

Wolfpack Football, Volleyball teams' to get underway

See page 11



DeKay explains carryover priority bills in legislature

See page 6

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The gingleview

Volume 142, Number 49 1 Section, 12 Pages USPS Number 172-8220 \$1.00

In Brief

Friday Night Lights returning to Elgin Field

Meet Trooper Ray Johnson.

Friday Night Lights will be coming to Elgin Field to start the season. State Trooper Ray Johnson will be there prior to the start of the Burwell-Wolfpack football game at 7 p.m.

Friday Night Lights' goal is to educate the public about the importance of seat belt usage for all ages. For this event, he will bring a Convincer. It will be parked near the main entrance to the football field. Also, there will be a tee shirt launcher between the first and second quarters and again at halftime.

St. John's annual bazaar to be held Sunday

Serving from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

St. John's Petersburg will hold their annual Parish Bazaar this Sunday, August 31 at Werner Hall.

Brisket, sausage, hash brown casserole, sweet corn as well as a variety of salads and desserts will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will be an auction following the meal.

Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

Notice of Meeting — Wheeler Central

Board of Education Notice — Estate of Boyd Beckley

Notice — Estate of Velene K. Mahlen-

Notice of Budget Hearing — Elgin City

Proceedings — Elgin City Council Notice of September 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 90 degrees recorded on Sunday, August 17.

The low temperature during the same period was 57 degrees recorded on Saturday, August 23.

Altogether, .90 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.

High Prec Date Low .00 August 17 70 90 .72 August 18 84 64 68 August 19 85 .00 August 20 67 85 .00 August 21 85 66 .00 August 22 78 57 .18 August 23 74 .00 Total for last week 0.90 **Total for August** 1.52 Total precipitation 2025 22.02

As valuation increases, District #18 tax levy to decline

In August ever year, school superintendents anxiously await valuation figures to put together final numbers before public hearings.

District #18 Mike Brockhaus is no different. As he told school board members earlier this month, the valuation was the last thing he was waiting on to prepare a proposed budget.

Combining valuations from land in Antelope, Wheeler and Boone Counties, the total valuation for District #18 is \$1,076,131,896.00.

"As stated in earlier board meetings, the levy for District #18 will decrease due to the valuation increase this year," he told *The Elgin Review* last

Valuations are set, by law, no later than August 20 by county assessors.

He said District #18 will be losing \$159,844.00 in state aid.

"Unfortunately we will be participating in the Joint Public Hearing at the county courthouse in Neligh," Brockhaus said.

It will be held Thursday, September 18, beginning

The hearing is open to the public. The school district's public hearing on the tax

asking/levy will be Monday, Sept. 22. The hearing will begin at 7 a.m. in the EPS board meeting room.

Valuations set for tax subdivisions Other valuations of note are: Antelope County General — \$3,692,464,423 (Growth Value \$24,773,993)

Elgin City — \$68,577,270 (\$1,090,455) Elgin Fire — \$4,900,208 (NA) Neligh-Oakdale School District — \$802,145,978 (\$4,848,385)

Summerland — \$998,330,847 (\$7,058,739) Elkhorn Valley — \$385,132,040 (\$2,405,449) Neligh City — \$116,082,355 (\$2,575,333) Tilden City — \$21,389,110 (\$318,427) Oakdale Village — \$7,530,215 (\$229,032) Clearwater — \$21,200,242 (\$378,250)

Boone County General — \$3,586,135,952 (\$10,366,687) Petersburg Village — \$35,967,642 (\$111,522) A complete list of tax valuations in Antelope and Boone Counties can be found by going to the coun-

World champion auctioneer Dean Edge wows Elgin at sale barn

By Jane Schuchardt

Special to The Elgin Review

Auctioneering gibberish? Heck no. Those are real filler words sandwiched between the last bid and the new asking price, all designed to give the buyer time to think between bids.

And the best of the best in the world this year is Dean Edge from Rimbey, Alberta, Canada, who swung by the Elgin Livestock Market on Monday (August 18, 2025) to promote the practice of auctioneered sales to determine a fair price for livestock. A packed sale barn on a steaming hot day also got to experience Edge showcasing his skills.

In his ninth competition, Edge was named champion June 10th in Dunlap, IA in the finals that were preceded by regional qualifiers and the Calgary Stampede International. Edge estimated 125 highly skilled auctioneers competed along the way.

Now he's on a tightly scheduled oneyear tour organized by the Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) to local livestock markets in the United States and Canada. LMA, headquartered in Overland Park, KS, has some 800 member businesses and is dedicated to the open and competitive auction method of marketing livestock.

As a guest of Elgin Livestock Sales,



World champion auctioneer Dean Edge made a big impression on attendees at an Elgin Livestock Sales auction held earlier this month. Edge (I) explained his mission with Verdi-

Inc., a family-owned business, Ted Baum, the sale barn's auctioneer/manager, who has also placed in these competitions, welcomed Edge to our town. With his signature white cowboy hat,

polished cowboy boots, and flashy belt buckle, Edge had a few minutes to graciously answer questions before taking to the sale barn's raised platform. His down-home style, coupled with charm, humor and clarity, were the foundation for a mind-boggling demonstration of his skills selling cattle.

'Got two, asking two twenty-five, will you give, would you give ...," said so fast by Edge that consigners and buyers were holding their collective breaths in amazement. "We're trying to get the most we can for the seller and keep the buyer happy," he said with pride, adding that the cattle industry is a close-knit, trusting com-

Edge, 45, caught the auctioneering passion in high school when he had a social studies teacher with auctioneering skills he described as a 'rambler'. He also grew up near 2004 World Champion Dan Skeels who encouraged

He finished the intensive two-week program at Montana's Western College of Auctioneering in 1999 and a twoyear program at Olds College of Agriculture and Technology, Olds, Alberta, Canada, with a rural small business and agriculture entrepreneurship certification in 2002.

'I was a 'baby auctioneer' then," Edge said. "You need about 20 years under your belt (to get an edge on the profession)." Though Edge used air travel from Canada for this trip, he is generally seen driving the custom-wrapped World Livestock Auc-

See EDGE, Page 8 ▶

Three Elgin FFA members earn **National FFA Degrees**

Each year, the National FFA Organization honors FFA members who show the utmost dedication to the organization through their desire to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

The American FFA Degree is bestowed upon a select group of students

in recognition of their years of academic and professional excellence. This year over 5.200 American Degrees were awarded. Nick Anderson,

Samuel Hemenway, and Gage Thiessen, members of the Elgin FFA Chapter, will be awarded the American FFA Degree at the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo on November 1, 2025.

Anderson

Sponsored by Bayer Cargill Case IH, John Deere, Rabobank, and Syngenta, the award recognizes demonstrated ability and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing or service pro-

To be eligible, FFA members must have earned at least \$10,000 or earned at least \$2,000 and worked at least 2,250 hrs. outside of class time through a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program in which they own their own business, hold a professional position



Gage

as an employee, or conduct research. Recipients must also complete 50 hours of community service and demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and civic involvement through the completion of a long list of FFA and community activities.

Less than one percent of FFA members achieve the American FFA Degree.

After being recognized at the national convention, each recipient of the American FFA Degree receives a gold American FFA Degree key and certificate.

The National FFA

Samuel

Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 1,042,245 student members as part of 9,407 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Rae Valley's Friday feast

Rae Valley's State Antique Tractor/Horse Plowing Bee kicked off Friday night with a Tractor Cade followed by a Cream Can Supper. Altogether, eight creams cans full of sausage and vegetables fed those there for the evening activities. See more photos on Page Seven. Videos can be found on the Elgin Review's Facebook page.



Bartlett News

CWC Renegades held a varsity volleyball and football scrimmage at Bartlett on Friday night.

Altogether, 21 young men made up the football teams. 15 girls made up the volleyball teams.

Head football coach is Drew Kasselder. Assistant coaches are: Brad Larson, Nick Waldo, Jackson Waldo, Brenden Pelster, Randy Pelster and Dan Kluver.

Amber Marcellus is the volleyball head coach with Jerilee

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Wright assistant coach. Volunteer coach is Steven Marcellus

Wheeler Central students receive Bronco Bucks from their teachers throughout the year for good behavior, exceptional work, working well with others etc. The student who earns the most Bronco Bucks for the entire school year has the privilege of being the 'Principal for the Day.' Logan Landgren, Wheeler Central 4th grader, received the honor with the most Bronco Bucks for the 2024-2025 school year.

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She began the day (August 22) by leading the school with the Pledge of Allegiance.

She passed out Bronco Bucks to various classes, helped put locker badges on student lockers which listed things such as football, volleyball, FFA etc. and helped make programs for the scrimmage,

She supervised the elementary lunch letting students sit where they chose rather than designated seating per class. She also let the teachers go eat in their classroom while she

supervised the lunch. (In case you are wondering I am sure that the real principal was also in the lunchroom.

At the end of the day Logan called a school assembly to be held at the playground. Two chairs were placed there with two sets of goggles and two

black trash bags.

Logan spoke to the students assembled saying she wanted to give Mr. Nordhues a warm welcome for coming back to teach P.E after being retired for several years.

In fact she said she wanted to give him an EXTREME welcome.

To make a long story short Logan put a whipped cream pie right in Mr. Nordhues face. Then a few minutes later he returned the favor.

What a fun way to end the day and what a good sport he is! By Sherry Tetschner

From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

freeze or can. This week's recipe is one of my mom's all time favorite garden vegetables

Good day,

How's the

garden doing?

I hope you're

able to find lots of good

things to

to can. She made beet pickles almost every canning season. Needless to say, she loves beets. Me, not so much! I am sharing this simple

recipe for all of you who love their beets!

Give it a try if you love beets! JoAnn

Mom's Pickled Beets

3 quarts small beets 2 cups sugar

2 sticks cinnamon 1 Tbls pickling spice

3 1/2 cups vinegar 11/2 cups water

MOM'S PICKLED

BEETS

Wash and drain beets, then cook the beets and peel them. Combine all the ingredients (except the beets) in a large pot. Bring mixture to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.

Remove cinnamon sticks and spices.

