

Seized money went missing? Sheriff refuses to reveal footage of traffic stops

By Natalia Alamdari
Flatwater Free Press

Three drivers who had money seized by the Seward County Sheriff's Office after being stopped on Interstate 80 allege that some of their cash disappeared during those traf-

fic stops.

The amount of money seized from them was more than the amount returned or documented in county records, they say.

The county's former public defender told the Flatwater Free Press that at least three

other clients have alleged that cash vanished during Seward County traffic stops. An Omaha defense attorney said he's had multiple clients make similar allegations.

Both attorneys said they didn't have enough evidence

to bring those claims to court – and worried that speaking out would put their clients in increased legal peril.

Seward County Sheriff Mike Vance said it's impossible that money was stolen, in part because body cameras and dash cameras run throughout a traffic stop.

But the sheriff's department denied a Flatwater Free Press public records request to release the footage from those traffic stops.

The allegations surfaced during the Flatwater Free Press' reporting on Seward County's use of civil asset forfeiture, which allows law enforcement to seize money without convicting drivers of a crime. Seward County law enforcement has brought in \$7.5 million from I-80 motorists in the past five years, much of it through civil asset forfeiture.

The county, population

17,692, has accounted for a third of all civil forfeiture cases in state court in the past decade in Nebraska, population 1.97 million.

In an email, Seward County Attorney Wendy Elston said that she had never heard an allegation of theft or disappearing seized money until being asked about it by a reporter.

Blake Swicord, coordinator of the Seward-based Homeland Security task force, said the department hasn't received a formal complaint related to the allegations.

Vance said he wasn't surprised by the accusations. But he said it's "not possible" that money could disappear from a stop. Money can't be moved from a vehicle unless there are three officers and one supervisor present, he said. Cash is counted on camera when taken into evidence, using a counter that takes a photo of each bill.

It's counted again by a bank. And cameras record everything, he said.

"It's why we built that process, because we know people are going to make accusations," Vance said. "That's the nature of the game, you're dealing with criminals."

None of the drivers who spoke to the Flatwater Free Press were convicted of a crime in Seward County.

Two days after Vance said that cameras make the disappearance of seized money impossible, the Flatwater Free Press began filing public records requests for footage from the traffic stops.

The sheriff's department denied all three, though state law often allows officials to release this footage if they choose.

In one case, the records were sealed because criminal charges had been dismissed, Elston said in an email.

In another, the records were deemed "investigative" and not subject to a public records request, even though charges were dropped and a judge approved the forfeiture of money in 2020.

In a third, the department said too many years had passed and the records had been purged.

Elston declined a follow-up interview with the Flatwater Free Press this month. Vance did not respond to calls or emails after speaking about the allegations in May.

Three drivers from three different states provided similar, unprompted accounts of cash that went missing during interviews about their Seward County stops.

They were all pulled over on I-80. Deputies searched their vehicles and seized thousands in cash or money orders. But, the drivers say, the amount of money documented as being seized didn't match the amount the drivers recalled having in their cars.

In 2022, Karl Pittman, driving from New Jersey to Las Vegas, was pulled over for following too closely and turn signal violations. According to court records, Seward County deputies seized \$20,500 in money orders from his car and charged him with possession of drug currency.

Pittman claims he also had \$3,000 taken from a coat left in the passenger seat that was never accounted for in court records.

Pittman, previously convicted on New Jersey drug charges in 2007, thought his attorney would be able to obtain body cam and dash cam footage as part of his Nebraska criminal trial, he said. But his case was dismissed the day of his hearing. His money orders were returned to him. Pittman says his \$3,000 is still missing.

Pittman then filed a public records request seeking video footage from the stop.

His request was denied by the county attorney, who cited state law allowing the county to withhold investigative records.

In 2019, Kenan DeHart said he was pulled over because his car's window tint was too dark. DeHart recalls having at least \$8,000 in the car, bundled in rubber bands in a passenger door compartment.

On the shoulder of I-80, he signed a form admitting to transporting drugs and drug currency and abandoning the money.

The abandonment form DeHart signed is commonly used in Seward County. The form requires a person to "abandon all claims to the above-described merchandise, and waive any further rights or proceedings."

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

During his traffic stop, DeHart said he was charged with two felonies for drug possession. He said he was told if he signed the form and abandoned the money, those charges would be dropped. They were.

The form he signed and subsequent court records documented \$5,477 taken from his car – less than the \$8,000 DeHart remembers having.

He never reported the discrepancy, he said, because he didn't want further legal trouble.

In 2015, Darius Endres and a friend were driving from North Dakota to Denver to gamble and watch a hockey

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7 p.m. Dog Show

FRIDAY, JULY 28

9 a.m. Fashion Show

MONDAY, JULY 30

9 a.m. Horse Show

TUESDAY, AUG. 1

8 a.m. Horse Show
8 a.m.-8 p.m. Open Class Entries
7 p.m. Team Penning

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 2

8:30 a.m. 4H Entry Day
7:30 p.m. Ag Olympics

THURSDAY, AUG. 3

8 a.m. Rabbit Show
11 a.m. Dairy Show
1 p.m. Bucket Calf Show
4 p.m. Best Dressed Goat
4:30 p.m. Livestock Judging
6 p.m.-12 a.m. Beer Garden
7:30 p.m. Extreme Bull Riding-Double S Bulls

FRIDAY, AUG. 4

8:30 a.m. Chicken Show
1 p.m. Goat Show | Sheep Show to follow
6 p.m.-11 p.m. Carnival is OPEN
6 p.m.-12 a.m. Beer Garden
8 p.m. Colt Ford Concert

SATURDAY, AUG. 5

8 a.m. Swine Show
11:30 a.m. Beef Show
12 p.m. Cornhole Tournament
1:30 p.m. Horseshoe Tournament
3:30 p.m. Antique Tractor Parade
4 p.m.* Premium Livestock Auction
*or 10 minutes after the Beef Show
4:30 p.m. Neligh Chamber BBQ
4:30 p.m. Brownie & Ice Cream Social
1-5 p.m. & 6-11 p.m. Carnival is OPEN
5 p.m. Aksarben & Pioneer Farm Family Awards
7 p.m. Demolition Derby by Wreckless Promotions

SUNDAY, AUG. 6

7:30-10 a.m. Pancake Feed sponsored by FFA Alumni
9:30 a.m. Small Animal Round Robin. Large Animal Robin to Follow
10 a.m. Church Service at Riverside Park
11:30 p.m. 4-H Fashion Revue & Awards
5 p.m. Outlaw Truck and Tractor Pullers - MATTPA



THURS. AUG. 3



SAT. AUG. 5



SUN. AUG. 6



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Dr. Urja's next clinic at AMH is scheduled for **Wed, July 26th**. For an appointment, call **402.887.6264**.



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Induction of new members took place at the regular monthly meeting in Bartlett Thursday, July 13. New members and their sponsors L- R Dave Collins sponsor of Kristen and Jeremy Klein, Amy Spencer with her sponsor Cara Snider, Tristan Dearmont, Kay Reineke and Octavia Dearmont. Kay was a sponsor for Tristan and Octavia. *Photo submitted*

Bartlett News

By Sherry Tetschner

The Bartlett Lions Club held their regular monthly meeting Thursday at 7:00 p.m. on July 13 at the old fire hall in Bartlett. 15 members were present. The Lions Concession Stand for the Wheeler County Fair was the main topic of discussion. Due to rising food prices many of the food items prices were changed with a vote of the members.

The Bartlett Lions Club recently purchased a new refrigerator for the Lions Stand. They will also be purchasing a freezer to be used for the fair. This year a Pepsi Pop machine will be used to store cold drinks. Pepsi will provide the machine and fill it with Pepsi products chosen by the Bartlett Lions Club.

Club members voted to eliminate ‘Long Johns,’ from the menu at least for this year.

Cleanup of the Lions stand will take place Monday evening, July 31.

The Bartlett Lions Club is very grateful for the \$250 given by Pauline Marker in honor of her late husband Melvin.

New members were officially inducted and received membership certificates and Nebraska Lions Pins. These are as follows: Kristin and Jeremy Klein, sponsored by Dave Collins, Amy Spencer, sponsored by Cara Snider and Tristan and Octavia Dearmont, sponsored by Kay Reineke. A reception, held in honor of new members, included a delicious cake made and decorated by Dave Collins.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 10 at 7 p.m. at the old fire hall in Bartlett.

The summer is a busy time for the Herb Mignery Bronze Garden in Bartlett. Saturday afternoon a car club from Omaha, consisting of 11 newer ‘Porsches,’ toured the ‘Bronzes.’ The cars were an amazing sight as they drove into Bartlett single file.

Looking Back

Sixty Years Ago
July 18, 1963

Roughly 40 sections of farm land in this community were struck by hail and strong wind Friday night. Most of the crops within the hailed area are considered a total loss. Most of the hail was small, 1/4 to 1/2 inch in diameter. Some ditches were nearly full of hail as long as 15 hours after the storm. Electricity was off for several hours. While the electricity was off water backed up in home floor sewer drains and this was not relieved until some of the firemen put a fire truck to use at the sewer plant to help get it into operation. The municipal swimming pool had to be drained and cleaned of debris from the storm. Joe Hobel, who found an unusually large number of dead birds in his yard after the storm, decided to count the kill. His report to the Review was that in an area 50 x 80 feet in front and to the east of his house, he picked up 380 dead birds, mainly sparrows.

The Nebraska Optometric Association has issued a warning against viewing the impending solar eclipse on July 20 with the naked eye. If you want to view the eclipse, Dr. Jack James suggests the use of a pinhole device which avoids the harmful infra-red rays. It can be made by punching a clean hole with a pin through a piece of cardboard.

Several Elgin business firms have purchased children's tickets for the Shrine circus at Norfolk which they will make available for the asking. The circus will be held the afternoons of July 21 and 22. The Chamber of Commerce has arranged bus transportation for 78 children to Norfolk on Monday afternoon for children who do not plan to accompany their parents. Additional car transportation will be needed for approximately 122 youths.

Fifty Years Ago
July 19, 1973

Elgin's swimming and diving teams came out on the short end of the stick last Tuesday in a meet with Wayne held here. Wayne garnered 254 total points to 231 for Elgin. Elgin seemed to fall down in the older age bracket in swimming events while Elgin divers collected first place in each age group for boys and girls.

What is believed to be a 30.06 caliber rifle bullet passed through the west door glass of the Mrs. Elizabeth Dozler home around 6 p.m. Monday. The angle of trajectory made it appear the rifle had been fired high into the air from a considerable distance southwest of Elgin. It is also possible the bullet had glanced off of some object which caused it to go high in the air before losing its momentum. The bullet stopped on Mrs. Dozler's kitchen floor. This might serve as a warning to users of high powered rifles of the danger of firing this type

Klein

From Page One

dad cutting and raking hay. Raaf, who'll be a 7th grader, and Diedrick, a 4th grader, round out the family that attends St. Bonaventure Catholic Church, Raeville.

Gracias, Amy Klein, for welcoming the world to Elgin through Spanish, and for using your translator skills to lend a helping hand to those trying to learn our culture. Estás valorada, meaning, you are appreciated.

or even a small caliber rifle into the air.

One of the largest crowds ever attended the Elgin Chamber of Commerce ‘ladies’ night’ Monday at Flobert Lake with 186 New York Cut steaks being served. Don Cheatum's crew of cooks and food committee prepared and served the dinner in superb style. Ray Kalvelage had his excellent ham hors d'oeuvres.

Thirty Years Ago
July 28, 1993

Darrell Getzfred, owner of Getz' Grocery in Elgin, was honored by the Elgin Chamber of Commerce during his grand opening at the store last Friday. He received a cake and a first year membership card from Chamber representatives Laura Kluthe and Rick Huffman.

