithoff Irrigation**  
402-843-2307

**Great Plains State Bank**  
402-386-5297

**Elgin Veterans' Medical Clinic**  
an outpatient clinic of Boone Co. Medical Center 402-843-5910

**The Elgin Review**  
402-843-5500

**Elgin Pharmacy and Gift**  
402-843-5555

**Elgin One Stop & Sleepin Inn**  
402-843-2100

**Elgin Livestock Sales, Inc.**  
402-843-2275

**Elgin Body & Glass**  
402-843-2418

**Dwyer Manufacturing**  
402-843-6167

**Klein PC, Attny at Law**  
402-887-4910

**Dean's Market**  
402-843-5300

**Central Valley Ag**  
402-843-2416

**Beckman Lumber Inc.**  
402-843-2131

**Baum Seed Service, LLC**  
402-843-5802 or 402-843-8282

**Bar U Farms**  
402-843-8921

**Bank of Elgin**  
402-843-2228

**Antelope Memorial Hospital**  
402-887-4151 Elgin Clinic 402-843-5444