Pack the beets into hot jars leaving 1/2" head space. Cover the beets with the hot liquid.

Seal and process pints for 30 minutes in a hot water bath Makes 6 pints.





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STUDENT the MONTH ayvin Erickson

Jayvin Erickson is the FFA member of the month!

Jauvin is son of Aaron and Angie Anderson of Elgin and JR Erickson of Valentine.

Jayvin is in his 2nd year of

FFA membership. In this short amount of time he has been able to attend State FFA for agriscience fair and quiz bowl, participate in local FFA events, and show livestock at the state fair.

This past summer Jayvin was busy with his cattle showing at jackpots, the county fair and, most recently, showed at the Nebraska State Fair. Last year,



vin's next four years as an Elain FFA member. Congratulations on this recognition!

he also showed beef at the state

This year, Jayvin will be partici-

We are looking forward to Jay-

pating in numerous FFA events such as range and livestock judg-



ing this fall.

Thank you, farmers!

To those who work by the acre and not by the hour: we appreciate you and all you do.

Invenergy foinx







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Canoeing mishaps show the bigger picture

Recently I found myself sitting in the Niobrara River, the water rushing by, carrying along with it some of the contents of the canoe I had been in before it capsized.

Two sons, who were ahead in other canoes with their passengers, helped catch the drifting contents: a cooler, hats and such

The most important belongings, though, were still hooked to the canoe and safe in dry

I learned from a previous spill that day, right at the outset of our voyage, to grab the canoe when it goes over.

(Important note at this point: My husband was a saint for having me – a first-time canoer and

a primary cause of the spills as a passenger.)

After the second capsizing, he stood up in the shallow water and took hold of the canoe from me. That's when I had to deal with my own dilemma: how to stand up.

That might sound easy, but on a good day on dry ground I need to grab onto something to help pull myself up. On this day, there also was the current and the uneven rocks below to knock me off balance.

My husband's hands were full. Our boys were ahead on the river retrieving supplies.

I genuinely got a little panicky. I wasn't going to drown, but how was I going to stand up?

My husband said it point

blank: You're going to have to find a way.

I said a quick prayer, rolled over onto my knees - those old sore knees that were a large part of my problem – got one foot planted somewhere stable among the rocks and lifted myself up with a heave-ho.

I did it! But I still had to wade yards down river to catch up with the others, including my husband, who had walked the canoe to another launching spot and the rest of our crew.

Again, I was scared. This time because my path was full of obstacles, those large rocks, some of which I could see and some not. And again, I had nothing to hold onto for support.

I made it to the group without falling, and my fear was probably exaggerated. But after two spills from the canoe, I was ready to call it quits.

I never wanted to set foot in a canoe again, but we had to go

My husband and I swapped our canoe for another that had proved more stable. We had a bit more to go before we reached one of our vehicles, and I was literally white-knuckled until we got there. I grasped the side of the canoe so hard my hand became stiff.

Later at camp, I told my daughter that this grandmother is done with doing anything "outside my comfort zone." I told that to God, too.

But after some reflection, I

realized what a mistake that would be. If I hadn't tried canoeing, I would have had regrets: I would not have seen Smith Falls and other beautiful sights along the Niobrara. I would not have seen the

Faith

eagle, turtle, herons and other wildlife. I would have missed a family adventure with the people I love the most.

In

prayer, God told Elgin Columnist me that Susan Szalewski I need to trust Him

more, that He's always there to help, that I never need to fear or worry.

In my canoeing mishaps, He showed me a bigger picture of life. That there are risks worth taking, that I do need to go outside my comfort zone - regularly – to live fully. Not just in physical ways, but in spiritual ones, too.

Yes, there will be upsets, falls and obstacles. You won't always feel safe and comfortable.

But the adventure, the beauty, the souls you encounter and the ultimate reward at the end of the journey - are worth

All this He taught me from an unsteady seat in the Niobrara.

Looking Back Elgin Review

Sixty Years Ago

August 26, 1965

The Grand Champion market lamb was grown at the Antelope County Fair by Don Carr and his sister, Janice Carr, displayed the Reserve Grand Champion market lamb. They are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Carr.

Lawrence Wilbur Worden, son of Marvin and Nellie Moore Worden, was born July 6, 1905, in Wheeler county and passed away at his home at Elgin Aug. 18, 1965, at the age of 60 years, one month and two days. Death came after an illness of three years.

A "good neighbor deed" was performed at the Arlo Hoefer farm Tuesday, when a group of thoughtful neighbors, friends and relatives gathered to help with the clean-up after the fire of Sunday afternoon. Men who assisted with the work were John Gadeken, Harold Miller and James, Tom Coleman, Julius Hoefer, Grant Fink, George Siems, Otto Schindler, Roy Sternberg and Jim, Roy Schmidt, Don Jones, Sterling Legate, Guy Hoefer, Gerhart Hanneman, Bill Paul, Glen Ward and Bob Hoefer and Bobbie.

Antelope County Sheriff Lawrence Rittscher, 47, of Neligh was hospitalized following a two-car accident Friday evening. The accident occurred at the intersection of Highways 14 and 20, north of Neligh, when a truck apparently obscured the vision of Richard Olson, 35, of Central City.

A slow, gentle and lengthy storm Friday and Saturday released the much needed elixir (rain) from the heavens that crops in this area have lacked. A total of three inches of moisture was readily absorbed by the thirsty soil with very little runoff.

Fifty Years Ago

August 21, 1975

Quiet reigned over this area Monday following two rain storms which brought 1.65 inches of moisture and farmers welcomed an opportunity to turn off irrigation systems. Strong wind and a heavy downpour struck here early Saturday morning and left an inch of precipitation before the front moved through the area.

Alice Carr, Elgin, showed the Grand Champion Ewe at the Antelope County Fair. Alice also showed the Reserve Grand Champion

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Henkenius will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary at an open house Sunday, August 24 at St. Boniface gym. They will welcome their friends and relatives between the hours of two and four o'clock in the afternoon.

Joann Weber, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Weber, was awarded a Master of Science for Teachers degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in commencement exercises held Aug. 15, 1975. She was a 1968 graduate of Pope John XXIII CCHS and holds an undergraduate degree from Creighton University.

Mr. and Mrs. David Kallhoff are parents of a daughter, Christa Marie, weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces, born Aug. 14, 1975 at Antelope Memorial Hospital.

Thirty Years Ago

August 23, 1995

Antelope County's 1995 property valuation figures, released Monday by County Assessor Deb Kosek, show an increase of \$3.7 million, or nine-tenths of one percent, as compared to last year. The county's total valuation has been certified at \$416,644.757 for

Torrential rains hit Elgin early Tuesday morning, Aug. 22, causing flash flooding problems in town and closing some county roads. Estimated local rainfall for the six-hour period from 3 a.m. to 9 a.m. Tuesday was 6.4 inches. Tuesday's rain came on the heals of a 2 1/2 inch rain Monday.

Elgin Historical Society's fourth annual Bluegrass Festival was again very successful last Sunday, Aug. 20, in the city park. The festival, which attracted an estimated 450 to 500 people, featured 14 country and gospel music acts.

Nila Christensen, 37, is the new Spanish teacher at Elgin Public School and Pope John Central Catholic High School. In addition to part-time duties at those schools, she will be teaching Spanish at Lindsay Holy Family High School.

Descendants of Fred and Cecelia Kerkman held a family reunion in Werner Hall at Petersburg, NE, on Aug. 5, with 450 registered guests. The activities included a catered noon and evening meal

family introductions, visiting, photos, family banner display, children's and adult games, raffle and a children's program. **Twenty Years Ago** August 24, 2005

A total of 71 units of blood were contributed by 80 donors during the Red Cross Bloodmobile visit last Thursday, Aug. 18, at the Elgin Senior Citizens and Community Center. This total exceeded the goal by one unit, according to Rita Wagner, local coordinator.

Installation of a steel stairway and handrail were completed last week on the addition to St. Boniface School in Elgin. The addition, which will house a reception area and principal's office, is nearly completed.

A crowd of about 790 people attended the annual Back to School Street Dance, sponsored by Friends of St. Boniface last Saturday

See BACK, Page 7 ▶

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F&A

Elgin Community Center Menus

Monday, September 1: Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 2: Baked potato bar with lots of toppings, pineapple, bread & butter, milk.

Wednesday, September 3: Fried chicken, macaroni salad, baked beans, tomato/ cucumber salad, strawberry/ rhubarb crisp, bread & butter,

Thursday, September 4: Polish dogs in sauerkraut, mashed potatoes & gravy, green bean casserole, pears, bread & butter, milk

Friday, September 5:

Spaghetti w/meat sauce, green beans, lettuce salad, pineapple, garlic stick, milk.

All meals served with bread

Menus are provided by the Community Center and are

subject to change. Suggested price is \$7 per meal for persons 60 years of

age and older. **Under 60 is \$10.** Serving starts at approx-

imately 11:45 a.m. and ends around 12:15 p.m. Meals are served Monday

thru Friday. Takeout starts at 11:30 a.m.

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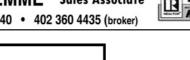


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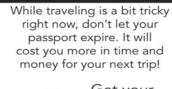
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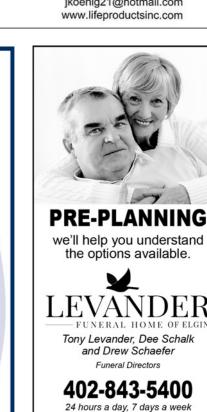
ELGIN CAR SHOW

Funded in part by the Antelope County Visitors Promotion Fund

Pope John XXIII Central Catholic School in Elgin, NE is seeking a CAFETERIA MANAGER (30 hours/wk) and an ASSISTANT (10 hours/wk) to immediately fill two open positions. Paid leave and benefits are available. To Apply: Contact Lisa Schumacher at 402-843-5325 or Ischumacher@pjcrusaders.org or stop by the school office. Submit applications by mail, email or in person: Pope John XXIII Central Catholic School Attn: Lisa Schumacher POPE JOHN XXIII PO Box 179 CENTRAL CATHOLIC 303 Remington Street

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Elgin Review



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

Edward R. Murrow

A new, 18-member commission is the latest effort to find property tax relief

Editor's note: Opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Elgin Review.

