



Henn, Beckman shine at Norfolk all-star games
See page 11



Flag Day ceremony held Saturday afternoon
See page 12

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The Elgin Review

Wednesday
June 18, 2025

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In Brief

June Poker Run to assist Travis Dozler family

To be held Saturday, June 21.

A ‘Benefit Ride for Travis Dozler’ will be held this week.

The ‘poker run’ will be held this Saturday, June 21. It will start and end at the KC Hall in Elgin (115 South Second Street). The event will feature live music, food & drinks and there will be auction items. Kickstands will go up at 11 a.m.

Cars and bikes are welcome to participate. There will be five stops in the 170-mile route. Cash prizes will be awarded for the best and worst hands, according to organizers.

Dozler died this past January in a one-vehicle accident involving a truck he was driving. The accident took place in Missouri. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the family of Travis Dozler.

Clearwater gearing up for 58th annual rodeo

To be June 27-29

It’s rodeo time and the community of Clearwater is ready.

The 58th annual Clearwater Big Rodeo will be held Friday through Sunday, June 27-29. For more info, see the ad on Page Two.

Public Notices

Public notices in this week’s newspaper include:

- Notice of Organization — Schiltmeyer Farms, L.L.C.
- Notice to Landowners — Antelope County Assessor
- Notice of Public Hearing — The Antelope County Board of Equalization
- Proceedings — The Village of Bartlett
- Proceedings — The District #18 Board of Education
- Proceedings — The Antelope County Board of Commissioners (2)

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 94 degrees recorded on Wednesday, June 11. The low temperature during the same period was 52 degrees recorded on Sunday and Monday, June 8-9. Altogether, no precipitation was recorded last week.

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

Date	High	Low	Prec
June 8	75	52	.00
June 9	75	52	.00
June 10	91	63	.00
June 11	94	64	.00
June 12	85	63	.00
June 13	86	62	.00
June 14	91	69	.00
Total for last week			0.00
Total for June			2.12
Total precipitation 2025			6.56



Taking a walk on the ‘wild’ side

The biggest event in Elgin’s annual Vetch Days celebration is the parade. One of the biggest parades in recent memory took place last week. Among the many entries was this one, featuring the Wolfpack dance team. For more photos of the three day celebration, turn to Page Six.

E-R photo/DMorgan

Longtime Neligh optometrist to retire at the end of the month

By Jane Schuchardt

Special to The Elgin Review

Editor’s Note: This continues a series of monthly articles celebrating pride in our community and its surroundings shown through the experience of residents, businesses, and organizations.

The BIG E for Dr. Russell Vetick, a local optometrist, will now stand for enjoyment in retirement, not necessarily to check the quality of human vision.

Enjoyment was how this eye doctor, who retires June 30 after some three decades helping people see, described his work here. Serving this rural area “has been gratifying – helping people with eye problems, getting to know the whole family. There is such a need in rural areas.”

At 60, he’s moving on to travel, bow hunting, and eventually settling in the Twin Cities, Minnesota area to spend time with immediate family gained through marriage to his beloved wife Joanie. They celebrate 28 years of marriage in September.

His wife, a pre-school educator by training, has worked at Eye Physicians, Neligh, for a quarter century, first filling in and now there on a regular basis accomplishing a “little bit of everything,” as Dr. Vetick explained. She also is retiring.

How’d the Veticks end up in Neligh, both in the eye care business and as community members? Sitting in his cramped office dressed in his signature starched and pressed long-sleeve shirt and striking tie, Dr. Vetick dated the journey to his profession to his tender age of 15.

While growing up in Grand Island, detasseling corn was the usual summer job for youth. Hot. Dirty. Hard physical labor.

After a routine eye exam, he told his mom (Sheila, deceased) how eye doctoring looked like a fun job. She told his high school science teacher who set Russ up in a shadowing experience with a local optometrist.

Soon he was at Kearney State College (now University of Nebraska at Kearney) getting a bachelor degree in

biology, then on to the Illinois College of Optometry, Chicago, with graduation in 1991.

He first started with Palmer Eye Associates in Neligh (1992-2000) and then joined Eye Physicians, P.C. (Nebraska), an eye care practice with multiple locations primarily in northeast and central Nebraska. Amongst a wide range of services offered for both adults and children is the See to Learn Program, a complimentary screening for three-year-olds.

“That dream I had in high school . . . I feel so blessed to have been able to dream that dream right here,” Dr. Vetick summarized. “I found my mission and it’s here.” Often asked if he will continue optometric services following the move north, he’s not sure yet, though he does have his sights on learning to ice fish first.

Vetick said he chose the Chicago optometry school since it had strong relationships with various providers for four-month ‘externship’ experiences. His was at the Minneapolis Society for the Blind where he became interested in ‘low vision’ as a specialty in addition to primary care, contact lenses, and urgent eye care.

Regarding emergency care, scattered amongst an average of 60 ‘patient encounters’ a week are scratched corneas, foreign body removal, floaters, and detached retinas. These require quick attention and he’s thankful for strong relationships with medical doctors, particularly ophthalmologists in nearby larger cities. As the person who gets the emergency call, “I am the first to see a systemic problem and, when

See VETICK, Page 2 ►



E-R photo/JSchuchardt

When Dr. Russell Vetick, local optometrist who retires June 30, is shown here with his professional and pastime passions – a tool for examining human eyes and the deer mount resulting from bow hunting. This trophy kill was taken near Neligh in 2000.

Breakfast, lunch prices to stay the same at EPS

No, not this year.

Aware of the rising cost of food prices, the District #18 Board of Education Wednesday night made a decision that every parent of school-age children should be happy about.

The five members of the board (Luke Hinkle was absent from the meeting), decided to keep school breakfast and lunch prices the same as they were for the 2024/25 school year.

Having decided that, here are the prices for the 2025/26 school year:

- Breakfast for students will be \$2
- PK-6 — Lunch price will be \$2.75
- 7-12 — Lunch price will be \$3

It was brought out at the meeting that approximately 50 percent of the students at EPS received free or reduced price meals.

Superintendent Mike Brockhaus said the prices allow the school to operate the breakfast/lunch program at ‘break even.’

Board member Ron Bode, in making the motion to keep the prices the same said, “I’d hate to out price our families . . . It’s still very affordable.”

Lunch prices were just one of a number of dollar items on the agenda which the board acted on in a meeting which lasted slightly more than one hour.

Other items were:

New doors — Acting on a recommendation by Brockhaus to replace the music room double doors, east shop door, wash bay walk-in door and the south door, the board reviewed bids closely before accepting the bid submitted by Schmitt Construction for just over \$33,000. A deciding factor in accepting Schmitt’s bid was that the doors would be factory-painted before installation began.

Service plan — The board voted

See SCHOOL, Page 2 ►

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Good day,
Are you ready for summer?
I have a rather fun recipe for you all this week.
It seems like the perfect time for such a yummy dessert. If you love rhubarb, you will love this ice cream.
A perfect dish to cool off with this summer.
I hope you will give it a try and let me know

what you think.
Keep cool!

JoAnn



From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

Rhubarb Ice Cream

RHUBARB ICE CREAM

2 cups diced rhubarb
1/3 cup sugar
1/4 cup water
1-1/2 cups mini marshmallows

Several drops red food coloring (opt)
2 cups Cool Whip® (thawed)

In a sauce pan, combine rhubarb, water, and sugar. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes or until rhubarb is tender. Add the marshmallows, cook and stir on low heat until they are all melted. Stir in the food coloring. Chill it well!
Fold in the Cool Whip®. Spread in a 3-4 cup pan that you can freeze in. Cover and freeze.
Cut into cubes to serve. Fun food!

