

Evans showed she belongs among the best in Florida
See page 11



BCHC adds new physical therapist
See page 12

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The Elgin Review

Wednesday
July 16, 2025

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In Brief

ECCC youth to hold car wash fundraiser

On Saturday, July 26.

The Elgin Community Christian Church Youth Group will be holding a fundraiser on Saturday, July 26 (weather permitting).

On that day, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., youth group members will hold a car wash fundraiser.

The location will be at the farmers market building north of Jerry's Feed.

Open to all, free will donations will be accepted during the four-hour event.

For more information, call (605) 430-9171 or one can email jonbraden@gmail.com.

Date announced for August bloodmobile visit

To be held Tuesday, August 12.

It's the right thing to do,

The American Red Cross has announced the date for the next bloodmobile coming to Elgin.

The bloodmobile will be in Elgin on Tuesday, August 12.

They will accept blood donors between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. that day.

All blood types are needed at this time of the year.

To make an appointment to give blood, to to redcrossblood.org.

Donating blood saves lives!

Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

- Notice of Liquor License — Antelope Country Club
- Proceedings — Antelope County Board of Commissioners
- Proceedings — The Elgin City Council

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

Weather

The high temperature last week was 86 degrees recorded on Tuesday, July 8.

The low temperature during the same period was 57 degrees recorded on Friday, July 11.

Altogether, 4.51 inches of precipitation was recorded last week.

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

Date	High	Low	Prec
July 6	81	65	.00
July 7	85	63	1.57
July 8	86	68	.00
July 9	88	66	.08
July 10	82	63	.75
July 11	82	57	1.11
July 12	77	60	.00
Total for last week			4.51
Total for July			6.29
Total precipitation 2025			17.35



Photo submitted

Having scored the winning run in their final at-bat, the Elgin Eliminators 10U team later hoisted the trophy high, winning the Class D State Softball Tournament Sunday afternoon at Hastings.

Eliminators sweep five games to win Class D State Tournament

Selting scores winning run in championship game

HASTINGS — “It was a great weekend!”

Those were the words Coach Jill McNally used to sum up the Elgin Eliminators 10U softball team winning the Class D State Tournament in Hastings.

Elgin strung together five victories over a three-day span to win the championship, making memories which will last the rest of their lives.

They won with offense - scoring 44 runs in the tournament.

They won with defense - allowing just six runs in five games.

They shut out teams from O'Neill, Geneva and York in their first three games.

They finished the tournament with back-to-back victories over Central City.

They won games when the outcome was never in doubt.

And, they won the championship game in their final at-bat.

“We never played from behind (the entire tournament),” McNally told *The Elgin Review* Monday morning.

Having taken teams to state before, she said this year's team had a focus unlike any other. “We just played game by game to win the tournament,” she said.

The Eliminators opened the tournament against a familiar foe from O'Neill. Having posted multiple victories over them earlier in the season, Elgin never

let O'Neill into the game, posting a 12 to 0 victory.

Next up on Saturday was a talented team from Geneva. Again, the Eliminators dominated play both on the field and at-bat, winning 12 to 0.

Also on Saturday, Elgin squared off against York, winning the game five to zero.

Kinley Selting was a standout on the mound, time and time again hitting her spots in the zone to record strikeouts. She wrapped up the tournament with 39 strikeouts.

“One of the strengths of our team was Kinley to pitch in the zone that it is called,” McNally. Her battery mate behind home plate was Brooke Borer who didn't allow one run to cross the plate via a passed ball for the entire tournament.

“She was a wall,” McNally said of her star catcher.

Sunday began with a semi-final round matchup against Central City.

The Eliminators, playing true to form, just kept scoring runs. This time they piled up 12 in a 12 to 2 victory.

As fate would have it, they would face Central City again in the championship game.

This time it would be a different story as Central City kept the game close.

With the game on the line, McNally went to the mound to talk to Selting.

See ELIMINATORS, Page 2 ►

DeKay plans to seek re-election

As District #40 state senator

On Wednesday, July 9, Barry DeKay of Niobrara announced he will be seeking a second term to represent District 40 in the Nebraska Legislature. DeKay was elected to the Legislature in 2022 after winning both the four-person primary, followed by decisive general election victory. Since being elected, DeKay has served the Transportation & Telecommunications, Judiciary, Agriculture, General Affairs, Natural Resources, and State-Tribal Relations Committees. In 2025,

DeKay was elected Chairman of the Agriculture Committee for the 109th Legislature by his peers.

“I appreciate the confidence of the voters in the district to serve our interests in Lincoln,”

DeKay said. “As your state senator, I have focused on legislation for the betterment of District 40.”

DeKay is a fourth-generation rancher from Niobrara who has served our communities and state throughout his career. DeKay formerly served on the Nebraska Public Power District for 6 years, serving one year as Chairman of the Board. DeKay served as a state director and served as

President of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association, been a member of the Niobrara Valley Electric Corporation, NPPD Nuclear Committee, Niobrara Valley Hospital Foundation, and has been a high school and college basketball official for over 41 years.



State Senator
Barry DeKay

“Protecting agriculture and our Nebraska way of life will always be a priority for me as your representative in Lincoln,” DeKay continued.

In 2024 Senator DeKay passed LB 1301, the Foreign-owned Real Estate National Security Act, banning foreign adversaries from owning ag land in Nebraska. In 2025, DeKay passed another bill protecting agricultural interests passing LB 246 to ban the sale of lab-grown meat. In 2025

DeKay secured funding for Weigand – Lewis and Clark SRA to expand, opening opportunities for tourism.

“As your State Senator I will continue working on issues important to our area and listen to the great people of the district,” DeKay continued. “Throughout my life and career, I have always answered the call to serve, and serving our communities in the 40th District in the State

Legislature has provided a great opportunity to help our local communities. I will stand up for the people of District 40.”

See DeKay, Page 10 ►



Courtesy photo

Big ‘stones’ fall from the sky

Thursday night, July 17, saw numerous severe thunderstorms sweep through much of Antelope County. In some cases, large hail accompanied the storms. This photo was taken by Kristin Zegers of golf ball size hail west of Elgin. The egg provides perspective to how big the hail stones were.

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Understanding choices for every cataract patient

By Vance Thompson, MD

Few decisions in life are more impactful than the choice to undergo cataract surgery—and how to have it done.

Because cataract surgery is so common, many patients don't realize it involves important decisions that can affect their vision for the rest of their lives.

Modern technology has introduced new options for how the surgery is performed and what type of lens implant is used. These choices matter.

Before we explore the available options, it's important to

first understand what a cataract is and the role of the natural lens in our vision.

The Lens of the Eye

Behind the pupil sits the eye's natural lens.

When we're young (typically under age 40), this lens is flexible and able to shift focus to help us read and see clearly at all distances. It also contributes about 20% of the eye's focusing power.

As we age, this lens gradually becomes stiffer—often starting in our 40s—leading to difficulty seeing up close.

This is why people begin to need reading glasses or bifocals. Over time, the lens also becomes cloudy, reducing the quality of vision even with glasses. When this happens, it's called a cataract.

Cataract surgery is one of

the most successful and common procedures in the world. It involves replacing the cloudy natural lens with a clear artificial lens implant.

Lens Replacement Surgery: More Than Just Cataract Removal

During cataract surgery, we remove the clouded lens and replace it with a new, clear one. Some lens implants restore clarity but still require glasses—often trifocals—to help patients see far away, up close, and at intermediate distances (like a computer screen).

Other advanced lens implants do much more. They restore both clarity and a full range of vision, often giving patients the ability to read, work, and drive without glasses—similar to the visual range they had in their 30s.

It's important to understand:

- Insurance typically covers the standard lens that restores clarity only.
- Advanced lens implants, which restore clarity and reading range, involve an additional investment by the patient.
- Both options are good—but which is best depends on the patient's lifestyle, eye health, and visual goals. Your consultation with your eye doctor and surgeon helps with these important decisions.

Some people choose to have Lens Replacement Surgery even before their cataract fully forms, especially if they're in their 40s to 60s and want to eliminate their need for reading glasses or bifocals.

This is called Refractive Lens Exchange and the patients who

Bartlett News

Jean Mildred (Dwinell) Poss of Elba died Thursday June 26, 2025 at the age of 90.

She attended grade school at Gritta Ridge and graduated from Wheeler County High School in Bartlett.

Our thoughts and prayers are lifted up for her family.

I just returned from a week-end of visiting Andy, Nikki, Hannah and Ty Tetschner in Lincoln.

Hannah attended a Lincoln Middle School 'Strings Camp,' this past week which culminated in a concert for the public Friday morning which her family and I attended.

My favorite selections were 1812 Overture and Jurassic Park. Hannah's instrument is the violin.

Sunday afternoon we attended Ty's YMCA sponsored baseball game.

Andy is one of several men who help coach.

Most of the team are seven year-old boys and just beginning to learn the ropes of the game.

Other weekend activities at Andy's home were eating crepes made by Hannah, a cooking lesson by Grandma teaching Hannah how to make biscuits (from scratch) and sausage gravy and chocolate chip oatmeal cookies mixed up and baked by the Tetschner trio - Hannah, Ty and myself.

By Sherry Tetschner

do it never need to worry about developing a cataract and they are not dependent on reading glasses or bifocals anymore.

Surgical Technique: Manual vs. Laser Lens Capsule Opening

The natural lens is housed in a thin, clear membrane called the capsule—imagine a grape inside a grape skin.

During surgery, the surgeon must create a round opening in the front of the capsule, about 5.0 mm in diameter, perfectly centered over the lens.

This allows the lens to be removed and the new implant to be placed in the capsule.

After surgery, the capsule naturally "shrink-wraps" around the new lens implant. This process, called capsule contraction, helps hold the lens in place for the rest of the patient's life—and does this the best if the opening overlaps the edge of the implant for 360 degrees.

Achieving this ideal overlap is a key to long-term stability of the implant.

There are two main methods for creating the capsule opening:

1. Manual method – done with handheld forceps and typically quite accurate.
 2. Laser method – uses a femtosecond laser guided by advanced imaging (OCT) to precisely place and shape the opening.
- The laser method can:
- Provide a near-perfectly round and centered opening.
 - Improve the chances of 360° overlap, which enhances lens stability.
 - Use imaging to determine the exact center of the natural lens—something that can be more difficult to judge manually.

Both manual and laser methods are highly respected and can lead to excellent outcomes. However, the laser approach involves an additional cost and is generally considered more precise. Patients should weigh these benefits with their doctor when deciding which approach is right for them.

