

# Pilot-Tribune



**GOOD LUCK AT STATE WASHINGTON COUNTY:**  
11 Bears, 10 Eagles and 12 Pioneers total earn spots **8-9**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025**  
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**ONE DOLLAR**

## Blair graduate pleads 'no contest' to second-degree murder charge

BY ADAM BRANTING  
reporter@enterprise.pub.com

Blair High School graduate Kianna J. Opal pleaded "no contest" in Douglas County District Court last Thursday to second-degree murder charges in the stabbing death of 17-year-old Ezra Sinkiawic.

Opal, 19, was accused of stabbing Sinkiawic last year in the early morning hours of May 12. Sinkiawic later died at the

Nebraska Medical Center. Opal had originally been charged with first-degree murder in July. The Class IA felony carries a sentence of life without parole. The State of Nebraska reduced the charge to second-degree murder on Feb. 10, according to court records, which carries a sentence of 20 years to life.

Prosecutors also amended the second charge against Opal, use of a deadly weapon, to pos-

session of a deadly weapon (non-firearm) during the commission of a felony. She will be sentenced on April 23 in Omaha by District Court Judge Molly Keane.

Opal's new plea was not unexpected. In January, defense attorney Ernest H. Addison Jr signaled in court documents "that additional necessary and essential time is required to continue efforts to resolve this matter possibly through agreement."

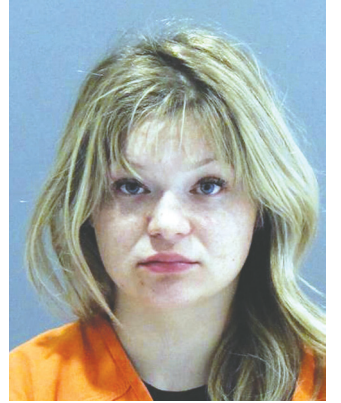
The trial had been scheduled for this June. Opal had previously pleaded not guilty.

As previously reported, prosecutors contend Opal had been acting "erratically" and threatened several people with a stun gun inside an Omaha residence in the hours leading up to the incident. A group, including Sinkiawic, then left the home.

However, Sinkiawic and others later returned to retrieve belongings.

That's when Opal allegedly grabbed two knives, advanced and made a stabbing motion, hitting Sinkiawic in her chest.

Sinkiawic was taken to the hospital by a private vehicle, according to an Omaha Police Department report. When officers arrived at the Omaha home at North 53rd and Spaulding streets, Opal was still on the scene and taken into custody without incident.



Kianna Opal

COURTESY OPD

# Snow followed by bitter cold



Good samaritans in Blair help out a driver stuck on a snow pile along Highway 30 at Hollow Road Saturday morning.



Brian Smith pushes his snow thrower through drifts along Fieldcrest Drive in Deerfield following Saturday's snowfall.



Dosier stands guard as Ryan Fischer clears his driveway along Fieldcrest Drive in Blair Saturday morning.



A city worker plows along Washington Street in Blair Saturday morning.



PHOTOS BY JOE BURNS | PILOT-TRIBUNE  
City workers clean sidewalks along Washington Street in downtown Blair on Saturday.

### STAFF REPORT

Washington County got hit with its second and third snow events in the past eight days Saturday and Monday. Parts of the county were in the Saturday snow band that accumulated as much as 8 inches.

After a bright and sunny Sunday, the snow started falling again early Monday. At presstime, Monday's snow was still coming down in full force, with by all appearances a conservative forecast from the National Weather Service predicting up to 3 inches of fresh snow.

Road crews had cleared most major thoroughfares by Saturday afternoon, but no doubt would have to start over after Monday's snow. It was unclear how the President's Day holiday may affect snow removal efforts.

After the snow stopped on Monday, Washington County temperatures were scheduled to go into the deep freeze. Tuesday's low is forecast at -8, followed by -18 on Wednesday and -14 on Thursday. (Look at enterprise.pub.com and our Facebook and X pages for the very latest.)



An employee cleans off the sidewalk and entryway to Dulce Vida along Washington Street Saturday morning in Blair.

The highs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday aren't expected to be much warmer: Tuesday's high is forecast to be 1 degree, with Wednesday topping out at 3 degrees and Thursday reaching no higher than 6 degrees.

The next day with a scheduled high above freezing is Sunday, when Washington County can expect highs at or around 40 degrees.

## Fort Calhoun OKs pay increases for principals, classified staff

BY TERESA HOFFMAN  
For the Washington County Pilot-Tribune

Principals Nick Wemhoff and Sara Horstman, and Assistant Principal/Activities Director Jamie Schleifer were granted 3% pay increases for the 2025-26 school year under new contracts approved by the Fort Calhoun Community Schools Board of Education during its February meeting.

Additionally, the trio will receive \$500 in extra duty pay for the school year. The contracts were previously discussed during meetings of the board's American Civics and Finance committees, where 2.5% and 3% pay increases were considered.

Board Vice President Amanda Schrum said she was on the fence about granting 3 percent raises because of the extra duty pay and because teachers and

other support staff received 2.5 percent increases.

"Do I think they deserve it, 100 percent," Schrum said. "But it's also hard to find a balance, budget-wise, and making sure that it's fair across the board."

Anita Saalfeld, president of the Fort Calhoun Education Association, the group that represents teachers during negotiations, said members supported the 3 percent raise.

"We appreciate our administrators; we think they are doing a great job," Saalfeld said. "They are on-call all the time, and we want to recognize that."

Schrum thanked Saalfeld for the feedback and then joined her fellow board members in unanimously approving the new contracts.

Board President Josh Christensen believes the raises are "fine and acceptable" and

amounts the board can manage within the district's budget.

The board also unanimously granted pay raises not to exceed 2.5 percent for the district's classified staff. In recommending the raises, Superintendent Jerry Green applauded the employees' work.

"We love our classified staff," he said, adding that pay raises

SEE FORT CALHOUN, 2

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OBITUARIES

## David Allen Pence, 69

David Allen Pence, age 69 of Blair, passed away February 14, 2025, at Immanuel Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. Funeral Services will be held Friday, February 21, 2025, at 10 a.m. at Campbell Aman Funeral Home in Blair. Graveside services will follow in the Blair Cemetery. Visitation will be held Thursday February 20, 2025, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Campbell Aman.



David Allen Pence

David Allen Pence was born June 29, 1955, in Blair, Nebraska, to Kenneth and Clarice (Ryan) Pence. He attended and graduated from Blair Community Schools in 1973. He was a longtime employee of Kelly Ryan Equipment, working for the company for 35 years.

David began a deep and lasting belief in the spiritual power of AA many years ago. He was very proud of his 33 years of sobriety. He was actively involved in the local AA meetings; he manned the AA hotline for many years, and he held officer positions at the AA regional organizational level.

Dave treasured spending time with his son, along with vacationing in Colorado, going on country road drives and reading.

He is survived by his son, Kenneth David Pence, and many extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorials may be directed to the Blair Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Services by Campbell Aman Funeral Home. [www.campbellaman.com](http://www.campbellaman.com)

## Robert L. Fuchs, 81

Robert L. Fuchs 81 of Arlington, NE, passed away Wednesday February 12, 2025, at Nebraska Medicine in Omaha. He was born July 22, 1943, in Fremont to Oswald and Leona (Hagerbaumer) Fuchs. He was the 100th baby born at the old Fremont Hospital.



Robert L. Fuchs

He grew up and lived his entire life in and around Arlington. He graduated from Arlington High School in 1961 and then served in the Nebraska Army National Guard from 1961 to 1969. He married Cheryl Penke on April 8, 1967, in Omaha, NE.

Robert was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Arlington and his faith was very important to him. He was a lifetime member of the Fremont Car Club and 40-year member of the American Legion Post No. 71 of Arlington. He enjoyed going to car shows with his '61 Ford. After church he liked to take Cheryl on trips to nearby wineries and just relax and enjoy each other's company.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Gene (Mary) Fuchs and sister, Arlyce (Charles) Olsen.

Robert is survived by his wife, Cheryl; daughter, Michelle Frickenstein of Fremont; son, Michael (Sarah) Fuchs all of Arlington; brother, Roger (Jean) Fuchs of Portland, OR; 5 grandchildren, Grant and Paige Frickenstein, Aaron, Erica and Isaiah Fuchs; sister-in-law, Melinda (Steve) Sergeant of Elkhorn and nieces and nephews.

Funeral will be 10 :30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Arlington. Visitation will be 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday at Reckmeyer-Moser Funeral Home Arlington. Interment with Military Honors will be at St. Paul's Cemetery.

## FORT CALHOUN: OKs pay increases for principals, classified staff

FROM PAGE 1

for classified staff typically follow what teachers are given. "They work hard for us and do a great job. We appreciate all you do to help support them."

### Staffing changes

In other business, the school board:

- Accepted the resignation of second-grade teacher Shelby Kaup, effective at the end of the school year. Green called Kaup "a fantastic teacher" and said she'll be missed. But he also understands that her future is in Blair and that she wants to be part of that community. "We hate to lose her because, for a second-year teacher, she is very good in the classroom."
- Offered a teaching contract for the 2025-26 school year to Christina Bowser, second grade. A graduate of Fort Calhoun, Green said Bowser previously worked in the district's before and after school program and was a substitute teacher. She

has spent the last seven years teaching at St. Bernard Catholic School in Omaha. Green said he's excited to welcome Bowser back to the community.

- Offered a teaching contract for the 2025-26 school year to Cassidy Knust, third-grade. Originally from Aurora, she is a recent Concordia University graduate, where she played volleyball. Green said Knust's maturity, calmness and confidence shined through during her interview.
- Offered a teaching contract for the 2025-26 school year to Ariel Connor, elementary art. Green said Connor is a good addition to the district's staff. Elementary Principal Sara Horstman agreed, noting that, in addition to teaching, she also works with the Joslyn Art Museum's summer kids program and participates in activities to showcase children's artwork at elementary schools in the Omaha area.

