



DeKay outlines issues facing unicameral next year
See page 5



Top teams prevail at PJCC Softball Tourney
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SERVING ANTELOPE, BOONE, and WHEELER COUNTIES, NEBRASKA SINCE 1883

The Elgin Review

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In Brief

VFW Auxiliary to host blood drive on August 12

At Knights of Columbus Hall.

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive in Elgin on Tuesday, August 12.

To be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Elgin, the drive will be sponsored by VFW Auxiliary Post #5816.

The drive will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For an appointment, contact Julie Dwyer (402-843-0151), Kyle Jensen at (402-910-0681) or schedule online at www.redcrossblood.org.

Participants are encouraged to bring their donor card or a photo ID.

All are encouraged to eat breakfast/lunch and drink plenty of water prior to donating blood.

Tickets on sale for End of Summer steak fry at park

To be held Friday, August 8.

The Elgin Community Club's annual 'End of Summer' Steak Fry will be held Friday evening, August 8.

The event will be held at Elgin City Park. Social hour will begin at 6 p.m. with steaks to be served beginning at 7 p.m. Open to adults and kids, the cost of the rib eye meal is the same as last year, \$40 per person.

Tickets are on sale at Dean's Market, Bank of Elgin and *The Elgin Review*. See the ad in this week's paper.

Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

- Proceedings — Antelope County Board of Equalization
- Notice of August Meetings — Antelope County Board of Commissioners

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

Weather

The high temperature last week was 89 degrees recorded on Saturday, July 26.

The low temperature during the same period was 64 degrees recorded on Thursday and Friday, July 24-25.

Altogether, 0.72 of an inch of precipitation was recorded last week.

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

Date	High	Low	Prec
July 20	83	66	.00
July 21	85	65	.00
July 22	87	65	.00
July 23	87	65	.72
July 24	76	64	.00
July 25	81	64	.00
July 26	89	70	.00
Total for last week			0.72
Total for July			8.38
Total precipitation 2025			19.44

Antelope County Fair underway

The 4H Dog Show was held Monday morning. Elgin's Emery Borer competed in showmanship, shown here accepting a ribbon for her efforts.



Elgin's John Hemenway shares his cat with the judge during Monday afternoon's 4H Cat Show. Complete fair coverage will start in next week's newspaper.

E-R photos/MWright

Two new teachers at Pope John CC

Pope John's elementary and high school are welcoming some new staff members for the 2025-26 school year.

They are Cailen Moeller, Jomari Fernandez, Nicole Starman, Crystal Borer, Jim Uhl and Patty Stoltz.

Cailen Moeller is from Creighton. She attended the University of South Dakota and Wayne State College and graduated with an Early Childhood Inclusive degree.

Ms. Moeller will be teaching Pre-school.

Jomari Fernandez is from the Philippines. He will be teaching Junior High and High School Math.

Nicole Starman is from Elgin. She has served on the St. Boniface Parish Council, the Altar Society, and on various other PJ committees.

She will be a Para in the preschool classroom.

Crystal Borer lives on a farm north of Elgin with her family. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education.

Mrs. Borer will be a Para in the elementary classrooms and will work with individual students or small groups.

Jim Uhl is originally from Sioux City, IA. He will be a part of the lunchroom staff.

Patty Stoltz will also be a part of the lunchroom staff.

She lives in Elgin and has worked at CVA in Elgin for many years until her retirement in 2020.

EPPJ dropped to Class D1 for volleyball

Having competed in Class C2 last year in girls volleyball, Elgin Public-Pope John have now been designated as a Class D1 school for the 2025/2026 volleyball season.

The Nebraska School Activities Association announced the classifications for all its schools for Fall Sports.

The largest school in Class D1 (in terms of girls enrollment) will be Tri County Northeast. Other D1 schools ranked in terms of girls enrollment are: Niobrara/Verdigre, South Loup (Callaway/Arnold), Pleasanton, Sutton, Cross County, Neligh-Oakdale, Boyd County, Maywood-Hayes Center, EPPJ, Blue Hill, Kenesaw, Overton, Lyons-Decatur Northeast, Osceola, Bayard, EMF, Southern Valley, Ansley-Litchfield, Hartington-Newcastle, Plainview, Creighton, Morrill, Newman Grove/St. Edward, Riverside, Deshler, Arapahoe, Bloomfield, Humboldt-Table Rock-Steinauer, Southwest, Axtell, Tri-County, Howells-Dodge, North Central, Ainsworth, Hi-Line,

Lourdes Central Catholic, East Butler, Sandhills Valley, Pawnee City, Central Valley, Shelton, Wauneta-Palisade, Amherst, Fullerton, Burwell, Weeping Water, Grand Island Lutheran, Sutherland, Bancroft-Rosalie, Brady, Medicine Valley, McCool Junction and Wausa.

The Wolfpack have had success in Class D1. In Coach Jordynn Luettel's

first season at EPPJ she led the team to a third place finish at the state tournament in Lincoln.

EPPJ competed in Class C2 last year, reaching the district final before losing to Yutan three sets to one.

Cross Country

EPPJ will again be in Class D for cross country. There are 125 schools listed in Class D by the NSAA.

Elgin Rescue to host color run

There's still one more big event in Elgin before the start of school begins to wrap up summer 2025.

The Elgin Rescue 5K Color Run will be held Sunday, August 10.

Registration will begin at 3:15 p.m. at Elgin City Park for the color run which is set to get underway at 4 p.m. All participants are strongly encouraged to wear white. Registration fee is \$20.

The course will wind its way through Elgin before ending at the finish line at the park.

At 5 p.m., participants as well as Elgin residents are encouraged to come to the park to enjoy hot dogs, chips & water for a free will donation.

Also during that time, the new ambulance will be at the park for all to view.

For more information, contact rescue squad members Kari Schindler (402-380-1147) or Kimberly Young (402-843-8562).

District #18 school board to vote to increase base growth %

To determine property tax request authority

As part of their regular monthly meeting in August, the District #18 Board of Education will take action on a matter which will directly affect preparation of the 2025/2026 school budget.

The school board will meet on Monday August 11, at 7 p.m. in the Elgin High School board meeting room.

On the agenda for that meeting, pursuant to Nebraska State Statute 79-3405, the board will vote on whether to increase the school district's base growth percentage by up to seven percent (7%), according to Superintendent Mike Brockhaus.

A copy of the agenda, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection in the superintendent's office during normal business hours.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Wheeler County Fair Centennial observed with parade

The good folks of Wheeler County turned out Tuesday night to celebrate a centennial - 100 years of all things associated with the Wheeler County Fair. As part of a week-long schedule of events, the parade's theme was "Blast From The Past." More pictures from the parade will be in next week's big fair issue as both Antelope and Wheeler County Fairs are now underway.

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From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

Red Velvet Cake, Ginger Crinkles



Red Velvet Cake. I just wanted

Good day, I hope you are enjoying your summer! This week's recipes include one that I don't make very often. Some people love

to include it in the collection because I had someone ask for the recipe. Give it a try if you've never made it. You may like it too. I've also included this delicious Ginger Crinkles recipe. These are my all time favorite. They are soft and chewy. They are quick and don't make a lot. They freeze really well if you choose to do that. Make a batch and see for yourself. Yummy! Enjoy!

JoAnn



2-1/2 cups self-rising flour
1 cup buttermilk
1-1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp vanilla
2 (1 oz) bottles (1/4 cup) red food coloring

RED VELVET CAKE

1-1/2 cups sugar
1 tsp cocoa
1 tsp vinegar
2 large eggs

Frosting:

1-1/3 sticks margarine (butter)
10 oz cream cheese

1 lb powdered sugar (2-3 cups)
1-1/2 cups pecans

Mix with a mixer until creamy. If you need more powdered sugar, then add it.
Mix all the cake ingredients together and pour into three (sprayed) 9 inch round cake pans.
Bake at 350° for 20 minutes.
When cakes are completely cool, put together with the frosting, then frost the top and sprinkle 1/2 cup chopped pecans on top.
Hint: Before you put the cake mixture in the 9 inch pans, put a piece of wax paper in the bottom that is the same size as the pan. The cake will come out with ease.

GINGER CRINKLES

2-1/4 cups flour
2 tsp soda
1 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground cloves

1 cup packed brown sugar
3/4 cup vegetable oil
1/4 cup molasses
1 egg
1/4 tsp salt

Stir together all the dry ingredients. Combine remaining ingredients and beat well.
Add dry ingredients and mix well. Form into balls and roll in sugar.
Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake in a 375 ° oven for 10 minutes. It makes 4 dozen.