At a special meeting Monday afternoon, July 26, the Elgin City Council offered an amended five-year contract to Buds' Sanitary Service for garbage hauling services in Elgin to begin Aug. 1. The company will provide curbside garbage pickup to all Elgin residences, and alley service to the local businesses, and the city will play \$7.50 per month for each pickup location. Elgin residents will have to place their garbage in 32-gallon or smaller containers, or in trash bags, and place them on the curbs before 9 a.m. on trash pickup days.

Mister M Catering owners Dan and Karen Siems have announced their purchase of the former FCX Farmers Store building at the corner of Second and Cedar Streets. The Siems plan to move their bakery and catering business into the building from their present location next door. They are planning to open a coffee shop in conjunction with their bakery after the move. The larger location will also allow expansion of the catering kitchen and other facilities.

Twenty Years Ago
July 16, 2003

About 30 aircraft from many locations in Nebraska were flown in for the 12th annual Fly-In Breakfast held Sunday morning, July 13, at the Koinzan Flying Service airfield. The pancake and sausage breakfast was served by the Experimental Aircraft Association to an estimated 250 to 300 people. Some of the more unusual aircraft at this year's fly-in were the World War II era PT 23 trainer flown in by Lee Cameron of Neligh, and the 1940s Steerman bi-plane flown in by Todd Harders of Cairo, NE. The Life NET helicopter was flown in from Norfolk, and an ultralight airplane was flown in from Creston, NE.

Injuries sustained in a roll-over accident last weekend on a county road southwest of Elgin claimed the life of an Elgin teenager, Shari Lynn Schiltmeyer.

Northeast Community College has announced the names of area 2003 high school graduates who have received Board of Governors Scholarships to attend Northeast this fall. The scholarships cover full tuition for four semesters at Northeast. Area winners include Cassandra Haddix, daughter of Sam and Bonnie Haddix of Elgin; Shelly Senn, daughter of Nancy Senn of Bartlett; Brian Thiessen, son of Marlene and Bob Thiessen of Clearwater; and Amanda Schueth, daughter of Sandy and Dean Schueth of Ewing.

By Betty Kallhoff

Community Center Menus

Elgin Community Center meals next week are:
Monday, July 24: Hamburger, biscuit bake, mixed vegetables, tropical fruit, milk.
Tuesday, July 25: Tacos with all the fixings, Spanish rice, refried beans, banana, milk.
Wednesday, July 26: Stuffed peppers, macaroni salad, lettuce salad, pears, milk.
Thursday, July 27: Baked pork cutlets, mashed potatoes & gravy, peas, apricots, milk.
Friday, July 28: Chicken strips, tator tots, green beans, fruit cocktail, milk.
(All meals served with bread & butter. Menus are provided by the Community Center. and are subject to change)

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Fighting weeds never ends

Weed(s) talk? No, this column isn't about smoking or otherwise ingesting weed (marijuana) for medicinal or recreational purposes. Let others write about that controversial subject. Instead, it's about the battle with weeds in our fields, lawns, gardens, and flower beds.

Have you ever noticed how in hot, dry weather weeds survive just fine, and especially flourish when it rains? Hubby Rick, an organic farmer and University of Nebraska-Lincoln ag alum said he learned in an agronomy class way back when that any misplaced plant in a field is a weed. Think volunteer corn in the soybean field. Rapidly multiplying grasses in your flower beds count, too.

During my long trek to wellness following broken bones sustained in a car wreck last month, precious friends swooped in and weeded a couple of my massive flower gardens. Unfortunately, a weed whacker was too massive to complete the intricate job of sorting beauty from the undesirable. Now, the flowers, with space to grow and full access to sunlight and water, are bursting forth in full glory. So thankful.

One note about the word weed before moving on. The term equated with cannabis took hold in the early 20th century. It stems from the shortened version of the word locoweed, a plant that grows prolifically in North America and can be harmful to livestock. Marijuana users sometimes are dubbed pot heads or weed eaters, depending on how they ingest the substance.

Back to flowerbeds and gardens. Weeding out the undesirable also happens in the workplace. Often less productive workers get the pink slip one by one. Theater and play directors use auditions to weed out actors. Same goes for conductors of prestigious symphony orchestras. Employers weed out resumes to cherry pick the top two or three job candidates to interview.

If you haven't seen that precious grandchild in a while, it's common to comment, "my, you've grown like a weed!" Doting grandparents might get deep into the weeds, meaning totally immersed, with infant and toddler care when it's their turn to give weary parents a break.

Sometimes a complex project falls deep into the weeds. The restoration of the 1903 barn out here on the Elgin farmstead sometimes felt like that – so many local craftsmen involved; first this function, then that. Hubby Rick, deep in the weeds on details and instructions for others, credits all for a splendid job. A lifelong dream realized.

Human nature sometimes gets equated with weed phrases. For example, a lost ball in the high weeds refers to someone who is completely clueless. That's me with some of the music I give a valiant attempt to master – yep, a lost ball in the tall weeds or, in this case, a page of piano music totally blackened with notes in funky keys and nontraditional counting. If one has the time and motivation, you can go into the weeds, or become totally immersed, in order to conquer the task.

About dandelions, how did they become noxious weeds anyway? Looking across a sea of yellow, such as in our farmyard this spring, is beauty to behold until you realize how much people hate dandelions, especially the flying seeds that infiltrate the neighbor's property. This is especially a concern for city dwellers when airborne seeds make their way next door.

Truth is, the long tap root of a dandelion is good for soil health, and the flowers and leaves are safe for human consumption. Yet, we get out the herbicide and spray them to smithereens in order to achieve pristine lawns. Your choice. I don't particularly like the dandelion look either, just interesting how some plants get a bad rap.

One of my flower beds is filled with milk weeds, tall, gorgeous plants really. In the farmer's fields, they are not welcome. In the flower bed, they are home for monarch butterflies. This plant, considered a weed to most, is critical to the life cycle of the monarch. The caterpillars feed exclusively on the leaves. Without the milk weed, the circle of life is broken for this fabulous insect.

As summer begins its winddown, here's hoping weeds have been kept under control in the vast fields of corn and soybeans. Production increases. Let's also hope that you've been able to sort the weeds from the beauty in the people around you and the bounteous growth in your gardens.

SAY WHAT?

Elgin Columnist Jane Schuchardt

Comments welcome at jane.schuchardt@gmail.com.

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

Edward R. Murrow

Opinion

Read. Reflect. Respond.

Military strength and readiness

As Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine continues, conflict within Russia has recently flared, and threats from rogue nations have escalated, this week House Republicans have focused on delivering on our commitment to a nation that's safe through the Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (FY24 NDAA), Congress' primary legislative vehicle to authorize defense spending.

While there has been encouraging progress in strengthening NATO, the expansion of Russia's aggression remains a serious threat. In addition to supporting America's allies, it is clear we must safeguard homeland security through maintaining our own military strength and readiness.

Recently the Chinese military has conducted threatening exercises crossing the midline of the Taiwan Strait—traditionally considered a buffer zone mediating the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) and Taiwan's territorial claims. Furthermore, this week, North Korea's communist regime has conducted an intercontinental ballistic missile test and doubled down

FROM THE HILL



Congressman Adrian Smith

on a commitment to developing its nuclear weapon capabilities.

In addition to reaffirming support for our regional allies, as I did in my recent trip to Japan, the United States must apply a peace-through-strength strategy to be prepared to compete with our adversaries – in particular the CCP which has shown a relentless commitment to military spending and currently boasts the world's largest navy.

The FY24 NDAA would provide the significant investments we need to strengthen strategic deterrence, support servicemembers and their families, and reinforce warfighting readiness all while holding the Pentagon accountable for responsible spending and appropriate mission focus.

In addition to investing in American nuclear deterrence, missile defense, and hypersonic missile capabilities, this year's NDAA includes the largest pay raise for servicemembers in more than 20 years at 5.2 percent, expands reimbursements available to military spouses, and authorizes over \$240 million of investments to make housing more affordable for servicemembers and their families. The legislation also provides assistance and a path to return to service for the 8,000 servicemembers who were discharged for declining to take the COVID-19

See SMITH, Page Five

Brain drain: Great topic, lousy way to discuss it

In a rare move, seven months into the Jim Pillen reign, I'm going to suggest we cut the new guy some slack.

Seems that a social media tweet raised concerns about First Amendment rights and dredged up the decades-long discussion on brain drain. Pillen tweeted from the governor's official account that he hoped the 31 Nebraska high school graduates

who had perfect scores on the ACT would "return and utilize your talents here" after college.

Remember, it was Twitter and other social media that revealed President #45 was a twit. Let's hope somehow Pillen can avoid that cesspool. But, given the finger wagging and blaming so far, folks have pretty strong feelings about Nebraska's "best and brightest" that appear to be headed elsewhere to pursue higher education.

Some have complained that the governor's office allegedly turned off the replies on the account disallowing direct responses to the account and limiting

debate on the so-called brain drain. That move was criticized by Rose Godinez, the legal director of ACLU of Nebraska, as somewhat of a legal gray area because users could still weigh in via Twitter's "quote tweet" function.

A public official outright blocking a user on social media from their official government account would be a violation of the First Amendment, she said, adding, "It doesn't promote transparency or accessibility to the top public official in the state."

Spokeswoman Laura Strimple said Pillen's communications team had a staffing change in the days before sending the tweet and the decision to limit replies — a multi-step process that the account has not repeated since the June 24 tweet — was inadvertent. Right.

Inquiries from the Lincoln Journal Star newspaper caused her to remove the restriction, the paper reported.

So, here's where we need to cut some slack. Is Pillen the first or only person to ever say they hope graduates come back? I watched "Pure Nebraska" on KOLN-KGIN TV and saw a woman from Haigler who had returned to the southwest Nebraska community after an absence of more than 20 years say she hoped other natives of the community would return as well.

She's not an elected official, but the point is that many of us say it and think it. In an ideal world it might work.

The fact is that more people have exited the state than have settled in Nebraska from other states each year since 2010. Folks who study this stuff, the Center for Public Affairs Research at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, say that residents with a bachelor's degree or a higher level of education have fled the state. That continued exodus was addressed in May when 115 state businesses signed a letter to Pillen and state lawmakers opposing "harmful social legislation" as senators weighed a bill that would ban gender-affirming surgeries for trans youth.

Of the 31 Nebraska students who notched perfect scores on the standardized college admissions exam this year, 20 have made their post-graduate plans public in newspaper stories and social media posts. Fifteen of those 20 plan to attend college out of state, opting for universities that include Columbia, Stanford, Duke, Notre Dame and Northwestern, among others. Only four of the 20 say they will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. One plans to go to the university's Omaha campus.

Strimple said in a statement, "In sharing his best wishes, the governor was simply encouraging those students who had announced plans to attend college outside Nebraska to return to their home state afterward."

Again, a little slack please. These are young people bolstered by the fact that they've proven they're good at taking tests. Leo Turner of Lincoln said he'd be attending UNL if it weren't for the full-ride scholarship from the University of Alabama where he plans to be a double major in math and physics. How's that for a no-brainer?

Cameron Coen, who will study astronautical engineering — a specific program not offered anywhere in Nebraska — at the University of Southern California said he hopes to work for NASA or another spacecraft-centered agency or company after

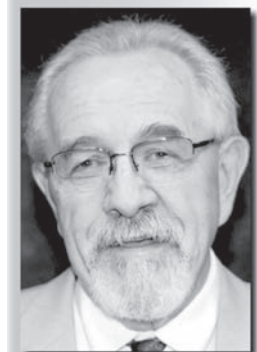
college and graduate school. He added he doesn't see a future for himself in his home state. "I'm also just excited to get out of the state (and) kind of see what's out there."

There's your bottom line. Cut through the politics and realize that spirit of adventure, the wonderment, is probably the motivating factor. Admit it, we've all had those thoughts.