## Arthur Wayne Pensyl, 62

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Arthur Wayne Pensyl, age 62 of Fremont, Nebraska, who departed this life on February 10th, 2025. Memorial services will be held Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at Reach Church, Blair, Nebraska.



Arthur Wayne Pensyl

Art was born on December 16, 1962, at Fort Ord, California, the son of Guy Pensyl Sr. and Charlotte (Adams) Pensyl. He was raised in Omaha, Nebraska, where he attended Omaha North High School. After high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Cavalry Scout. Art was always very proud of his service. After his honorable discharge from the Army, Art found employment with the Parks and Recreation Department with the City of Omaha.

Art had a deep passion for the outdoors; he enjoyed hunting and fishing with his family, especially at Gavins Point Dam and Fort Robinson in South Dakota, as well as Wilson Island and the Fremont State Lakes where he would frequent from early spring until the first snow each year. He loved cooking for friends and family and raising his own garden. Art will always be remembered as a gentle giant. He was an imposing figure but with a compassionate heart.

Art is survived by his children: Joe Gruhn, Garrett Pensyl and Tina Pensyl; grandchildren: Gage, Hailee, Aubree; siblings: Guy (Heidi) Pensyl Jr., Tina (Steve) Halley, Kathy (Ted) Shively, Naomi (Dan) Pensyl; along with many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, beloved granddaughter Savannah Pensyl, brother Ervin Pensyl and sister Missy Pensyl.

Memorials may be directed to the family for later designation.

Services by Campbell Aman Funeral Home, Blair, NE. [www.campbellaman.com](http://www.campbellaman.com)

## WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

### FEBRUARY 10

**FORT CALHOUN:** 7:55 A.M. SCHOOL PATROL; No issues.

**3000 WESTRIDGE DR:** 12:44 P.M. WARRANT SERVICE; No contact.

**5300 MORIAH LN:** 1:13 P.M. WARRANT SERVICE; N/C.

**4900 CR 38:** 2:39 P.M. MOTORIST ASSIST; Unknown vehicle parked on road almost every day, gone on arrival.

**FORT CALHOUN:** 2:55 P.M. SCHOOL PATROL; No issues.

**ARLINGTON SCHOOL:** 3:05 P.M. SCHOOL PATROL; Complete.

**PBX:** 6:22 P.M. COMPLAINANT WANTED TO MAKE US AWARE OF A DRIVER BYPASSING SCHOOL BUS TRAFFIC AT THE BUS STOP IN THE MORNING; Forwarded information to day shift.

**4600 TROUT LANE:** 7:22 P.M. AGENCY ASSIST; FCVFR paged out for small brush fire. Fire handled.

**BLAIR:** 9:00 P.M. ASSIST BPD; Assist BPD with DUI investiga-

tion due to minimum staffing.

### FEBRUARY 11

**HWY 30/P26:** 12:51 A.M. MA; 12 hr red tag. White Pontiac Vibe.

**FORT CALHOUN:** 2:00 A.M. BUSINESS CHECK; 14 checked.

**ARLINGTON:** 2:24 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 15 checked.

**CR 37 & ALICE DR:** 7:00 A.M. SCHOOL BUS SELECTIVE; No violations observed.

**FORT CALHOUN:** 7:45 A.M. SCHOOL PATROL; No issues.

**ARLINGTON:** 7:48 A.M. SCHOOL PATROL; No issues.

**WASHINGTON:** 12:44 P.M. RESCUE CALL; Hospice death.

**19400 CR P31:** 2:11 P.M. RESCUE CALL; BFVD transported and handled.

**HWY 75 BLAIR:** 2:49 P.M. GRAY NISSAN SUV NO PLATES SLOW SPEEDS AND DRIVING ON SHOULDER; UTL.

**ARLINGTON:** 3:10 P.M. SCHOOL PATROL; No issues.

**HERMAN:** 3:24 P.M. DISTURBANCE; Mediated situation.

### FEBRUARY 12

**BLAIR:** 12:48 A.M. ASSIST BPD W/ SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE; UTL.

**FORT CALHOUN:** 1:09 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 16 checked.

**HWY 75 STORAGE:** 1:32 A.M. SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY; Vehicle with trunk open. Worker at facility.

**ARLINGTON:** 1:39 A.M. BUSINESS CHECK; 14 checked.

**FORT CALHOUN:** 10:10 A.M. CLEANING OUT AN APT, FOUND 2 HAND GRENADES; ID's as inert training grenades. Collected both & misc. hunting knives.

**WASHINGTON:** 2:48 P.M. UNATTENDED DEATH; Report.

**2300 CR 37:** 8:29 P.M. RESCUE CALL; FCVFD handled.

### FEBRUARY 13

**HWY 75 & CR P43:** 12:44 A.M. T/S-ARREST; Arrested Mason Dykes 5/7/99 on Douglas Co

warrant.

**ARLINGTON:** 2:28 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 15 checked.

**FORT CALHOUN:** 2:53 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 17 checked.

**HWY 133 & CR P30:** 6:12 A.M. 3 VEHICLE PI; 2 parties transported, report taken for primary and secondary accidents.

**BLAIR:** 8:54 A.M. MA; Diesel pickup gelled up & stalling in the Hwy.

**HERMAN:** 1:15 P.M. MA; Due to street conditions, driver slid into ditch. No damage/No report.

### FEBRUARY 14

**ARLINGTON:** 12:57 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 15 checked.

**FORT CALHOUN:** 1:38 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 16 checked.

**FORT CALHOUN:** 2:01 A.M. TRAFFIC COMPLAINT-GREY SUV DRIVING SLOWLY, ALL OVER THE ROAD; No impairment on HGN, no odor or admission of narcotic use. Info report for DMV license review.

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### OUR MISSION

Our journalistic Mission for the Washington County Pilot-Tribune is to bring local, relevant information to our readers in an effort to keep our communities engaged and aware. We are committed to print only the truth and be the trusted source for local news, to shine a light on local government entities, and motivate action when necessary on crucial civic matters. We will document history as it happens, and help readers re-live the history of the past. Our belief is that a strong newspaper is the glue that holds a community together.

# Boettcher hearing set for Feb. 26

## Details emerge from NSP Investigation

BY ADAM BRANTING  
reporter@enterprisepub.com

Next Wednesday's preliminary hearing in Washington County Court for David Boettcher, the alleged gunman in a shootout with Washington County Sheriff's deputies in Arlington, will determine if the case moves to District Court for possible trial.

Boettcher, 49, has been charged with eight counts, including three Class I felonies for the Jan. 6 incident: possession of a deadly weapon by a prohibited person, possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, and use of a deadly weapon. Each count has a maximum life sentence. The Feb. 26 hearing

is being continued from Jan. 29. He is also charged with first- and second-degree assault, possessing a weapon to commit a felony, intentional child abuse and being a habitual criminal.

Details of the Arlington shootout come from an arrest warrant affidavit filed by Nebraska State Patrol Investigator Abigail Joyce.

At 2:07 p.m., the 2014 maroon Jeep Cherokee Boettcher was riding in was pulled over by a deputy at Highway 30 and First Street in Arlington. The vehicle's driver, Jewel Kwiatowski, was allegedly driving under a suspended license and was known to the deputy. A one-year-old child was seated in the rear passenger seat.

As Kwiatowski was arrested for driving under suspension, deputies ran a background check through WCSO dispatch on Boettcher to verify he was a valid driver and if the Jeep could be released to him. According to the NSP affidavit, Boettcher had an active felony warrant for third-degree domestic assault from Douglas County.

When deputies approached the passenger side of the Jeep, they saw Boettcher had a handgun, later identified as Glock 23. Boettcher began yelling and deputies called for backup.

As other deputies arrived, Boettcher continued to be non-compliant, allegedly exiting the vehicle and firing eight

rounds in an attempt to flee before being struck once in the buttocks area by returning fire.

Boettcher was still non-compliant as deputies requested Emergency Medical Service. He was treated at the scene and transported to the University of Nebraska Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries.

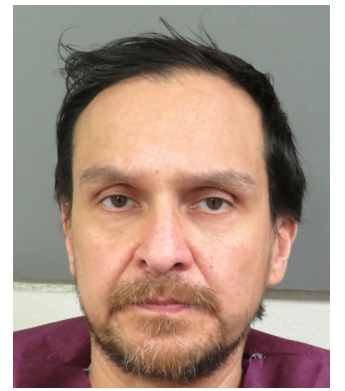
Kwiatowski was booked into the Washington County Jail and has since been released on bond. Chief Deputy County Attorney Erik Petersen said in an email no charges have been filed against her, but "the investigation is ongoing."

The child was placed in protective care.

The affidavit says four bullets fired by Boettcher



Jewel Kwiatowski



David Boettcher

hit the windshield, hood, door and light bar of a patrol vehicle driven by WCSO Sgt. Bryan Spilnek, who was standing behind the open door. The bullet fired through the windshield destroyed the vehicle's computer.

A search of the Jeep allegedly uncovered two bags containing more than 1,500 grams of suspected methamphetamine, 13.5 grams of marijuana, a wad of money, scales, Ziploc bags and other paraphernalia.

In 2014, Boettcher had been sentenced for 30

months to 5 years for possession of a controlled substance with intent to manufacture. At the time, a meth lab was found at a residence in the Country Estates mobile home park south of Blair by sheriff's deputies serving Boettcher on a Cass County warrant for nonpayment of child support.

He was also sentenced in 2020 to three years for possession of a firearm by a prohibited person, as well as convictions for DUI and driving while his license was revoked in 2009.

# Washington County Economic Development Forum is Thursday

BY KEVIN BUMGARNER  
editor@enterprisepub.com

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce, Gateway Development Corp. and FranNet are putting together a program on Thursday designed to help potential entrepreneurs

understand more about franchising.

"A lot of people don't understand how many different franchises there are out there," said Mike Rooks, executive director of Gateway. "There are different price points, and it's a great way to start a business

and get support."

Rooks said Washington County has relatively few franchises, and he thinks the concept is a great way to spur entrepreneurship.

During the program, Rooks will talk about what Washington County is lacking in terms

of franchise categories.