Income guidelines expanded for WIC program, making more families eligible

More Nebraskan families may now qualify for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition assistance program due to recently updated income guidelines. The federally funded program provides nutritional support, healthy foods, health education, and breastfeeding support to women who are pregnant or just had a baby, infants, and children up to the age of five. The maximum income allowed to participate in WIC has increased. For example, a family of four can now earn up to \$59,478 annually and still be eligible. This is an increase of \$1,758 from last year.

WIC Income Guidelines
Family size one - annual income \$28,953; monthly income \$2,413
Two - \$39,128; \$3,261
Three - \$49,303; \$4,109
Four - \$59,478; \$4,957
"Our Nebraska WIC program

serves about 36,500 eligible people in our communities each month," said Dr. Timothy Tesmer, Chief Medical Officer for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. "WIC is a vital public health

program providing healthy food, nutrition services, health screenings and referrals, and breastfeeding support for families across Nebraska."

See WIC, Page 3 ►

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“God, what are you trying to tell me?”

God is always calling us to more. I experienced this powerfully at a recent silent retreat. I'm still experiencing that call for more – more of Him. During the retreat I tried to dive into the silence, attempting to have a continuous conversation with God the entire three days, blocking out as best as I could my own silly, trivial thoughts. My conversation with the Lord was beautiful! He spoke to me through everything! He spoke to me personally through Mass and the sacraments, through the talks at the retreat, spiritual direction, the Stations of the Cross and Adoration. He spoke more subtly, too:

through the warmth of the coffee, the refreshment of cool water and the sweetness of juice. On walks He spoke through distant flashes of lightning, the warm, heavy evening air and the fresh morning breeze. He spoke through fragrant clusters of flowers, shady trees and the striking flash of color on a red-winged blackbird. To my astonishment, God even spoke through a tick! To my disgust, I discovered the tick on my back one morning. When I first saw it, it was surrounded by a big red mark, and I thought I was bleeding. Then I reached for the spot with a Kleenex and confirmed that it was a tick. I pulled it out slowly, like you're supposed to, and

flushed it down a toilet. I'll reiterate again: The experience was disgusting. I kind of laughed interiorly and sarcastically said to God: What are You trying to say through this? At first I heard a voice that said “Well, you're out in nature, what do you expect?” But that didn't sound like God. As the morning wore on, I kept cringing at the thought of the tick and wondered if I'd find others. Through those disturbing thoughts, though, God revealed more. Ticks, mosquitoes and other biting and stinging bugs always leave a mark. Those pests are like sin. Some sins are lesser. They are like mosquitoes that you can swat away, but they still leave a mark. Other sins are more persistent. They dig deeper and have to be extracted, like the tick. I thought about which of my sins resemble the tick. Mostly they were the ones that I have to confess over and over again. They're attached and stubborn and tend to be more serious, even deadly, sins. God revealed to me my pride. Right away I thought: Pride isn't that big of a sin for me. Ha! That thought alone was prideful. From there out, whenever a prideful thought arose, He gently reminded me. I thought of other persistent sins and realized that on my own strength I can't overcome them. (An overarching theme of the retreat was the disaster of self-reliance and the need to surrender everything to God.) So I surrendered those sins to Jesus, every time they came up. Jesus promised to slowly, gently pull out those sins, like one would pull out a tick.

So now – back in the busy-ness of a not-so-silent world – He's still pulling at my sins and I'm trying to maintain that constant conversation with God. It can be a struggle. But He reminds me that it's not impossible. We have the saints as proof. He keeps showing me how to stay united to Him, teaching me through the words of a homily, or the advice of a friend, or through a stranger on social media. When I remember to think of God and stay in His Presence, we have the sweetest exchanges. Just the other day, while driving alone – and feeling prompted by the Holy Spirit – I asked the Lord to sing me a song. Then I hit the radio button for a response. It was the refrain from an old song, “My Love” by Petula Clark: “My love is warmer than the warmest sunshine Softer than a sigh My love is deeper than the deepest ocean Wider than the sky My love is brighter than the brightest star That shines every night above And there is nothing in this world That can ever change my love.” He's singing to you, too. He wants more – for all of us.



Elgin Columnist Susan Szalewski

Looking Back

Sixty Years Ago July 29, 1965

Local businessmen have again sponsored free tickets for children to attend the annual Shrine Circus at Norfolk Friday, Aug. 6. This is a completely new circus — new artist, new acts and animals. Linda Schindler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Schindler, was one of several College of St. Mary students to be featured in Sunday's edition of the Magazine of the Midlands. The story concerned latest college fashions and was entitled, “It's Fashionable to be Smart.” Mr. and Mrs. Marion Werner of Lindsay announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Judy, to Larry Beckman, son of Mrs. Johanna Beckman. A September 6 wedding is planned at Holy Family Church in Lindsay. Elgin's Pee Wee and Midget nines won a double-header over Petersburg on the latter's diamond Friday night by scores of 6-1, 6-2. The Pee Wees remain undefeated for the season as Mike Schmitt hurled a two hitter. Philip Beckman finished his 24 weeks of Radio Communication School at Pensacola, Fla., recently. He is now stationed in Morocco.

Fifty Years Ago July 24, 1975

Bicentennial decorations were painted on the Laundromat windows last Thursday after removing the old decorations. Doing the work was the Elgin Busy Bees 4-H Club. Antelope county residents donated \$2,404.23 to the 1975 March of Dimes campaign, according to chairman Mrs. Wayne Fallesen. Donations by towns: Brunswick \$78.75, Clearwater \$197.85, Elgin \$217.27, Neligh \$686.16, Orchard \$173.15, Tilden \$85.00, Royal \$48.65 and rural envelopes \$870.67. Approximately 50 Elginites attended the recently held quilting class demonstration at the Elgin fire station July 15 and 17. Mrs. Fritz Koinzan of Bartlett shared her quilting knowledge during two sessions. An electrical storm Friday evening started a fire around 6:30 at the Phillip Pelster ranch 13 miles west and 5 miles south of Elgin. The Elgin Fire Department was called to help extinguish the pasture fire which luckily had been noticed immediately after it had been started by lightning. Darrell G. Cook, Assaria, Kansas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert M. Cook of Elgin, has been named to the President's Honor Roll at the Kansas Technical Institute in Salina, Kansas. To earn this distinction a student must have a 3.0 grade point average (B) on a 4.0 system and be a full time student.

Thirty Years Ago July 26, 1995

Elgin's Vetch Days Celebration was completed with the annual Grand Parade on Sunday evening, July 23. The 1995 celebration featured a smaller schedule of events. A total of 87 units of blood were collected during the visit of the Red Cross Bloodmobile on Monday, July 24, at the Elgin Veteran's Club. Mildred Pelster, local Bloodmobile coordinator, said the day was very successful, and the quota of 80 units was surpassed by seven units. Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Pape of Sidney, NE, have adopted a new son named Benjamin Abbot. Benjamin joins a brother, Jack. Great grandfather is Greg Pape of Elgin. Malinda Pauline Bode, daughter of John Baptist and Clara Sophia (Henkenius) Moser, was born at Elgin, Oct. 13, 1919, and died at Antelope Memorial Hospital, Neligh on July 19, 1995, at the age of 75 years, nine months, and six days. Renee Pelster and Chad Naprstek, both of Lexington, are planning to be married on Saturday, Aug. 26, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin. Parents of the couple are David and Connie Pelster of Bartlett, and Hap and Loretta Naprstek of Lexington.

Twenty Years Ago July 27, 2005

Building improvements are common at local schools over the summer months, but this summer finds the schools getting a few more upgrades than usual. As the summer started, brick tuck pointing work was underway at all three Elgin Public School buildings, as well as St. Boniface School. Work was underway last week inside the new kitchen at the Elgin KC Hall. Base cabinets were being installed and finished by Mike Dvorak and Jerry Tunink. New appliances, including a commercial dishwasher, were also being installed in the kitchen. A memorial funeral mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 30, 2005, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin for Theodore E. “Skip” Humphrey, Jr., 59, of Cerritos, CA.

See BACK, Page 11 ►

Writing, photography and so much more, my time as a newspaper intern

Throughout the years of working as an intern at *The Elgin Review* I have learned many things. Many people may think that that would be experienced in journalism, photography and the insights of running a business. While all of those things are true, there are many more things that I learned and experienced as an *Elgin Review* Intern. When I first started off working a few years ago I had no idea how many different jobs I would be doing. I thought that I would do some typing and maybe write a column or two, but I soon found out that every week I would have many different things to complete. Some of these were a weekly job like writing the *Looking Back* and some of them were a one time thing like making a newspaper dress. I never knew what I was going to do from week to week. Some weeks I got to paint. One summer I painted a donkey yard decoration and I added a fresh coat of paint to a table in the front of the office. I also painted a corn themed put put golf obstacle. I painted a piece of cardboard green and then spray painted and glued on yellow shot glasses to act as a sort of Plinko Board. The event that it was going to make its debut at ended up getting canceled, so we never got to see how it held up. Some days at the office did not feel like real work. For instance, recently I made a newspaper dress for a retirement party. I pleaded, cut and taped pieces of the previous weeks column of the *Elgin Review* newspaper together to make, in my opinion, a beautiful ball gown. Whenever there was a birthday in the office I could always expect there to be birthday cake. There would also be other desserts on random work days and I would never complain when Dennis or Lynell told me to grab another piece. My favorite “work day” was when I got done working early, and Lynell and I started talking about the movie *The Martian*. I told her that I had never watched it before, so for the last two and a half hours of work my job was to watch it. These are just a few of the tasks that I had to complete over the years. I did end up learning about journalism, photography and other things that go into running a business in a small town. However, one of the biggest things that I learned as an intern here was that you need to find certain activities that make you excited to wake up and go to work every day.