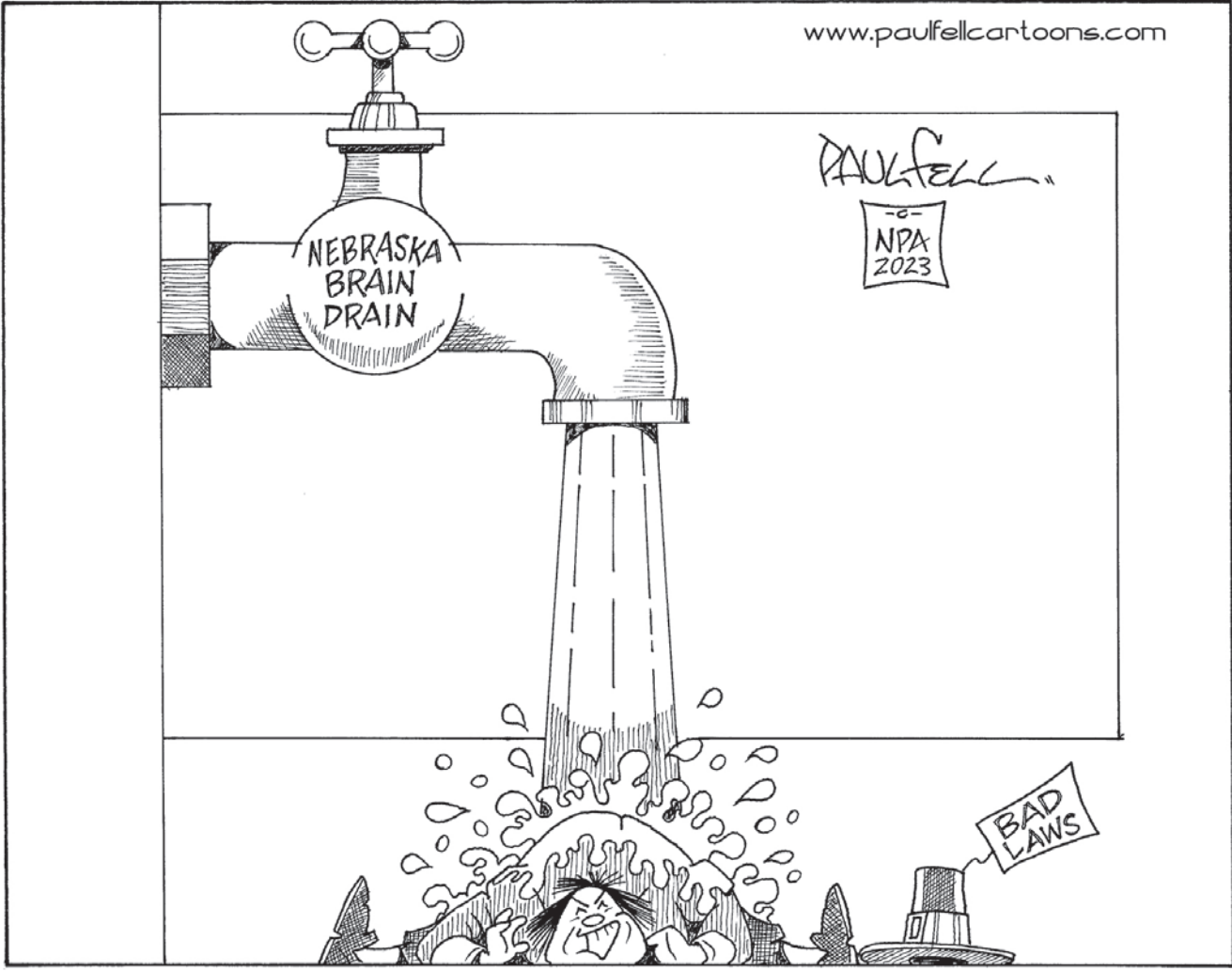
J.L. Schmidt has been covering Nebraska government and politics since 1979. He has been a registered Independent for more than 20 years.

CAPITOL VIEW

Nebraska Press Association



Statehouse Correspondent J.L. Schmidt



A win for rural broadband

In this polarized age, the news often floods our minds with problems and criticisms. We rarely hear truly good news — news of cooperation and achievement. Today, I'm excited to recap some incredible news for our great state.

Recently, Nebraska was awarded a full \$405,281,070 in broadband funding through the BEAD program — that's almost half a billion dollars. This revolutionary grant will reboot our internet access in the state, especially in rural areas with limited broadband access.

The BEAD program is run by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and was established through the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law. I worked hard on that bill two years ago, and voted for its passage in part because of its promise to bolster our broadband infrastructure.

As part of that law, I also championed the Broadband Funding Map amendment, which created a mapping tool of areas that have received or will soon receive federal funding for broadband deployment. The map will ensure that federal agencies track where funds have already been granted, so that they can cooperate to prioritize the areas that need broadband buildout the most without overlapping spending.

Anyone who has spent time in the rural areas of our state knows the importance of broadband access — especially to those living along stretches of farmland with few residents, far from the nearest town. Across Nebraska, broadband avail-

ability continues to be severely limited. In areas that do have connectivity, it's still common to run into unacceptably slow or glitchy service. The benefits of broadband deployment have been achieved more quickly in urban and suburban areas, where network construction is easier and more households can be reached per project. It is essential that our harder-to-reach rural communities are not left behind in a digital age.

In our rapidly evolving world, internet access is no longer a luxury — it's essential for daily life. This connectivity enables us to modernize health care services, help our children do their homework, enhance emergency communications, and keep in touch with our communities. That's not to mention the massive economic benefits of reliable broadband service. Small businesses across the state need high-speed internet to grow their operations and job seekers need it to find new employment opportunities.

There also is no stronger example of the influence of broadband than the agriculture industry.

See FISCHER, Page Five

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator Deb Fischer

Now is the time to push back on Russian leader Vladimir Putin

WASHINGTON REPORT



State Senator Pete Ricketts

There's an old adage that those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat its mistakes. Despite teaching history as early as kindergarten, we sometimes forget its lessons. In doing so, we miss opportunities to prevent it from repeating. Our posture toward the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine is one such example.

Despite our efforts to avoid getting involved in conflicts around the world, they inevitably find their way to our doorstep. From World War I and II to the radical Islamic terror that

inspired 9/11, our greatness makes us the

ultimate target for adversaries on the warpath. The last century demonstrated that the United States will get dragged into global conflicts. As we grapple with what to do about Russia's invasion of Ukraine, history tells us looking the other way now won't keep the bullies from setting their sights on us. To put it even more simply: as every Nebraska farmer knows, it is better to address a problem early than let it get bigger down the road. A stitch in time saves nine.

After World War II, the United States and our allies set up a rules-based system. This system promotes peaceful trade between nations and has prevented global war. For nearly 80 years, this system has worked. Now, both Russia and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) want to change that system. Russian dictator Vladimir Putin's invasion of its neighbor Ukraine is a land grab. It is also a direct challenge to global peace. If dictators are successful they don't stop. They grab for more. Our actions now will either open the door to more conflict or prevent

catastrophe.

Putin's brutality is on display in Ukraine. We should not question his willingness to apply the same kind of disregard for human life in a conflict with the United States and our allies. He's killed tens of thousands. Ukrainian children have been abducted and taken to Russian indoctrination camps. Putin's troops have been accused of thousands of war crimes. This includes the indiscriminate mass killings and rape of civilians. More than 8 million Ukrainians — that's four times Nebraska's entire population — have been forced to flee their country. Nearly 6 million have had to abandon their homes and are displaced within Ukraine. Our support for Ukraine now can prevent a wider conflict without costing American lives. It will also be at a lesser financial cost.

I said recently in our Senate Foreign Relations hearing on Russia policy that Putin sees the U.S. as his chief adversary. He has long behaved like he's at war with us. He's wrongfully detained U.S. citizens and held them for

ransom. He's repeatedly refused to comply with U.S.-Russia arms control agreements. He's aligned himself with our other adversaries in Iran and the CCP, who will be emboldened if he is successful in Ukraine.

While Putin's hostility can be shocking, the ambition behind it is not surprising. Putin invaded Georgia in 2008, Ukrainian Crimea in 2014, and Ukraine again last year. Putin's actions indicate he aims to recreate the Soviet Union. If Putin succeeds in Ukraine, NATO allies like Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland could be next. At that point, the United States would be obligated to intervene with our own troops. We cannot let Putin succeed.

However, our support cannot be in the form of a blank check. It is critical we also provide necessary and aggressive oversight of American tax dollars to ensure they are being used effectively.

It is also critical that our NATO allies do

See RICKETTS, Page Five

Numbers To Know

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

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

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

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

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

Representative Adrian Smith: 503 House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515-2703. Phone (202) 225-6435. Fax: (202) 225-0207. E-mail: http://www.house.gov/writerep/.

Nebr. Unicameral Website www.unicam.state.ne.us

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

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

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

About Us



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Fischer

From Page Four

Rural areas are experiencing increased productivity because of advanced technologies that fuel agricultural growth. Critically, these precision agriculture technologies — which save producers time, water, and other resources by applying the right amount of input for farm activities — also rely on internet connections.

None of this connectivity is possible without broadband in-

Smith

From Page Four

To ensure optimal recruitment and the utmost readiness for our forces to fight 21st century battles, it is important the American military does not get caught up in fighting ideological battles. Congress has a responsibility to conduct oversight ensuring our Department of Defense (DoD) is focused on readiness and effectiveness rather than pushing an ideological agenda.

To accomplish this, the House-passed FY24 NDAA prohibits funding for the teaching of Critical Race Theory, includes a parent's bill of rights for DoD schooling, does not authorize climate change programs, and prevents the DoD from requiring contractors to document emissions from weapons systems.

While providing the investment our military needs to maintain competitiveness, this bill also maintains fiscal responsibility by cutting billions of dollars in inefficient and obsolete defense programs and bureaucracy. It would also crack down on waste, fraud, and abuse by penalizing DoD for cost overruns on major defense programs and increases audit measures for aid provided to Ukraine.

I supported passage of the NDAA because it ensures a strong national defense and a government that is accountable. Our national security and commitment to freedom in no small part depends on the readiness of our brave men and women in uniform. This legislation rightfully maintains support for them, their families, and peace for America and our allies.

Ricketts

From Page Four

their part to help in this fight. In 2014, all NATO members agreed to spend at least 2% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defense by 2024. That pledge is more important than ever. Seven countries met or exceeded this target last year, including the United States. Yet, twenty-four others failed to step up. This must change. Recently, I joined with 35 of my Senate colleagues to urge President Biden to push NATO countries to fulfill their defense commitments. I also personally raised these concerns with them at the NATO Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania this past week.

History has taught us that to stop Putin now will be far less costly in blood and treasure than what happens if we don't. We are giving Ukraine weapons to fight Russia so we don't have to. It is critical the U.S. and our allies provide Ukraine with the economic and security assistance necessary to defeat Russia so the battlefield never reaches us at home.

The United States must direct a coherent policy to confront Russia that forces Putin to deal with us on our terms. We must continue to provide Ukraine the types of weapons its needs to win. We must also expand our sanctions regime on Russia's energy sector and crack down on those who support Putin's war machine by helping Russia evade sanctions. Finally, we must urgently accelerate efforts to modernize our nation's nuclear deterrent.

It is in America's national interest to respond to these challenges. Adversaries like Putin can only be dealt with by leading with strength. If we look the other way, it will cost far more in American blood and treasure down the road. We must deter future aggression and promote security – both at home and abroad before it's too late.

infrastructure. According to the Federal Communication Commission's National Broadband Map, nearly 70,000 locations in Nebraska don't have high-speed internet service available. For far too long, our state has lacked the broadband infrastructure necessary for communities to unlock new economic opportunities, like precision agriculture, and access critical services, like health care.