Blake Martin, owner of FranNet, will be the featured speaker. He will talk about the top national franchise brands, and why many of those brands think Washington County is a good market.

There are nearly 4,000 fran-

chise concepts currently operating in the United States, with entry costs ranging anywhere from \$5,000 to well over a million dollars.

The free event, called the Washington County Economic Development Forum, will start at 4:30 p.m. at the Blair Public Library & Technology Center.

# MCH gets most advanced knee replacement technology available

BY KEVIN BUMGARNER  
editor@enterprisepub.com

Dr. Curtis Hartman has brought the most advanced knee replacement technology available anywhere to Memorial Community Hospital & Health System.

The third-generation robotic navigation now available at Memorial Community Hospital provides detailed data on the knee's anatomy, including 3-D modeling of the bones and assessment of ligaments, according to information supplied by Surgery Manager Lynn McIntosh.

First- and second-gen-

eration robotics involved measuring resections of the tibia and femur as well as calculating the balance between the tibia and femur during flexion and extension, McIntosh said.

This new technology allows Hartman improved accuracy to resect and balance the knee, she said.

Another benefit of the new technology: First- and second-generation robotic knee replacements require CT scans prior to surgery, and fewer insurance companies are paying for that test.

The third-generation robotic knee navigation now being used does not require those scans, Mc-

Intosh said.

With his current schedule, Hartman has the capacity to do about 36 total knee robotic-navigated replacements annually, according to data supplied by the hospital.

The first person to benefit from the technology was Blair resident Lyle Joslin, whose wife Sharalynn just so happened to have spent her entire career as a nurse at Memorial Community Hospital.

Until recently, Lyle

Joslin would have had to go to Bellevue to find a hospital using the same technology for knee replacements.

"People need to know they can come here," Sharalynn said in a statement provided to the Washington County Pilot-Tribune. "You don't need to go to Omaha for surgery."

Perhaps the best proof of this technology's success: Lyle was discharged the day after his surgery.

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## AI's Ripple Effects on Small-Town America

The artificial intelligence (AI) revolution isn't just reshaping Silicon Valley – it's sending shockwaves through Main Streets across rural America. While national headlines focus on AI's impact on major cities and tech hubs, small communities face their own unique challenges as this technology reshapes the economic and social fabric of rural life.

Consider these businesses of any small town: the local bank branch, insurance office, retail stores, and customer service centers. These businesses traditionally provide stable, middle-class employment opportunities that keep young people in their communities and support local economies. But AI automation threatens many of these positions. Virtual banking assistants can handle routine transactions, AI claims processing may reduce insurance staffing needs, and automated customer service systems can diminish the role of local call centers many rural communities rely on for employment.

The retail sector, often a significant employer in rural areas also faces pressure. As AI-enhanced e-commerce platforms become more sophisticated at predicting consumer needs and delivering personalized shopping experiences, local stores may struggle to compete. The convenience of AI-driven recommendations and same-day delivery from online giants could further erode the customer base of local merchants who lack the resources to implement comparable technology.

Agriculture, the economic backbone of many rural communities, isn't immune either. While AI-powered farming technology offers potential benefits in terms of efficiency and yield optimization, the high costs of implementing these systems may accelerate the consolidation of family farms into larger agricultural operations. This shift could hollow out the middle class of independent farmers who have historically sustained rural economies.

However, this technological transition also presents opportunities for rural communities willing to be proactive and strategic. Local leaders can take several concrete steps to protect their economic vitality while leveraging AI's potential benefits.

First, rural communities should invest in digital literacy programs through their local high schools, community colleges, and adult education centers. Understanding how AI works – its capabilities and limitations – is crucial for workers and business owners alike. These programs can help local entrepreneurs identify ways to utilize AI tools that enhance rather than replace their operations, while helping workers develop skills that complement rather than compete with AI systems.

Second, rural areas should focus on developing and attracting businesses in sectors where human interaction remains essential. While AI can handle many tasks, it cannot replicate the personal relationships and community connections that define small-town life. Local businesses should emphasize these human elements while selectively adopting AI tools to improve efficiency in back-office operations.

Communities can also work to position themselves as attractive locations for remote workers who can bring digital economy jobs to rural areas. By investing in broadband and promoting quality-of-life advantages like lower living costs, and stronger community bonds, rural towns can attract professionals who work with AI but prefer small-town living. Local governments and economic development agencies should consider creating AI adaptation funds to help small businesses modernize their operations. These could provide matching grants or low-interest loans for implementing appropriate AI tools, ensuring local businesses aren't left behind as larger competitors embrace automation.

Education systems need reshaping too. Rural school districts should partner with local employers to develop curricula that prepare students for an AI-influenced economy while maintaining connections to local opportunities. This might include both technical training in AI-related fields and emphasis on uniquely human skills like creativity, emotional intelligence, and complex problem-solving that will remain valuable alongside AI systems.

Rural communities should also explore cooperative models for AI adoption. By pooling resources, small businesses could share the costs of implementing AI tools that might be prohibitively expensive for individual establishments. A group of local retailers, for instance, might jointly invest in an AI-powered inventory management or customer service platform. Perhaps most importantly, rural communities need to strengthen their social fabric to weather these changes. Strong community bonds and local institutions can provide resilience during economic transitions. Towns should invest in public spaces, community events, and local organizations that foster connection and collaboration among residents.

The AI revolution doesn't have to spell the end of rural prosperity, but it does require thoughtful adaptation. By taking proactive steps to prepare for and shape how AI affects their communities, rural Americans can work to ensure this technological transformation serves rather than undermines their way of life. The key lies in embracing useful aspects of AI while preserving and enhancing the human connections and local character that make small towns special.

**John Newby** is a nationally recognized Columnist, Speaker, & Publisher. He consults with Chambers, Communities, Business & Media. This column appears in 60+ newspapers and media outlets. As founder of *Truly-Local*, he assists chambers, communities, media, and businesses in creating synergies that build vibrant communities. He can be reached at: [John@Truly-Local.org](mailto:John@Truly-Local.org)

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## REGIONAL NEWS FROM ACROSS THE RIVER

## Pisgah woman arrested on assault charges

PISGAH, Iowa — A Pisgah woman was recently arrested and booked into the Greene County Jail on alleged assault charges stemming from an incident that took place in Grand Junction, Iowa, last November.

Elaine Norgart, 57, faces charges of willful injury causing bodily injury, a Class D

felony, and assault while displaying a dangerous weapon, an aggravated misdemeanor, according to reporting by the Missouri Valley Times News.

A no contact order was also filed in December for the alleged victims and a preliminary hearing is scheduled for Feb. 26 in Greene County, Iowa.

## Missouri Valley Chamber hosts awards banquet

The annual Missouri Valley Chamber Awards Banquet was last Saturday at the Calvary Falls Event Center between Missouri Valley and Logan.

## Award recipients were:

• Lifetime Achievement Award: Melba Struble  
• Veteran Volunteer Award: Jim Avrams

• Business of the Year Award: Pizza Ranch

• Teacher of the Year Award: Whitney Reisz

• Youth Volunteer of the Year Award: Devon Koyle

• Public Service Award: Valley Lodge No. 232

• Chamber Board Member Award: Meghann Vasquez

• Business Beautification Awards: Core Insurance LLC, WOW Center and Calhoun Customs.

## Recycling Association donates \$5,000 to Salvation Army

The Washington County Recycling Association has donated \$5,000 to the Washington County Salvation Army, which helped the local unit reach a donation total of \$20,659.

A total of 90 percent of the money raised locally stays in Washington County to help with rent, utilities, food and other necessities. Last year, the Salvation Army helped more than 100 families in Washington County.

## WHAT'S UP IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

**FEB. 20 LUNCH & LEARN:** Memorial Community Hospital & Health System in Blair will host "Life's Essential 8!" from noon to 1 p.m. in the Bagby/Gentry Conference rooms on the hospital's main level.

**BLAIR/WASHINGTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM:** The Washington County Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event will be from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Blair Public Library & Technology Center.

**FEB. 21 BLAIR SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 154 WILD GAME FEED:** This fundraiser for veteran programs will be at the Fort Calhoun Catholic Church Social Hall. Serving from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost is \$25 for those 21 and over, \$15 for those age 13 to 20. Accepting donations for those 12 and under. Tickets available at the door or at the Legion.

**FEB. 22 ART & CRAFT SUPPLY SWAP:** At the Blair Public Library & Technology Center. Early bird shopping from 10-11 a.m. Open to the public from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL POST PROM BINGO NIGHT:** This fundraiser at St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church in Blair starts at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Adults only.

**FEB. 23 ANNUAL AEBELSKIVER SUPPER:** Immanuel Lutheran Church of Orum, 19862 County Road 20 in Blair, on Feb. 23 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Donations accepted, and proceeds will go to Joseph's Coat.

**FEB. 28 LADIES NIGHT OUT QUARTERMANIA:** The Memorial Community Hospital Auxiliary will be hosting a fundraiser at the Blair American Legion at 6 p.m., with proceeds funding the auxiliary's 2025 medical scholarships.

**MARCH 1 SPRING CRAFT SHOW:** The Blair Volunteer Firefighters Auxiliary is hosting this fundraiser at the South Fire Station, 218 S. 16th St. in Blair, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**MARCH 8 HERMAN FIRE DEPARTMENT STEAK DINNER:** 6 p.m. until gone.

**MARCH 19 COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASS:** Blair Public Library & Technology

Center is hosting an MCC Community Education class on oil painting techniques. Class starts at 9 a.m. Registration is required. Go here for more information: blairnebraska.org/2289/Library

**MARCH 21 CARDINAL INSURANCE FISH FRY:** At the Herman Legion Hall from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Proceeds split between the Herman Community Club and the fire department.

**MARCH 28 PVP DUELING PIANO'S NIGHT:** This Art Alley Project Fundraiser will be at the Dana Village Atrium in Blair. Open to those 21 and older. \$40 per person.

**MARCH 29 PUB, PIZZA & PUZZLES:** The Arlington Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary is hosting this fundraiser. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Event starts at 7 p.m. Registration will open soon.

