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From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

Rhubarb Custard Pie

Delicious way to use that fresh rhubarb from your garden -- or your neighbor's!

Greetings and good day, Well, it's wedding week in our house. Woo hop! We have been waiting for the big day. Congrats to Joe Dugan and Jenni Foster. On to my recipe this week....Do you have some rhubarb in the freezer? Or maybe some



in the rhubarb patch? Here's a simple pie recipe you might want to try. It's Ted's favorite!

I like to make a lard pie crust when I do my pies. It's truly the best and turns out every time. There are lots of different pie crust recipes - I am sure you all have your favorite.

Happy baking and enjoy!
JoAnn**RHUBARB CUSTARD PIE**

3 eggs, beaten
1 cup sugar
1 cup cream
1/2 tsp cinnamon

1/2 tsp vanilla
1/4 tsp nutmeg
3 cups rhubarb, diced

Combine the first 6 ingredients. Prepare an unbaked, 9 inch pie crust. Line the pie shell with the diced rhubarb and pour the egg mixture over that. Bake 1 hour in a 350° oven or until a knife comes out clean. Yummy!

Sisters**From Page One**

In 1926, the fledgling community of Raeville was recognized as an independent priory. Mother Diemud Gerber, OSB served as the first prioress. Nurtured by their trust in God and by the support of one another and the faithful people around them, the sisters continued to expand their mission in various locations and ministries as the Lord directed them.

The Sisters of the Norfolk Priory (Immaculata Monastery & Spirituality Center in

Norfolk is now their main location in northeast Nebraska) come from the United States, Germany, Australia, Switzerland, South Korea, Brazil, Tanzania and the Philippines. Many of those countries were represented by sisters attending the jubilee.

Today, there are over 1,300 sisters serving in 15 countries around the world.

"We wish to thank all of you who have journeyed with us through these 100 years. You have been God's channel of unfailing grace. We pray the joys

and blessings will be returned to you and all those you hold dear. With our gratefulness and prayer," from Sr. Rosann Ocken, OSB and the religious community gathered there.

Following dinner, the short program featured tributes and thank yous to many in the Omaha Diocese and others who have supported the sisters. Framed photographs of a stained glass window of Mary and Baby Jesus that

once adorned the first chapel of the sisters in their Raeville Convent were presented to the representative of the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison KS (whose sisters spent a year - 1922 - teaching the new immigrants English & more when they came to America), Father John Norman of St. Bonaventure Catholic church and a representative of Conception Abbey in Missouri.



Elgin's Sister Patricia Hoffman (right) enjoyed some lively conversation, and a delicious celebratory meal, with Missionary Benedictine Sr. Cecilia Polt among many others. E-R photos/LMorgan



Father John Norman of St. Bonaventure Catholic Church displays the framed photograph gifted to the church.

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Looking Back

Sixty Years Ago

August 1, 1963
The Elgin Midgets fought their way into the finals of the District Class 'B' tournament at Plainview this week with wins over Creighton, 3-2, and O'Neill, 6-1. Elgin jumped to an early 2-0 lead in the opener Sunday evening, but Creighton rallied to tie the game 2-2 going into the last round. After getting the first two Elgin batters out in the seventh, Terry Scannell homered over the left field fence for the game-saving run. Bernard Klute worked the first six innings for Elgin, striking out 11 while allowing two hits. Daryl Schwarting set the Creighton batters down 1-2-3 in the last inning. Elgin scored five runs in the fourth inning against O'Neill to wrap the game up Monday night in their second 6 p.m. tourney game. Daryl Schwarting was the winning Elgin pitcher, giving up four hits and striking out six. Terry Henn paced local hitter with a 3-4.

Mrs. Bessie Hawks will receive her bachelor's degree at Wayne State College commencement exercises Saturday, Aug. 3, graduating cum laude, with an average of 3.25. Val Peterson, president of the Wayne State Foundation and formerly of Elgin, will be the commencement speaker. Korene Ann Erickson was the winner of the Junior

Angus judging contest held in conjunction with the annual Interstate Angus Field Day near Schuyler, Saturday. She was in competition with 42 boys and girls from Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and Nebraska. Korene, 9, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dallmont Erickson, is active in 4-H Club Work.

Fifty Years Ago
August 2, 1973
Lightning Saturday evening struck the silver maple tree on the corner of the John Starman lot northeast from the St. Boniface Church. The tree was split nearly from its crown to the ground. The bolt(s) also burned out John's furnace and hot water heater. Seven young people from Elgin were among about 1200 future students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who attended a Summer Orientation program on the campus between June 5 and July 12. They are: Jolene Marie Kerkman, Sharon Marie Schrage, Paul Douglas Oberbrockling, Stephen Douglas Roth, Timothy Robert Sullivan, Gary Arehart, and Mark Dwyer. Southeast of Elgin received a scare about 4 o'clock on Tuesday evening when a tornado was sighted. It touched down on the ground and destroyed some buildings and hay stacks on the Rueben Evans farm.

Thirty Years Ago

August 11, 1993
"Out of Order," a comedy by Ray Cooney, will be featured as the Elgin Community Dinner Theater production this weekend. Crowds of 120 people are expected each night for the dinner theatre, which is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. Terry Sweem is the director and Donna Mackel is the producer. Members of the cast are Terry Sweem, Alan Reicks, Becky Cummings, Kathy Burgett, Jeanine Jochum, Karin Kinney, Alvin Hoefer, Dorothy Borer, Duane Gunderson and Randy Mack. Proceeds from the dinner theatre will be donated to community projects. Park Congregational UC.C. Church, west of Elgin, honored 21 people for long-time church membership during a special service last Sunday, Aug. 8. Honored members were Warren Wilton, Merland Clark, Wayne Currie, Kenneth Clark, Roland Kinney, Carroll Armstrong, Fern Stearns, Dorothy Currie, Wilma Clark, Harold Beeson, Katherine Armstrong, Ella Kinney, Mary Squire, Leland Clark, Alice Clark, Clarence Johns, Laura Smallwood, Gertrude Wilson, Bernard Clark, Denzel Anderson and Les Anderson. Sunset Lanes Bowling Alley and Restaurant Auction

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July 30, 2003
A fund-raising salad bar and entertainment event for Elgin City Park improvements will be held Wednesday evening, Aug. 6, at the Elgin KC Hall. Young-N-Lively FCE is planning the meal and entertainment. Those attending will have an opportunity to hear Elgin's own "Siouxland Idol" semifinalists, Tara Hutchinson and Amanda Miller, in addition to other talented young people from around the area. "You can also enjoy salads from some of our best area cooks, and support the fund-raising efforts for the city park at the same time," states Young-N-Lively. Other area entertainers who will perform at the fund-raiser include vocalists Alex Luettel, Katie Miller and Tracey Eischeid, the Pope John men's quartet and violinist Paige Dinslage. Shauna Warren will also present a speech. Dance groups from Amy Gall's

studio in Tilden will perform. The groups include Connor Kinney, Levi Kerkman and Bret Kinney, all of Elgin. Wheeler County's 78th annual Fair and Rodeo will open this Thursday, July 31, and continue through Sunday, Aug. 3, at the fairgrounds in Bartlett. Two rodeo performances and a variety of entertainment events will be featured. A free dance with music by "White Line Fever" will follow the Saturday night rodeo performance. The fair begins on Thursday with the 4-H horse show, a 4-H roping contest and the 4-H dog show. Grandstand entertainment is scheduled Friday night. Performers will be Matt Dwyer and the Flattwater Bluegrass Band, and cowboy poet Ken Killion. New entertainment events for the Antelope County Fair will include a Rough Stock Rodeo on Tuesday evening, Aug. 5, and an expanded lineup for tractor and four-wheel-drive pickup pulls on Saturday, Aug. 9. The fair opens Tuesday, Aug. 5, and runs through Sunday, Aug. 10, at the fairgrounds in Neligh. The annual country music show, headlined by Steve Azar, will begin at 8 p.m. in front of the grandstand Thursday evening, Aug. 7. At 7 p.m. Saturday, the Nebraska

Tractor Pullers Association show begins. This will include super stock and modified tractors and pickups, road legal two- and four-wheel-drive pickups, and local semis. Craft displays, commercial booths and school art displays will be available in the pavilion.