This once-in-a-generation investment through the NTIA's BEAD program will contribute to closing the digital divide and providing Nebraskans with the connectivity they deserve. I look forward to tracking Nebraska's progress in implementing this historic broadband investment. Nebraska's new Broadband Office will develop and submit a statewide plan for approval to the NTIA. This plan will serve as a critical blueprint for this effort.

As I've often said, it's vital that every last mile and acre of our state — and our country — has access to reliable internet. As long as I serve in the U.S. Senate, I'll be working toward that goal.

America's toughest road to asylum runs through Omaha

By Jeremy Turley

Flatwater Free Press

Immigration Judge Alexandra Larsen tapped notes into her computer as Cristian Rivera tried to convince her not to send his family back to El Salvador.

It was a June morning in Larsen's courtroom, located inside an east Omaha brick building that most residents have never visited – immigration court. Rivera's wife and 11-year-old son sat on wooden benches and watched their futures decided from the courtroom's front row.

Rivera told the judge that his brother-in-law, a member of a notorious gang, threatened his family in January 2019: Either store my guns and cars at your home, or else.

Days later, the family abandoned most of their belongings and set out on a 2,800-mile journey that eventually landed them in central Iowa.

The 33-year-old Rivera, speaking Spanish to the judge, said that he fears his brother-in-law and fellow gang members would "take our lives" if they return to El Salvador.

"The only place I feel safe is in this country," Rivera said, his words translated to English by the court's interpreter.

Fifteen minutes after hearing closing arguments, Larsen returned to deliver her verdict.

The decision Larsen read aloud to Rivera, his wife Bertha and their son Crithian carried the same result that the Omaha judge handed down to 97% of asylum seekers between October 2019 and September 2022.

Denied. No asylum for the Riveras. They would have to leave the U.S.

Omaha's immigration court has increasingly become a place dreaded by immigrants seeking asylum.

The judges who decide cases in Omaha denied more than 96% of asylum applications they ruled on between October and May, according to an immigration database, known as TRAC, maintained by Syracuse University and analyzed by Flatwater Free Press. The denial rate nationally was roughly 53%.

During those months, the Omaha court had the highest rejection rate of any immigration court in the country.

Tens of thousands of immigrants come to the U.S. every year to apply for asylum, a legal designation meant to protect those fleeing persecution due to their race, religion, nationality, political beliefs or membership in a specific social group.

While most immigration courts have started granting asylum more often since President Joe Biden took office, Omaha's immigration judges have headed in the other direction.

See ASYLUM, Page Seven

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of the things we hope for,
to be certain of the things
we cannot see.*

Hebrews 11:1

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Romans 8:12-25

Genesis 28:10-19a Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for

Sunday, July 23, 2023

Eighth 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

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Weekend Mass: Sunday, 10 am.
cppnebraska.org

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church
Raeville, NE

Fr. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor

Weekend Mass: Sunday, 8 am.
cppnebraska.org

Park Congregational U.C.C. Church
Elgin, NE

Rev. Kate West, pastor

Sunday Worship Service: 9:15 am.
Sunday School: 10:15 am.
Communion Sunday: 1st Sunday of each month. Park Women's Fellowship: 2 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the church. Parish Council: 7:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the church.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Petersburg, NE

Fr. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor

Weekend Mass: Saturday, 7 pm.
cppnebraska.org

Bartlett United Methodist Church
Bartlett, NE

Pastor Duane Waddie

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

Calvary Bible Church
Neligh, NE

Pastor Peter Sample

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

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Trinity Lutheran Church
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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

Adult Sunday School:
Children Sunday School: 9:30 am.
Sunday Worship Service: 9 am.
Church Council: 2nd Sunday of each month following worship.

St. John's Catholic Church
Rural Clearwater, NE

Fr. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor

Weekend Mass: Sunday, 11:30 am.
cppnebraska.org

Our Savior Lutheran Church
Bartlett, NE

Rev. Jon Franson

Sunday Worship Service: 8:15 am.
No Sunday School

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Chambers, NE

Pastor Leif Hasskari

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

Immanuel-Zion Lutheran Church
ELCA

Rural Albion, NE
Pastor Elizabeth Goehring

Worship Service: 9:30 am.
Coffee following services
Sunday School: 10:30 am.
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Court News

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

Katelynn Westley,



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RUSSELL VETICK, OD
JENNIFER FURSTENAU, OD

Stromsburg, NE 1/26/23 3 counts disturbing the peace, fined \$750/6 months probation/offender assessment screening+drug testing+probation administrative enrollment+probation fees of \$220.

Antoine J. Edwards, Jr., Omaha, NE 9/6/21 drive under susp before reinstated/speeding 50/40 mph, fined \$125 - Wright.

Dalton C. Hurlburt, Norfolk, NE 5/14/23 possess marijuana 1 oz or less-1st off/possess or use drug paraphernalia/speeding 75/65 mph, fined \$335.00 - Hartley.

Amber N. Wilson, Osmond, NE 6/6/23 speeding 75/65 mph, fined \$25 - Hartley.

Morgan K. Anson, Orchard,

NE 5/18/23 no proof of insurance, fined \$100 - Higgins.

Amber A. Kerkman, O'Neill, NE 6/5/23 possess marijuana 1 oz or less-1st off/possess or use drug paraphernalia, fined \$400 - Stopak.

Gaylen L. Dredge, Neligh, NE 3/20/23 driver under suspension before reinstated, fined \$100 - Mohr.*

Scott B. Blakeman, Neligh, NE 7/2/23 speeding 75/65 mph, fined \$25 - Kavan.

Kenneth Bode, Elgin, NE 4/1/23 no valid registration-car-pickup-stepvan/trailer brake requirement-safety chain, fined \$50 - Moore.

Stanley A. Partyka, Saint Paul, MN 3/24/23 no proof of ownership, fined \$50 - McHale.

Elgin Community Calendar

July

19 Antelope County Board of Equalization protest hearing @ the Antelope County Courthouse in Neligh
• Thanksgiving in July fundraiser @ Elgin Community Center*.

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

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

25 Start of Bud's Sanitation TOTES ONLY for garbage service in Elgin*.

29 Antelope County Trail Ride, starting @ Neligh Airport Road to Oakdale and back.

30 Elgin Community Center Brunch.

31 - August 6 Wheeler County Fair.

August

1 - 6 Antelope County Fair.

13 Elgin Rescue Squad 5K Run & More* • Elgin Community Christian Church Brunch*.

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

Events listing is courtesy of
ELGIN VETERANS' MEDICAL CLINIC
an Outpatient Department of Boone County Health Center
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The Antelope County Healthcare Foundation held its 18th annual golf tournament on Friday, July 14 at the Antelope Country Club near Neligh. Pictured above: the First Place Winner of the Championship Flight was Pinnacle Bank, consisting of team members (l-r): Blake Mooney, Eric Maple, Curtis Childers and Andrew Childers. Ninety-six golfers from area communities and businesses participated. Proceeds will go towards the Clearwater, Elgin, Orchard and Antelope Memorial Hospital ambulance services. Photo submitted

Foundation holds golf tournament

On Friday, July 14, the Antelope County Healthcare Foundation held its 18th annual golf tournament at the Antelope Country Club near Neligh. Ninety-six golfers from area communities and businesses participated.

Team winners of the tournament were – Championship

Flight - First Place: Pinnacle Bank, Second Place: Brunswick State Bank and Third Place: Jim & Kathy Koenig's Team: First Flight - First Place: Pinman Construction, Second Place: Overland Rehab and Third Place: Bank of Elgin; Second Flight - First Place: Aurora Cooperative,

Second Place, Elkhorn Valley Equipment and Third Place: The Tree Stooges.

The afternoon concluded with an evening meal. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards the Clearwater, Elgin, Orchard and Antelope Memorial Hospital ambulance services

Celebrate AC history on horseback

Start planning now for a trip through the history embedded in Antelope County's landscape on a Trail Ride July 29.

Sponsored by the Antelope County Historical Society (ACHS) in cooperation with the Antelope County Ag Society (ACAS), the ride is free and open to all interested horseback riders.

"This is our third trail ride, and we are so glad this popular event is drawing riders from throughout the county," said Donna Hanson, executive director of the Antelope County Museum. The approximate eight-mile ride will begin at the airport (airport road west of Neligh) and proceed to Oakdale and back. Registration begins at 10 a.m., with the actual ride to start at 10:30 a.m.

Participants are asked to pack their own lunch and water. Water for horses will be available at both ends of the trail. "On this fun-filled four-hour ride we will go through pastures and trees along the beautiful Elkhorn River. We will eat our lunch at Oakdale. There will be no riding on paved roads," Hanson said.

ACHS Board Member Ron Westlake will give a short talk at the end of the ride about the history of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad that ran through Antelope County.

For more, contact Hanson at 402-370-0915 or Dewey Teel at 402-929-0373

PUBLIC NOTICES

Because its your right to know how your city, county and school boards are conducting business for the public.

End of summer creeping in

ELGIN — In case you haven't noticed, and I know some of my readers haven't, summer is almost over.

Already, some of you are saying, "What?"

Sad but true, the length of sunlight each day is starting to recede. Sure, it's just a minute a day or so, but it's enough of a change where the men's summer golf league is starting to notice. Nine-hole rounds that finished with the sun starting to set, now are ending with the sun no longer in sight.

Newspaper people watch the calendar more closely than any other profession. After all, papers like the Review publish weekly. Each week we change the date on the top of each page of the newspaper.

Looking at the calendar, the clearest sign of summer starting to slip away is how the start of the 2023 high school football season is less than a month away.

Football practice for the Wolfpack is set to begin earlier than ever before. Coach Greg Wemhoff's boys are going to have their first practice on July 31. Why? Because the first football game of the season, to be played at Wausa, will be Friday, August 18. That's just 30 days away.

Afternoon practices could be on the

toasty side.

Another sign of how summer is fading

fast is the rapidly approaching Antelope County Fair in Neligh.

Always culminating on the first weekend of August, so too will be the Wheeler County Fair.

The deadline has passed for 4-H entries to be turned in, so much is in place for the annual coming together of youth and parents from all parts of the county. Days are set aside for competition, nights are for fun. There's the annual country music show on Friday night and the demolition derby on Saturday night. Speaking of the concert, I have to admit I have never heard of the headline act Colt Ford. I'm sure he is good, maybe even great, at his brand of music and will probably put on a great show. Sirius XM has allowed me to listen to the music of my youth whenever and wherever I want. For me, Nirvana and Metallica have closed the book on the rock'n roll era. My favorite band, Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, no longer exists with the passing of Petty several years ago. Thank God they didn't decide to carry on with some fill-in singer. I have little to no respect for bands like Foreigner and Journey who replaced Lou Gramm and Steve Perry, respectively, and continue to tour. It's not the same and it will never be.

Lynell and I spent the past weekend with two other couples back in Clear Lake, Iowa. Yes, we went to the Surf Ballroom again. Then we went out to the farm just a few miles from the Mason City Airport where "The Music Died." Time goes on, but these places are frozen in time in the same way that Dealey Plaza and The Dakota are for my generation.

Vacations and getaways in July offer one last opportunity to cash in on the season as the signs of the end-of-summer are creeping in.

Here at the newspaper we are in the final stages of wrapping up our Wolfpack sports calendar and sending it off to be printed.

Earlier this month, we did the photo shoot for the top of the calendar. I think the calendars are going to be in 'hot' demand again this year so, if you want to purchase a calendar, now would be a good time to contact the office to make sure we set one aside for you.