**APRIL 11 CARDINAL INSURANCE FISH FRY:** At the Herman Legion Hall from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Proceeds split between the Herman Community Club and the fire department.

**APRIL 18-19 JUNKIN' MARKET DAYS:** This event, featuring boutique clothing, jewelry, home furnishings, and handcrafted and gourmet goodies, will be on the Washington County Fairgrounds. More information to follow.

**APRIL 26 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FAIR:** The Washington County Long-Term Recovery Team is planning this event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Blair. Various agencies and organizations will be represented.

**BEAR CUB BALL DATE CHANGE:** Second-annual event open to all children preschool through fifth grade, at Arbor Park Elementary School in Blair from 2-4 p.m. There is a cost to attend.

**CIVIC CLUBS KIWANIS CLUB:** meets at noon on the first and third Mondays at Pizza Hut.

**LIONS CLUB:** meets the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m., First Lutheran Church, 2146 Wright St., Blair.

**ROTARY:** meets noon Tuesdays at First Lutheran Church, 2146

Wright St., Blair.  
**OPTIMIST CLUB:** meets at noon on the second and fourth Wednesdays at the Washington County Community Foundation office, 1615 Washington St., Blair.

**ONGOING ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Second Saturday Storytime from 10-11 a.m.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY RECYCLING CENTER:** You may recycle working and nonworking Christmas tree lights anytime between now and Jan. 11 at the recycling center located at 440 S. Third St. in Blair. The center is open Saturdays 8 a.m. to noon and on Tuesday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Working and nonworking lights, extension cords and insulated wiring will be accepted. No boxes, brown paper sacks, plastic bags, ornaments or artificial trees — with or without lights — will be accepted.

**WARRIOR'S HOPE VETERANS MINISTRY:** For veterans and spouses every third Tuesday at Living Hope Assembly of God, 10194 Highway 75, Blair at 7 p.m.  
**MCH:** Has formed a caregivers support group called Village Connect. The group will meet the first and third Tuesday of the month from 6-7:30 p.m. at 718 N. 21st St. in Blair, the Senior Life Solutions office.

**MIDWEEK MEAL:** 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at First Lutheran Church, 2146 Wright St., Blair, (402) 426-4073. Delivery or pickup.

**KNITTING AND CROCHET:** 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays at the Washington County Extension Office, 597 Grant St., Blair. All are welcome. (402) 426-03394.

**BLAIR FAMILY YMCA SENIOR EVENTS:** On Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. the Blair YMCA offers anyone 55 years of age and older the following events: bingo, cards and other games, snacks provided. Free of charge. The Blair Family YMCA is located at 1278 Wilbur St. For more information about these and other programs contact Agnes Willis or April Trisdale at (402) 533-9622.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY:** Meets the second Thursday of each month (except December and January). This meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Blair Public Library & Technology Center. Meetings open to Washington County

residents; registered Democrats are eligible to vote on party decisions. For more information email washington.county.dems.ne@gmail.com

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS:** Toll free: (877) 226-3632, website: www.omahaaa.org

**ARLINGTON:** Community Church, 355 N. Fourth St. (Concurrent with Al-Anon meeting); open meeting Thursdays at 8 p.m.

**BLAIR:** First Step, St. Mary Episcopal Church, 1734 Grant St.; meetings are Friday at 8 p.m. Contact David (402) 505-0870. Meetings are also Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

**FORT CALHOUN:** Monday Night Group, St. John Baptist Catholic Church, 215 N. 13th St.; open meeting Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

**HERMAN:** Freedom Group new Herman fire station, 508 U.S. Highway 75; open meeting Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Al-Anon. **AL-ANON MEETINGS:** Toll free (888) 425-2666, email: wso@al-anon.org, website: nebr-al-anon-alateen.org.

**ARLINGTON:** 12x12 AFG, Thursdays at 8 p.m., Arlington Community Church, 355 N. Fourth St.

**BLAIR:** Mondays at 7 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1734 Grant St. Hosted by Serenity Seekers.

**RECURRING EVENTS AT THE BLAIR PUBLIC LIBRARY & TECHNOLOGY CENTER:**

• **AFTER SCHOOL CLUB:** Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. for grades 2-6. Event is free.

• **BUILDING CLUB:** Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. This group, which builds with Lego and Duplo blocks, is free and open to all ages.

• **LITTLE BOOKWORMS:** Wednesdays from 10:30-11:15 a.m. Recommended for those age 3 and under.

• **STEAM STORY TIME:** Thursdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Recommended for those age 3 and older.

• **ADVENTURE CLUB:** Meets on the first and third Fridays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and is for those age 13 and up. This group is a tabletop role-playing group with magic, adventure and epic boss battles. Registration is required: (402) 426-3617.

**LIBRARY BOARD MEETING:** The board that governs the Blair Public Library & Technology Center meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., 2233

Civic Drive in Blair.  
**HAPPINESS GROUP:** St. Mary Episcopal Church, 1734 Grant St.; meetings are at 8 p.m. Tuesday and 10 a.m. Wednesday.

**BLAIR FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ACTIVITIES:**

• **9:30 A.M.** in-person and live streaming Sunday worship. Facebook and YouTube.

• **6-8 P.M. SUNDAYS:** Cribbage Night.

• **5-6:30 P.M.:** Wednesday Night Community Dinner. On pause until Lenten season.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY:** Open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed from 12:30-1:30 p.m.), Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon, closed Wednesday and Sunday; 1737 Washington St., Blair. For more information call (402) 426-0440, www.josephscoat.org, or on Facebook.

**ACME FABRIC OPEN SEWING:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Wednesday; Open Sew is an informal time with no instructor where you can come sew. Bring a friend or come by yourself and have some fun; Acme Fabric, 1716 Washington St., Blair.

**GOLD WING TOURING ASSOCIATION:** Chapter Z Country Wings Of Blair, Monthly meetings are the second Thursday of the month, 6 p.m. at the Pizza Ranch in Missouri Valley, Iowa. For more information contact Wayne or Mary Flora (402) 426-2254, or @mwjoryride@abbnebraska.com.

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:** Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead.

Passageway Church, 715 Grant St. For more information contact Lizz Abrahams, (402) 427-4057, or Jody Koziol, (402) 657-6025.

**TRIVIA NIGHT AT GEORGE'S TAVERN:** 7-9 p.m. every Wednesday at George's Tavern, 114 N. 16th St., Blair. Trivia night hosted by Scott, a challenging evening full of fun for all skill levels. Full bar available.

**COMMUNITY PRAYER NETWORK:** First Monday of every month the Community Prayer Network meets at 7 p.m. at the Dana Village Old Main Clocktower Building on the third floor, 705 Angels Share Drive, Blair. For info contact: Chestnut Livermore (402) 427-4650.

**QUILTERS:** Blair Bunch Quilt Group

meets the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the Acme Fabric & Quilt Co., 1716 Washington St., Blair. All skill levels of quilters are welcome. Demonstration of a technique or pattern each month. Contact Myrna Verduyse, (402) 533-3592 or Diana Stier, (402) 278-0797.

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ACTIVITIES:**

• **CHURCH NIGHT:** Every Wednesday, 5 p.m. for food, faith and fun.

• **TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY IS OPEN TO ALL STARTING AT NOON.**

• **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9 a.m., fellowship at 10:30 a.m. and education for all ages at 11 a.m.

• **MOVIE NIGHT:** First Sunday of each month Christ Lutheran Church hosts a free meal and movie starting at 5 p.m. (Please bring something to share.) Movie starts at 5:45 p.m.

**WASHINGTON-BURT COUNTY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN MONTHLY GATHERING:** 10-11 a.m., first Saturday of the month, at Saint Francis Borgia Social Hall, 2005 Davis Drive, Blair.

All women, Catholic or non-Catholic, come for faith building, fellowship and fun! Contact Dixie Hansen at (970) 443-9724.

**WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED:** 11 a.m., first Saturday of the month, at Saint Francis Borgia Hall, 2005 Davis Drive, Blair. Those who wish to be part of the nationwide effort to ensure that everyone in our parish community knows where to refer a pregnant woman in need contact Angie Boesch at acre9502@abbnebraska.com or Morgan Casper at caspermorgan2020@gmail.com


**COMMUNITY BINGO:** 10-11:30 a.m., every Wednesday, at Carter Place Assisted Living, 1028 Joann Drive, Blair. (402) 426-1977. All are welcome.

**BSF — BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP**

**BLAIR MEN:** Weekly meetings on Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., at the Depot at Lions Club Park, Blair. The first meeting is Sept. 10, and the study runs through April. This year's study is the Book of Revelation. For information, contact Alex Smith at (402) 250-9030 or Peter Camargo at (402) 278-2242.

**BIBLE BUDDIES:** Hillside Christian Church, 1133 N. 28th Ave. in Blair, is starting this program for children in kindergarten through fifth-grade at 6 p.m. on Sundays.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

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The Pilot-Tribune

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

[www.enterpriseub.com](http://www.enterpriseub.com)

## CORP./ORG.

### LEGAL NOTICE

DREW LAW FIRM P.C., LLO  
P.O. Box 462  
1612 Lincoln Street  
Blair, Nebraska 68008

### NOTICE OF INCORPORATION OF PATHWAYS TO INDEPENDENCE, INC.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has formed a Corporation under the laws of the State

of Nebraska. The name of the Corporation is Pathways to Independence, Inc. The address of the initial registered office is 1612 Lincoln Street, PO Box 462, Blair, Nebraska, 68008, and the initial registered agent is David V. Drew. The purpose for which the Corporation is organized is to transact any and all lawful business for which corporations may be incorporated under the Nebraska Business Corporation Act.

The authorized capital stock of the Corporation is Ten Thousand (10,000) Shares of common stock with a par value of One Dollar (\$1.00) per share. The Corporation commenced existence on the filing and recording of its Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State, January 21st, 2025, and it shall have perpetual existence.

The affairs of the Corporation shall be conducted by a Board of

Directors, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and such subordinate officers and agents as may be prescribed by the By-Laws.