Olivia Klein

WIC

◀ FROM Page 2 Nebraska WIC serves every county in the state with 13 main agencies and over 95 sites. Moms, dads, grandparents, foster parents, and guardians are encouraged to make an appointment at their local WIC office to apply for the program. Current Medicaid, SNAP, or ADC recipients are income-eligible for the WIC program. However, if families' incomes are too high for these programs, they may still qualify for WIC. All foster children under five years of age and pregnant teen moms in foster care are income-eligible for WIC. You can find a WIC location near you by visiting https://experience.argis.com/experience/0fb3d05e87cf4c458a-f94a9d55770695/

Elgin Community Center Menus

Monday, August 4: BBQ riblets, tator tots, creamy cucumbers, mixed fruit, bread & butter, milk.

Tuesday, August 5: Chicken & stuffing casserole, broccoli, lettuce salad w/tomatoes, apricots, bread & butter, milk.

Wednesday, August 6: Fried chicken, macaroni salad, baked beans, fruit crisp, bread & butter, milk.

Thursday, August 7: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, green beans, lettuce salad w/tomatoes, pineapple, garlic stick/butter, milk

Friday, August 8: Hamburger deluxe, macaroni salad, tomato/cucumber salad, Jello w/pears, bread/butter, milk.

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CUSTOMERS:

Due to supply shortages, completion times can vary and some stock is no longer available. Please consult with us well in advance of your needed date.

By Natalia Alamdari *Flatwater Free Press* The handheld meal keeps football fans warm at Memorial Stadium during chilly Husker games. Drivers chow down on them straight from the bag on long drives down Interstate 80. Vice presidential candidate Tim Walz went viral for spending hundreds at the fast food chain during an Omaha campaign stop in 2024. It's a little pillow of dough and meat. It's quintessentially Nebraska. It's the Runza. So what is a Runza? Technically, “Runza” is the trademarked word for a bierock. The German Russian pastry features a mix of spiced ground beef, cabbage and onions, all encased in a soft yeasty dough, said Emily Gengenbach, librarian and program coordinator for the American Historical Society of Germans From Russia in Lincoln. Their shape varies — a traditional bierock is often rounded, while the trademarked Runza is more of a rectangle. And while bierocks are eaten by German Russian descendants throughout the Midwest, Runzas are a uniquely Nebraskan staple. How did the food end up in Nebraska? You have to go back a few centuries to answer this.

In the 1700s, Germans started moving to Russia. German princess Catherine the Great had married into the Russian royal family, and was inviting her countrymen to move east. She offered free land for each family, and the promise to practice religion freely and no requirement to serve in the Russian military. Once settled near the Volga River in southern Russia, they picked up on Russian cooking. Russians had the pirozhki — a baked or fried hand pie that can be stuffed with savory or sweet fillings. The Germans made it their own, and with that, the bierock was born. The handheld meal was perfect for farmers needing a hot lunch in the fields. By the late 1800s, there was pressure for German Russians to assimilate to Russian culture and religion. The Russian military planned to start drafting German Russians. Many German Russians fled the country, ending up in the Great Plains. “When they left, they brought their different cultural foods and traditions,” Gengenbach said. “One of the cultural foods was the bierock, so that's how it ended up in Nebraska.” Why do Nebraskans call it a Runza and not a bierock? That's where the fast food chain comes in. In the 1940s, Lincolnite Sally Everett and her brother Alex Brening started selling homemade bierocks to factory workers on lunch break, Gengenbach said. By 1949, Everett and Brening opened their

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

Edward R. Murrow

Loss of support for public media, and loss of journalists is not good news

This is probably speaking to the choir because if you're reading this, you already believe that maintaining a healthy media – with fact-checking editors instead of conspiracy spreading folks in pajama pants – is really important.

It's even more important now because there's so much misinformation out there, and so much wrong information, mostly spread on social media.

Recently, Congress – including every member of the Nebraska delegation – voted to claw back \$1.1 billion in allocations over two years already made to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, sending National Public Radio and PBS affiliates scrambling to figure out how to operate without money they were counting on.

The supposed goal was to cut spending and help reduce the federal debt. This comes after Congress voted to continue a massive tax cut that will increase the federal debt by a projected \$3.4 trillion (with a “T”) dollars over 10 years.

Got that? Plus, a cut of \$500 million a year in a \$4 trillion a year federal budget will be far less than even a drop in the bucket of the total budget.

Today, there's dozens of TV channels and streaming options, but I often find myself clicking back to PBS. These are the people who bring you the excellent Ken Burns documentaries, the kid shows like Sesame Street, cultural and educational programs and nightly news broadcasts. I love “Doc Martin.”

Public funding of public broadcasting covers about 2% of the expenses of NPR and between 10-15% of cost of local PBS and public radio stations. The rationale has always been that educational and cultural programs don't generate the advertising support of network comedies and dramas, so some government support is warranted.

On PBS, you'll see high-quality programming that commercial stations won't broadcast like “Nature,” “Masterpiece” or “Backyard Farmer.” What you won't see are “Love Island” type shows or the latest “Real Housewives of Wherever.”

Nebraska Public Media provides gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Nebraska Legislature, and there's a nightly wrap-up on public radio. Losing that would mean one less responsible and trusted source of news.

Social media isn't news. Neither are

ALL THINGS NEBRASKA



State Correspondent
Paul Hammel



the panels of talking heads we get from FOX and CNN – that's opinion, and often the most sensational and outlandish to attract the highest ratings.

Recently, I went on “X” to post my disgust about the horrible cuts in funding for public broadcasting. It went something like this: “When someone accuses NPR of being a “radical, liberal” media outlet, just remember that the next time there's a tornado warning in your area, or a high school championship game or a college volleyball match you'd like to watch.”

Of course that prompted a chorus of boos and insults from those social media trolls who are so brave with their opinions that they don't use their real names.

I usually don't pay much attention to such digital drivel. It will drive you crazy.

But this time I did, and lo and behold, it demonstrated how uninformed and misinformed people can be.

Commenters didn't know, for instance, that NPR had news programs, or that they regularly provide tornado and flood warnings – including in large areas of Nebraska where you

can't get other stations on your radio.

One commentator, who did use their real name, said that other media will pick up the slack if public broadcasts go away. What media is that?

Nationally, there's been an estimated 75% decline in the number of local journalists in the last couple of decades. Community newspapers are scrambling to retain staff and advertisers. More and more mom-and-pop groceries and hardware stores -- that bought ads -- are disappearing to be replaced by chain “Dollar” stores that don't.

It's a tough world, and local newspapers, as well as NPR, deserve our support. There's some good news to report. Journalists, and those who care about providing local news, are fighting back.

Recently, civic-minded folks in Valentine and Ainsworth saved their local newspapers from closing. A couple in Pawnee City came out of retirement to keep the paper there alive. And reporters are establishing non-profit news sites.

The newspaper in my home county – the Burt County Plaindealer – recently

closed after more than 90 years of covering that northeast Nebraska county.

But just down the road, the Oakland Independent/Lyons Mirror-Sun announced that it would establish a new county-wide paper, the Burt County Independent, to pick up the slack.

Kevin Bumgarner, executive editor/general manager of Enterprise Media Group, owner of the new venture, said that people deserve an unbiased source of news. Bigger, daily papers, he said, won't likely cover events in the county unless it's a natural disaster or crisis of some kind.

So thanks to them for stepping up, and thanks to you for buying this local paper. Spread the word – we need every responsible, truth-seeking news outlet that we can get.

Paul Hammel has covered the Nebraska state government and the state for decades. He retired in April as senior contributor with the Nebraska Examiner. He was previously with the Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha Sun. A native of Ralston, Nebraska, he loves traveling and writing about the state.

Reconciliation package confronts rural health issues

Access to healthcare is a major challenge for patients and providers alike in rural communities across America, including in small cities and villages across Nebraska's Third District. Families face long driving distances when they need care most, and a lack of patient density impedes the finances of providers striving to serve expansive areas. Doing all we can to promote economic growth, attract and support healthcare professionals to live and work in our state, and encourage healthy lifestyles are essential components of advancing solutions for Nebraskans.