By Betty Kallhoff

New Arrivals

Joey and Brittany Mlnarik of Lincoln are proud parents of twin baby girls, Amelia Leigh Mlnarik and Penelope Marie Mlnarik. They were born June 29th, 2023 at St. Elizabeth hospital in Lincoln. Amelia was born at 4:40 a.m. and weighed four pounds, eight ounces. Penelope was born at 5:02 a.m. and weighed four pounds, six ounces. Both were 17 3/4 inches long. After a week stay in the NICU, they were welcomed home by their big brother, Calvin, age four. Amelia and Penelope's grandparents are Tom and Sue Mlnarik of Ewing and Dennis and Linda Wagner of Lincoln. Great Grandparents are Mary Ann Kraus of Denton and Janet Wagner of Bradenton, FL.

It's always been a 'fry'

Going to the Elgin Steak Fry Friday, August 11th? Sure do encourage you to support our Elgin Chamber of Commerce/Community Club with this annual end-of-summer fundraiser and community celebration. Good food, good company, and a chance to appreciate our beautiful city park. Since words are my thing, asked those in charge why it's called a steak fry when actually the delectable slab of meat is grilled. Answer – "It's always been a fry," interpreted as 'it's always been done that way', a common phrase. Sometimes it's good to change, switch it up a bit. Sometimes sticking with tradition merits the most value. With the extreme heat experienced in much of the world these days, if my dad were still here on earth, he might exclaim, "Yep, it's so hot, you can fry an egg on the sidewalk." Not funny. Our bodies, animals, plants, even many air conditioning units, are not designed for extreme heat day-after-day-after-day. You've seen the headlines – fill-in-the-blank consecutive days above 110 degrees Fahrenheit, triple-digit heat, coral reefs in danger, wildfires raging, dangerous health risk. Certainly, the world's population has better fish to fry than sitting quietly in front of the fan in, hopefully, an air-conditioned space awaiting a better day. God help those who labor in the outdoors. With global warming seemingly a certainty, maybe this extreme weather is like going from the fry pan into the fire, implying more catastrophic days lie ahead. Some use language that would fry bacon, meaning extremely irritable, when speaking about climate variability these days. On the other hand, scientists use hard data to prove their points and may tell naysayers to go fry an egg, meaning to go away and leave one alone. Other scholars may view those downplaying climate change as one fry short of a Happy Meal, meaning of questionable mental capacity. (This references the MacDonald's children's favorite meal that often includes French Fries.) Other ways of saying this are one card shy of a full deck, not enough sandwiches for a picnic, and some dull knives in the drawer. Take your pick. If your brain is fried by all this talk, let's move on to another topic – the fry pan. Used to be that was it, the cast iron variety. Just the simple fry pan. Throw in some fat, then a slab of meat, and soon you'll have a delectable dish. Pan frying takes minimal oil compared to deep fat frying. Once while living out in Virginia, we borrowed one of those turkey friers. Put the holiday bird in water first to see how much liquid it displaces. Replace the water with oil to the correct level in the container. Common sense, though amazing how many accidents occur with these friers. Then there's stir frying, which uses a small amount of oil at high heat for small chunks of meat and vegetables. And what about this latest culinary craze -- air friers? No oil required. Just hot air blows around, similar to the convection oven option on most modern ranges. Come the Lenten season, fish fries are a common fundraiser around these parts, complete with French Fries at some venues. Still waiting for sweet potato fries, my favorite, to be offered along with the fried fish. With state fair coming up, one might notice most any food can be breaded and fried – think pickles, Brussel sprouts, okra, green tomatoes, cheese, and even ice cream. Any of those treats something you would die for? Well, you likely could. Consuming too many fried foods leads to high cholesterol, artery blockages and other maladies, we're told by nutritionists in the know. Certainly one more reason to attend the Elgin Steak Fry August 11. Your meat will be grilled, a somewhat healthier option, not fried. See you there.

Comments welcome at jane.schuchardt@gmail.com.

SAY WHAT?



Elgin Columnist
Jane Schuchardt

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A. **ABSOLUTELY NO DROP OFFS LEFT** If you are donating furniture, call ahead to 402 843 2354 to ask if your donation will be accepted. Through the nine years we have been in business, we have learned what will sell. Reasons for refusal could be type of furniture, condition, or that we do not have room. Old and/or dirty mattresses will not be accepted.
B. **Due to the fact** that Elgin and surrounding communities have lost the ability to recycle paper and cardboard, the Box will no longer be accepting any books except novels in good condition.
C. **Clothing should be clean**, usable (zippers work, etc), free of pet hair, stains and holes, and not outdated.
D. **Shoes and boots should be** wearable, not worn out, free of manure, mud and mold.
E. **Toys should be clean**, not broken and all pieces included.
F. **Baby furniture should be** clean, work properly, not under recall and all pieces included.
G. **Dishes, knickknacks and pictures** should be clean, not marred and unbroken.
H. **Large appliances, chemicals**, paint, or building materials will not be accepted.
I. **Old lawn and garden** tools will not be accepted.
J. **Old baby beds and** entertainment centers will not be accepted.
K. **Used humidifiers and unclean** geriatric equipment will not be accepted.
L. **Leftover garage sale items** should have all tags removed.

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

Edward R. Murrow

Opinion

Read. Reflect. Respond.

Petition process is alive and well in Nebraska

Grassroots government is thriving in Nebraska. There are eight petitions circulating with hopes of making the 2024 General Election ballot, according to Secretary of State Bob Evnen. The action is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gives people the right to "petition the government for a redress of grievances."

From the old familiar legalizing medical marijuana to an exemption of grocery items from sales tax, various groups or individuals are seeking the signatures of registered voters to support their cause. Evnen's office will eventually consider what meets well-established criteria and makes the ballot.

"You have a number of people who come in and submit petitions," Evnen told a reporter from KOLN-KGIN TV. "Not all of those are going to be successful." Case in point, there were 16 petitions circulating for the 2022 ballot. Only two had enough signatures to make it.

Still, Evnen said petitioning is "absolutely essential in a representative democracy that the voters themselves as a whole have the right to go amend their constitution or repeal a statute or add a new one."

In Nebraska, the number of required signatures is tied to the number of registered voters in the state at the deadline for filing signatures. So, petitioners have to get extra signatures.

For example, based on voter registrations of 1,239,599 from July 1, 2022, an initiated constitutional amendment would require 10 percent or 123,960 signatures.

An initiated state statute would require 7 percent or 86,772 signatures.

A veto referendum (to remove a law) would take 5 percent or 61,980 signatures. It would take 10 percent (123,960 signatures) to suspend that law until voters decide its fate.

The deadline for submitting signatures to get an initiative or referendum on the ballot for a particular general election is four months before that election. The deadline for veto referendums is 90 days after the final adjournment of the state legislative session at which the targeted bill was passed.

So, what's being circulated?

-- Amend the Constitution of the State of Nebraska by adding a new Article XIX, which states that all persons have the right to use all plants in the genus Cannabis. Dude, that's recreational marijuana. Bob Dylan was right, "everybody wants to

get stoned."

Ask your neighbors in Colorado how that's working out.

-- Enact a statute that makes penalties inapplicable under state and local law for the use, possession, and acquisition of limited quantities of cannabis for medical purposes by a qualified patient with a written recommendation from a health care practitioner, and for a caregiver to assist a qualified patient in these activities. This one has almost made it several times and has merit. If properly regulated, this could apparently be beneficial for some people.

-- Enact a statute that makes penalties inapplicable under state law for the possession, manufacture, distribution, delivery, and dispensing of cannabis for medical purposes by registered private entities, and establishing a Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission to regulate such entities. Similar approach to the one above.

-- An initiative to ban surgical and pharmaceutical abortions except when necessary to save the life of the mother. Expect this issue to surface in the Legislature with or without this initiative.

-- Repeal LB 753, passed by the 108th Nebraska Legislature in 2023, which (1) authorizes certain nonprofit organizations to provide scholarships to eligible students to attend a qualified private elementary or secondary school, and (2) provides individuals and corporations tax credits for financial contributions to these organizations. Critics say it benefits too few people, mostly the rich. The state teachers' union doesn't like it. What makes this law highly suspect, IMHO, is that proponents of keeping it on the books have hired "blockers" to interfere and keep people from signing.

-- A Constitutional Amendment to restrict governmental entities in Nebraska to imposing only retail consumption taxes and excise taxes. This amendment will eliminate Nebraska personal and real property taxes; personal and corporate income taxes; sales taxes and inheritance taxes. Has this thing not gone away yet?

It has been bantered about in the Legislature before and not gone anywhere. Ask folks what happened before when people did away with taxes and state government had no money.