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From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

Cinnamon Streusel Cake & Taco Salad



Good day,
Needing a recipes to take to the river or that back yard picnic? Here are two you will always enjoy!
Taco Salad is that all time favorite for a picnic. We love it anytime!
When I make it, I like to

use the taco flavored chips, it gives it a real taco flavor. I have put a little dry taco seasoning in my hamburger she I brown it. It's yummy however you make it!
Try this cake - it's amazing! I love streusel cakes. For a frosting, I just take a little powder sugar, milk and vanilla and make it a drizzly consistency. Be sure to frost it when it's cool. It's so delicious!
Enjoy.

JoAnn

CINNAMON STREUSEL CAKE

Cake:
1 pkg yellow cake mix
1 pkg vanilla instant pudding (4 serving size)
1-1/3 cup water
2 Tbls vegetable oil
2 eggs

Streusel:
1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 tsp cinnamon
2 Tbls melted butter

Preheat over to 350°.
In a large bowl, mix together and blend the cake ingredients for 2 minutes. Spread 2/3rds of the cake mixture in a greased 9x13 pan.
Mix the streusel ingredients together. Spread 2/3rds of the streusel over the cake batter. Spread remaining cake batter on a the streusel and top with the remaining streusel.
Bake for 40-50 minutes until done. When cool, drizzle with your favorite frosting. Yummy!

TACO SALAD

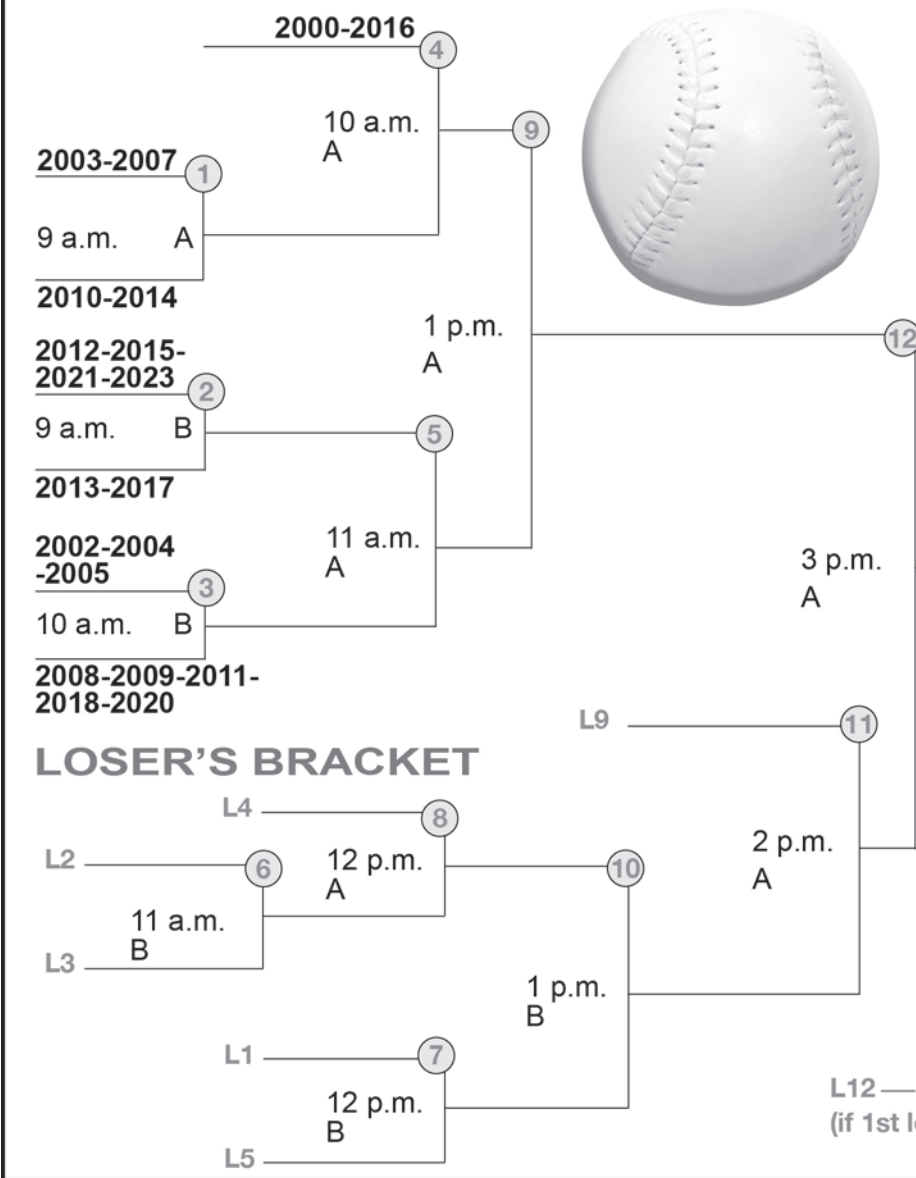
1 16 oz bottle of red Catalina French Dressing
1-1/2 lbs hamburger, browned & drained
1/2 onion, diced
8 oz shredded cheddar cheese
1 can red beans, drained and rinsed

4 medium tomatoes, diced into bite-size pieces
4-6 cups shredded lettuce
1 pkg taco or nacho flavored chips, crushed in smaller sized chips

Mix together the hamburger, onion, cheese and tomatoes, beans and lettuce.
Just before serving, add chips and dressing and mix well. Delicious!

2023 PJCC Alumni Softball Tournament

Saturday Only,
July 22
at Petersburg



Asylum

From Page Five

Asylum seekers are much less likely to succeed in Omaha because of the judges' narrow interpretation of asylum law, immigration attorneys and experts say.

The Omaha asylum success rate is also low because Central Americans and Mexicans – who make up most claims here – generally have more difficulty winning their cases, the database shows.

Larsen, reading her decision in the courtroom, said the Rivera family's testimony was credible – but also didn't meet the high standard of persecution under asylum law.

It isn't enough to have a "subjective" fear of harm at the hands of a gang, she said. The family had not been physically harmed. The threats made against them were vague, the judge said.

The family plans to appeal, said their attorney Trey Sucher, allowing them to stay in the country as the case plays out. If Larsen's decision stands, the family would eventually be sent back to El Salvador.

If that happens, they will be returning to a country where the brother-in-law who threatened them, since charged with murder, is believed to have skipped bail, Rivera said. The family is afraid he's waiting for them.

From ICE to the bench

Three judges decide the vast majority of cases at the Omaha court: Larsen, Abby Meyer and Matthew Morrissey. All three denied more than 80% of the asylum cases they decided between their appointments and September 2022, according to a TRAC analysis.

All three worked as Immigration and Customs Enforcement attorneys – the agency's version of prosecutors – before taking the bench. One, Morrissey, appears to have experience defending immigrants as a private attorney.

Gail Montenegro, a spokeswoman for the Executive Office for Immigration Review, declined interview requests on behalf of the three judges.

Immigration lawyers argue that the judges' prosecutor-like interpretation of the law have helped make Omaha's court so difficult for asylum seekers.

"They went from basically

trying to carry out the objective of the Department of Homeland Security and trying to remove everyone to being put at the bench and tasked with trying to be impartial," in determining who should be granted asylum, Sucher said.

"Humans are imperfect and trying to completely transition yourself from that history is difficult."

The trio of judges still appear to be applying Trump-era interpretations of immigration law despite a recent loosening of asylum policies under Biden, said Brian Blackford, an attorney who defends asylum seekers before the Omaha court.

Those Trump-era rulings, since rescinded, made it nearly impossible for victims of domestic violence or gang violence to win asylum.

Paul Stultz, a retired ICE attorney, said Larsen, Meyer and Morrissey were fair and unbiased when he worked with them at ICE, noting that the three exhibited qualities desired in judges.

In a statement, Montenegro, the court spokesperson, said immigration judges decide claims on a case-by-case basis according to federal law.

The Omaha court handles one of the highest concentrations of cases from Central America and Mexico. Like the Riveras, most asylum seekers from the region face long odds of winning – regardless of which court handles their case.

Nine in ten asylum seekers whose cases were decided in Omaha from October to May came from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras or Mexico, according to TRAC data.

Over the last three fiscal years, U.S. immigration courts have denied about 70% of cases from those four countries – much higher than the denial rate for asylum seekers from elsewhere.

That's because asylum law isn't protective of immigrants fleeing economic hardship or gang violence, said Stultz.

Many Central American and Mexican claims, including the Riveras' case, hinge on one of those concepts.

Nearly all of Omaha immigration lawyer Rachel Yamamoto's clients claim they are fleeing gangs or an abusive relative.

"The case law is not on our side," she said.

Anna Deal, legal director at the Immigrant Legal Center, said the heavily Central American composition of the Omaha court's caseload "is not a valid justification" for its extremely high denial rate, noting that some claims from those countries should be granted.

"There seems to be a bit of a double standard," Deal said. "Even in the face of evidence

that particular countries are effectively failed states ... (judges) are willing to find the government is doing enough and that these people just have to live with a level of insecurity due to their national origin."

The Omaha court's denial rate can't be solely attributed to who is seeking asylum.

Several courts that approve a greater proportion of asylum cases, including Charlotte, Kansas City and New Orleans, have similarly high rates of Central American and Mexican asylum seekers, according to a Flatwater Free Press analysis of TRAC data.

When denied in Omaha, many asylum seekers appeal to a board of judges, though that board rarely overturns denials. Some are eventually deported, Yamamoto said, but she suspects many of her former clients remain in the country as undocumented immigrants.

Denied and deported

Lacy Lorenzo lived through the most devastating possible outcome of losing an asylum case in Omaha.

Luis Lorenzo, her future husband, came to Omaha from Guatemala as a child in the 1990s with his family, which held ties to an opposition political party. Several uncles and cousins had been assassinated in Guatemala.

Lorenzo grew up undocumented before a criminal charge landed him in deportation proceedings.

Lacy Lorenzo remembers saying at the time, "If you send him back, you might as well kill him yourself."

Larsen denied Lorenzo's asylum claim in 2020. He was deported to Guatemala, leaving a wife and two children in Omaha.

When he arrived, he stuck out as an easy target, Lacy Lorenzo said. In March 2021, she got a call that her husband had been shot while walking out of his home.

In an interview, Lacy Lorenzo said she blames Larsen and the Omaha court for her husband's death.

Montenegro declined to comment on the case, but said "immigration judges are all highly trained professionals who adjudicate cases fairly, equitably, and efficiently."

Two years after Luis Lorenzo's slaying, his widow is raising a 16-year-old girl and a 10-year-old boy. The single mother hopes the Omaha immigration judges will "actually give people fair consideration" in the future and remember that deported immigrants leave their families and communities behind.

"I feel like those (judges) are allowed to play God," she said. "They're making life-or-death decisions."

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***Ashley Niewohner, APRN**
***Amanda Wolff, APRN**

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	1:30-5:00	Dr Rudloff/Dr Thoendel/Good/Niewohner
T	9:00-1:00	Dr Rudloff/Good/Sucha/Niewohner
	1:30-5:00	Dr Rudloff/Dr Dawson/Sucha/Wolff
W	9:00-1:00	Dr Osborn/Good/Niewohner
	1:30-5:00	Dr Osborn/Good/Niewohner
Th	9:00-1:00	Dr Osborn/Good/Sucha/Wolff
	1:30-5:00	Dr Dawson/Dr Osborn/Wolff/Dr Thoendel
F	9:00-1:00	Dr Dawson/Dr Osborn/Wolff/Dr Thoendel
	1:30-5:00	Dr Dawson/Dr Rudloff/Dr Osborn/Dr Thoendel
Sa	9:30-12:30	Rotating schedule

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M	9:30-12:30	Sucha	1:30-5:00	Sucha
T	9:30-12:30	Dr. Dawson	2:00-5:00	Good
W	9:30-12:30	Dr. Thoendel	2:00-5:00	Dr. Rudloff
Th	9:30-12:30	Dr. Thoendel		
F	2:00-5:00	Sucha		

ELGIN CLINIC: 402.843.5444

M	2:00-5:00	Dr. Dawson		
T	2:00-5:00	Niewohner		
W	9:30-12:30	Dr. Rudloff		
Th	2:00-5:00	Good		
F	9:30-12:30	Niewohner	1:30-5:00	Niewohner

Call any clinic when open or 402.887.5440 • M-F: 8am-5pm
For listings on-line, go to: **amhne.org**

2023 Ag Land Value and Rental Rates

Land prices and rental rates are some of the highest expenses a producer must face annually. Every summer, UNL's Center of Agricultural Profitability (CAP) releases The Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market survey. Those wanting to check it out themselves can find a pdf version at cap.unl.edu/land or can contact their local extension office, but here are some highlights:

Across the state, the all-land average value for ag real estate in Nebraska increased by 14%. The Northeast region saw the second highest percent change at a 16% increase with the East region not far behind at 15%. Current crop and livestock prices were cited as the main force guiding higher market values of land statewide.