In Congress, I have fostered support among my colleagues for legislation to modernize payments for health providers, reduce regulatory burdens, and update telehealth rules to strengthen Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to better serve their communities. The Third District is served by over 50 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and over 100 RHCs, among the most of any congressional district, and I have led legislation to successfully repeal regulatory burdens on these hospitals and modernize Medicare payments to ensure RHCs can continue providing frontline care.

Leveraging technology can open new ways for providers to reach and improve outcomes for rural patients. I am grateful the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which I supported in the House and President Trump signed into law earlier this month, lowers barriers to telehealth services through a permanent provision based on my Telehealth Expansion Act. This ensures the millions of Americans with High-Deductible Health Plans can access affordable telehealth options before meeting their full deductible.

The reconciliation package provides an additional \$50 billion to boost rural health providers and ends unworkable Biden-era nursing home staffing requirements which would have endangered the 90 percent of skilled-nursing facilities in Nebraska which already have a difficult time filling job openings.

Additionally, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act takes steps to address the sustainability of programs such as Medicaid by ensuring states prioritize and preserve coverage for mothers, children, disabled Americans, the elderly, the working poor, and others such programs have always been intended to help. Through policies proven successful during the 1990s, able-bodied adults are given modest requirements to work, participate in educational activities, or volunteer. Connecting more Americans to good-paying jobs is positive for the dignity of individuals and often the best path to financial security and family connection through economic support.

The bill also addresses abuse by states which have high rates of Medicaid payment errors. It requires states check the financial eligibility of their Medicaid recipients twice per year, instead of once. Nebraska has a comparatively low error rate for Medicaid payments, and states like California, with an 8.1 percent error rate, will be required to choose between addressing their waste, fraud, and abuse or seeing their federal match reduced, protecting taxpayers in responsible states like ours.

Many states take advantage of tools like State Directed Payments (SDPs) to a greater degree than Nebraska, which can disadvantage healthcare providers and taxpayers in our state. There needs to be fairness in a fiscally sustainable way, and I am glad officials worked hard to address it on

FROM THE HILL



Congressman
Adrian Smith

How the ‘One Big, Beautiful Bill’ delivers tax relief to Nebraska families

Last week, I shared how the One Big, Beautiful Bill keeps Nebraskans safe and our communities secure.

Today, I want to highlight another top priority: how this new law delivers real, lasting tax relief for Nebraska families.

When Americans went to the polls last November, they sent a clear message.

They want a government that prioritizes safer neighborhoods, more affordable energy, and real economic relief – especially for working families. Earlier this month, Congress responded

with a tangible solution. We stopped a \$4 trillion tax hike and advanced a law that locks in the economic policies that have helped families and small businesses thrive.

This new law cements the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) into permanent policy, preserving critical tax benefits for families across the country.

For the average Nebraska household, that means \$2,400 a year in savings – money that can help pay for groceries, utilities, or a child's education.

It also includes a policy I've long championed: the permanent extension of my Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) Tax Credit.

When first introduced in 2017, it marked the creation of our nation's first and only federal paid leave policy. I'm particularly proud that this policy is based on tax incentives rather than government mandates. This approach

has allowed employers of all sizes to voluntarily provide paid leave to workers caring for a newborn or an aging parent – without jeopardizing their jobs or financial stability. Now, employers and employees can count on the stability and flexibility this tax credit provides.

The law protects over 44,000 family-owned farms and small businesses in Nebraska from having their death tax exemption slashed.

By expanding and making the 2017 TCJA's tax provisions permanent, it safeguards 37,000 jobs across the state from being lost and ensures that more than 239,000 Nebraska households do not see their Child Tax Credit cut in half.

Just as important, it preserves the full standard deduction for more than 868,000 Nebraska families.

Beyond tax relief, the bill includes measures that encourage work and reward hard-working Nebraskans and

Americans.

It establishes commonsense work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents, helping ensure government programs such as Medicaid and food stamps are reserved for those truly in need while strengthening the workforce. And it eliminates taxes on tips and overtime pay – putting more take-home pay in the pockets of tipped and hourly workers.

Taken together, these reforms are protecting the dignity of work, preserving family farms and businesses, and helping Nebraska families keep more of what they earn.

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator
Deb Fischer

Numbers to Know

President Donald J. Trump, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20510; phone (202) 456-1111.

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

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

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

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

Representative Adrian Smith: 503 House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515-2703. Phone (202) 225-6435. Fax: (202) 225-

0207. E-mail: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>.

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

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

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

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



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Back

◀ FROM Page 3

A team representing the classes of 1993, 1994 and 1997 repeated as champions of the Pope John Alumni Softball Tournament last weekend. A total of 14 teams competed in the double elimination tournament held Saturday and Sunday, July 23-24, at Petersburg. Interior finish work was nearing completion this week at Elgin Insurance Services, which is expanding to the south. The business features a decorative metal roof, with a stucco finish on the exterior.

By Olivia Klein



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DeKay outlines issues unicameral is expected to consider next year

One question I get asked quite often is what my thoughts are in terms of what issues might be considered next year. There are several topics like the state's budget and taxes that are essentially guaranteed to come up next session. However, there will also be a number of other bills or constitutional amendment resolutions that could also be voted on early next year. By tradition and prior precedent, when the Legislature convenes in an even-numbered year, the first bills or resolutions to be debated are typically the priority measures carried over from the previous regular session.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



District 40 Senator
Barry DeKay

For the next couple of weeks, I would like to highlight several of these priority bills and resolutions that are pending and could be scheduled early in the next session.

Smith

◀ FROM Page 4

the state level. In May, I joined Reps. Flood and Bacon to send a letter to Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services Administrator Mehmet Oz requesting Nebraska's proposed SDP plan be approved in a timely manner, and the request was ultimately approved right before the deadline.

By advancing commonsense reforms which reduce barriers to telehealth and other emerging technologies and allowing programs such as Medicaid to help folks in need in the most efficient manner possible, I will continue working to make healthcare more accessible to patients across our state and the country.

LB79 by Senator Sorrentino is a package bill crafted by the Judiciary Committee primarily dealing with civil actions.

Earlier this year, the Judiciary Committee was able to get two of its priority bills passed that largely dealt with aspects of criminal law: LB150 and LB530. However, time ran out before LB79 could be scheduled for debate.

LB79 primarily aims to limit claims for negligent hiring, negligent retention, and negligent supervision when an employer admits its employee was acting within their course and scope of employment in negligence claims involving a commercial motor vehicle (e.g., a semi-truck).

Elements of four other bills are included in LB79's committee amendment. Those four bills are:

LB132 by Senator Kauth which would allow evidence that a person was not wearing a seat belt to be admissible concerning the mitigation of damages.

This change would revert to the current law regarding the determination of liability and proximate cause, but allows a jury to decide the amount of mitigation without restriction as to reduction of recovery for damages;

LB199 by Senator Sorrentino which would require the disclosure of third-party litigation financing agreements and reduce Nebraska's statute of limitations from four years to two years for personal injury actions;

LB205 by Senator Bosn which would permit recovery for medical damages only to the extent necessary to satisfy medical costs actually incurred by a plaintiff and cap non-economic damages in civil actions against commercial motor vehicle carriers at \$2.225 million; and

LB340 by Senator Hallstrom which would require asbestos plaintiffs to disclose the factual basis for each claim against each defendant and provide supporting documentation. The bill would also require plaintiffs to

file and disclose claims against trusts that exist to compensate plaintiffs for harms caused by bankrupt companies' asbestos products to prevent double recovery in asbestos related

See DeKay, Page 6 ▶

OBITUARIES

Shirley J. Lang, 89

April 4, 1936 - July 26, 2025

An English teacher, she dedicated her life to educating children, sharing her love of literature and grammar.



Shirley J. Lang, 89, of Elgin, passed away Saturday, July 26, 2025, at Antelope Memorial Hospital in Neligh, NE. Funeral services will be 1:30 p.m. Monday, August 4, 2025, at Elgin Community Christian Church with Rev. Mary Avidano officiating.

Private family burial will be at Memorial Park Cemetery in Sioux City, IA. Visitation will be 1 hour prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the family. Levander Funeral Home of Elgin is in charge of the arrangements.

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

Shirley Jean Lang was born April 4, 1936, in Sioux City, Iowa, to Irwin and Lois (Greiner) Lang. She was baptized at Westminster Presbyterian Church on June 14, 1936. She graduated from South High School in Omaha, NE, on June 11, 1954, and received her teaching degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1957. She was a member of Pi Gamma Mu, Phi Alpha Theta and Alpha Lambda Delta.