-- A Constitutional Amendment allowing the Legislature to authorize governmental entities to impose consumption taxes on services and new goods with the limitation that only grocery items purchased for off-premises consumption may be exempted from the tax.

-- Enact a statute to provide eligible employees the right to earn paid sick time for personal or family health needs and to specify conditions for accruing and using earned paid sick time, to prohibit retaliation against an employee for exercising rights granted under the statute, to adopt certain notice and documentation requirements, and to establish enforcement powers and a civil cause of action for violations of the statute. Why not?

Pay attention. Stay informed. We'll see what makes it to the ballot..

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

Blame rests with Biden for broken economy

Last February, I stopped by a coffee shop in central Nebraska. A cozy community hub, the shop was known for its great coffee and fantastic food and pastries. A variety of Nebraskans sat at tables or in circles of family and friends with coffee in hand.

This coffee shop was a regular stop for me when I visited that town. The owner loved his shop, but he told me about some of the challenges he was experiencing as prices rolled toward peak inflation. His electric bill had skyrocketed from only \$40 a month to over \$300 a month — a 650% increase.

Sadly, shortly after my visit, that coffee shop closed. Inflation got the best of it — just like many other businesses across our state and our country. The effects of our bloated economy are tragic for families, businesses, and consumers.

As millions struggle, President Biden is making claims he can't support. In a speech earlier this month in South Carolina, the president said of his economic agenda: "Our plan is working." He claimed that his plan, nicknamed "Bidenomics," is working "in rural America, the heartland, all across America."

As Nebraskans, we are the American heartland. From coffee shops to ranches to kitchen tables, we don't think Bidenomics is working.

I get letters every day from Nebraskans who are struggling under inflation, kick-started by this administration's almost two trillion-dollar stimulus package in 2021. I regularly hear stories of hardship from my fellow Nebraskans — whether they're farmers, teachers, or small business owners.

As one of our Nebraska farmers told me a few weeks ago, "Prices take the elevator up, but the stairs down." Inflation causes costs to rise quickly, and they stay up there for a long time. One big economically irresponsible move from the administration sets the stage for years of struggles. That's Bidenomics in Nebraska.

I came across an article earlier this year in which several rural businesses shared their struggles with a local newspaper. Business owners said that they felt "at a loss" for what to do as their livelihoods crumble under economic pressure.

A honey farmer shared that consistently rising prices squeeze his family into a difficult position when doing things as simple as putting their honey in jars. Sometimes they can only afford to get containers or lids for their honey — but not both. "We're kind of forgotten about way out here," he said. That's Bidenomics in Nebraska. And, as the Biden administration chatters about its support for the middle class, thousands of people in that category are pulling out all the stops to pay their necessary expenses.

The Salvation Army of Lincoln reported a couple months ago that it's seen a 50% increase in service requests in just a year. People are going to charities to get help paying rent and utilities as the economy suffers. That's Bidenomics in Nebraska.

Nebraskans aren't listening to the administration's inflated claims about helping the middle class, but they are listening to mortgage increases and dwindling savings accounts. I think the President should step down from the podium, stop delivering empty promises, and actually get down to business fixing the disaster he's created.

As a member of the U.S. Senate, that's what I'll continue pushing as I write and vote on legislation. We need an economy that works, not one that's being damaged for the sake of a political agenda.

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator Deb Fischer

Fixing our broken passport system

Providing oversight of the federal government is a critical part of my job as a United States Senator. From pushing back on illegal new mandates to fighting wasteful spending, there is a lot of important work to do. And while the Biden administration is failing on many policy matters, it's also failing its

responsibility to provide basic constituent services like passports in a reasonable time — and Americans are paying the price.

While the State Department's website states passport processing is currently taking 10-13 weeks for routine applications and 7-9 weeks for expedited processing, many Nebraskans have contacted my office experiencing significantly longer delays. One Nebraskan contacted my office fearful that she would be unable to attend a family wedding. She had also submitted her paperwork months in

advance. In her case, my office was able to help and secured her passport just 17 hours before her flight. Nevertheless, days that should have been spent preparing to celebrate a family member were spent worrying about the federal bureaucracy's failings and incompetence.

See RICKETTS, Page Five

WASHINGTON REPORT



State Senator Pete Ricketts

Standing up for Second Amendment rights

Defending our constitutional rights is our fundamental duty and special privilege as Americans. The north entrance of Nebraska's State Capitol Building is engraved with words coined by philosopher and Capitol thematic consultant Hartley Burr Alexander, "The Salvation of the State is Watchfulness in the Citizen." Vigilance to secure our rights is no more important for any other right than it is for our Second Amendment.

Law-abiding citizens have the right to exercise their Second Amendment freedoms, and — as your elected representative — I have a duty to actively defend the rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

I have serious concerns about ongoing attempts to encroach on the Second Amendment and am actively working to fight them. To this end, earlier this month I joined many of my Congressional colleagues in a letter to the Department of Justice (DOJ) opposing its tactics implementing the Safer Communities Act.

While I opposed its passage, this law was enacted in 2022 and created a program to fund "red flag" programs at the state level.

Red flag laws and other ill-conceived proposals to limit firearm rights are bad policies with the potential to violate Americans' rights to due process, and our letter to the DOJ raises concerns with the unlawful awarding of grants to states that do not currently have red flag laws. It would

be inappropriate for DOJ to award red flag grants to states which do not have red flag laws, and DOJ must clarify their criteria for awarding these funds.

In January of 2022, San Jose, California became the first city in the United States to mandate liability insurance and an annual fee for gun owners. To protect Second Amendment rights at the federal level, I am a cosponsor of the No User Fees for Gun Owners Act. This measure would prohibit state governments from violating Second Amendment rights through the imposition of insurance requirements, taxes, or fees as a condition of gun or ammunition ownership.

I am also a cosponsor of the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. This bill would establish a framework for carrying or possessing concealed firearms when bringing them across state lines, allowing individuals eligible to carry a concealed firearm under one state's laws to carry or possess a concealed handgun in other states which permit them to carry concealed firearms.

Earlier this year, Nebraska joined 26 states to enact a constitutional carry bill into law. This law allows Nebraskans 21 and older to carry a concealed handgun without a permit, and I applaud the leadership of Governor Pillen to defend Nebraskans' Second Amendment rights. The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act would implement federal protections to ensure Nebraskans are able to exercise these constitutional rights recognized by our state while they are traveling in other states which allow either constitutional carry or concealed carry with a permit.

Preserving freedom for ourselves and future generations depends on our diligence to safeguard the wisdom of the Constitution. I will continue working with my colleagues to defend and preserve the Second Amendment.

FROM THE HILL



Congressman Adrian Smith

Numbers To Know

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Ricketts

From Page Four
Another constituent contacted my office in tears, fearful she would be unable to attend a non-refundable and long-planned family trip. She had done everything right, submitting her paperwork months in advance.

Despite multiple attempts by my staff to help, the Biden State Department failed her, forcing her to miss the family trip and costing her hundreds of dollars.

These stressful situations should have never happened. No Nebraskan should have to miss a family trip or cancel their honeymoon or miss a family wedding or funeral because the federal bureaucracy can't do its job in a timely manner.

This is horrible customer service from the Biden administration.

We need to get this historic backlog under control and restore competence to this process – and that's exactly what I'm working on.

Successful leaders set goals and then hold their teammates accountable to meet those goals.

As Governor, I did just that, focusing on improving turnaround times for permits, requests, and more by utilizing proven methodologies like Lean Six Sigma. I am proud of the progress we made to streamline and simplify how Nebraskans interacted with state agencies. Because of our efforts, Nebraskans spent less time filling out forms, waiting on hold, and standing in line.

As Senator, I am pushing our State Department to do the same at the federal level.

Recently, we had a committee hearing to put pressure on the Biden administration to fix this problem and explore when the backlog would return to normal.

Rena Bitter, the State Department official in charge of passports, was asked what her goal was to process passport applications. Unbelievably, she said she had no goal. Instead, she blamed COVID exclusively for the problem.

For nearly three years, the Biden administration has allowed this problem to fester. They have no goal and no clue as to how to fix the passport problem.

By not having a goal, I guarantee they will fail. This is typical mismanagement by the Biden administration. Since the State Department won't take proactive steps to tackle this problem, Congress must step in.

Earlier this month, I worked with Senator James Lankford of Oklahoma to introduce The Passport Act to tackle this unacceptable backlog. The bill would establish a 12-week processing time requirement. It would refuse any remote work requests until the goal is met.