Reflecting the increase in land value, cropland rental agreements for center pivot irrigated ground in the Northeast region increased 7% to \$365 per acre on average; dryland increased 9% to an average of \$265 per acre. Just a reminder, these are averages across a large area of the state (1/8th approximately), so there is a lot of room for variation locally. For the East region, center pivot irrigated cropland rents increased 5% to \$345 per acre on average, with dryland increasing 4% at \$245 per acre on average.

Unlike crop ground leases, which begin on March 1st, pasture leases are typically for a five-month grazing season. Since the lease is only in effect for that time, the lease is terminated at the end of the grazing season.

Written pasture rental agreements are strongly recommended over handshakes and verbal leases. Fall all leases, establishing fair rates are important although at times challenging. Variables such as grassland quality; pasture location; fence maintenance; water, management responsibilities; and individual relationships... all influence individual pasture rental rates.

Last, when it comes to

pasture leases, rates can be calculated in two ways, per acre or per pair. Per acre leases more closely mirror cropland lease agreements, but I recommend always including a set stocking rate as part of the lease agreement if you choose to go this route.

While rare, leases without an agreed upon stocking rate leave the landowner open to overgrazing by the tenant since technically there is no set limit on the number of animals that can be run. Renting by the animal unit or pair forces this stocking rate conversation to occur as part of the rental negotiation.

According to this year's survey, the average monthly rent paid to graze a cow-calf pair this season in the Northeast region is \$67.35 per month per pair on average. Pasture rented on a per acre basis went for \$72 per acre on average, up 4% from last year. In the East region grazing leases were on average \$62.55 per month per pair while leases per acre were up 9% at 60\$ per acre on average. Projecting these rates over a five-month grazing period, it will cost an average of \$312.75 to \$336.75 dollars to graze a cow-calf pair for the summer. Again, remember that these are only averages.

Pastures are a major resource for farmers, ranchers and our Nebraska cattle industry; and pasture rental is a critical factor in the financial well-being of both landlords and tenants. Knowing what others are paying for rental rates may help provide a starting point to negotiate a fair rate for yours.

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

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Does the cost of organic produce pay off with truly healthier foods?

Consumers familiar with the disparity in price between organic fruits and vegetables and conventional alternatives may be curious if that difference in price pays off with healthier foods.

According to a 2014 study published in the British Journal of Nutrition, it does. Researchers behind the study concluded that the antioxidant compounds in organic fruits and vegetables deliver between 20 and 40 percent higher antioxidant activity. That's a significant benefit, as the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health notes that antioxidant-rich fruits, vegetables and legumes are associated with a lower risk of various diseases, including cardiovascular diseases and cancer, and deaths from all causes.

In addition, the Mayo Clinic notes that organically grown produce has traditionally had lower levels of pesticide residue than conventionally grown alternatives, though safety measures governing conventional produce and residue levels have changed in recent years and reduced that gap.

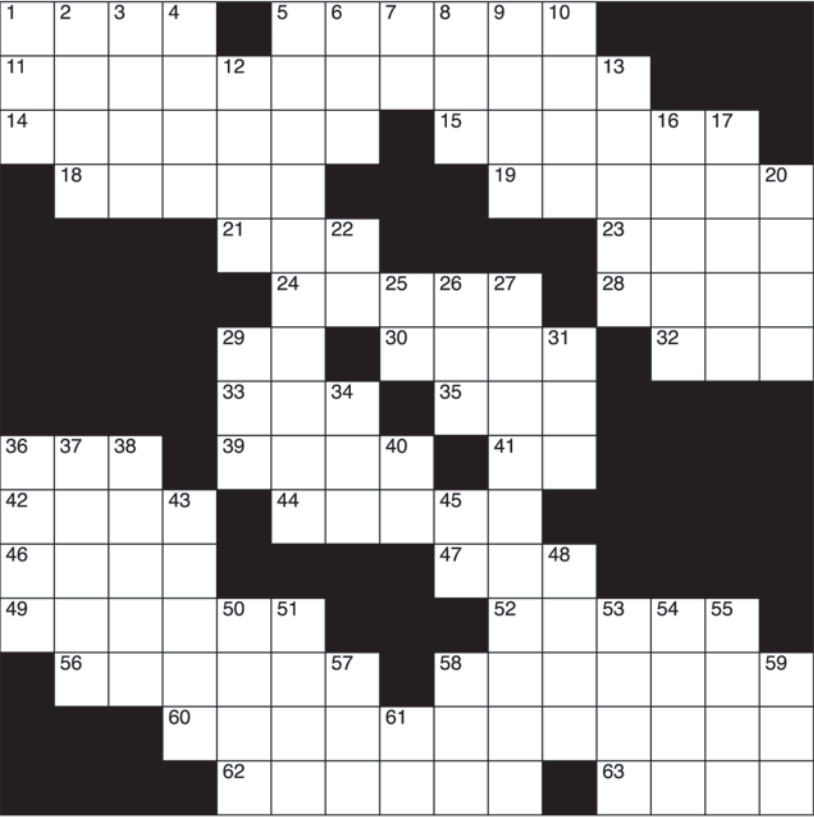
Crossword Puzzle

CLUES ACROSS

- Commoner
- Tea leaf
- They save you a table
- Submissions
- Secretly revealed
- Personification of the sea (Norse)
- Unreal
- No seats available
- Bangladeshi currency
- Leaders
- Famed garden
- Denotes past
- Not living
- Midway between south and southeast
- Small island (British)
- Woman (French)
- Wife
- Two-toed sloth
- Blood group
- Soaks
- Biu-Mandara language of Cameroon
- Japanese prefecture
- Place to be during a rock concert
- Fully grown humans
- Emaciation
- Sparkling
- Fruits you peel
- Derived from a noun
- Popular items to grill
- Port in Yemen

CLUES DOWN

- Before
- Actress Dunham
- This (Spanish)
- Director Peter
- Dominant
- English artists' society (abbr.)
- NY Giants legend
- It's in the ground
- No No No
- Pesky insect
- Danish-American muckraking journalist



- Kids love to do it
- Good Gosh!
- Fakes
- A citizen of Denmark
- Mystic syllable
- Commercial
- Letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- Helpers
- Water (French)
- Young woman
- Red-brown sea bream
- Messenger ribonucleic acid
- Comprehends
- Walk with confidence
- Home of the Flyers
- Appetizer
- News organization
- Source of the Nile

- A way to march
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Egyptian bull-god
- Children's author Blyton
- Baseball pitching stat
- Rude young person
- Table napkin
- Monetary unit in Asia
- One-time AL MVP Vaughn

Classifieds

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CARD OF THANKS

Thank you to so many friends who sent a card or note to celebrate my 70th birthday on May 29th. I also received inclusions about my illness and/or sympathy messages due to Mom's passing. Thankfully I have made great progress in physical recovery. I also appreciate the notes that highlighted Mom's contributions to individuals and the community. Special thanks to my husband Stephen who arranged the tribute by contacting the Review and who got the baby picture from a family member. Love to all,

Marlene Hughes

Thank you to Connie Henn, Sherry Iburg, Bonnie Hoefer, Kent & Dorothy Einertson, and Kevin Henn for stopping by with hugs and snacks. Thank you to the "lawn fairies" for keeping the lawn mowed. Thank you to Father Joseph Sund and Deacon John Starman, to lector Julie Schiltmeyer, servers Natalie Burenheide and Kaitey Schumacher, and EMHC Julie Landgren. Thank you to Mark and Julie Dwyer for singing Berton's special songs. Thank you to Tony Levander for all of your help! To the ladies of Circle 3, thank you for the delicious meal. Thank you for all of the memorials, cards, flowers, and plants.

The family of Berton Dozler, Sr.

Many thanks to all the dear people that made July 9th & 10th such happy birthday celebrations for my 97th birthday. I had a wonderful time. Again my thanks.

Phyllis Kinney

CARD OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone who came and celebrated with us at our Annual Park Center 4th of July Celebration. Special thanks to Dennis, Lynell and the Elgin Review, for helping us get the word out on short notice. We were blessed to have a wonderful crowd of all ages to enjoy the delicious food, fun races and games, and water balloon tossing. We were grateful for the rains so we could finish the night with a fireworks show.

Park Center Playground Committee

Classifieds Deadline
10 am on Tuesday

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Thank You.

A grateful thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating our 40 years of Deaconate Ordination. Thank you for the cards, gifts, prayers and well wishes, not only for the day, but for the prayers and support over these 40 years. A thank you to the Christian Mothers for having the reception following Mass. Also to our priests, Fr. John and Fr. Sund. A special thanks to Kevin Joyce for his special blessing. God Bless,

Deacon Dennis
& Rose Wiehn

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153 Black Heifers	970	213 ²⁵
212 Black Heifers	885	225 ⁷⁵
66 Red & Charolais Heifers....	925	214 ⁵⁰
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257 Black Heifers	904	223 ⁵⁰

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Bulls..... 117⁰⁰-126⁰⁰

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NOTICE ANTELOPE COUTNY - SALARIES: July 2023

The following salaries are to be published each year between July 15 and August 15, according to Nebraska State Statute 23-122, revised by LB299 in 1996. Antelope County Employees are paid on a monthly payroll. The salaries vary in each depart-

ment, due to job titles, years of employment and merit. The following are payroll figures:

GENERAL FUND: Commissioners annual: (4) \$18,000.00 (1) \$19,200.00; Officials annual: (4) \$65,499.96; Deputies hourly: (2) \$24.19; (1) \$24.00; (1) 23.00; Administrative manager hourly: (1) \$24.00; (1) \$23.84;

Clerical hourly: (1) \$20.00; (2) \$18.00; (1) \$16.50; (1) \$16.08; (1) \$16.00; Seasonal Clerical hourly: (1) \$10.50; Custodian (1) \$15.00; Sheriff annual: (1) \$72,999.96; Emergency Manager: (1) \$10000.00 annual; Deputies hourly: (2) \$30.00; Part-time Deputies hourly: (5) \$25.00; Dispatchers hourly: (1) \$20.50; (3)

\$20.00; (1) \$19.50; (3) \$19.00; (4) \$18.50; (2) \$18.00; Part-time Secretary: (1) \$18.00, (1) \$11.00; Attorney annual: (1) \$67,749.96; Veterans Service Officer Part-time hourly: (1) \$28.75; Zoning Administrator hourly: (1) \$22.00; Weed Board Members (5) \$50.00 per meeting; Weed Superinten-

dent annual: (1) \$45,000; Part-time Clerical hourly: (1) \$18.00; (1) \$15.00;

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Full-Time Road Workers hourly: (1) \$23.60; (2) \$23.10;(1) \$22.60; (1) \$22.35; (1) \$21.60; (1) \$20.60; (3) \$20.00; (1) \$19.75; (2) \$19.60; (8) \$19.50; (1) \$19.25; (1) \$19.00; (1)

\$18.90; (5) \$18.50; (2) \$18.00; (1) \$17.50; Part-time road workers hourly: (1) \$14.00; Road Superintendent annual: (1) \$65,499.96; Road Safety Officer annual: (1) \$58,950.00; Highway Superintendent annual: (1) \$1200.00. PUBLISH: July 19, 2023 ZNEZ

TO: All Antelope County Landowners

Referencing Nebraska State Statutes 39-301, 39-302, 39-1811, 39-1812, and 39-1813. You are informed that the Antelope County Board of Commissioners adopted the following resolution at their April 13th, 2021 board meeting:

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

WHEREAS the Antelope County Board of Commissioners

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Antelope County shall, after first giving reasonable notice to the affected landowner, exercise its right to remove hazards from the public

Notice — Antelope County Landowners

rights-of-way except that no notice shall need to be given during snow removal operations or emergency operations; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Antelope County Road De-

partment employees shall invoice the costs of the removal of the hazards to the affected landowner, including the cost of labor and machine use.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2021.