She was an English teacher at Monroe Middle School and Omaha Benson High School, both in Omaha and retired in 1992. She lived in Omaha, later moving to Elgin.

She dedicated her life to educating children, including her nieces and nephews, and sharing her love of literature and grammar. She was a devoted Christian.

Shirley is survived by her sister: Judi (Glen) Kalvelage of Elgin, NE; niece: Patti Good of Elgin, NE; nephews: Tim (Jennifer) Kalvelage of Hastings, NE; Randy (Dana Mimick) Kalvelage of Battle Creek, NE; Nick Stansbury of Kingsley, IA; great-nephews: Alex Blecher of Norfolk, NE; Andrew (Hailey Burge) Kalvelage of Hastings, NE; Noah (Shelby) Kalvelage of Hadar, NE; Braden Kalvelage and Dylan Kalvelage both of Hastings, NE; Austin Good of Elgin, NE; great-nieces: Caitlin (Michael) Houdek of Chapman, NE; Jeanette Seals of Papillion, NE; Jayne Dodson and husband of Chantilly, VA; Emily Kalvelage of Battle Creek, NE; and one great-great-niece: Kennedy Jo Houdek of Chapman, NE.

Preceded in death by her parents; two brothers: Irvin Lang; Dennis Stansbury; and niece: Roseanne Lang.

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Thy Compassions They Fail Not



God should be angry with us.

We could live better lives but choose not to.

We could live the Ten Commandments but we choose not to.

Yet, God has compassion on us.

God cares.

Learn about God's care and compassion this week in church.

...my compassion grows warm and tender.

Hosea 11:1-11

Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21 Psalm 107:1-9, 43

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

Sunday, August 3, 2025

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

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Raeville, NE

Fr. John Norman, Pastor
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Weekend Mass: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday, 8 am.
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Park Congregational U.C.C. Church

Elgin, NE

Congregational

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

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Petersburg, NE

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

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

Bartlett Church of Faith

Bartlett, NE

Pastor Mark Hoffman

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

Calvary Bible Church

Neligh, NE

Pastor Peter Sample

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

Trinity Lutheran Church

Elgin, NE

Pastor Norlyn Bartens

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

Elgin Community Christian Church

Elgin, NE

Pastor Jonathan Braden

605-430-9171

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 am.
Church Council: 2nd Tuesday of each month.

St. John's Catholic Church

Rural Clearwater, NE

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

Weekend Mass: 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday, 5:30 am.
cppnebraska.org

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Chambers, NE

Pastor Leif Hasskari

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

Immanuel-Zion Lutheran Church

ELCA

Rural Albion, NE
Pastor Elizabeth Goehring

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~ Proverbs 19:11 ~

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Faith

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

Hebrews 11:1

2025 Nebraska Soybean Management Field Days Includes Second Year of TAPS Competition

For over 25 years, growers have benefited from the latest advancements in soybean production, management and marketing at Soybean Management Field Days. This year marks the second year that the Soybean Testing Ag Performance Solutions (TAPS) competition highlights are included in the field days, including lessons from last year's contest and progress this season.

The field days provide an

opportunity to learn about cutting-edge soybean management, production practices and technologies, while networking with fellow farmers and industry experts.

The three-fold focus of the field days is to provide practical information, foster dialogue and showcase collaborative efforts:

- Learn about best practices and strategies to apply in your fields.

• Engage in productive discussions on issues ranging from local to global.

• Explore Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) initiatives in research, marketing and education.

“Our goal is to give growers real value they can take home and use,” said Andy Chvatal, NSB executive director. “By highlighting programs like TAPS, we’re helping producers evaluate new ideas and learn

directly from the results. In addition to TAPS, the field days also focus on timely topics that matter most to growers, including disease management, market updates and practical production strategies.”

Throughout the four-day event, attendees will be able to participate in two different formats, one occurring in the evening and the other during the day. The evening meetings, held Aug. 12–14, will feature presentations on locally relevant topics and engage participants in interactive discussions. To conclude the week on Aug. 15, a field day starting mid-morning will highlight the Soybean TAPS contest with interactive discussions and a plot tour.

Soybean Management Field Days is free to attend thanks to support from NSB. To help with a meal count, please pre-register two days in advance of each

field day at go.unl.edu/soydays or by calling 402-624-8030.

Evening programs

Registration at 5:30 p.m., program from 6 to 8 p.m.

- Tuesday, Aug. 12 – Ravenna, NE (Lonnie and Scott Bohn farm)

Topics: Soybean TAPS competition, soybean diseases, and market updates.

Speakers: Dylan Mangel, Jeff Peterson, Talon Muse, Chuck Burr

- Wednesday, Aug. 13 – Concord, NE (UNL Haskell Ag Lab)

Topics: Soybean TAPS competition, white mold, and market updates.

Speakers: Dylan Mangel, Leslie Johnson, Nicole Luhr, Chris Proctor, Jeff Peterson

- Thursday, Aug. 14 – Weeping Water, NE (Rick Meyer farm)

Topics: Soybean TAPS

See SOYBEANS, Page 6 ▶



Photo submitted

Soybean Management Field Days return August 12-15, offering in-field learning and production discussions at sites across Nebraska.

Spinning Tales

Searching for 20 years, I finally found my ‘holy grail’

Back in the days of King Arthur, his knights searched in vain for the Holy Grail, the cup Jesus Christ used at the Last Supper, and was later used by Joseph of Arimathea to collect His blood during the crucifixion. The search has never ended, though centuries have passed.

I found my ‘holy grail’ last week, the end of a search for more than 20 years. I’m sure many of you have searched and searched for something that meant the world to you. Some have died never finding what they have been looking for. I consider myself one of the lucky ones to have found what I was looking for. The search was long and many times I hit a dead end. Some times I almost gave up, almost. But, my father didn’t raise his only son to give up, so I kept going.

What was my ‘holy grail’? It was a micro-cassette recording of an oral history I did with my father in late February-early March of 2001.

To give it more perspective, my father had a massive stroke in February 1989, he was left paralyzed on his right side.

A farmer who got up before sunrise and worked well past sunset, he was a man of simple means. He possessed only an eighth grade education when he left school to go work on his uncle’s dairy farm east of Seward. There, he met my mother-to-be on a blind date, and it was there he was drafted into World War II in 1944.

In the Army, he went to England, France and Belgium before crossing the Rhine River into Germany. When the war in Europe was declared over, he returned across the ocean to Newport News, VA and then caught a train home to Lincoln, Nebraska where, on the Fourth of July 1945, he was reunited with his wife and two-year-old daughter Lorraine.

He and other U.S. soldiers returning home from Europe were told to prepare to go to Japan to finish the war there. Those orders became null and void when President Harry Truman ordered the atom bomb to be dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Days later the war ended and Dad and family began to resume life as it was before the war.

Fast forward to a winter day in 2001 when I turned on my micro-cassette recorder and began to ask Dad questions about the war years. Some days he struggled to put thoughts into words, but on this day he was clear-headed and he took me on a journey I never dreamed possible.

Over the next hour, I learned about the years immediately before and after the war. I learned about how one man’s decision to go ‘over the hill’ led to my father being assigned a job in the 656 Tank Destroyer Battalion

which likely saved his life. He spoke about an ammunition truck being hit by enemy fire (the closest he came to losing his life), he spoke about being there for the liberation of Jews from the Auschwitz concentration camp. American soldiers, hating canned beets the U.S. soldiers, gave this ‘delicacy’ to the starving people there, giving them a chance to live. He saw it all there, he talked about the horrors of war and the celebration which came when he finally returned home.

All this was on a micro-cassette which had disappeared when Lynell and I moved to Elgin. I cannot tell you how many hours I spent looking in boxes for that tiny cassette.

Last Saturday, Lynell was going to go to her mother’s house in Randolph for the weekend. I said I was going to clean out a corner of the detached garage to create more space. Many of these boxes were full of items which were hastily packed, then forgotten. They weren’t things we used regularly so there the boxes sat.

I had a shredding machine handy to destroy papers no longer needed. There were quite a few boxes and each had to be gone through before shredding

It was mid-afternoon and, at the bottom of one old, dusty box was a sealed envelope with a few words scribbled in pencil. It said, ‘Dad’s nursing home tape.’

I was stunned at first, I knew what I had finally found. For more than 20 years it had been in the garage. Covered up by papers, etc., but having endured the heat of summer and the cold of winter. I didn’t have high hopes of the tape being in good condition for play back.

So, I waited a day for Lynell to come home. In the meantime I said more than a few prayers, asking God for a simple favor, to allow me to hear my father’s voice again.

I placed it in the recorder and

hit the play button and there was his voice again. It was weaker than I had remembered, but it was his voice.

The information he had shared then was a revelation. Hearing his voice again was a gift from God. I’ve since digitized the recording and now the tape and the envelope it was sealed in is in a safe place never to be lost again.