It would expand in-person appointments at regional passport offices and develop a reserve workforce that can

be reassigned to help during periods of high demand. It would require more detailed status updates for applicants and create a chat feature to the customer service call line. Finally, it would require the Biden administration to develop a plan to prevent a similar backlog in the case of future national emergencies.

On July 13, the status updates and chat feature provisions of the Passport Act passed the Foreign Relations Committee with bipartisan support.

This week, they passed the full Senate as a part of the larger National Defense Authorization Act. When signed into law, these provisions will improve transparency and customer service and make it easier to know exactly where in the pipeline your passport is.

Tackling the lack of transparency is a solid first step, but there is more that needs to be done. The Biden administration must get this historic backlog under control and prevent anything like this from ever happening again. I will continue to use every tool I can to see the entire Passport Act passed into law. Meanwhile, my team and I will keep doing everything we can to help Nebraskans get their passports in time for their next family commitment or vacation they saved for.

It Pays to Advertise!

Community Center Menus

Elgin Community Center meals next week are:
Monday, August 7: Sloppy joes, sweet potatoes, pea salad, fruit cocktail, milk.
Tuesday, August 8: Ring bologna with fried potatoes, green peppers and onions, 3-bean salad, peaches, milk.
Wednesday, August 9: Runza casserole, tator tots, corn, strawberry/peaches mix, milk.
Thursday, August 10: BBQ chicken, macaroni salad, baked beans, apple sauce, biscuit, milk.
Friday, August 11: Chili cheese dogs, creamy cucumber salad, French fries, tropical fruit, milk.
(All meals served with bread & butter. Menus are provided by the Community Center and are subject to change)
Suggested price is \$6 per meal for persons 60 years of age and older.
Under 60 is \$8.50. Serving starts at 11:45 a.m. and ends around 12:15 p.m.
Meals are served Monday thru Friday.
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Honestly...

DAWN McDONALD

Pontius Pilate cynically asked Jesus, "What is truth?"
Jesus is truth.
His truth has held up for generations.
If we seek truth, begin with His standards.
Hear God's truth this Sunday in church.

I am speaking the truth in Christ.
Romans 9:1-5
Genesis 32:22-31 Matthew 14:13-21 Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for
Sunday, August 6, 2023
Tenth 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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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.
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Bartlett United Methodist Church
Bartlett, NE
Pastor Duane Waddie
Sunday Worship Service: 10:45 am.
Sunday School: 10 am.

Calvary Bible Church
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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.
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Our Savior Lutheran Church
Bartlett, NE
Rev. Jon Franson
Sunday Worship Service: 8:15 am.
No Sunday School

St. Paul Lutheran Church
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Pastor Leif Hasskari
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:30 am.

Immanuel-Zion Lutheran Church
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Pastor Elizabeth Goehring
Worship Service: 9:30 am.
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How communities benefit when consumers shop local

Ideas about shopping are never set in stone, and the pandemic illustrated just how quickly consumer trends and opinions can change.

Many individuals are now reevaluating how they spend their hard-earned money, particularly since inflation has affected just how far a dollar can be stretched.

When consumers think about which stores to patronize, locally owned businesses may be the smartest option for a number of reasons - not the least of which is the way such enterprises benefit the communities they call home.

More money kept in the community

Shopping locally means that more money will stay in the community. According to recent research from Civic Economics, local eateries return nearly 79 percent of revenue to the community, compared to just over 30 percent for chain restaurants. Overall, for every \$100 spent at a local business, around \$73 remains in the community, versus roughly \$43 when shopping at a non-locally owned business.

Get a personal touch

Local business owners typically are inclined to go the extra mile for their customers and are personally invested in the services and products they are selling.

As a result, shopping locally tends to be a personalized experience. Furthermore, a local business owner may be more amenable to ordering products for specific clientele. Such personalized service is typically not accessible when shopping big box stores or other shops where owners are off-site.

Lines are short

Waiting in long lines for checkout or to pick up merchandise ordered online can drain consumers' energy and contribute to stress. Local businesses tend to have short lines and small crowds, which can lead to a more pleasant shopping experience.

Generates tax revenue

Local businesses generate more tax revenue per sales dollar, according to Rubicon, a digital marketplace for waste and recycling businesses. Taxes paid by local small businesses go to support schools, parks, roads, and other programs that benefit the community as well.

Supports nonprofits

Local businesses often support good work in the community, such as nonprofit groups. These can include schools and sports teams, among other groups. According to Dr. Sue Lynn Sasser, professor of economics at the University of Central Oklahoma, studies indicate nonprofits "receive 250 percent more support from small businesses than larger ones."

Support other local businesses

Local business support other local businesses by buying and selling among each other. A local, independently owned restaurant may source its ingredients from local farms, which means visitors to such eateries are supporting multiple local businesses each time they dine out. Small businesses are a boon to the economy, particularly local economies. These enterprises help their communities in a multitude of ways.

From Metro Creative Graphics

Australian scholar, family learn about soil health, economics during visit to Meis farm

By Dennis Morgan
Co-Publisher

There's never a day that passes where one doesn't try to learn something new. To do that, Australian farmer Daniel Dempster brought his family to Elgin this past Sunday and Monday.

A Nuffield Scholar from Australia, Daniel, wife Emily and sons Edward and Andrew spent Sunday and part of Monday learning about how farming works in Antelope County at the home of Jim and Anne Meis. Nuffield provides scholarships to select applicants in 15 countries for a two-year agricultural leadership program consisting of a global conference of scholars, group

travel across six countries visiting producers and ag-related tours as well as 10+ weeks of independent travel to conduct independent research.

"I would compare it to the LEAD program in many ways," Mrs. Meis said.

As part Dempster's independent research, he chose to spend time here in the Midwest learning more about soil health and economics. The family's trek across the Midwest began in Dallas, Texas with them working their way north through Oklahoma and Kansas then to Nebraska. From here they will work their way through the Dakotas before ending up in Bismarck, N.D.

"I'm looking at the financial implications of implementing soil health principles ... I like the idea of minimum disturbance (no-till)," he said. "It's got to pay for itself"

On Monday morning, in the Meis' kitchen, the two families shared with *The Elgin Review* how each has gained a better

understanding of ag-related issues, how there are many similarities.

"We can do things so much better when we learn from each other, practices in different parts of the world. We learn these practices which

See SCHOLAR, Page 10

Plea bargains reached in AC District Court

By Sandy Schroth
Court reporter

Jake Short, 23, of Oakdale appeared in front of the Honorable James Kube in the Antelope County district courtroom in Neligh on July 26 for a pretrial hearing on a charge of possession of cocaine. A plea agreement was announced, with Short pleading guilty to two counts included in an amended information, attempted possession of cocaine and theft by unlawful taking, \$500-\$1,499, both Class 1 misdemeanors. Short faces up to one year incarceration and/or up to a \$1,000 fine on each count.

The agreement also included agreement by Short to pay restitution in an as yet undetermined amount. Public defender Pat Carney told the judge some money was being held as evidence. Antelope County Attorney Joe Smith said some of the stolen cash had been recovered. He said Short had a small amount of cocaine.

Kube ordered a presentence investigation and set sentencing for Sept. 27. Bond is continuing in the amount of \$20,000, 10%. Amended bond conditions allow for residence at Oxford House in Norfolk.

Brennon J. Coleman, 39, of Randolph faced Kube for pretrial hearing on a charge of third-degree domestic assault, second offense, a Class 3A felony. Coleman also reached a plea bargain with Smith. Smith filed an amended complaint charging Coleman with third-degree domestic assault, first offense, a Class

1 misdemeanor and agreed to file no additional charges in the case, retaining the right to make recommendation at sentencing. Coleman entered a no contest plea to the amended charge. Kube found him guilty, ordered a presentence investigation and set sentencing for Sept. 27.

Bond is continued at \$20,000, 10%, with amendment to allow indirect contact with the victim to set up time for and remove personal property from victim's house, as long as someone from the sheriff's office is present.

Rider C. Short, 23, of Oakdale faced Kube for arraignment on Count I, operating a motor vehicle to avoid arrest, a Class 4 felony bound over from county court, along with Count II that was direct filed in district court, theft by unlawful taking, greater than \$5,000, a Class 2A felony. Both crimes are alleged July 4 in downtown Neligh.

If convicted, Short faces a penalty of up to two years incarceration and/or up to a \$10,000 fine on Count I and up to 20 years incarceration and restitution on Count II.

Short pleaded not guilty and requested jury trial. Pretrial hearing is set Aug. 30, with a jury trial set Oct. 10. Bond, in the amount of \$20,000, 10% cash, is continued.