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

Antelope County Board of Commissioners

39-302 Roads; sprinkler irrigation system; restrictions; viola-

tions; penalty.

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

tion 39-301 shall be controlling with respect to mechanical malfunctions and normal weather conditions.

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

(1) It shall be the duty of the landowners in this state to mow all weeds that can be mowed with the ordinary farm mower to the middle of all public roads and drainage ditches running along their lands at least twice each year, namely, sometime in July for the first time and sometime in September for the second time. PUBLISH: July 19, 2023 ZNEZ

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD Regular July Meeting EPS Spanish Room July 11, 2023, 7:30 PM

President Lisa Welding called the Regular July Board Meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Board members present were Todd Heithoff, Eric Beckman, Ron Bode, Luke Hinkle, and Lisa Welding. Also present was Superintendent Mike Brockhaus and Principal Greg Wemhoff.

Todd Heithoff motioned; Eric Beckman seconded to excuse Steve Busted from the meeting. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

President Welding led the "Pledge of Allegiance." Welding reminded everyone that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Law was posted in the meeting room.

School board meeting notice complied with Meeting Notice Policy #204.07. Posting was done on the High School building window and post office bulletin board.

Ron Bode motioned and Todd Heithoff second to approve the Consent Agenda: #5- Minutes of Regular Meeting, #6- Adopt the Agenda, #7- Financial Report, #8- Board Bills. Motion carried, vote 5-0.

Access Elevator & Lifts, Maintenance, \$909.00; Amplify, Title IIA Expense, \$1,500.00; Appera, Maintenance, \$80.53; AKRS Equip., Maintenance, \$348.00; Brain Pop, Instru Expense, \$2,109.00; Carolina, Instru Expense, \$256.51; Central NE Rehab, SpEd Expense, \$1,277.24; Central Valley Ag, Maintenance, \$75.00; Crowne Plaza, Perkins Grant, \$319.90; Dakota Potters, Instru Expense, \$209.85; Dean's Market, Maintenance, \$204.73; Board Expense, \$19.66; ESU #8, Instru Expense, \$261.37, Business Expense, \$20.00, SpEd Expense, \$475.00; Eakes, Maintenance, \$46.88; Elgin Hardware, Maintenance, \$841.67; Elgin One Stop, Transportation, \$586.36, Board Expense, \$41.97; Elgin Review, Board Expense, \$153.24; Elite Office Products, Business Expense, \$85.62; Elkhorn RPPD, Maintenance, \$2,823.39; GP Communications, Business Expense, \$391.59; GreenFiber, Maintenance, \$75.00; haddock, ESSER Expense, \$1,931.44; Hometown Station, Transportation, \$116.07; Island Supply, Instru Expense, \$105.60; JW Pepper, Instru Expense, \$1,155.37; KSB School Law, Board Expense, \$287.50; Koinzan Enterprises, Mainte-

nance, \$485.89; Lexia Learning, Title IIA Expense, \$798.00; Loup Valley Lighting, Maintenance, \$561.60; McGraw-Hill, Instru Expense, \$474.37; Nasco, Instru Expense, \$1,457.70; NAEA, Instru Expense, \$235.00; NCSA, Admin Expense, \$150.00; Nebraska Life, Instru Expense, \$25.00; NebraskaLand, Instru Expense, \$18.00; NRCSA, Board Expense, \$850.00; Nebraska Safety Center, Transportation, \$100.00; Notable Inc. (Kami), Instru Expense, \$560.00; Olson's Pest Technicians, Maintenance, \$137.40; Overland Rehab, SpEd Expense, \$612.31; Pitzer Digital, Board Expense, \$102.00; Plank Road Publishing, Instru Expense, \$207.30; Precision Repair, Transportation, \$152.28; Really Good Stuff, Instru Expense, \$26.60; Reinke's Farm & City Service, Maintenance, \$57.20; School Specialty, Instru Expense, \$5,328.27; Schindler, Shanda, Instru Expense, \$152.46; Studies Weekly, Instru Expense, \$465.12; Switzer Welding, Maintenance, \$126.00; Teacher Innovations (Planbook), Instru Expense, \$121.50; TMS, Business Expense, \$63.00; Veik, Adam, Transportation, \$84.95; US Bank, \$2,397.41; Verizon Business, Business Expense, \$91.36; Verizon Wireless, Busi-

ness Expense, \$157.65; Voyager Sopris, Instru Expense, \$303.60; WageWorks, Instru Expense, \$139.25; Wells Fargo, \$26.00; Woodwind/Brasswind, Instru Expense, \$240.48; Winners' Circle, Instru Expense, \$79.40

Total Board Bills: \$33,494.59 Payroll: \$219,118.22

Total Board Bills/ Payroll: \$252,612.81

President Welding called the public hearing to order for Student Fees Policy, 504.19; Bullying Prevention Policy, 504.20; Parent Involvement Policy, 1005.03; Health & Wellness Policy 508.13 at 7:33 p.m. The board reviewed the Student Fees Policy, Bullying Prevention Policy, Parent Involvement Policy & Health & Wellness Policy. Steve Busted arrived at 7:43 p.m. There was no comment from the public. The hearing adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

President Welding recognized visitors and asked if the patrons had any comments.

There were no correspondence or committee reports.

In the principal's report, Mr. Wemhoff reported on summer school and preparations for the coming school year.

Supt. Brockhaus reported on the summer projects' progress.

In action items, Ron Bode motioned and Luke Hinkle second to approve the Student Fees Policy, 504.19 as presented. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

Todd Heithoff motioned Eric Beckman second to approve Bullying Prevention Policy, 504.20 as presented. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

Luke Hinkle motioned, Steve Busted second to approve Parent Involvement policy, 1005.03 as presented. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

Bode motioned, Beckman second to approve the health and wellness policy 508.13 as presented. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

Busted motioned and Heithoff second to approve the first reading of Policy 502.02 Nonresident Students/Option Enrollment; Policy 502.02 R1 Standards for Acceptance or Rejection of Option Students; Option Enrollment Resolution 502.02 – 2023. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

Beckman motioned and Hinkle second to approve the first reading of Policy 504.11 Weapons; Policy 506.02 Student Organizations; Policy 508.19 Behavioral Points of Contact; Policy 605.07 Part-Time Enrollment; Policy

801.01 R1 Foster Care Transportation Plan. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

Approval of Hudl Camera purchase was tabled.

Approval of pole vault project and cement bid was also tabled.

Heithoff motioned and Bode seconded to approve auditor contract with Dana F. Cole & Company LLP for \$12,200 for 2024, \$12,800 for 2025 and \$13,400 for 2026. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

In discussion, the school board discussed 2023-24 Board Goals.

Busted motioned and Beckman second to adjourn the meeting. Vote 6-0, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be August 8, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in the ITV Room at Elgin Public School.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Bode, Secretary Jessica Niewohner, Recorder

--This is a draft copy and does not become official Elgin Public Board minutes until approved at the next regular or advertised meeting.

PUBLISH: JULY 19, 2023 ZNEZ

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Neligh, Nebraska July 11th, 2023

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

Approved agenda. Approved minutes of the July 3rd, 2023, BOC Meeting.

Correspondence was reviewed. Sheriff's Fee Report for June was presented, pledge collateral reports. June reports for Clerk of the District Court, Treasurer Fund Balance, Treasurer's Miscellaneous Revenue and Zoning Permit Report.

Review of Claims. Approved payroll.

Approved vendor claims. **General:** ALBIN LAW OFFICE ex 482.52; AMERITAS LIFE INS CORP ins 18,939.34; ANTELOPE CO COURT ex 164.96; ANTELOPE CO SHERIFF ex 215.18; APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECH ex 4,608.80; MIKAYLA ARMITAGE ex 159.50; BLACK HILLS ENERGY ut 55.57; BCBS ins 63,108.27; BOMGAARS ex 70.54; CARNEY LAW ex 3,801.00; CASEYS ex 347.06; CITY OF NELIGH ut 97.11;

CLEARFLY COMMS ut 154.07; CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT ex 72.00; COLDTYPE PUBLISHING ex 197.68; JUDITH COLE ps 10.00; COLONIAL LIFE/ACCIDENT INS ins 100.88; CREDIT MANAGEMENT SVCS ex 435.51; CUBBY'S ex 940.40; DUSTY'S ex 396.28; EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS ex 43.19; ELGIN ONE STOP ex 359.70; ELGIN REVIEW ex 220.75; ELITE OFFICE PRODS ex 181.44; FED W/H tax 11,457.65; FIRST CONCORD BENEFITS ins 1,067.24; GREAT PLAINS COMMS ut 358.17; TESSA HAIN ex 5.50; DARRELL HAMILTON ps 11.00; HI-WAY MART ex 154.12; JACKS UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT ex 288.83; KLEIN LAW OFFICE ex 2,471.80; LIBERTY NATIONAL ins 87.19; LICHTENBERG TIRE SVC ex 2,470.55; WILLETTA LINDSAY ex 20.00; MADISON NATL LIFE ins 133.26; MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS ex 122.00; DUANE MILLER ps 12.00; MIPS ex 3,048.13; NEBR DEPT OF REV tax 5,944.10; NELIGH AUTO/MACHINE ex 9.99; NELIGH PUBLIC LIBRARY ex 21.97; VSP-NACO VISION ins 571.46; NCPPD ut 31.18;

Proceedings — Antelope County Commissioners

O'NEILL PEST CONTROL ex 160.00; OLD MILL SALES/REPAIR ex 265.00; PINNACLE BANK ex 328.10; PITNEY BOWES POSTAGE ex 12.43; PITZER DIGITAL ex 269.09; REGION IV ex 2,808.00; JANICE RIDDER ps 10.00; BILL KACZOR ex 497.12; CAROLINE SIEMS ps 25.00; WEX BANK ex 740.18; SOC SEC 26,854.94; STEALTH BROADBAND ut 96.96; STRATTON DELAY DOELE CARLSON & BUET ex 1,299.94; CHUCK THIEMANN ex 40.00; THOMSON REUTERS-WEST ex 265.00; UNIV OF NEBR-LINCOLN ut 45.02; US CELL ut 633.50; VAN DIEST SUPPLY CO ex 390.00; WASHINGTON NATL INS ins 285.92; NEBR DEPT OF LABOR ex 3,560.00; ANTELOPE CO TREAS ex 400,000.00; Payroll 194,873.33

Road/Bridge: AKRS ex 3,006.80; AMERITAS LIFE INS CORP ins 13,822.23; FIRSTNET ut 139.83; ATCO INTERNATL ex 547.55; BECKMAN LUMBER ex 68.00; BCBS ins 43,988.83; CARQUEST ex 179.87; CITY OF ELGIN ut 60.00; CITY OF TILDEN ut 69.56; COLONIAL LIFE/ACCIDENT INS ins 18.00; COLONIAL