David V. Drew, Incorporator  
Drew Law Firm P.C., LLO  
1612 Lincoln Street, PO Box 462  
Blair, Nebraska 68008  
ZNEZ

PT 02-11, 02-18, 02-25-25

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Abrahams Kaslow & Cassman, LLP  
8712 West Dodge Road, Suite 300  
Omaha, Nebraska 68114

### NOTICE OF ELECTION FORT CALHOUN DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fort Calhoun Drainage District of Washington County, Nebraska, hereby gives notice to all owners of land within the boundaries of said District and to all other persons interested that the annual election of said District will be held at the Washington County Courthouse in the City of Blair, Nebraska, on the 15th day of April, 2025, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. Said election is held as provided by

law for the purpose of electing one member of the Board of Directors, Andrew Christensen, who will be starting a new term due to a vacancy on the Board of Directors. Any person or officer or representative of any corporation owning or controlling any land assessed for benefit in this District is eligible to be elected, subject to the statutory requirements concerning residency within the Drainage District. To file as a candidate, submit your name, mailing address, legal description of assessed land and county of residence to 8712 West Dodge Road, Suite 300, Omaha, Nebraska 68114, Attn: Alex Montoya, no later than 3:00 p.m., Friday, March 28, 2025. Jeff Shaner, President Ft. Calhoun Drainage District

PT 02-18, 02-25-25

## CORP./ORG.

### NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

(1) The name of the limited liability company is THE ALL-YEAR LONG STORE, LLC.

(2) The address of the designated office of the Company is 2335 Hickory Circle, Blair, Nebraska 68008.

(3) The purpose for which the company is organized is to engage in any lawful act or activities for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska.

(4) The company com-

menced its existence on January 29, 2024, and the period of duration is perpetual.

(5) The affairs of the company shall be conducted by its members.

Registered Agent:  
Edmond E. Talbot III, Attorney at

Law  
Talbot Law Office, PC, LLO  
1526 Washington St., Suite H  
Blair, NE 68008  
Phone: 402-426-3385  
Fax: 402-426-3387  
etalbot@talbotlawoffice.com  
ZNEZ

PT 02-04, 02-11-02-18-25

## MINUTES

February 2025 Regular Meeting  
Monday, February 10, 2025  
7:00 PM

High School Media Center  
as advertised in the Pilot-Tribune/Enterprise and on  
[fortcalhounschools.org](http://fortcalhounschools.org)

### ROUTINE BUSINESS

-Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. There were 4 administrators and 3 visitors.

-Note Nebraska Open Meeting Laws: So noted.

- Excused Absences: All members were present.

-Roll Call: Josh Christensen-Present, Tony Dowling-Present, Cassie Kelly-Present, Amanda Schrum-Present, Ryan Sevcik-Present, Ted Welchert-Present.

- Approval of Agenda: Motion by Schrum and seconded by Kelly to approve the agenda as presented. Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea

### REGULAR AGENDA

- Public Participation: There were no requests to address the board.

- Approval of Claims: Moved that the claims for February be approved in the amount of \$73,859.87 from the General Fund, \$300,000.00 from the Building Fund and \$195,833.50 from Savings & Depreciation. This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Schrum, Passed.

Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. Mr. Green and Ted Welchert went through the bills as part of the process. This month's expenses were low. He explained bills from Carpenter Paper, and the Revolving Fund with numerous band and choir registrations. In Savings & Depreciation the major expense was for 450 new Chromebooks for grades 7-12 in anticipation of higher prices at the time of the regular replacement schedule. The Building Fund reflected another installment payment for the Wrestling Building. There was discussion about the rotation of the Chromebooks with it being every 3 years. With a use expectancy of about 6 years, the ones from the high school are cycled to the elementary school. Jr-Sr high students are able to take theirs in and out of the building and elementary students' devices "don't travel" which extends the life. The new ones are distributed every 3 years to 7-9, 10-12.

- Claim for Abe's Trash Service: Moved that the claim for Abe's Trash Service be approved in the amount of \$1,692.50. This motion, made by Schrum and seconded by Sevcik, Passed.

Josh Christensen: Abstain, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea

- Consent Agenda: Moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. This motion, made by Schrum and seconded by Kelly, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. Mr. Green reiterated that the transportation reports now would be presented quarterly as was discussed in committee meetings and had just received an answer from DC West who doesn't present one. He is currently working

with Taylor Oil and their switch to the schools' being in their Fleet program.

-Standing Committee Reports: Amanda Schrum reported that the American Civics Committee discussed policies as part of the annual review, an update on a change to our gasoline purchases through Taylor Oil, discussing and recommending the 2025-26 calendar, administrator contracts and classified staff salaries, an update on additional bleachers for the football field, new hires and appointing a board member to the Foundation board. The Finance Committee also met and discussed the same topics concurring that the Transportation Report will now be quarterly. Tony Dowling will represent the Board of Education on the Foundation Board.

- Administrator Contracts

• Superintendent Contract: This motion was withdrawn as the Superintendent's contract was acted upon at the December meeting.

• High School Principal: Moved that the contract for Dr. Nick Wemhoff be approved at a 3% increase as discussed and decided upon. This motion, made by Schrum and seconded by Sevcik, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. Amanda Schrum said that the difference in percentages is not much monetarily adding the administrators are deserving but with teachers at 2.5% it needs to be fair. A history was given in the weekly report including an increase in their extra duty travel stipend. Anita Saalfeld representing the FCEA says their organization supports the 3% increase as the administration is supportive and has been good for our schools. Amanda thanked her for the support. Josh Christensen thinks the 3% is fine with the numerous extra duties/time they put in and the district can manage it.

• Elementary School Principal: Moved that the contract for Mrs. Sara Horstman be approved at a 3% increase as discussed and decided upon. This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Sevcik, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea

• Assistant Principal/AD: Moved that the contract for Mr. Jamie Schleifer be approved at a 3% increase as discussed and decided upon. This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. This is part of the District's policy review. There are no changes but Mr. Green reminded them that after the Legislative session ends, there will be a lot more to review.

- Resignation: Moved that the resignation of Shelby Kaup be accepted at the end of the 2024-25

school year. This motion, made by Schrum and seconded by Kelly, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. She has given us two fantastic years but her family and future are in Blair and she wants to be part of her community. We hate to lose her.

- Contracts of Employment

•3rd Grade Teacher: Moved that the board of education extend a contract of employment to Cassidy Knust as a 3rd Grade teacher beginning in 2025-26. This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. She is a new grad from Concordia, played volleyball and is interested in coaching. She interviewed well showing confidence and calmness.

• 2nd Grade Teacher: Moved that the board of education extend a contract of employment to Christina Bowser as a 2nd Grade teacher beginning in 2025-26. This motion, made by Schrum and seconded by Kelly, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. Christina is a Fort Calhoun grad and has worked for us before. She has most recently been at St. Bernard's in Omaha for 7 years. We are excited to have her back.

• Elementary Art Teacher: Moved that the board of education extend a contract of employment to Ariel Connor as an Elementary Art Teacher beginning in 2025-26. This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. There were 2 good candidates. Ariel has enthusiasm, very "Art", and is excited. She has worked with kids' art at the Joslyn, initiated art clubs and various extra activities that made her what she is and for us. The uncertainty of a room vs Art cart didn't phase her.

- Compensation for Classified Staff: Moved that the classified staff be granted raises not to exceed 2.5%. This motion, made by Schrum and seconded by Christensen, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. The 2.5% is standard procedure to follow teachers' increases. They do a great job and we thank them for their support.

- Approval of the 2025-26 Calendar: Moved that the calendar for 2025-26 be approved as presented and recommended. This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Schrum, Passed.

Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. It is identical to this year with the exception that Easter moves so those days moved. It was reviewed and discussed with administrators, teachers and committees.

- Board Member Reports: Ryan Sevcik thanked the administrators and staff for their care in our schools and kids; Tony Dowling said the same and that the Unified program/games are awesome; Amanda Schrum congratulated the Girls Wrestling for their success as did Josh Christensen.

### - Administrator Reports

Dr. Wemhoff: Reported on Parent-Teacher Conferences and teachers being available for parents of girls wrestlers, professional development with Janet Foss from ESU#3 who is wonderful and through MTSS is coaching our teachers on core values that will best serve our students, and Prom/Post Prom inviting the board to attend. He gave the schedule of what other grades will do for the day Juniors take the ACT, congratulated our spelling bee contestants who did well, and gave an overview of upcoming events that our students represent well.

Mrs. Horstman: Reported on student achievements including the spelling bee and the HAL project; upcoming and previous events; and preschool screening to identify kids to get them help. There was also professional development including TIP which will help staff from overidentifying special education needs in some areas, the UNL Leadership Words project, and the Nebraska Literacy Project which we joined to help with K-2 reading. The pilot programs for Science are completed so the decision will be made on the curriculum.

Mr. Schleifer: Reported on the Winter activities season with the administration supervising some 86 events accounting for about 75 hours per week not including travel. The Girls Wrestling Team qualified 5 for the State Tourney at Districts. The Boys Wrestling will also have districts with State for both being 2/18-22. A pep rally will be held on February 18th at 11:00 AM. Basketball subdistricts and districts are upcoming as are Dance and Cheer State. Unified Basketball has been a great experience for our kids who are having a great time. They have one last tournament to end the season. A big thank you to Delaney Bruening and Paul Wilson for taking the lead in this. Spring practices begin in March with the high school parents' meeting on Sunday 3/2 at 6:00 PM.

- Superintendent Report and Legislative Summary: Board Goals, Wrestling Building Update, Legislative Update: Mr. Green gave an overview of the board goals which will be reviewed in July; the final work being done on the Wrestling Building and that its very cool; and that most bills introduced are still in committee but noted those that could impact schools. LB303 deals with the levy and would be a benefit for Fort Calhoun; LB 89 which is still evolving; LB140 regarding electronic communications policies in schools which we already have; LB149 dealing with discipline for young students in grades K-2; and LB633 regarding option enrollment scholarship as it pertains to special education students. 633 would transfer the money a school would get for an option student to that student if denied for an IEP to use anywhere they would want to go. There was discussion about how our phone policy was going. A big part was that students are communicating more. Parents are also doing a good job using other means of communication with their students and the schools.

