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**Elgin
Review**
office will be
closed on
Monday in
observance of
Labor Day.

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT!Visit us online at www.boonecohealth.org**Renovated east entrance at BCHC now open**

ALBION – Boone County Health Center (BCHC) recently passed state inspections of Phase II.

The east emergency and hospital entrance are open again.

Phase II consisted of a renovated hospital and emergency entrance, waiting area, treatment room, respiratory

therapy and pharmacy.

This renovation project aimed to create a more efficient, patient-centric environment.

“The renovation improves the overall infrastructure, accessibility, and aesthetics of the entrance, making it more welcoming and efficient for

patients, visitors, and staff,” said Kristie Stricklin, Interim CEO.

“We also want to thank our patients for sticking with us during this renovation process, as we understand it has been inconvenient.”

Patients seeking emergency care, visiting a hospital

patient, utilizing treatment room, respiratory therapy or patient accounts services should use the east door. Patients coming for laboratory or radiology services such as mammograms can also use these doors.

However, patients should continue to use the south entrance for medical clinic, specialty clinics, surgery, cardiac rehabilitation, and physical, occupational and speech therapy services. The south entrance doors will now close at 5:30 p.m.

Bartlett News

Submitted by Sherry Tetschner

Prayers are lifted up for the family of Reita Petersen of Burwell.

She died August 22 at the age of 90.

Services were held at the United Church of Christ in Burwell on Saturday morning, August 26.

CWC girls varsity volleyball team played against Riverside at Spalding, Thursday, dropping the match 25-17, 25-10 and 25-11.

CWC boys varsity football team played against Creighton Friday night at Chambers. The final score was Creighton 34, CWC 20.

My weekend included kolache baking, attending Reita Petersen's funeral and a 90th birthday party for Joyce Sheets in Burwell on Saturday.

I enjoyed the fellowship of visiting with friends and acquaintances of the past and present. My life, over the years, has been blessed in some way by each person I talked to.

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FFA STUDENT of the MONTH

Dannyka Smidt & Gemma Miller

The FFA members of the month are Gemma Miller and Dannyka Smidt!

Gemma is the daughter of Brandon and Bethany Miller of Elgin and Dannyka is the daughter of Jennifer Donaldson of Neligh.

Both Gemma and Dannyka have been FFA members since January of 2023 as 8th graders and have really shown enthusiasm for the organization. The girls worked really hard last year on an agriscience fair project that they submitted for the Nebraska State FFA Convention. They ended up as state champions in their food science division and earned a chance to compete on the national level.

Earlier this month, the girls found out that they had been selected out of 18 as National Finalists (top ten)! Gemma and Dannyka will travel to Indianapolis during the National Convention to present their project and find out how they will place.

Congratulations girls!

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Looking Back

Sixty Years Ago
August 29, 1963
Maynard Scholl, of the Traveleers Motorcycle Club, estimated that over 600 persons witnessed the State Championship Motorcycle Scrambles races Sunday afternoon at the Sam Wilgocki pasture northeast of town. Over 100 cyclists were reported to have entered the gate to the event. Cars were lined around much of the one-half mile track. The finals were preceded by elimination races in the various classes. The Brooks Ambulance Service was on call.

An estimated 6,000 people witnessed the 1963 Antelope County Fair and Rodeo at Riverside Park, Neligh during their three-day affair. Besides viewing the outstanding 4-H showings, displays and other fair events this was the first rodeo for this annual event in many years.

A severe electrical storm swept through this neighborhood early Thursday evening. At least two large trees were struck by lightning and a corn crib on the Melick farm, where the Bob Hoefers live, was blown down and clothes Mrs. Hoefer had on the line were blown away. An R.E.A. pole was blown down just east of there in the Vernie Johnson pasture. The eastern part of the neighborhood was without electrical power for almost an hour and telephone service from Neligh was disrupted.

Fifty Years Ago
August 30, 1973
Winners Sunday at the Antelope County Fair in the calf scrambles in the various classes were the following. Class 1: Steve Kalvelage, Dale Heithoff and Dick Carr all of Elgin; \$5 winners: Clifford Tillema, Neligh and Craig Zegers of Elgin. Class 2 calf catch winners: Kevin Fry of Ewing and Larry Borer of Elgin; \$5 winner: Clifford Hart of Tilden.

Some Antelope County Fair grand champion winners from Elgin: Dan Siems - grand champion steer; Dale Uhrenholdt - grand champion steer and champion crossbred; Alice Carr - grand champion market lamb; Jane Whitwer - grand champion gelding; Bill Anderson - champion breeding gilt; Merle Moser - champion pen of three market lambs; Jack Stoltz - champion Shorthorn steer; Kent Beckman - sheep showmanship championship; Jerome Thunker - champion Charolais crossbred breeding heifer.

The Pines Bar softball team concluded their season on the up-note as they captured the Petersburg Softball Tournament Championship from Ewing. League champions, Ewing, were the Pines Bar's challengers in the final game. Elgin won a championship trophy on some fine hitting and excellent defense. Dave Sullivan, 5 for 5; George Busted, 4 for 4; and Bob Tharnish, 4 for 5; lead a 22 hit attack while the defense held Ewing to only 8 hits. Pines Bar ends the season with a 20-5 record and as champions of the Hi-Lo and Petersburg Tournaments.

Thirty Years Ago
September 8, 1973
Elgin High School's football team scored the first four times it touched the ball and had a 32-point lead in the first quarter at Palmer last Friday night, Sept. 3. The Eagles added one touchdown in the second quarter and two more in the third to end the game early and take a 52-6 victory in their Goldenrod Conference Opener. "We played pretty well in all aspects of the game, including special teams," said EHS head coach Todd Quick. "We had balance in the offense, and the defense did a good job of keeping them in check."

Pope John scored on its first two plays from scrimmage

and whipped Stuart, 28-6, in Niobrara Valley Conference action last Friday night, Sept. 3. The Crusaders took advantage of Stuart turnovers and the running of sophomore Heath Petsche to take a 14-0 lead early in the 1st quarter. The Pope John defense held Stuart scoreless until the third quarter. "Our execution was pretty good for the first game of the season," said Pope John head coach Robert Hanzlik. "We were in a lull from the middle of the first quarter until the middle of the second quarter. We need to make some adjustments, but we played well overall."

Playing error free helped the Pope John High School varsity volleyball team defeat Stuart in straight sets, 15-7 and 15-8, in their Niobrara Valley Conference opener at Stuart last Friday, Sept. 3. Leading scorers for the Lady Crusaders are Kelly Mueller, 13 of 14 in serving with 13 points, and Alissa Evans, eight of nine in serving with seven points. Pope John served 90 percent for the match. The Lady Crusaders were 100 percent in setting for the match.

Elgin High School's varsity volleyball team took a 0-15, 12-15 loss at Palmer in their season opener last Friday, Sept. 3. Leading scorer and server for Elgin was Tara Reestman with seven of 10 good serves and six points. Julie Sullivan was four of four at the serving line. In junior varsity action, Elgin defeated Palmer, 15-13, 8-15 and 16-14. Leading JV scorers were Sarah Ochsner and Jenny Avidano.

Twenty Years Ago
August 27, 2003
A total of 183 students began the 2003-04 school year at Elgin Public Schools, representing a decline of 18 students from last year's total count. The overall school enrollment, preschool through 12th grade, is made up of 100 boys and 83 girls. Largest class

at Elgin Public School this year is the sophomore class with 21 students, followed by the senior class of 20 students.

Pope John Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School reported an identical beginning enrollment to last year, with 140 students beginning the 2003-04 fall term on Aug. 20. The largest class at Pope John is the eighth grade, with 35 students this year. The smallest class is the junior class with 19 students.

Community Center Menus

The Elgin Community Center meals next week are:

Monday, September 4: Closed for Labor Day.

Tuesday, September 5: Pigs in a blanket, french fries, peas, apricots, milk.

Wednesday, September 6: Fried chicken, potato salad, baked beans, Jello w/strawberries, milk.

Thursday, September 7: Tator tot casserole w/ green beans, fruit cocktail, milk.

Friday, September 8: Breaded chicken sandwich on bun, macaroni salad, tomato & cucumber salad, peaches.

(All meals served with bread & butter. Menus are provided by the Community Center and are subject to change)

Suggested price is \$6 per meal for persons 60 years of age and older. Under 60 is \$8.50.

Serving starts at 11:45 a.m. and ends around 12:15 p.m.

Meals are served Monday thru Friday.

Takeout or curb side starting at 11:30 a.m.

Please call 843-5757 by 9:30 a.m. to reserve a meal for that day.

There are 72 girls and 68 boys attending in the seventh through 12th grades.

Beginning enrollment increased by 2 students at St. Boniface School for the 2003-04 school year. A total of 113 students started the new school year at St. Boniface last Wednesday.

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From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

Hot Chicken Salad

Enjoy as a casserole dish or serve it on bread, a croissant, on crackers or roll some up in a large piece of lettuce. A very versatile recipe for either a meal or an appetizer.

Good day,
Can't believe summer is almost over! Seems like it flew by.
Can't believe the kids are back in school. I do know they were not ready to start back. With school starting, that brings a whole new busy schedule.