Smith dismissed, without prejudice, a charge of violating conditions of the Sexual Offender Registration Act that was filed against Isaac Ander-

See COURT, Page 10



The field may have been muddy Monday morning, but that didn't deter Nebraska Soybean Board member Anne Meis from giving Australian Nuffield Scholar Daniel Dempster an up-close look at how no-till practices and good growing conditions better soybean production. Photo submitted

Per plea agreement, Neligh pharmacist pleads guilty

By Sandy Schroth
Court reporter

Neligh pharmacist Danelle Charf has pleaded guilty to one count after reaching a plea agreement with the US Attorney's office on July 20.

Charf withdrew her not guilty pleas to counts I-V of an indictment filed in May 2022, waived indictment and pleaded guilty to a single count in an information filed July 20 by Assistant US Attorney Kelli Ceraolo - knowingly and willfully making a false, fictitious or fraudulent statement in connection with delivery and payment for health-care benefits involving Medicare on Oct. 7, 2020.

The count carries a maximum five-year prison sentence, with no minimum; a maximum \$250,000 fine, with no minimum; a mandatory \$100 special assessment; and up to three years of post-release supervision.

Per terms of the agreement,

Charf will receive a sentence of not more than 24 months incarceration.

In addition, the parties agreed she would receive a two-offense level increase for abuse of a position of public or private trust.

As part of the agreement, the US attorney will move to dismiss the indictment at the time of sentencing and agreed that Charf will not be federally prosecuted for any additional health-care fraud-related crimes.

Chief Judge Robert Rossiter Jr. accepted Charf's guilty plea with approval of the plea agreement pending review of a presentence investigation the judge ordered.

Sentencing is set at 2 p.m. Oct. 13, in front of Rossiter in Courtroom No. 4 in the Ronald L. Hruska United States Courthouse at 111 South 18th Plaza in Omaha.

Charf also agreed the amount of restitution will include, but is not limited to, all charged and uncharged criminal conduct alleged in the original indictment and is not limited to the count

of conviction and will pay \$150,000 of the restitution prior to sentencing. The court will determine any additional amount due.

Charf appeared in the Omaha courtroom in June 2022 for arraignment on a May 17 five-count indictment charging her with health-care fraud beginning Oct. 7, 2020, continuing through Jan. 11, 2021.

Charf owned and operated two pharmacies, Wanek Pharmacy in Neligh and Tilden Pharmacy in Tilden, at the time the crime was committed. Federal and state investigators began investigating in September 2020 after receiving a complaint from a pharmacy intern about ongoing fraud, according to the plea agreement. During the investigation multiple employees reported that the pharmacies would submit claims for brand name medications despite dispensing generic medications and/or would process claims for prescriptions despite the prescriptions not having been filled.

Investigators also interviewed Medicare and Medic-

aid beneficiaries for whom the pharmacies had submitted claims, finding medications in some beneficiaries' possession were generic while claims were submitted for brand-name products.

One claim was submitted to Medicare on Oct. 7, 2020, by Wanek Pharmacy for 120 blisters of Adivair but the pharmacy dispensed 60 blisters of fluticasone propionate and was paid \$812.53 for the false claim. Charf, as chief pharmacist and owner, managed the inventory of both pharmacies.


The loss claimed by Medicare and Medicaid totals \$573,337.53. A reconciliation of inventory conducted by investigators showed the Neligh pharmacy did not have adequate drug purchases to support claims, resulting in a loss estimate of \$369,837.38. Tilden did not have adequate drug purchases to support its claims, with a loss estimate of \$203,500.15.

Charf disputed the amount but acknowledged a loss occurred.


She is represented by David Domina of Omaha.


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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 Thoendel/Sucha/Wolff	
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


ORCHARD CLINIC: 402.893.5155

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

TILDEN CLINIC: 402.368-5520

M	9:30-12:30	Dr. Osborn	1:30-5:00	Dr. Osborn
T	9:30-12:30	Wolff		
W	9:30-12:30	Wolff	1:30-5:00	Wolff
Th	2:00-5:00	Dr. Osborn		
F	9:30-12:30	Dr. Rudloff	2:00-5:00	Wolff

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



August

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

2 - 6 Antelope County and Wheeler County Fairs.

7 Regular meeting of the Elgin City Council • Elgin Veterans Steak Fry @ the Elgin KC Hall*.

8 District #18 Board of Education regular monthly meeting* • Regular meeting of the Antelope County Board of Commissioners.

11 Elgin Community Club/Chamber of Commerce Steak Fry.

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

14 Red-E-4-Fun/Red Hatters, noon @ ECC, please RSVP • EVFD meeting • Public hearing at Bartlett to amend 2022/2023 Wheeler Central District #45 school budget.

15 Red Cross Bloodmobile 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. @ Elgin KC Hall*.

11 Elgin Community Club/Chamber

18 Wolfpack football season opener @ Wausa

19 Medical Benefit for Brandon "Buff" Henn @ Elgin KC Hall*.

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

Events listing is courtesy of

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an Outpatient Department of Boone County Health Center
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one which showed a low risk to reoffend except in reference to alcohol, while the second showed a moderate risk. They asked for a sentence that would allow him to return to

his family as soon as possible. Antelope County prosecutor Joe Smith opposed probation. "He's an adult and he's doing adult crimes," he said. "Both of these girls are troubled."

Smith also recommended Mueller be subject to the Nebraska Sexual Offender Registration Act requirements for 10-25 years.

"We're not asking for lifetime," he said.

When questioned by Kube, Mueller said, "I wasn't thinking when I did it."

Before passing sentence, the judge said, "(These are) difficult types of cases. I understand your background, lots of support. I also have to take into consideration protection of the public and the victim's lives."

Mueller was given credit for a total of five days previously served and was taxed \$138 costs of prosecution in each case and ordered to comply with conditions of the sexual offender registry for 25 years after his release from prison.

Mueller was remanded to the custody of Antelope County Sheriff Bob Moore for execution of the sentence.

Elgin City Council agenda for August 7th meeting

The Elgin City Council will meet in regular session on Monday night, August 7.
Among the items on the council's agenda are:

- Street closure for putt-putt golf — Elgin Community Center
- Special designated liquor license for putt-putt golf — Elgin Community Center
- Gospel Fest at Elgin City Park September 16 — Richard Huffman
- Closing Oak Street from Sixth Street to Plantation Street for EMT fundraiser
- Fire sirens — Bruce Clark

- Pool motor — Bruce Clark
- Action on ordinances in regards to trash rates and building codes
- Set September meeting date
- Set date for budget workshop
- Set date for One & Six-Year Street Hearing
- Pool closing date
- Action on 2023/2024 Employee rates
- Building permits (Lenny Vaisvilas and Pam Becklun

The meeting, set to begin at 7:30 p.m., is open to the public.

This Week's Forage Focus Proper storage for your silage

With today's Forage Focus, I'm Nebraska Extension's Ben Beckman.

Silage season is just around the corner, but even before anything is cut, proper preparation now can improve chances of a successful harvest. Improper silage storage and fermentation can result in losses up to 20% prior to feeding.

The enemy to good silage is oxygen. Quality silage needs anaerobic fermentation to occur to maintain quality and ensure stability over the storage period. While factors like moisture content at harvest and packing density are important to maintaining an oxygen free environment, the physical location and way silage is stored can play an equally impactful role.

When too much oxygen is present in the silage pile, respiration occurs, turning plant sugars into heat and carbon dioxide. This results in lower forage quality and overall yield, though it may not look like it at first glance. The burning off of sugars during respiration causes the left over plant structural components to condense. In the end, the visible layer of spoilage often seen on silage piles may represent 2-3 times that amount, as layers shrink and condense while they degrade.

Respiration also produces heat. This heat build-up causes three negative outcomes in silage piles. First, it limits the activity of lactic acid bacteria. These microbes prevent protein binding to plant lignin during fermentation, without which feed becomes less digestible by the animal. Second, heat encourages the growth of undesirable fermentation bacteria, yeasts, and molds, all of which lower forage quality and can reduce yield. Lastly, heat early on in the ensiling process can end

up with browning caused by a Maillard reaction. While these browned bits may be highly palatable, they are a sign of denatured protein, once again lowering silage quality. Maillard browning produces even more heat during reaction, increasing the risk that temperatures rise to the point spontaneous combustion is possible.