ADJOURNMENT  
There being no further business, the president declared the meeting adjourned at 7:41PM.  
ZNEZ

PT 02-18-25

### NOTICE IN THE COUNTY COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Estate of Timothy J. Reade, Jr. Deceased  
Estate No. PR 25-7

Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 2025, in the County Court of Washington County, Nebraska, Catherine L. Reade, whose address is 719 W. Granada Ct., Ontario, California 91762, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representatives of the Estate.

Creditors of this Estate must file

their claims with this Court on or before April 18th, 2025 or be forever barred.

/s/ Vicki Kuhlmann  
County Clerk Magistrate/Registrar

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY:  
Zachary D. Petersen (Bar ID #25533)  
DVORAK LAW GROUP, LLC  
9500 West Dodge Road, Ste. 100  
Omaha, NE 68114  
(402) 934-4770  
zpetersen@dclawgroup.com  
ZNEZ

PT 02-18, 02-25, 03-04-25

## INV. TO BID

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the County Clerk of Washington County will receive sealed bids until Tuesday Feb. 25, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. for "One New Hydraulic Power Tail Semi-Trailer 50T capacity".

Bids to be submitted in accordance with the Specifications on file in the Office of the Washington County Road Department.

The Board of Supervisors of

Washington County reserves the right to reject any or all bids with or without reason. Bids will be publicly opened before the Board of Supervisors in the Board Room at the Washington County Courthouse on Tuesday Feb. 25, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted for the Board of Supervisors by:  
David K. Kruger  
Washington Co Hwy Superintendent  
ZNEZ

PT 02-11, 02-18-25

## MEETINGS

### PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing in regard to the "One and Six Year Road Plan for Washington County." The meeting is to be held on Tuesday Feb 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

in the Washington County Board of Supervisors Room at the Washington County Courthouse, Blair, NE.

Discussion will be held on improvements to Roads and Bridges in Washington County for the coming year of 2025 and future projects for the next six (6) years. This meeting is open to the public

and comments are welcomed.

Submitted for the Board of Supervisors by

David K. Kruger  
Washington County  
Highway Superintendent

Posted in the following places:  
Washington County Courthouse  
County Road Office  
Blair Post Office  
Ft. Calhoun Post Office  
Arlington Post Office  
Kennard Post Office  
Herman Post Office  
ZNEZ

PT 02-11, 02-18-25

## MEETINGS

### TOWN HALL MEETING

The City of Omaha will hold a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. at Northern Lights Venue, 310 N. 14th St. The facts concerning a proposed firearms training facility will be presented along with a question-and-answer session. The meeting is open to the public.

or special meeting and will not have an agenda or action items.

Individuals with disabilities may request auxiliary aids and services necessary for participation by contacting the city clerk at 402-468-5303 prior to the meeting.

Alicia Koziol  
City Clerk  
ZNEZ

PT 02-18-25

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## DELO. TAX LIST

FROM PAGE 6

890073185, GUTIERREZ, CHRISTOPHER, 0-17-12 LOOKING GLASS HILLS LOT 4 BLK 3 11C PC 4, 69.62, 890068467, WHITE, JEFF & BRITTANY, 0-17-11 LAKELAND EST LOT 16 BLK 1 12K PC 16, 68.90, 890073178, GUTIERREZ, CHRISTOPHER, 0-17-12 LOOKING GLASS HILLS LOT 3 BLK 3 11C PC 3, 65.10, 890052115, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 0-18-11 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 25 114 PC 25, 62.46, 890089154, HARTIN, JEREMIAH, 9-18-11 ROCK HAVEN SUBDIVISION LOT 1 16B PC 1, 61.58, 890052129, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 0-18-11 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 23 114 PC 23, 59.50, 890010171, MAXWELL & OLSEN, ETAL, TL 34 26-17-12 31C PC 40, 55.68, \* 890070063, GLANZER, ANDREW & RACHEL, 0-17-11 LAKELAND EST 2ND ADD LOT 8 BLK 11 12K PC 8, 49.97, 890053144, LUCHT, TYLER & AUSTIN, TANNER, 0-18-11 BC HORBACHS ADD LOTS 3 & 4 & VAC DAVIS ST BLK 2 114 PC 2, 49.36, 890041496, THOMPSON, RAYMOND E, BC TL 120 7-18-12 114 PC 7 1.13 AC, 47.93, 890089169, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK

RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 7 114 PC 7, 45.78, 890089173, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 11 114 PC 11, 44.00, 890089170, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 8 114 PC 8, 39.48, 890039977, WENDT, DAINA & KIRBY AMES WENDT, BC TL 278 & 15' OF VAC 11TH ST 12-18-11 114 PC 220, 39.44, \* 890072443, WILKINSON, WILLIAM BRUCE, 0-17-11 LAKELAND EST 3RD ADD LOT 18 BLK 31 12K PC 18, 38.39, 890089178, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 16 114 PC 16, 37.06, 890089177, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 15 114 PC 15, 36.60, 890089175, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 13 114 PC 13, 36.52, 890089176, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 14 114 PC 14, 36.52, 890089174, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 12 114 PC 12, 36.14, 890089168, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 6 114 PC 6, 35.12, 890089179, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK

RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 16 114 PC 17, 34.66, 890070644, DELINE, JOSH & THOMPSON, SAMANTHA, 0-17-11 LAKELAND EST 2ND ADD LOT 4 BLK 17 12K PC 4, 34.45, 890089180, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 18 114 PC 18, 32.40, 890021966, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 1 114 PC 1, 32.24, 890089181, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 19 114 PC 19, 29.98, 890089164, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 2 114 PC 2, 29.90, 890089165, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 3 114 PC 3, 29.90, 890089166, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 4 114 PC 4, 29.90, 890089167, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 5 114 PC 5, 29.90, 890047901, SCOTT, LAWRENCE L JR & MARY E, 0-18-11 BC S248' E 68' LOT 1 BLK 110 EIGHTH ADD 114 PC 6, 28.90, 890089182, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 20 114 PC 20, 27.10, 890086992, ED'S INVESTMENTS, INC, 0-18-11 BC 13TH

ADD W PT OF LOTS 8-10 UNIT 6 114PC 7 .31 AC, 26.42, \* 890078974, STANLEY, TROY L & REEH, WARREN B, 0-19-12 WILDWOOD PROP LOT 6 15B PC 6, 24.76, 890049217, MCCARTY, JUSTIN & MICHAELA, 0-18-11 BC 66 HEIGHTS WEST PT OF LOT 21 114 PC 84, 24.76, 890065464, WITHNELL, JOHN E, HORSESHOE LAKE GARDENS LOT 19 BLK 4 31C-2 PC 2, 24.00, \* 890065464, WITHNELL, JOHN E DR, 0-17-13 HORSESHOE LAKE GARDENS LOT 19 BLK 4 31C-2 88-92 PC 2, 2.54, \* 890089183, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 21 114 PC 21, 23.98, 890089159, GRACE, DONALD P & JACKIE A, 1925 SOREN DR, BC TL 126 2-18-11 114 PC 122, 21.72, 890073689, INGET, JUSTIN & MELISSA K, 0-17-12 LOOKING GLASS HILLS LOT 5 BLK 9 11C PC 5, 21.55, 890011256, FETTIN, GREGG M & JOANN, ABND RR LAND ADJ SPRING VALLEY LOT 2 BLK 4 31C (PT TL 50 36-17-12), 20.96, \* 890079219, GRIEBEL, TIMOTHY E & GRIEBEL, SUNDOWN W, 0-17-11 WV LOT 4 BLK 10 6 PC 7, 20.84, 890073479, ROGERS, JAMES E & WF, 0-17-12 LOOKING GLASS HILLS LOT 3 BLK 7 11C PC 3, 20.67, 890089185, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK

RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 29 114 PC 29, 20.48, 890029862, ANDERMUNN, LLC, TL 3 23-19-11 15B PC 1, 20.24, 890080843, LEWIS, CLINT L & CASSI A, ABND RR LAND ADJ CC TL 79 11-17-12 4 PC 0, 19.92, 890089184, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 28 114 PC 28, 19.46, 890089171, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 9 114 PC 9, 18.54, 890089186, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 30 114 PC 30, 18.30, 890089190, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 0-18-11 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 27 114 PC 27, 11.60, 890013566, ROSWICK, RICK & SHEAN, MARY, TL 25 34-17-13 31C PC 7, 9.92, 890089189, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 0-18-11 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 LOT 26 114 PC 26, 9.34, 890013573, SLEIGHT FAMILY FARMS TRUST DR, 12644 CO RD 9, TL 7 1-18-9 246N-3 PC 6, 9.30, 890088700, HALLBERG, KIRSTIN, OUTLOT A, 0-17-13 OWA-KONZE ACRES REPLAT 1 OUTLOT A 31C PC 4, 8.26, 890089188, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 EAST GARFIELD CIR 114, 7.78, 890008001, PANE, NICHOLAS CARMINE, TL 121 11-17-12 31C

PC 36, 6.60, 890087377, THE COTTONWOOD CREEK HOME/ASSOC, 0-17-12 COTTONWOOD CREEK OUTLOT A 11C PC 66 19.94 AC, 6.46, 890087938, WEBB, JOSEPH B II & JANA L, 0-18-12 BLUE'S SPIRIT ACRES ROADS 12B, 6.26, 890089191, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 0-18-11 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 GARFIELD ST 114, 4.76, 890086847, CAREY, GAYLE A & ZITA M BUTTS, JENSEN ACRES PT OF LOT 4 16B PC 7 .15 AC, 3.60, 890086845, CAREY, GAYLE A & ZITA M BUTTS, JENSEN ACRES PT OF LOT 2 16B PC 5 .11 AC, 2.66, 890089187, VON LOH INVESTMENTS, LLC, 7-18-12 BC ELK RIDGE SUB REPLAT 2 WEST GARFIELD CIR 114, 1.72, 890041629, BENNING, MISTI DAWN, BC TL 183 7-18-12 114 PC 63 .02 AC, 1.56, 890086846, CAREY, GAYLE A & ZITA M BUTTS, JENSEN ACRES PT OF LOT 3 16B PC 6 .05 2 AC, 1.18, \*INDICATES MULTIPLE YEARS FORT CALHOUN PAVING DIST-2016.2 CC - HALFORD'S CHERRY HILLS LANE LOTS 6 & 4 \$1,573.23\* PC 6 7.36 AC ZNEZ PT 02-04, 02-11, 02-18-25

### LOCAL

# TIMES GONE BY

## Week of Feb. 16-22, 2025

**Feb. 22, 1945 (80 years ago):** The heaviest snowfall in three years covered Washington County yesterday (Wednesday), stalling traffic and rendering country roads impassable in many places.