Conclusion

When considering cataract surgery—or elective lens replacement—patients should be informed about:

- Implant choices: standard (clarity only) vs. advanced (clarity and range of vision).
- Surgical techniques: manual vs. laser-guided lens capsule opening.

Understanding these options empowers you to have meaningful conversations with your eye surgeon and make the best decision for your vision and lifestyle.

Vance Thompson, MD is an internationally recognized specialist in refractive cornea, phakic IOL and lens replacement surgery. He is the Founder of Vance Thompson Vision Sioux Falls, SD and the Director of Refractive Surgery.

Looking Back

Sixty Years Ago

July 15, 1965

The combine belonging to Russell McIntyre received considerable fire damage Monday afternoon around 4:05 when it caught fire along the road north of the Glen Ward farm. Local firemen were summoned to extinguish the blaze.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Buelt, Jr. are the parents of a 5 lb. 3 oz. daughter, Marsha Jean, born July 8, 1965 in the Antelope Memorial Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. William T. Starman have announced the engagement of their daughter, Barbara, to Jerald A. Lamberti, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lamberti, of Sherman Oaks, Calif. Miss Starman attended Creighton University and is presently enrolled at Duchesne College for Women.

Mrs. Leah Schuchardt was installed president of the American Legion Auxiliary Tuesday evening when the group met in the Legion Hall.

Mrs. Dick Beckman has received a bronze plaque from the Nebraska Heart Association for meritorious service in the fight against heart disease. The front of the plaque carried the raised American Heart Association emblem.

Fifty Years Ago

July 10, 1975

The Elgin Midgets baseball team won the second place trophy after losing to host Madison in the latter's tourney. The team members are Roger Heithoff, Steve Heithoff, Kevin Schmitt, Lloyd Meis, Bob Schmitz, Ken Capler, Gary Reestman, Cary Sutton, Don Poulsen, Ed Sprout, Steve Mackel and Jeff Boes.

A cool front entered this area early Tuesday morning and by Tuesday noon had brought about cloudy skies and heavy rain. Before the noontime storm had abated the Bank of Elgin had recorded 1.05 inches of precipitation.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Burbach and six children of Crofton have moved into the buildings at the Gail Doran farm south of town. Mr. Burbach is employed by Moor Man feeds.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Braband have moved from town to the Chas. Schmidt farm northeast of Elgin.

Phyllis Pelster of Elgin and Dennis Cleveland of Ewing were united in marriage on Saturday, July 5, 1975. The 1:00 p.m. double ring ceremony was performed in St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin.

Thirty Years Ago

July 12, 1995

Progress continued this week on installation of the hardwood floor at St. Boniface Auditorium in Elgin. On Monday night, July 10, parishioners began installing the foam pad and sub-floor.

Tracy Prater, 36, a native of Clearwater, has joined the staff at the Bank of Elgin and Draper Insurance Agency, Inc. in Elgin. He is an assistant vice president at the Bank of Elgin and an agent for Draper Insurance Agency, Inc.

St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin was the setting for the June 24 double-ring wedding ceremony uniting Rebecca Lyn Cummings and Steve Kerkman, both of Elgin. Rev. Owen Korte celebrated the wedding mass.

Ida Weber of Elgin will be honored on her 90th birthday with an open house on Sunday, July 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Elgin Senior Citizens/Community Center.

Effective Aug. 1, 1995, Shirley L. Nissen will be the new secretary of Elgin Housing Authority. Nissen has been appointed by the Housing Authority Board to replace Patricia L. Sheets, who is resigning from the post this month.

Twenty Years Ago

July 13, 2005

Antelope County's annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life raised nearly \$24,000 last weekend. The even was held from 7 p.m. Friday, July 8, to 7 a.m. on Saturday, July 9, at the Neligh-Oakdale High School track.

Deb and Kyle Warren have announced plans to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the home that became Plantation House Bed and Breakfast. The celebration will be held Sunday, Sept. 11, with an open house from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Plantation House.

Thomas and Joyce Diedrichsen of Creighton, NE, have announced the marriage of their daughter, Amy Renee, to Martin Klein, son of Ralph and Mary Ellen Klein of Elgin. The couple was united in marriage on April 9, 2005 at Zion Lutheran Church in Omaha. Pastor Thomas Schmitt was the celebrant.

Descendants of the late Joseph and Margaret Pelster gathered for a reunion and potluck dinner at the Raeville Parish Hall on Sunday, June 26. Relatives attended from the states of Nebraska, California, Texas, Iowa and Colorado.

Harold and Vera Heithoff of Elgin will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, July 23rd.

By Olivia Klein

Special liquor license permit approved for August steak fry

Meeting last week, the Elgin City Council gave the go-ahead for an event to be held at the city park next month.

Alan Reicks, representing the Elgin Community Club/Chamber of Commerce, spoke to the council about plans for the end-of-summer steak fry to be held on Friday, August 8 (the first Friday after the Antelope County Fair).

The date was chosen so there would be no conflicts with EPS events, with the hope more school teachers and their spouses will attend the ECC event.

Reicks requested a special liquor license permit to serve alcohol at the annual steak fry.

Attendees old enough to drink will be tagged when they enter the designated area. Members of the Wolfpack dance team will provide child care supervision, games and food.

Social hour would begin around 6 p.m. with the event to be over by midnight or 1 a.m.

All four members of the council (Jeremy Young, Leigh Kluthe, Craig Niewohner and Mike Dvorak) approved the application for the liquor permit.

In other action: 311 Cedar Street — The council heard an update from Tyler Iburg on his efforts to remove the house at the afore-mentioned address. Iburg said progress was stalled when

he was unable to get someone to perform an asbestos check. Mayor Mike Schmitt said he would provide a name and number of a person qualified to do the check. Iburg said as soon as the asbestos check is done, he will tear down the house.

City park update — Electrician Bruce Clark gave an update on the progress of electrical work being done in the park. Weather, he said, has slowed things down, but he stressed the work would be completed prior to the steak fry.

Clark suggested down the road the council could consider lighting improvements for the park.

Concrete — The council approved a bid to pour concrete to extend the south shelter. Councilman Mike Dvorak said the new concrete would make a nicer area. Regarding the circular shelter at the park, the council approve getting a quote to repair concrete and paint the structure.

Residential streets — For a brief time, the council discussed but took no action on people living in campers on residential areas. Mayor Mike Schmitt said he wanted council members to consider the matter, noting how it "looks hazardous" to him.

"Is this something we want to have in town?" Schmitt asked. There appeared to be no will-

ingness among council members to take up the matter at the present time.

Get another bid — The City is in need of a new rag cutter at the sewer plant, City Street Superintendent Donnie Poulsen, Jr., said. Noting how city employees are having to tear the present cutter apart several times a week to get rags out.

Poulsen said he got numbers from Rutjens Construction and Boyd's Electric to do a rag cutter replacement at the plant. The total package would cost in excess of \$75,000.

While there is enough money in the sewer fund to cover the purchase, the council seemed reluctant to spend that kind of money. Instead, they decided to get more information and decide on the matter at the August meeting.

Reminder — The city tree dump, located several miles west of town came up during the meeting. City Hall reminded everyone that the tree dump is for the use of city residents only.

Building permits — Building permits were approved for Mark Schmitt, Scott & Mary Derby, Cordell Waterbury and Capital Select.

Sheriff's report — During the month of May, the department provided almost 69 hours of patrols in Elgin and responded to nine 911 calls during the month.

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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

Campaign announcement season comes early, as do the negative ads

Well, it's that time of year – when the corn is rising in the fields, the calves are fattening on the pastures, and politicians aplenty are announcing their candidacy for elected office.

Those announcements seem to come earlier than ever, as do the negative campaign ads.

The next election is the primary in 2026, about a year away. But unfortunately, it's not too early to send out some mud-slinging ads condemning so-and-so for doing something horrible, like once traveling to China, or having supported a raise in the state gas tax so we have smooth highways.

The first hit my cell phone just minutes after Dan Osborn, an independent, announced a run against incumbent U.S. Sen. Pete Ricketts, a Republican.

“Dirty Dan Osborn” began the dark text message and even darker video

ALL THINGS NEBRASKA



State Correspondent
Paul Hammel

accusing him of unsavory use of social media. It's pretty clear that the Ricketts camp is not going to shortchange Osborn's chances to win the election, unlike U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer, who narrowly beat the mechanic/labor leader in the 2024 election.

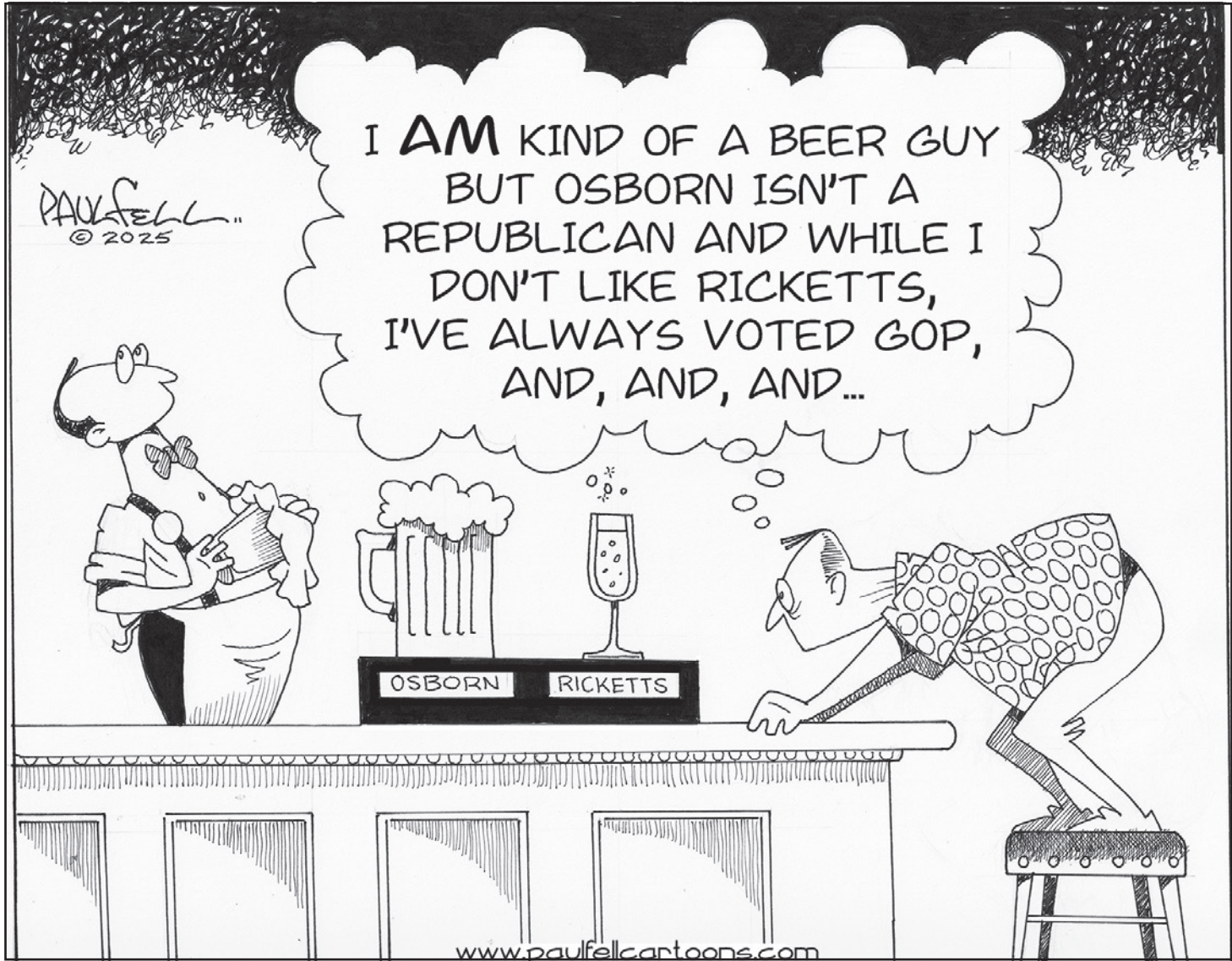
Incumbents, like Ricketts, might be a tad uneasy these days after voting for the “big, beautiful bill” from President Donald Trump.