This week's recipe is coming from Mary Ann she lives in Pilger. She comes over the third Wednesday of the month and volunteers packing boxes for the "Orphan Grain Train." She was kind enough to make this recipe for our lunch awhile back. It's delicious! Stop in the Bargain Box on a day she's there and share your thoughts! I want to say "thank you" Mary Ann for sharing your recipe! Happy cooking. JoAnn

HOT CHICKEN SALAD

3-4 cups cooked, diced chicken
3/4 cup celery diced
2 Tbls finely diced onion
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 can cream of celery soup
1 cup REAL Mayonnaise (not Miracle Whip*)
8 oz can sliced water chestnuts (drained)

8 oz mushroom pieces (drained)
1/2 cup sour cream
2 Tbls lemon juice
1 Tbls pimento's (drained)
Salt and pepper to taste

Grease a 9x13 baking dish.
Mix the cooked chicken and both soups together and pour in the baking dish.
Mix the remaining ingredients together and pour over the top of the soup mixture.
Bake 350° for 45 minutes or until heated through and bubbly.
The last 10 minutes of baking, top with a cup of shredded mild cheddar cheese and some finely crushed cornflakes
Return to the oven for the remaining 10 minutes. Delicious.

Elgin Community Calendar

August

30 Public meeting of the District #18 Board of Education @ 6 p.m.

31 Husker watch party @ Boomerangs* • Deadline to pay Personal Property taxes at courthouse.

September

1 EPPJ CC season opener at Albion (9 a.m.) Note time change*.

3 St. John The Baptist Annual Bazaar @ Petersburg*.

4 Labor Day (no school).

5 Antelope County Commissioners regular meeting.

6 Elgin City Council regular meeting/ budget public hearing*.

8 Elgin FFA Labor Auction (following football game).

10 Treasures in the Park/Show N Shine at Elgin City Park*.

11 Red-E-4-Fun/Red Hatters, noon at the ECC, please RSVP • EVFD meeting.

13 District #18 School Board/budget public hearing meeting.

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

Events listing is courtesy of
ELGIN VETERANS' MEDICAL CLINIC
an Outpatient Department of Boone County Health Center
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"To be persuasive, we must be believable; to be believable, we must be credible; credible, we must be truthful."

Edward R. Murrow

Opinion

Read. Reflect. Respond.

Both sides adamant they are right in private school scholarship debate

We should know soon if a group called Support Our Schools Nebraska was successful in gathering enough petition signatures to allow voters to decide the fate of the Opportunity Scholarship Act passed by the Legislature in its tumultuous session.

The tax credit law (LB753) gives tax credits for individuals and entities making donations to scholarship funds intended to help students attend private and faith-based schools. Under the bill, \$25 million will be available for credits in 2024, with the same amount available for the next two years.

While the tax break is capped at \$25 million a year for three years, it could rise by the tenth year to \$100 million, or about 10% of what the state spends today on state aid to public schools. Petition circulators say that public money should be reserved for public schools. They need signatures from 5% of registered voters, roughly 60,000 valid signatures,

by the close of business Aug. 30. They said they expect to reach their goal.

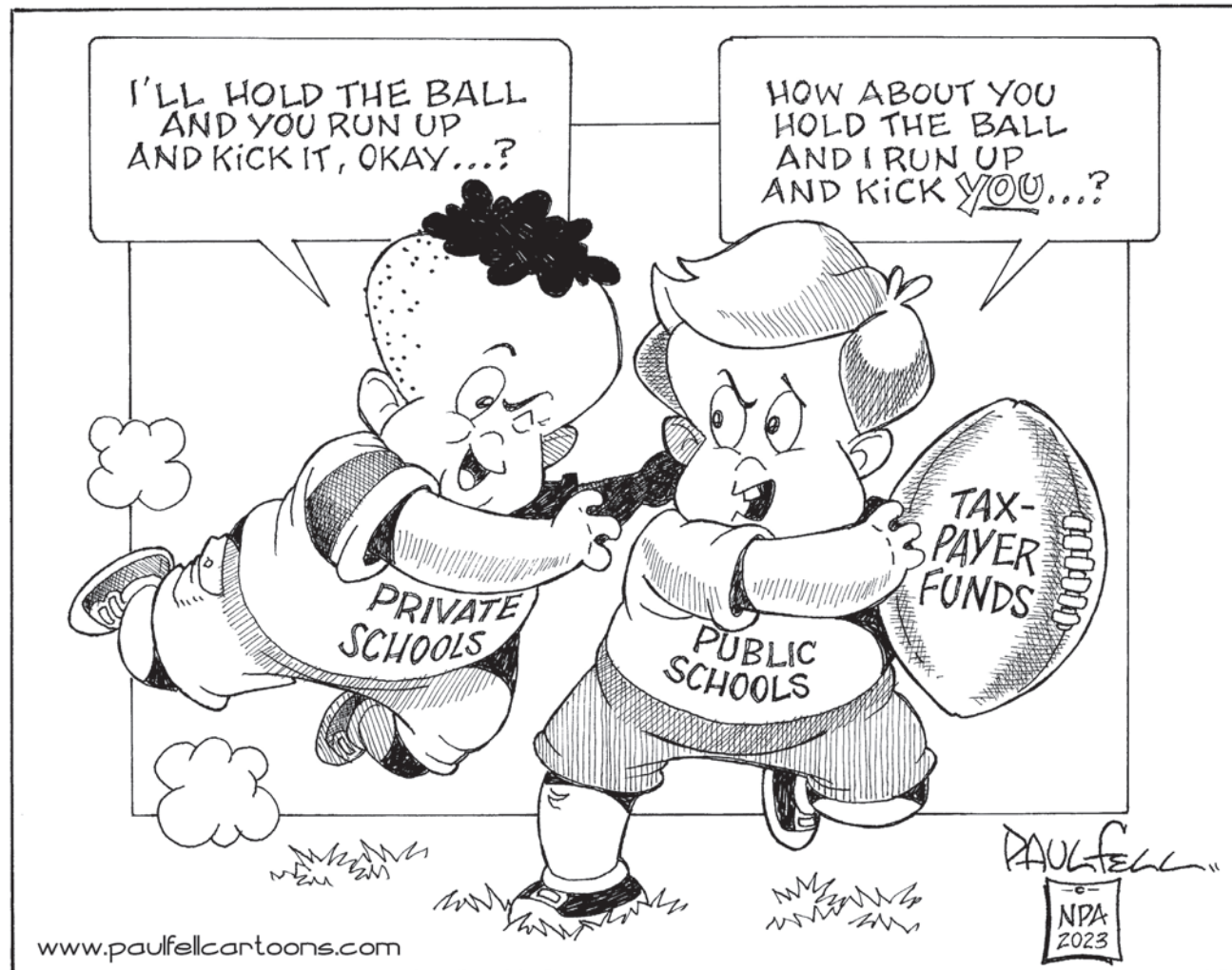
Keep Kids First is a group urging Nebraskans not to sign the petition and is pushing people to remove their names if they have already signed. The group argues some people are being misled by petition circulators. Of course, the pro petition people deny it.

RED FLAG: If someone organizes a group to actively oppose petition circulators and even goes so far as to ask people to have their signatures removed, ask yourself what they are trying to hide or otherwise not telling you.

We do know that the bill's introducer, State Sen. Lou Ann Linehan of Elkhorn, tried to pass similar measures for about five years, putting her at odds with public school educators and other opponents. The state teachers' union, the Nebraska State Education Association, has remained opposed to her proposals from the start, and is the primary group driving the Support Our Schools petition.

A union spokeswoman said the premise pushed by tax credit supporters is wrong. She said taking \$25 million a year or more out of state coffers is bad for communities of color and largely helps the wealthy.

The spokeswoman said it risks future funding



that could be spent on public schools, which 90% of Nebraska students attend.

Supporters of the tax credit say it will give children a choice by allowing them to attend private schools on private donor scholarships. They say that students in poverty are disproportionately affected by achievement gaps across the state and accuse the teachers' union of fighting against students who need another school option that is the best fit for them.

Opponents note that similar programs in other states have shown the Opportunity Scholarships Act is a first step toward diverting funds from public schools and sending them to private and parochial schools, which don't have to accept every student. Public schools must accept all students. Some argue the law creates a partially funded second school system and continues to create haves and have-nots. Others said communities of color

are the most likely to be hurt if state revenue is lost to the tax credit.

RED FLAG: The tax credits are a direct offset of what a taxpayer owes the state of up to 50% of their tax liability. So, anyone claiming the LB753 tax credit can cut in half the amount they owe the state before subtracting what they've paid throughout the year in withholdings. That's money that otherwise would flow into the state's bank account to spend on other things.

In a survey conducted by a statewide think tank, likely voters were asked to prioritize several proposals for spending state tax dollars on K-12 education. Participants ranked expanding career training and vocational education programs and reducing the teacher shortage as their highest priorities. Conversely, providing tax credits for donations to help parents pay for students to attend private schools ranked lowest.

RED FLAG: The very high caps on the maximum amount of credit that can be claimed per taxpayer and provisions in LB753 that unused credits can be carried forward for five years are indicative of a program benefitting high-income families, which has been borne out in other states. In Arizona, Louisiana and Virginia, states with taxpayer-funded private school scholarships where data from tax agencies is available, more than 60 percent of all voucher tax credits are flowing to families with annual incomes over \$200,000.

Nebraska's median household income is \$66,644 and 80 percent of all households have incomes of less than \$138,000.

Support Our Schools v. Keep Kids First. Do your homework people. I think this is something voters should decide.

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

See DeKay, Page Five

My favorite tradition

Of all our Nebraska traditions, one is especially memorable. It's a big production that seems to bring our whole state together to enjoy exhibits, shows, food, friends, and a lot of fun. The sights, sounds, and smells are unmistakable.

I'm talking about the Nebraska State Fair, of course! After many years of attending the fair, I still get excited for this wonderful tradition. Every year, the state fair makes its long-anticipated appearance in Grand Island for 11 days to showcase Nebraska's best. The fair has been special to me ever since I first started going every year growing up and I'm eager to join so many Nebraska families at the state fair after it begins this coming Friday.

I think of the Nebraska State Fair as quintessential Nebraska: livestock exhibits, the tractor pull, 4-H and FFA exhibits, purple ribbon winners from all counties, time with family and friends, and plenty of treats.