Gov. Pillen and state lawmakers are taking another run at reducing the much despised, high property taxes in our state, this time via a commission on reforming the way we fund K-12

You gotta admire the governor for keeping on trying. It was one of his top campaign pledges - to cut property

But, we seem to have gotten deeper cuts in state income taxes in recent years than real property tax relief.

NEBRASKA

State Correspondent

Paul Hammel

I know, I'm **ALL THINGS** veering off track.

Back to property "Reforming" the way we fund

local schools which means increasing state funding for local schools - is a key way to reduce local property taxes. But getting

there has proven harder and more complicated than beating Iowa in a college football game. I can't get over

last year's loss when we fumbled away a certain victory at the end against a Hawkeye team that had no discernable OK, I'm veering off track again.

Despite lots of efforts, and some progress here and there, Nebraska's property taxes are still among the highest in the nation.

'Lots of land and not enough people" has always been one of the excuses. (If not for immigrants, our state's population would be stagnant.)

But the economy has also been to blame. After the recession years around 2009, farmland prices exploded, while the price of residential property barely increased. It dramatically increased farmland valuations, and resulted in a great load of property taxes being paid by farmers and ranchers.

To be sure, state lawmakers have tried to deal with that, and have even directed a larger share of state property tax credits to agricultural land. And overall, we're getting more credits from the state to offset local property taxes on homes and ag land.

But despite all that, Nebraska's property taxes continue to rise. Our "effective rate" is the 4th highest in the U.S., according to the Tax Foundation. Our



taxes on property are the 6th highest according to Rocket Mortgage, and 9th highest according to Wallet Hub. Not the kind of Top 10s we want to be in.

Pillen has tried every year to do something about high property taxes. He increased state aid to schools, proposed (without much luck) a slew of tax shifts by eliminating sales tax exemptions on services and luxury items, and even called senators into a special session last year on taxes.

But like those pesky Iowans, there always seemed to be an effective defense to stop any meaningful progress To be sure, it's much easier to say "I'm going to cut property taxes," than to actually get it done.

The same thing happened during this year's session of the State Legislature, forcing Pillen and State Sen. Jana Hughes of Seward to opt for the timeworn solution to perplexing problems

- appoint a committee to study it.

This approach – appointing an 18-member School Finance Reform Commission to suggest a better way to support K-12 education by Dec. 1 – can work. But it will face the same head winds past efforts have confronted it's a complicated problem, there's a lot of different ideas on what will work, and every solution has winners and losers (and each hires lobbyists). Thus it's hard to find consensus.

Personally, I think the state should shift more of the tax load onto sales and income taxes. Every year it seemed, the Legislature granted a new sales tax exemption for some entity that was threatening to move out of the state. Time to get rid of some of those. And I'm all for taxing junk food and some services.

Those are not new ideas, but past efforts have lacked a solid consensus, between ag and business interests, between rural and urban state senators, to get it done.

It's often said that it takes a "crisis" to get meaningful change enacted. I'm not sure we've reached a crisis level. Maybe, if crop prices and farm income continue to drop, we might get

But we all want lower property taxes. Maybe, just maybe, this new, 18-member commission might achieve a breakthrough.

Paul Hammel has covered the Nebraska state government and the state for decades. Prior to his retirement, he was 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.

Providing opportunities for youth

The transition from summer to fall is a busy time in the Cornhusker State. As farmers prepare for harvest and the new football and volleyball seasons arrive, parents and students are gearing up to go back to school and teachers are working hard for the start of a new semester. Young people across the Third District anticipate new opportunities as they take new steps in their educational journey.

I recognize the vital importance of supporting the next generation of community leaders. Because of this, I consistently advocate for federal policy which increases educational opportunity, and through my offices, I offer several services connecting young leaders with unique experiences.

To give parents greater choice in the education of their children and promote support for families who need assistance, I championed inclusion of my bill, the Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA) in the tax package we passed and President Trump signed into law last month.

Back-to-school costs can present a serious challenge for many household budgets, and ECCA scholarships can be

applied to a variety of needs, including school supplies, services, equipment and tuition. These scholarships will benefit students in any educational setting, public, private, or homeschool, including in rural school districts which may have limited resources. To engage on

issues facing our

country, I invite

Adrian Smith

FROM THE

HILL

high school students who have completed at least their freshman year to apply for my Youth Advisory Council, a forum where young Nebraskans can discuss their questions, aspirations, and concerns directly with me. Applicants must submit an application prior to August 31, 2025 and be able to serve through May 2026. For more information, and to download the application, please visit AdrianSmith House Gov Youth-Advisory-Council.

One of the greatest privileges of my position is the opportunity to provide nominations to the United States Service Academies. Many Third District Nebraskans have earned admission to our Service Academies and served our nation's military with distinction. In order to be considered for nomination, students are required to provide academic records, letters of recommendation, and other relevant information, and must meet with my Service Academy advisory committee. For more information about the Service Academy nominating process, please contact my Grand Island Office at (308) 384-3900.

Young leaders who seek firsthand experience in public service can apply for internships with my offices in Washington, Nebraska City, Grand Island, or Scottsbluff. Interns help me and my team serve Third District constituents by providing tours of the U.S. Capitol, attending congressional hearings and briefings, preparing legislative recommendations, and assisting my staff with constituent correspondence, casework, etc.

This summer, I was grateful for the work of the following interns: Samantha Bonifas of Roseland, NE, Corbin Rhoades of Roca, NE, Isaac Herman of Clarks, NE, Arielle Lawrence of Marsland, NE, CJ Trapeur of Glendale, AZ, and Connie Gassaway of Sterling, CO. The inside view of the legislative process and all the ways my offices serve Nebraskans make a congressional internship a highly valuable experience for college students and recent graduates. Those interested

See SMITH, Page 5 ▶

'One Big Beautiful Bill puts rural health care needs for Nebraskans front and center

Nebraska. Their health care needs are unique and require tailored solutions. The One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB) puts rural patients front and center. It brings care, stability, and reform where it's needed

WASHINGTON REPORT



Pete Ricketts

most. We are providing for rural hospitals so they can continue providing for the Good Life.

Rural hospitals are lifelines for families across Nebraska. They face challenges that urban hospitals don't. However, our rural hospitals have found ways to adjust and serve their communities. To support this mission, the One Big Beautiful Bill establishes a \$50 billion Rural Healthcare Fund to be distributed over the next five years. Half of the fund is equally split across all 50 states. That's \$100 million guaranteed annually for Nebraska.

The state will be responsible for distributing these funds to rural hospitals. The remaining funds will be distributed by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Rural hospitals will apply to

on admission rates, Medicaid share, or will support telehealth, new technology, and data management upgrades.

Now, a small-town hospital will have the resources to find solutions to the challenges they face. The funding can also help recruit nurses, doctors, and specialists to small towns. On top of this, hospitals across Nebraska are receiving a significant boost in funding. A few weeks ago, CMS approved Nebraska's State Directed Payment Plan. This plan is estimated to provide an additional \$200 million annually for Nebraska hospitals.

The One Big Beautiful Bill fosters healthcare innovation. Rural Nebraskans deserve modern care, close to home. OBBB funds will encourage adoption of emerging technology emphasizing prevention and chronic disease management. It allows further investments in modern equipment, electronic records, and telehealth. That means a farmer in Arapahoe can see a specialist virtually. It means regular care from home for the most remote Nebraskans, not a rushed and distant Urgent Care appointment. In addition to the Rural Health Care Fund, we passed the most comprehensive Medicaid reform in decades. It preserves Medicaid for who it was created to help—kids, seniors, and the disabled. Medicaid is vital to protecting Nebraska's most vulnerable.

To be sustainable, the system must be efficient and accountable. That's why we fixed holes, eliminated abuses, and set it on the path for long-term success.

This bill makes every Medicaid dollar work smarter for Nebraskans. It introduces common-sense safeguards to stop waste and fraud. The reforms ensure dead people do not remain enrolled in Medicaid. It stops people who are enrolled in multiple states from collecting in both states. It's not fair to let them double dip. Medicaid will require able-bodied people without young kids at home to be productive in their community to receive this low-cost, government-subsidized insurance. They will have to contribute to their community by working, volunteering, or studying for 20 hours a week. That's not too much to ask. Medicaid is going to continue to grow at \$750 billion over the next ten years. We are strengthening and preserving Medicaid for those who need it.

OBBB also cleans up burdensome Biden-era mandates that hurt rural healthcare facilities. The Biden administration mandated minimum staffing requirements for long-term care facilities. The regulation would require a registered nurse to be present 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This would

See RICKETTS, Page 5 ▶

Numbers to Know .

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

CMS for the grants, which will distribute them based

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) 2250207. 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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Email: elginreview@yahoo.com

Online: www.elginreview.com

◆ FROM Page 4

should visit my website at AdrianSmith.House.Gov/Services/Internships. Students and families can also take advantage of

services my office provides, including attending the Nebraska

Breakfast, tour reservations for the Capitol, White House, and other Washington, DC sites, and the annual Congressional Art Competition. I am so often encouraged by the willingness

District, and I am working to foster their thoughtful contribu-

to engage and serve I see in young leaders from the Third

Smith

tions to our state and country.

SOLVE NEBRASKA'S CHILD CARE CRISIS.

Our communities are working

hard to address Nebraska's child

care crisis. But we can't do it alone. We need real solutions now.

NebraskaCaresForKids.org

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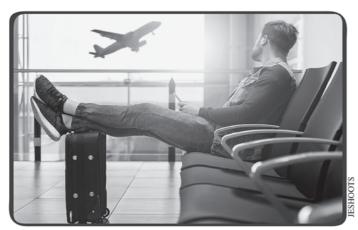




How is your faith? Could it use a boost? St. Boniface

Attending church services has so many benefits...spiritual growth, community connections, and - believe it or not positive health outcomes. Regular church attendance can also give you opportunities for personal development, service, and a deepening your faith. If your faith could use a booster shot, attend a service of your choice.