The bill extends the tax cuts passed in 2017 – and everyone loves a tax cut. But it also does several things that polls show the public opposes. Such as cutting Medicaid, which state hospital officials say could cause the closure of six rural hospitals (one in Curtis already is closing).

All told, more than 100,000 Nebraskans could lose Medicaid coverage, according to the Nebraska Rural Health Association. Bet you'll see that in a campaign ad.

Osborn ran a surprisingly close race with Fischer, running on the platform that Washington is broken, and what's needed are folks who aren't part of the political establishment. Hmmm, didn't Trump use the same appeal successfully?

In other races, Gov. Jim Pillen, a veterinarian and big-time hog producer, announced plans to saddle up a run for re-election (a bad pun, I know, after the governor's spill on a horse).



A Republican, Pillen has been a reliable and vocal supporter of Trump and his policies on immigration, spending cuts and the “big, beautiful bill.” Some say Pillen's stance on immigration is a bit misguided, given that immigrants fill a bunch of the jobs at hog confinement operations and meat processing plants.

The governor – like every governor for the past six decades – has also been pushing, with limited success, plans to reduce the state's traditionally high property taxes.

Pillen has made some progress, but his main solution is a tax shift – impose new taxes on junk food, cigarettes and previously untaxed services to lower the reliance on property taxes.

His plan, however, failed to gain much traction in a special session he called last summer and during the regular legislative session that ended last month.

At 69, Pillen still jogs regularly, and

looks ready to run again.

But standing in the wings is businessman Chuck Herbster, a fellow Republican and a chum of President Trump.

Herbster, as you recall, almost won the 2022 GOP primary and was leading Pillen until some revelations were reported about Herbster's conduct around women.

A spokesman for Herbster, as reported by the Nebraska Examiner, said “he's hearing from a lot of Nebraskans who want him to run.” It would be one spendy rematch if he gets in.

Up in Omaha, U.S. Rep. Don Bacon, a Republican, announced that he wasn't running again. He didn't say it in so many words, but a congressional representative is constantly fund-raising and constantly on the move between their home and Washington. That, and just the nasty nature of politics these days, has got to wear someone down.

We've already seen a slew of can-

didate announcements for that open seat in the “purple district” (one that swings back and forth, Democrat and Republican).

Included are the son of a former U.S. congressman (State Sen. John Cavanaugh, a Democrat), a current member of the Omaha City Council (Brinker Harding, a Republican) and a former state senator (Brett Lindstrom, also a Republican).

So hold onto your hats. Or, if you wish, toss it into the ring and run too.

Paul Hammel has covered the Nebraska state government and the state for decades. He retired in April as senior contributor with the Nebraska Examiner. He was previously with the Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha Sun.

A native of Ralston, Nebraska, he loves traveling and writing about the state.

Nebraska ag wins with ‘Big Beautiful Bill’

Last week, the House and Senate passed the One Big, Beautiful Bill Act and sent it to the president's desk to be signed into law. Today, I want to highlight how this new law delivers for Nebraska's producers who fuel and feed our nation.

The One Big, Beautiful Bill supports sweeping tax relief for working Americans and provides a major victory for the economic driver of our state: agriculture. This legislation includes core policies a Farm Bill would produce and delivers long-overdue reforms that will help producers meet today's challenges and plan for the future with confidence.

After years of gridlock and uncertainty, we've finally delivered real results for Nebraska's farmers and ranchers. The last Farm Bill, enacted in 2018, was supposed to be reauthorized in 2023. Producers instead have been forced to rely on short-term extensions that ignore the evolving challenges they face. While the Biden administration stalled, we stepped up. I'm proud that the reconciliation bill includes key Farm Bill priorities that provide the long-overdue certainty and support our ag community needs.

From day one, I pushed to ensure this bill addressed the modern realities of ag production. The updated reference prices for the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and improvements to Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) reflect current markets and rising input costs. These changes — which go into effect immediately for the 2025 crop year — mean Nebraska producers will see tens of millions of dollars in relief starting now, not years from now.

We also strengthened crop insurance, building on key provisions of the FARMER Act – a bill I'm a cosponsor of in the Senate. The bill increases premium support for individual coverage and improves the Supplemental Coverage Option by raising coverage levels and boosting premium support. It's a smarter, more reliable safety net for our producers.

This bill also locks in pro-growth tax provisions that were set to expire — delivering permanent relief and stability for small businesses, including family farms and ranches.

We've permanently extended the 20% Section 199A deduction for pass-through businesses and agricultural cooperatives. We've raised the Section 179 equipment expensing limit to \$2.5 million. And we've made 100% bonus depreciation permanent.

Another win in this new law is death tax relief. The death tax exemption will rise and be adjusted annually for inflation. That means more family farms, ranches, and businesses can stay in the family, instead of being sold off to cover tax bills.

Additionally, this bill strengthens disaster and disease programs that are essential to Nebraska's livestock producers. It expands the Livestock Forage Disaster Program to allow payments after four weeks of drought instead of eight and doubles the number of monthly payments available when severe drought persists. For livestock lost to predators or extreme weather, the Livestock Indemnity Program will now pay 100% and 75% of market value, respectively — including for unborn livestock.

Meanwhile, key voluntary conservation program funding has been permanently increased, providing billions in support through U.S. Department of Agriculture programs. And to help

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator
Deb Fischer

Prosperity for our ag producers

This week, during a roundtable hosted by Western Sugar Cooperative, I met with representatives across several agricultural sectors from the Third District.

I am grateful each time I'm able to connect with and thank the dedicated producers at the origination of the supply chains stocking our grocery stores, pantries, restaurants, fuel pumps, and more.

Gathering their insights on the challenges they face and the importance of ensuring our tax code and Farm Bill programs work for them is essential for my work in Congress to support economic growth in our state.

As chair of the Rural America Tax Team, I worked hard in the Ways and

Means Committee to apply feedback and secure big policy wins for our hardworking farmers and ranchers in the tax, spending reform, and national security package known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

When I supported its passage in the House last week and it was signed into law by President Trump, it brought unprecedented long-term certainty for our agriculture producers and prevented an average tax hike on family farms of more than \$5,000.

Many of the tax code updates within the legislation renewed and improved provisions from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA).

We made sure to extend successful tax relief policies, and we went further to increase and make permanent tax cuts for as many American producers as possible.

For the 98 percent of farms in the U.S. categorized as pass-through entities, the bill makes permanent the 20 percent Section 199A pass-through deduction, allowing producers to retain and reinvest more of their hard-earned income.

Additionally, we raised the Section 179 small business expensing threshold to reflect the rising cost of equipment and enable farmers and ranchers to more effectively address the cost of operation.

We also made the larger Death Tax exemption from TCJA permanent, giving families the ability to protect their operations for generations to come from undue burdens upon the death of a loved one.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act not only prevents severe tax hikes and expands relief for family farms, small businesses, and hardworking Americans, it fortifies programs for detection and prevention of foreign diseases and pests which put our livestock and produce at risk.

It also strengthens risk management programs in the Farm Bill through improvements to crop insurance and disaster programs which are particularly important for our farmers.

This includes delivering long-term certainty for beginning farmers and ranchers through improved crop insurance premium provisions.

After suffering delays for the last two years due to partisan debates, it was vital we acted on Farm Bill programs through reconciliation.

Still, a few items will need to be addressed through a more narrow Farm Bill reauthorization prior to the current bill's expiration on September 30.

While temporary extensions have provided stopgap authorization since 2023, I hope we can wrap up our work on the remaining provisions later this year, securing certainty for hardworking producers and unlocking economic growth for rural communities.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act is a triumph for sound policy supporting the tireless efforts of those in the agriculture sector. Our nation would grind to a halt without everything they provide for our communities.

What we have accomplished through this legislation gives American agriculture a brighter future, and I will continue working with my colleagues in Congress and with President Trump to uphold our commitment to promote prosperity for producers.

Numbers to Know

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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/>.

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

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

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See **SMITH**, Page 5 ►

Interim Update

Agriculture security emerging as a key national priority

Today, agriculture, food, and related trades employ more than one in ten American work-

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



District 40 Senator Barry DeKay

Department of Agriculture, our state is ranked first in total beef exports, second in ethanol

ers and contribute over \$1.5 trillion to our annual Gross Domestic Product. In Nebraska, one in four jobs are related to agriculture. According to the latest data from the Nebraska

production, and fifth in overall agricultural exports among the 50 states.

We live in a time when agriculture security is emerging as a key national security priority. I was pleased to see that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the launch of a new initiative, known as the National Farm Security Action Plan.

This federal initiative outlines seven policy areas intended to better safeguard American agriculture from the threats posed by foreign adversarial countries like Russia, China, and Iran.