I enjoy viewing all the exhibits, from baked goods and garden produce to quilts, woodworking, and artwork. If you want to get to know Nebraska, the fair is a great place to start. It's grown over the years, but at heart, it still embodies the pioneer spirit — just like Nebraska.

The Nebraska State Fair is a celebration of agriculture, the industry that keeps our state going. Our Nebraska farmers and ranchers feed and fuel the world, and we are grateful for all they do for our communities. We all know how much farmers and ranchers contribute to Nebraska, so it's a wonderful opportunity to remember that good work — and enjoy it!

Those ag producers are passing on their knowledge to a new generation, as I'm always reminded at the 4-H and FFA livestock shows and exhibits. Kids from across our state proudly showcase the animals they've trained and tended for months and their exhibits show skill and proficient craftsmanship.

The competitions are just some of our many fair activities — there's everything from carnival rides to live music. And of course, you have to come to the state fair hungry. Anyone who's heard me talk about the fair knows how much I enjoy the Nebraska Cattlemen Beef Pit. If you go to the Nebraska State Fair, you've got to make a stop at the Beef Pit. I always enjoy a tasty prime rib sandwich or a BBQ beef sandwich. And around the fairgrounds there are options galore for dessert, as well: funnel cake, UNL ice cream, or my personal favorite — pineapple whip.

My August state work period has

See FISCHER, Page Five

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator
Deb Fischer

Small nuclear reactors in the future?

By Barry DeKay

State Senator, District #40

The Legislature adjourned shortly after Memorial Day, but my duties as your representative continue at a fast pace. In the interim between the adjournment of the previous session and the convening of the next session, senators remain hard at work serving on special and select committees, studying subjects of local importance, and addressing issues brought forward by constituents.

During the session, I was appointed to serve on the LR178 Small Modular Nuclear Reactors Select Committee with six of my colleagues under the direction of Natural Resources Committee Chairperson Senator Bostelman. This Committee will examine the feasibility of constructing and operating small modular nuclear reactors to gen-

erate electric power in Nebraska. I anticipate that LR178 will be one of the most impactful studies that to be completed this biennium. As a member of the Committee, I have had multiple meetings with Nebraska Public Power District and other public electric utilities during the interim regarding Nebraska's electricity needs.

I also continue to serve on the Statewide Tourism and Recreational Water Access and Resource Sustainability (STAR WARS) Committee which was created last session. Earlier in June, I attended an open house hosted by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) where plans for the proposed improvements at Weigand Marina were unveiled. Later that month, I also met with

See DeKay, Page Five

GOP working hard to expand opportunity and growth

The back-to-school season has arrived, and families across the country are busy with all the anticipation, activities, and new learning opportunities that come with it. However, on a wide range of issues — from the cost of supplies to lagging student proficiencies — many Americans are facing unprecedented hardships resulting from the anti-growth, anti-parent policies of the Biden administration.

Inflation is still hitting households hard. According to estimates from the National Retail Federation, average households will have to spend \$100 more on back-to-school necessities than they did in 2020. The Bureau of Labor

Statistics' Producer Price Index shows the cost of pens, markers, and mechanical pencils is up 13 percent from 2019. Additionally, NielsenIQ data shows binders and folders cost 48.5 percent more than last year, and crayons and highlighters are up 18.5 percent.

The Biden administration's record on consumer costs is disappointing to say the least, and its failures to support parents and students are glaring. Under President Biden, the reopening of schools after devastating COVID closures was slow-walked, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) allowed teachers unions — not science — to dictate CDC COVID guidance. We're now seeing a disturbing trend of learning lagging well behind.

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, also known as the nation's report card, test results for elementary schools have dropped by 5 points in reading and 7 points in mathematics compared to 2020. This is the worst score decline in reading in three decades, and the first ever score decline in math. Just 33 and 36 percent of fourth graders are proficient in reading and math, respectively.

Sadly, proficiency for eighth graders is worse, with just 31 percent having reading proficiency and 26 percent having math proficiency.

To make matters worse, President Biden recently downplayed the role of parents in their child's education, saying "There's no such thing as someone else's child." After the Department of Justice villainized parental involvement at school board meetings in 2021, it is clear we need to stand up for the rights of parents. No one cares more about the development and success of their children than parents, and parents should have the ultimate decision-making power when it comes to what is best for their children.

This is why House Republicans have passed the Parents' Bill of Rights Act (H.R. 5), a bill to assert the rights of parents to know what is being taught in schools, be heard by school administrators, see school budgets, protect their child's privacy, and be updated on any violent activity at school. This is common sense, but the Senate has refused to bring H.R. 5 to the floor for a vote. The House passed H.R. 5 in March of this year, and the Senate has had more than enough time to act. It's time for President Biden to acknowledge the rights of parents to be involved in the education of their own children.

I have also introduced legislation, the Educa-

tional Choice for Children Act (H.R. 531), which would expand families' access to high-quality education. Every child deserves a chance to succeed no matter their ZIP code or socioeconomic status. H.R. 531 would create a pool of annual tax credits for private, non-profit scholarship granting organizations, or SGOs. These SGOs would then allocate one-for-one tax credits to donor families and businesses and grant scholarships to families.

The scholarships could be used to pay for traditional tuition costs as well as tutoring, supplies, and other needs for families in rural areas where their local district cannot fully meet their needs and where traditional school options don't exist.

With a strong tradition in education and outstanding public school system, Nebraska's schools excel in working with parents to serve students. Despite the challenges caused by the Biden administration's failing policies, Americans will come together to unleash the promise of young Americans.

House Republicans are working hard to expand opportunity and growth, and we won't stop fighting for families and a brighter future for our young people.

FROM THE HILL



Congressman
Adrian Smith

Statistics' Producer Price Index shows the cost of pens, markers, and mechanical pencils is up

Numbers To Know

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

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

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

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

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

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Volume 140, Wednesday, August 30, 2023 Number 49

Published weekly on Wednesday at Elgin, NE 68636 Entered at the Elgin Post Office and Periodicals Postage Paid at Elgin, NE 68636 **Telephone: (402) 843-5500**

ER Publishing LLC
Dennis L. & Lynell M. Morgan
Publishers and Editors

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL

Antelope, Boone, Wheeler counties (except Ewing and Tilden) **\$40**
Elsewhere in NE **\$43**
Out Of State **\$48**

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DeKay

From Page Four

officials with the NGPC and Knox County to get a progress report of the improvements at Lewis and Clark SRA and Niobrara State Park. Thus far, it appears the projects are on track and expected to break ground later this year or early next year.

Additionally, it was brought to my attention by several constituents that the 6th Judicial District was at risk of losing a judgeship with the retirement of Judge Luebe. Judge Luebe covered Cedar, Dixon, and Thurston counties. When a judgeship is vacated, the Nebraska Judicial Resources Commission is tasked with determining whether there are too many judges staffed in areas that no longer need them.

The Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation had calculations which suggested the 6th Judicial District had excessive judges relative to caseload meaning several alternatives were potentially on the table including delaying the vote to fill the judgeship, redistricting judicial districts, or implementing Zoom court proceedings. I wrote of letter of support in favor of declaring a judicial vacancy in the 6th Judicial District and testified in Lincoln before the Judicial Resources Commission at their scheduled meeting in Lincoln on June 16. I am pleased the Judicial Resources Commission declared a vacancy, and I would like to thank everyone who submitted a letter or testified at the hearing to ensure there are sufficient judicial resources in northeast Nebraska.

I am also in contact with our Congressional delegation on federal issues affecting District 40. I worked with Senator Albrecht and other senators to draft a letter asking our delegation to sign on to federal legislation which would designate U.S. Highway 20 as the National Medal of Honor Highway, and I continue to visit with our delegation regarding efforts to get the Sage Brothers and the other sailors of the USS Frank E. Evans on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. I also joined state senators in objecting to a federal Bureau of Land Management proposal to impose a moratorium or prohibition on coal mining on federal lands in Wyoming.

Nebraska utilizes coal mined on such lands leased and operated in Wyoming for a significant part of Nebraska's electricity generation.

A quick list of some of the other meetings and activities I have been able to attend so far includes: meetings/calls with constituents, meetings on police training and rural EMS services, visiting with the Governor during his stop in O'Neill, Neligh 150th Celebration, carbon pipeline open house, O'Neill Chamber coffee, Antelope/Cedar/Dixon County Fairs, Midwest Assistance Program, affordable housing project groundbreaking in Ewing, constitutional carry town hall in Emerson, Governor's Ag and Economic Development Summit in Kearney, and this week touring the Cedar County Courthouse in Hartington with members of the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Finally, the third phase of the State Capitol HVAC Project is complete.

All but six senators have moved down to their permanent offices on the first and second floors. My office has moved down from the 11th Floor to Room 1015 on the first floor of the northwest quadrant.

Phase four of the Project is now ongoing meaning the northeast quadrant will be closed for construction through November 2024.

Contact me at any time; I always appreciate hearing from you. Call my Capitol office telephone number at (402) 471-2801 or send email to bdekay@leg.ne.gov. My mailing address is: Senator Barry DeKay, District #40, P.O. Box 94604, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



District 40 Senator
Barry DeKay

Nebraska's economy shows growth in July, report says

Nebraska's leading economic indicator grew in July, according to the most recent report from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The indicator, designed to predict economic activity six months into the future, rose 0.89%.

"The solid increase in the leading indicator suggests economic growth will continue in Nebraska through the end of 2023 and into the first month of 2024," said economist Eric Thompson, director of the Bureau of Business Research, department chair and K.H. Nelson College Professor of Economics.

The six components of Nebraska's leading economic indicator are business expectations, building permits for single-family homes, airline passenger counts, initial claims for unemployment insurance, the value of the U.S. dollar and manufacturing hours worked.