School

◀ FROM Page 1

to approve a technology service plan from Applied Connective Technologies based out of Albion. Normally a service made available through ESU #8, Brockhaus said the district hasn't gotten all that it has paid for with the educational service unit the last couple of years. Currently, they are trying to hire a person for that role but have been unable to fill the position. Being proactive, the board chose to go hire the private firm on a 4-0 vote (board member Eric Beckman 'abstaining'). The annual cost of the service plan will be under \$26,000.

"They (ACT) do great work," board member Todd Heithoff said.

Bid accepted — CedarView Cabinetry was awarded the bid for new classroom cabinets. Cost will be \$4,675.

Reading program — Elementary teachers will be utilizing a new reading program when school starts in August. The board approved the purchase of the Amplify Reading Program at a cost of \$45,000 for a six-year contract.

Brockhaus said K-5 teachers are anxious to begin utilizing the new program, noting how it meshes really well with letters training.

Annual renewal — As they do every year at this time, the board approved the school safety plan.

Policies — The board approved, on first reading, a number of Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) recommended policies.

Vetick

◀ FROM Page 1

needed, arrange for immediate care to save eyes," Dr. Vetick said.

While his stories of first-responder situations are many, he shares this one. "A young boy, say 15, was using a wire brush on a drill to do auto body work," Dr. Vetick recounted with a grimace. "A wire came off and went through the center of his eye." It was a weekend and, due to quick thinking and established contacts by the good doctor, the surgery was done immediately at Children's in Omaha.

"Frankly, I was worried the boy would lose his eye though after two weeks, the child's sight was 20-25 (20-20 is considered normal vision)," he said breathing a sigh of relief.

When asked about major changes and challenges in the optometric field, Dr. Vetick listed "big pharma, health insurance, and paperwork" and quickly turned to this – "I have excellent co-workers, doctors (for referrals), patients, families; I just feel blessed."

Another attraction to this area was to live rural and bow hunt for deer and turkey with his dad, Martin, who now lives in the Willows in Neligh. "Dad is only 20 years older than me, so he is like a big brother," he said.

As for community service, he's on the Antelope Memorial Hospital Board of Directors and has served on the Neligh's St. Francis Catholic Church parish council, the Elgin Pope John school board, and in his earlier years, the Neligh Young Men's Club.

While Dr. Vetick admitted he really doesn't like being the center of attention, it's time for the community to put all eyes on this professional and wish Joanie and he well.

Mark your calendars for a retirement open house at the Neligh Clinic, 304 N Street, 4:00-7:00 pm, Monday, June 30, 2025.

Brockhaus said the student dress code has changed, noting the school can still require a student to change a shirt if it is in violation of the school policy.

Other items he pointed on with the policies was the student activity eligibility and how it requires the student to designate whether they are male or female. On another policy involving students physicals for athletics, doctors will be required to circle whether the athlete is male or female.

The afore-mentioned policies will again be on the agenda for the July meeting.

The board approved on second reading a para to teacher program.

Formal — There will be a joint formal homecoming dance for EPS/PJCC students this year. It will be held on Saturday night, September 20 and be supervised by PJCC. On Friday night, after the conclusion of the EPPJ-North Central football game, there will be a pizza party for EPS/PJCC students to be supervised by EPS.

Discussion — The board heard a brief discussion about the 2025/26 school budget which will need to be approved in Sep-

tember. Brockhaus said. "We're in a very good situation," the superintendent said. He noted how the building fund and depreciation funds are looking good going into the final months of the fiscal year. It's possible, he said,

the levy could be down from one year ago, after review projected district valuations.

He did stress to the school board that the school is expected to lose \$159,000 in state aid this year.

Stay Informed by Reading The Public Notices In The Elgin Review



The family of

Chip Miller

is requesting a Card Shower in honor of his

80th Birthday

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Dr. Josh Thoendel

Ashley Niewohner, APRN
Angela Sucha, PA-C
Anita Murphy, PA-C

Clearwater Clinic: 402.485.2277


Dr. Troy Dawson
Dr. Roger Rudloff

Dr. Josh Thoendel
Angela Sucha, PA-C

Elgin Clinic: 402.843.5444

Dr. Troy Dawson
Dr. Roger Rudloff

Ashley Niewohner, APRN

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amhne.org 



The family of **Dick Bennett**
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at 10:00 a.m. at Park Cemetery.

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2025 RODEO

Friday, June 27
7 p.m. Mutton Busting
7:30 Miss Clearwater Rodeo presentation
Rodeo
Following rodeo, Borderline plays on Main Street

Saturday, June 28
9 a.m. Sand volleyball tourney (Call/text 402-640-9738 to sign up)
10 a.m - 2 p.m. Inflatables at the park
6 p.m. Mutton Busting
6:30 Rodeo
~Main Street Concert~
8 p.m Borderline
9 p.m Conner Smith
10 p.m Gavin Adcock

Sunday, June 29
6 p.m. Mutton Busting
6:30 Rodeo

For more information, contact 402-640-5734
For media and rodeo ticket information, contact 402-851-0054 or clearwaterrodeo@gmail.com
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Holy Spirit descends, wisdom and mercy follow

It's not often that I arrive for Mass more than a half hour early. So on a recent morning, I decided to seize the opportunity for some extended prayer.

Just as I opened up a prayer book, a man sat down beside me. He'd left his prayer book and other materials on the bench beside me. He told me that it was his custom to stop by the church when it was quiet to pray.

I asked if it was OK that I sat on the otherwise unoccupied bench. He assured me that it was fine. He sat next to me, and we began to quietly chat.

Reluctantly, I set my prayer book aside.

I tried sizing him up. He had been talking to someone at the entrance of the church when I walked in. I wondered at that point if he was homeless. He was elderly, thin and had a long gray beard and black-gray hair that was long enough to be pulled back and knotted behind his head. He wore jeans and a buttoned up shirt. A string around his neck held a ring and a Crucifix.

But as we talked he mentioned his home, that he waited to open windows the evening before to let in a cool breeze.

He talked about a beautiful opera he watched on television that night, that he had been a



(Courtesy of David Huebner for Congress)

David Huebner of North Platte says his background in agriculture gives him an advantage against U.S. Rep. Adrian Smith, R-Neb.

Huebner to challenge Adrian Smith

LINCOLN — A former U.S. Border Patrol agent has decided to run for Congress in Nebraska's largely rural, sprawling 3rd Congressional District.

North Platte native David Huebner will try to do what oth-

See **HUEBNER**, Page 10 ►

Courthouse News

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

Jacob Morten, Orchard, NE, 4/1/25, Violate load contents requirements, fined \$100 - Kavan

Warren R. Lucio, Moab, UT, 4/13/25, Fail to use child passenger restraint, fined \$25 - Hartley

Valerie V. Cunningham, Cleveland, OK, 5/6/25, speeding 75/65 mph, fined \$25 - Downing

Nicole R. Branstiter, Neligh, NE, 2/5/25, speeding 80/65 mph, fined \$75 - Mohr

Michael M. Ciaccio, Queen Creek, AZ, 5/18/25, speeding 75/65 mph, fined \$25 - Miller

George A. Majerus, Albion, NE, 5/2/25, Violate load contents requirements+No valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, fined \$125 - Detlefsen

Zoe A. Czapla, Spanaway, WA, 5/2/25, speeding 65/50 mph, fined \$75 - Barker

Traygan M. Boyle, Meadow Grove, NE, 5/6/25, speeding 75/55 mph, fined \$125 - Barker

Jacob M. Brockhaus, Jackson, NE, 5/16/25, speeding 45/30 mph, fined \$75 - Barker

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dancer and loved performances. He mentioned his family's love for the arts and their overall exuberance, especially when greeting each other.

That led to a story about a strange sign of love his grandmother had for his grandfather. Every day before he went off to work, she packed a lunch for him. Oddly enough, when it came to the sandwich, she'd take a bite out of it before wrapping it up. That was their custom.

One day his grandfather was unusually quiet when he arrived home. "What's wrong?" his wife asked.