One proposed policy under the Plan aims to further restrict entities tied to foreign adversarial countries from buying land in this country.

In recent years, there have been several high-profile cases of such entities trying to buy land near military bases. In 2022, a Chinese company was found trying to buy land near Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota.

In 2024, a Chinese-owned crypto mine near Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming was divested by the federal government.

Such cases raised significant concerns that land owned by an entity tied to a foreign adversarial country could aid foreign

espionage operations or threaten U.S. food security.

In response to these concerns, last year, I introduced and got passed LB1301, the Foreign-owned Real Estate National Security Act, to better safeguard sensitive military installations like Offutt Air Force Base and the panhandle missile silos from threats posed by foreign adversarial countries purchasing and owning land in our state.

This bill modernized Nebraska's original foreign land ownership law that dated back 1889 to better reflects the needs of the 21st Century as it relates to ongoing state and national security concerns.

Earlier this year, I introduced and got passed LB7 which made a number of technical changes and updates to what was passed in LB1301.

Such changes include updates to conform with revised federal laws, clarification that Native American tribes are not foreign governments, and defined some terms which had carried over from the original 1889 law to LB1301.

My office will be reviewing any federal action under the National Farm Security Action Plan to determine whether the Foreign-owned Real Estate National Security Act will require further updates.

I also want to make readers aware that Syngenta recently announced the voluntary sale of its corn seed production facility

near Phillips Nebraska to the Seward, Nebraska-based company Beck's Hybrids. Syngenta has been a subsidiary of China National Chemical Corporation (ChemChina) since being acquired in 2017.

In 2020, ChemChina was designated a Chinese military

company by the U.S. Department of Defense.

I am pleased that a Nebraska company is acquiring the property and am hopeful that there is a smooth transition by the time the transaction finalizes in October of this year.

I invite you to let me know

your thoughts or concerns. My Capitol office telephone number is (402) 471-2801 and my email is bdekay@leg.ne.gov.

My mailing address is: Senator Barry DeKay, District #40, P.O. Box 94604, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509.

Governor makes picks for school financing review commission

LINCOLN — Gov. Jim Pillen has announced the appointments of all but one member to Nebraska's new School Financing Review Commission to review and provide annual recommendations to stabilize state aid to schools and reduce reliance on local property taxes.

State lawmakers created the 18-member commission, chaired by Nebraska Education Commissioner Brian Maher, in a 48-0 vote this spring. It took effect June 5 and required initial appointments within 30 days.

The group's main task is reviewing the main school funding formula — the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) — and providing periodic suggestions so the Legislature can update it.

There remains one vacancy for a certified public school teacher.

Pillen on Tuesday called the commission "a first but critical-

ly important step" in fixing a "35-year problem" since TEEOSA was established in 1990. The formula survived a veto and public referendum after its creation and has been perpetually updated since.

"I believe the state needs to fulfill its constitutional obligation to fund public K-12 education. Not run those schools but

fund them," Pillen said Tuesday. "If we are to get a grip on the state's property tax crisis, we must be willing to address the ever-growing burden that falls on property tax as a result of footing the bill for our schools."

TEEOSA components

See PILLEN, Page 6 ►

School financing review membership

The full commission membership, as of July 10, is as follows, with one vacancy for a certified public school teacher:

Education Commissioner Brian Maher (chair)
Nebraska Property Tax Administrator Sarah Scott
Grant Latimer, policy adviser to Gov. Jim Pillen (governor's representative)

Chancellor Paul Turman of the Nebraska State College System

Superintendent Ann Foster of Brady Public Schools
Superintendent Jason Dolliver of Pender Public Schools

Superintendent Aaron Plas of Bennington Public Schools
Keith Runge, school board president of Lakeview Community Schools

Liz Standish, associate superintendent for business affairs for Lincoln Public Schools

Shavonna Holman, school board member for Omaha Public Schools

Superintendent John Schwartz of Millard Public Schools
Former State Sen. Fred Meyer of St. Paul

Former State Sen. Lou Ann Linehan of the Elkhorn area, former longtime Revenue Committee chair

State Treasurer Tom Briese of Albion, former state senator
State Sen. Dave Murman of Glenvil (Education Committee chair, nonvoting member)

State Sen. Eliot Bostar of Lincoln (Revenue Committee representative, nonvoting member)

State Sen. Jana Hughes of Seward (at-large lawmaker, nonvoting member)

"I appreciate the commitment of these dedicated public servants who, like me, want to ensure the quality of our state's education but recognize the need to balance that investment with smart tax policy, making us more competitive with our neighboring states so we can grow Nebraska," Pillen said Tuesday.

"We are fortunate to have leadership on this commission ready to begin this important initiative."

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...I trust in the steadfast love of God.... Psalm 52

Amos 8:1-12 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42

Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for Sunday, July 20, 2025 Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Romans 11:36



PRISCILLA DU PREEZ

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Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor

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

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Sunday School: 10:15 am.
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St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Petersburg, NE

Fr. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor

Weekend Mass: 2nd & 4th Sunday, 8 am.
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Bartlett Church of Faith Bartlett, NE

Pastor Mark Hoffman

Sunday Worship Service: 9 am.
Sunday School: 10-10:45 am.

Calvary Bible Church Neligh, NE

Pastor Peter Sample

Sunday School: 9:30 am.
Worship Service: 10:45 am.

Trinity Lutheran Church Elgin, NE

Pastor Norlyn Bartens

Sunday Worship Service: 8 am.
Sunday school follows service.
Saturday Evening Service: 6 pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Elgin Community Christian Church Elgin, NE

Pastor Jonathan Braden 605-430-9171

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Church Council: 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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St. Paul Lutheran Church Chambers, NE

Pastor Leif Hasskari

Sunday Worship: 8:30 am.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:30 am.

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

Hebrews 11:1

Spinning Tales

Frost won't ever face up to his mistakes coaching the Huskers

One thing always leads to another.

Just before college football season gets underway, players report to fall camp, Nebraska took a cheap shot from former Coach Scott Frost.

Appearing at Big 12 Media Days as the new coach of Central Florida University, where he once served, the former coach of the Huskers decided to stick it to his former employer.

Frost told the media in no uncertain terms that it was a mistake for him to have taken the Nebraska job. He said the job wasn't the 'right fit' and he should never have left the Florida school when he did, coming off an unbeaten season.

In his eyes, Nebraska did him wrong, firing him after four-plus seasons in which he compiled a 16-31 record, just 10-26 against Big Ten opponents.

Several games into his fifth season, just hours after Nebraska lost at home to Georgia State 45 to 42, less than a month after blowing an 11-point lead with an onside kick against Northwestern in the season opener in

Dublin, Ireland, he was unceremoniously shown the door.

What followed after the firing were allegations that he had a drinking problem which forced him to be late to practice and miss recruiting visit. There were also allegations of inappropriate behavior (read social media for the sordid details deemed not fit for a community newspaper).

The ex-coach said all of his problems were the fault of others, of unrealistic expectations. His comments were typical of the kind of man who never would accept responsibility for his actions.

Frost took his millions (as result of a buyout) and left the state, laying low until Central Florida came calling as their program was in shambles with the ouster of Coach Gus Malzahn.

But, remember back when Husker fans begged Frost to return home? Then, he was the hottest coaching prospect in the country, millions of dollars were being waved in his face to return to Lincoln. With a

healthy dose of persuasion from former teammate Matt Davison, Frost came 'home.' He whipped together what many thought was a pretty good first recruiting class highlighted by quarterback Adrian Martinez. The signal-caller started as a freshman, kinda learning as he went. The "king of the turnover" finished his career at Kansas State, playing the game of his life in beating Oklahoma in Norman before suffering a season-ending injury. He looked all-world wearing purple and silver, but when he wore scarlet & cream he looked average at best.

SPINNING TALES



Publisher
Dennis Morgan

See FROST, Page 11 ►

Pillen

◀ FROM Page 5

In its most basic terms, TEEOSA diverts "equalization aid" to the public school districts it calculates have more "needs" than available "resources."

"Needs" is calculated among 18 buckets, including a district's concentrations of poverty, students with limited English proficiency, transportation needs and student growth.

"Resources" includes six buckets of funds, including estimates of property taxes that could be raised with a \$1 tax levy and net option enrollment funds.

The formula diverts about \$1.2 billion among 245 school districts each year. An increasing number of districts do not receive any TEEOSA aid under the formula, which is why Pillen and other senators in 2023 created a new form of "foundation aid," which distributes roughly \$1,500 to school districts for each student served. About 60% of foundation aid is now considered a "resource" under TEEOSA.

State Sen. Jana Hughes of Seward, vice chair of the Legislature's Education Committee, led the creation of the commission after past legislative attempts to do so fell short. Hughes ultimately secured a

spot on the commission herself and has pledged to continue working to address school finance.

The commission membership was specifically designed to include education representatives from school districts of all sizes, postsecondary education and taxpayers.

Property tax focus

Three former senators also joined the commission, notably former State Sen. Lou Ann Linehan of the Elkhorn area and State Treasurer Tom Brieshe, a former state senator from Albion. Both were instrumental in establishing "foundation aid" with Pillen and shifting the property tax portion of community college funding — nearly \$300 million — onto state income and sales taxes in 2023.

Those changes helped reduce property taxes statewide by \$6 million out of a \$5.3 billion statewide total when property taxes were sent to Nebraskans in December 2024, the first reduction in property taxes paid in 26 years.

In 2022 and 2023, property taxes had grown by nearly \$300 million annually. And with property tax relief legislation stalling this spring, Pillen has estimated that taxpayers will see tax increases when tax bills go out this year.

Linehan, a former Revenue Committee chair of six years and a key ally of Pillen's, proposed her own legislation to amend TEEOSA, largely focused on the "resources" side of the equation.

Brieshe, too, has continued to echo calls to have the state take on more school operational expenses, similar to what happened with community colleges in the 2023 bill led by State Sen. Dave Murman of Glenvil, the Education Committee chair, who will also serve on the new commission.

TEEOSA had been eyed as the main vehicle to distribute more state aid to the state's 245 school districts for operational expenses in lieu of property taxes.

The other former state senator named to the commission is Fred Meyer of St. Paul whom Pillen appointed to succeed Brieshe in the Legislature in late 2023, when Brieshe became treasurer.

State Sen. Eliot Bostar of Lincoln rounds out the current legislative members with Murman and Hughes, each of whom will serve as nonvoting commissioners.