Five of the six components — all except airline passenger counts — improved in July.

"Respondents to the July business survey reported plans to increase sales and employment over the next six months," Thompson said.

Manufacturing hours and

building permits for single-family homes also rose during July.

"Nebraska home builders and food manufacturers benefit from high prices for their products," Thompson said.

There were signs of strength in Nebraska's labor market as initial claims for unemployment insurance fell in the state.

The value of the U.S. dollar also fell in July.

"A lower value for the U.S. dollar benefits businesses that compete in international markets, including manufacturing and agricultural businesses," Thompson said.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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business for
the public.

Fischer

From Page Four

been a great time of connecting with Nebraskans all over the state. It's important to connect with Nebraskans, hear how they're doing, and update them on my work in the Senate.

I'm excited to attend the state fair because of the fun activities, bustling atmosphere, and wonderful Nebraskans I get to meet.

I look forward to this special event beginning this weekend, as well as more good conversations with folks about how I can best support our incredible state.

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Hebrews 11:1

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Amid enemies, numbers mattered.

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Even today, numbers matter.

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This week in church, gather with your fellow believers.

...the Lord made His people very fruitful. Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

Exodus 3:1-15 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28

Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for
Sunday, September 3, 2023
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever!
Amen.
Romans 11:36

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is confidence is what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1



Wolfpack Sports

Luettel earns first win as EPPJ Coach

ELGIN — Victory tasted sweet for Coach Jordynn Luettel and the Wolfpack volleyball team Thursday night with a four-set victory over Lutheran High Northeast.

Luettel gained her first victory as head coach of the team AND for the team is was an impressive victory in the season opener for both schools.

The Wolfpack won the first two sets in dominating fashion, then after LHNE won set three, EPPJ closed out the match. Set scores were 25-16, 25-12, 20-25 and 25-7.

"I couldn't have asked for anything better," Luettel told *The Elgin Review* after the match. "The girls were hungry and ready to go."

Nowhere was the Wolfpack's more evident than in the final set. Up six to three, EPPJ ripped off eight consecutive points. With Camry Kittelson serving, EPPJ got superb play out of the front row. Ashlynn Charf and Kayton Zwingman combined for a stuff block for one point, then Charf sandwiched two kills around a Kittelson ace serve. A sophomore, Kittelson led the team with five ace serves.

Zwingman added a slide kill as part of the 14 to three run which made the score 20 to five.

On this night, the Wolfpack's biggest weapon was the right hand of their tallest player - Chloe Henn. She closed out the match with a kill, giving her a team-high 15 kills on 22 swings for the match.

"Setter Baylee (Busteed) knows where to put the ball for me," Henn said.

As a team, EPPJ recorded 39 kills as the Eagles just couldn't stop the Wolfpack attack.

Charf finished with 14 kills on 36 swings and junior Sara Bode added five kills.

A senior, Busteed picked up where she left off last season. In the Wolfpack's 5-1 offense, Busteed recorded 32 set assists with just one error. "It was a fun environment out there ... we're just hanging out having fun," Busteed said. "LHNE are always very competitive, a very scrappy team."

In the back row, EPPJ recorded 41 digs. Junior libero Kate Furstenau recorded team-highs with 20 digs. Charf led in serve receive with 20, Furstenau had 15 and senior Brenna Martinsen notched 11.

After facing Burwell Tuesday night (too late for press time), the Wolfpack will play a triangular at Stuart on August 31.

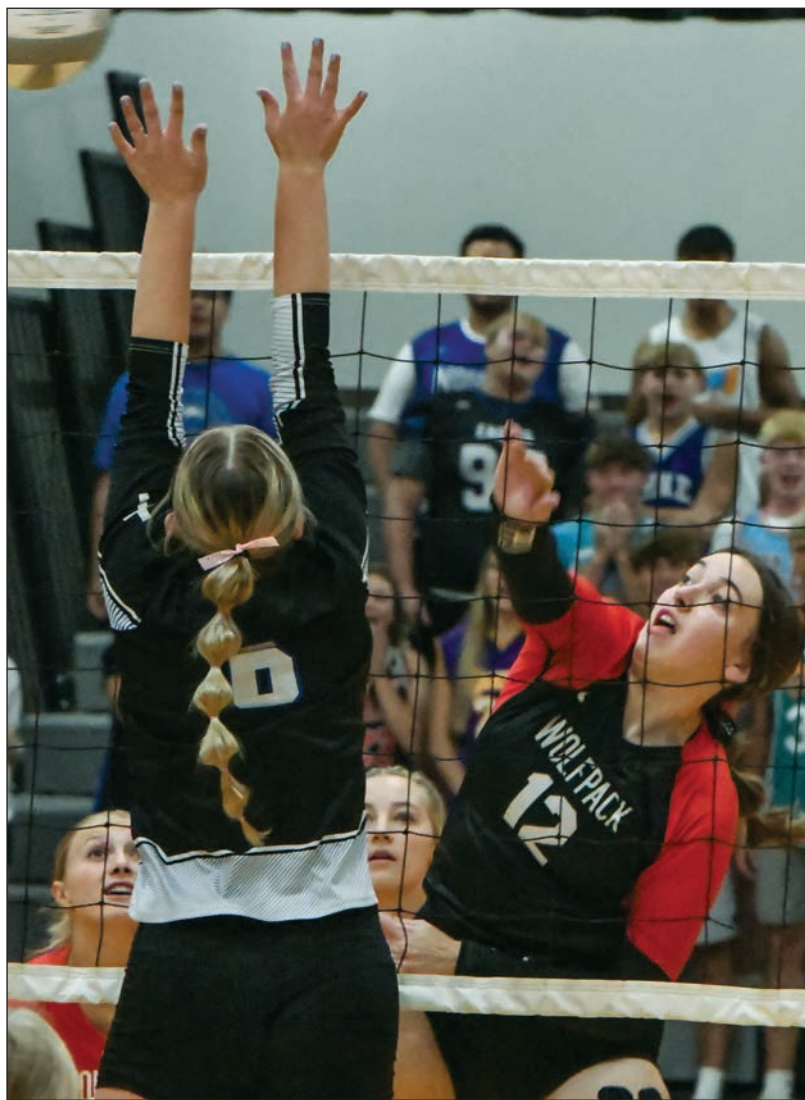
EPPJ 3, LHNE 1

Eagles.....16 12 25 7
Wolfpack.....25 25 20 25
Attacks (K/Att/E) — Brenna Martinsen 0/1/0, Camry Kittelson 2/8/2, Baylee Busteed 2/4/0, Kayton Zwingman 1/7/0, Ashlynn Charf 14/36/9, Keyera



Baylee Busteed had 32 set assists against the Eagles. *E-R photo/DMorgan*

Eisenhauer 0/1/0, Sara Bode 5/17/0, Chloe Henn 15/22/5, Kate Furstenau 0/1/0. Team totals: 39/97/16
Serving (A/SA) — Kittelson



Chloe Henn (12) recorded 15 kills in just 22 swings. *E-R photo/DMorgan*

5/21, Busteed 2/23, Zwingman 0/8, Bra. Martinsen 0/2, Charf 1/11, Bode 2/20, Furstenau 1/10. Team totals: 11/95
Blocks (BS/BA) — Zwingman

5/0, Henn 2/0. Team totals: 7/0
Digs (D/DE) — Br. Martinsen 3/3, Kittelson 4/2, Busteed

See LHNE, Page Seven

I like what I'm seeing

ELGIN — High school volleyball got a big start last week for the Wolfpack.

First, a jamboree victory over Stanton, then in the regular season opener, a four-set victory over perennial powerhouse Lutheran High Northeast.

Sitting in a 'cool' Elgin High gym, I can't imagine playing the match Thursday night in a gym that did not have air conditioning due to the heat spell, EPPJ put on quite a show against the Eagles.

What should have been a sweep in three stretched to four sets. In the fourth set, the Eagles didn't reach double-digits, such was the domination of the Wolfpack.

Whether it be the front row led by Chloe Henn, Sara Bode and Ashlynn Charf putting on a power display, or setter Baylee Busteed putting up one perfect set after another OR the back row digging every-

See TALES, Page 11

SPINNING TALES



Dennis Morgan
Publisher

Flyers stymie Wolfpack 40 to 12 in home opener Friday

ELGIN — Playing their home opener Friday night, Elgin Public-Pope John fell behind by 20 points to Humphrey St. Francis in the first half and ended up on the short end of the score, 40 to 12.

Flyers' freshman Gavin Gellenkirchen scored three touchdowns and sophomore Carson Wessel added two more to secure the victory.

The Wolfpack (1-1) never led in the game as the Flyers scored on their first two possessions in the first quarter. Wessel scored on the Flyers' opening drive on a 10-yard run. After getting the ball back, the Flyers again went down the field and scored on a quarterback sneak from one yard out.

The Wolfpack couldn't answer back, struggling to mount any kind of offense. The Flyers' defense held EPPJ without a first down till midway through the second quarter when quarterback Kellan Hoefer connected with Dylon Lueking for 16 yards. Senior Gage Thiessen gave

EPPJ another first down when he ripped off an 11-yard run down to the HSF's 33-yard line. Then, after a pass interference penalty moved the ball down to the 19-yard line, the Wolfpack gave fans something to cheer about when quarterback Hoefer found a wide-open Lueking for a 19-yard scoring strike.

Down 20 to 6, the game turned on one pivotal play. The Wolfpack were called on a face mask penalty with two minutes left in the half when Wessel was tackled out of bounds on a third down play. The flag flew in from the back judge far away from the play whereas the other officials closer to the action, did not call the penalty.

EPPJ would have forced a fourth down play had the penalty not been called. With momentum, EPPJ could have marched down the field and potentially scored a touchdown which would have made it a one-score game. Instead, the Flyers had a first down in Wolfpack territory and three players later scored to make it 28 to 6 at halftime.

