

In Brief

Medical benefit to be held for Brandon Henn

A benefit for Brandon “Buff” Henn will be held next month in Elgin. The event will be Saturday, August 19, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Elgin. Starting at 5 p.m., the medical fundraiser will feature a hamburger supper with salads and more. There will be a silent auction. The benefit will be held to help Henn with medical bills that are going to result from his fight against cancer. He was recently diagnosed with Stage 4 liver cancer.

Cost of stamps to jump three cents on July 9

Elgin residents and those across the country will notice an increase in postal rates after this week. The U.S., Postal Service has announced price changes to take effect on Sunday, July 9.

The new rates include a three-cent increase in the price of a First-Class Mail Forever stamp, going from 63 cents to 66 cents. The increase will raise First-Class Mail prices approximately 5.4 percent to offset the rise in inflation. The price changes have been approved by the Governors of the U.S. Postal Service. Here’s a breakdown of the price increases: First class stamp - 66 cents; additional ounce - 24 cents (no change) Roll of 100 stamps - \$66 Book of 20 stamps - \$13.20 Book of 10 stamps - \$6.60 Postcard stamp - 51 cents Stamped envelope - 85 cents

Public Notices

Public notices in this week’s newspaper include: Notice of Meeting — Antelope County Board of Equalization Proceedings — Antelope County Board of Commissioners Proceedings — Antelope County Board of Equalization Proceedings — District #45 Board of Education Notice — Estate of James T. Meyer

The Elgin Review is the official legal newspaper for Antelope County, Village of Bartlett, Wheeler Central School District #45, 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 87 degrees recorded on June 29. The low during the same period was 58 degrees on July 1. Altogether, 2.61 inches of an precipitation was recorded last week. Following are the high and low temperatures, and precipitation amounts, as recorded by weather observer Leonard Orlowski.

Date	H	L	Prec.
June 26	78	59	
June 27	81	62	0.26
June 28	85	64	
June 29	87	64	
June 30	80	62	2.35
July 1	74	58	
July 2	85	64	
Total for Last Week.....			0.84
Total for June.....			4.22
Total for 2023.....			12.52

July date set for protest hearing

Antelope County Commissioners, acting as a board of equalization, will soon hear tax protests from county property owners. Last week, the date of Wednesday, July 19, was selected for the protest hearings. The meeting, to begin at 8 a.m. will be for the purpose of “reviewing and deciding written protests filed pertaining to the assessment value of their property.” Open to the public, the meeting will allow for protest hearings scheduled at 10-minute intervals, allowing a couple of minutes between each hearing. If needed, protest hearings will be continued to Thursday, July 20 starting at 9 a.m. Earlier this year, Antelope County Assessor Kelly E. Mueller-Oltjenbruns sent out letters to property owners indicating a change in valuation. Almost every parcel in Antelope County will see an increase in valuation for 2023 due to sales that have occurred in the current statistical study period which ended Sept. 30, 2022. Due to the market area sale, Elgin, Neligh, Clearwater, Tilden and Royal residential properties will increase. Also in the letter, it stated that Market Area 1 saw irrigated land and dry land increases while grassland decreased. Market Area 3 saw certain irrigated LVG’s rise. Also, there was an increase in dryland, however grassland saw no change.



Fields go ‘green’ in July

Reese Stuhr, standing 5’6” tall, could have gotten lost in this field of corn Friday evening. The irrigated corn field, north of Raeville, belongs to Steve Beckman. Irrigated corn fields in the Elgin/Raeville area are reaching to the skies. *E-R photo/LMorgan*

New volleyball coach looking forward to carrying on Wolfpack tradition

By Dennis Morgan
Co-Publisher

A new era in Wolfpack sports is about to begin. Come August, the Wolfpack volleyball team will begin practice for the 2023 season with a new head volleyball coach. Jordynn Luettel has taken over the

helm of the program, hired earlier this year to assume head coach duties. She will replace Elizabeth Selting who, after two years in the position, will be marrying Collin Martinsen and be moving south to teach at Riverside High School. Luettel spoke to *The Elgin Review* Wednesday morning. Seated on the



Jordynn Luettel will be the new Wolfpack varsity volleyball coach this fall. She comes to EPPJ from Boone Central/Newman Grove where she coached for the past six years. *E-R photo/DMorgan*

bleachers inside the EPS gymnasium, she spoke at length about the respect she has developed for Wolfpack volleyball as a player at Battle Creek High School and later as head coach at Boone Central/Newman Grove (BCNG) where she squared off annually against EPPJ teams coached by Selting and, before her, Tina Thiele-Blecher. Growing up on a farm as one of five children, she developed a strong work ethic which helped her as an athlete. As a player, twice she led Battle Creek to the State Volleyball Tournament. During that time she garnered a lot of conference and postseason honors. A multi-sport athlete, she started in volleyball and basketball all four years at BCHS and was captain both her junior and senior years.

“Sports have always been a big part of my life,” she said. Most recently, Luettel has been coaching at Albion during the fall and coaching D-League club volleyball as well. “I was head coach (at BCNG) for the past six years. That’s where I got to know Liz well,” Luettel said “and Greg Wemhoff, he was my weightlifting coach at Battle Creek. So we go way back. I heard there was an opening (EPPJ) and contacted him.”

She said she wasn’t necessarily looking for a new job. “I didn’t want to get out of coaching,” Luettel said, indicating the opportunity to coach the Wolfpack was too good of a job to pass up. “When this opportunity presented itself, I was really drawn into the culture ... They (the Wolfpack) have the community behind them. They have a winning culture. They’ve established a very good program. I have so much respect for what Tina and Liz have done here.”

She’s looking forward to working with the Wolfpack players, some she’s seen during open gyms this past month. Summer camps will begin in July leading up to the start of fall practice in August.

“I’m about getting better every time we step on the court,” she said. “Volleyball is a game of inches ... so you have to be disciplined in those little things to make a big impact.”

Our new coach is ready for the 2023 season to get underway.

Both she and her husband Ryan are familiar with the community. He is a Pope John graduate. They have two children - a three-year old son Brooks and a 20-month old daughter Collins. They live just north of Petersburg,

When not coaching, Jordynn works at home as a manager for a medical staffing firm. She’s been with the company for nine years now. Ryan is a respiratory therapist at Boone County Health Center and also farms.

Policy hearings on school board agenda Tuesday

Four public hearings will be held when the District #18 Board of Education convenes in regular session next week.

The school board is scheduled to meet Tuesday, July 11, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the distance learning room at the high school. The meeting is open to the public.

Shortly after the start of the meeting, the board will begin public hearings on the following policies:

- Student Fees Policy 504.19
- Bullying Prevention Policy 504.20
- Parent Involvement Policy 1005.03
- Wellness Policy 508.13

Following these hearings, held annually and seldom lasting more than 10 minutes apiece, the board is expected to take action approving the policies.

Other items on the ‘action’ agenda are:

- Approve the first reading of Policy 502.02 Nonresident Students/Option Enrollment; Policy 502.02 R1 Standards for Acceptance or Rejection of Option Students; and 502.02 Option Enrollment Resolution

- Approve the first reading of Policy 504.11 Weapons; Policy 506.02 Student Organizations; Policy 508.19 Behavioral Points of Contact; Policy 605.07 Part-Time Enrollment; and Policy 801.01 Foster Care Transportation Plan
- Approve purchase of Hudl Camera
- Approve pole vault project and cement bid
- Approve three-year contract for auditor

Items slated for ‘discussion only’ are:

- 2023/24 board goals



The Elgin area received several inches of rain Saturday. This gauge, located north of St. Boniface Catholic Church, recorded over three inches. *E-R photo/DMorgan*

‘... and then the rain came’

Having missed many of the big rains in the area, Elgin finally received some significant moisture, starting in the early morning hours Saturday and continuing for much of the day.

Like those earlier rains, Saturday’s rainfall was spotty according to reports received

See RAIN, Page 10

Red or Green Seedless Grapes....\$1.99 lb

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We know that Elgin is a beautiful town full of generous, friendly people. Isn't it wonderful to see improvements being made in and around Elgin?

Several groups in Elgin are talking about other projects that will continue the beautification of our little slice of Nebraska Heaven. If you have an idea, share it! Our community only grows and improves when people share their thoughts on how we can keep our town attractive for current residents -- and potential residents.

Supporting improvements are part of our commitment to the community of Elgin.

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From Jo Ann Baum's Kitchen

Mesquite Flavored BBQ Beef Brisket

Slow-cooking makes the brisket tender and full of that smokey mesquite flavor.

Good day. Who likes Beef Brisket? Our family sure does! For you grilling experts I bet you could still cook this really slow on the grill and not put it in a cooking bag, but cover your dish and let it cook on a very low temperature. Give it a try. Using the bag and oven method works just as well. Either method is good.
Happy grilling or baking!
Jo Ann

MESQUITE FLAVORED BBQ BEEF BRISKET

1 (3-5 lbs) untrimmed beef brisket
1 or 2 onions diced or sliced
1/4 cup liquid mesquite smoke
1/2 cup water

1/2 cup brown sugar
1 large turkey browning (roasting) bag
Salt and pepper to taste.

Trim brisket leaving some fat for flavoring and juices. Put the meat and all the seasonings in a browning bag in a slow oven (300°) for two hours. I am sure this could be cooked on about any type of grill. Try it!

Lordemann children part of Nebraska Ambassadors of Music who toured Europe

The family of Eric, Jenna, Emma and Riley Lordemann partook in the Nebraska Ambassadors of Music trip to the European continent June 9th - 27th.

Emma and Riley Lordemann were nominated to attend the trip by Boone Central Schools Choir Director Michelle Wright. Eric and Jenna attended as traveling adults. The trip was arranged with Nebraska Ambassadors of Music and Bob Rodgers Travel.

The Lordemanns were part of a group of over 300 Nebraskans to make the trip. Emma and Riley, along with 5 other Boone Central students, worked fundraising events over the past 18 months to help cover the cost of their trip. Preparations for the trip began with a planning camp in Henderson, NE on April 1, 2023. At the camp, the students auditioned for placement in the band and received copies of their music for both band and choir.

Emma played the flute in the band and sang as Soprano I in the choir. Riley played the tuba in the band and sang as Bass 2 in the choir. The trip started with the students attending a band and choir camp at Wayne State College June 9th - 11th. The student

See MUSIC, Page Three

Elgin Community Calendar

July

3 - 14 Red Cross Swimming Lessons @ Elgin Swimming Pool.*

10 Red-E-4-Fun/Red Hatters, noon at the ECC, please RSVP • EVFD meeting • District #45 Board of Education regular meeting.