Hughes said in a text that she is "thrilled" about the commission membership and her own legislative appointment. She said she is ready to "get going and dive in."

"I think the makeup of the committee is good, and there's a lot of knowledge about TEEOSA, so we should be able to hit the ground running," Hughes said.

'Something of substance'

Brian Maher, Nebraska education commissioner, testifies before the Legislature's Education Committee. July 31, 2023. (Zach Wendling/Nebraska Examiner)

The commission has no expiration date. Some lawmakers have referred to TEEOSA as being on "autopilot," Maher said, and while he might not "exactly agree," he said it "might be pretty close." Maher, a former superintendent of Kearney Public Schools and Centennial Public Schools, said it's probably time to rethink what school funding should look like generally in the state and not just tweak TEEOSA.

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Grocery’s Goliath: Small-town Nebraska grocery stores disappear as Dollar General booms

Over the past 25 years, Dollar General stores have become a fixture of the retail landscape in rural Nebraska. Now, there are 142 chain “dollar” stores — 115 of them Dollar Generals — in Nebraska towns with a population smaller than 10,000.

By Natalia Alamdari
Flatwater Free Press
OAKLAND — If you drive down U.S. Highway 77, you won’t see the grocery store that has managed to keep afloat in this town for more than 100 years. It’s five blocks off the highway, on Oakland’s main drag. What you will see is a bright yellow sign, beckoning highway drivers to make a pit stop. You’ll see the beige cinder block storefront and metal warehouse walls plopped between cornfields and the highway.

In small-town Nebraska, it’s an instantly recognizable sight. It’s the Dollar General. Over the past 25 years, Dollar General stores have become a fixture of the retail landscape in rural Nebraska. In 2000, the only Dollar Generals in the state were in Omaha and Lincoln, according to a Flatwater Free Press analysis of Nebraska grocery store permits. Now, there are 142 chain “dollar” stores — 115 of them Dollar Generals — located in Nebraska towns with a population smaller than 10,000.

In that same amount of time, the number of grocery stores in those small cities and villages has shrunk from 326 to 272. “A grocery store is about quality of life,” said Charlotte Narjes, an University of Nebraska-Lincoln expert in helping rural grocery stores stay sustainable. “It truly is an anchor institution for many of our rural communities.” Local grocery stores matter, experts say, because they’re often a community gathering space and often the last line of defense keeping a town from becoming a “food desert” where residents can’t get affordable fresh foods. They also keep money in the local economy and

help stem population loss.. But it’s becoming harder to keep those rural grocery stores open, owners and advocates say, citing a growing list of challenges including slim profit margins. Small-town stores face higher wholesale costs than big-box stores. A generation of owners is aging out, their customer base is shrinking and there aren’t many people willing to risk buying a store. The proliferation of Dollar Generals — often a cheaper competitor — tacks one more challenge onto that list. “We hear a lot about rural brain drain,” said Jillian Linster, senior policy director at the Center for Rural Affairs in

Lyons. “But the catch is, if you want people to come and live and work in your community, they have to have a place to shop for food.” ***** The walls of Nelson’s Food Pride in Oakland are filled with framed yellowing newspaper clippings — 20th-century ads, old stories about grand openings and new locations. Julie Johnson is the third generation in her family to run the Oakland grocery store. When she retires, her son will become the fourth. She greets those who come in as they shop for cases of water, boxes of frozen pizza rolls, cartons of berries. In this town of 1,359, Johnson knows most everyone’s name, and feels guilty when she doesn’t. “That’s small-town business,” she said. “Somebody has a birth and we hug them, and they have a death and we hug them.” But for the past few years, Johnson says, traffic in and out of the family grocery store has been sparse. Through the 1980s and ’90s, she watched as the Walmarts, Menards and Costcos of Fremont and Omaha started siphoning off her customers. That big-box expansion focused on larger communities, cities with populations between 10,000 and 50,000, said Kennedy Smith, a senior researcher for the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, which promotes local community development. Big-box stores hurt but didn’t actually move into places like Oakland. Then Dollar General came to town. It came to many small towns, a previously untapped market. “That’s why I think Dollar General has gravitated here,” Smith said. “They tend to look for communities where they don’t think they’ll have a lot of competition.” Chain dollar stores like Dollar General and Family Dollar saw the second-largest food retailer growth behind supercenters like Walmart from 1990 to 2015, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And the Dollar General model appears laser focused on rural America — as of 2022, three-quarters of Dollar Generals were in communities smaller than 20,000 people, according to a Forbes analysis. In Nebraska, 75% of Dollar General locations are in a town smaller than 10,000 people. That can come at the expense of local grocers, a USDA study found last year. When a dollar store enters a rural community, local grocery stores are 5% more likely to close, according to the decades-long analysis, and their sales declined by 9.2% on average. In big cities, the impact of a dollar store wore away after about five years, research showed. But the effects were lasting in small towns. “A full-service grocery store operates on extremely thin prof-

it margins,” Smith said. “They might make 1% or 2% profit on their sales annually. And so it doesn’t take a whole lot of cutting into their sales for that business to be at risk.” At Laurel’s Hometown Market, owner Brenda Whalen didn’t think the Dollar General cut much into her business. Sometimes, it seemed to bring her business — people would come to town to stop by Dollar General, then the grocery store for steaks and fresh produce. But last summer, the Dollar General closed for days because of air conditioning problems. And Whalen realized her aisles were suddenly busier. “Our sales those days were phenomenal,” Whalen said. Even as it competes with some local grocers, Dollar General is getting help from Nebraska taxpayers. In 10 communities across Nebraska, Dollar General has saved \$801,335 in tax credits through tax increment financing since at least 2012, according to annual TIF reports. The state has also put money toward Dollar General’s operations — in 2020, the Department of Economic Development awarded \$500,000 in building development funds to Washington County’s economic development corporation. The money helped build an 85-acre Dollar General distribution center in Blair. Back in Oakland, down the road from Nelson’s Food Pride, the Dollar General had a steady stream of people on a recent Tuesday morning. They grabbed energy drinks, cans of beans and frozen foods. The shelves were stocked with pots and pans, shampoo and bath soap. One aisle offered summer items: picnic plates, pool towels and pink plastic palm tree cups. Picture frames and lamps filled another aisle. There is milk and frozen pizzas. There is no fresh produce. At Nelson’s, Johnson sells fruit, vegetables and different cuts of meat. There’s a refrigerated section that she added after buying the store from her dad, where she stocks ice cream and alcohol. She sells specialty items like Swedish desserts and sausages — her family came to Nebraska from Sweden. When she’s not at the store, she’s running the local Swedish Heritage Center, or weeding the nature trail at the park. “The Dollar Generals kill us,” Johnson said. “They don’t give anything back to the community. I give everything back to the community ... You don’t even know who owns the dollar store.” On its website, Dollar General, which has more than 20,500 stores in 48 states, says it has donated \$271 million to support more than 23 million people through the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. It also says it has donated more than 50 million meals to Feeding America and partner food banks. Dollar General didn’t respond to email requests for an interview for this story. ***** At the Elwood Hometown Cooperative Market, COVID-19 proved surprisingly good for business, said Mary Nelson, a member of the market’s co-op board. People shopped local in 2020, and the store offered delivery. But then sales declined, then plummeted when the Walmart in nearby Lexington started delivering to Elwood. The Elwood Market closed its doors in March. “I think (people) have found that they really miss having a grocery store that they can go to,” Nelson said. “But they do still have Dollar General.” The challenges leading to Elwood Market’s demise aren’t unique. The remote nature and small client base of rural grocery stores means wholesale product costs are more expensive than for bigger stores. Small-town grocers are purchasing fewer items that have to travel farther to get to them, said Ansley Fellers, executive director of the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association. The buildings are often aging. In Laurel, Whalen has put thousands toward fridge and electrical repairs. “Everything that breaks down all the time just kills us,” she said. “You can’t get ahead

OBITUARIES

Benjamin “Ben” R. Woodard

February 24, 1986 - July 8, 2025
A 2004 graduate of Elgin Public School, he served honorably in the U.S. Navy for a number of years.



Benjamin “Ben” R. Woodard, 39 of Meadow Grove, NE passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, July 8, 2025 in Pierce County, NE.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 16, 2025 (today) at St. Boniface Church in Elgin, NE with Rev. Frank Baumert officiating. Inurnment with Military Honors will follow in the parish cemetery. Visitation was held from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Tuesday at the church, with a 7:00 p.m. wake service.

Levander Funeral Home of Elgin is in charge of the arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.levanderfuneralhome.com

Benjamin Raymond Woodard was born Feb 24th, 1986 to Greg and Lora Lee (Funk) Woodard. He attended Elgin Public School where he graduated in 2004.

After graduation he joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed in San Diego aboard the USS Comstock. After completion of his sea duty tour, he transferred to Tinker AFB, Oklahoma City, where his brother Matt was also stationed. He completed his time in the Navy aboard the

USS Nimitz in Evert, Washington.

He then moved back to Nebraska and obtained his master’s degree in cyber security. He was currently employed by Stealth Broadband (Norfolk) as a Cyber Security Manager.

He is survived by his mother Lora Lee Woodard of Elgin; life partner Becky Daily (her son Ashton) of Meadow Grove; siblings: Scott and Karina Woodard (daughters Alison, Nicole) of Lincoln; Jennifer and Grant Bechtold of Butte (children Taylor and Cody Hambleton of Battle Creek, Colby and Jackson Sehi of Neligh); Matt and Amber Woodard (children Cade, Lily and Xzavier) of Oklahoma City; Wendy and Jordan Anderson (children Kagen Woodard, Aubrey Anderson) of Norfolk; Heather Rokahr (children Tale-na Woodard and fiancé Nicholas Iburg, Shayd, Macy, Rylee) of Elgin; and grandmother Rita Woodard of Norfolk.

He was preceded in death by his father, Greg Woodard, grandparents: Raymond and Frances Funk and Benjamin Woodard.

Ben loved hunting, fishing, camping, spending time with family and his dad’s ’57 chevy. He was loved and will be missed dearly by everyone.

The Elgin Review • July 16, 2025

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"Bethnie"
Siems

Retirement
Open House
TODAY,
July 16
2:00-4:00
at the Elgin Community Center

With the very recent retirement of Bernie, a one-time essential job in the Elgin newspaper office has come to an end. For 25+ years, she and a group of various ladies (including Dona Elliott and Lois Bettendorf) spent Wednesday mornings stuffing newspapers with inserts and helping get the papers to the post office.