The snowfall began about five o'clock on Wednesday morning and continued throughout the day until shortly before 6 p.m. Fall was exceptionally heavy, averaging more than one inch per hour.

Measurements at Blair showed a depth of 12 inches on the level and local weatherman J. Hilton Rhoades found the fall to contain 0.98 inch of moisture.

About noon a brisk north wind whipped up driving snow into cuts on many country roads, closing them to traffic. Visibility was exceedingly bad and motorists reported that keeping out of the ditches was difficult.

Truck traffic on Highway 30 was at a virtual standstill with one one truck in from the east all day. Several trucks of the Denver-Chicago line were stalled at Arlington and Fremont and all the firm's trucks were being held at Blair pending clearing of the weather.

**Feb. 17, 1975 (50 years ago):** How many farmers can afford to feed 137 head of livestock and still not be able to harvest any of the meat? This is just what is happening on some farms southwest of Herman.

In the late afternoon and early evening large herds of deer move down into the fields and farmsteads to feed on stacks of hay and pull corn out of

cribs. Near the former Thone School a herd of 88 deer were counted this past week. On the Henry Wilke farm, the herd of wild deer numbered 137. Similar herds have come to supper on the Mel Hoier farm.

The area has considerable timberland around it where the deer seek cover in the daytime. As night falls the herds come down to the hay piles and cribs of corn. The deer eat at the bottom of the haystacks until they are undermined enough that the stacks fall in and more hay is available. The deer have been able to pull ears of corn out of the wire mesh corn cribs for even more food.

A game warden was called to the scene and he felt that the problem is caused by two factors. The increasing number of snowmobiles keep the deer from moving about too far in search of food. The deer stay in the timber where they feel safer from the snowmobiles.

The second cause is the heavy snowfall that has covered up grass in the timber where they normally graze. When the deer get hungry enough they brave the populated areas around the farm places.

The area farmers have tried to drive the deer away from the hay and corn with their pickups. The deer scatter but return as soon as the pickup stops.

Mrs. Wilke says she feels sorry for the deer because she knows they are hungry and are so thin. But it is getting awfully expensive to continually provide food for such a large herd.

**Feb. 18, 1985 (40 years ago):** Dr. Elwin Farwell, a 19-year veteran college president, has been named interim president of Dana College in Blair, according to an announcement made by Dr. Clifford Hanson, chief operating officer of the college. Dr. Farwell is expected to assume his duties at Dana on or about March 1. He will take over the duties of former president Dr. James Kallas.

Farwell, 65, served as president of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, from 1963 until his retirement in 1982 (Dana and Luther are sister institutions owned by the American Lutheran Church.) Earlier in his career he taught at Michigan State University, was a parish pastor in Andrew, Iowa, and served as academic dean of California Lutheran College. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Michigan State College, a B.D. from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and an Ed. D. from the University of California at Berkeley.

**Feb. 16, 1995 (30 years ago):** Gender equity in the scheduling of athletic events was presented as a concern at Monday night's meeting of the Blair Community Schools Board of Education.

Currently the majority of girls volleyball and basketball games are scheduled for weeknights while boys games predominantly fall on Friday and Saturday nights.

After discussing the concern with Blair High School students who were

present, the board members voted 7-1 to appoint a committee to study the needs for gender equity in event scheduling.

High school principal Steve Shanahan said it would be a five- or six-year process to make a significant change. Most scheduled games are part of two-year contracts.

**Feb. 15, 2005 (20 years ago):** For many years, Linda Halford was known around Fort Calhoun as the mayor's wife. But she was also widely known for her willingness to give back to her lifelong home.

Halford, 55, was killed in an automobile accident at 10:44 a.m. Friday, Feb. 11, on US Highway 75 near mile marker 103.

"This is really a big loss because she was so involved with everything," said Patty Appel, who grew up with Halford and has lived next door to the Halford family all her life. "I keep asking myself how we are going to get along without her."

"We were best friends for more than 50 years," Appel said. "Larry and Linda and I were all in the same class."

According to the Washington County Sheriff's Office, Halford was northbound on Highway 75 just south of Nashville when the vehicle she was driving crossed over the center line and struck a southbound semi tractor-trailer nearly head-on. Halford was pronounced dead at the scene.



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# GOOD LUCK AT STATE



COURTESY PHOTO  
Arlington Eagles Ben Flesner, from left, Tate Johannes, Jake Flesner and Braxton Soll all qualified for the 2025 NSAA State Boys Wrestling Championships.

## 8 BEARS, 4 EAGLES AND 7 PIONEERS EARN SPOTS

### ALL 4 AHS STATE BERTHS WERE EARNED IN THE HEARTBREAK ROUND

### BHS EARNED 2ND IN ITS DISTRICT TOURNEY



COURTESY PHOTO  
Fort Calhoun Pioneers Lucas DeMitt, from left, Levi Lasher, Merritt Oberding, Presley Oberding, TJ DeMitt, Ray Caruso and Alex Schuler all qualified for the 2025 NSAA State Boys Wrestling Championships.

## 19 WASHINGTON COUNTY BOYS QUALIFY

## 5 FCBS WRESTLERS ARE 1ST-TIME QUALIFIERS



COURTESY PHOTO  
Arlington Eagles Dianna Flores, from left, Callee Shearer, Caitlyn Camp, Addyson Beam and Rylie Kylo qualified for the NSAA State Girls Wrestling Championships on Feb. 8 during a district tournament in Ord.

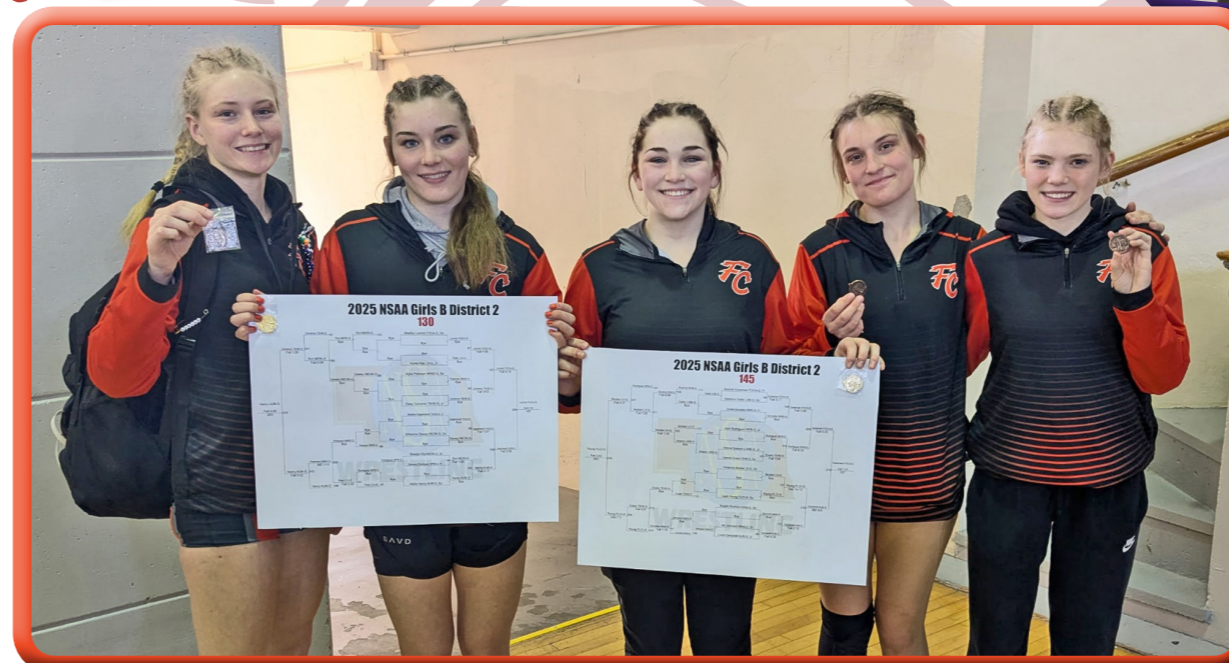
## AHS' KELISE KRIVOHLAVEK IS A RETURNING MEDALIST

## 14 WASHINGTON COUNTY GIRLS QUALIFY



GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE  
Blair Bears Emma Belong, from left, Reata Malmberg and Ali Wheeler qualified for the 2025 NSAA Girls Wrestling Championships on Feb. 8 during a district tournament in Crete.

## FCBS' QUALIFIERS ARE THEIR SCHOOL'S 1ST



COURTESY PHOTO  
Fort Calhoun Pioneers Ali Dill, from left, Madi Larrick, Beckah Gossman, Anna Rae Hartline and Annaleigh McLaughlin qualified for the NSAA State Girls Wrestling Championships on Feb. 8 during a district tournament in Falls City.