So what made this \$1 recording tape so special? This was the last conversation I ever had with my dad, he died two weeks later from congestive heart failure. In short, he laid down for a nap after lunch and never woke up.

When you lose a parent, you will do anything short of selling your soul to be able to hear that person’s voice again. Grieving, we become homesick for a place and time that no longer exists.

That’s how it was for me. That which you keep in your heart you will fight to the end to never lose it. To this day, I would trade everything I have to have time again with my father. I said earlier I never give up. I searched for years, going through phone books trying to find lost friends. Then along came Facebook and the job was made easier.

For you who read these words and are searching for your own ‘holy grail’, never give up. There’s no better feeling of euphoria than the one you get when you are rewarded for your perseverance. The reward is always worth the effort.

Never give up.

SPINNING TALES



Publisher
Dennis Morgan

Experienced speech therapist Melodie Look joins BCHC

Boone County Health Center (BCHC) is pleased to welcome Melodie Look, MS, CCC-SLP, to its rehabilitation team as a Speech Language Pathologist.

Look brings over 17 years of experience in the field, with a strong background in serving patients across skilled nursing facilities, assisted living, outpatient clinics, and acute hospital settings. She earned her Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology from Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, and holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Her passion for speech therapy began early, inspired by working with her cousin who has cerebral palsy and observing her progress during speech sessions.

At BCHC, Look provides comprehensive speech therapy services, including evaluation and treatment for voice, swallowing, and cognitive challenges. She also offers pediatric speech therapy.

“Speech therapy is so much more than helping someone talk—it’s about addressing communication, swallowing, voice, and cognition for people of all ages,” said Look. “I’m excited to work locally and have the opportunity to directly impact the health and well-being of this community.”

Look grew up in Stockton, Kansas, and now lives in Albion with her husband, Chris, and their son, Cole. She enjoys traveling and spending time with family in her free time.

She will be available to see patients Monday through Friday at Boone County Health Center. For more information or to schedule an appointment with Melodie Look, please contact Boone County Health Center’s rehabilitation department at 402-395-3113.

Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

Sunday, August 10
Elgin Rescue Annual Color Run (4 p.m.) at Elgin City Park*.

Monday, August 11
District #18 School Board meeting.

Tuesday, August 12
Regular meeting of the Antelope County Board of Commissioners ■ Red Cross Bloodmobile @ Knights of Columbus Hall*.

Wednesday, August 13
First Day of school at PJCC.

Thursday, August 14
First Day of school at EPS.



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

Governor Pillen: You campaigned on a promise to protect Nebraska’s kids.

Why are you turning your back on them now?

In less than a week, nearly 50% of the funding for autism services in our state will vanish. Hundreds of Nebraska families with autistic children have pleaded with you to stop this reckless decision. They’ve been ignored. You say Nebraska values families. Now prove it.

Governor, you have time to do the right thing.
Delay the gutting of these services. Find a path forward that doesn’t sacrifice our children.

Tell Governor Pillen to stop cuts to autism services for Nebraska’s children.

Contact Governor Pillen today at governor.nebraska.gov/contact-form or call 402-471-2244.

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CARD OF THANKS

Dear Elgin Community Foundation, Thank you so much for selecting me to be a recipient of the Elgin Community Foundation scholarship! It will be very helpful in paying for my college tuition. I am very honored that you chose me for this award!

Olivia Klein

CARD OF THANKS

Dear Elgin Community, Thank you for your generous support in providing the Elgin Community Foundation Scholarship to graduating seniors. I am truly grateful to be selected and feel blessed to be a part of a community that invests in the future of its students. Your support means so much as I begin my college journey and work toward my future goals. Thank you again for believing in me. With appreciation, Natalie Burenheide

Scan this code to view our photo galleries:



Dads, sons battle it out on the field

The Elgin Pony's played their dads last Sunday evening. Just for fun of course.

Dad's prevailed, winning 12-7. Pictured to the left are - front row (l-r): Ace Pelster, Cael Bottorf, Garrett Busteded, James Lodge, Sawyer Veik, Cecil Shavlik, Braxtyn Eisenhauer, Carter Selting, Brayden Clark ad Brogan Billings. The dads, standing, l-r: Matt Pelster, Steve Bottorf, Steve Busteded, Ryan Lodge, Adam Veik, Lee Shavlik, Randy Eisenhauer, Brian Selting, Bruce Clark and Chad Billings.

Photo submitted

2025 ag land value, 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 decreased by 2%. The Northeast and East regions tied for highest percent change with a 3% decrease. Current crop prices, interest rate levels, and farm input costs were cited as the main force guiding lower market values of land statewide. On the positive side, current livestock prices and farm expansions were cited.

Reflecting the increase in land value, cropland rental agreements for center pivot irrigated ground in the Northeast region decreased 2% to \$325 per acre on average; dryland decreased 7% to an average of \$250 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 decreased 3% to \$310 per acre on average, with dryland decreasing 2% at \$235 per acre on average.

Unlike crop ground leases, which are an annual lease often beginning 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. For all leases, establishing fair rates are important although at times challenging. Variables such as grassland quality; pasture location; fence maintenance; water, management responsibilities; and

IT'S ALL ABOUT BEEF



Beef Systems Asst. Ext. Educator Ben Beckman

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

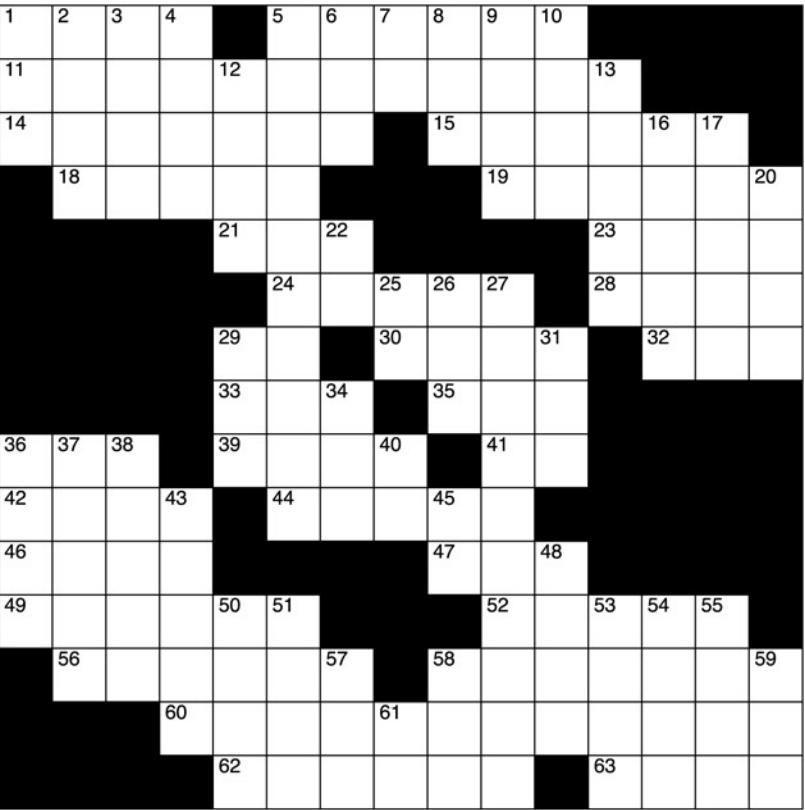
landowner open to overgrazing by the tenant since technically there is no set limit on the number of animals that can be run. Renting by the animal unit or pair forces this stocking rate conversation to occur as part of the rental negotiation.

According to this year's survey, the average monthly rent paid to graze a cow-calf pair this season in the Northeast

region is up at \$73.25 per month per pair on average. Pasture rented on a per acre basis went for \$77 per acre on average, up 3% from last year. In the East region grazing leases were on average \$67.05 per month per pair while pasture per acre was up 2% at 66\$ per acre on average. Projecting these rates over a five-month grazing period, it will cost an average of \$366.25 to \$335.25 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 you.