Selecting a good storage location is the first step we need to tackle. Bags and piles should be placed on elevated locations that allow snow and rain to drain away from the silage and feed out area. Special consideration should be taken for snow drift patterns to prevent restricted access during the winter. Equipment traffic for feeding out of a pile or bag will be high and the ground will take a beating. Sites with poor drainage can result in ruts and mud holes making feeding more difficult. Provide plenty of room around the silage for maneuvering of equipment during both harvest and feed out. Finally, keep the area around bags or piles away from trees, trash piles, and other possible shelters for small animals. Creatures like mice, squirrels and other small animals will gnaw holes in silage coverings, seeking food and shelter. By limiting possible shelters, keeping weeds and grass around silage trimmed up, and immediately repairing any holes noticed, wildlife damage can be kept to a minimum.

Once we've selected a location, how we plan to store our silage needs to be considered. Bagged silage is a versatile option that allows the storage location to move year to year. An additional bonus is the oxygen free environment right away, especially if we

are vigilant in repairing any holes or tears in the bag. Silage piles are the more traditional approach and can allow for greater volumes of silage to be stored in a smaller area. Placing your pile on a cement pad or bunker is optimal for oxygen exclusion, but be sure to check these structures for cracks and repair any that are found annually to maintain their integrity. If silage is an annual feedstuff on your operation, the reduced loss a permanent structure provides can offset the cost when spread out over several years.

Even temporary piles can be made more oxygen free if planned for ahead. Line the sides of your planned pile with bales and place an oxygen barrier plastic down on the sides and for several feet under the bottom to really seal the pile's sides. At a bare minimum, placing plastic on top of the pile is an investment worth the time, labor, and money. By covering the pile we prevent oxygen from moving into the pile from the top and reduce precipitation exposure. Both rain and snow can penetrate the pile if uncovered, bringing more oxygen into the pile dissolved in the water itself, can throw off fermentation by upsetting the moisture balance leading to spoilage, and can result in the pile "weeping" and leaching out valuable energy and protein.

Corn silage is a valuable feed resource, but can suffer from high levels of loss when stored incorrectly. Whether choosing temporary option like bag or drive over pile or something more permanent like a concrete bunker, doing what you can to keep oxygen out of your silage requires planning now. Pick an appropriate location for harvest and feed out success and store correctly to minimize feed losses later on.

With Nebraska Extension, I'm Ben Beckman.



Beef Systems
Asst. Ext. Educator
Ben Beckman



Summer basketball

Jarek Erickson and friends are keeping in basketball shape this summer while cooling off in the Elgin City Pool. Sweltering heat teamed with humidity last week resulted in a packed pool as kids were looking for ways to cool down. Here, Erickson dunks a ball around other "players" during this competitive yet friendly game. E-R photo/OKlein

The value of reading to kids is now visible

Recent studies from the Reading & Literacy Discovery Center of Cincinnati's Children's Hospital were the first provide neurobiological evidence of the potential benefits of reading to children age five and younger and the potential detriments of screen time on the development of such youngsters' brains.

Images released with the study indicated substantial growth in organized white matter in the language and literacy areas of the brains of children who were read to during the highly formative first five years of their lives. That's important, as the study noted that white matter is comprised of fibers that form connections between brain cells and the nervous system. Increasing and organizing that white matter, which reading to youngsters facilitates, increases the brain's functionality and ability to learn.

While the study noted the value of reading to children age five and younger, it also showed how children who spent an average of two hours a day playing on screens were adversely affected by that behavior. In images of such children's brains, white matter was considerably underdeveloped and disorganized, which can contribute to slow processing and learning difficulties.

Classifieds

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HELP WANTED:



Wheeler Central Schools has an immediate opening for a 1/2 time (20 hrs weekly) custodial position. Please apply at the Wheeler Central office. Call **308-654-3273** for more information.

Elgin Public Schools is currently taking applications for the following positions:

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High Yielding Bulls.....	127 ⁰⁰ to 137 ⁰⁰
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Aug. 28 - Special Feeder Cattle/Weigh Cows & Bulls Auction

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Notice of Meeting — Wheeler Central District #45 Board of Education

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF WHEELER CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DISTRICT #45-WHEELER COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE WHEELER CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE HELD AT THE WHEELER CENTRAL OLD MEDIA ROOM IN BARTLETT, NEBRASKA ON: MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023

TIME: FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENT HEARING. WHICH MEETING WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. AN AGENDA FOR SUCH MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, WHEELER CENTRAL SCHOOLS, BARTLETT, NEBRASKA

DREW KASSELDER
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF EDUCATION
WHEELER CENTRAL SCHOOLS

PUBLISH: August 2, 2023
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY						
Wheeler Central School District (92-0045) in Wheeler County, Nebraska						
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-511 the governing body will meet on the August 14, 2023 at 8 pm at the Wheeler Central High School Media Center for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to amending the budget. Due to unforeseen circumstances, actual expenditures for the current fiscal year will exceed budgeted expenditures unless the current budget of expenditures in revised and amended. The budget must be ammended by \$400,000 due to additional short term borrowing needed to support the district and pay for carry-over expenses from the previous administration. The property tax request will not be changing. The budget detail is available at the office of the Clerk/Secretary during regular business hours. For more information on statewide receipts and expenditures, and to compare cost per pupil and performance to other school districts, go to: https://nep.education.ne.gov						
Summary of Originally Adopted Budget on September 9, 2022						
FUNDS	Actual Disbursements & Transfers	Actual/Estimated Disbursements & Transfers	Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers	Necessary Cash Reserve (4)	Total Available Resources Before Property Taxes (5)	Total Personal and Real Property Tax Requirement (7)
	2020-2021 (1)	2021-2022 (2)	2022-2023 (3)			
General	\$ 3,979,078.00	\$ 4,303,567.00	\$ 4,292,177.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 1,424,135.00	\$ 3,402,063.00
TOTALS	\$ 4,308,440.00	\$ 4,642,092.23	\$ 4,809,555.77	\$ 509,814.00	\$ 1,828,722.77	\$ 3,525,906.00
Summary of Proposed Revised Budget						
FUNDS	Actual Disbursements & Transfers	Actual/Estimated Disbursements & Transfers	Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers	Necessary Cash Reserve (4)	Total Available Resources Before Property Taxes (5)	Total Personal and Real Property Tax Requirement (7)
	2020-2021 (1)	2021-2022 (2)	2022-2023 (3)			
General	\$ 3,979,078.00	\$ 4,303,567.00	\$ 4,692,177.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 1,824,135.00	\$ 3,402,063.00
TOTALS	\$ 4,308,440.00	\$ 4,642,092.23	\$ 5,209,555.77	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 2,228,722.77	\$ 3,525,906.00
PUBLISH: August 2, 2023 ZNEZ						

Notice of Incorporation — Oakdale Community Betterment Club

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that the Articles of Incorporation of Oakdale Community Betterment Club, Inc a Nebraska corporation (the Corporation), were filed with the Nebraska Secretary of State on 06/20/2023. The registered office of the corporation is 904 Wilson St Oakdale, Nebraska 68761 and the registered agent at such address is Jasmine Kysar. The purposes for which the Corporation is organized is to engage in any lawful business for which a corporation may be formed under the Nebraska Business Corporation Act. The aggregate number of shares which the Corporation shall have authority to issue is Zero (0) of common stock. The name and street address of the incorporators are as follows: Wanda Cornett, Member, 306 Jenks St Oakdale, NE 68761. Charlotte Tracy, Member, 409 Walther Oakdale, NE 68761. Jasmine Kysar, Treasurer, 904 Wilson St Oakdale, NE 68761. Gene Kinnan, Chairman, 101 Taylor St Oakdale, NE 68761. Sharon Kinnan, Secretary, 101 Taylor St Oakdale, NE 68761. PUBLISH: August 2, 9 and 16, 2023 ZNEZ

Notice — Estate of Rodney D. Roland

NOTICE IN THE COUNTY COURT OF ANTELOPE COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Estate of Rodney D. Roland, Deceased.

Case No. PR. 22-27

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition for Authority to Sell Real Property of the Decedent has been filed and is set for hearing in the County Court of Antelope County, Nebraska, located at the Antelope County Courthouse, Neligh, Nebraska, on August 16, 2023, at or after 9:00 o'clock a.m.

Attorney for Petitioner
P.O. Box 707
201 North Broadway
Bloomfield, NE 68718
(402) 373-4240

PUBLISH: July 26, August 2 & 9, 2023
ZNEZ

Amy M. Eisenhauer

Court News

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

Sandra E. Delgadillo Medina, O'Neill, NE 7/10/23 speeding 75/65 mph/no operator's license, fined \$100 - Johnson.