RESEARCH CHEMICAL COR ex 642.20; CONSTELLATION ut 21.34; CORNHUSKER INTERNATIONAL TRUCK ex 1,168.41; CREDIT MANAGEMENT SVCS ex 547.83; CUBBY'S ex 814.36; D&M MACHINERY ex 131.17; DINKEL IMPLEMENT ex 127.00; DUSTY'S ex 174.62; ELGIN ONE STOP ex 157.20; ERP-D ut 472.68; EMME SAND/GRAVEL ex 6,134.97; FARMERS PRIDE ex 31,824.92; FED W/H tax 8,677.20; FIRST CONCORD BENEFITS ins 306.43; GREAT PLAINS COMMS ut 265.98; GRIMES ASPHALT AND PAVING ex 17,353.35; ISLAND SUPPLY WELDING CO ex 220.80; JEO CONSULTING GROUP ex 16,596.25; JONNY DODGE ex 2,528.58; KNIFE RIVER MIDWEST ex 35,622.00; LAMMERS TRAILER REPAIR ex 327.86; LAZY T TIRE/IMP ex 396.46; LIBERTY NATIONAL ins 235.77; LICHTENBERG TIRE SVC ex 1,172.90; MADISON NATL LIFE ins 56.83; MATTEO SAND/GRAVEL ex 1,511.10; MURPHY TRACTOR-POWER PLAN ex 1,770.84; NEBR CHILD SUPPORT PMT CENTER ex 153.00; NEBR DEPT OF REV

tax 4,385.31; NPPD ut 112.28; NELIGH AUTO/MACHINE ex 47.81; VSP-NACO VISION ins 397.97; NMC EXCHANGE ex 22.38; NCPPD ut 165.23; NNTC ut 75.99; PETERBILT OF NORFOLK ex 1,056.21; POLLOCK REDI MIX ex 14,974.85; ROAD BUILDERS ex 5,500.00; ROSE EQUIPMENT ex 486.57; ROYAL ONE STOP ex 483.35; SAPP BROTHER PETRO ex 4,615.96; WEX BANK ex 1,013.00; SOC SEC 19,186.86; VILLAGE OF CLEARWATER ut 67.75; VILLAGE OF ORCHARD ut 55.64; WASHINGTON NATL INS ins 277.90; NEBR DEPT OF LABOR ex 4,381.00; Payroll 138,777.67

Register of Deeds: MIPS ex 347.80;

Disaster Flood 2019: JEO CONSULTING GROUP ex 407.50;

Law Enforcement: BLOOD PHARMACY ex 151.30; CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING ex 199.80; CHARM-TEX ex 2,328.10; CULIGAN ex 114.50; ELITE OFFICE PRODS ex 100.19; FAITH REGIONAL HEALTH SVCS ex 945.00; HILAND DAIRY ex 507.08; KUBAT HEALTH CARE

ex 400.00; O'NEILL PEST CONTROL ex 100.00; PINNACLE BANK ex 32.40; REINKE'S FARM/CITY SVC ex 7.70; THRIFTWAY MARKET ex 1,024.87; Commissary: CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING ex 288.80; KEEFE SUPPLY ex 495.36; PINNACLE BANK ex 1,049.91; THRIFTWAY MARKET ex 10.99.

Authorized Chairman to sign Auditor letters.

Zoning Administrators Report. Approved administrative plat.

Met with Miles of Smiles regarding programs. Approved sponsorship.

Agreed to increase in town contracts. Accepted Sheriff report of distress warrants report.

Road Super Report. Equipment and Road Discussions. Met with landowners regarding 838th & 525th Avenue bridge.

Meeting Adjourned.

Antelope County Board of Commissioners

CHARLIE HENERY Chairman of County Board Attest: LISA PAYNE /s/ Antelope County Clerk PUBLISH: July 19, 2023 ZNEZ

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Elgin Rescue Squad fundraiser to include 5K color run, hot dogs & more

All events to be held at Elgin City Park on August 13

Efforts continue with raising funds for the new ambulance. Members of the Elgin Rescue Squad announced Tuesday an upcoming event. The Elgin Rescue 5K Color Run will be held Sunday evening, August 13.

To be held at the city park, registration for the 5K run will begin at 3:30 p.m. with the run to start at 4 p.m. All participants are encouraged to wear white. The cost to participate will be \$20 per person.

A meal will be served at 5 p.m., which the public is invited to attend. Hot dogs, chips and water will be served for a free will donation. Following the meal there will be Kids Karaoke and Fireman water fights til 8 p.m. according to Kari Schindler. For more information, contact her or any rescue squad member.

Public invited to attend July 21 NCCCP meeting

The North Central Community Care Partnership (NCCCP), a local non-profit organization, and the Area Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) coalition would like to invite community members to the July 21, 2023 meeting, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at North Central District Health Department Office in O'Neill. Please contact the coalition coordinator Kelli Dempster at 402-336-2406 if you are interested in attending this special meeting.

Elgin Community Christian Church to hold brunch to raise funds for new roof

Members of the Elgin Community Christian Church have announced plans to hold a brunch next month. The brunch, to be held in the church fellowship hall, 110 North Fourth Street, will be held on Sunday, August 13. Serving will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu will consist of biscuits & gravy, egg bake casserole and a variety of pies and other desserts. Free will donations will be accepted. All proceeds will go towards a new roof for the church. Mark the date on the calendar and plan to attend!

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

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

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

Mr. Mike Brockhaus, Supt.
Elgin Public Schools
mike.brockhaus@elgineagles.org
402-843-2455

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Saturday Night LIVE MUSIC

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Tentative Schedule

MONDAY, JULY 31
- 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Fair Grounds Clean Up

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1
- 6:00 pm GLW Dog Show

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2
- 8:30 am Horses in place
- 9:00 am Horse show begins. Show order will be posted
- 1:00 pm GLW Roping, Working Ranch Horse & Goat Tying

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3
- 9:00 am-12:00 pm Interview judging of static exhibits. All exhibitors must be checked in by 11:00 am to be judged and eligible for State Fair & Champion Awards
- Wheeler County Roping (youth followed by adults) must enter by 6 pm. Buckles to the Top Header, Heeler, and Top Junior Roper

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4
- 9:00 am-9:45 am Small Animal Check-In
- 10:00 am Small Animal Show
1. Cats 2. Small Animals
3. Rabbits 4. Poultry
- 1:00 pm-3:00 pm Livestock Weigh-In
- 4:00 pm All livestock weighed and in place except stocker feeders and lactating dairy

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 (CONTINUED)
- 5:00 pm-8:00 pm Fireman's BBQ at the new Firehall. Ice Cream provided by Cornerstone Bank
- 6:30 pm Pioneer Award
- 7:00 pm Rodeo, Ranch Bronc Riding Kids Events During rodeo, slack after rodeo
- After the rodeo, listen to the Wheeler County Talents

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5
- 8:00 am Livestock Show: Show order will be posted.
1. Swine 4. Beef
2. Dairy Goats 5. Sheep
3. Dairy 6. Meat Goats
- 5:00 pm 4-H Council Awards & Recognition Program
- 5:30 pm Livestock Premium Auction
- 5 pm-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)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6
Community Day
Enjoy the rodeo, entertainment, BOUNCY Houses and kids foam machine.
- Draft Horse Show
- Turtle Races, \$1 per turtle
- Cornhole Tournament, \$10 a team
- 10:00 am Livestock and Static Exhibit Release & Clean-Up
- Community Pot-Luck
- Ranch Rodeo at 6:30 -Limited Entries \$300 a team... entries close July 31st For Ranch Rodeo, contact Bret Schlenger @ 308-201-0778

CONCESSION STANDS
Furnished by Bartlett Lions Club

Follow us on Facebook at Wheeler County Fair & Rodeo, Bartlett, NE for times of events or contact a fair board member.

Scholarships available to Nebraska nursing students

Any Nebraska resident enrolled in a licensed practical nurse program, associate degree of nursing program, or accelerated Bachelor of Science in nursing program is eligible for a Fall 2023 scholarship up to \$2,500.

In 2022, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) was granted \$5 million in scholarships through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for Nebraska nursing students. So far, approximately \$1.1 million in scholarships have been disbursed to nearly 400 nursing students for the Spring 2023 and Summer 2023 semesters. The nursing program must be in Nebraska, and the student must have finished all prerequisites and be enrolled in the nursing program to be eligible. Qualified applicants will receive scholarships on a first-come, first-served basis each semester until their nursing program is complete or the ARPA funds are spent. Upon completion of their nursing program, scholarship recipients will be required to practice nursing in Nebraska for a minimum of two years.

These scholarships will help reduce barriers to entry in the nursing field and grow Nebraska's public health workforce. Each scholarship recipient will play a vital supporting role in rebuilding the state's public health infrastructure and will advance the state's recovery from COVID-induced nursing shortages. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of nurses and their many roles within the public health system, and all Nebraskans stand to benefit by supporting and retaining nurses.

All current and prospective licensed practical nurse program, associate degree of nursing program or accelerated Bachelor of Science in nursing program students are encouraged to apply at the following link: <https://redcap.link/75o4jzv>. The Fall 2023 application opened July 5 and closes on July 31, 2023. Any questions or may be sent to dhhs.nursingscholarship@nebraska.gov.

Seward

From Page Two

game, Endres said.

The pair were pulled over in Seward County for speeding. They were never charged with a crime. But their money – \$11,500, Endres said – was seized and sealed into an evidence bag.

Later, he said his attorney told him: “They’re saying they counted \$1,100 less than what you’re saying.”

On his attorney’s advice, he didn’t mention it in court. The money was a combination of cash from home and a recent bank withdrawal – there wasn’t enough paper trail to prove he had \$11,500, he said.

Endres got \$10,400 back. He claims the other \$1,100 is still missing.

“If you’re going to travel with a lot of cash, take a picture of how much you have,” Endres said. “Take video of it, have bank receipts. Just so you can prove to a judge how much money you had on you.”

These allegations sound familiar to Nicole Tegtmeier. Tegtmeier, former public defender in Seward County, can recall at least three clients who told her they had more money on them than was later reported by Seward County law enforcement. The money was “generally loose cash,” she said.

But her clients already faced criminal trials. The stakes were higher than missing money.

“My client is generally just trying to get out of this in the quickest and easiest fashion possible,” Tegtmeier said.

“If I go to the county attorney and I say, ‘well, actually, there was \$1,000 more,’ they’re going to say, ‘well, that doesn’t help your client.’”

Defense attorney John Berry Jr., CEO of Omaha’s Berry Law, said he has heard similar stories from several clients in Nebraska, including in Seward County.

But, he said, there’s never been enough evidence to bring it up in court.

“If we’re going to make an allegation and say someone did something wrong, we have to be able to prove it ... but I haven’t had a case like that,” Berry said.

Someone alleging theft by officers would need to prove the chain of custody, Berry said.

But clients “don’t carry around receipts of, ‘I had \$600 of loose cash.’” Tegtmeier said.

“There’s no money trail.”

This is why access to body cam and dash cam footage can be so crucial, argue two civil liberties advocates.

“It makes sense to have transparency on both sides,” said Jenna Bentley, director of government affairs at the Goldwater Institute.

“Maybe some of (the cash) fell to the ground and wasn’t caught by anyone. If you can go back and watch that video, it kind of ends that speculation.”

Spike Eickholt, of the ACLU of Nebraska, said body cam footage should be “a tool for the public to observe how law enforcement acts.”

He thinks the allegations of missing money illustrate the problematic nature of Seward County’s widespread use of civil asset forfeiture, where they routinely seize cash without the due process of a criminal trial.

“It’s just one of the features of the police being in this business of harvesting cash and processing it,” Eickholt said. “There’s always that possibility that one bad actor or several could do the wrong thing.”

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