"They (HSF) have some good athletes and they kind of jumped on us early," Coach Greg Wemhoff said. "They know how to win and they've been there plenty of times. Once they get you on your heels they are able to control the games."

With the ball to start the second half, EPPJ didn't have it for long as on the second play Hoefer was intercepted by Wessel. The Flyers proceeded to go 46 yards, all but two plays on the ground to take a 34 to 6 lead.

EPPJ answered back with a touchdown drive of their own as Thiessen scored as time expired at the end of the third quarter to make the score 34 to 12. The Flyers added back with a fourth quarter touchdown to make the final score 40 to 12.

The Wolfpack's one fourth quarter drive looked

promising as they moved the ball down to the Flyers' four-yard line. However, the drive ended on a sour note with a fumble which the Flyers recovered.

"We just couldn't put a drive together," lineman Samuel Hemenway said, describing the loss. A senior, Hemenway was hobbled for much of the game, yet he had 15 tackles. Lueking had 19 tackles to lead the Wolfpack, Taylor Beckman had 14.

The Flyers outgained the Wolfpack 334 to 190.

"We've got to learn from it (the loss). If we don't learn from it, then it's a huge loss. And if we learn from it ... we move on to get better," Wemhoff said.

Humphrey SF 40, EPPJ 12

Flyers.....14 14 6 6 — 40
Wolfpack.....0 6 6 0 — 12

HSF — Carson Wessel 10 run (PAT failed)
HSF — Wessel 1 run (Wessel pass to Tucker Czarnick)
HSF — Gavin Gellenkirchen 41 run (PAT failed)
EPPJ — Kellan Hoefer 19 pass to Dylon Lueking (PAT failed)
HSF — Wessel 35 pass to Gellenkirchen (Wessel run)
HSF — Wessel 15 pass to Ethan Wieseler (PAT failed)
EPPJ — Gage Thiessen 2 run (PAT failed)
HSF — Gellenkirchen 26 run (PAT failed)

Team stats	EPPJ	HSF
Rushing	25/78	46/248
Passing	11/18/1	5/10/0
Passing Yds	112	86
Total Yds	190	334
Interceptions by	0	1
Fumbles/lost	1/1	0/0
Individual statistics		
Rushing (att/yds)	—	Gage

Thiessen 9/35, Dylon Lueking 1/1, Taylor Beckman 2/3, Grady Druke 6/21, Kellan Hoefer 7/18.
HSF — Gavin Geilenkirchen 10/88, Carson Wessel 23/84
Passing (comp/att/int—yds) — Kellan Hoefer 11/18/1 — 112.
HSF — Carson Wessel 5/10/0 — 86

Receiving — Gage Thiessen 2/-2, Blake Henn 4/50, Dylon Lueking 4/49, Karson Kallhoff 1/15. HSF — Ethan Wieseler 2/24

Tackles (unassisted/assisted) — Gage Thiessen 2/2, Blake Henn 0/4, Nick Anderson 4/7, Dylon Lueking 5/14, Taylor Beckman 4/10, Dylon Kolm 1/8, Grady Druke 0/1, Jarek Erickson 1/1, Kaiden Bode 1/1, Kellan Hoefer 3/1, Landyn Veik 1/1, Samuel Hemenway 4/11, Trey Rittscher 1/1. HSF — Ethan Wieseler 12, Gavin Geilenkirchen 10



Senior Blake always is looking for the ball. He had four catches for 50 yards. *E-R photo/DMorgan*



Junior Dylan Kolm kept constant pressure on Flyers' QB Carson Wessel. *E-R photo/DMorgan*

Thank You!

The EPPJ Wolfpack would like to extend a HUGE "Thank You" to the following businesses:

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We would also like to thank all of those who helped with installation and programming. Your support of the Wolfpack is greatly appreciated!

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2023-2024 Wolfpack Calendars are here!

Just a few of these large wall calendars are still available for purchase.

Athletes on this year's calendar are Jovie Vaisvilas, Baylee Busteed, Kayton Zwingman, Kellan Hoefer, Nick Anderson, Blake Henn, Dylon Lueking and Samuel Hemenway.

The calendars contain sporting events and scheduled activities at Elgin Public Schools and St. Boniface/Pope John Central Catholic schools.

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LHNE

From Page Six
4/3, Zwingman 0/1, Charf 9/3, McNally 1/0, Furstenau 20/6. Team totals: 41/18
Sets (A/BHA/BHE) — Busteed 32/84/1, Charf 0/1/0, Callie Heithoff 0/1/0, Furstenau 0/3/1. Team totals: 32/89/2
Serve Receive (SR/SE) — Br. Martinsen 11/5, Kittelson 1/0, Busteed 4/1, Zwingman 1/1, Charf 20/4, Bode 7/2, Henn 1/0, Furstenau 15/0

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JVs win, 'C' team drops opener to Lutheran High Northeast Thursday night

ELGIN — The Wolfpack JV volleyball team swept Lutheran High Northeast 25-16 and 25-11 in the season opener. EPPJ had 16 kills at the net. Leading the way was Reese Stuhr with 5, Natalie Burenheide had 4 followed by Braelyn Martinsen 3, Halle Lueking 2 and Tessa Barlow 1. Callie Heithoff led the team in set assists with 6, Kaitey Schumacher had 3, Elizabeth Moser and Martinsen each had

2. Heithoff and Lueking each had 3 ace serves, Martinsen had one. Burenheide and Stuhr each had solo blocks in the match. Martinsen led the team in digs with 7, Barlow had 4 and Schumacher had 3. Martinsen and Barlow led in serve

receive with 5 apiece, Stuhr had 4.
C team
Victory eluded the Wolfpack 'C' team as LHNE prevailed 25-22 and 25-17. Juliana McNally led EPPJ with 5 kills, Aubrie Parks had 3, Moser had 2, Mady Kurpgeweit and

Haley Parks each had 1. In set assists, H. Parks led with 6, Moser had 2. A. Parks had 2 ace serves, H. Parks had one. Kurpgeweit had 3 of the team's 5 solo blocks, A. Parks had 2. Brooke Kinney led the team

in digs with 6. Kinney, Evans and A. Parks tied for the team high in serve receive with 4 apiece.

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STAFF RN OR LPN
Full- and Part-time

Antelope Memorial Hospital
102 W 9th St., Neligh, NE 68756
402-887-4151

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Scan this QR code for job openings listed at AMH.



SCHOOL SCHEDULES COURTESY OF:

Town & Country Vet Clinic
402-843-5756

Jeff Temme - Ag Land Realty LLC
402-843-8440

Switzer Welding/Iron Creations Country Crafts
Tom, Brenda & Brian
402-750--7749, 402-750-7748 & 402-841-8184

Stealth Broadband
402-347-1010

Starman Seed Service, Inc.
402-843-8393

Snider Memorial Funeral Home
- Jay Snider www.snidermemorialfh.com 402-843-2468

Sapp Bros. Petroleum Inc.
402-843-5621

Ruterbories Construction
Paul Ruterbories 402-649-5827

River Mill Coffee Company
402-929-2425

Precision Repair
402-843-2181

Petersburg Building & Supply
Monty & Teri Reicks 402-386-5207

McNally Law Office
402-887-5022

Lordemann Insurance
Eric, Steve, Megan & Marla 402-843-5741

Levander Funeral Home of Elgin
402-843-5400

Koinzan Enterprises Inc.
402-843-5800

Kittelson's Home Repair
Jim Kittelson 402-843-5833

Jonny Dodge CJ
402-887-4182 or 800-510-1303

Jerry's Feed Service
402-843-5622

Invenergy Wind Energy, LLC

Insurance Mart
Janet-Tracey-Tonya-Teri 402-843-2410

Hometown Station
402-843-5812

Keith Hemmer, CPA, P.C.
Certified Public Accountant 402-843-2380

Heithoff Irrigation
402-843-2307

Great Plains State Bank
402-386-5297

Elgin Veterans' Medical Clinic
an outpatient clinic of Boone Co. Medical Center 402-843-5910

The Elgin Review
402-843-5500

Elgin Pharmacy and Gift
402-843-5555

Elgin One Stop & Sleepin Inn
402-843-2100

CROSS COUNTRY VARSITY
Sept. 1 Boone Central Invite @ Albion CC (time change!) 9:00
Sept. 8 Boyd Co. Invite @ Butte GC 4:30

FOOTBALL VARSITY
Aug. 25 vs Humphrey St. Francis 7:00
Sept. 8 vs Creighton 7:00
Sept. 15 @ CWC (Bartlett) 7:00
Sept. 22 vs Boyd Co. (Homecoming) (EPS)..... 2:00

JUNIOR HIGH/JUNIOR VARSITY
Sept. 11 vs Summerland (EPS)..... 5:30/7:00
Sept. 18 vs Central Valley (EPS)..... 5:00/6:30
Sept. 25 vs Riverside (EPS)..... 5:00/6:30

VOLLEYBALL VARSITY
Aug. 31 Tri @ Stuart 5:00
Sept. 5 Double Tri @ Stuart..... 5:00
Sept. 7 @ Boyd County (Spencer)..... 6:30
Sept. 9 Trny @ Howells-Dodge (Howells)..... 9:00
Sept. 12 Tri @ Norfolk Catholic..... 5:00
Sept. 14 vs. Creighton (EPS)..... 7:30

JUNIOR VARSITY & C TEAM
Aug. 29 vs. Burwell (PJ) 5:00
Sept. 7 @ Boyd County (Spencer) 4:30
Sept. 11 vs. Summerland (PJ)..... 6:00
Sept. 14 vs. Creighton (EPS)..... 5:00

JUNIOR HIGH
Sept. 11 vs. Summerland (PJ) 4:00
Sept. 13 vs. Neligh-Oakdale (PJ)..... 3:00