11 District #18 Board of Education regular meeting* • Antelope County Commissioners regular meeting • Elgin Knights of Columbus meeting @ Elgin.

16 Deacon Dennis Wiehn 40th Ordination Anniversary @ St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin.

17 Elgin EMTs meeting.

18 Card shower for Leora "Lee" Sullivan 90th birthday*.

19 Antelope County Board of Equalization protest hearing @ Antelope County Courthouse (Neligh)*.

19 - 21 Wolfpack Football Camp (Grades 7-12).

22 Annual Pope John Alumni Softball Tournament @ Petersburg ball fields • Advance Care Planning at Boone County Health Center (Albion)*.

29 Antelope County Trail Ride*.

Every Sunday - Youth Group at Elgin Christian Community Church, 6:30 pm

Events listing is courtesy of
ELGIN VETERANS' MEDICAL CLINIC
an Outpatient Department of Boone County Health Center
116 N 2nd Street, Elgin
402-843-5910



Emma and Riley Lordemann recently returned from Europe after touring with the Nebraska Ambassadors of Music. They were joined on the trip by their parents, Jenna and Eric Lordemann. Story/photo submitted

The **ELGIN PUBLIC/POPE JOHN COOP** is currently accepting applications for the following **COACHING POSITIONS:**

- ASSISTANT JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL
- DANCE TEAM

Interested candidates may contact Mrs. Lisa Schumacher or Mr. Mike Brockhaus at the following:

Mrs. Lisa Schumacher, Principal
St. Boniface/Pope John
lschumacher@pjcrusaders.org
402-843-5325

Mr. Mike Brockhaus, Supt.
Elgin Public Schools
mike.brockhaus@elgineagles.org
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The Elgin Review

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Looking Back

Sixty Years Ago

July 4, 1963
Gary Deckert, 24, who recently moved to Neligh with his wife, Mary, was killed instantly around 8 p.m. last Thursday when the plane he was piloting went into a spin and crashed southeast of here on the A.V. Klein farm. A spray pilot for Koinzan Flying Service, Gary had just finished spraying eight acres and was apparently checking another field which he was to spray the next day. Witnesses stated that the plane was flying at a normal altitude when it went into a spin. Representatives of the FAA investigated the accident Friday afternoon and Saturday.

Night Marshal Monte Totten informed the Review that three two-way radios were put to use recently in apprehending and warning the driver of a carload of youths who were firing firecrackers. Prior to putting the car radios into action the violators managed to elude Marshal Totten.

The Antelope County ASC office announced this week that Wheat Marketing Cards will be mailed to all producers eligible to market 1963 wheat. The office explained that marketing cards are necessary when a producer sells wheat produced in 1963 due to the fact that the Wheat Marketing quota law is in effect for the 1963 wheat crop.

Fifty Years Ago

July 5, 1973
Elgin softball players won championship honors and the trophy Thursday night at Oakdale's tournament by defeating the Petersburg Over the Hill team by a 14-5 score. Elgin's players are Darrell Fenton, Duane Miller, Dave Sullivan, Dave Totten, Ray Schmitt, Ron Vanourney, Mike Barada, Don Zegers, George Busteded, Larry Braband, Jim Getzfred, Dave Eischeid, Larry Zegers and Bob Tharnish.

After considerable discussion Monday night at the regular monthly meeting of the Elgin Village Board of Trustees it was revealed that paving, curb and and gutter work in Elgin could not be started until 1974. Reason for the delay was attributed to the shortage of cement.

Ray's Superette Ad - Shurfine Salad Dressing, 32 oz jar, 43¢; Shurfine Fruit Cocktail, three 16 oz cans, 85¢; Shurfine Tomato Soup, ten 10

Music

From Page Two
had an intense rehearsal schedule with band directors Eric Farlander, Mike Koch, Larry MacTaggart, director of the US Air Force Band, who also composed some of the pieces for the band and choir, as well as Bob Snider, director of the US Armed Services Band. The Nebraska Ambassador Choir was led under the directioin of Dr. Matthew Armstrong of Wayne State College.

The camp finished with a Bon Voyage concert in Ramsey Theater.

All travelers met at Epply Airport in Omaha, NE to depart for Heathrow Airport in London. The group was divided into 12 different flights.

The students' travels took them to London, England where they performed a band concert in Embarkment Gardens, and the choir performed in St. Matthew Baywater Church. The next stop took the Nebraska Ambassadors to Paris, France via the Eurostar train under the English Channel. The band performed at Jardin D'Acclimatation, and the choir performed in Notre Dame du Travail. The tour continued to Crans-Montana, Switzerland where both the band and choir performed at L'Orangerie, and were treated to a fondue party with entertainment by local Swiss citizens featuring traditional music and dance. Next was a stop in Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany. The band performed within the City Walls in Rothenburg's Marktplatz and the choir in Franziskanerkirche Church. The final concert on the tour was Austria, with stops in Salzburg and Vienna. The final band performance was in Bad Ischl's outdoor theater, and the Choir in Dom Zu Salzburg. The group returned home via Munich International Airport.

Sight-seeing stops along the way were the City of Windsor - Windsor Castle, London - The Tower of London, Big

3/4 oz cans, \$1; Chuck Roast, 89¢ a pound.
Thirty Years Ago
July 14, 1993
Two Elgin men were injured Tuesday morning, July 13, when they fell from scaffolding at Beckman Lumber south of town. Mike Beckman and Dave Schiltmeyer were installing panels on a high ceiling, and were apparently attempting to move the scaffolding when it toppled. They were taken to Antelope Memorial Hospital by the Elgin Rescue Unit at about 10:45 a.m. Both men were later transferred to Methodist Hospital in Omaha, where they were listed in stable condition.

Sunset Lanes in Elgin will be closing on Saturday, July 24, according to owners Mike and Jan Schmitt. The Schmitts stated that they are still making efforts to sell the local bowling alley and restaurant, but they set the closing date due to their need to attend to other business interests and obligations. The Schmitts, who also own Schmitt Construction Co., opened Sunset Lanes 12 years ago after extensively remodeling the business.

Power was out in Elgin for a half hour last Saturday night, July 10, as a line of strong thunderstorms moved through the area. Bill Alderson, local Nebraska Public Power District manager, said the lightning struck a 69kv line west of Elgin.

Twenty Years Ago

July 2, 2003
A total of 115 alumni and guests attended the annual St. Boniface Alumni Banquet Saturday evening, June 28, at the Elgin KC Hall. President Joan Schindler welcomed the alumni and guests. During the business meeting, several students received scholarships from the St. Boniface Alumni Association. The alumni members voted to provide a new announcement sign for St. Boniface Parish this year. Mary Kay Henn, member of the class of 1961, served as master of ceremonies. Speaking for the honored classes were Ben Koenig (1943), Helen Schmitt (1948), Lois Williams (1953), Jim Hausmann (1958) and Millie Wanser (1963).

Six scholarships of \$500 each were awarded to members of Elgin High School's 2003 graduating class during the

Ben, The London Eye, His Majesties' Theater - Phantom of the Opera. Paris - Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, The Lovure Museum, Saint Sepulcre Church, and Seine River Cruise. Switzerland - Castle of Chillon on Lake Geneva, Montreaux, Zermatt to view the Matterhon. Rotenburg, Germany's Night Watchman Tour, City Wall Palace Garden and Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site. Vienna, Austria - Hellbrun Palace, St. Stephens Cathedral, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's apartment, the city gardens. The whirlwind tour wrapped up with the breath-taking sites of Bad Ischl -Basilica Minor St. Michael, St. Peter's Abbey and Mirabell Gardens, all featured in the film, "The Sound of Music".

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annual EHS Alumni Banquet last Saturday evening, June 26. A total of 170 alumni and guests were present for the banquet in the EHS gym. Speaking for the eight honored classes were Donna Payne (1943), Dale Carter (1953), Dick Bennett (1963), Marcine Pierce (1973), Jill Beckman-Kill (1978), Alvin Kamphaus (1983), Amber Mundorf Davis (1993) and Corrine Becklun (2003). Bonnie Johnson Haddix (1985) gave the welcome to alumni. Her daughter Cassie Haddix

(2003) gave the response. Many area students were named recently to 2003 spring semester dean's lists and honor rolls at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Elgin students achieving perfect 4.0 grade-point averages for the semester were David J. Borer, a junior majoring in agribusiness; Aaron N. Jensen, a freshman majoring in agribusiness, and Melodie Koenig, a sophomore majoring in business administration.

By Betty Kallhoff

Saved by 'the bag'

The old bag was saved by the bag. The old bag, generally thought to be an unpleasant, ill-tempered woman, is me. Certainly hope readers who know me will disagree on the unpleasant part. The bag filled with air when the huge van collided with my much smaller car back in mid-June. And yes, it left me ill-tempered and, sadly, broken in both body and spirit.

In the first couple of weeks after the accident, with excruciating pain and regrettably saying "I can't" to delightful summer plans, many thoughts drifted to "bag it" with life in general. Then, realizing some never recover, a focus on regaining wellness, which will take most of precious summer, became priority one.

Thankfully, I wasn't bagged, meaning arrested or apprehended, at the accident site. Also thankfully, a kind cop noticed my physical distress and called an ambulance. He grabbed my bag from the car and off I went for a luxurious stay (said facetiously) in the hospital surrounded by caring and knowledgeable medical professionals.

Four days later, hospital dismissal left me in the capable hands of hubby Rick armed with a whole bag of tricks for pain management and movement restrictions leading to bone healing. Sometimes the whole process requires a barf bag though that urge has subsided immensely. Not sure what to do with those nasty bags under my eyes though.

With an ambulance ride, hospital stay, and totaled car, it takes a moneybag to handle the costs. Thankful for full coverage insurance so we won't be left totally holding the bag on the mounting bills.

Also thankful for the safety devices of a seat belt and air bags. Without them, I would have likely ended up in a body bag. No kidding.

Air bags deploy when a sensor detects a front-end crash, sends an electrical signal triggering a chemical reaction inflating the air bag with harmless nitrogen gas. And it happened, just like that, hitting this humanoid at an estimated 200 mph with 2,000 pounds of force. It deflates immediately.

Not sure how my insides got broken, rib and sternum, though it's a lot like the look of grief. Except for the wicked bruises tracing the tracks of the seatbelt across my waist and chest, the rest of me looks fine. The hurt is on the inside.

Since returning home to the farm, bags and bags of good cheer have come my way in the form of food, flowers, cards, books, painting kit, and well wishes. Thanks to those in Elgin who have expressed concern for my welfare and shared words of encouragement.

As summer keeps rolling on and you're out and about taking it all in, know this - seat belts and air bags save lives. Be sure they both work and strap on that belt, no exceptions. Be careful out there.