No Vacations



God does not take a vacation.

God is always on the job.

God said He never would forsake us.

Take God at His word.

Amen.

Romans 11:36

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Hear that word this week in church.

The Lord is my helper

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Psalm 81:1, 10-16

"You'll find peace of mind and

companionship at The Willows.

CPM P.O. Box 301 Siren, WI 54872

Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for Sunday, August 31, 2025 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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



ELGIN Livestock Sales PO Box 100 • 100 S Myrtle Elgin, Nebraska 68636

Teachers deserve our thanks

As the school year kicks off, it's a good time to tell Nebraska's teachers thank you. They are difference makers, and the men and women who lead our classrooms are some of the biggest mentors and role models our kids will have in their lives.

My wife of 46 years, Suzanne, worked as a teacher in elementary schools – and, as First Lady, continues to travel the state to spend time in classrooms engaging with kids and reading books with

grade schoolers. Teachers - especially the one I married – have played an outsized role in my

I want Nebraska's students to have the same

experience that I had: to be inspired, challenged, and empowered. My administration has made kids a priority – at the end of the day, everything we do is about our kids and their role in the future of our great state. Whether it's mastering the basics - reading, writing, math, science - or developing practical skills in PE or a shop class, education is

new skill – and those help shape a student for a lifetime and one might spark the life-long pursuit of a dream. Since becoming Governor, here's some of

about building blocks. One lesson leads to a

Jim Pillen the work we've been doing to help Nebraska's teachers serve our kids:

We're taking cell phones out of classrooms – bell-to-bell. After listening to feedback from students, teachers, and other local leaders, it's abundantly clear that cell screens are a major point of distraction and contention.

They only take away from the learning environment and dissuade kids from focusing on the work in front of them and can lead

More and more data show us we need to keep raising awareness about how detrimental phones and screens can be to our kids. It's time we set both our students and teachers up for success.

I'm grateful to have worked with Sen. Rita Sanders last session and an overwhelming, bipartisan majority of senators – to get this common-sense legislation signed into law.

We're giving teachers a raise.

As a result of LB 645, which was introduced by Sen. Beau Ballard at my request, teachers will bring home an additional \$1,000 per year in take-home pay, on average, as we rebalance (and gradually reduce) the required contribution rates to the school employee's retirement system.

Saying thank you makes a difference, but this is about bigger investments in our classroom leaders too.

We're prioritizing our need to make sure that those nearest our students have the biggest influence.

See PILLEN, Page 8 ▶

Ricketts

FROM THE

DESK OF....

Nebraska Governor

◄ FROM **Page 4**

have had terrible consequences for rural communities. We have many counties in Nebraska where we struggle to find qualified nurses. Many long-term care facilities find it difficult to recruit and retain qualified staff. The Biden regulation may have forced nursing homes in Nebraska to close. This would have limited access to care for seniors. After hearing from rural healthcare providers and patients, I made it a priority to

fix this. We reversed Biden's harmful rule by passing the OBBB. The One Big Beautiful Bill protects rural care and modernizes Medicaid for the future. It delivers what Nebraskans asked for: accountability and access. Rural hospitals receive more resources. Families get care that works for them.

Good Life.

Medical providers get the support they need to serve their communities. That's how we provide for the

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Elgin, NE

Pastor Jonathan Braden

605-430-9171

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 Hasskarl

Immanuel-Zion

Lutheran Church

ELCA

Rural Albion, NE

Pastor Elizabeth Goehring

Coffee following services

(facility is handicap accessible plus Facebook Live and broadcasts on cable channel 65, Tuesday at 10:30 am.)

Holy Communion, 1st & 3rd Sundays

Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:30 am.

Sunday Worship: 8:30 am.

Worship Service: 9:30 am.

Sunday School: 10:30 am.

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 am.

Church Council: 2nd Tuesday of each

Sunday Worship Service: 8 am.

Sunday school follows service.

2nd Saturday of each month.

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Catholic Church

Elgin, NE Fr. John Norman, Pastor Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor Confessions: 5-5:30 on Wednesdays. Weekend Mass: Sunday, 10 am. cppnebraska.org

St. Bonaventure **Catholic Church** Raeville, NE Fr. John Norman, Pastor

cppnebraska.org Park Congregational U.C.C. Church

Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor

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

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

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.

Worship Service: 10:45 am

Sunday School: 10-10:45 am. **Calvary Bible Church**

Neligh, NE Pastor Peter Sample Sunday School: 9:30 am.

Faith

is confidence is what we

Salads . Fresh fit

Carryover priority bills

For the past few weeks, I have continued a series where I highlight several of the priority bills and resolutions that are pending and could be scheduled early next session. This week's newsletter will provide an overview of several more carryover priority bills and resolutions which could be potentially debated sometime early next year.

LB632 by Senator Hansen would require healthcare facilities to dispose of fetal tissue following an elective abortion via cremation, interment by burial, or as directed by the Board of Health. The introducer's intent is to require healthcare facilities to respect the dignity of aborted children when disposing of their remains. However, during floor debate earlier this year, opponents of LB632 argued that the bill is vague and would further restrict access to abortion. LB632 is currently pending on Select File. However, further consideration and advancement of LB632 may be contingent on an amendment from Senator Riepe to give women an option for the proper disposal of fetal remains and explicitly protect in-vitro fertilization.

LB258 by Senator Raybould would amend the minimum wage ballot measure approved by voters in 2022. Specifically, the bill would cap the minimum wage at \$13.50 per hour for workers younger than 16 years old.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



mum wage increases District 40 Senator at a less-**Barry DeKay** er rate of 1.5% instead of being adjusted for inflation, which could be much higher. Another change would modify the 90-day training wage for new employees under 18 to \$13.50 and to 75% of the minimum wage in

2027. The intent of the introducer is to provide businesses with more certainty when making decisions and give small businesses a reasonable compromise In contrast on ponents of the bill argued that the measure would both harm the state's lowest earners and undermine the will of statewide Nebraska voters who approved ballot measures. LB258 is currently pending on Final Reading.

LR20CA by Senator Bostar is a proposed constitutional amendment which would allow voters to approve online sports wagering in the state. Currently, state law allows casino style gambling at the state's six existing horse racetracks. LR20CA would allow the gaming operators at the six licensed racetracks in Nebraska to offer sports wagering through mobile platforms, provided the bettor is located within Nebraska when placing the wager. If approved by voters, LR20CA would direct revenue received from taxes on online sports wagering to the Property Tax Credit Fund. LR20CA is currently pending on Select File after stalling during debate when opponents to the measure raised concerns relating to addiction and the social

costs of gambling. LB676 by Senator Hansen would, as amended on General File, update the Certified Nurse Midwifery Practice Act to align with the forty-nine other states. The bill would strike a requirement for a Certified Nurse Midwife to have a practice agreement with a collaborating licensed practitioner and eliminate the location restriction on where they may perform authorized medical functions. The bill also would include Certified Nurse Midwives as part of the Nebraska Hospital-Medical Liability Act. LB676 is cur-

rently pending on Select File. I invite you to let me know your thoughts or concerns. My Capitol office telephone number is (402) 471-2801 while my email is bdekay@leg. ne.gov.

Shape the future of Wheeler County's Past: Museum meeting set

Have you ever wondered how long your family—or someone else's—has lived in this area? How did Wheeler County come to be, and when was it officially established? Who were its earliest residents, and where did they come from? Was your family part of that history? Have you ever thought about what future generations will know about the place they call home? And have you taken the time to explore the Wheeler County Museum in Bartlett to learn more about the

nity? Our history needs you! On Sunday, September 14 at 3 p.m., join us at the Old Firehall in Bartlett to help protect and preserve the stories that shaped our county. With only four volunteers currently keeping the Wheeler County Museum going, we urgently need more commu-

stories that shaped our commu-

This meeting will focus on the museum's future and how you can play a role in keeping

nity members to step forward.

its doors open. Together, we can make sure our heritage continues to inspire future genera-

Haven't toured the museum yet? Doors will open at 2 p.m.

THE 2025-2026

for anyone who would like to browse the exhibits before the meeting and after the meeting. For additional information contact Sharon at 402-843-2384 or Lila at 970-520-7799.

A limited number are

Subscribe to the Review today!



Katherine A. Kusek, DDS, PC

305 W. Church St, Albion, NE

August 2025

Athletes on this year's

calendar are Libby Evans, Braelyn Martinsen, Camry

Kittelson, Samantha Stuhr,

Evin Pelster, Landyn Veik,

Jarek Erickson, Max Henn,

Michael Selting and

The calendars contain sporting

events and scheduled activities

at Elgin Public and Pope John

XIII Central Catholic schools

BITUARIES

Dan C. Sutton, 90

February 19, 1935 - August 21, 2025

A U.S. Army veteran, Dan worked as a local manager/lineman for 39 years in towns including Elgin and Tilden.

Dan C. Sutton, 90, died on

August 21st in Kearney, NE. He was born on February 19, 1935, in Randolph, NE, to Frank and Opal (Lackas)

He graduated from Hartington High School in 1952. After graduation, he attended and played football at Wayne State College. Dan proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1955-1957 with the 865th Antiaircraft Artillery Missile Battalion, stationed in California. He married Janet Bottolfson on February 23, 1956. They were married for nearly 53 years until her death in 2009.

Dan worked for Nebraska Public Power District as a local manager and lineman for 39 years, serving several Nebraska towns including Oakland, Elgin, Tilden, and Shelton, before retiring in 1996. Following his retirement, he worked alongside his son Todd in his electrician business until July of this year. Dan was a devoted family man who loved following his children's and grandchildren's sporting events, as well as cheering on the Nebraska Huskers. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, and trying his luck at the casino. Dan

coached his sons' little league teams, was a Cub Scout leader, and served his community on several boards, including the Chamber of Commerce and as School Board president. He was also a member of the United Methodist Church.