HOME GAMES IN BOLD

OTHER UPCOMING SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES
Sept 1 EHS, MAPS testing 7-12
Sept 4 NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
Sept 5 PJCC StuCo meeting
Sept 6 FFA District Range Judging (South) at Sargent
Sept 8 SB only, 1 pm dismissal • FFA Labor Auction
Sept 10 Treasures in the Park
Sept 11 PJCC/SB, NO SCHOOL (teacher inservice)
Sept 12 Elgin FFA District X Range Judging (North) at Atkinson
Sept 13 EPS, Prevention Solutions-Digital Citizenship • PJCC 9th grade to Ashfalls
Sept 14 FFA Area 4 Range Judging, Central City • Wolfpack volleyball SENIOR NIGHT

Elgin Livestock Sales, Inc.
402-843-2275

Elgin Body & Glass
402-843-2418

Dwyer Manufacturing
402-843-6167

Klein PC, Attny at Law
402-887-4910

Dean's Market
402-843-5300

Chilvers Abstract & Title Co.
402-843-5530

Central Valley Ag
402-843-2416

KT Central Plains Plumbing, LLC
402-608-0105

Beckman Lumber Inc.
402-843-2131

Baum Seed Service, LLC
402-843-5802 or 402-843-8282

Bar U Farms
402-843-8921

Bank of Elgin
402-843-2228

Antelope Memorial Hospital
402-887-4151 Elgin Clinic 402-843-5444

————— **Notice of Meetings – Antelope County Commissioners** —————

Noah Richardson, Springfield, SD 6/20/23 driver under suspension/before reinstated, fined \$100 - Johnson.

Tyson N. Thompson, Eaton, CO 7/5/23 speeding 74/65 mph, fined \$25 - Dostal.

Mitchell E. Wallis, Montgomery, AL 6/24/23 procure/sell alcohol to minor/incompetent, fined \$500 - Kirkendall/ Viterna.

Jordan P. Mazzitelli, Lakewood, CO 5/19/23 speeding 80/65 mph, fined \$75 - Mohr.

Henry Y. Pena Urrutia, Norfolk, NE 7/9/23 speeding 75/65 mph, fined \$25 - Kavan.

Charles E. McCool, Crandall, TX 7/31/23 speeding 91/65 mph, fined \$200 - Kavan.

John P. Matthews, O'Neill, NE 8/8/23 speeding 80/65 mph, fined \$75 - Kavan.

Thomas E. Stoltz, Elgin, NE 5/19/23 careless driving, fined \$100 - Osuna-Salazar.*

Troy D. Bayne, Hershey, NE 8/10/23 speeding 74/65 mph, fined \$25 - Detlefsen.

Earleen F. Jensen, Royal, NE 11/24/22 maintaining a dangerous building, fined \$200 - Moore.

Pepper W. Marchant, Neligh, NE 9/6/20 Count 1) assault pub safety ofcr w/bodily fluid, probation revoked/drug testing-probation administrative+probation fees of \$750/6 months jail to run concurrently; Count 2) assault-cause bodily injury to person, probation revoked/1 year jail to run consecutively; Count 3) assault-cause bodily injury to person, probation revoked/1 year jail to run concurrently; Count 4) dropped; Count 5) obstruct a peace officer, probation revoked/6 months jail to run concurrently - Lawson.*

Cameron J. Schindler, Neligh, NE 5/29/23 minor in possession/tobacco-electronic nicotine use-under 21, fined \$600 - Juracek.

Leinad De Jesus Oliva Gaytan, Punta Gorda, FL 7/14/23 speeding 80/65 mph, fined \$75 - Howard.

**MISSIONERS, ANTELOPE
COUNTY, NEBRASKA FOR
THE MONTH OF
SEPTEMBER, 2023**

Notice is hereby given that the
County Board of Commissioners
of Antelope County, Nebraska
will hold meetings in the County

Notice is hereby given that the County Board of Commissioners of Antelope County, Nebraska will hold meetings in the County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING-ANTELOPE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
The Antelope County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 14, 2023, in the County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Room in the Antelope County Courthouse Annex at 3 pm.

The Antelope County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 14, 2023, in the County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Room in the Antelope County Courthouse Annex at 3 pm.

The public hearing will be re-

garding the Conditional Use Permit 2303-Summit Carbon Solutions for the purpose of a carbon dioxide pipeline in the following areas:

Sherman Township Sections 31-32; Garfield Township Sections 1-5; Royal Township Sections 6-9, 14-16, 23-24; Ellsworth Township Sections 19-20, 26-29,

Open Meeting Act.
Councilmembers present were Mike Dvorak, Jim Kittelson, Leigh Kluthe, and Craig Niewohner. Mayor Schmitt was absent.

The Elgin City Council met for a budget workshop on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 7:30 p.m., pursuant to posted notice.

Council President Dvorak called the meeting to order, and announced the location of the

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

11, 2023, following the Budget Hearing at Wheeler Central High School Media Center. Among other topics to be discussed, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-3405, the Board will vote on whether to increase the school district's base growth percent-

The Wheeler Central Public School Board of Education will meet on Monday, September

The following agenda item was discussed:

- 2023-2024 budget
- Budget workshop adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Mayor Mike Schmitt
City Clerk Kristin L. Childers
PUBLISH: August 30, 2023
ZNEZ

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has swiftly emerged as a transformative force across industries, promising unprecedented efficiency gains and opportunities for growth. However, amidst its promises lie potential challenges, particularly for small businesses. This paper delves into the potential dangers AI poses to small businesses and provides actionable strategies to help them adapt and thrive in an AI-driven landscape.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has swiftly emerged as a transformative force across industries, promising unprecedented efficiency gains and opportunities for growth. However, amidst its promises lie potential challenges, particularly for small businesses. This paper delves into the potential dangers AI poses to small businesses and provides actionable strategies to help them adapt and thrive in an AI-driven landscape.

The Dangers of AI to Small Businesses

Financial Barriers: Integrating AI technology can require substantial upfront investments in terms of hardware, software, and skilled personnel. Small businesses with limited resources may struggle to afford these costs, potentially widening the digital divide. **Job Displacement:** As AI automation becomes more sophisticated, routine tasks could be automated, leading to concerns about job displacement. Small businesses may face workforce restructuring challenges and employee morale issues. **Data Privacy and Security:** Utilizing AI often involves collecting and processing significant amounts of data. Small businesses might not have robust cybersecurity measures in place, making them vulnerable to data breaches and regulatory fines. **Loss of Personal Touch:** Small businesses often rely on personal customer interactions as a competitive advantage. Overreliance on AI could lead to a loss of the personal touch, affecting customer relationships.

Adaptive Strategies for Small Businesses

Education and Upskilling: Prioritize educating your workforce about AI and its potential benefits. Invest in training programs to upskill employees in areas that complement AI technology, ensuring they remain relevant and adaptable. Start Small: Begin with pilot AI projects that align with your business goals and budget constraints. This approach allows you to test AI's viability for your business without committing significant resources upfront. Collaborative Partnerships: Consider forming partnerships with AI providers or technology companies. This can help mitigate financial burdens while gaining access to specialized expertise in AI implementation. Data Protection Measures: Prioritize data security and privacy. Implement robust cybersecurity practices, comply with data protection regulations, and communicate your commitment to safeguarding customer data. Hybrid Approach: Maintain the personal touch that defines small businesses by integrating AI in ways that enhance rather than replace human interactions. AI can streamline processes, allowing employees to focus on more valuable tasks. Customer Education: Transparently communicate how AI benefits your customers. Educate them about the improvements AI can bring while assuring them that the personal aspects of your business will not be compromised. Agility and Flexibility: Stay agile and adaptable to changing mar-

See AI, Page 10

Questioning what is happening with your city, school, county and state governments doesn't make you an...

**Oddball. Nutjob. Idiot.
Weirdo. Conspiracist.
Crazy. Troublemaker.**

(fill in the blank)

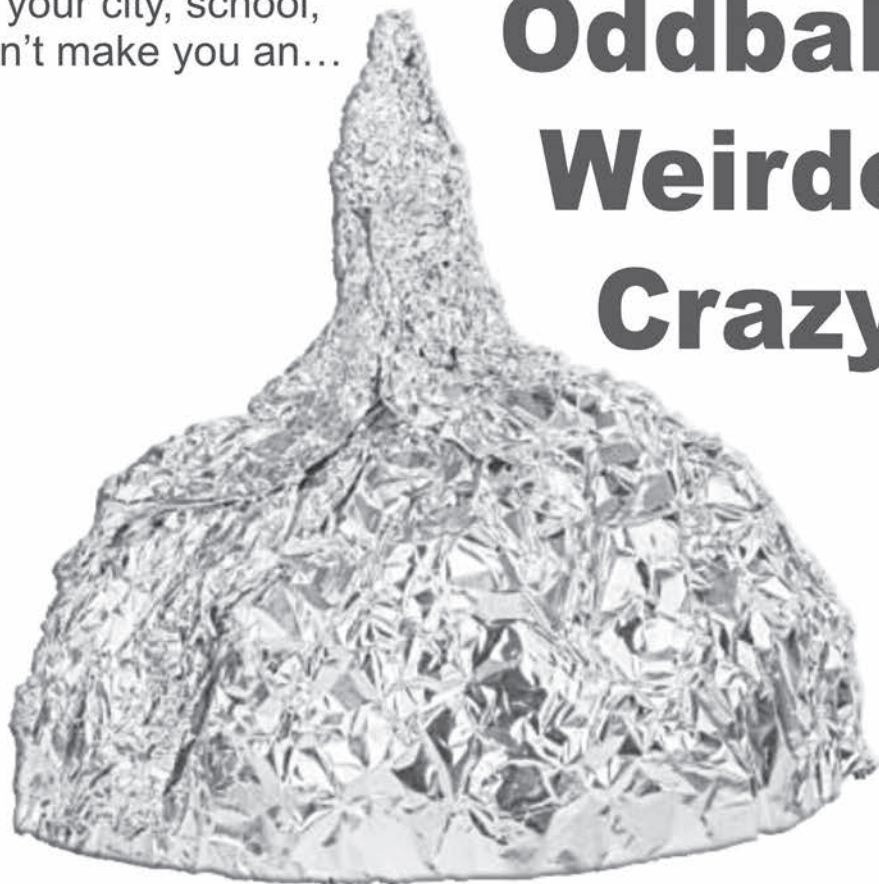
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Bud's Sanitary Service

Reminder: trash not in toters will not be collected

It's been little over a month since Elgin trash collection changed to the toters system. How are Elgin residents doing with the new routine?