He brushed it off as nothing but remained quiet and sullen. When it was time for bed, the grandmother couldn't take it any longer. "Please, what's wrong? I won't be able to sleep if you don't tell me."

He tried brushing her off some more, but she was persistent. Finally, he told her. His sandwich that day did not have a bite taken out of it. She had forgotten, and he thought something was amiss.

Their grandson, the elderly man in the church, spoke about the hardships his grandparents and other family members endured when they settled in Nebraska about 125 years ago. His grandfather worked on a farm and was able to earn some land from the farm owner he worked for. The grandfather dragged an abandoned school house to his property, and it became their home.

About this time, another old man sat down beside us. He didn't speak English, but my new friend knew "muy poco" Spanish, enough to decipher some of what he was saying.

The man I originally met seemed to befriend many people, inside the church and elsewhere. He talked about a woman who in the winter walked into the church shivering, with her bare feet covered only by a pair of Crocs. He offered what he could to help her warm up.

Another woman, likely homeless, sought shelter in the church and wanted to vape. To help contain the vapor, she put a plastic bag over her head.

The pastor noticed the woman's unusual behavior and asked the man "Is this another one of your friends?" Together they offered her some help and provisions.

The man I met, I discovered, was a man of God. He wove Scripture into our conversation, noting that wherever the Holy Spirit descends, wisdom and mercy follow. Looking intently at me, he spoke about how lavishly Jesus loves us.

He walked away before Mass began. Though I didn't get a chance to pray from my prayer book, I did hear God speaking to me that day about the tender love of family, persevering through hardships, reaching out to everyone we meet and offering what we can for them, and that God loves us so lavishly – sometimes in the most unexpected ways.



Photo submitted

Current cardiac staff at BCHC are (back row, l-r): Nettie Horan, Colton Pelster, Jami Afrank, Jaimie Beister and Abbie Nelson. (front): Melissia Nissen, Angie Swantek and Janet Feik.

One treadmill to 1,000's of lives: 40 years of cardiac care at BCHC

Boone County Health Center (BCHC) celebrated a significant milestone this week—40 years of Cardiac Rehabilitation services. The anniversary event brought together staff, patients, and community members to honor a department that began with a single treadmill and bike and has grown into a vital part of heart health for the region.

President and CEO Caleb Poore welcomed attendees and praised the legacy of the Cardiology Services Department, noting the lives changed and strengthened over the past four decades.

Current Cardiac Rehab Director Angie Swantek, RN, delivered a moving speech reflecting on the program's evolution since its launch in 1985. "From our humble beginning in one room of the hospital, we've expanded, moved three times, and grown in every way—space, equipment, and services," she said. "It's been 40 years of transformation."

Today, the department employs eight staff members and offers more than 25 health-focused programs including cardiac monitoring, foot care, diabetic education, medication management, weight loss support, and stress testing. "We've come a long way from one bike and treadmill," Swantek shared, "and it's because of a team of professionals committed to walking alongside our patients every step of the way."

Swantek also recognized BCHC's early leadership in the field. "Under the direction of Gayla Oakley, our department became one of the first certified cardiac rehab programs in Nebraska," she said. "Gayla was a pioneer, and it's an honor to carry forward what she began 40 years ago."

The event paid tribute to both current and former staff, several

See **BCHC**, Page 5 ►

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Looking Back The Elgin Review

Sixty Years Ago June 17, 1965

Rainfall here this spring has jumped by 3.35 inches with precipitation during the month of June, 2.30 inches falling in one day. The gentle rain of the past two weeks has brought smiles of pleasure to the faces of everyone and has brightened the hopes for reasonably good crops.

Mrs. Stella E. Miller, 81, passed away unexpectedly in her home Tuesday, June 15, 1965. Funeral services will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. Saturday from Brooks Chapel.

Mrs. Leonard Nay was high bidder for the Albert and Edith Hauser residential property when it sold at auction Saturday afternoon. The property is located 1 1/2 blocks east of the Union Oil Station and sold for \$2,650.00.

Mrs. Henry Kamphaus of Petersburg has been hired by the School District #18 Board of Education to teach in the elementary department. Mrs. Kamphaus graduated from Norfolk Junior College and did addition work at Wayne State College.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Starman, Jr., are the parents of a 5 lb., 1 oz. son born June 9, 1965 in the Tilden Community hospital.

Fifty Years Ago June 12, 1975

Elgin's FFA Chapter won a first place award at the fourth session Leadership camp. Elgin FFA officers and members that participated were Willard Aughe, Tammy Heithoff, Bill Anderson, Clyde Meis, Cary Sutton, Kent Beckman and Jerome Thunker.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Reicks of Raeville were honored on their 55th wedding anniversary by their children and grandchildren. All were present for the occasion, but David Reicks, who is employed by the Telephone Company in Florida and James Temme, who made a trip to Boston with his father.

Seven large Maple trees were donated to the Elgin park by Effie and Rose Carmichael and planted in the park on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

The American Legion Auxiliary Elgin Unit 229 held its election of officers during their meeting on Tuesday evening, June 3, at the Legion Hall with 17 members present. The newly elected officers were installed by Letti Jean Coulthard with the following taking office: Mary Miller, president; Marjorie Beeson, vice president; Arlene Eischeid, secretary and Marilyn Beckman, treasurer.

Cool temperatures with several days of cloudy weather has resulted in a total of 1.56 inches of moisture falling here during the month of June. Weather the past week has been damp with traces of moisture falling several times during the week.

Thirty Years Ago June 14, 1995

About 113 members of St. Boniface Parish in Elgin spent Monday, June 5, removing the hardwood gymnasium floor at Neligh-Oakdale High School. The parish purchased the floor recently, and plans to install it at St. Boniface Auditorium during the last week of June and first week of July.

A fund drive covering the entire Northeast Nebraska area is underway to benefit victims of the Oklahoma City bombing disaster. The drive was launched at Wayne, NE on May 25 by area pastors and lay persons.

Continued warmth and sunshine are now the two key ingredients for a successful growing season in the Elgin area and in Antelope County as a whole. The Elgin area is more than 10 inches ahead of last year in total precipitation, with over 16 inches recorded so far.

St. Boniface Church in Elgin was the setting for the double-ring wedding ceremony uniting Denice Marie Mowery of Omaha and Charles L. Baum of Denton, NE. Parents of then couple are Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Moos of Granville, IA, and Mr. and Mrs. Florian (Bud) Baum of Elgin.

Ann Catherine Moser of Elgin has been awarded a full-tuition Presidential Scholarship to attend Wayne State College in the fall. Presidential Scholarships are awarded annually based on academic excellence, talent, leadership qualities and extracurricular activities.

Twenty Years Ago June 15, 2005

Tuckpointing work, to repair exterior brick walls, is underway this summer at Elgin Public Schools and St. Boniface School.

Several local and area students took part in the University of Nebraska Medical Center's 13th annual Health/Science Meet, June 9-11, at Omaha. Attending the meet from Elgin were Jeffery D. Bush and Brett D. Mahnke of Elgin Public School and Janessa Eischeid and Jordan Engle of Pope John Central Catholic.

Cindy Baum, director of Tech Prep at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, was recently honored by her 29 Dale Carnegie Course peers. Her classmates of business leaders from Wayne, Norfolk and South Sioux City voted to honor her with the Dale Carnegie Highest Award for Achievement.

John and Joan Schindler of Elgin will be celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary on June 18, and their children are requesting a card shower in their honor. John Schindler and Joan Stoltz were married June 18, 1960 in St. Boniface Church.

Adam Spieker of Elgin, a 2005 graduate of Pope John Central Catholic High School, has received an athletic scholarship to attend Hastings College for the 2005-06 academic year. Adam is the son of Vince and Patricia Spieker.

By Olivia Klein

Elgin Community Center Menus

Monday, June 23: Hot hamburger sandwich, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, apricots, bread & butter, milk.