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



Crossword Puzzle Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Popular potato snack
- 5. Guards the Pyramids
- 11. Furnish anew
- 14. Herb
- 15. Preoccupy the mind continually
- 18. The lowest adult male singing voice
- 19. NATO commander (abbr.)
- 21. A major division of geological time
- 23. New Zealand parrot
- 24. Notions
- 28. Lump in yarn
- 29. Indicates position
- 30. Lose hold of
- 32. Hindu honorific
- 33. Former OSS
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Cost per mile
- 39. Snake-like fish
- 41. They start the alphabet
- 42. Taylor Swift's tour
- 44. Intermediate ecological stage
- 46. Scarlett's home
- 47. Of he
- 49. Ohio city
- 52. Breakfast item
- 56. An evening party
- 58. ___ Falls
- 60. Linked together
- 62. Mythological spirits
- 63. Small Eurasian deer

- 7. Expresses surprise
- 8. O.J. trial judge
- 9. Pointed ends of pens
- 10. Shield bugs genus
- 12. Container for shipping
- 13. Upper body parts
- 16. Closes tightly
- 17. Nigerian World Heritage Site
- 20. Volcanic island in Fiji
- 22. Commercial
- 25. ___: denotes past
- 26. They ___
- 27. Confraternities
- 29. A way to gain a point
- 31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 34. Brew
- 36. Badgers group
- 37. Sailing boat
- 38. ___ Polo, explorer
- 40. Elder citizen (abbr.)
- 43. Frankish law code
- 45. Exclamation of surprise
- 48. Groan
- 50. It presses clothing
- 51. Do not allow
- 53. Gelatinous substance
- 54. Common Japanese surname
- 55. Present in nature
- 57. Electronic countermeasures
- 58. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Earliest human form: ___-Magnon man
- 2. Flavoring
- 3. Notion
- 4. Bundy and Fenwick are two
- 5. Qualities of sound
- 6. One who gets paid



Savor this summer fruit salad

Even as summer winds down, there tends to be plenty of time to reap the rewards of backyard gardens and warm-weather entertaining. Refreshing salads are favored at such gatherings, and the interesting pairing of peaches and tomatoes makes the most of these fruits when they're at their peak. Sweet and savory flavors combine in this recipe for "Peachy Tomato Salad" courtesy of "The Mediterranean Diet Cookbook" (Rockridge University Press). This delicious side pairs best with grilled fare.



Peachy Tomato Salad Serves 2

- 2 ripe peaches, pitted and sliced into wedges
- 2 ripe tomatoes, cut into wedges
- 1/2 red onion, thinly sliced
- Sea salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

Toss the peaches, tomatoes and red onion in a large bowl. Season to taste. Add the olive oil and lemon juice, and gently toss. Serve at room temperature.



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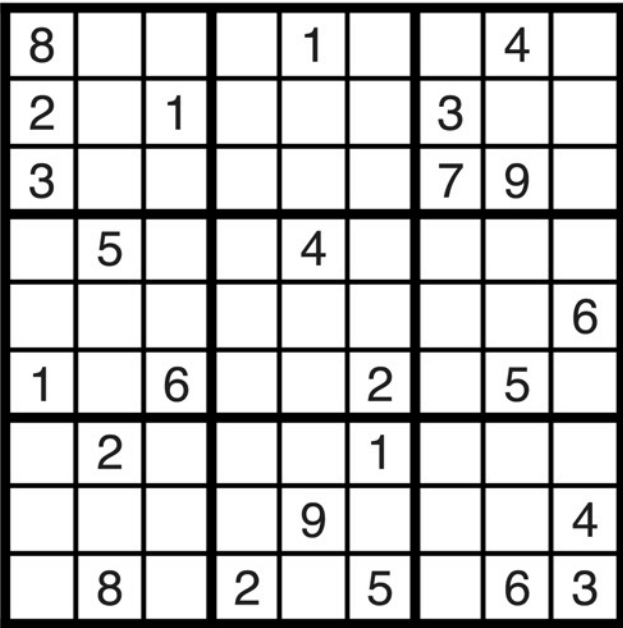
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‘Unintended consequence: E-Verify aimed to stop unauthorized workers might be fueling more fraud

By Joshua Shimkus
Flatwater Free Press

In the hours after federal immigration officers descended on Glenn Valley Foods, company officials and elected leaders made one point clear: Glenn Valley had worked to avoid the exact situation it found itself in.

As proof, they pointed to the Omaha meatpacking plant’s use of E-Verify, a federal system meant to help employers confirm a person’s ability to work legally in the U.S.

“We’ve done everything we’re supposed to do as a company,” Glenn Valley Foods President Chad Hartmann said at the time.

A spokesperson for Immigration and Customs Enforcement later alleged that roughly 70 employees had used stolen identities — a form of fraud that E-Verify is incapable of detecting.

The situation laid bare long-standing arguments over the system, its effectiveness and its impact on the workforce.

Advocates, including a Nebraska lawmaker, say that increasing its use among employers is key to improving the country’s immigration system.

But critics point to E-Verify’s flaws, such as those allegedly exploited at Glenn Valley, as evidence that immigration reform is the only solution to addressing the underlying issue and preventing harm to Nebraska employers and communities.

“There’s been a lot of talk of people saying within the federal government that E-Verify doesn’t work right,” said Craig Casados, executive director of the Nebraska Hospitality Association. “That really confuses all of the restaurateurs throughout the United States that are like, ‘But that’s not our fault, we’re doing it exactly how it’s supposed to be done.’”

Prior to 1986, employers could hire immigrants who had come to the United States illegally. That changed after Congress passed the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which made it illegal to knowingly hire immigrants who lacked work authorization.

The law introduced the I-9 Employment Eligibility Form that is still in use today. When filling out the form on their first day of work, new employees must provide proof — such as a passport or a combination of a driver’s license and Social Security card — of their identity and ability to legally work in the U.S.

As long as the documents “reasonably appear to be genuine,” the employer must accept them. Federal law prohibits employers from asking for specific documents or discriminating based on an employee’s citizenship, immigration status or national origin.

The law led to problems. A 1990 report by the Government

Accountability Office said that the law seemed to reduce illegal immigration, but also led to discrimination in the hiring process and a large amount of fraudulent documentation.

“Before E-Verify, an employee would maybe make up the Social Security number,” said Amy Peck with the national law firm Jackson Lewis.

“You know, there’s no validation, and it might look authentic, and that person would get hired.”

In 1996, Congress established a “basic pilot program” — what eventually became E-Verify — to curb unauthorized immigration.

A free, online system, E-Verify compares an employee’s I-9 documents to records maintained by the Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security.

If the provided documents match the federal records, the employee is quickly approved and can start working their new job. If the documents don’t match the federal records, the employee has 10 working days to resolve the mismatch.

The system can help flag forged documents and made-up numbers. But it can’t identify whether the I-9 documents provided actually belong to the person using them.

“It’s an unintended consequence,” Peck said. “The more employers that use E-Verify, the higher identity theft or identity borrowing is.”

The June 10 enforcement operation at Glenn Valley was triggered by a Homeland Security audit of I-9 employment eligibility forms, which revealed suspected document fraud, according to court documents.

In a statement after the raid, U.S. Rep. Don Bacon, a Republican representing Omaha and surrounding areas, noted that Glenn Valley Foods “complied with E-Verify 100% and is a victim in this as well.”

Gary Rohwer, founder and owner of Glenn Valley Foods, did not respond to a request for comment.

As far back as 2009, an outside evaluation of E-Verify pointed to identity fraud as a workaround. The report estimated that approximately half of the unauthorized workers with cases submitted to E-Verify were cleared to work by the system.

Alex Nowrasteh, vice president for economic and social policy studies at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, has long been critical of E-Verify. He said that to be successful, E-Verify would have to work as part of a national identity program, requiring biometric information like fingerprints to verify that a person is who they claim to be.

“I am radically opposed to that for just about every reason you could imagine, but I think that is the only way that a really effective interior immigration enforcement system will work,” Nowrasteh said.

Even with shortcomings and well-documented workarounds, E-Verify use by states and employers is growing. Under federal law, only certain contractors are required to use the system, but 21 states have laws requiring certain employers to use E-Verify.

In Nebraska since 2009, public employers and public contractors have had to use the system, along with businesses that participate in state tax incentive programs.

Any business, though, can use E-Verify. In Nebraska, over 7,000 employers have open accounts with E-Verify, representing a wide variety of businesses, everything from restaurants to banks. Still, some lawmakers think this isn’t enough.

In January, state Sen. Kathleen Kauth of Omaha introduced a bill that would require Nebraska businesses to use E-Verify.

Kauth said part of her motivation was to get a better understanding of the number of unauthorized workers in Nebraska.

“Let’s start seeing what happens when we have every business doing this — are they all of a sudden seeing that they need more people,” Kauth said. “It’s really a way of trying to get data collection — to figure out what is the actual scope of the issue here in the state.”

Multiple lawmakers have proposed similar bills since 2009. None made it to the floor for a vote.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE JULY 22 MEETING
ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF
EQUALIZATION
Neligh, Nebraska
July 22nd, 2025

Chairman opened the meeting.
Notice of meeting published as required by statute.
Heard and decided three (3) protest.