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10:00-3:00 pm - Clucktique Sidewalk Market
7:00 pm - Cement Chicken Auction
8:30 pm - Free Entertainment
The Flying Chicken Comedy Juggling Show, Performed by Ye Olde Feathered Fool (Brad Weston)
10:00 pm - Fireworks

Saturday - Bressler Park
9:30 am - Wayne Chicken Show Parade
12:00 pm - Banjo Chicken Puppet Show
1:00 pm - Food & Craft Vendors, Games, Contests, Inflatables, National Cluck-Off, Hand Boiled Egg Eating Contest & More


Sunday - 2nd & Main
11:00 am-3:00 pm - Crowing Motors Car Show
5:00 pm - Bresslerfest: Wayne County Troubadours


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NOTICE FROM BUD'S SANITARY SERVICE


Please be advised that Bud's Sanitary Service is going to a toter system.

Bud's Sanitary Service, LLC will be providing one (1) 96 gallon trash toter(s) per residence and business (if not already having a dumpster@ business) **All Trash MUST be placed in the provided 96 gallon toter(s).** If the resident has more trash than fits into the one (1) 96 gallon toter provided, the residence will need to notify the City Office to get a 2nd toter at an additional cost. **Any trash NOT in the bins provided will NOT be picked up.**

The toter(s) MUST BE PLACED DIRECTLY CURBSIDE/ALLEYSIDE.

The 96 gallon toter(s) provided and owned by Bud's Sanitary Service MUST stay with the property at all times as it belongs with the property. The toter(s) provided to a Landlord's rental property MUST remain at the rental property even if/when the current tenant moves out. If a tenant leaves and takes the toter(s) with them, the Landlord IS RESPONSIBLE for the replacement cost of a new 96 gallon toter(s).

The lessee of the toter(s) is responsible for the toter(s) at all times. If it is destroyed by the lessee, the lessee is responsible for the replacement cost of the tote(s). However, normal wear and tear, ie....wheels and lid replacement on the tote(s) is covered and maintained by Bud's Sanitary Service, LLC.



In these changing times, we hope to help ease the "labor intensive work" for our employees.

We again want to thank you for all you years of patronage to our company.

- Bud's Sanitary Service, LLC

Community Center Menus

Elgin Community Center meals next week are:
Monday, July 10: Pork tenderloin sandwich, macaroni salad, French fries, peaches, milk.
Tuesday, July 11: Porcupine meatballs, mashed potatoes & gravy, stewed tomatoes, tropical fruit, milk.
Wednesday, July 12: Cream chicken over biscuits, mixed vegetables, applesauce, milk.
Thursday, July 13: Lemon pepper fish, lettuce salad, rice, strawberries/peaches mix, milk.
Friday, July 14: Sloppy joes, French fries, green beans, pineapple, milk.
(All meals served with bread & butter. Menus are provided by the Community Center. and are subject to change)

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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

Opinion

Read. Reflect. Respond.

The joy that comes from observing Independence Day

It slipped in on an uneventful Tuesday this year, although many towns celebrated on Monday the Third just to give the holiday a long weekend type feel. Maybe it was a little bit easier to remember the true historic origins of the holiday this year, given the drought and all the caution about fireworks lighting up more than just the night sky.

July 4, 1776, was the day when the Continental Congress sought to take the upper hand in the relentless power struggle with the British monarchy over absolute control of the colonies. That’s when the Declaration of Independence was approved. In subsequent years it was celebrated with colorful parades, flag raising and barbecues.

I like what humorist Erma Bombeck said years ago: “You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism.”

President Dwight D. Eisenhower waxed almost poetically when he said: “Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed - else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die.”

Remember it was Eisenhower who had the vision to push for the Interstate highway system which now allows millions of Americans to zip off to celebrate with friends and families in other states, and pray all the way that road crews won’t be working on a holiday so the speed limit won’t be restricted.

Country singer Lee Greenwood sang that almost overworked popular anthem: “And I’m proud to be an American, where at least I know I’m free.

And I won’t forget the men who died, who gave that right to me.” In the chorus, these words: “Cause the flag still stands for freedom, and they can’t take that away.”

What about the red, white, and blue? It still flies

proudly on poles outside government buildings and schools.

Many of us hang one from a pole at our homes to honor the occasion, not unlike Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day.

I remember the horror of the anti-Vietnam War protests where American flags were burned or stomped on or torn to shreds. Recent protests of a variety of social issues have featured the same disgusting activity.

It seems that America is now more concerned about the red (Republican) and the blue (Democrat) because it apparently matters to some which party you stand for. How about we stand for the independent spirit, which made us proud of the flag in the first place and truly represented our freedom and independence?

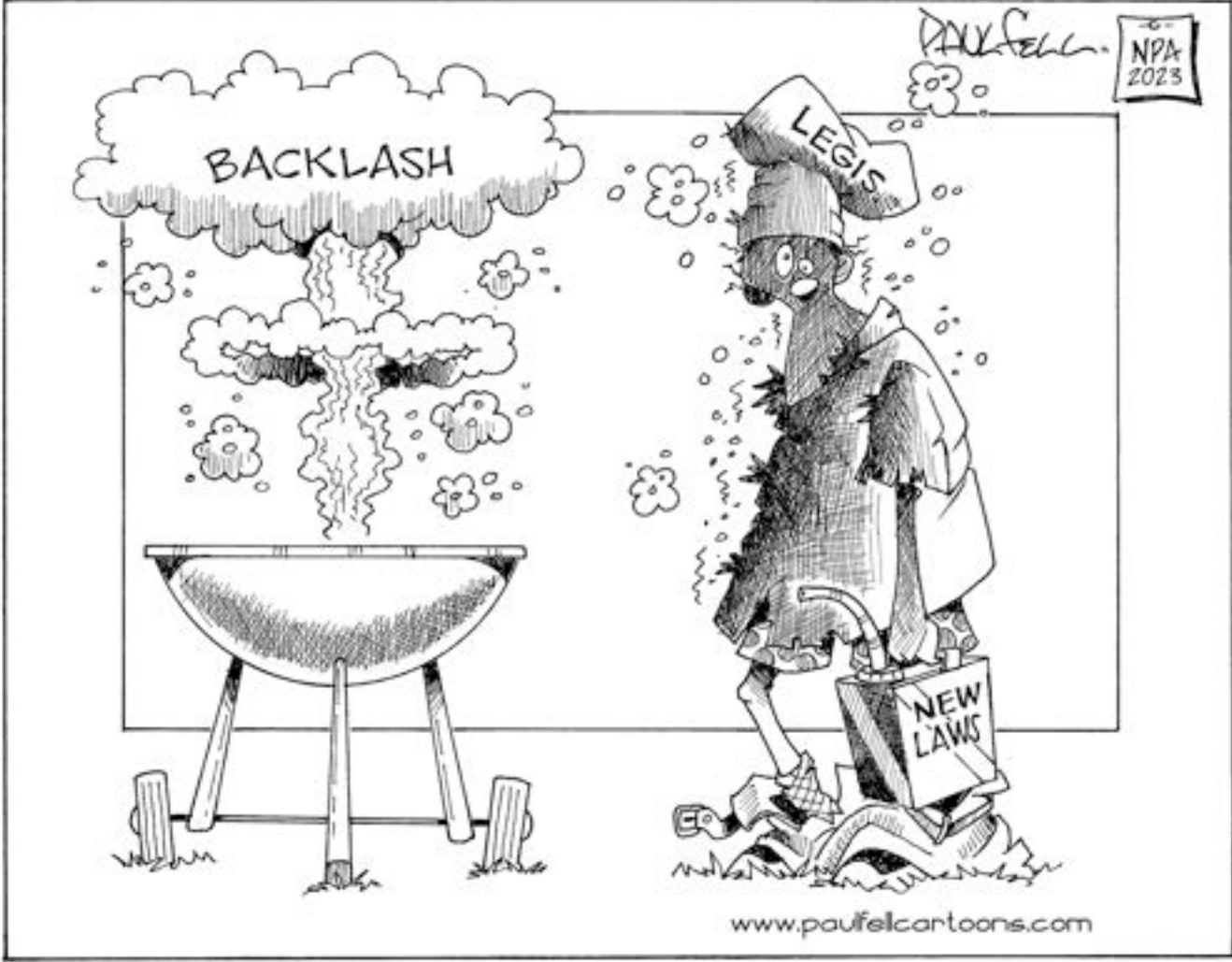
Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey offered: “We need an America with the wisdom of experience. But we must not let America grow old in spirit.”

Let’s honor the tradition as we remember it without letting the nation’s spirit grow old. Parades, flags, fireworks, potato salad. Don’t wait until the next Independence Day to do it. Make up your own holiday if you need to.

Just remember to keep the potato salad refrigerated or at least cool.

Above all, be wise.

J.L. Schmidt has been covering Nebraska government and politics since 1979. He has been a registered Independent for more than 20 years.



CAPITOL VIEW
Nebraska Press Association

Statehouse Correspondent
J.L. Schmidt

WASHINGTON REPORT

U.S. Senator
Deb Fischer

Expanding markets for Nebraska products

As the third largest economy in the world, Japan is a vital trade partner of the United States, especially agriculture producers in Nebraska’s Third District. According to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, more than half of Nebraska’s pork exports and more than a quarter of our state’s beef exports were purchased by Japan last year, totaling \$156 million and \$405 mil-

FROM THE HILL

Congressman
Adrian Smith

lion respectively.

Japan is Nebraska’s largest export market for pork and eggs, our second largest market for beef, and our third largest market for corn and overall ag exports.

The mutual benefit of a strong trade relationship for Third District producers and Japanese consumers is extraordinary. Sales of Nebraska beef to Japan have increased exponentially over the last two decades, as our producers have worked hard to meet demand for high-quality meat prized by Japanese consumers. Expanding cooperation and market access for Nebraska’s top-notch products continues to hold even greater promise for the future. As Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee’s Subcommittee on Trade and co-chair of the U.S.-Japan Caucus, I am working to build on our historic partnership.

While progress on trade with Japan has been significant in the 21st century, Congress can and must do more to address both tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade.

An agreement signed by President Trump in 2019 reduced tariffs on an estimated 90 percent of food and agriculture products exported to Japan; however, there are additional opportunities to expand our partnership with Japan. Congressionally-approved trade agreements are the strongest way to support American producers and consumers, and a comprehensive agreement should be the next step to maximize cooperation and growth between our nations.

This week, I joined several of my Ways and Means colleagues on a visit to Japan where we met with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Foreign Affairs Minister Yoshi-

masa Hayashi, and other Japanese officials to discuss the importance of our countries’ ties and mutual economic opportunity. Japan is not only an important economic partner but also a critical ally for security in the region.