Tuesday, June 24: Philly cheese sloppy joe, potato wedges, cheeseey, broccoli/cauliflower mix, pineapple, bread & butter, milk.

Wednesday, June 25: Baked pork steak, cheeseey hashbrowns, peas/carrots, pears, bread & butter, milk.

Thursday, June 26: Chicken strips, pea salad, french fries, applesauce, bread & butter, milk

Friday, June 27: Goulash, green beans, fruit mix, garlic stick, milk, bread & butter,

milk.

All meals served with bread & butter.

Menus are provided by the Community Center and are subject to change).

Suggested price is \$7 per meal for persons 60 years of age and older.

Under 60 is \$10. Serving starts at 11:45 a.m. and ends around 12:15 p.m.

Meals are served Monday thru Friday.

Takeout starts at 11:30 a.m. Please call 843-5757 by 9:30 a.m. to reserve a meal for that day.

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

Edward R. Murrow

State lawmakers opt for income tax cuts over property tax relief

State lawmakers went home recently, ending a 90-day session marked by reductions in spending and borrowing from cash reserves to close a projected budget gap that once topped \$400 million.

Hard to believe that just a couple of years ago, the state was sitting on a huge surplus of cash. It was enough to set legislators dreaming big dreams, like digging a massive lake between Omaha and Lincoln and financing new marinas and other tourism amenities.

But that was then and this is now, and the STARWARS initiative (standing for "Statewide Tourism and Recreational Water Access and Resource Sustainability") never left the launching pad for the most part.

When money is short, not a lot of new state spending is going to get approved. That's been the history of dealing with budget shortfalls down in Lincoln, and that's how we deal with it in our own lives – when cash is short, we don't buy new cars or go out for prime rib.

This wasn't a great year for fans of property tax relief.

Efforts by Gov. Jim Pillen and State Sen. Tom Brandt to impose new taxes on previously tax-exempt sales didn't advance (just like they didn't make it to the finish line last summer at that totally forgettable special session).

Shifting taxes off of property and onto sales of candy, soda pop and services like golf lessons and tattoos is complicated, but it's a proven way to provide property tax relief. Such a tax shift comes with some negative consequences, but I gotta believe that with some compromises and some salesmanship it could happen.

Instead, state lawmakers opted to proceed with the massive income tax cut they passed only two years ago, much to the disappointment of the state's farm groups who want property tax help.

Gotta say, when election time comes around, politicians are universally calling for property tax relief, not income tax cuts.

However, the state's business community has been pleading for income tax cuts for years, and in 2023 got a Big Whopper – passage of a bill to gradually reduce the state's top personal income tax rate and the corporate income tax rate from 6.84% to 3.99% by the 2027 tax year.

The argument for cutting income taxes has always been "we have to remain competitive" with our neighboring states, like Iowa, which is dropping to 3.8%. Wealthy Nebraskans, we're told over and over, move away to states with little or no state income taxes (though research shows there are other reasons for moving, such as being closer to family and for better weather or nicer, mountain views. Think Jackson Hole or Tucson).

Brandt had a reasonable – and simpler – way for the state to dig out of its budget hole, which was to drop the income tax rates to 4.99% instead. Later, he said, when the state has the money, further cuts could be considered.

Seemed reasonable to me. When

you're flush with cash it's time to give tax breaks, not when you're fishing around state cash funds – the literal cookie jars of state government – to make the budget balance.

To be sure, the state is still devoting \$750 million this fiscal year in tax credits to reduce our property tax bills. But as former State Sen. Steve Erdman always pointed out, that kind of money just slows the ever increasing property tax bills.

It takes hard work and compromise to get comprehensive property tax relief bills passed.

Pillen and the Gang of 49 have seven months until the next session to figure that out.

ALL THINGS NEBRASKA



State Correspondent Paul Hammel

Certainty for small businesses

For workers and entrepreneurs, few places are as ripe with economic opportunity as the United States of America. Our world-leading workforce, natural resources, educational institutions, rule of law committed to protecting capital investment, and unique features such as deepwater ports providing access to export goods and services to consumers across both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans provide opportunities for American families with few rivals elsewhere around the globe. Despite these economic strengths, there is much we can improve. The federal government remains inefficient, and we must address issues such as our spending-driven budget deficit. Likewise, too many work-capable Americans remain on the sidelines despite millions of good jobs available in our economy.

Efforts to address the waste, fraud, and abuse in federally funded programs are vitally important for the fiscal health of our country, as are expanded efforts to help sidelined Americans connect with good jobs. For this reason, the reconciliation bill passed by the House enhances accountability for state administration of federal benefit programs and improves incentives for beneficiaries to find meaningful work.

While our nation's unemployment rate remains low by historical standards at 4.2 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) also shows the workforce participation rate still remained below pre-COVID levels in April. With more job openings in our economy (7.39 million) than job seekers (7.2 million) we can't just rely on people actively looking for work to meet the current needs of American employers. In order to help address this issue, the reconciliation package requires able-bodied Medicaid recipients spend at least 20 hours per week working, seeking work, receiving education, or doing community service. This change to Medicaid mirrors existing requirements applied to federal cash welfare and SNAP (food stamps) in the 1990s, which were successful in both decreasing the cost of the program and ensuring more work-capable Americans entered the workforce.

This week I spoke with the CEO and Chairman of Pender, NE's Blue Ox, a family-owned manufacturing operation marking 100 years of doing business and employing Nebraskans this year. He emphasized the resilience of Nebraska businesses which have the capacity to adjust to various factors in the marketplace and tax code. However, he said long-term stability in federal policy is needed to truly empower hard-working Americans to plan for the future. To unlock growth for small businesses, the House-passed reconciliation bill would increase the Section 179 small business equipment expensing threshold to \$2.5 million and permanently raise the 199A pass-through deduction to 23 percent. This provides tax relief and certainty for small businesses who create jobs for 62 percent of our nation's workforce. Another provision in the package, based on my American Investment in Manufacturing and Main Street Act, would ensure industries often required to take out loans to finance investments in facilities and equipment can deduct earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization—a standard called EBITDA.

I recognize the importance of predictability in the tax code for our businesses and workers in the Third District, and I am committed to delivering the certainty needed to sustain robust economic growth.

FROM THE HILL



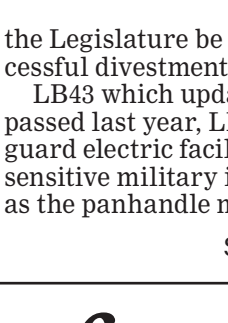
Congressman Adrian Smith

My legislative accomplishments

This week, I would like to outline my legislative accomplishments for this year. Bills passed this session include thirteen of the fifteen bills that I introduced in January. My legislation that made it across to the Governor's desk includes:

LB7 which updates legislation I passed last year, LB1301 the Foreign-owned Real Estate National Security Act. LB7 clarifies that (1) Native American tribes are not foreign governments and are not barred from purchasing and owning real property in the state, (2) updates federal regulations in Nebraska statute which clarifies that the Chinese Special Administrative Region of Macau is a restricted entity, and (3) adds a requirement that