Dan is survived by his daughter Julie (Dave) Oakeson, and three sons, Cary (Lisa) of Springfield, Tim (Sandra) of Wayne, and Todd (Sandy) of Shelton. He is also survived by eight grandchildren: Kyle, Bret, and Drew Oakeson; Matthew, Allison, and Maggie Sutton; McKenzie Gomez; and Kolby Sutton; and four great-grandchildren: Quinn, Kendall, Sutton, and Mason Oakeson. He is also survived by his sister, Mary Belle Pfeil of Elkhorn, and many nieces and nephews.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Janet, his brother David Sutton, and his sister Opal Kay Sutton.

A graveside service will be held at a later date in Hartington, NE.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent in his memory to Shelton Public Schools. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

The Elgin Review • August 27, 2025



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Lab charges are not submitted to insurance

For appt. (required), call 402.887.6257 amhne.org

Most tractors, vehicles and some equipment will be on EquipmentFacts at 12:00 noon.



TRACTORS Believed to be 1975 666 gas WF 3pt. 4188 hours, not verified. "Straight tin work", good rubber. Sold with F-11 Loader. Loader in good condition, no welds. Snow bucket and manure bucket w/grapple sold separately,

- runs good. the TA works good. 1960 Farmall McCormick 560 diesel NF 2pt. F.H., showing 6391 hrs. SN 6391 - runs good.

1966 Farmall 656 diesel WF 3pt. TA Works 3 rear weights on each side, 2 front weights, SN 175775 - runs good 1950 Farmall H NF, - runs good, SN

344154 IHC M NF tractor, does not run. Back rubber is good, rims are bad. Sold with F 11 loader no bucket.

VEHICLES:



2006 Mercury Grand Marquis LS -4.6 L V-8, dual power seats, leather, power everything: windows/seats/ locks, 90,828 miles

2013 Ford F-150 1/2 Ton 4x4, cruise, CD, AC. 5.0 L V-8, regular cab, long box, Automatic, power windows/locks, 79,793 miles,

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TRACTORS, VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT, TOOLS & MISC. Restrooms

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 2025 · 10:00 AM

LOCATION: 52890 839 RD., OAKDALE, NE 68761 - FROM ELGIN, NE, 8 MILES EAST ON 839 RD. TO 529 AVE.,

1/2 MILE NORTH. - FROM OAKDALE, NE, 6 MILES SOUTH TO 839 RD., 2 MILES EAST TO 529 AVE., 1/2 MILE NORTH.

FROM TILDEN, NE, 4 MILES SOUTH ON HWY 45 TO 839 RD., 5 MILES WEST TO 529 AVE, 1/2 MILE NORTH

To register to bid online call: 908-788-2025 48 hours prior to the auction.

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one with self locking tongue, good condition
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IHC 133 4-row cultivator IHC 4-bottom semi-mount

John Deer 3-bottom pull-type Sweep head for F-11 loader Elevator/dryer/corn picker/

Aluminum 4-wheeler ramp
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portable, adjustable loading

PTO wire winder

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· John Deere running gear

· IHC front tractor weights

SHOP EQUIP. & TOOLS:

Acetylene torch – very nice
 Forney welder
 Darkening welder helmet
 IHC 255 power washer
 Omaha industrial band saw

High lift jacksDewalt chop saw

Triumph bench grinder Reliable drill press on stand Several sets of sockets Many various sizes of wrenches Organizers. There will be a couple of flat racks

LAWN MOWERS:



Red Max RZT-42 riding lawn mower, Kawasaki 21 Hp 0-Turn 42" cut, 1,645

 Dixon Zero Turn 30' deck 16 Hp B&S motor, needs belt

Craftsman 22" weed trimme

Several hand weed eaters

WILLIAM (GALE) SHENSHEW **ESTATE, OWNER** REX SCHULZ PR. (217) 653-9355

AUCTION STAFF: John Temme, Broker/Auctioneer Jonathan Temme, Associate Broker/Auctionee

Ron Coakes, Petersburg, 402-843-8507

Community Calendar

Friday, August 29 'Friday Night Lights' at Elgin Field (Sponsored by Nebraska State Patrol)*

Sunday, August 31 St. John's (Petersburg) Annual Bazaar @ Werner Hall. Serving from 11 a.m. to

Monday, September 1 Labor Day holiday (no school).

Tuesday, September 2 Regular meeting of the Antelope County Board of Commissioners.*

Wednesday, September 3 Regular meeting of the Elgin City

Tuesday, September 9 Regular meeting of the Antelope County Board of Commissioners.*

Wednesday, September 10 Regular meeting of the District #18 Board of Education.*

Thursday, September 18 Joint Tax Public Hearing at the Antelope County Courthouse in Neligh @



116 N 2nd Street, Elgin

A 44-year-old man currently incarcerated in the Pierce County Jail was found guilty,

Aug. 21, of six felony counts in Antelope County District Court. A jury of three women and nine men found deliberated for less than an hour before returning the verdict on Suni Rain Moone, which includes four counts of burglary and two in August 2024.

counts of theft. He will be sentenced Oct. 29 by the Honorable James Kube.

The trial for Moone, formerly known as Jeshua Divis, began Aug. 18. Moone faced four charges filed by Antelope County Attorney Joe Smith, including two counts of burglary from an August 2024 break-in

at two storage units in northern Antelope County.

In March, Smith charged Moone with another count of burglary, claiming the defendant broke into a storage facility on another property, in addition to a fourth charge, felony theft, when Moone allegedly stole a 2007 GMC Yukon Denali

In May, Smith added another charge against Moone, for theft and burglary at a rural Orchard property, including tools and a tool box worth between \$1,500 and \$4,999.

Testimony during the trial included individuals who had items stolen from storage units and sheds in Antelope County, including a red 2000 Ford Mustang and a 2007 GMC Yukon Denali that was for sale.

Moone found guilty of six felony counts last week

According to Nebraska State Patrol Investigator Tyler Mann, who performed a forensic download of Moone's cellphone, several photos, videos and text messages were recovered that incriminate Moone.

During Tuesday's court session, jurors viewed an Aug. 24, 2024 video recorded from Moone's phone, showing him looking around inside the Mustang, in addition to a second video Moone recorded of himself driving the Mustang.

According to Mann, Moone sent a text message to an associate outlining how to haul the

Mustang on a trailer towed by a Yukon Denali.

Text messages also included information about two four wheelers which would need to be loaded on the trailer.

Mann testified that he found an Aug. 24 picture on Moone's phone of tools at a storage unit in Snyder. Many items in the photo were the same reported missing by the owners.

Mann secured records from an Omaha pawn shop, dated Aug. 24, that showed Divis received \$60 from the pawn shop for a Snap-On cordless driver and a Dewalt cordless grinder.

Moone, who represented himself in the trial, objected to having jurors view the photos

and videos.

Throughout the trial, the defendant was reprimanded several times by Kube, for making faces and gestures at witnesses

Considered a habitual criminal, Moone has upcoming trials in both Pierce and Madison

In Pierce County, Moone faces a felony charge for possession of a stolen 1999 Harley Davidson motorcycle.

That trial is slated to begin

Aug. 27. Moone allegedly stole a 2015 Dodge Ram pickup and a 20-foot trailer on Aug. 20, 2024, in Madison County. He is expected to go to trial on Sept. 9.

Courtesy of SAM

night, Aug. 20, on west Maple Street. "The Rumbles" entertained from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at

A family picnic reunion was held Saturday, Aug. 13, at the Elgin City Park for the descendants of Leo and Rose Jochum. The next Jochum family reunion will be held Sept. 3, 2006

Back

◄ FROM Page 3

the outdoor dance.

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Dermatology Dr. Clarey Sept. 26 th
Endocrinology Dr. Brau/Leah Haak-BeckSept. 9 th
General Surgery Dr. Schneider/Dr. LuebbeSept. 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th
Heartland RadiologySept. 5 th , 8 th , 12 th , 15 th , 19 th , 22 nd , 26 th , 29 th
Neurosurgery Dr. BixenmannSept. 3 rd
Norfolk Cardiology Dr. Hartzell/Dr. Rome Sept. 2 nd , 16 th
OB-GYN Dr. AlbinSept. 10 th
Orthopedics Dr. Ochs/Kendra Thiem Sept. 2 nd , 3 rd , 9 th , 10 th , 16 th , 17 th , 23 rd , 24 th , 30 th
Orthopedics Dr. Rickert/Sean CraigSept. 11th, 25th
Otolaryngology Dr. Jazwick/Amber CittaSept. 5th, 19th
Podiatry Dr. BorerSept. 12 th , 24 th
Pulmonology Dr. StrittSept. 17 th
Urology Dr. Hill/StegmanSept. 4th, 18th
Wound Dr. Kohl/Candice SchnoorSept. 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

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PROCEEDINGS

ELGIN CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP

ELGIN CITY COUNCIL Proceedings August 20, 2025

The Elgin City Council met for a budget workshop on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., pursuant to posted notice.

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

Councilmembers present were Craig Niewohner, John "Mike" Dvorak, Leigh Kluthe, and Jeremy

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

■ 2025-2026 budget, no action

The following agenda item was

was taken Budget workshop adjourned at

8:37 p.m. Mayor MIKE SCHMITT City Clerk KRISTIN L. CHILDERS PUBLISH: August 27, 2025

'The house always wins" Nebraska leaders determined to get handle on 'skill games'

By Bob Glissmann Flatwater Free Press

Editor's note: This story is about gambling and problem gambling. Nebraskans seeking help with problem gambling can call 1-833-BETOVER — 833-238-6837 — 24 hours a day.

Mike Sciandra kept \$300-\$400 zippered inside a pouch in his leather backpack, ready for the moment he could take a break from his traveling sales job and walk into a Nebraska bar or convenience store.

There, in Auburn, Aurora, Columbus, North Platte or York, he'd bet the maximum \$4 per spin on a so-called "skill game," a legal slot machine look-alike that until this summer faced

little state scrutiny. Sciandra's gambling on skill games cost the 46-year-old 'many many thousands of dollars." His gambling in general led to two bankruptcies and was a factor in his divorce.