I was grateful for the chance to join these leaders in looking to the future and am optimistic about what we can accomplish as we continue to work together.

As China and North Korea continue to posture aggressively, it is as important as ever for the United States to strengthen our bonds with and reaffirm our support for those who share our values.

Taiwan is another significant ally in the Indo-Pacific region, and last week, with my support, the House passed United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act. This bill expresses congressional support for the initial agreement on trade with Taiwan and imposes requirements for congressional consultation of any further negotiations between the United States and Taiwan.

Additionally, I have introduced a resolution calling for a bilateral trade agreement to avoid double taxation between the U.S. and Taiwan. While the United States and Taiwan cannot enter a formal treaty addressing the tax treatment of international investment, similar tax treatment can be achieved through legislation passed by each country.

Advancing the long-term economic stability American businesses and our trusted allies need to invest for the future and combat the influence of bad actors are among my top priorities in Congress.

Any time we can increase opportunity to sell our top-notch products to eager consumers in Japan is a win for Third District farmers and ranchers.

I will continue to work to expand markets for Nebraska products while advancing American interests abroad.

The Biden administration has tried to cancel nuclear weapon systems like the Sea-Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM) program, but I successfully fought to keep this program online and properly funded. I also secured provisions to support the Sentinel program, which involves the Air Force replacing our intercontinental ballistic missile weapon systems located across the country – including in Western Nebraska. This project is the most significant and complex weapon system in recent U.S. history.

These military capabilities are essential to keeping adversaries like China and Russia in check.

Since I was elected to the Senate in 2012, I’ve advocated to expand our munitions production capacity for this very reason. I continued this advocacy in this year’s NDAA, which includes provisions I led to expand munitions acquisitions. If we can’t quickly produce the systems we need to defend this country, our nation’s safety is in jeopardy.

I also extended a provision I first introduced last year that prohibits the U.S. Department of Defense from participating in entertainment projects with ties to the Chinese government. The Chinese Communist Party often looks to leverage its economic ties to Hollywood to pre-emptively censor “threatening” content and promote pro-China propaganda. I think we can all agree U.S. taxpayer dollars should never be involved in such anti-American messaging efforts.

I always consider the important role Nebraska and our various military assets play in defending this nation when I write, discuss, and vote on legislation.

The FY 2024 NDAA supports our proud military institutions like STRATCOM and Offutt Air Force Base. Offutt is home to a wide range of operations, from the 55th Wing to Air Force Weather Agency and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). This NDAA includes critical authorizations for all of these important groups.

I also worked to ensure this NDAA authorizes a series of military construction projects across Nebraska:

Flag inspires and rallies Americans

As we gathered to celebrate the birth of our great nation on this Fourth of July, it was an opportunity to reflect upon the values and ideals that have made America the greatest country that has ever existed. For centuries, our American flag has inspired and rallied Americans through times of triumph and tragedy. It reminds us of the sacrifices made to secure our freedoms. It represents the ideals upon which our nation was founded – freedom, justice, and equality – and our perpetual quest to form a more perfect union. It stands as a reminder of the unalienable rights given to all of us by our Creator and symbolizes the hope and opportunity that continue to attract people from around the world to move here in pursuit of the American dream.

At a time when our nation feels divided on many important issues, our flag reminds us of the values that unite us as Americans. That’s why we must protect the dignity of our flag at all costs. To that end, I recently co-sponsored Senator Roger

WASHINGTON REPORT

State Senator
Pete Ricketts

Marshall’s (R-KS) One Flag For All Act to prohibit any flag other than the American flag to be flown, draped or displayed on federal buildings. The bill does provide exemptions for Prisoner of War (POW) flags, country flags for visiting diplomats, state flags for members of Congress displaying the flag at their official office, tribal flags, military flags at military bases and installations, and any flag that represents the state, territory, county, city, or local jurisdiction in which the public building is located. We should not allow divisive political issues to be promoted at taxpayer-funded buildings, and we should ensure Old Glory the place of honor it deserves.

As a U.S. Senator, I have the great privilege of promoting our flag to all Nebraskans by participating in the time-honored tradition of requesting flags to be flown over the U.S. Capitol. This practice is a simple yet meaningful way to honor and recognize outstanding individuals, groups, and milestones. Whether it is to recognize the service of a brave woman or man in uniform, commemorate a well-earned retirement, or celebrate a milestone birthday, these flags can hold special significance to many.

Each year on holidays like Memorial Day, organizations across our state work to honor our veterans with

See RICKETTS, Page Five

See FISCHER, Page Five

Numbers To Know

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

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

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

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

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

Representative Adrian Smith: 503 House Office Bldg., 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.

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

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Obituaries

Leon W. Whitney, 53

Born in Maryland, he grew up in Neligh and graduated from Neligh-Oakdale High School.

Graveside Service for Leon W. Whitney Age 53 of Neligh, Nebraska will be 10:00 a.m. Friday, July 7, 2023 at Laurel Hill Cemetery.
Visitation will be Thursday, July 6, 2023 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Beyer Snider Memorial Funeral Home in Neligh.
Leon passed away June 27, 2023.
Beyer Snider Memorial Funeral Home is handling the

arrangements. Condolences may be directed to the family at www.beyersnidermemorialfh.com

Leon Walter Whitney was born on February 16, 1970 at Annapolis, Maryland to Bill Whitney and Lorraine (Robertson) Berry.
He grew up in Neligh and attended Neligh-Oakdale High School. He was united in mar-

riage to Kimberly (Cornett) in 1988 in Neligh. He worked at Niewohners Feedlot for most of his life. He enjoyed being a mechanic, golfing, grilling, and hunting as well as spending time with his children and his granddaughters.
He is survived by his wife, Kimberly Whitney of Neligh, NE. His son, Colton and wife Justine Whitney and their daughters, Lillian, Chloe, and

Penelope of Elgin, NE and daughter, Tessa Jo Whitney of Neligh, NE and friend Shane Hammock; Joni Jo Deters of Centralia, KS and her family. Mother, Lorraine Berry of Minatare, NE. Parents-in-law, Donn and Cheri Cornett and sister-in-law, Tami Schrader and her family.
He was preceded in death by daughter, Courtney Lynn Whitney.

Harold R. Heithoff, 87

An Elgin native, the biggest joy of his life was being able to see all his grandchildren.

Harold R. Heithoff, 87, of Elgin, passed away Monday, June 26, 2023, at his home near Elgin, surrounded by his family.
A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, June 30, 2023, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin, with the Rev. Joseph Sund officiating. Burial followed in the parish cemetery with military rites conducted by American Legion Post #229 and VFW Post #5816 of Elgin, and the Army Funeral Honor Guard. Visitation was held from 5 - 7 p.m. Thursday at the church, with a 7 p.m. wake service.
Levander Funeral Home of Elgin, NE is in charge of the arrangements. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.levanderfuneralhome.com.



Harold Rudy Heithoff, son of Rudy and Theresa (Venteicher) Heithoff was born October 20, 1935, on the family farm three miles south of Elgin. He was baptized two days later. He attended St. Boniface and

graduated with the class of 1955. During his school years he helped his father on the farm and worked at the Union Oil station in Elgin. In the summer he often worked on a combine crew, combining wheat in Kansas. In 1955 Harold volunteered for the U.S. Army and was an electrical engineer with the 24th Missile Battalion on the east coast until he was honorably discharged in 1957.
On July 23, 1955, he married Vera Nuesch at Camp Chaffee, AR. The couple lived in Georgia, Massachusetts, and Washington D.C. before returning to Elgin in 1957. They made their home three miles south of Elgin in a small home across the road from his parents' farm and then moved to the Bessie Sward farm, one-half mile south of Elgin.
From this union Harold was blessed with four children: Tamara, Dale, Kathryn, and Teresa. Upon the retirement of Harold's parents, Harold and his family moved to the Heithoff farm in 1965 and purchased it in 1968. Harold farmed the 480 acres of land near Elgin, raising corn, alfalfa, and soybeans. He also fattened cattle until he retired.
In 1992, Harold and Vera

bought a winter home in Lake Worth, FL. They loved traveling and spending time with the family. Harold's heart was broken when Vera passed away in August 2005. In 2016 he sold his house and bought a house in Stuart, FL, which was closer to Dale and his family.
Harold enjoyed his winter months in FL, but his heart was back on the farm. Harold's wish was to pass away at home, where his wife and younger brother did.
One of his fondest memories is that of Vera and him spending three weeks in South America touring the Amazon River region by canoe, and in Bogota, Cartengena and Cali, Colombia. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and traveling to Florida.
One of the biggest joys in his life was being able to see all his grandchildren.
Harold was a lifelong member of St. Boniface Catholic Church. He was a trustee for St. Boniface, on the Elgin Public School Board serving as treasurer, Pope John School Board, Farmers Cooperative Exchange board for 16 years, Legion Commander, and was a citizen observer for the Sheriff Palm Beach County, to patrol designated areas.

Harold is survived by his four children: Tammy (friend Karry Borer) Nolan of Albion, NE; Dale (Pam) Heithoff of Palm City, FL; Kathy (Gary) Seier of Petersburg, NE; Teresa (Joe) Simons of O'Neill, NE; 15 grandchildren: Travis (Kristina) Golden; McKenzie (Adam) Flanagan; Tye (Morgan Pelster) Nolan; Chancee (fiancé Jacob Williams) Nolan; Jamie Heithoff; Bobbi (Wesley) True; Samantha Heithoff; Jennifer Asuncion; Stacy (Adam) DeMuth; Jason (friend Jill Daniel) Seier; Chad (Heather) Seier; Terra (Matt) Druke; Mike (Madi) Simons; Bobby (Kady) Simons; Jessi (Erik) Derby; 27 great-grandchildren: Jayden, Tristen, Travis, Turner, Bergan, Oaklee, Sofia, Christopher, Thomas, Avery, Eric, Chloe, Brynlee, Bryson, Brayla, Franklin, Clayton, Delaney, Landry, Ozwald, Macclin, Rowan, Rynlee, Ellenor, Vera, Henry, and Jett; along with many other relatives and friends.
He was preceded in death by his parents; wife: Vera Heithoff in 2005; brothers: Larry and Delbert Heithoff; sisters: Delores Pelster and LuVerna Jochum; brothers-in-law: Toby Jochum and Joe Pelster; sister-in-law: Myra Heithoff.