According to Holly Guthard of Bud's Sanitary Service, Elgin is doing "pretty good".

"My employees are so thankful for the change. It's made a huge difference in their day and time spent", she told *The Elgin Review*. "There are a few people every week that

have extra on the side that we will continue to leave until they have called me at the office for approval of pickup with payment".

With the move towards more automation with the pickup service, only trash in the official toter can be picked up. Guthard wanted to pass along this friendly reminder to residents: "...have ALL TRASH in Bud's toter(s)." If you find yourself having more

trash than fits into your Bud's toter(s), call the City for an additional one (up to 3). WE REMIND EVERYONE THAT ALL TRASH MUST BE IN A BUD'S TOTER."

City Clerk Kristin Childers said additional toters are \$5 each per month needed. Elgin City Hall's number is 402-843-5822.

Guthard said "We appreciate everyone's continued cooperation."

Consider testing for feed nitrate toxicity

Besides limiting forage production, dry weather can create another problem for producers to deal with, that of nitrate toxicity. Nitrogen is one of the big three macro-nutrients, along with potassium and phosphorus, that plants use in large amounts. While all plants use nitrogen, some tend to be more likely to have high nitrate levels than others. Annual grasses like cane, millet, oats, and even corn often have elevated nitrate levels. So do certain weeds like pigweed, kochia, and lambsquarter.

When growth stops due to stress like drought, plants continue to uptake nitrogen if they can. However, with nowhere for this nitrogen to be used up, it collects in the lower part of the stem as nitrate. When livestock consume this high nitrate forage, we have issues.

While the return of moisture can revitalize plant growth and provide a place for extra nitrate to be used, it doesn't happen all at once. In fact, for several days after a drought breaking rain, nitrate levels in plants may be higher than they were during dry weather. The moisture has allowed for the plant to begin absorbing nitrogen through the root system again, but often times growth is slower to start up again. If your plants still look stressed and haven't returned to normal growth after a rain storm, chances are you still have higher than normal nitrates.

As with any feed issue, the

best way to protect against nitrate risk is to know what we have to deal with. Testing any feed suspected of being high in nitrates is a good idea. Even when tests come back high, it doesn't mean these feeds are unusable, we just have to deal with them appropriately.

Most recommendations for appropriate levels of nitrates in forages are based on hay. Individual labs may test for nitrate differently, typically using nitrate nitrogen (NO₃-N) or nitrate alone (NO₃-). Toxic levels differ for the two tests so it's important to know which your lab uses. Hay testing above 2,000 to 2,300 ppm NO₃-N is considered toxic. That number jumps to 9,000 to 10,000 ppm for NO₃- alone.

Often grazing cattle can tolerate greater concentrations of nitrates than those consuming hay. The amount of nitrates cattle can consume without an issue depends a lot on the situation and management. Fresh forage releases nitrates slower into the rumen than hay. We can also manage grazing so lower portions of the plant where the highest concentration of nitrate is found are not utilized. This is especially important early on in the grazing period. Rumen microbes can adjust to high nitrate levels and adapt over time, detoxifying higher and higher levels of nitrate. Allowing animals to be selective when grazing high nitrate forages can aid in this transition. Finally, additional energy in the rumen can help microbes

increase detoxification. Safely supplementing some grain to animals grazing mature high nitrate forages can lower risk.

Hay produced from high nitrate forage may be the most difficult to deal with as nitrate levels will be locked in to where they were during harvest. It's essential in these cases to get a nitrate test on any questionable hay so we can plan to feed these bales safely. Diluting the diet with grain or low nitrate forages is most common way to utilize high nitrate hay. Don't feed wet or damp high nitrate hay however: Moisture will speed up digestion and can cause toxicity where we may not have had an issue with a dry bale.

Our final harvest option is ensiling. Silage harvest, unlike grazing or hay, has the potential to actually reduce nitrate levels in a feed up to 50%. Proper fermentation is essential for this to happen and to ensure a quality feed, so make sure to watch moisture levels, pack well, and cover silage once chopped. Silage that we consider high in nitrate shouldn't be sampled until it has fermented and we are ready to feed out to get an accurate assessment of nitrate levels.

Nitrate concerns are nothing to sneeze at, but with the right tools, can be managed safely. Keep animals from using lower portions of a plant that have highest concentrations and work them up to high nitrate feeds slowly. Test hay you think may have an issue, especially annual grasses and hay with a high percentage of weeds. If tests come back high, plan to feed safely by dilution. Silage may be the preferred option for those looking to reduce nitrate levels as opposed to managing risk.

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

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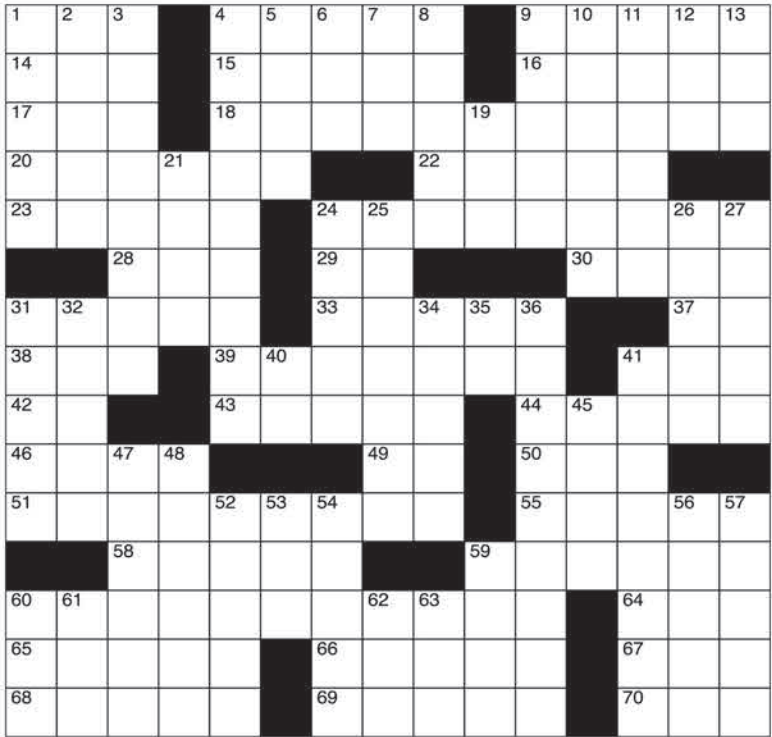
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Albion - Elgin - St. Edward



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Midway between east and southeast
- 4. At right angles to a ship's length
- 9. William Penn's business partner
- 14. ___ de plume
- 15. Accomplished soccer coach
- 16. Bone cavities
- 17. ___ juris: independent
- 18. Popular Philly sandwich
- 20. Northern Ireland county
- 22. Performing artist
- 23. S S S
- 24. Lacks flavor
- 28. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

- 2. Occur as a result of
- 3. Representative
- 4. Entering
- 5. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
- 6. Midway between northeast and east
- 7. Consumed
- 8. Tablelands
- 9. Kids' craft accessory
- 10. Not known
- 11. Sound directed through two or more speakers
- 12. A major division of geological time
- 13. Wild ox
- 19. Shock treatment
- 21. Turner and Lasso are two
- 24. Genus of flowering plants
- 25. Relating to ductless glands
- 26. Stock certificate
- 27. Satisfies
- 31. Places to enjoy a rest
- 32. Edward ___, author and writer
- 34. "___ but goodie"
- 35. One hundredth of a liter
- 36. Shabbiness
- 40. TV personality Roker
- 41. Triangular upper part of a building
- 45. Speed at which you move
- 47. Offend
- 48. A reference point to shoot at
- 52. Forays
- 53. Biblical city
- 54. Blatted
- 56. Northern sea duck
- 57. Shabby (slang)
- 59. Allege
- 60. Tax collector
- 61. Whereabouts unknown
- 62. Chinese philosophical principle
- 63. Indicates equal

In Hot Dog Heaven

Kids and adults enjoyed some summer foods and fun during the waning days of summer break. At the Elgin Rescue color run held a couple of weeks ago, Emma Schindler (with mom Sara) found this hot dog absolutely delicious. E-R photo/LMorgan

Classifieds

email us at: elginreview@yahoo.com

HELP WANTED:

HELP WANTED: St. Boniface Lunch Room is looking for a Lunch Assistant, M-F. Contact Deb Baum at 402-843-8249 for more information. 43tfn

HELP WANTED:

Wheeler Central Schools

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

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Excellent demand for calves, feeders & weigh ups:

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41 Black Steers	830	253.50
82 Black Heifers	808	236.50
61 Black Steers	926	248.50
57 Black Steers	939	243.00
58 Black Steers	981	239.75
360 Black Heifers	883	234.25
300 Black Steers	952	240.00
7 Black Pregged Open Heifers	925	224.00

High Yielding Cows 120.00 to 123.00
Lower Yielding Cows 115.00 to 120.00
Thins..... 77.00 to 100.00
Bulls..... 101.00 to 127.50

UPCOMING SPECIALS:

Sept. 11 - Weigh Cows & Bulls

Sept. 25 - Calves, Feeders, Weigh Cows & Bulls

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Chris Baum	649-9875
Dan Baum	843-8813
Dave Baum	649-4616
Office	843-2275

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Sunday, Sept. 3

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Parish Bazaar

106 North 4th Street, Petersburg

ROAST BEEF & SAUSAGE DINNER, with all the fixings
11 a.m.-1 p.m. in Werner Hall

Adults: \$15
Children (ages 6-12): \$10
5 & Under: FREE

LIVE AUCTION following the meal.