Sciandra, now a recovering gambling addict and executive director of the Nebraska Council on Problem Gambling, notes that until this July, the owners of skilled gaming machines weren't required to contribute a cent of gaming revenue to help problem gamblers. That's despite data showing that 70% of all Nebraskans who seek state-aided counseling report that skill games or casino slots are the source of their gambling

"The people who are playing on (skill games) are losing a lot of money," said David Geier, the executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling, "and they're producing about as many new client contacts as slot machines.'

About 5,450 machines are set up across Nebraska at more than 1,600 locations — bars, restaurants smoke shops tr stops, grocery stores and laun-

That compares with 3,364 slot machines at casinos.

And until recently, the skill games were mostly unregulat-

Legislation that went into effect in July levies a 5% tax on the net operating revenue of most of these devices and requires them to be connected to a central monitoring system so state officials can know how much the devices are taking in

and paying out. A portion of the tax money from skill games — 2.5% — will go to a fund dedicated to helping

2023-2024 Actual Disbursements & Transfers

2024-2025 Actual/Estimated Disbursements & Transfers

Personal and Real Property Tax Required for Bonds

problem gamblers. State officials estimate that the amount will be around \$76,500 a year. Sciandra said that will cover the counseling costs of only a

few problem gamblers. The amount from skill games, both as a percentage and a dollar amount, pales in comparison to Nebraska's forms of gambling. Casinos contribute more than \$1 million a year to help problem gamblers, while the lottery adds about \$950,000.

In 2023, Geier said, the counselors were seeing about 257 people per month. This past year, as more casinos opened and as the number of skill games increased, that number rose to 328.

'Five years ago, I had one client that was struggling with a game at a gas station," said Carly Spring, a certified disordered gambling counselor in Omaha. "And now, yeah, that number is much larger."

See GAMES, Page 12 ▶

Pillen

◆ FROM Page 5

As the size and scope of the U.S. Department of Education is under review, there's big opportunity to return powers and decisions to the states, restoring local control.

This is a pro-kid, pro-parent, pro-teacher position. Our community's schools know the needs of individual students and are best set to serve Nebraska's families.

The right thing to do is to always pursue better outcomes for our students.

We all agree that our school system isn't for funding controversy or division.

We can't let distractions hether on a phone screen or injected by partisan politics - distract from the purpose and mission of our classrooms. That's what this work is about.

Teachers, please know how much your passion and dedication is appreciated. Your efforts are an important part of every family's responsibility to educate and invest in the future

We'll keep doing our part to make our schools a productive and conducive environment for learning by putting Nebraska's kids first – and that starts by saying thanks and celebrating the good work of our teachers and schools.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Stay in the know. Read the Public Notices

NOTICE

ESTATE OF VELENE K. MAHLENDORF, Deceased

NOTICE **Estate of VELENE K.** MAHLENDORF, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on August 19, 2025, in the County Court of Antelope County, Nebraska, Case No. PR25-30, Dranoel K. Fleharty, whose mailing address is 1114 E Street, Cozad, NE 69130 and Danielle L. Hatterman, whose mailing address is 53653 844 1/2 Road, Tilden, NE 68781, have been appointed as co-personal representatives of this estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before October 27, 2025 or be forever barred. Creditors shall submit their claims to the Antelope County Court, P.O. Box 26, Neligh, Nebraska 86756. /s/ Martin V. Klein

Martin V. Klein, #22220 Attorney for Applicant PUBLISH: August 27, September 3 & 10, 2025 **ZNEZ**

NOTICE

ESTATE OF BOYD BECKLEY, Deceased

NOTICE Estate of **BOYD BECKLEY**, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that the Personal Representative has filed a report of his administration and a formal closing petition for complete settlement after informal probate of Will of said deceased, for determination of heirship, and for determination of inheritance tax.

which have been set for hearing in the Antelope County Court, Neligh, Nebraska on September 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

/s/ Martin V. Klein Martin V. Klein, #22220 Attorney for Petitioner PUBLISH: August 27, September 3 & 10, 2025

NOTICE OF SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NOTICE OF MEETINGS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMIS-SIONERS, ANTELOPE COUNTY, **NEBRASKA FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 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:

September 2, 2025 at 9:00 AM September 9, 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: August 27, 2025

ZNEZ

Courthouse News

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

Dylon Parks, Neligh, NE 6/22/25 Zero tolerance violation, Fined \$100.00 - Barker Kristin A Talsma, Verdigre, NE 6/05/25 Speeding 75/65

MPH, Fined \$25.00 - Wiggins Kadin J Scheffler, Albion, NE 6/28/25 Minor in Possession, Fined \$250.00 - Lawson

Grant L Addison, Albion, NE 6/28/25 Minor in Possession, Fined \$300.00 - Lawson

Joanne D. Schottler, Neligh, NE 6/17/25, No operator's license, Fined \$500 - Barker

Matthew L. Wilson, Norfolk NE 3/28/25, DUI-alcohol-1st offense, Fined \$500 - Walker, Hartley

Jason D. Alder (HFMNCO LLC), McLean, NE 7/18/25, Exceed width limits, Fined \$35 - Pfeiffer

Blake E. Peterson (HILD CONSTRUCTION LLC), Elgin, NE 7/21/25, CMV-Brake general/CMV-Tire other, Fined \$100 - Kavan

Matthew L. Wilson, Norfolk, NE 2/6/25, Assault-Cause Bodily Injury, Fined \$500 - Moore

Ty T. Landers, Scotia, NE 6/28/25, Minor in possession, Fined \$300 - Mills

Curtis A. Grafton, Virginia

1,657,061.24

1,748,399.90

42,680.00

Beach, VA 6/5/25, No operator's license, Fined \$75 - Barker Anne T. Kaiser, Denver, CO

7/9/25, Speeding 80/65 mph, Fined \$75 - Barker Omar H. Ruiz, Omaha, NE

7/12/25, Speeding 70/55 mph, Fined \$75 - Barker Tighe G. Paulk, Tilden, NE

6/23/25, Possess/consume open alcohol container, Fined \$50

Brittany M. Olson, Neligh, NE 6/30/25, No license on person, Fined \$25 - Walker

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

DISTRICT #45 BOARD OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF SPECIAL BOARD 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 PUB-LIC SCHOOLS WILL BE HELD AT THE WHEELER CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER IN BARTLETT, NEBRASKA.

ON: MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025

TIME: Following Board Work Session

WHICH MEETING WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. AN AGEN-DA FOR SUCH MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPEC-TION AT THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, WHEELER CENTRAL SCHOOLS, BARTLETT, NEBRASKA. JESSIE SWICK

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF **EDUCATION** WHEELER CENTRAL SCHOOLS PUBLISH: August 27, 2025

Edge

tioneer Championship pick-up. Seemingly talking to himself, he's actually practicing by selling each electrical pole as he passes. It takes long hours to achieve the speed, clarity, and rhythm to create excitement, FOMO (fear of missing out) and sales as high as the market will bear.

Back home in Canada, he gives a shout out to his wife, Jeanine, and three teenage children, along with extended family, friends, and the entire Rimbey community, for full support of his traveling responsibilities as champion. A livestock producer himself, he maintains about a 90-head cow-calf operation and averages four local auctions a week in fall, six in spring, and a couple in summer.

About Elgin, he said, "Everywhere I go, it's good people, just like where I'm from. I meet new people, make new friends all like-minded in the same industry, and get inspired to make improvements

One relatively new way of cattle sales is live video streaming of auctions, which began in the late 1990s in Nebraska, where buyers who have been checked for financial worthiness can bid from their offices. This expanded buyer pool requires a reliable Internet connection on both ends. The local Elgin sale barn uses CattleUSA as the platform for online sales.

In the sale barn, Edge and others working the sale keep a careful eye on a flashing laptop along from buyers near and far, plus the subtle signs of a bid from folks in the seating around the sale ring. It's fast-paced, exciting, and all in the interest of fair price discov-

During his one-day stay in Elgin, Edge fit in perfectly with the local crowd -- listening, answering questions, and obviously enjoying every moment of his time here. Next stop on his Midwest swing was St. Marys, KS. His reign wraps up as a master of ceremonies at the 2026 World Livestock Auctioneer Championship June 17-20 in St. Onge, SD

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It isn't a substitute for the legal publishing of public notices but it is a bonus for both the entity publishing the notices and you, our readers.

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

City of Elgin Antelope County, Nebraska

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-513, that the governing body will meet on the 3rd day of September 2025, at 7:15 P.M., at Elgin City Hall, Elgin, NE for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the following proposed budget. The budget detail is available at the office of the Clerk during regular business hours.

2,683,458.00 2025-2026 Proposed Budget of Disbursements & Transfers 614,921.57 2025-2026 Necessary Cash Reserve 3,298,379.57 2025-2026 Total Resources Available Total 2025-2026 Personal & Real Property Tax Requirement 230,050.00 Unused Budget Authority Created For Next Year 2,896.02 **Breakdown of Property Tax:** Personal and Real Property Tax Required for Non-Bond Purposes 187,370.00

NOTICE OF SPECIAL HEARING TO SET FINAL TAX REQUEST

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Section 77-1632, that the governing body will meet on the 3rd day of September 2025, immediately following the conclusion of the budget hearing at Elgin City Hall, Elgin, NE for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request.

Valuation Tax Rate if Prior Tax Request was at Current Valuation

Operating Budget

Property Tax Request

2,774,088.00 2,683,458.00 -3% 217,655.00 \$ 230,050.00 6% 64,276,701 68,577,270 7% -1% 0.338622 0.335461 0.317387 **ZNEZ** PUBLISH: August 27, 2025

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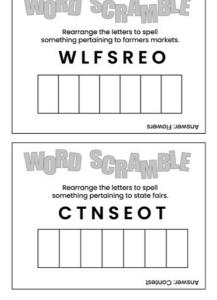
Deadline Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

SERVICES:

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







Nightime road work slated for US 81 in Norfolk, to begin week of Sept. 1

Drivers told to use caution, stay alert

Aug. 25, 2025 (Norfolk, Neb.) -Weather permitting, the week of Sept. 1, nighttime work will begin on U.S. Highway 81 (US-81) (13th Street) in Norfolk, from Pasewalk Avenue to South Airport Road, according to the Nebraska Department of Transpor-

Work will include milling of the existing asphalt pavement and placement of new asphalt pavement.