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Sat. & Sun., July 26th & 27th • 7 PM

Antique Tractor and Pick-up Pull
Mon., July 28th • 5 PM

Tractor Pull
Tues., July 29th • 6 PM

Demolition Derby
Wed., July 30th • 7:30 PM

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Community Calendar

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

Wednesday, July 22
Antelope County Tax Protest hearings at the Neligh courthouse (8 a.m.)

Saturday, July 26
Pope John Alumni Softball Tournament* ■ Elgin Community Christian Church youth car wash fundraiser*.

Monday-Sunday, July 28-August 3
2025 Antelope County Fair @ fairgrounds in Neligh* ■ 2025 Wheeler County Fair @ fairgrounds in Bartlett*.

Monday, August 4
Elgin City Council regular meeting @ City Hall*

Tuesday, August 5
Regular meeting of the Antelope County Board of Commissioners

Friday, August 8
Elgin Community Club/Chamber of Commerce End-of-the-Summer Steak Fry @ Elgin City Park*

Monday, August 11
District #18 School Board meeting

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

***** At the Elwood Hometown Cooperative Market, COVID-19 proved surprisingly good for business, said Mary Nelson, a member of the market’s co-op board. People shopped local in 2020, and the store offered delivery. But then sales declined, then plummeted when the Walmart in nearby Lexington started delivering to Elwood. The Elwood Market closed its doors in March. “I think (people) have found that they really miss having a grocery store that they can go to,” Nelson said. “But they do still have Dollar General.” The challenges leading to Elwood Market’s demise aren’t unique. The remote nature and small client base of rural grocery stores means wholesale product costs are more expensive than for bigger stores. Small-town grocers are purchasing fewer items that have to travel farther to get to them, said Ansley Fellers, executive director of the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association. The buildings are often aging. In Laurel, Whalen has put thousands toward fridge and electrical repairs. “Everything that breaks down all the time just kills us,” she said. “You can’t get ahead

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

Deadline Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

SERVICES:

PASSPORT PHOTOS: Official U.S. and foreign passport and Visa photos available here. Available in under ten minutes. \$10 plus tax. Appointments highly recommended. The Elgin Review, 116 South 2nd St, Elgin NE. 402-843-5500. tfn

CARD OF THANKS

A big thank you to all who came and celebrated with us at our Annual Park Center 4th of July celebration on July 1st. Special thanks to the Elgin Review for again helping us get the word out and for your coverage of the event. We were blessed with a wonderful crowd of all ages to enjoy the delicious potluck meal, races and games. Thankfully recent rains made it possible to finish the night with an awesome fireworks show. Thank you to all who contributed fireworks and to those who donated to our fireworks fund.

Park Center Playground Committee

A simple thank you can not express our gratitude for the many good wishes and cards for a Happy Retirement. We truly appreciate every one of them. We feel so blessed to be part of such a wonderful community. A big "Thank You" to the staff at Eye Physicians for putting on the best retirement party.

Russ & Joanie Vetick
email us at
elginreview@yahoo.com

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Dorothy Dwyer is humbled by the amazing support that we have received at our Mom's passing. Mom was blessed with a wealth of family and friends. Thank you for your visits, prayers, phone calls, memorials and food brought to the family. A special thanks to the Bloomfield ambulance crew, the staff of Osmond General Hospital, the Brockhaus Funeral Home staff, to the men who served as ushers, to all the ladies who provided bars, to the VFW Auxiliary Honor Guard and to Pastor Judy Carlson for her comforting words and beautiful message. May God bless you all as He has blessed us.

Debbie & Mike Hoffman & Family
Dee & Gary Walters & Family
Darla & Dan Schiefelbein and Family

The family of Dick Bennett will be ever so grateful for the many acts of kindness shown to us at the time of Dick's passing. The kind words spoken or sent, as well as the prayers and gifts have been so appreciated. We can not thank you enough. A very special thank you to Uncle Paul Schrage and the Elgin Legion Post# 209 for the military services at the burial. A special thank you also to Bill Hill for his presence and gracious words. You are all so special to us. Thank you. God's Blessings to all!

Lana Bennett
ZoBeth and Patrick Potter and family
LeAnne and Ronnie Robson and family
KaLynne Bennett
Richie and Erika Bennett and family



When wishes come true

Earlier this month, Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen made a trip to Neligh. While there, he stopped at The Willows where he greeted residents including Marcella Hughes. Marcella's wish has always been to meet the governor and he graciously made that wish come true.

Photo submitted

Alfalfa pest watch

As summer heat sets in, it's time to keep a close eye on alfalfa for insect pressure — particularly from potato leafhoppers and aphids. Both pests thrive in hot, dry weather and can do serious damage if left unchecked, especially in regrowth after first or second cutting.

Potato leafhoppers are tiny, wedge-shaped insects that feed by piercing plant tissue and sucking out sap. The result is a yellow, V-shaped pattern on leaf tips — commonly called hopperburn. This feeding not only stunts growth and reduces leaf production but also lowers overall forage quality. The discoloration is caused by a toxin the insect injects as it feeds. Because of their size and mobility, leafhoppers often go unnoticed until symptoms become visible.

That's why regular scouting with a sweep net is important. Take 20 sweeps per field sample and count what you find. Economic thresholds vary depending on stand age and growth stage, but in young or stressed stands, even one leafhopper per sweep may warrant control. Older or taller stands may tolerate slightly higher numbers. A helpful 2019 article from UNL's CropWatch, titled "Potato Leafhoppers in Alfalfa," includes threshold charts to guide decisions.

Leafhoppers are generally easy to control with insecticides. However, if the stand is already yellow and stunted, it's best to mow first and remove the affected tissue. This clears out the toxic, damaged growth and allows for better regrowth after treatment.

Aphids are another pest to watch. Pea aphids are most common in Nebraska, but spotted alfalfa aphids, cowpea aphids, and blue alfalfa aphids can also cause issues. Season-

IT'S ALL ABOUT BEEF



Beef Systems
Asst. Ext. Educator
Ben Beckman

ality and damage potential will vary with species. These soft-bodied insects feed in clusters on stems, terminals, and the undersides of leaves. As they feed, they remove plant sap and inject saliva, which reduces vigor and interferes with nutrient flow. Heavy infestations can cause leaf curling, wilting, and stunted growth.

Aphids also excrete a sticky substance called honeydew, which can coat leaves and create a host for sooty mold fungi — reducing palatability and making hay hard to dry or bale. In some cases, aphids may also transmit viral diseases, though this is less common in most forage systems.

Scout using sweep nets or by checking plant terminals and leaf undersides. Thresholds for treatment typically range from 40 to 75 aphids per stem depending on plant height and growing conditions. A 2022 CropWatch article titled "Watch for Aphids and Potato Leafhoppers in Nebraska Alfalfa" includes a table with species-specific treatment thresholds. Natural predators like lady beetles and lacewings often help suppress aphids, so consider their presence before spraying. However, hot, dry conditions can reduce predator activity, allowing aphid populations to surge.

Fortunately, aphids respond well to insecticides if caught early. Rotate modes of action when treating repeatedly to avoid resistance, and always check pre-harvest intervals before spraying.

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

Crossword puzzles believed to originate in Liverpool, England

Crossword puzzles have been enjoyed for years and years. Arthur Wynne, a journalist from Liverpool, England, is usually credited as the inventor of crossword puzzles. The first such puzzle appeared in the Sunday newspaper the New York World on December 12, 1913. Wynne's crosswords differed from modern ones in that the crossword was diamond-shaped and contained no internal black squares. Over time, additional publications recognized the popularity of crossword puzzles and started including them in their papers.

A tradition in puzzle design is that the grid should have 180-degree rotational symmetry, so that the pattern appears

the same if the paper is turned upside down.

Crossword puzzles are not only a popular pastime. Researchers continue to study how doing puzzles like crosswords strengthens cognitive health. Starting out with easier puzzles and building up in difficulty can make them easier to solve. Also, over time, avid crossword enthusiasts often learn repeated patterns and words that appear frequently in these puzzles.



On Friday, July 11th, students and their trip sponsors attended a very early Mass at St. Boniface Catholic Church before loading up and heading out to the 2025 Steubenville Youth Conference in Steubenville, Ohio.



The annual conference/retreat is designed for high school students (9-12). Prayer, worship, activities and fellowship are interwoven to give teenagers a special opportunity to connect with Christ. Photos submitted

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE JULY 7 MEETING
THE ELGIN CITY COUNCIL

ELGIN CITY COUNCIL
Proceedings
July 7, 2025

The Elgin City Council met in regular session on Monday, July 7, 2025, at 7:30 p.m., pursuant to posted notice.

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

Councilmembers present were Craig Niewohner, John “Mike” Dvorak, Leigh Kluthe, and Jeremy Young.

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

The following agenda items were approved:

- June regular meeting minutes, treasurer’s report, transaction report, and paying the claims

GENERAL: ERPPD, se, 101.53; Great Plains Communications, se, 55.96; APPEARA, su, 86.10; The Elgin Review, print, 52.04; Nationwide, ins, 308.00; 118 Insurance, ins, 3766.06; Fitzgerald, Vetter, Temple, Bartell, & Henderson, se, 700.00; Eakes Office Solutions, su, 371.05; PowerManager, su, 9020.00; Black Hills Energy, se, 113.35; Google, se, 14.40; Prudential, retirement, 357.16; American Funds, retirement, 204.10; US Post Office, postage, 146.00; US Treasury, tax, 4877.44; NE Dept of Revenue, tax, 541.72; Payroll, 6034.02

SALES TAX: Pool Fund: 2444.18
STREET: ERPPD, se, 913.19; Verizonwireless, su, 79.24; Cordell’s ATV Repair, su, 76.64; Corner Service & Tire, rpr, 125.00; MARC, su, 1149.05; Kittelson Welding, rpr, 560.00; Seda Land Handling, se, 16032.60, Elgin One Stop, fuel, 444.40; Bomgaars, su, 229.99; To Paving Assessment Fund, transfer, 2800.00; Black Hills Energy, se, 50.62; Payroll, 2898.79

WATER: ERPPD, se, 1150.96Great Plains Communications, se, 83.87; Verizonwireless, su, 79.25; NE Health Lab, se, 262.00; Sargent Drilling, su, 426.00; One Call Concepts, se, 11.42; Subsurface Solutions, dues, 180.00; Dean’s Market, su, 1.99; NE Dept of Revenue, tax, 29.32; US Post Office, postage, 144.70; Payroll, 5797.55