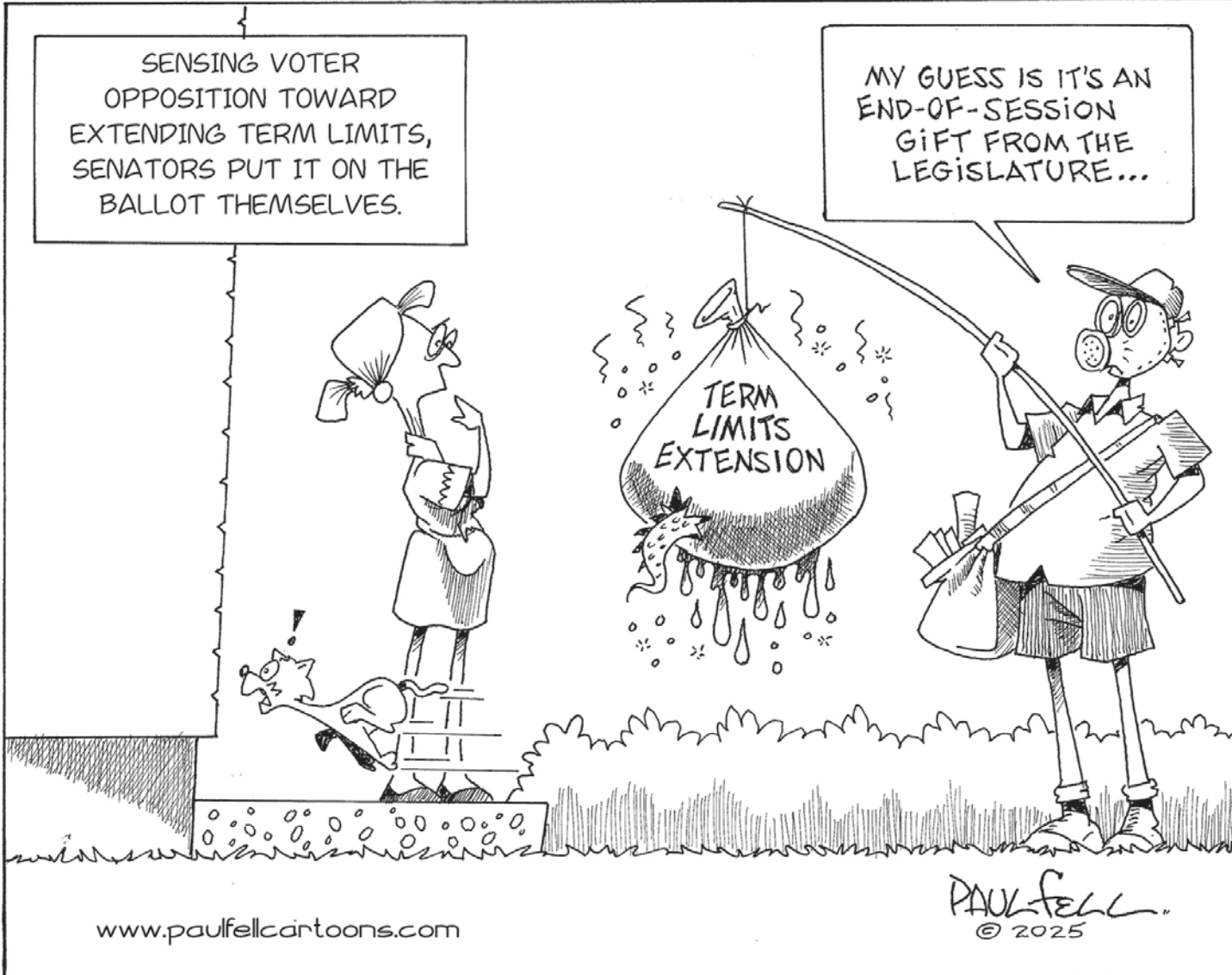
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



District 40 Senator Barry DeKay

the Legislature be notified of a successful divestment action by the court; LB43 which updates legislation passed last year, LB1370, to help safeguard electric facilities located near sensitive military installations, such as the panhandle missile silos. LB43

See DeKay, Page 5 ►



Combatting anti-semitism: Confronting evil with conscience and courage

This past week's terror attack in Boulder, Colorado, was a shocking and heartbreaking act of hatred. It demands not only our condemnation, but our collective moral clarity. Antisemitism — in any form, anywhere — is a poison that threatens the very values on which this country was founded. We must name it, reject it, and work together to root it out.

In moments like these, words are not enough. We grieve with the victims' families, we stand with our Jewish neighbors, and we ask: how do we ensure this doesn't happen again?

Tragically, the attack in Boulder was not an isolated incident. Just 11 days earlier, two Israeli Embassy staffers were murdered in Washington, D.C. in another antisemitic attack. The victims, Sarah Milgrim and Yaron Lischinsky

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator Deb Fischer

were a young couple who were targeted for no other reason than their Jewish identity. These attacks are stark reminders that hatred sadly still finds footholds in our country.

In the face of rising antisemitism, we cannot afford silence or half-measures. We must precisely identify the threat and be deliberate in our response.

That's why I cosponsored S. 558, the Antisemitism Awareness Act, which would direct the U.S. Department of Education to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism when evaluating Title VI civil rights violations.

This working definition is clear-eyed and comprehensive. It defines antisemitism as: "A certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews.

Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

Such clarity matters. It gives schools and institutions a practical framework for recognizing and

responding to antisemitism before it escalates, and it ensures that Jewish students are protected under the same civil rights laws as everyone else.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, in the year following Hamas' October 7 attacks in 2023, antisemitic rhetoric and threats in the United States surged by over 200 percent.

This should alarm us all. That's why we must remember what the fight against antisemitism is about: real people feeling unsafe in their schools, their places of worship, and their communities.

Hatred thrives in ambiguity. That's why clarity — moral and legal — is essential. We cannot fight what we are unwilling to name. And we cannot protect what we do not define.

As Nebraskans, we stand for fairness, dignity, and respect.

Those values are tested in times like these — and they must prevail.

We honor the victims not only with remembrance, but with action. As we grieve, let us recommit ourselves to confronting evil with both conscience and courage.

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

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

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

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

Representative Adrian Smith: 503 House Office Bldg., 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

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.

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DeKay

◀ FROM Page 4

better ensures that equipment made by a foreign adversary cannot be installed during initial construction, maintenance or upgrades;

LB50 which reinstates the community colleges' nameplate capacity tax revenue that was unintentionally lost as a result of removing community colleges from levying property taxes which was done by the Legislature in 2023.

Nameplate capacity taxes are paid by the owners of renewable energy facilities.

The state's community colleges received over \$500,000 in nameplate capacity taxes in 2023, the majority of which went to Northeast Community College. Northeast Community College's service area includes all six counties in my legislative district;

LB91 and LB396 which remove redundant language in statute relating to Nebraska's public power utilities;

LB184 which restricts the retail sale of flavored nitrous oxide products.

These products are currently

available in some vape stores, kratom dispensaries, and smoke shops in this state.

These products have flavors and marketing that are aimed towards minors.

No one is safe engaging in long-term inhalational abuse of nitrous oxide because it results in permanent nerve or brain damage.

LB184 helps bring Nebraska more in line with the 44 other states that have enacted laws regulating nitrous oxide and other similar inhalants;

LB245 and LB394 which updates the Nebraska Pure Food Act and the Weights and Measures Act to align state statutes with recent changes made in federal law;

LB246 which prohibits the commercial sale and distribution of cultured protein products to consumers, would ban these synthetic proteins from being sold in Nebraska.

Cultured protein products, sometimes called lab-grown meat or synthetic protein, are made by combining animal stem cells and other ingredients in bioreactors.

BCHC

◀ FROM Page 3

of whom have supported three generations of the same families. "Each generation brings a new perspective on exercise and wellness. It's been an incredible journey walking alongside them." Swantek said.

In 2019, BCHC's program was named Cardiac Rehab of the Year for the state of Nebraska—a recognition of excellence the team remains proud of.

Swantek closed with a message of gratitude: "To our patients who come rain or shine, snow or ice—you are the reason we keep showing up. You make us laugh, keep us grounded, and inspire us every day. Thank you for trusting us with your health."

Following the speeches, guests enjoyed refreshments and cupcakes, a commemorative video, and tours of the rehab gym. The celebration reflected BCHC's continued commitment to its mission and values: Dedicated. Caring. Here.

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LB246 would not impact the sale and distribution of plant-based protein alternative products.

My intent with this bill is to address public safety concerns and help preserve Nebraska's cultural identity as an agricultural state.