The anticipated hours of operation for this work will be 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Traffic will be maintained with lane restrictions and temporary traffic control devices.

Motorists are reminded to drive cautiously in and near work zones, to buckle up, and put phones down.



Why it's important to understand the role of silage inoculants

Silage is a vital component of many cattle diets, particularly during periods when fresh forage is not available. Properly fermented silage can provide a nutrient-rich, easily digestible feed that supports cattle health and productivity. However, achieving high-quality silage is not a simple process, and one of the key tools to ensure successful fermentation is the use of silage inoculants. These products contain specific strains of beneficial bacteria that enhance the fermentation

process, preserve the feed's



IT'S ALL



Asst. Ext. Educator Ben Beckman

LEGAL EDITOR

Municipal Code Services, Neligh

Work into full-time managing editor. Revise city

and village ordinance books with occasional

research of Nebraska statutes. Work with

Microsoft Word and scanner. Detail person, good

English/grammar skills. Email cover letter and

resumé to Roxanne, leagle2@mcnallylaw.net

402-887-5022 for more information.

nutritional value, and minimize spoilage. For producers looking to optimize their silage production, understanding the role and benefits of silage inoculants is crucial. Here are three key points to consider:

1. Improving Fermentation Efficiency and Silage Quality

The primary role of silage inoculants is to enhance the fermentation process, which is critical in preserving the feed. Fermentation in silage occurs

under anaerobic conditions, where naturally occurring

lactic acid bacteria convert sugars in the forage into lactic acid. This lowers the pile's pH, creating an environment that inhibits the growth of spoilage organisms such as molds and undesirable bacteria. Because the natural population of lactic acid bacteria in forage can vary significantly, fermentation can

sometimes be inconsistent. Silage inoculants address this issue by introducing a controlled, concentrated population of beneficial bacteria, typically from the Lactobacillus and Pediococcus species. These bacteria rapidly lower the pH, ensuring a faster and more reliable fermentation process. The result is higher-quality silage with better nutrient preservation, reduced dry matter losses, and lower risk of spoilage. A faster fermentation can help prevent a mediocre pile from spoiling and going from ok to bad. Even in a good pile, this not only helps in maintaining feed quality but also improves the palatability of silage, leading to better feed intake and overall animal performance.

2. Enhanced Aerobic Stability: Reducing Spoilage Losses

Another critical benefit of using silage inoculants is the improvement in aerobic stability, which is the silage's ability to resist spoilage when exposed to air during feeding. Once silage is exposed to oxygen, typically during feedout, it becomes susceptible to the growth of yeast and molds. This can lead to significant losses in feed quality and quantity.

Inoculants often contain strains of bacteria, such as Lactobacillus buchneri, that produce acetic acid during fermentation. Acetic acid is particularly effective at inhibiting the growth of spoilage organisms when silage is exposed to air. By enhancing aerobic stability, silage inoculants help extend the shelf life of silage once it's opened, reducing waste and ensuring a more consistent feed supply.

3. Economic Benefits: Balancing Cost with Returns

While the use of silage inoculants represents an additional cost in the silage-making process, the potential economic benefits often outweigh the expense. High-quality silage with improved nutrient retention and reduced spoilage translates into better livestock performance, which can be seen in higher milk yields for dairy cows or better weight gain in beef cattle. Additionally, by reducing dry matter losses and minimizing the amount of spoiled feed that needs to be discarded, inoculants can contribute to more efficient use of forage, effectively stretching feed supplies further.

Beyond the direct benefits, using inoculants can also reduce the need for purchased feed supplements, as well-preserved silage can provide a more complete nutritional profile. When evaluating the cost of inoculants, it is important for farmers to consider these long-term benefits. Strategic use of silage inoculants can lead to improved profitability by enhancing feed efficiency and animal health, thus supporting the overall sustainability of the farming operation.

Silage inoculants are a powerful tool for farmers and cattle owners looking to optimize their silage quality and ensure a stable, high-quality feed supply for their livestock. By im-

Howells 15th Annual BBQ & Brew Saturday, Sept. 6 • Howells Ballroom

Come help us Celebrate our 15th and FINAL year of the BBQ & Brew! In honor of the 15th year, Adult Admission is now \$15!!! NEW THIS YEAR....Hamburgers are on the menu!

Serving 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$15/Person • Under 10 - \$10
Sample variety of ribs from BBQ competitors.

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opportunities available. A complete job description may be requested from the village office at 209 E.

Nebraska Street in Ewing or by calling 402-626-7718.

Ewing is located in Holt County, part of the

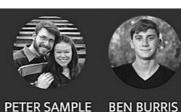
Summerland School District, and is accessible to great

outdoor recreational activities.

proving fermentation efficiency, enhancing aerobic stability, and offering economic benefits, inoculants can play a critical role in forage management. As with any agricultural input, the key is to understand how these products work and to use them strategically to maximize their

benefits.

- 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.









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for worship,

games, and

good fellow-

be provided.

nity Christian

Walking With

The Lord 2025

Conference on

Saturday, Septem-

ning from 9 am - 3

pm at the Elgin CC

110 North 4th Street

Church located at

Church presents

ship! lunch will

Elgin Commu-

full schedule, visit jonwbraden.

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ty or contact jonathan braden

An experience for all faiths!

Elgin Community Christian Church to host Walking With The Lord 2025 Conference

What does it really mean to walk with the Lord? What is your next step in your walk with Christ? Are you a Church Christian or a

Christ Christian? These are just a few of the questions asked at the conference "Walking With The Lord". A time where you'll learn just what it means to be a follower of Christ, it's our hope and prayer you'll leave with a renewed passion for the

Speakers Peter Sample, Ben Burris, Rich

Lord.

Frantz, and Mark Hoffman will lead a deep dive into what it truly means to walk the Chris-



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AUCTION

HUGE AUCTION - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M. Tools, Skid Loader, Forklift, Vehicles, Building Materials - Onawa, Iowa. Hundreds of Photo Previews at McCallAuctions.com

in Elgin. (AISISIIIFIIIEID) **■■**ADS■ **★ STATEWIDE ADS**

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Spinning Tales

Fall sports season begins this week with optimism, questions to answer

In every fiber of their being, sports fans look forward to the end of August here in Nebraska. Fall high school sports get underway as does Husker football and volleyball seasons.

For us, we begin our rolling thunder tour of school gymnasiums, football field and golf courses (cross country). And, starting next week, our trek to Lincoln to watch the hyped-up Husker football team's annual attempt to recapture the magic of past national champions who wore scarlet & cream.

Just some random thoughts this week about what lies ahead. You may be right, I may be crazy with what I'm about to say. That's okay. For you, your thoughts and opinions are all that matters.

I want you to read this space, but I don't seek to rent space in your head. In all seriousness, I think you need to free your mind instead.

You need to see and assess the games through a prism entirely your own.

I will, too, for all that matters. We're going to agree some of the time, disagree other

Just keep those cards and letters coming in. So here goes ...

Wolfpack volleyball enters the 2025 campaign full of optimism. Good teams always think positive thoughts, then back it up with actions inside the lines.

A new era has begun for the team and its coaches. When you lose to graduation standout hitters like Sara Bode and Chloe Henn, it means the team will have to find its' power from other players.

This team has a strong nucleus of seniors to provide leadership, but will see underclassmen making big contributions as the season plays out.

New teams mean new destinations for fans. For me, new destinations means more opportunities to sample the fine cuisine that concession stands offer. Hot dogs will be judged as will nachos and popcorn.

No two concession stands are the same. My favorite snack remains the chicken wraps offered at St. Boniface Audito-

In my opinion, eight-man

football is so unpredictable. Some schools seem to reload every year, never far away from contending for one of those shiny state trophies. Other schools are up and down. Players come and go (that happens everywhere) but those who standout on the field of play, who can dominate games by their mere presence don't come along that often. Former Ainsworth player and now Husker Carter Nelson comes to mind. For whatever reason, you just don't find Division 1 talent in small towns.

It all comes down to one thing staying healthy. The success of the Wolfpack this season may hinge, in large part, how healthy they can stay. Depth is always thin when you have a lesser number of players as is the case in 8-man, particularly Class D2

Most players play both sides of the ball, doubling the chances for injury. Collisions are part of the game, so too is now concussion protocols.

The Wolfpack play a tough schedule every year, this year is no different.

I see more wins than losses, but that will all depend on who can play and who can't due to injuries.

Then there's the Husker football team. The pundits and prognosticators are again serving up 'kool-aid' about how good this year's team can be. Coming off a 7-6 season last year and a bowl game victory over Boston College, the talking heads are expecting more this season. One former Husker, Adam Carriker, thinks Big Red can win nine games.

I think they can, too! But will they?

I think the game which could be a turning point for the season will come on September 20

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The Elgin Reviews' 2025

when the Huskers face Michigan at Lincoln. The Wolverines have a team full of four and five-star recruits. We're not far behind, but we don't have as

What has always been great about Nebraska is its ability to make lesser players better to compete against star-studded teams.

That was the good ol' days of Devaney, Osborne and dare I say Pelini.

Coach Matt Ruhle always seems to elevate his teams in year three of his tenure as head coach. It's Ruhle's third year in Lincoln and that's the expectation of

many.



SPINNING

TALES

I would be extremely happy to see the team post an 8-4 regular season record and make a New Year's Day bowl game. A lot would have to go the Huskers' way to make that come true.

Having said that, one of these years the Huskers have to rise and return to national prominence. I hope this is the year.

Very little has to be said here about Husker volleyball. They are one of the elite programs in the country. They get almost every player they seek to recruit. The only question will be the transition with a new head coach. Does a new era begin or will it be a continuation of a formula which has made the Huskers the talk of every volleyball season?

In Lincoln, success is not measured by a winning record or a conference championship. No, it's measured by banners noting Final Four appearances and national championships. I suspect it will be that way again this year.



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ELGIN — Elgin Public-Pope John volleyball will have a new look this season, the third under Coach Jordynn Luettel.