Marcia F. Stinger, Sioux Falls, SD 7/10/23 speeding 75/65 mph, fined \$25 - Mohr.

Erwin Herberth Perez, Ainsworth, NE 6/19/23 no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, fined \$25 - Kavan.

Dilber Gutierrez, Columbus, NE 6/10/23 speeding 75/65 mph/ no operator's license, fined \$100 - Miller.

Garry L. Nielsen, Niobrara, NE 7/11/23 exceed width limits, fined \$25 - Detlefsen.

Mark A. Homan (Homan Monument Service), Creighton, NE 7/5/23 CMV-Brake general, fined \$50 - Asche.

Kourtney K. Huff, Meadow Grove, NE 6/14/23 speeding 45/30 mph, fined \$25 - Keetle.

Madison R. Knudsen, Stanton, NE 6/24/23 minor in possession-ages 19/20, fined \$300 - Keetle.

Hunter C. White, Rising City, NE 6/24/23 minor in possession-ages 19/20, fined \$300 - Keetle.

Bailey E. Bernstrauch, Norfolk, NE 6/24/23 minor in possession-ages 19/20, fined \$300 - Pfeifer.

Kaylee L. Bruns, Wayne, NE 6/24/23 minor in possession-ages 19/20-1st off, fined \$300/ licensed impounded for 30

days - Pfeifer.

Dominique A. Hobbs, Norfolk, NE 6/24/23 minor in possession-ages 19/20, fined \$500 - Pfeifer.

Ashton C. Kruse, Norfolk, NE 6/24/23 minor in possession-ages 19/20, fined \$500 - Pfeifer.

Austin J. Mastera, Bellwood, NE 6/24/23 minor in possession-ages 19/20, fined \$300 - Pfeifer.

Evan R. Strain, Silver Creek, NE 6/24/23 minor in possession-ages 19/20-1st off, fined \$300/license impounded 30 days - Pfeifer.

Brittany J. Beckwith, Atkinson, NE 6/24/23 minor in possession-ages 19/20, fined \$300 - Pfeifer.

*evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. ******

The Wheeler County Fair will be held this week, ending on August 6. That means summer is officially over. School doors will soon reopen.

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



NEBRASKA PUBLIC NOTICES

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



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"The salvation of the State is watchfulness in the citizen."

Hartley Burr Alexander

The Elgin Review

Bartlett News

Editor's note: This article was written by Karen Pokorny and Marilyn Booth, members of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bartlett.

Our Savior Lutheran Church of Bartlett closed their doors on July 23, 2023. The closing of the church was due to not having a pastor, low attendance and losing so many of their members.

The church broke ground on June 1981.

The basement was started the next month and the building continued with many hard-working hands.

Church services were held Sunday mornings with Sunday School following.

Our Savior Lutheran Church family was rewarded and grateful to have several blessed souls baptized and confirmed.

Weddings and funeral services also took place at the Bartlett church.

We, the 'Chuch family,' feel so fortunate and glorified to have carried out the following events: Summer Bible School, Bible studies, potluck meals, Senior Luncheons, soup suppers, yearly Christmas Programs and the Christmas Ladies Luncheon, which was a very competitive and exciting exchange for the community ladies.

The "Church" family is very sad to see Our Savior Lutheran Church close, but we know that God is steadfast and is always with us and will lead us in the right direction.

(The 23 Psalm.) The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no



Our Savior Lutheran Church of Bartlett held their last service on Sunday, July 23. The church broke ground in June 1981. *Photo submitted*

It Pays To Advertise!

Money changes everything

As a college football fan, last week I was minding my own business, counting down the days to the start of the season. Nebraska and its new coach Matt Ruhlre will open the season on August 31 at Minnesota under the stars against shiny forehead P.J. Fleck. The 'golden dome' will coach the Gophers with a dark cloud over the program as an athlete has raised similar issues to what happened at Northwestern with the firing of Coach Pat Fitzgerald.

To me, the game is a toss-up. Nobody really knows what the Huskers are going to look or play like in the opener. No one is sure what the attitude of Fleck's team will be under the lights.

Of all the stories about the upcoming season, the biggest story leading up to the season opener comes from friendly Folsom Field, the home of the Colorado Buffaloes.

Prime Time's bosses in the athletic department announced Wednesday the school will be loading up mascot Ralphie and head back to the Big 12 Conference for the start of the 2024 season.

Colorado left for the PAC-12 the same year when Nebraska left for the Big 10. Neither team has enjoyed past successes in their new homes. The jury is still out on NU, but CU bolted back to where the Buffaloes used to roam. Their return to the Big 12 will coincide with Texas and Oklahoma going to the SEC.

If Prime Time makes the Buffs competitive, and he just might, CU could soon become THE football power in the Big 12. Still, to do so they are going to have to better TCU, Kansas State and Oklahoma State and newbie Cincinnati.

I just find it ironic that the Buffs tucked their collective tails between their legs and headed back to the Big 12. CU couldn't compete with the Pac-12 schools for the past decade, but nostalgia and the most important thing - dollars - made the change possible. It's all about the almighty millions of dollars (TV contracts) in college sports. As Cyndi Lauper used to croon, "Money Changes Everything." But, wouldn't it be funny if the Big 12's open arms turned in to "Money For Nothing." Check out the band Dire Straits.

You can buy a heckuva lot of 'Buffalo Chips' with those kinda dollars.

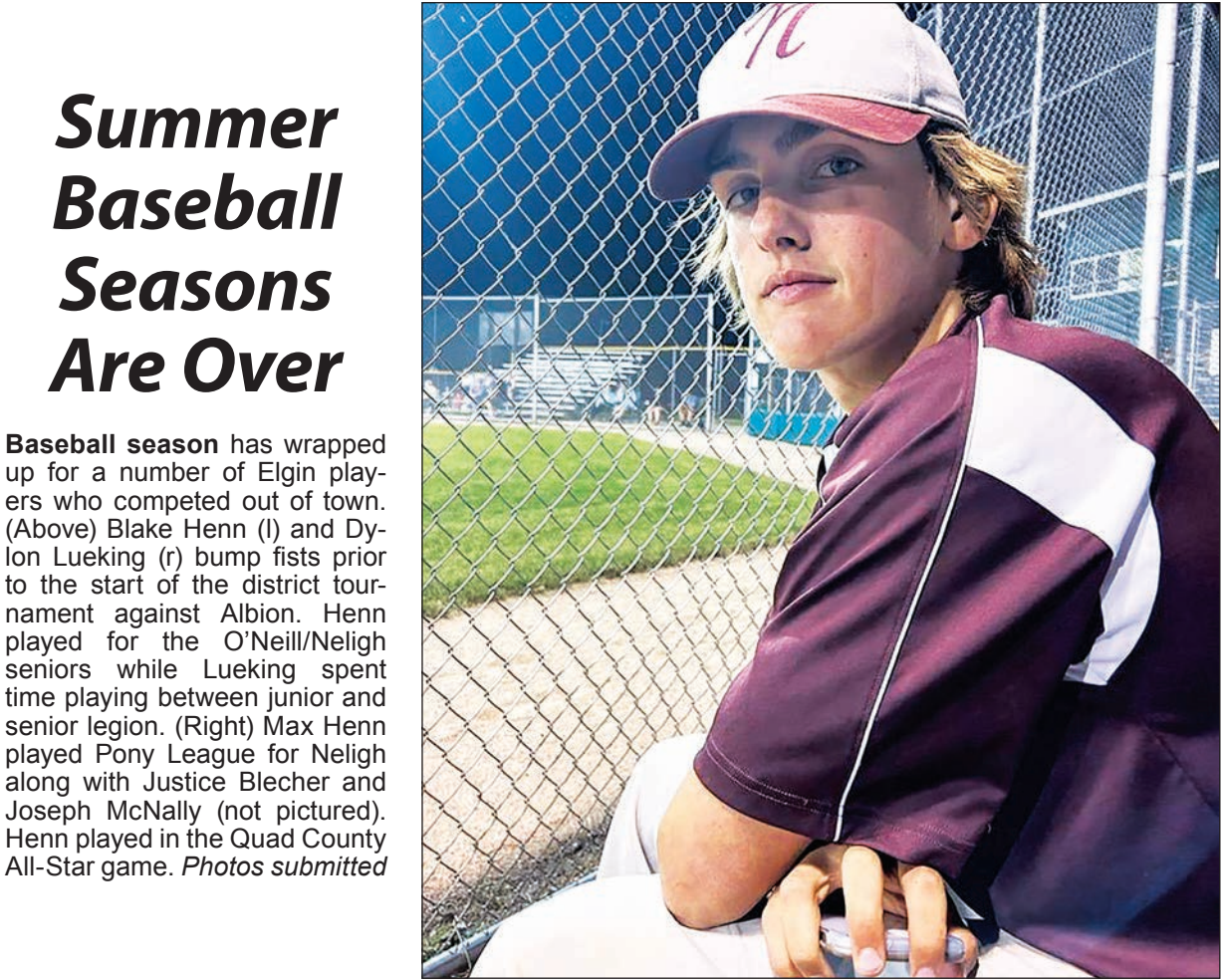
Speaking of the friendly folks in Colorado, I have just one story. We helped sponsor a church ski trip for high school kids to Eldora just outside of Boulder. We got there early enough Friday evening and spent the night at the Holiday Inn. The adult sponsors went to the hot tub, the kids to the pool. In the hot tub, the preacher I noticed next to me had a red rose tattoo below her collarbone and above her rib cage. What once was a striking red rose looked more like a dandelion which had recently been sprayed with Roundup. That, my friends, is a cautionary tale.