I appreciated the collaboration of my colleagues and the Governor's office and am pleased this measure passed this year; and

LB395 which closes a loophole which allowed prohibited juveniles with sealed records from being able to purchase firearms or firearm-related permits;

Meanwhile, my priority bill for this year was LB437, a bill introduced by Senator Merv Riepe to repeal the certificate of need requirement for nursing homes. Certificate of Need, or CON, laws are state regulations requiring healthcare providers to obtain permission before opening or expanding services or facilities.

I was spurred to prioritize this bill after I was contacted by the Village of Butte in Boyd County which faced obstacles in obtaining the required licensed beds necessary to try and keep their nursing home facility open under Nebraska's existing CON law.

Prioritizing LB437 was helpful in getting the key stakeholders to the table, and thankfully Butte now has a path forward after the City of Laurel generously transferred 36 licensed nursing home beds to Butte.

Nonetheless, the obstacles Butte initially faced when encountering Nebraska's CON law would still exist for other places in this state, so I have an interim study LR180 to look at the reforms needed to help open new and retain existing nursing home facilities in rural parts of the state.

Finally, I worked with my colleagues to preserve \$55 million for the projects proposed by the Legislature's STARWARS initiative.

Relevant to Northeast Nebraska, \$37 million will be allocated to expand the Weigand Marina at Lewis and Clark Lake.

My bill LB480 that also passed this year will allow any remaining funds to be potentially spent at Niobrara State Park for various improvements, such as potentially moving the office closer to the park entrance.

STAR WARS is set to be a transformational investment into the recreational and economic development opportunities in Northeast Nebraska.

Now that the Legislature is adjourned, I will be spending more time back in Niobrara. During the interim, I will try to get around the district as much as possible.

I will still travel to Lincoln periodically for meetings and office work. If I am not in Lincoln, my staff will be able to assist you.

Feel free to call my Capitol office anytime at (402) 471-2801 or email me at bdekey@leg.ne.gov. My mailing address is: Senator Barry DeKay, District #40, P.O. Box 94604, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509.

Academic All-State selections announced

Student athletes from both of Elgin's high schools were recognized for their achievements in the classroom and extra-curricular activities.

The Nebraska School Activities Association announced the names of students earning the distinction of being named to Spring Academic-All State.

Pope John students recognized were Jovie Borer and Olivia Klein (Music)

Elgin Public students earning distinction were: Dannyka Smidt and Creighton Harkins (Golf) Samantha Durre and Emma Kinney (Music) Jarek Erickson, Trey Rittscher, Gemma Miller and Kayton Zwingman (Track)

Academic All-State recognition is given out three times during the school year (Fall, Winter and Spring).

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NO PARTIALITY



No one is "second class" among the followers of Jesus.

Christian unity does not divide people the way society separates us.

Instead, we all are "wrapped" together in Christ.

This week in church, join others that are bound together in faith.

...you are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:23-29

1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a Luke 8:26-39 Psalm 42

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Sunday, June 22, 2025

Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church

Raeville, NE

Fr. John Norman, Pastor

Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor

Weekend Mass: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday, 8 am.

cppnebraska.org

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 the Baptist Catholic Church

Petersburg, NE

Fr. John Norman, Pastor

Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor

Weekend Mass: 2nd & 4th Sunday, 8 am.

cppnebraska.org

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.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Elgin, NE

Pastor Norlyn Bartens

Sunday Worship Service: 8 am.

Sunday school follows service.

Saturday Evening Service: 6 pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Elgin Community Christian Church

Elgin, NE

Pastor Jonathan Braden

605-430-9171

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 am.

Church Council: 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Chambers, NE

Pastor Leif Hasskari

Sunday Worship: 8:30 am.

Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:30 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.

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is confidence is what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1



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*E-R photos by Dennis
Morgan, Lynell Morgan and
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2025 Vetch Days

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The new "Welcome to Elgin" highway signs design. The Elgin Chamber/Community Club is currently fundraising for the cost.





Sidewalk chalk art winner: Kami (Johnny) Schrunk



Sidewalk chalk art winner: The Jeremy Young family



Sidewalk chalk art winner: Braelyn Martinsen



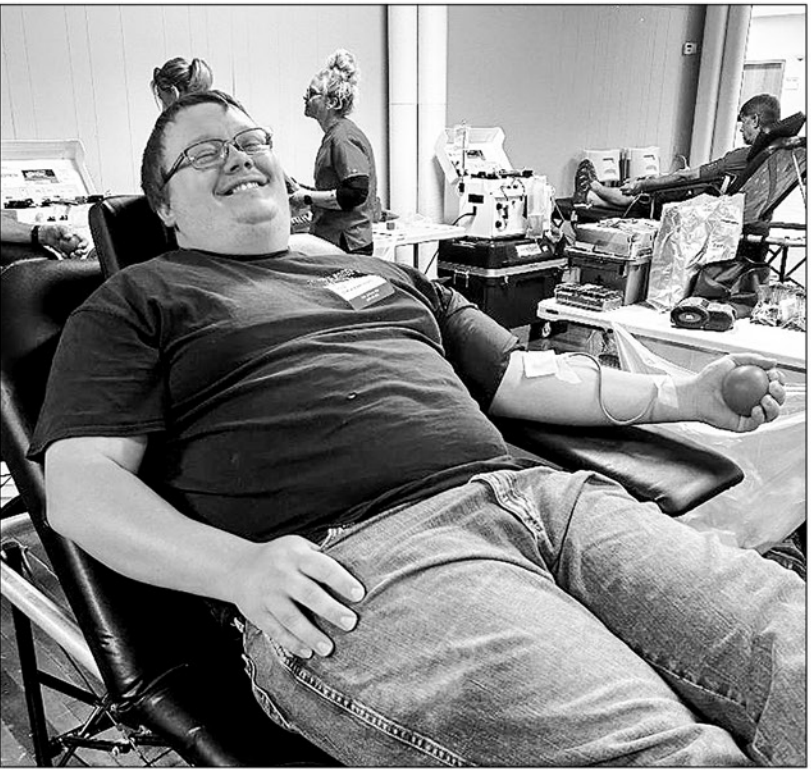
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Tre Henkenius is all smiles as he gives “the gift of life” last Friday. Mark your calendars as the Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Elgin again on August 12. E-R photo/KSchindler

Additional Vetch Days Kick Ball Tournament team photos



Kicken Chickens



Real Deal



Little Dawgs



Party Animals



Fire Hawks



Big Ball Blasters

Check out all our **VETCH DAYS** photos online at **elginreview.com**



Toxic plants in your pastures

Toxic plants are a legitimate concern for livestock producers, especially when drought, flooding, or heavy grazing pressure alter plant communities. But while the risk is real, it can often be managed with informed decisions and a few practical strategies.

The first step is identification. Some of Nebraska's most problematic species—like poison and water hemlock, Lambert crazyweed, chokecherry, and prairie larkspur—can be toxic even in small amounts. Others, like wild carrot, pigweed, hoary alyssum, and white snakeroot are harmful only in large quan-

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Beef Systems
Asst. Ext. Educator
Ben Beckman

ties or under specific conditions. Correct ID is a critical first step for toxic plant management. For instance, milkweed species vary in toxicity—some highly dangerous in small doses, others requiring much greater intake. Nebraska Extension's EC3037: Plants Toxic to Livestock is a wonderful resource with photos and descriptions to help, or reach out to your local Extension office with samples or clear photos.

It's important to remember that most pastures contain some toxic plants—but livestock losses are rare. Animals with

sufficient forage generally avoid harmful species. Problems arise when pastures are overgrazed, drought-stressed, or when animals enter a new area hungry. Hay can also pose a risk; toxic plants may be harder to recognize when dried but retain their toxicity.