Meeting Adjourned.
Antelope County Board of Commissioners

CHARLIE HENERY
Chairman of County Board
Attest: LISA PAYNE /s/
Antelope County Clerk
PUBLISH: July 30, 2025
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NOTICE OF AUGUST MEETINGS
ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NOTICE OF MEETINGS
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, ANTELOPE COUNTY, NEBRASKA FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2025

Notice is hereby given that the County Board of Commissioners of Antelope County, Nebraska will hold meetings in the County Commissioner’s meeting room in the

Antelope County Courthouse Annex, Neligh, Nebraska on the following dates and times:

August 5, 2025 at 9:00 AM
August 12, 2025 at 8:00 AM
Meetings will be open to the public. An agenda, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the Antelope County Clerk’s office and may be modified at such meeting to include items of an emergency nature pursuant to Section 84-1411 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes.
PUBLISH: July 30, 2025
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Soybeans

◀ FROM Page 6

competition and gall midge research plots.

Speakers: Justin McMechan, John Nelson, Chris Proctor
Morning program

Registration at 10 a.m., program from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 15 – Mead, NE (UNL Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension & Education Center)

Topics: Soybean TAPS update, tour of competition plots, and market updates.

Speakers: Chris Proctor, Jeff Peterson, Chuck Burr, Dylan Mangel, Aaron Nygren, Justin McMechan

Attendees will also have the chance to hear from MEG Corp about soy biodiesel and connect with representatives from NSB and Nebraska Soybean Association at each location.

Registration and information about the field days, including maps to the event sites can be found at go.unl.edu/soydays, or contact NSB at (402) 441-3240 or Nebraska Extension at (402) 624-8030.

Runza

◀ FROM Page 3

first location in Lincoln.

The pair wanted to trademark their recipe. But they couldn’t trademark the word “bierock” — it was too general of a cultural term.

So they dubbed their pockets of meat the “Runza.” The name is believed to have been inspired by “krautrunz,” another German word for bierocks, or “runsa,” a German word for belly, because of the round pouch shape of the pastry, Gengenbach said.

By 1966, Everett and Brening opened their second location. In 1979, Runza Restaurants began franchising.

Today, there are 85 Runza locations throughout Nebraska. There are six more in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas and South Dakota.

What makes a Runza so special to Nebraska?

When Becky Perrett tells people she works for Runza, stories come pouring out. Runza eaters tell the company’s director of marketing about how Runza is the first stop after picking up family members from the Omaha airport. Or how they buy frozen Runzas to take to relatives out of state.

“It’s almost like people have an ownership of the brand,” Perrett said. “They’ve seen us grow along the way.”

By 1940, about 450,000 German Russians had emigrated to the United States. Most of them ended up in the Great Plains. In Lincoln alone, there were 20,000 German Russians by 1920, according to the museum there.

Many of their descendants — like the Everett family that founded Runza — still call Nebraska home.

“They can relate to having a Runza. It’s something that their grandmother or their mother made growing up,” Gengenbach said.

“It’s kind of like having a sliver of homemade cooking from when they were a kid.”

The Flatwater Free Press is Nebraska’s first independent, nonprofit newsroom focused on investigations and feature stories that matter.

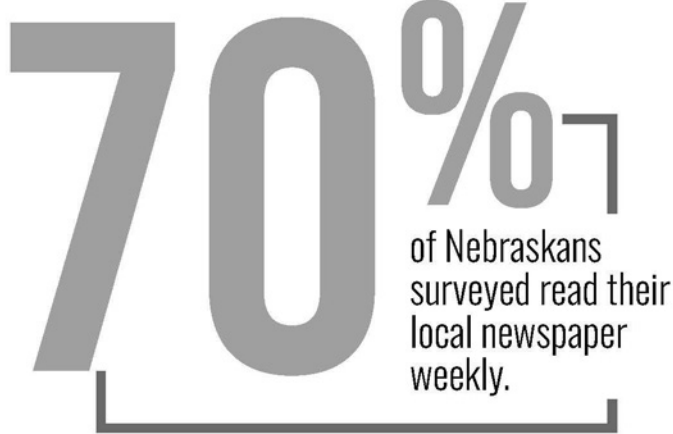
NOTICE OF MEETING
DISTRICT #18 BOARD OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF BOARD
MEETING
NOTICE OF VOTE TO
INCREASE BASE GROWTH
PERCENTAGE USED TO DETERMINE
PROPERTY TAX REQUEST
AUTHORITY

The Elgin Public Schools Board of Education will meet on Monday August 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elgin High School Board Room for a board meeting. Among other

topics to be discussed, pursuant to Nebraska State Statute 79-3405, the Board will vote on whether to increase the school district’s base growth percentage by up to 7 percent (7%). A copy of the agenda, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection in the superintendent’s office during normal business hours.
PUBLISH: July 30, 2025
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“The salvation of the State is watchfulness in the citizen.”

Hartley Burr Alexander

The Elgin Review

Bartlett Bits

Excitement is brewing in Bartlett with preparations being made for the Wheeler County Fair and Rodeo week.

Lu Plugge, Donna Sears, Marcia Smith, Andrew and Justine, Adynn, Ridge and Weston Smith, Jennifer and Kolt Nelson, Samantha Olson and Sherry Tetschner met under a refreshing shade tree Sunday afternoon at the home of Donna Sears to prepare a ‘Bartlett Church of Faith’ float for the 100th year anniversary of the Wheeler County Fair and Rodeo.

A parade celebrating this event was held in Bartlett on Tuesday, July 29, at 6 p.m.

My son Luke Tetschner from Gilbert, Arizona was a working guest in my home this weekend shingling my garage roof.

He started early Friday morning and finished up Sunday morning in time for a noon dinner of runzas, Smokey Barbecue Kraft Mac and Cheese and chocolate chip oatmeal ice cream cookies.

Ben assisted the shingling project in various ways and I helped with whatever I could. That did not include being on the roof.

I am so grateful for the help of my sons.

Submitted by
Sherry Tetschner

WOLFPACK

Wolfpack Sports



Finishing second was the 2000/2016/2024 team. Pictured (front row, l-r): are Moriah (Zegers) Brookshier, Robert Seier, Adam Veik, Baylee Busted and Grace Moser. Back row: Nick Anderson, Blake Henn, Gage Thiessen, Scott Moser and Matt Pelster.



Finishing third was the 2005/2014 team. Players on the team were (front row, l-r): Bat boy RJ Totusek, Emily Scholl, Kristina (Mitchell) Sehi, Cassie (Parks) Schindler, Blake Schrage, Adam Spieker and bat boy Jhett Scholl. Back row: John Dvorak, Derek Scholl, Joe Irmeier, Kyle Dinslage, Julie (Beckman) Krause, Alex Pelster, Jake Eischeid and Tom Krause.

The co-ed softball team consisting of 2002/2004/2007 graduates won the championship at the Pope John Softball Tournament Saturday. (Above) Members of the winning team were (front row, l-r): Danny Borer, Andrew Childers, Keith Borer, Audra Borer, Stacey (Schiltmeyer) Koehler and Christi (Lodge) Blunt. Back row: Justin Stoltz, John Pelster, Ryan Lodge, Brian Selting, Chris Warren and Kelsey Selting.

Photos submitted

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Photo submitted

Finishing second in the championship flight Friday was the Bank of Elgin team of (l-r) Dave Sullivan, Gary Arehart, Kyle Heithoff and Ray Payne.

ACH Foundation golf tourney held

On Friday, July 25, the Antelope County Healthcare Foundation held its 20th Annual Golf Tournament at the Antelope Country Club. Eighty-eight golfers from area communities and businesses participated. Team winners of the tournament were – Championship Flight - First Place: Gallagher Insurance, Second Place: Bank of Elgin and Third Place: Sweet Deal; First Flight - First Place: Overland Rehab, Second Place: Blackstrap, Inc. and Third Place: The Other Dawsons; Second Flight - First Place: Hild Construction, Second Place, Hausman Construction and Third Place: Psychiatric Medical Care / Senior Life Solutions. Members of the Cody Martin Team won the sportsmanship award. The afternoon concluded with an evening meal. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards the healthcare needs of Antelope County.

Immunization, clinic to be held in Neligh

Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership (NEN-CAP) will hold the Neligh WIC and Immunization clinic on Thursday August 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 115 W. 3rd Street. For an appointment or for more information regarding the programs please call (402) 385-6300. NEN-CAP's WIC program provides nutrition education and supplemental foods to income eligible pregnant, breast-feeding, or postpartum women, infants, and children to age 5 years. The immunization program provides vaccines to adults and children following the recommended schedule from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Center for Disease Control. Covid-19 vaccines available for those six months and older are available at no cost. The immunization clinic can serve both clients with and without health insurance. Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership (NEN-CAP), headquartered in Pender, NE, is one of nine Community Action Agencies in Nebraska. NEN-CAP manages several different programs as determined by identified needs of residents in the 14-county service area.



E-R photo/DMorgan

ECCEC youth group fundraiser held Saturday

The Elgin Community Christian Church youth group were busy for four hours Saturday making vehicles shine like new. Among the youths working that day were Braelyn Martinsen (foreground) and Ryleigh Young (background).

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