Fischer

From Page Four

the National Guard Readiness Center in Bellevue, Greenlief Training Site, Mead Training Site, the National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop in North Platte, and several based at Offutt. Our National Guard is a vital force of readiness for our country, and I will always fight to keep the Guard secure.
These provisions will help us strengthen our national defense, which I consider my most important duty as a member of the Senate. While the NDAA has a ways to go before it passes both chambers of Congress and is signed into law, I'm proud of the progress my colleagues and I have made. I look forward to continuing my work on the Armed Services Committee.

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<p>St. Boniface Catholic Church Elgin, NE Fr. John Norman, Pastor Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor Confessions: 5-5:30 on Wednesdays. Weekend Mass: Sunday, 10 am. cppnebraska.org</p>	<p>St. Bonaventure Catholic Church Raeville, NE Fr. John Norman, Pastor Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor Weekend Mass: Sunday, 8 am. cppnebraska.org</p>	<p>Park Congregational U.C.C. Church Elgin, NE Rev. Kate West, pastor Sunday Worship Service: 9:15 am. Sunday School: 10:15 am. Communion Sunday: 1st Sunday of each month. Park Women's Fellowship: 2 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the church. Parish Council: 7:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the church.</p>	<p>St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Petersburg, NE Fr. John Norman, Pastor Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor Weekend Mass: Saturday, 7 pm. cppnebraska.org</p>	<p>Bartlett United Methodist Church Bartlett, NE Pastor Duane Waddle Sunday Worship Service: 10:45 am. Sunday School: 10 am.</p>	<p>Calvary Bible Church Neligh, NE Pastor Peter Sample Sunday School: 9:30 am. Worship Service: 10:45 am.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Elgin Community Christian Church Elgin, NE Pastor Jonathan Braden Adult Sunday School: Children Sunday School: 9:30 am. Sunday Worship Service: 9 am. Church Council: 2nd Sunday of each month following worship.</p>	<p>St. John's Catholic Church Rural Clearwater, NE Fr. John Norman, Pastor Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor Weekend Mass: Sunday, 11:30 am. cppnebraska.org</p>	<p>Our Savior Lutheran Church Bartlett, NE Rev. Jon Franson Sunday Worship Service: 8:15 am. No Sunday School</p>	<p>St. Paul Lutheran Church Chambers, NE Pastor Leif Hasskari Sunday Worship: 8:30 am. Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:30 am.</p>	<p>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 63, Tuesday at 10:30 am.)</p>
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W	9:00-1:00	Dr Osborn/Good/Niewohner	
	1:30-5:00	Dr Osborn/Good/Niewohner	
Th	9:00-1:00	Dr Osborn/Good/Sucha/Wolff	
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F	9:00-1:00	Dr Dawson/Dr Osborn/Wolff/Dr Thoendel	
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Using loophole, Seward County seizes millions from motorists without convicting them of crimes

One of every three state civil asset forfeiture seizures happen in this county, pop. 17,692. Proponents say it combats the drug trade and saves taxpayer money. Critics say it's highway robbery.

By Natalia Alamdari
Flatwater Free Press

Seward County routinely seizes money from motorists on Interstate 80, keeps the cash – and never convicts the drivers of a crime.

The county's sheriff's department and county attorney use this practice, known as civil asset forfeiture, so often that a third of all cases of this kind in Nebraska state courts come from Seward County, population 17,962, a Flatwater Free Press analysis of court records shows.

The county has hauled in \$7.5 million in forfeited cash in the past five years, some of it from civil forfeitures that state lawmakers thought they banned in 2016.

In Seward County, nearly all civil forfeitures begin when a deputy stops an out-of-state driver on the county's 24-mile stretch of Interstate 80. Much of this money ends up in law enforcement hands, after drivers – faced with a split-second choice between money or jail – often sign a form and abandon their cash.

Many in law enforcement, including Seward County Sheriff Mike Vance, say civil forfeiture is an important tool to take money out of criminal hands.

“The point is that we’re trying to dismantle these criminal organizations ... if you take their money, you’re crippling their ability to conduct their criminal activity,” said Amy Blackburn, an assistant U.S. attorney.

Some defense attorneys and advocates say civil asset forfeiture is little more than a law enforcement money grab.

“Citizens can have their property taken from them without ever being accused of a crime, or convicted of a crime, and that is simply not our American system of justice,” said Louis Rulli, a University of Pennsylvania law professor.

Christopher Bouldin, pulled over in August 2020 for following too closely, didn’t know anything about civil asset forfeiture when he stood with his dog on the westbound shoulder of I-80. Seward County Sheriff’s deputies had just searched his rental van, finding no drugs or guns, but locating \$18,000 in cash rolled in a blue sleeping bag.

They alleged it was drug money. He argued that it was for his trip to Colorado – he was driving west from Virginia – and for the potential purchase of a car.

Deputies zipped the cash in an evidence bag and then

produced an abandonment form. They gave him a choice, Bouldin said.

Sign this form, give up the cash and continue toward Colorado. Don’t sign, and you’re subject to felony charges.

“I can’t believe I’m getting robbed,” Bouldin said he remembers thinking.

In the past decade, Seward has seized money in at least 90 state civil forfeiture cases, nearly double any other Nebraska county. In those cases, they initially seized a total of \$2.2 million from motorists. (Other cases are tied to partnerships with federal law enforcement, while still others result in criminal charges, often when guns and drugs are also located.)

The \$2 million eventually kept by the county was split, half to a state schools fund and half to a county law enforcement fund.

That fund bought stun guns and bulletproof vests for the Seward and Milford Police Departments, a sheriff’s cruiser and an \$18,000 drone for the Nebraska State Patrol. It recently spent \$15,000 on two ballistic shields after the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

The highway seizures that net this money often start when a Seward County deputy alleges a traffic violation – speeding, improperly changing lanes, or like Bouldin, following too closely.

The deputy then asks the stopped driver basic questions. Where are you headed? What do you plan to do there?

Deputies note if the person seems nervous, how much luggage they have and if the vehicle smells of drugs.

They’re looking for “indicators of criminal activity,” said Vance, Seward County Sheriff. “Sometimes, you ask them where they’re headed to, they don’t know...they borrowed the car, they don’t know the name of the person who owns the car. Things like that will raise flags,” he said.

In the past decade, 75% of Seward County’s state civil forfeiture cases happened after a driver signed a form similar to the one Bouldin was handed, according to the Flatwater Free Press analysis.

These abandonment forms are constitutionally questionable, critics say. In the Omaha metro, the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office no longer uses them. Five states, including Wyoming, have banned them.

“They have to decide right then and there: Do they want to...risk being prosecuted for a felony?” said Daniel Stockmann, a Nebraska defense attorney who specializes in interstate drug cases. “I think a lot of people make the decision on the fly to just abandon the money and move on.”

Wendy Elston, Seward County attorney, said that a motorist who signs an abandonment form is given a court date where they can fight to get their money back.

One version of the Seward County form says a person must “abandon all claims to the above-described merchandise, and waive any further rights or proceedings.”

This can confuse motorists, Rulli said.

“How many motorists never challenge it, never go to court, because they’ve signed a document giving up their right to contest and go to court?” he said.

Vance disputes the idea that Seward County uses the form as a pressure tactic. Drivers often readily admit guilt, even before the form is introduced, he said.

In 2016, a man pulled over with \$14,000 told deputies: “I know you’re going to take the money and let me go, so just get it done. I’ve been through

this with Homeland Security before, so just give me the disclaimer,” according to court records.

Other Seward County court records show that sometimes the form startles motorists – and sometimes they claim feeling pressured to sign.

One driver said he signed an abandonment form out of fear, when deputies brought up Homeland Security and possible felony charges in 2015. He later fought for the seized \$10,400 in court. Another, arrested for drug money in January 2022, said prosecutors told his lawyer that if he abandoned the money, the criminal case would “go away.”

In August 2020, Bouldin refused to sign the abandonment form as he stood on the shoulder of I-80.

The Seward County deputies didn’t arrest him, as they had said they might. But they did seize his cash while charging him with a misdemeanor for possessing drug money – charges that were later dropped.

The county attorney continued with the seizure in civil court to keep the \$18,000. Bouldin received only a warning for a traffic violation.

A loophole the size of Seward County

Less than 3 miles off the interstate sit two aluminum buildings surrounded by corn and soybean fields. This is headquarters for Seward’s interdiction task force, where it trains K-9 units for counties throughout Nebraska and stores specialized equipment and seized cars.

Last year, using forfeiture funds, the department bought the building for \$806,000.

Seward’s history with highway seizures goes back to 2004, when county leaders asked former Sheriff Joe Yocum to look for new revenue.

Seward deputies have since regularly seized pounds of drugs, stolen guns and vacuum-sealed stacks of cash. They’ve rescued human trafficking victims, Vance said, and pulled over murder suspects.

But they also encounter drivers like Bouldin – drivers with no drugs but cash that deputies then seize.

“It’s patently wrong when you take people’s assets

without charging them of a crime,” said former state senator Tommy Garrett. “If law enforcement is doing their job, and really think that this is drug related, then by God, they should charge the person and convict the person.”

In 2016, Garrett, a Republican from Bellevue, passed a law that he, other state senators and civil liberties advocates believed abolished civil asset forfeiture. The bill’s statement of intent said it required a criminal conviction to seize money.

But the Legislature left two loopholes. Seizures over \$25,000 could circumvent state law by being adopted into federal court.

And law enforcement could still seize assets under state law if evidence connected the cash to drugs – even if there were no drugs present.

That allowance, unnoticed by bill supporters, left an opening for Nebraska police to continue with civil forfeiture, said Lee McGrath, senior legislative counsel for the Institute for Justice.

It’s the legal tactic Seward County now uses far more often than any other Nebraska county. “It’s absolutely frustrating,” said Laura Ebke, a Libertarian and ex-senator who sat on the Judiciary Committee in 2016. “To think that we got part way there, and then missed it because of this one little loophole...”

Seward County’s use of civil asset forfeiture has grown since Vance was elected sheriff in 2018. In 2021 alone, Seward County seized a combined \$2.3 million through civil forfeiture in state and federal court, according to a report to the state auditor.

On a single September 2022 morning in the Seward County Courthouse, Judge James Stecker approved the civil forfeiture of \$83,187 from five separate cases, all from people not convicted of a crime.

“We return very little money because we make very good cases,” said Blake Swicord, coordinator of the Seward-based Homeland Security task force. “If it’s not rock solid, we’re not going to take it.”

Money seized by civil forfeiture in Seward County is also rarely returned because it’s difficult and costly to fight.

How this story was reported

Records related to civil forfeiture are scattered across multiple state and federal agencies, and are sometimes incomplete. To get as full a picture as possible of asset forfeiture in Seward County and Nebraska, the Flatwater Free Press:

Spoke to nearly three dozen experts, law enforcement officers, former lawmakers, defense attorneys and drivers who have been pulled over in Seward County. Requested a county-by-county breakdown of civil forfeitures from the Nebraska Judicial Branch, finding that Seward County accounted for 1 in 3 forfeitures in the past 10 years. According to division researchers, this number could be a slight undercount.