Common toxic plants in our region include poison and water hemlock (among the most poisonous plants in North America), hoary alyssum (especially dangerous to horses in hay), white snakeroot (can pass through milk causing risk for calves and milk drinkers), milkweeds, Lambert crazyweed, and prairie larkspur.

Managing the risk means reducing the chance of ingestion. Maintain adequate forage to limit grazing pressure. This is especially important at the beginning of the grazing season and during drought events. Move animals into new pastures with full stomachs to

prevent exploratory grazing. Monitor plant communities regularly. Herbicide control in spring or fall can reduce problem plants but use caution near sensitive areas. Spot spraying or mechanical removal may be better options there. In some cases, herbicide treatments may remove the natural bitterness of toxic plants, making them more palatable and increasing the risk of ingestion. For hay, especially from unfamiliar sources, inspect bales closely and test if needed. Dried toxic plants are less obvious but still potent.

To help producers manage these risks, Nebraska Extension is offering a webinar series on Toxic Plants and Livestock Health. The sessions will cover plant ID, toxicity impacts, and prevention strategies. Registered participants will receive a printed copy of EC3037 for on-farm reference and a recording of all sessions to view later. Visit go.unl.edu/toxicplants to register or learn more.

- 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

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Big Ballers

Team photos and names submitted

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Thank you to all the consignors & buyers for a RECORD BREAKING sale - head count, prices & dollar volume.
Some results from Monday's (June 16) auction:
Baby & Small Calves.....950.⁰⁰ to 1250.⁰⁰
17 BLK Heifers.....596.....410.⁰⁰
10 BLK Steers.....641.....420.⁰⁰
23 BWF Steers.....722.....349.⁰⁰
16 BWF Steers.....656.....405.⁰⁰
26 BWF Heifers.....671.....360.⁰⁰
14 BWF Heifers.....604.....405.⁰⁰
19 BLK Steers.....811.....333.⁰⁰
23 BLK Heifers.....809.....304.⁰⁰
34 Charolais & Red Steers.....927.....304.⁰⁰
63 BLK Steers.....920.....303.⁰⁰
70 BLK Steers.....945.....307.⁰⁰
130 BLK Heifers.....879.....284.⁰⁰
119 BLK & BWF Steers.....972.....299.⁰⁰
Fat Cows.....168.⁰⁰ to 171.⁰⁰
Better Feeding Cows.....165.⁰⁰ to 187.⁵⁰
Good Kill Cows.....145.⁰⁰ to 155.⁰⁰
Thin Kill Cows.....120.⁰⁰ to 144.⁰⁰
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Pillen remains committed to securing more property tax relief for Nebraskans

LINCOLN — Gov. Jim Pillen isn't wavering from his goal to secure more property tax relief for Nebraskans, and he's not significantly modifying his strategy of pushing for a broadened sales tax to pay for it after a similar approach failed a third straight time.

Pillen said he will keep the conversation alive for state government to take on the annual operational funding of all of Nebraska's 245 public school districts, but not to run them. Local school boards would retain property tax authority for bonds and construction projects, for example, a route that Pillen said would require decreased state spending on other budget priorities and a broadened sales tax base.

"We're going to be bold and courageous and work hard to get 33 votes to

get there," Pillen said in a post-session interview with the Nebraska Examiner, noting the legislative threshold needed to overcome an anticipated filibuster.

The governor's approach mirrors the shift the Legislature approved in 2023 that moved community colleges largely off the property tax rolls and onto income and sales taxes. The move led to a property tax decrease of \$6 million last year after two years of nearly \$300 million annual increases. Local governments annually collect about \$5.3 billion in property taxes.

All property taxes are locally assessed and collected, and the state has created tax credits to offset those costs, which were greatly expanded in 2020.

Freshman State Sen. Tanya Storer

of Whitman, a rural Republican, has argued the tax credits are "feeding the demon" of increased local spending over time and taking away accountability from local taxing authorities. She previously served as a Cherry County commissioner.

This April, Pillen pledged to keep property taxes flat after this year's special session, saying the work would be done, "not a shadow of a doubt." But he fell at least \$100 million short of what it would have taken to accomplish that goal in the face of a major projected budget deficit.

This spring was the third time a sales tax push had failed in the most recent legislative sessions. All three times, a handful of Republicans joined most Democrats to oppose the changes.

In spring 2024, lawmakers abandoned an initial across-the-board sales tax rate increase and then withdrew a push to apply sales taxes to some currently tax-exempt goods or services.

In summer 2024, lawmakers came back for a rare special session dedicated to property tax relief but didn't repeal a single sales tax exemption in the face of opposition.

In spring 2025, lawmakers found too little support for removing a single sales tax exemption.

That means property taxes will increase when assessed this December, Pillen acknowledged.

Services currently exempt from sales taxes that have been considered for taxing include lobbying, marketing, dating services, swimming pool clean-

ing or maintenance and limousine services.

One silver lining for property taxpayers this session was the formation of a School Financing Review Commission for long-term school funding reform, which could lead to future reform proposals.

While lawmakers have the ultimate say on new legislation, Pillen has made property taxes a defining issue of his tenure. He's taken his pitch to Nebraska communities and has been blunt.

In mid-2024, Pillen hosted 26 property tax community forums from Scottsbluff to Auburn. He also organized a group of 17 lawmakers for an informal working group on property taxes, more than one-third of the Legislature.

The Nebraska Examiner

NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS
ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TO: All Antelope County Landowners

Referencing Nebraska State Statutes 39-301, 39-302, 39-1811, 39-1812, and 39-1813.

You are informed that the Antelope County Board of Commissioners adopted the following resolution at their April 13th, 2021 board meeting:

WHEREAS, in 2008 the Antelope County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution regarding obstructions in Antelope County Road rights of way, it is the Antelope County Board of Commissioners' intention to update said resolution; and

WHEREAS the Antelope County Board of Commissioners has received evidence that unauthorized fences, crops, trees, shrubs, weeds, tall grass, berms, trash, equipment and other obstructions placed within the public rights-of-way maintained by Antelope County cause hazards that endanger motorists, County employees, and County equipment, and interfere with the proper maintenance of the roadway, especially during road maintenance, construction, and snow removal operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Antelope County shall, after first giving reasonable notice to the affected landowner, exercise its right to remove hazards from the public rights-of-way except that no notice shall need to be given during snow removal op-

erations or emergency operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Antelope County Road Department employees shall identify and document such hazards, shall provide ten days written notice to any affected landowner to remove the hazards from the right-of-way, and, if such hazards remain within the right-of-way ten days after Antelope County gives such notice to any affected landowner, shall remove the hazards, returning all salvaged materials to the affected landowner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Antelope County Road Department employees shall invoice the costs of the removal of the hazards to the affected landowner, including the cost of labor and machine use.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2021.

You are further notified that the County Board of Commissioners intends that the above resolution shall be enforced, and that any person may make a proper complaint regarding a violation of the above resolution to the Commissioner(s) or Road Superintendent.

Antelope County Board of Commissioners

39-302 Roads; sprinkler irrigation system; restrictions; violations; penalty.

A sprinkler irrigation system which due to location or design diverts, or is capable of diverting, water onto or across a public road so as to saturate, wash, or impair the maintenance, construction, or pass ability of such public road or allows water to accumulate on the roadway or traveled surface of the public road shall be equipped with a device which will automatically shut off the end gun of the irrigation system causing such diversion or accumulation of water. Any person who fails to comply with this section shall, upon conviction thereof, be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor, except that section 39-301 shall be controlling with respect to mechanical malfunctions and normal weather conditions.

39-1811 Weeds; mowing; duty of landowner; neglect of duty; obligation of county board; cost; assessment and collection.

(1) It shall be the duty of the landowners in this state to mow all weeds that can be mowed with the ordinary farm mower to the middle of all public roads and drainage ditches running along their lands at least twice each year, namely, sometime in July for the first time and sometime in September for the second time.