SEWER: ERPPD, se, 732.55; Great Plains Communications, se, 52.28; Neligh Auto & Machine, su, 80.70; Midwest Labs, se, 497.15; One Call Concepts, se, 11.42; USA Bluebook, su, 196.84; High Tide Technologies, se, 460.00; Subsurface Solutions, dues, 180.00; Elgin One Stop, fuel, 40.84; US Post Office, postage, 112.00; NE Dept of Revenue, tax, 245.84; Payroll, 2179.45

FIRE: ERPPD, se, 206.32; Great Plains Communications, se, 59.47; APPEARA, su, 86.09; 118 Insurance, ins, 1259.00; Kansas City Life, ins, 2270.40; Speed Services, rpr, 370.00; Diamond C Land & Cattle, su, 375.00; Danko Emergency Equipment, su, 1520.00; Elgin One Stop, su, 13.98; Black Hills Energy,

se, 113.04
POLICE: Antelope Co Sheriff, se, 2800.00; Fitzgerald, Vetter, Temple, Bartell, & Henderson, se, 500.00

TRASH PICKUP/RECYCLING: Bud’s Sanitary Service, se, 6707.65; Bank of Elgin, se, 112.00

POOL: ERPPD, se, 447.60; Great Plains Communications, se, 112.56; Dean’s Market, su, 1414.53; Criss Co Inc, se, 310.00; Amazon, su, 83.41; The Elgin Review, print, 220.00; Bomgaars, su, 64.72; Elgin One Stop, su, 3.87; Arnold Pool Co, su, 385.00; Black Hills Energy, se, 1282.68; NE Dept of Revenue, tax, 17.77; Bank of Elgin, loan, 2227.79; Payroll, 11695.06

PARK: ERPPD, se, 222.97; Central Valley Ag, su, 972.24; Midwest Electrical Services, se, 13112.00; NE Dept of Revenue, tax, 80.33; Bank of Elgin, fee, 15.00; Payroll, 2350.85
LIBRARY: ERPPD, se, 64.20; Great Plains Communications, se, 59.48; Amazon, su, 435.51; Black Hills Energy, se, 72.59; Payroll, 1333.30

YOUTH: ERPPD, se, 172.25; Stadium Sports, su, 314.50

RESCUE: Kimberly Young, su, 13.34; Eakes Office Solutions, su, 105.78; The Elgin Review, print, 9.49; Dean’s Market, su, 47.96; Quick Med Claims, se, 365.59

- Special designated liquor license for the steak fry on August 8th at the Elgin City Park
- Estimate from WW Concrete to extend the shelter concrete at the park for \$5160.00
- Get quotes to paint and to grind and caulk the cement at the circular shelter in the park
- Estimate from Bader’s Highway & Street for \$15986.00 for crack sealing
- Two additional cell phones through Total Wireless or Vieraero for city employees
- Building permits: Mark Schmitt, Scott and Mary Derby, Cordell Waterbury, and Capital Select LLC Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

The following agenda items were discussed:

- Public comment: none
- Dilapidated house at 311 Cedar
- Electrical updates at the park
- Living in campers in residential areas
- Estimate for cutter replacement at sewer plant
- Identify material of city water lines
- Tree dump for Elgin residents only
- Painting parking lines
- Sheriff report: May-66 hours and 48 minutes and nine 911 calls
- Culvert for alley entrance of the Homestead subdivision is placed
- 2002 ambulance posted on AuctionTime
- Next regular meeting will be held on Monday, August 4, 2025

Mayor MIKE SCHMITT
City Clerk KRISTIN L. CHILDERS
PUBLISH: July 16, 2025
ZNEZ

PUBLIC NOTICES

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE JULY 8 MEETING
ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

INTERNATL ex 67.45; KLABENES CONSTRUCTION ex 3,600.00; KNIFE RIVER MIDWEST ex 2,800.80; LAZY T TIRE ex 693.56; LIBERTY NATL ins 154.27; LIGHTENBERG TIRE ex 7,016.02; MADISON NATL LIFE ins 134.00; MATTEO SAND & GRAVEL ex 4,576.13; MEDICAL ENT ex 7.50; MIDWEST COATINGS ex 82,021.66; MR S’S ex 1,490.51; MURPHY TRACTOR ex 2,087.98; NATL INS SVC ins 56.75; NEBR DEPT OF REV tax 3,851.09; NELIGH AUTO ex 171.69; VSP-NACO VISION ins 353.53; NMC EXCHANGE ex 203.60; NCPPD ut 179.61; NNTC ut 75.36; ORCHARD LUMBER ex 87.88; QUICK SERVE ex 981.89; RAZOR TRACKING ex 1,000.00; RDO TRUCK CENTERS ex 1,657.81; ROSE EQUIP ex 7,850.41; SAPP BROTHER PETRO ex 2,913.95; WEX BANK ex 769.68; SIOUX CITY TARP ex 3,161.20; SOC SEC 18,313.14; SPUD TRUCKING ex 61,889.60; STATE OF NEBR-DEPT OF REV-MOTOR FUELS ex 3,227.00; MUTUAL OF OMAHA ins 1,202.40; TWO RIVERS AUTO PARTS ex 1,283.57; VILLAGE OF CLEARWATER ut 75.50; WASHINGTON NATL ins 99.60; WESTERN OIL II ex 327.27; PAYROLL \$91,701.22;

Register of Deeds: MIPS ex 361.20;

Law Enforcement: AMH FAMILY PRACTICE ex 121.00; AMH ex 2,116.00; CASH-WA DISTR ex 275.31; CULLIGAN ex 79.00; APRIL

CURTISS ex 108.00; DEANS MARKET ex 808.39; FAITH REGIONAL HEALTH SVCS ex 135.00; HILLTOP COMMUNITY PHARMACY ex 15.22; THRIFTWAY ex 270.88; U-SAVE PHARMACY ex 1,092.80;
Commissary: CASH-WA DISTR ex 147.94; CHARM-TEX ex 118.80; CUBBYS ex 94.96; TRICIA SPIEKER ex 40.00.

Approved minutes of the July 1st, 2025 Board of Commissioner Meeting and July 3rd, 2025 Board of Equalization Meeting.

Public comments. Correspondence was reviewed. Sheriffs Fee Report, Treasures Fund Balance, Treasurer’s Miscellaneous Revenue Report, Treasurers Sweep Account Statement, Clerk of the District Court Report, Imprest pledge collateral report.

Zoning Administrator report

was heard. Approved zoning fee resolution. The permit report was presented.

Approved Public Defender Contract. Selected printer for Joint Public Hearing notice.

Heard report from Extension Office regarding various personnel issues. Authorized hiring a person for fair help.

Road Superintendent Report. Approved one (1) oversize permit and 12 right of way permits.

Meeting Adjourned.

Antelope County Board of Commissioners

CHARLIE HENERY
Chairman of County Board

Attest: LISA PAYNE /s/
Antelope County Clerk
PUBLISH: July 16, 2025
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL
ANTELOPE COUNTRY CLUB

NOTICE OF RENEWAL CLASS C LIQUOR LICENSE
ANTELOPE COUNTRY CLUB

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 53-135.01 that a Class C Liquor License may be automatically renewed for one year from November 1, 2025; said license issued to Antelope Country Club address: 52580 E Hwy 275, Neligh, NE 68756 on the premises described as follows: on the entire 100-acre tract in the NW 1/4 of Section 35, the NE 1/4 and the SW 1/4 of Section 34, all in Township 25 North, Range 6 West of the 6th P.M., Antelope County, Nebraska. Notice is hereby given that written protests to the issuance of auto-

matic renewal of license may be filed by any resident of the County of Antelope on or before August 4th, 2025, in the office of the Antelope County Clerk; that in the event protests are filed by three or more persons, hearings will be held to determine whether continuation of said license should be allowed.

Dated the 8th day of July 2025
LISA PAYNE /s/
Antelope County Clerk

PUBLISH: July 16, 2025
ZNEZ

Read the
Notices!

Stores

◀ FROM Page 8

when you’re trying to put all the money into repairs and making things look a little nicer and better.”

Whalen and her husband also owned a grocery store in neighboring Coleridge for two years. The expenses started to rack up.

“We weren’t losing a ton of money, but we weren’t making much, either,” Whalen said. “So the bank said, ‘You guys really need to think about closing that door.’”

Narjes, associate director at UNL’s Nebraska Cooperative Development Center, said she recently has seen more older owners wanting to sell and retire. They struggle to find anyone with grocery industry experience who is open to the financial risk. She also has witnessed a growing number of people who buy a grocery store, then realize after a few years that the work is too hard and the profit margins too thin.

Last session, state Sen. Teresa Ibach, a Republican from Sumner, sponsored a bill that would create a grant program for small, locally owned grocery stores in cities with fewer than 40,000 residents. The grants would be open to grocery stores more than 25 miles from another grocery store.

The grants could cover things such as access to a refrigerated truck for deliveries, internet upgrades or online ordering systems.

Or they could help launch co-operative models, or partnerships with other businesses, to lower wholesale prices.

“You want a one-time infusion of cash to pay for something that ... will make that store more sustainable and maybe more profitable in the community long-term,” Fellers said. “It’s not just ... to pad your bottom line for a while.”

It would take \$250,000 to set up the grant program, with the goal of giving out \$2 million in grants annually.

Ibach said she hopes to see the bill become law next legislative session. “I will sure push for it,” she said.

Small-town grocery stores need to get creative to survive, Fellers said. Some are already trying new business models.

In Cody, high school students run the Circle C Market as a part of business classes. Other towns, like Emerson, have become co-ops, where community members pool funds to launch grocery stores and split profits.

In Lynch, population 187, volunteers help stock shelves and unload deliveries. Exeter plans to pilot a new program where paying members would be able to enter an unstaffed store via keyboard, shop and then pay through self-checkout.

When Emerson reopened its grocery store in an old American Legion building, other businesses on main street saw an uptick in business, Narjes said. New stores opened, too.

In Oakland, Johnson remembers the days when Main Street had multiple grocery stores, women’s and men’s clothing stores, jewelers and car dealers. All those stores, save for Nelson’s Food Pride, are gone now. The hospital was torn down,

too, replaced with a medical clinic and pharmacy.

To lose the grocery store? Kylie Penke thought about that while recently shopping there, picking up jugs of water for a student display at the Burt County Fair.

It’s a community hub, she said. Some people say it costs more to shop here, but it also costs gas money to drive to a bigger grocery store in a bigger town.