Enjoy our Social Garden, Bingo & More!


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Agents Eric, Marla, Megan and Steve

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L-2300453

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American Legion | 103 East Elk Street | Jackson, Nebraska

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Bidding closes | Thursday, September 28, 2023 at at close of live event

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Petersburg, Nebraska


AI

From Page Eight

ket trends. The AI landscape evolves rapidly, and small businesses must be ready to pivot their strategies to leverage new opportunities.

Conclusion


AI holds immense potential for small businesses to streamline operations, enhance customer experiences, and drive growth. While challenges and dangers are present, proactive adaptation can help small businesses transform these potential pitfalls into stepping stones. By embracing AI strategically, upskilling their workforce, safeguarding data, and maintaining their unique value proposition, small businesses can position themselves to not only survive but thrive in an AI-driven future.



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- Speech Therapist
- RN - Cardiology
- RN - Room Care
- RN - Surgery
- Clinic Nurse
- CNA*
- Cook*
- Dietary Aide*
- Housekeeper*
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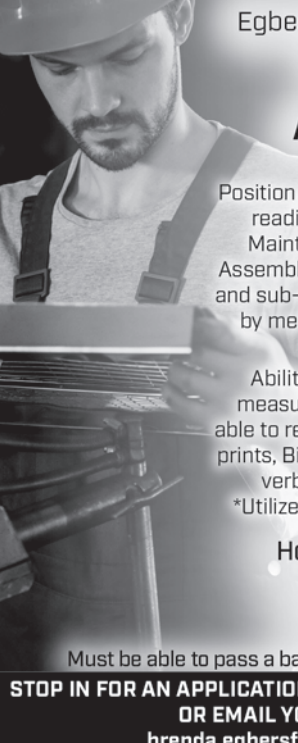
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Pillen’s use of executive privilege irks transparency advocates

By Sara Gentzler
Flatwater Free Press

Before he took office, Gov. Jim Pillen joked about phone conversations being exempt from public disclosure. Now, his administration has taken what seems to be an unprecedented step to shield the governor’s communications.

Pillen’s staff denied the Flatwater Free Press access to four emails the governor sent, in part citing “executive privilege” – a phrase absent from Nebraska’s public records laws.

A half-dozen former and current officials and advocates who spoke to the Flatwater Free Press couldn’t recall any other Nebraska governors who invoked executive privilege to deny access to records.

One press freedom advocate described its apparently novel use in Nebraska – and the lack of further explanation from the governor’s office – as “disturbing.”

Former Gov. Dave Heineman, a Republican who served from 2005 to 2015, said he’s unfamiliar with the concept of executive privilege relative to governors’ emails. He supports full transparency, he said, with narrow exceptions for things like unresolved personnel or legal matters.

“When you’re the governor, you’re a publicly elected official and your records are subject to freedom of information requests, and we routinely complied with those,” Heineman said. “I think that’s important, because the public has a right to know what a governor is doing and the kinds of emails that we get.”

Jack Gould, a board member with open government group Common Cause Nebraska since 1985, said this is the first time he’s heard of a Nebraska governor invoking “executive privilege” to deny records.

Sen. Danielle Conrad, a Democrat from Lincoln, lawyer, and former head of the state ACLU, also couldn’t remember a case. The current ACLU Nebraska legal director couldn’t either.

Allen Beermann, emeritus executive director of the Nebraska Press Association and former Nebraska secretary of state, couldn’t remember a specific example from a former governor, but said he could imagine an appropriate use of executive privilege.

The Flatwater Free Press has asked three times for emails the governor has sent since he took office in January.

In April, legal counsel Maureen Larsen provided a handful of email threads and withheld four records, writing that they were “protected by executive privilege.” A subset of records, she wrote, “are also protected by deliberative process privilege” and an exception in state law addressing public safety.

In response to Flatwater’s two other requests, Larsen said there were no records.

Spokesperson Laura Strimple said that Pillen communicates by phone or in-person.

“The bulk of constituent inquiries are submitted through a portal on the Governor’s website,” she wrote in an email to Flatwater Free

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Tales

From Page Six
thing that the Eagles managed to get back over the net. Don’t forget the servers who put the ball where Coach Jordynn Luettel wanted it. Is EPPJ as good as they looked Thursday night? Probably not, the win-loss record will settle that score. The net was wide open for our hitters as the Eagles failed to put up much of a block. When your hitters can swing free at the net with no fear of a block, it can get nasty in a hurry.

This isn’t an electronic Koolaid® essay, there are areas the team needs to improve upon. Coaches see things you and I don’t see. There’s no such thing as a perfect match, there’s always something that can be better.

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SOPHOMORES
Kyndal Busted, Tison Sparr, Jarek Erickson, Jaydalynn Chessmore, Kaylon Zwingman, Aiden Klein, Grady Drueke, Karson Kallhoff, Landyn Veik, Kaiden Bode, Isaac Hemerway, Haley Parks, Tess Barlow, Camry Kittelson and Autumn Forbes.

FRESHMEN
Justice Blecher, Kyla Donaldson, Ruby Durre, Kierstin Eisenhauer, Libby Evans, Madelyn Kurpgewell, Kylee Lichtenberg, Braelyn Martinsen, Gemma Miller, Rylen Schwarzing, Dannyka Smidt, Zoey Buechter, Megan Wright, Brayden Burenheide, Gavin Kallhoff, Brooke Kinney, Elizabeth Moser, Michael Selling and Aubrie Parks.

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Pillen

From Page 11
Press. “Letters are distributed to subject matter experts on the Governor’s staff or to the appropriate agency for review and response. If they are of a personal nature, the Governor responds on his own.”
Pillen’s administration had denied access to records three times as of mid-July, and this was the only time it cited executive or deliberative process privilege. Neither is among the exceptions that allow public officials to withhold records under Nebraska public records laws. Neither is mentioned in Nebraska’s Constitution.
Staff did not directly answer requests to cite statute and describe the contents of the records that were withheld. State law requires agencies to do both. Instead, Strimple responded: “The Governor’s Office has responded to all public records requests in accordance with the law.”
Sen. Tom Brewer, a Republican from Gordon and chair of the committee that handles bills related to public records, agreed. He said he consulted with legal counsel and didn’t think the governor’s office had violated state law. He said he fears the requests will lead people to send fewer emails.
“If I was them and any email I send comes under every-

one’s scrutiny,” he wrote in an email, “I would rarely ever send an email.”
The denial alarmed national experts in government transparency. Adam Marshall, a senior staff attorney with the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, called it “disturbing” that the governor’s office cited a legal theory for apparently the first time and didn’t provide additional information.
“I think the governor’s office owes the public an explanation of what it’s doing and why it’s doing it,” Marshall said.
Laura Ebke, senior fellow at the Platte Institute and former state senator, said that – if you accept that there is executive privilege – she believes it should have clear and specific guidelines, and that those guidelines should be cited when it’s invoked.
Nebraska journalists use public records in reporting that influences government operations and provides the public important information. Lawyers, lawmakers, political parties, interest groups, and citizens who simply want more information about the work of their government also frequently use the law.
“The governor’s not saying no to the *Flatwater Free Press*, he’s saying no to 2 million people – he’s shutting down 2 million people from getting information that they’re probably entitled to see,” said David Cuillier, director of the Joseph L. Brechner Freedom of Information Project at the University of Florida.
The governor’s office is required to keep such records for 10 years. However, the *Flatwater Free Press* was not able to inspect denial letters from the administration of Pete Ricketts, who preceded Pillen. History Nebraska, which maintains archived state records, said it didn’t have these records from Ricketts’ time. Pillen’s office also said it didn’t have the records.
In Nebraska, multiple lawyers pointed to a 2017 state Supreme Court case in which the court recognized a privilege that protects judges’ deliberations, with limitations.
The court didn’t weigh in on executive privilege but referenced a U.S. Supreme Court opinion that recognized it: “We note with approval that the U.S. Supreme Court has rejected overly broad claims of executive privilege to shield records from similar public disclosure laws,” the Nebraska opinion reads.
Based on that opinion, University of Nebraska-Lincoln law professor Kyle Langvardt said he thinks it’s more likely than not that the state Supreme Court would find some kind of an executive privilege exists, with limitations.
“You can’t just make these blanket claims about executive privilege,” he said. “That tends not to go too well in court, either at the federal level or in other states.”
Speaking at the state’s Center for Operational Excellence summit in December, Pillen made a joke that implied secrecy was a benefit of phone calls. “I’m learning ... when you have phone conversations, they’re not (at the discretion of) open meetings laws,” Pillen quipped with a smile.
Strimple, his spokesperson, said Pillen is “very accessible.” He has attended hundreds of events across the state, she said, and the media typically receives prior notice for events organized by the office or that involve other agencies.
Conrad said she’s seen a trend away from transparency at all levels of government in recent years. She introduced a bill meant to improve state public records law earlier this year. It didn’t advance.
The Platte Institute’s Ebke said that transparency is especially important now, when many people already distrust their government. “Public officials should do everything they can to shed light on things so that people have less reason to lack trust,” Ebke said.

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