PUBLISH: June 18, 2025
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
SCHILTMAYER FARMS, L.L.C.

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

The name of the limited liability company: Schiltmeyer Farms, L.L.C. The address of the designated office is: 52136 835 Road, Elgin, Nebraska 68636. 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 June 12, 2025, 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.

Schiltmeyer Farms, L.L.C.

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

PUBLISH: June 18, 25 & July 2, 2025
ZNEZ

Huebner

◀ FROM Page 3

bring some "energy back" to the seat.

"I like active and present representation," Huebner said, "I don't feel like we have that right now from the incumbent."

Huebner said Smith lacks a background in agriculture, and the district wants someone with that background who can advocate for rural issues.

He said the issues potential voters have brought up so far are the need for increased border security and improving the agricultural economy.

Huebner acknowledges he's an underdog but said he wants to give voters a choice.

"I'm getting out, meeting people ... finding out what's important to them," Huebner said. "Life is very different in western rural Nebraska than it is in D.C. It's very easy to get out of touch up there."

Smith, from Gering, has represented the district since 2007. Before Congress, Smith served in the Legislature from 1999 to 2007. He is on the House Ways and Means Committee, which is Congress's chief tax-writing committee.

The 3rd District includes central and western Nebraska and much of the state's northeastern and southeastern edges. It's one of the nation's most conservative congressional districts by political party registration advantage and voting record. Registered Republicans outnumber Democrats in the district by 197,650 voters, according to data maintained by the Nebraska Secretary of State's Office.

Smith having a GOP primary opponent is nothing new. He has had at least one primary opponent in every election since 2018 and has never gotten less than 65% of the GOP primary vote. In 2018, he faced three Republican opponents, including current State Board of Education member Kirk Penner. Smith faced four GOP challengers in 2020.

Huebner said he differs from previous Smith opponents because he is an active agricultural producer growing hay and raising Black Angus cattle.

A Smith campaign spokesperson said the congressman is a "proven and trusted conservative fighting for Nebraskans alongside President [Donald] Trump," focusing on issues such as border security and making the Trump tax cuts permanent.

"Adrian has a conservative record that reflects the priorities of Nebraska's Third District," said Chris Peterson, speaking for Smith's campaign.

Democrat Becky Lynn Stille has also filed to run to represent District #3 residents.

The Nebraska Examiner



Photo courtesy of Wheeler Central School

CWC represented at NSHCR in Valentine

Chambers/Wheeler Central students who competed last week at the Nebraska State High School Rodeo in Valentine were Garret Renner, Parker Freouf, Sydney Barlow, Hayes Pokorny, and Trey Blackmore.

Community Calendar

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

Saturday, June 21
Poker Run benefit for Dozler family.*

Wednesday, June 25
Petersburg Carnival Days BBQ sponsored by GPSB.*

Friday through Sunday, June 27-29
58th Annual Big Rodeo weekend at Clearwater.*

Thursday, July 3
First Day of Antelope County Tax Pro-test hearings at the courthouse (9 a.m.)

Friday, July 4
Independence Day (most businesses are closed)

Monday, July 7
Elgin City Council meeting (7:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, July 8
Antelope County Board of Commissioners regular meeting.

Wednesday, July 9
District #18 Board of Education regular meeting (7:00 p.m.)

Events listing courtesy of
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Spinning Tales

Free rides, cannon balls and surfing ducks - Vetch Days '25

ELGIN — Is there such a thing as too much of a good thing? Or, is there such a thing as too little of a bad thing?

It's Thursday morning and here we are, pounding the keyboard to begin another issue of your favorite newspaper.

It's the morning after. Three days of a celebration behind us and there are still two more days of work to accomplish before the weekend.

I'm still not totally convinced having a community celebration in the middle of the week is a good thing or not. But, I have to believe what my eyes see and my ears hear.

After several years of lesser numbers, I thought this year's celebration was up in the number of participants.

Most notably, it was great seeing all the people at the carnival.

Kudos to the Elgin Communi-

ty Club/Chamber of Commerce for making the decision to make all the rides free to the public.

Edgar Winter did the same thing with the song 'Free Ride' back in the 70s. Now that guy was a character, long white hair, kinda looked like an albino. Haven't heard any of his music in awhile, probably in the rock'n roll nursing home wondering why his hearing aides don't work.

Back to the carnival. Lots of rides, something for every age group from the little ones to the teenagers. I even saw families going down the slide together.

Visiting with a few of my contemporaries, we shared stories about carnival rides from the past which didn't end well. The human body isn't meant to be shaken and stirred, especially after consuming hot dogs, pop corn, soda pop and cotton candy (not necessarily in that order).

That's why, to this day, I stay away from the \$10 funnel cakes and carnival rides that have me upside down more than right side up - not good for my health nor my wallet.

I've heard stories about past carnivals where stomachs have gone queasy from too much motion. One son or daughter having an issue, but imagine the horror when that number multiplies.

You can see it a mile away, but you don't want to see it up close.

Hey parents, if you know it's going to be a problem, pack some wipes, have the kids wear last year's ball shirt and an old pair of shoes. Adults might want to think about the shoes, but, most importantly, watch where you step.

Kids never forget bad things like that, to the point that I was told two brothers informed mom they weren't going near the 'Silver Bullet' ride ever again.

Enough

SPINNING TALES



Publisher
Dennis Morgan

about the carnival. The pool party associated with Vetch Days was as popular as ever, maybe more so with the first hot days of June.

There's a maximum capacity for the pool and the staff makes sure it doesn't exceed that number. Looking on from the outside, it appeared that the pool was getting close to that number.

We really do have one of the best pools in the area and the decision years ago to build a new pool was a wise one.

Chlorine levels were just right. The water temperature wasn't too cold, but it wasn't too hot either. I don't know if that really matters once you get in the water. It's only when you get out of the water, when there's a breeze, that you become temperature savvy.

Boys like to make a big splash while girls go to their own area of the pool to do what girls do - talk and giggle.

The duck races made my day, especially the youthful exuberance exhibited by Thomas Sehi and, moments later, his mom. You just never know which duck is going to cross the finish line first.

Moving on, kick ball seems to be a big hit, even if it ran into late night.

The last game in the high school division didn't get over until after 1 a.m.

Kids races have been part of the gatherings seemingly since the dawn of civilization. Long before homo sapiens began to rule the world, there were kids races - they were running to stay alive and not be eaten by savage beasts.

Speaking of beasts, there was another report of a person being gored by a bison at Yellowstone National Park. When will they learn a selfie with Mr. Bison doesn't always end well.

We had a great parade this year. Plenty of entries, plenty of smiling faces, candy being tossed, Frisbees being flown.

The carnival guy trying to sell caramel corn and cotton candy was friendly. He sold some, but that was a tough sell when your youthful customers are going to be getting free candy moments later.

What was your favorite part of Vetch Days 2025?

CHLOE HENN, TAYLOR BECKMAN AND JORDYN LUETTEL PART OF ALL-STAR GAMES



On Friday, Elgin volleyball standout Chloe Henn played in the "Volleyball Day in Norfolk" game with her former coach Jordyn Luettel still coaching her. The outdoor game is a play on last year's Husker volleyball game at Memorial Stadium. Then Friday night, Wolfpack football standout Taylor Beckman donned his Wolfpack helmet one final time in the Northeast Nebraska All-Star Football Classic.

E-R photos by
Jeromy Vauble

Elgin summer ball teams



E-R photo

Members of the Elgin 10 & Under baseball team this season are (front row, l-r): Ace Pelster, Cole Niewohner, Gabe Schindler, Jax Haddix, Grant Blecher, Chase Young, Wyatt Stuhr and Max Borer. Back row: Coach Matt Pelster, Anton Shavlik, Owen Childers, Mark Schindler, Jackson Evans, Corbyn Testerman and Coach Tina Thiele-Blecher.

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