Used a federal Department of Justice database and annual forms submitted by law enforcement agencies to calculate 5 years of forfeiture profits for all Nebraska agencies. This number includes both civil and criminal forfeitures. An analysis by the Institute for Justice found that from 2000 to 2019, 16% of DOJ forfeitures were processed criminally. From 2000 to 2016, 2% of Treasury forfeitures were.

Used county financial records to calculate how much civil forfeiture money went into the county’s drug and education fund over the past 5 years.

An initial records request sent by reporter Natalia Alamdari to the Seward County Sheriff’s Department was denied – the department pointed the Flatwater Free Press to annual forfeiture reports it files with the state auditor. But those reports, dating back to 2016, were either incomplete or missing entirely. Instead, Alamdari read a decade’s worth of court records in Seward County, combing through documents to answer the following questions:

What agencies were involved?

78 times out of 90 – 87% of stops – a state civil asset forfeiture stop was initiated by the Seward County Sheriff’s Department. Three other times, Saline or York County Sheriff’s deputies were making stops on the interstate in Seward County, working as task force members.

Did the person sign a notice of abandonment?

In 68 cases out of 90 – 75% of stops – drivers/passengers signed a form to abandon any claim to the money seized.

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Prepare for heat stress

Warm weather has returned and with it, the possibility for heat stress in animals. At especially high risk are animals on feed, like feedlot cattle, that are near harvest weights. While long lasting heat events can be deadly, with appropriate action, warm weather can be handled without too much issue.

Beef Systems Educator in Cumming County, Dr. Alfredo DiCostanzo shares the following strategies to prepare for mitigate extreme heat.

Preparation

10-day weather or Mesonet forecasts are fairly accurate. Watch weather forecasts start acting on preparation steps and be prepared to remediate the problem.

How so?

- Consider marketing finished or nearly finished cattle
- If unable to market, move finished cattle to pens deemed to be less prone to heat stress (pens with shade, greater wind exposure, greater water access, or where bedding may be delivered easily)
- Avoid receiving cattle during heat event
- Resist temptation to increase feed deliveries or simply reduce feed deliveries
- Increase forage in the diet: Use storm diets or diets with more roughage
- Avoid diets containing fat (adding fat to the diet leads to greater metabolic heat load)
- Assign heat remediation tasks to one lead individual in team. Empower this individual to delegate tasks to other individuals, as appropriate.
- Make plans to do any cattle processing before heat event
- Plan to conduct pen riding and sick cattle pulling in the early morning hours
- Remove any movable barriers to air flow
- If possible, set up shades, but only if 12 ft high and at least 16 square feet of space per head can be shaded
- Add and supply water stock tanks on fence lines away from existing water



Beef Systems
Asst. Ext. Educator
Ben Beckman

tanks

- If possible, set up sprinklers and turn them on ahead of heat event
- Plan to have additional water (accessing through local fire department or crop producers) and water wagons on hand

Be prepared to focus remediation efforts on high-priority pens. High-priority pens have one or more of these characteristics:

- Finished or near finished cattle
- Black cattle that haven't shed winter coats
- High intake cattle
- Cattle (pen mates) with previous history of digestive or respiratory illness

- Pens with poor wind movement (north slopes, wind breaks, in valleys)
- Pens with no shade
- Pens with restricted water access or poor water flow
- Pens with no sprinklers

Remediation

Once the heat even occurs, using the following options to reduce the impact of heat (In addition to preparation steps outlined above) with a focus on high-priority pens:

- Conduct pen riding and cattle pulling in the early morning hours
- Retain sick or compromised cattle in bedded or shaded hospital pens
- If cattle processing, loading or unloading must occur, defer to cooler hours of the day
- Reduce morning feed delivery
- Resist increasing feed deliveries or lower feed deliveries
- Consider adding an extra 10 percentage units of roughage to finishing diet or continue feeding storm ration delivery (remove diets containing fat)
- Dam a segment of feed bunk and deliver water within this segment
- If practical, blow ground stalks or straw or roll out straw or stalk bales on pen surface to insulate heat reflection from pen surface (about 10 to 20 square feet per head)

Dr. DiCostanzo is a great resource if you have more questions about heat stress in feedlot cattle. You can reach him at 402-372-6006 or email: adicostanzo3@unl.edu. While high temperatures are always risky, proper preparation and remediation can help us get through hot weather unscathed.

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

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Turn your backyard grill into a pizza oven

People naturally think burgers and hot dogs when they envision grilled foods. But there is so much more that can be cooked over an open fire, including desserts and even pizza. Grilling lends a distinctive smoky taste to both the crust and the toppings. Grilled pizzas start with a basic dough that cooks up quickly, and then can be customized with many different flavor profiles.

Basic Grilled Pizza Dough

Makes two 12-inch crusts

3/4 cup warm water
1 package active dry yeast (about 2-1/4 teaspoons)
1/2 teaspoon sugar
1-1/2 cups unbleached flour
1/4 cup whole wheat flour
1 teaspoon kosher salt
2 tablespoons cornmeal, preferably white, plus additional for the pan
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, plus 1/4 teaspoon for the bowl

- Pour the warm water into a small bowl or measuring cup. Add the yeast and sugar and stir until the yeast dissolves into a smooth beige color. Let it stand on your counter for about 5 minutes to prove that the yeasted water is active. A thin layer of foam will appear on the top, indicating that the batch is good.
- Add the flours, salt, and cornmeal to a 4- or 5-quart standing mixing bowl. Use the dough hook attachment on the lowest speed to mix the dry ingredients. Add the yeasted water and the 2 tablespoons of

olive oil. Mix on the slowest speed to allow the ingredients to come together. You may need to scrape down the sides with a spatula. Then move to medium-high speed and knead for 2 minutes. The batter should form a ball, unless it's too wet or sticky. If so, add only enough flour to prevent it from sticking. The dough should come off the sides cleanly and form a ball.

- Put the remaining 1/4 teaspoon of olive oil in a medium bowl. The dough will be sticky, so flour your hands before picking it up, and place it in the bowl. Turn it over several times until it is coated in oil. This prevents a crust from forming on its surface as it rises.
- Cover with plastic wrap, and place in a draft-free, warm place, 70° to 80° F, for two hours, until it rises to almost double in appearance.
- Chill the dough in the refrigerator overnight, or for 1 hour to firm it up. Since the dough is slightly sticky, chilling the dough makes it easier to roll out. Chilling it overnight gives the dough more flavor and texture. Dough will keep in the refrigerator for three days.
- Punch down the dough gently to remove gas.
- Lightly flour about a foot of space on a clean, dry countertop. Flatten the dough with your hands to about a 1-inch thickness. Cut in half with a knife.
- Put one piece of dough in the center of the floured space and sprinkle a little flour over the top. Using a rolling pin, make smooth strokes to roll out the



dough starting from the center out to the edges. Roll the dough out to about a 12-inch diameter. Sprinkle the crust with a fine layer of flour. It will make the dough easier to handle, and prevent stickiness.

- Position two cookie sheets with no sides, or two pizza screens, next to your dough. Sprinkle them generously with flour or cornmeal, so the dough will not stick. Pick up the dough with two hands and fold gently in half.
- Transfer the dough to a cookie sheet. Unfold dough onto the pan to make it flat and stretch out the dough to an approximate 12-inch diameter.

Repeat with the second piece of dough.

- The grill should be medium hot to grill the crust. Hold the cookie sheet close to it and slide the dough onto the grill. If the dough folds in on itself, try to move the edges quickly to form a flat crust.
- The dough should take about 3 minutes to cook. Watch for bubbles. Lift the underside. It should be an even light brown with grill marks.
- Pick up the crust from the middle, using tongs, and place it on your cookie sheet. Flip it over so the grilled side is face up. This browned side becomes the top of your pizza.

Crossword Puzzle

CLUES ACROSS

- Small Eurasian deer
- Irish county
- A major division of geological time
- Broadway actor Lane
- Canadian province
- It causes fainting (abbr.)
- Two
- A notable one is blue
- Utter repeatedly
- Rings
- Sullies
- Occurs
- Publicity
- Near
- Tools of a trade
- Offer in good faith
- "American Idol" network
- Garments
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Retired NFL DC Dean
- Hot meal
- A type of gin
- Percussion instrument
- A \$10 bill
- About ground
- Medicine man
- Seedless raisin
- National capital of Albania
- Appendage
- OJ trial judge
- By the way
- Bicycle parts
- Barbie's friend
- In a way, stretched
- Commercials

CLUES DOWN

- Make up for
- American songbird
- Pay
- International organization

- Engravers
- Declared as fact
- Criminal
- Jewelry
- Hospital worker (abbr.)
- Nonsense (slang)
- Town in Galilee
- Value
- Another name
- Sheep in second year before shearing
- Town in Surrey, England
- Appropriate during a time of year
- Creative output
- Recesses
- District in N. Germany
- Rider of Rohan
- The official emblem of the German Third Reich
- One who puts down roots
- Scribe
- Painted a bright color
- Tycoons
- Actress Thurman
- Walking accessory
- Crest of a hill
- Member of a North American people
- Type of computer
- U.S. State (abbr.)