New offensive weapons must take the place of established stars in recent years who have now graduated. Young players with little to no experience will have to grow on the court as the team aims to be playing their best volleyball of the season when it matters most in late October and early November.

"We have some challenges to overcome at the start of the season, to set us up to be playing well when the postseason comes along," Luettel said Friday morning after the Wolfpack were swept in a jamboree match by Stanton.

The jamboree match serves as a kind preseason NFL football game in that the coach gets to observe and assess which areas need to be focused on early in the season.

"We need to go after it," Luettel said was one of her first observations from the Stanton match. "We need to key on limiting errors, our hitters were over-correcting against Stanton's block.

Most importantly, she said the Wolfpack will need to work on limiting unforced errors. "We've got a lot of young girls who have seen little to no varsity

action before this year.' Fortunately for them, Luettel said returning letter winners are helping to make the transition easier heading into the season opener at home Thursday night against Lutheran High Northeast. The match will be played in the EPS gym.

Leading the way for the Wolfpack this season will be upper classmen. Senior setter Camry Kittelson will be a six-rotation player as will junior Braelyn Martinsen. Kittelson was an All-NVC

First Team selection last year. Senior Kayton Zwingman, who many believe has the highest vertical leap on the team, will see more sets to her as a middle hitter as well as junior Mady Kurpgeweit.

'Kayton has really improved from last year," Coach Luettel said. She and Martinsen combined for 252 kills at the net last year.

Right now, sophomore Brooke Kinney will play the libero position and freshman Gentry Zwingman will be a defensive specialist. Elizabeth Moser will again work as a setter where she saw plenty of action last season. Together, Kittelson and Moser combined for 480 set assists last season.

Lillian Moser and freshman Jael Lammers, although inexperienced, will see plenty of action in the front row.

Our freshmen players are already not playing like freshmen," Luettel said, noting they will be able to hold their own in the sea-

Fans will notice there have been some changes made to the schedule this year, the goal being to help set the team up better for the postseason, Luettel said. Among the changes are the addition of matches against O'Neill and LCC as well as playing in a new tournament at Thayer Central. By adding new teams from larger schools, Luettel believes the team can improve even if they lose to a bigger school.

With the Wolfpack again playing in Class D1 postseason success awaits them if the team can gel during the season. The Wolfpack's subdistrict includes Neligh-Oakdale, Plainview, Creighton and Bloomfield.

Go Pack!



First team All-NVC standout Camry Kittelson returns for her senior season. She led the team last year with 450 set assists.

Wolfpack look to extend playoff streak in '25

ELGIN — Football players, whether they came from Elgin High or Pope John, have always had the reputation for being some of the toughest players

It's been true with the championship teams which have taken the field in the 21st century and the tradition dates back

farther than that. Last year marked the first year of the team having cohead coaches — Nick Heithoff and Matt Euse. They made sure the players who donned the Wolfpack jerseys played hard all season long. They were rewarded with a snot in the Class D2 State Football Playoffs, continuing a string of appearance. Last season ended with a loss to Archangels who went on

to have a successful run int he playoffs. But in that loss, the Wolfpack

more than held their own. So what lies ahead for the Wolfpack this season?

Heithoff said the summer saw the team excel at camps, particularly the camp at Osmond.

"We were able to compete very well," he said. Because of that, the Wolfpack

enter the season with guarded optimism. Just under 20 players are

practicing in preparation for the season opener this Friday night at Elgin Field against

"Burwell is always a very-disciplined team," Heithoff said. "They're always tough." In the season opener last

year, the Longhorns rallied late to earn a hard-fought victory over the Wolfpack.

This time around, the Wolfpack will lean heavily on seniors to give the team their best chance of winning. Karson Kallhoff takes over as quarterback, replacing departed senior Kellan Hoefer. He no doubt will be handing the ball off to one of the best rushers in the district - Grady Drueke. The strappy runner gained over 1,000 yards last season.

Lining up behind Kallhoff and in front of Drueke will be fullback Gavin Kallhoff who showed promise coming off the bench last season.

Trev Rittscher and Justice Blecher will anchor the offensive line which will feature

newcomer freshman Jayvin Erickson at center.

Senior Landyn Veik will again line up as a tight end. Jarek Erickson, the coach said, will be utilized at a variety of positions in an attempt to capitalize on his athleticism.

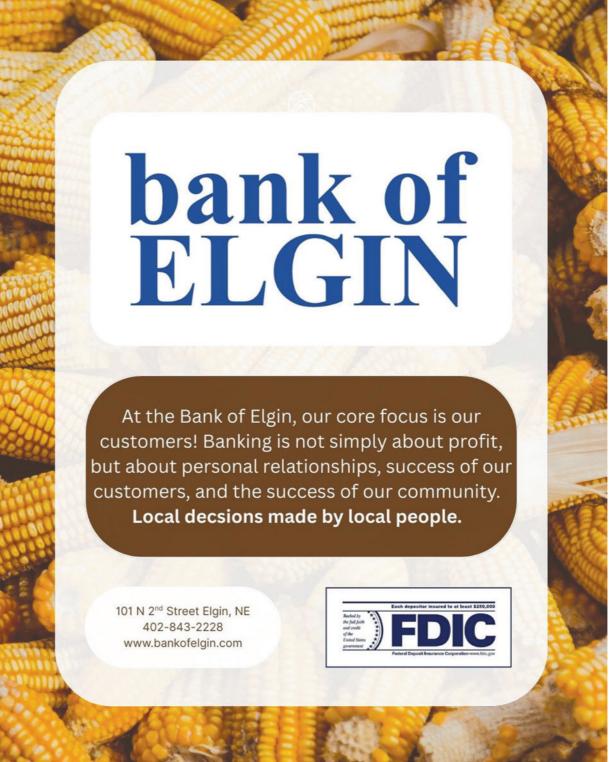
The offense will get a big boost when big play threat Max Henn returns to the team. Injured during the summer, he hopefully can return to the team sometime in September.

Five starters return on offense, but just three on defense. Veik is the lone returning starter at linebacker. Rittscher and Jarek Erickson both start-

One thing is for certain, the players who step onto the field will be like their counterparts from previous teams - tough and determined to win.

ed in the defensive line.

Away games on the schedule are Walthill, Chambers/Wheeler Central, O'Neill St. Marv's and Creighton. Aside from Burwell, other home games will be against Neligh-Oakdale, Ainsworth and North Central.





Senior Landyn Veik looks to catch more passes when the season

starts Friday night against Burwell.

Games

◄ FROM **Page 8**

Sciandra understands this struggle. He'd feel his biggest high before he would gamble, when he was walking into a bar to place a bet. That, he said, "was what propelled me more than anything.

Sometimes, he'd play on a skill machine for 10 minutes. Other times, he'd play for an hour and a half. He liked the skill games' fast pace of play. When he won, he'd think that his "system" was working. But mostly, he lost, and he'd feel anxious and depressed. The losses often would lead to more losing because he'd try to get back to even.

In May, State Sens. Jana Hughes, a Republican from Seward, and Ashlei Spivey, a Democrat from Omaha, introduced a resolution to study the impact of Nebraska's skilled gaming machines.

The lawmakers and other experts suspect that skill games return a lot less to the player than do other forms of gambling in Nebraska.

A study by the American Gaming Association, the casino industry lobby, found that unregulated skill games in Pennsylvania kept an average of 25 cents for every dollar bet, while regulated machines like casino slots kept 7.7 cents.

Iowa casinos, which are required to post their aggregate payout percentage for slots, return around 90% to players. Nebraska casinos don't have to report that information, but Lynne McNally, head of government relations for WarHorse Casinos, said Nebraska casinos are "competitive" with Iowa's

McNally contends that skill games essentially are slot machines, and the owners of businesses where they're located face little oversight, even after the recently enacted law.

As a member of the board of directors at WarHorse, McNally had to fill out a "key person" license application and a 66-page disclosure form. Applicants must provide personal financial records and submit to an extensive background investigation. The license cost her \$10,000.

Businesses that offer skill games, she said, "don't have

to comply with the numerous rules and regulations that we have to comply with. It's literally a 2-inch (thick) book of rules and regulations. Sometimes it can be dizzying."

Skill games businesses argue that the costs to provide skill games are high, especially for small operations.

Andy Dobel with Greater America Distributing testified in a January 2024 legislative hearing that the price of each machine can range from \$4,000 to \$13,000. "These are not cheap to ... pick up and run," he said. "That's part of what I exist for ... we service the machines, we provide the tech support, we provide financing. My cus-

tomers are some of the hard-

est-working people you'll ever

meet." Mark Phelan, president of U.S. gaming for Accel Entertainment, testified at the same hearing that, based on a Nebraska legislative study, each slot machine at WarHorse in Lincoln generated an average of \$350 per day, while skill games in the state made about \$32 per

day per machine.

"So I do not think a (tax) rate that's greater than 5% would be particularly fair to the industry nor supported," Phelan said. Accel's second quarter report

lists 975 machines in Nebraska as of June 30.

The company's net revenues in the state through the first six months of 2025 were \$15.1 million, so on an annual basis, that would mean each machine will have generated an average of nearly \$31,000.

The Nebraska Supreme Court ruled in 2011 that skill games didn't constitute gambling as long as they involved a skill that "a reasonable player" could master.

A reporter who was betting 25 cents per play on a skill game recently won \$3.75 on "Pinata Party" after moving an image of a maraca down a line so that three maracas lined up in a row on the screen. On another game, the player had to stop a horizontally scrolling cursor in the correct box to collect 100% of the 70-cent win instead of 90%, 80% or less.

Both "skills" didn't seem much like skills.



A sign near the entrance to Anytime Laundry near 90th Street and Maplewood Boulevard touts the 24-hour availability of skill games inside the laundromat. Photo by Bob Glissmann/Flatwater Free Press

The games do, however, let you know immediately whether you've won or lost, unlike lottery tickets. People who play the skill games or slot machines seek "instant gratification," said Geier with the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gam-

Sciandra said he wants Nebraskans to know they can get free counseling if they develop gambling problems.

"A lot of gamblers all think they have a system," he said. "We all think we are smarter than the game we're playing ... Obviously, the house always wins in the end."

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