And Oakland — really any small town — is fragile, Penke said. If you lose one piece, “then another piece seems to fall.”

Nelson’s Food Pride is one giant, remaining piece.

“That would be the worst thing that could happen to our town,” Penke said.

DeKay

◀ FROM Page 1

Throughout the campaign, DeKay will continue to travel the district to listen to the ideas of constituents to take back to Lincoln.

DeKay and his wife Brenda raised both of their children in the district and have three grandchildren.

Legislative District 40 includes the following counties: Antelope, Cedar, Holt, Knox, and includes the northern portion of both Dixon and Pierce County.

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

The Elgin Review

WOLFPACK



Wolfpack Sports

Frost

◀ FROM Page 6

Back to Frost bad-mouthing Big Red. As you can imagine, there was plenty of chatter on social media after his comments. I guess more than 90 percent was anti-Frost, many saying they were glad Frost was fired.

It was pointed out that of the last four Husker head coaches, Frost was the only one to finish with a losing record. The others (with a .500 or better won/loss record) were Mike Riley, Bo Pelini and the coach who shall not be named (Bill C.) Go into most any bar on game day and speak the name of the coach who shall not be named, you had better be prepared to guzzle down whatever refreshment is in your hands.

Omaha World-Herald Columnist Tom Shatel wrote how, after Frost's remarks, it's time for him AND Nebraska fans to get over it. He's right. Frost was a bad fit for Nebraska AND Nebraska made the mistake in believing the once-Husker legend could magically return the team to its' glory days.

The job and all its perks were too much for Wood River's proud son. Remember, this proud son didn't want to be a Husker in the first place - choosing to go play at Stanford for coach legend Bill Walsh. After one year on the west coast, he came back to Lincoln and took a redshirt. He still made headlines off the field, fighting with Lawrence Phillips over a mutual female acquaintance. For the incident, Phillips got suspended for most of the 1995 season, very little was publicly said about Frost's role in the incident.

He took the field in 1996 as the starting QB, replacing Tommie Frazier and the late Brook Berringer. The bubble burst that year with his awful performance at Arizona State, snapping the Huskers' winning streak. He was later booed at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln.

The boos must have toughened him up as he came back in 1997 to lead the team to a split national championship with Michigan, courtesy of the magical 'flea-kicker' at Missouri.

Fans' expectations are high in Lincoln, they have a right to be. It's been that way my entire life. Winning multiple national championships will do that to a fan base. I've always said if you buy a ticket, sit your butt in a seat in 100-degree heat one week, then below-zero windchill near the end of the season, if you walk a few blocks or drive for five-six hours to go to a game and then drive home afterwards, you have a right to have high expectations. Fans, not taxpayers, pay the bills for the NU football program.

It's no different in South Bend, Tallahassee or Austin, athletes go to these schools because the expectations ARE high and they WANT to play for championships.

Which brings us full circle to last week. It's clear 'Nebraska' is still renting space in Frost's head. No longer a child, a one-time Husker great who basked in statewide glory in 1997 is now bitter about his legacy as both a player and a coach in Lincoln.

Don't expect there ever to be a day in the coming decades where he's welcomed back by NU fans. Not after this stunt!

After all, it's apparently tough for him to look in the mirror and face the truth. That will never happen because he will never accept how his demise was of his own doing.



Photo submitted

As a member of the Nebraska Nationals team, Wolfpack wrestler Libby Evans posted a 9-3 record competing in Florida last month. Over a three-day span, she wrestled in 12 duals against wrestlers from other states.

Evans says Florida trip was a great learning experience

Florida is hot and humid this time of year, but for Libby Evans it was the place to be earlier this summer. A state medalist as a sophomore at the Nebraska Girls State Wrestling Tournament last February, Evans just wrapped up competing on the Nebraska Nationals Team at the Disney Duals in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Four teams of girls AND boys meant 120 wrestlers from Nebraska were in action against teams representing other parts of the U.S.

Since getting out of school in mid-May, Evans had to work her way onto the team.

"You first have to go and compete at AAU State (to qualify)," she said Thursday. "That's where the coaches pick their teams. They look at more of how you competed throughout the season as well as good sportsmanship."

Evans had a stellar sophomore campaign winning more than 30 matches and keeping her losses to single-digits. In just two seasons as a varsity wrestler, she's won over 50 career matches, well on pace to surpass 100 (barring injury) by the end of her senior year.

And, when it comes to sportsmanship, she's one of the classiest wrestlers around. She doesn't boast, she doesn't have to. She lets her skills on the mat do all the talking.

In Florida, each team competed in as many as four duals a

day. She wrapped up the three-day competition with a 9-3 record with five pins. On one of the pins, she got her opponent into a headlock before putting her on her back. "That was the first time I've ever successfully thrown a headlock so that was really cool," Evans said.

"There were a lot of ups and downs with the team," she said. "We had a hard time having a lot of energy, but in the end we did really well."

Evans got to know some of her teammates back in April competing in Iowa so that helped, she said, when it came time to compete in Florida.

Thirteen states were represented there, including Nebraska. Among the other states sending teams were Missouri, Texas, South Dakota, Indiana, Florida and Iowa.

The building where they competed was huge, she said. Altogether, there were 36 matches going on at the same time, but she didn't notice anything but her own opponent on the mat.

"Once I'm out there, I can't hear anything else other than my coaches and the whistle. Everything else I just kind of tune it out, the sounds fade away," Evans said.

She said the biggest thing she took away from the Florida trip was getting quality mat time against new opponents.

"I'm much stronger on top now than I was before (Florida)," she noted. "I learned a couple of moves at the practices we had before. Those were really good. I was able to bring those back and show them to my coaches for something to work on this season. Also, having other coaches viewpoints to listen to because everybody coaches differently."

Having become a better wrestler from competing against the best from other states will only make Evans better as her junior season approaches.

That means trouble for her foes on the mat, big trouble. Great job Libby!



Libby Evans

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JENNIFER FURSTENAU, OD

THE BACK PAGE

Local native, former Husker Wyatt Mazour joins BCHC physical therapy team

Boone County Health Center (BCHC) is proud to welcome Wyatt Mazour, a licensed Physical Therapist, to its growing rehabilitation team. A native of Albion and the son of longtime BCHC family medicine physician Dr. John Mazour, Wyatt continues a legacy of care and service. Wyatt brings both clinical expertise and a deep connection



Wyatt Mazour, P.T.

to the community he now calls home again. Boone County Health Center (BCHC) is proud to welcome Wyatt Mazour, a licensed Physical Therapist, to its growing rehabilitation team. A native of Albion and son of longtime BCHC family medicine physician Dr. John Mazour, Wyatt continues a legacy of care and service to the Boone County community. He brings both clinical expertise and a heartfelt connection to the place he's once again proud to call home. Mazour grew up just west of Albion and now lives in Petersburg with his wife, Dana—an RN at BCHC who will soon be working alongside Dr. Carlson in the clinic—and their two daughters, Madilyn Mae and Summer Grace. Wyatt earned his Doctorate in Physical Therapy from the University of Nebraska Medical Center after completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

While at UNL, he was a member of the Nebraska Cornhusker football team from 2015–2019, playing as a running back and returner. He also represented the football team on the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). He is certified in Functional Dry Needling (Level I, DNPro) and is a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS). Wyatt specializes in orthopedic rehabilitation and sports medicine, with a strong passion for post-operative recovery and helping patients return to the activities they love. Whether it's a teenager returning to football, an older adult wanting to play pickleball, or a golfer managing pain, Wyatt offers individualized, evidence-based care. He also brings additional expertise in Blood Flow Restriction training and return-to-golf rehabilitation. Mazour is especially excited to serve his hometown and help grow BCHC's physical therapy services.

“My wife and I always wanted to raise our kids here, and we've watched BCHC grow into something truly impressive. It's an honor to now be part of this incredible team,” he said. “Helping people get back to doing what they love—that's what drives me.” For more information or to schedule an appointment with Wyatt, contact the Boone County Health Center Physical Therapy department at 402-395-3187.

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<http://ins2.esu7.org/bcsbusiness/about/>

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JULY 28-AUGUST 3

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MONDAY JULY 28
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Fair Grounds Clean Up

TUESDAY JULY 29
6:00 pm Parade: for more information contact Jessie Swick at 308-201-0038 or Makayla Reiter at 402-843-0212
6:00 pm CWC Sand Volleyball Fundraiser Tournament – for more information contact Amber Marcellus 605-641-2758 or Jerilee Wright 402-340-7138

WEDNESDAY JULY 30
8:00 am Horse show begins. Show order will be posted
3:00 pm GLW Roping, Working Ranch Horse & Goat Tying (after the horse show)
7:00 pm That Hypnotist

THURSDAY JULY 31
9:00 am Interview judging of static exhibits.
9:00 am- 12:00 pm Open Class Entries
6:00 pm Wheeler County Roping (youth followed by adults) must enter by 6 pm. Buckles to the Top Header, Heeler and Top Junior Roper

FRIDAY AUGUST 1
8 am Livestock Weigh-In
9:00 am Small Animal Show
1. Cats
2. Small Animals
3. Rabbits
4. Poultry

All livestock weighed and in place except stocker feeders and lactating dairy
2:00 pm Watermelon Feed. Sponsored by Country Partners
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Fireman's BBQ at the new Firehall
6:30 pm Sheep riding
7:00 pm Rodeo, Ranch Bronc Riding, Kids Events during rodeo, slack after rodeo
After the rodeo listen to the Loose Cannon

SATURDAY AUGUST 2
8:00 am Livestock Show: Show order will be posted.
1. Swine 4. Beef
2. Dairy Goats 5. Sheep
3. Dairy 6. Meat Goats
5:30 pm Livestock Premium Auction
5:7:30 pm Steak Feed, \$25 a Steak Dinner
6:30 pm Wheeler County Foundation Scholarship and Awards, Herb Mignery Good Hand Award
7:30 pm Rodeo, Ranch Bronc Riding, Kids Events during rodeo (Hollenbeck Rodeo Stock)
9:00 pm BJ Jamison Band in the beer garden

SUNDAY AUGUST 3
Community Day
12:00 pm Draft Horse Show
1:00 pm Turtle Races \$1 per turtle
3:00 pm Cornhole Tournament \$10 a team
6:00 pm Community Pot-Luck
6:30 pm Ranch Rodeo - Limited Entries \$300 a team. Entries Close July 31st for Ranch Rodeo, contact Clint Dexter @ 308-870-0380

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FRIDAY

BJ JAMISON

SATURDAY

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