Classifieds

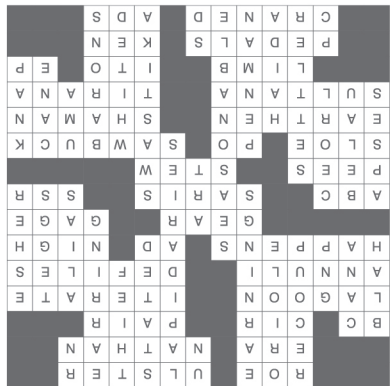
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Proceedings — Antelope County Board of Commissioners					
ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Neligh, Nebraska June 27th, 2023 Chairman opened the meeting. Notice of meeting published as required by statute. Approved agenda. Approved minutes of the June 13th, 2023, BOC Meeting. Review of Claims. Approved vendor claims. General: APPEARA ex 34.70; APPLIED CONN TECH ut 3,862.73; AXON ENTERPRISE ex 4,210.61; BLACK HILLS ENERGY ut 372.08; BOMGAARS ex 177.92; DEBORAH BRANSTITER ex 439.08; CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING ex 11,065.90; CHARM-TEX ex 3,359.90; CORNHUSKER STATE INDUSTRIES ex 1,300.00; DAS STATE ACCTG ex 161.00; EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS ex 6,250.29; GRAHAM TIRE ex 756.00; TESSA HAIN ex 357.91; JACKS UNIFORMS/EQUIP ex 159.89; KNOX CO TREAS ex 1,885.70; BEVERLY KRUTZ ex 102.20; LICHTENBERG TIRE SVC ex 2,349.44; WILLETTA LINDSAY ex 30.00; MADISON CO DIST	COURT ex 50.00; MADISON CO SHERIFF ex 29.65; MENARDS ex 43.03; DAVID MILLER ex 23.40; MOYER & MOYER ex 6,938.30; MR S'S ex 481.16; NEBR HEALTH/HUMAN SVCS ex 93.00; PHYLLIS PERDEW ex 23.40; PETTY CASH (CO SHERIFF) ex 334.49; PITZER DIGITAL ex 314.82; PLATTE VALLEY COMMS ex 10,604.26; QUILL CORP ex 1,106.09; KURT RAKOW ex 54.75; SANNE REPAIR ex 2,036.68; SCHINDLER ELEVATOR CORP ex 1,291.91; STEALTH BROADBAND ut 1,038.24; RON THIELE ex 36.50; ULINE ex 2,887.07; MEGAN WINGATE ex 345.26; GREG WORTMAN ex 109.50; DAN ZWINGMAN ex 43.80; 319 GRAPHICS/T'S ex 2,260.50; FIRST CONCORD BENEFITS ins 1,644.69; NEBR CO ATTORNEYS ASSN ex 457.00; CITY OF NELIGH ex 4,172.09; HOLIDAY INN ex 329.90; KOINZAN ENTERPRISES ex 243.73; REGION 4 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM ex 6,249.00; BOMGAARS ex 333.32; ANTELOPE CO TREAS ex 1,200,000.00; MARVIN PLANNING CONSULTANTS ex	1,450.00; JONNY DODGE ex 55,795.00; Road/Bridge: A&R CONSTRUCTION ex 577,663.37; BAZILE AGGREGATE CO ex 13,675.93; BLACK HILLS ENERGY ut 289.10; BLACKBURN MFG ex 819.38; BOMGAARS ex 1,132.10; CARQUEST ex 231.79; DIXON CONSTRUCTION ex 133,893.67; EMME SAND/GRAVEL ex 17,708.95; FRONTIER COMM ut 336.28; LYLE HART ex 250.00; JOEL SINCLAIR ex 28,169.46; JOHN DEERE CREDIT ex 568,962.00; KNIFE RIVER MIDWEST ex 5,889.60; LAMMERS TRAILER REPAIR ex 251.75; LICHTENBERG TIRE SVC ex 2,160.00; MATTEO SAND/GRAVEL ex 2,942.70; NMC EXCHANGE ex 22.38; QUALITY IRON/METAL ex 233.14; RAZOR TRACKING ex 900.00; REINKE'S FARM/CITY SVC ex 895.92; SAPP BROTHER PETROLEUM ex 2,774.75; SPUD CONSTRUCTION ex 313,320.20; SPUD TRUCKING ex 40,180.00; STEALTH BROADBAND ut 95.01; A&R CONSTRUCTION ex 152,626.78; FIRST CON-	CORD BENEFITS ins 396.37; ANTELOPE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ex 204.00; K&S DOOR ex 5,268.00; NORTHEAST GLASS ex 250.00; CITY OF NELIGHREC Y ex 250.00; MISSOURI PETROLEUM PRODUCTS ex 75,325.95; ROAD BUILDERS ex 3,770.26; Visitor/Tourism Promotion: OLD SCHOOL THRIFT STORE ex 1,750.00; Law Enforcement: CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING ex 117.00; CREIGHTON LOCKER ex 408.00; APRIL CURTISS ex 120.00; EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS ex 6,949.20; ELGIN APPLIANCE/MORE ex 359.67; HILLTOP DRUG ex 230.52; AM-	BER SHEER ex 52.50; Reappraisal: ANTELOPE CO TREAS ex 0.16. Correspondence was reviewed. Approved Appeara Contract. Approved Nebraska State Print Shop for Pink Postcard printing and mailing. Road Superintendent Report: Approved three (3) oversize permits. Approved pay applications A & R Construction, Dixon Construction, Missouri Petroleum. Approved change order, and approved certificate of substantial completion. Zoning Administrators Report. Met as a BOE. Appointment of Weed Authority member.	Authorized clerk to adjust function balance to balance General Fund. Approved journal entry and revenue adjustments to balance Commissary and General Fund. County Attorney to do away with Petty Cash in the office. Will accept local financing options next meeting. Meeting Adjourned. Antelope County Board of Commissioners CHARLIE HENERY Chairman of County Board Attest: LISA PAYNE /s/ Antelope County Clerk PUBLISH: July 5, 2023 ZNEZ

Notice — Estate of James T. Meyer	
NOTICE Estate of JAMES T. MEYER, Deceased Notice is hereby given that on June 20, 2023, in the County Court of Antelope County, Nebraska, Case No. PR23-21, Cheryl Marie Watson, whose mailing address is 380 Robert Rd., Malcolm, Nebraska 68402, has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before August 28, 2023 or be forever barred. Creditors shall submit their claims to the	Antelope County Court, P.O. Box 26, Neligh, Nebraska 68756. /s/ Martin V. Klein Martin V. Klein, #22220 Attorney for Applicant PUBLISH: June 28, July 5 & 12, 2023 ZNEZ

Proceedings — Antelope County Board of Equalization		
ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION Neligh, NE June 27th, 2023 Notice of meeting published as required by statute. A complete record of these minutes as well as all resolu-	tions and agreements are on file at the County Clerk's Office and are open to the public. Over/Under report was presented. Seven (7) tax roll corrections were approved. Meeting adjourned.	Antelope County Board of Equalization CHARLIE HENERY, Chairman Attest: LISA PAYNE Antelope County Clerk PUBLISH: July 5, 2023 ZNEZ

Notice of Meeting — Antelope County Board of Equalization	
NOTICE OF MEETING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS A COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION, ANTELOPE COUNTY, NEBRASKA Notice is hereby given that the County Board of Commissioners of Antelope County, Nebraska will hold a County Board of Equalization meeting in the Commissioner's Meeting Room in the Antelope County Courthouse Annex, Neligh, Nebraska	on July 19th, 2023 beginning at 8:00 AM, for the purpose of reviewing and deciding written protests filed pursuant to sections 77-1502 to 77-1507 pertaining to the assessment value of their property, possible action on approving tax roll corrections; and various other items which may become necessary to act upon. Meeting will be opened to the public. Protest hearings will be scheduled at 10-minute intervals, allowing a couple of

Notice of Meeting — District #45 Board of Education		
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF WHEELER CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DISTRICT #45-WHEELER COUNTY NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE WHEELER CEN-	TRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE HELD AT THE WHEELER CENTRAL OLD MEDIA ROOM IN BARTLETT, NEBRASKA. ON: MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023 TIME: 7:00 P.M. WHICH MEETING WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. AN AGENDA FOR SUCH MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE	OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, WHEELER CENTRAL SCHOOLS, BARTLETT, NEBRASKA. DREW KASSELDER CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF EDUCATION WHEELER CENTRAL SCHOOLS PUBLISH: July 5, 2023 ZNEZ

Commissioners take first step towards 2023 ‘Truth in Taxation’ hearing

It's rare when the Antelope County Board of Commissioners meet three times in one month. Yet, that's what happened last week (June 27) at the Antelope County Courthouse in Neligh. Among the items the board acted on was the approval of the Nebraska State Print Shop to print postcards and mailing. These aren't any ordinary postcards, yet county taxpayers should be familiar with them. In the coming weeks, county residents will receive 'pink' postcards in the mail announcing the date for the county's 'Truth in Taxation' (TT) hearing.	The hearing date is for Antelope County, school districts and tax subdivisions to make known their tax asking for the coming fiscal year. The hearing will be held to comply with the Property Tax Request Act passed by the Nebraska Legislature. The philosophy being that levy property taxes should be transparent and easy to understand. If property values substantially increase for cities, counties, school district or community college districts, then these boards need to justify to taxpayers why they should collect additional property tax revenue (if in excess of two percent from one year ago).	Last year's TT hearing was held in late September. In other action: Permits — Commissioners approved two 'heavy haul permits for Barnhart Crane to Prairie Breeze Wind Tower 17. Also approved was an oversize permit for Wilkerson Crane Rental to Prairie Breeze Wind Tower 88. Approved — Pay applications for A&R Construction (\$577,663.37 and \$152,626.78), Dixon Construction (\$298,350.30) and Missouri Petroleum (\$75,325.95) were approved. Adjustments — The commissioners approved County Clerk Lisa Payne to make adjustments to the general budget (\$250, county board; \$2,000, historical). And, on a separate matter, the commissioners approved a journal entry and revenue adjustment to balance the commissary and general fund. Also, the county attorney was authorized to do away with a petty cash fund in the office.
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Fischer to seek re-election

U.S. Senator Deb Fischer announced her intentions to seek re-election to the United States Senate last week.

Surrounded by long-time supporters and several high-ranking community leaders and elected officials at the Nebraska State Capitol, Senator Fischer made it official.

In making the announcement, Fischer said, "Each and every day since I took the oath as your U.S. Senator, I have fought for Nebraskans.

"I am proud of my record. There's no question I'm a conservative. Just take a look at my votes. Glenn Beck recently said I outflank Josh Hawley in that regard," she said..

She said Nebraskans understand national defense.

"Nebraskans know there is no more fundamental, core duty of a limited government than national defense – protecting this nation. And that is where I focus the vast majority of my time as your senator every single day.

"As a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, I have worked tirelessly to ensure our men and women in uniform have the resources they need to complete the missions we ask of them ... And today I am humbly asking for your support – and your vote – so that I might continue to serve the people I know."

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



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

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"The salvation of the State is watchfulness in the citizen."
Hartley Burr Alexander

The Elgin Review

Date set for ECC Steak Fry

A handful of Elgin Chamber of Commerce/Community Club members met last Wednesday for their regular June meeting.

A wrap-up discussion of Vetch Days events was held with the consensus that the majority of them were well-attended. Members will be looking into costs for different bounce house-type items and other mobile events with the idea that activities will be shifting to be held at the Elgin City Park, likely beginning in 2024.

Attention then shifted to upcoming events.

In August, the End-of-Summer Steak Fry will again be held at the Elgin City Park. This year's steak fry will be on Friday, August 11. Plans are to serve a Rib Eye dinner which will be \$30 (includes the usual sides, dessert and a complimentary drink ticket for adults).

The decision was made to open up the steak fry to those under 21 with that ticket being \$25 and having no drink ticket. IDs will be required to receive an Over-21 wrist band for purchasing and consumer drinks from the bar.