Sometimes, it's tough being me. Just say'n.

SPINNING TALES



Dennis Morgan
Publisher



Baseball season has wrapped up for a number of Elgin players who competed out of town. (Above) Blake Henn (l) and Dylon Lueking (r) bump fists prior to the start of the district tournament against Albion. Henn played for the O'Neill/Neligh seniors while Lueking spent time playing between junior and senior legion. (Right) Max Henn played Pony League for Neligh along with Justice Blecher and Joseph McNally (not pictured). Henn played in the Quad County All-Star game. *Photos submitted*

Summer Baseball Seasons Are Over



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Henn benefit to be August 19

A benefit for Brandon "Buff" Henn will be held next month in Elgin. The event will be Saturday, August 19, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Elgin. Starting at 5 p.m., the medical fundraiser will feature a hamburger supper with salads and more. There will be a silent auction.

The benefit will be held to help Henn with medical bills that are going to result from his fight against cancer.

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Next Monday, Aug. 7

Social: 6:30 pm | Meal: 7 pm at the Elgin KC Hall

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2020 Chrysler Voyager LXI, V-6, Stow-N-Go, 71K

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2020 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon, 4x4, Auto, Leather, 30K
2018 Ford F150 STX Crew Cab, 4x4, New Motor With Warranty
2015 Ford F250 XLT Regular Cab, 4x4, 6.2L, 91K

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Back To School

Top 10 Tips



Keep the kids safe as they head back to the classroom.

1. Plan a walking route to school or the bus stop. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and, if possible, with intersections that have crossing guards.
2. If your child bikes to school, make sure he/she wears a helmet that meets safety standards. Research indicates that a helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85 percent.
3. If your child drops something near the bus, have him/her tell the bus driver before retrieving it. If they were to bend over to pick it up, the bus driver may not be able to see them.
4. Teach your child never to talk to strangers or accept rides or gifts from strangers. Remember, a stranger is anyone you or your children don't know well or don't trust.
5. Teach children not to enter the street from between parked cars or from behind bushes or shrubs. Darting into the street accounts for 50 to 70 percent of pedestrian injuries among children ages nine and under.
6. Teach your children the proper hand signals to use when they turn or stop while riding their bikes to school.
7. Be sure that your child knows his/her home phone number and address, your work number, the number of another trusted adult and how to call 911 for emergencies.
8. Teach children to follow traffic signals and rules when walking or biking. Stress that they should cross the street at crosswalks and stop at stop signs.
9. Never pass a bus that is stopped, has its lights flashing or stop arm out. You may never know where a child might step out from.
10. Don't allow your child to wear headphones or play hand-held video games or text while walking to school.

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BOONE COUNTY HEALTH CENTER & ELGIN VETERANS' MEDICAL CLINIC

an Outpatient Department of Boone County Health Center

Court

From Page Six

son of Brunswick last July.

Kube granted continuances of pretrial hearings to the following defendants:

- Morgan K. Anson, 25, of Orchard, charged with theft by receiving stolen property valued at more than \$5,000, a Class 2A felony, possession of methamphetamine, a Class 4 felony, use of motor vehicle to avoid arrest, a Class 4 felony, possession of burglar tools, a Class 4 felony and obstruction of a police officer, a Class 1 misdemeanor, all alleged Dec. 9, 2022, in Orchard; pretrial hearing continued to Aug. 30 and jury trial to Oct. 10; bond continued at \$50,000, 10%, with amendment of conditions to allow less frequent testing at the sheriff's office – amended to three times per week, random, ordered to call sheriff's office daily;
- Jordan J. Knievel, 21, of Neligh, charged with Count I, third-degree assault on a peace officer, a Class 3A felony, Count II, false reporting, a Class 1 misdemeanor, and Count III, obstructing a police officer, a Class 1 misdemeanor, all alleged April 2 in Neligh; pretrial hearing continued to Aug. 30 and jury trial to Oct. 10. Bond is continued in the amount of \$10,000, 10%; and
- Koda K. Fernau, 19, of Clearwater, charged with a Class 3A felony, making terroristic threat, alleged in September 2022; pretrial hearing continued to Aug. 30, jury trial remains Oct. 10, \$25,000, 10% bond continued.



Australia may be half a world away from Antelope County, but on Sunday night and Monday morning, agriculture practices were shared at the Jim Meis farm southeast of Elgin. Pictured (l-r) are Anne, Jim and Jon Meis, Daniel and Emily Dempster and their children Edward and Andrew. *E-R photo/LMorgan*

Scholar

From Page Six

we can take home. That's what you're hoping for (to make the environment better)," Dempster said.

Where the Dempster's live in western Australia, where every drop of water is precious, they are seasonally dependent on rainfall. He described the area he calls home as having a 'Mediterranean climate.' The growing season is during the winter months. It all ties into when the rain season starts. Once it stops raining, all vegetation dries up and dies. The area there is totally reliant on rain to produce crops such as wheat, barley and canola as well as lupins and oats. The primary market for those crops is Southeast Asia.

Windmills are used to pump water for livestock, but water used for drinking, etc., comes via pipelines. The area averages 17 inches of rain a year, similar to parts of Western Nebraska where NRDs have limited property owners to as little as 15 inches of water annually to be put on crops. That, in part, is why he would like to change how they farm to better utilize the limited amount of moisture they receive from the

skies above.

Vetch, which Elgin was once known as the one of the main suppliers for the nation and beyond was brought up as a common ground cover. Dempster said he was very familiar with vetch as it is used in their pastures. However, rye grass is the best pasture grass. Pastures must be fully re-seeded every year due to the dry environment there.

As the conversation continued, it was clear that this exchange of ideas and farm practices, if able to be implemented back home, will improve the Dempster's farm operation. And all this comes about from asking simple questions like 'how do you do this?' and 'why do you do that?'

"Going back home, if we try something new, at least you've seen someone who has done things differently and seen how it works ... You've got a bit of a sounding board."

Dempster said he learned a great deal from visiting with Extension Educator Paul Jasa at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, known affectionately as a 'pioneer' of no-till farming.

One thing Jim Meis said

he learned from time spent with the Dempster's was how valuable water is. "They have a pipeline to bring water in. We can drill a well anywhere. That was a real light bulb moment for me," Meis said.

As we talked more, the family was amazed at just how green the land was around the Meis home. Across the road to the south, they saw cattle grazing and the boys were amused by the chickens roaming freely around the yard.

For Emily, her role in the farming operation is similar to many women here in the midwest as she said does the bookkeeping for the operation. Outside of the home she works for an ag consulting service. Her duties vary, "depending on what they need the business I work for provides higher business management, grain marketing or agronomy services," she said with a smile on her face.

How the Dempster's came to Elgin could be traced back to Claire Friedrichsen, PhD, a research social scientist with the Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory based in Mandan, North Dakota. Anne happens to be her aunt and it was a logical choice for the Dempsters to visit due to Meis' involvement as a director of the Farmers and Ranchers Alliance while also serving on the Nebraska Soybean Board.

The Meis and Dempster families learned a lot from each other in the two brief days. Although farming practices may be different in some ways, one thing remains the same - farmers here and there are all looking for ways to make their operations more profitable. Even if that means traveling halfway around the world to Antelope County.

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