The Elgin Car Show/Show and Shine will be held on Sunday, September 10 at the Elgin City Park. Also on that day will be the Treasures in the Park event featuring home-based and hand-crafted items for sale.

Remaining events for the year include Business Trick or Treating in October (Tuesday, October 31st), the Turkey Giveaway (signups at businesses will begin on Monday, November 6th) and Christmas in Elgin (kids events plus the Christmas parade downtown) with a tentative date of Wednesday, December 6th.

The next meeting for the Chamber/Community Club will be Monday evening, July 24 at the Elgin KC Hall.

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Wolfpack Sports

Elgin Summer Ball Teams



Playing this season for the Elgin Girls 6U softball team were (front row, l-r): Rhyann Hoefer, Hadley Haddix, Lillian Whitney, Emersyn Heying and Hadley Burke. Back row: Coach Sharon Bartak, Ainsley Beckman, Selena Lopez, Aubree Lemke, Haley Selting, Adalyn Veik and Coach Keyera Eisenhauer. Not pictured: Leighton Engel. E-R photo/JMcNally



Members of the Elgin #2 Junior Pee Wee team this season were front row, l-r: Max Borer, Ace Pelster, Grant Blecher, Owen Childers and Anton Shavlik. Back row: Coach Tina Thiele-Blecher, Jackson Evans, Carter Lemburg, Diedrick Klein, Bentley Kittelson, Mark Schindler, Hunter Zawacky and Coach Matt Pelster. E-R photo/JMcNally

"And that's a wrap ..."

ELGIN — Back in the early 1960s, crooner Sam Cooke had a big hit with the song 'Having A Party.'

The Elgin Review on Thursday afternoon did their best impression of 'Having A Party' was we were joined by more than 60 persons celebrating the newspaper and Community Newspaper Week (CNW).

Newspapers across the state last week used different means to celebrate CNW. It had been proclaimed earlier this year by Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen, in large part due to the Nebraska Press Association celebrating 150 years of existence. As for your hometown paper, *The Review* has been around for 140 years, soon to turn 141 in October.

While we spend the great majority of our time celebrating your achievements, it was nice to visit with some of our readers and share a bit of newspaper history.

Among the highlights of our party were:

Displays — We made a video showing the evolution of newspaper printing, from the beginning with the Gutenberg Press to today's way of printing papers. *The Review* is designed here in Elgin, then shipped off via the Internet to White Wolf Printing based in Sheldon, Iowa where it is printed that night, then transported back by truck to Elgin on Wednesday morning each week. The paper, generally arrives sometime between 9-10 a.m., is labeled and taken to the post office before noon to catch the mail truck. From there, it goes to Omaha where it is distributed to subscribers across the country.

On a nearby easel, attendees could read the coverage of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. The newspaper devoted more than a page worth of copy about the disaster which was published on April 26, 1912.

Across the country — The newspaper is now being received by subscribers in 30 states. Only in New England do we not send papers, the rest of the continental United States as well as Hawaii and Alaska now receives our paper each week.

Stinging commentary — Through the years the Review has never been afraid to take a stand, using space to say what needs to be said. Here's one such example which, fittingly, could be published today.

This and that — Attendees were treated to a white cake decorated with the NPA's logo, prepared by former Elgin resident Taylor (Sehi) Hambleton. There were cookies made and decorated by Elgin's own Kristina Sehi. Both were delicious.

Pens were given away, so too a number of one-year subscriptions as well as T-shirts reflecting the pride Lynell and I have had the past 16 years serving as your publishers. The T-shirts proved to be a popular item as a number of people asked about acquiring them.

Thanks for the many compliments and well wishes we received during our 'Party.' On behalf of myself and Lynell, staff members Bernice Siems, Betty Kallhoff, Olivia Klein and Juliana McNally, let's do it again sometime soon!

After all, shouldn't we all live every day like it was Saturday night?

SPINNING TALES



Dennis Morgan
Publisher

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THANK YOU!
to all who joined us at the
NEBRASKA COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER WEEK
open house - hosted by
The Elgin Review - last Thursday.

Winners from the drawings are:

Jill McNally - 1 yr subscription
Phyllis Camp - 1 yr subscription
Rick Schuchardt - 1 yr subscription
Marie Smith - 1 yr subscription
Ramona Hagemeister - 1 yr subscription
Winners who are current subscribers, we'll automatically add the year to your account.

Lynne Scholt - T-Shirt
Sr. Pat Hoffman - T-Shirt
Marla Schindler - T-Shirt
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as a 'Letter to the Editor' in next week's issue of *The Elgin Review*.

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AMH shows off remodeled rooms at open house Thursday evening

“On Thursday, June 29th, we rolled out the red carpet at Antelope Memorial Hospital to celebrate the open house for our newly remodeled patient rooms/nursing floor and infusion room,” said Diane Brugger, AMH CEO. “Over 100 individuals from area commu-

nities attended.” The \$3.7 million project was begun in September 2021 and completed in three phases to allow AMH to continue operating during construction, added Brugger. The 2020 pandemic was a key reason for moving forward with the

remodel. The benefits of the remodel are many. The number of patient beds was decreased to allow for an increase in the size of the remodeled patient rooms and number of private rooms. Each of the remodeled patient rooms has:

- Its own shower and offers more space and easy access to its shower/toilet
 - Negative air pressure capabilities, greatly reducing the spread of possible pathogens
 - New heating and air conditioning
 - Greatly enhanced lighting – that is also adjustable
 - Oxygen units with suction and med gas capabilities
 - Greater access to electrical resources – in meeting today’s technological needs for patient care (now more monitors, pumps, etc – than in the 1970s)
 - All bed mattresses have been replaced – for added comfort.
 - Added patient safety: All beds have special safety features with alarms that may be used to alert nursing staff – of a patient sitting up, getting too close to the bed’s edge and/or getting out of bed (without help).
 - Other added safety and enhanced flow of services: Patient call lights alert nursing staff (at call light center located at the nursing station) – of each patient’s call while also indicating reason for said call. In addition, the call light system alerts nursing staff when a patient’s IV needs replaced – (if the IV buzzer is not heard).
- Other safety features of the remodeling project include:
- Two rooms are dedicated for patients in isolation (e.g.: pneumonia, influenza or Covid) – with negative air pressure capabilities.
 - Nearby ante/alcove area conveniently provides sinks and storage for clean gowns, masks and face shields. (This



On Thursday evening, Antelope Memorial Hospital celebrated the open house for its newly remodeled patient rooms/nursing floor and infusion room. Pictured at the grand entry are (l-r): John Mlnarik, president of the AMH Board of Trustees; Diane Brugger, CEO; and Jack Green, project manager. Over 100 area residents attended the event. Photo submitted

allows personnel to deliver care to isolated patients safely while helping to eliminate the spread of contagious pathogens.)

- A second nurses’ station is located near rooms dedicated for patients requiring isolation – which enhances flow of services.

AMH’s new remodel also includes a bariatric room. It has a bariatric bed which supports patients of size and is extra wide and adjustable to allow patients enhanced ease of positioning and more comfort.

The bed also has special alarms to detect patient motion. In addition, the room has a ceiling lift suspension for transporting patients from bed to bathroom – to accommodate

larger patients and protect nursing staff from lifting injuries.

Other special features of the project include a main nursing station which is spacious and houses the patient call light system and camera to view numerous locations and entry areas of hospital. The project also offers a new hydrotherapy room, nursing staff breakroom, dictation room and nursery (located near the nurses’ station with lock key entry).

The new infusion room allows AMH to grow its services for infusions of antibiotics, chemotherapy and/or other specialty infusions or injections (hormones, vitamins, etc.), said Brugger. Each of

the four infusion units offers a heated recliner, documentation station for nursing, privacy and relaxation (with own TV). Plus, a station with coffee and water will be on-site. AMH’s new infusion room conveniently offers services close-to-home (saving travel time and expenses).

Overall, the newly remodeled areas are aesthetically pleasing and spacious to both our patients and staff, added Brugger. In addition, the layout greatly enhances the flow and efficacy of patient services delivered. Our new nursing floor will also help retain and attract the professionals required to maintain the continuum of health care excellence found at AMH.

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Ricketts

From Page Four

flag tributes. Avenue of Flags is one such organization in Kearney. Started by Dorothy McCammon in 1984, Avenue of Flags has grown from a VFW Auxiliary project with 44 flags to an annual tradition including 480 veteran casket flags and 1,800 small grave flags in the Memorial Day parade of flags this year. Recently, my team presented a Capitol-flown flag to Avenue of Flags in recognition of their important work honoring the women and men who have kept us free. I encourage Nebraskans to consider this meaningful gesture as a way to recognize the

remarkable achievements and contributions of individuals and organizations within our communities. Flag requests can be made by contacting my office at 202-224-4224 or on my website at www.ricketts.senate.gov/services/.

This Independence Day, let us recommit ourselves to the ideas embodied by the American flag, remembering that it reflects the values and principles that make America so exceptional. Let us strive to be worthy of the sacrifices made by those who came before us to make our union more perfect. Working together, we can meet the challenges we face and ensure a brighter future.

Rain

From Page One

on The Elgin Review’s Facebook Page.

Officially, Weather Observer Leonard Orlowski reported 2.35 inches of rain. However, a number of Elgin residents reported receiving higher amounts in their rain gauges.

The highest amount of rain reported was at the Tom Hoefer farm just south of Elgin.

There, Bonnie Hoefer said they received five inches. Others reporting moisture were:

- Pat Hupp, 2.10 inches east of Oakdale
- Robin Eckert, 1.62 inches in Oakdale and 2.25 inches south of Oakdale as of 10:30 Saturday morning
- Wanda Worlein, 3.64 inches south edge of Elgin
- Cassandra Schrad, 2.5 inches at their home in Elgin
- Beverly Becker, 4 inches seven miles west of Elgin
- Joyce Reestman, 2.8 inches at their home in Elgin
- Mary Klein, 3 inches six miles north of Elgin
- Lois Schrunk, 1.5 inches at their home west of Elgin
- Sherri Iburg, 4.2 inches west of Elgin
- Jake Schwarting, 2.8 inches at his home
- Deb Tharnish, 2.8 inches at their home in Elgin
- Steve Kerkman, 4.8 inches at his home west of Elgin
- Dave Arends, 1.5 inches in Petersburg



A fitting celebration

A fantastic Independence Day celebration was held last week at Park Congregational UCC Church. Held June 28, they had an awesome turn out for the event. A potluck supper was held, followed by softball, kids games including a water balloon toss and concluding with fireworks. Photo submitted

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