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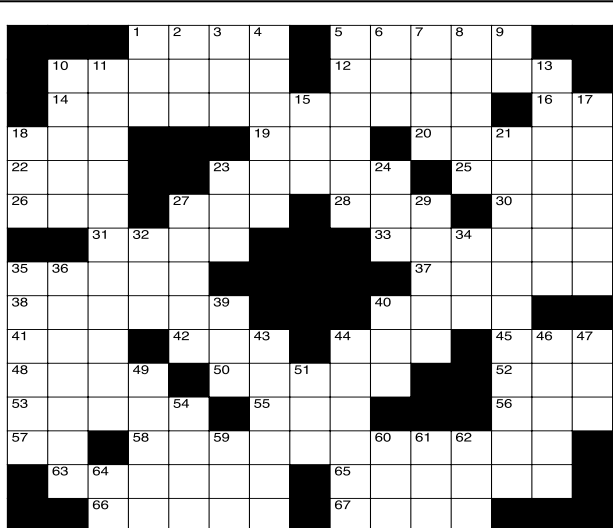
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25. Witnessed
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31. Peruse a written work
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29. Song of praise
32. Shock treatment
34. Patti Hearst's captors
35. Counteract
36. Goes over again
39. Popular Dodge truck
40. Male adult
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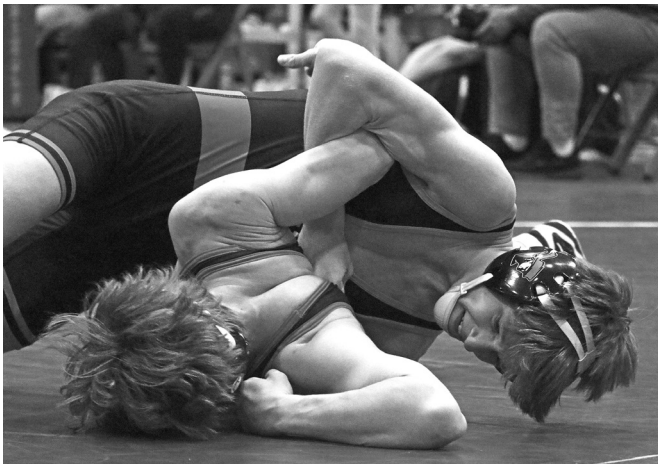
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PHOTOS BY GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Fort Calhoun wrestler Presley Olberding, top, works to turn and pin his opponent Saturday during a Class B district tournament at Crete High School.

## 7 Pioneers punch state wrestling tickets

FCHS boys finish 4th in Crete

BY GRANT EGGER  
sports@enterprise.com

Fort Calhoun boys wrestling coach Drew Welchert stood matside Saturday just minutes before the start of the Class B-1 District Tournament in Crete.

“Hopefully we get enough 'Ws' to punch our ticket,” he said.

His Pioneers sat in the bleachers behind him. TJ DeMilt wasn't the only one with his hair damp with sweat from the warmup.

“I'm really proud of what we've done so far and I'll be proud of what they do today,” Welchert said. “They are ready to go.”

Sure enough, the FCHS wrestlers delivered. Seven earned top-four finishes, advancing onto the NSAA State Boys Wrestling Championships in Omaha. The three-day Class B tournament starts 4 p.m. Thursday at the CHI Health Center.

Senior Alex Schuler will go into the championships as a B-1 District champion. The 190-pounder went 3-0 Saturday, securing his state spot with a 9-1 major decision against Lincoln Northwest's Cooper Floyd during the semifinals round.

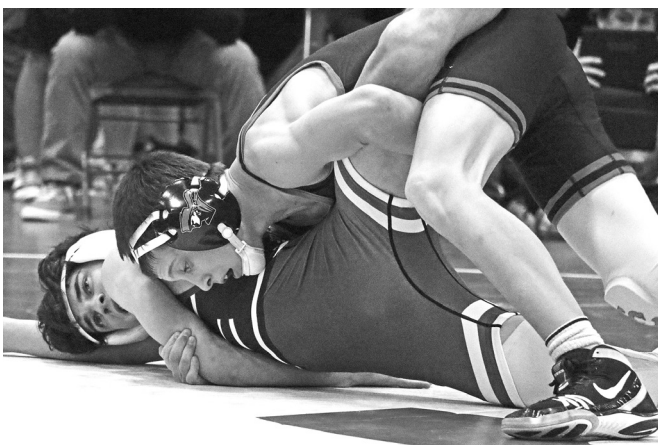
In the finals, Schuler — who improved to 29-17 this season — bested 33-10 McCook wrestler Gabe Roberts by 7-4 decision.

Now two-time state qualifier Merritt Olberding earned a district title match Saturday, too. The Fort Calhoun 120-pounder lost to Omaha Skutt's Cole



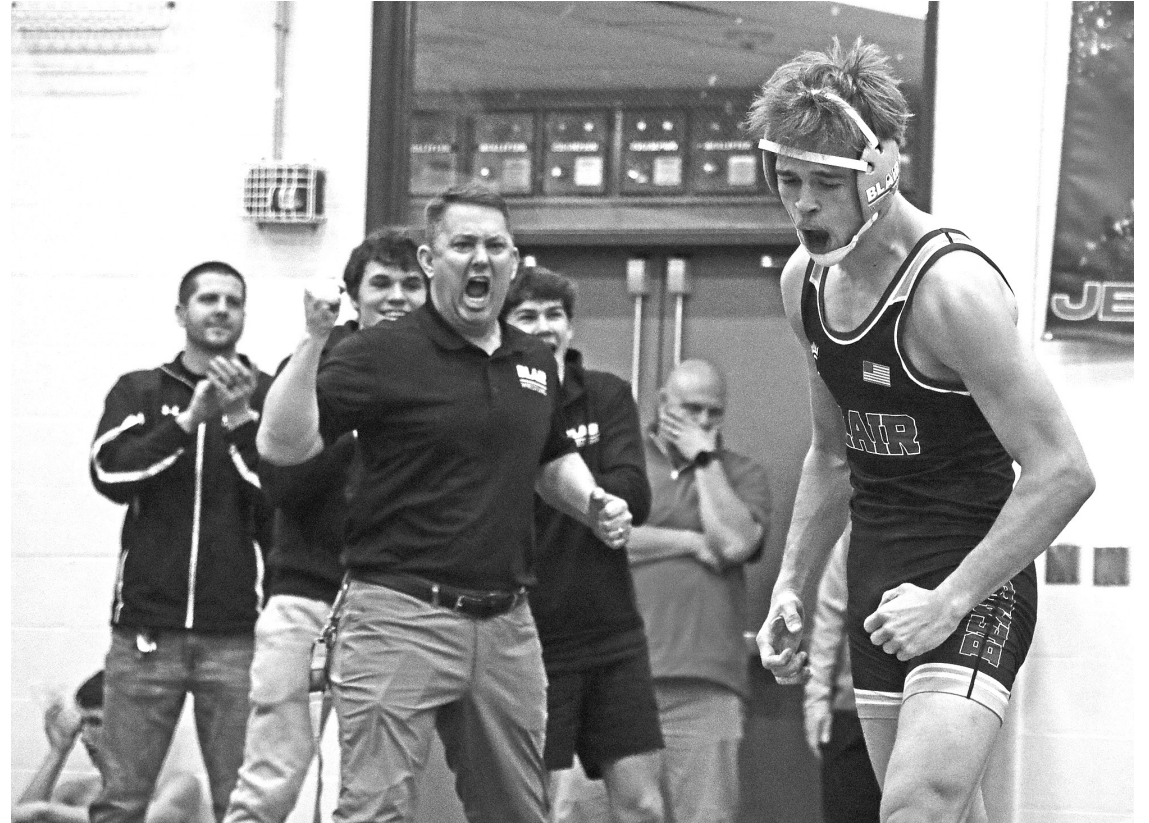
Alex Schuler

SEE PIONEERS, 12



Fort Calhoun 106-pounder Lucas DeMilt, top, drives his Omaha Skutt opposition into the mat Saturday at Crete High School.

# FUN TIMES



## 8 BLAIR BEARS EARN STATE BOYS WRESTLING QUALIFICATIONS

BY GRANT EGGER  
sports@enterprise.com

When Carson Faue pinned York's Max Erickson to clinch a state wrestling berth, Blair High School coach Erich Warner jumped out of his seat and pumped his fist.

Altogether, eight Bears earned NSAA Boys Wrestling Championship qualifications Saturday during the Class B-3 District Tournament at BHS. The host team took second overall, finishing behind first-place York only.

“That was a lot of fun,” Warner said as the clean-up process began.

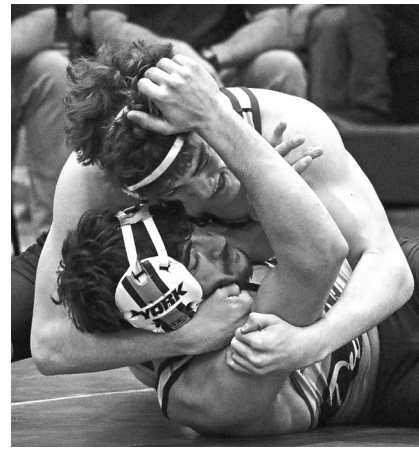
The eight qualifiers next compete Thursday during the start of the three-day championship tourney at Omaha's CHI Health Center.

“I'm super excited for the kids that made it and the way that they fought,” the coach said. “I'm just proud of the whole team. Even those guys that didn't make it, they wrestled real well, too.”

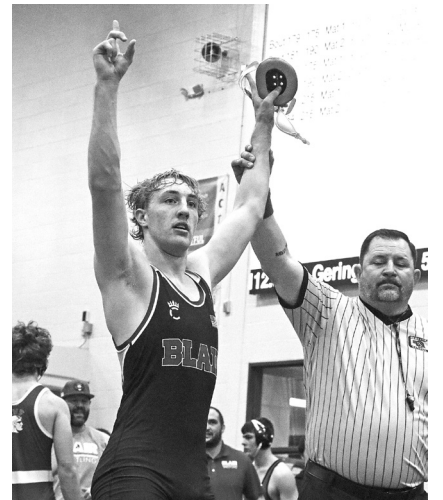
Three Blair wrestlers secured their spots with semifinals victories Saturday. Hudson Loges and Blaise Baughman went on to win their weight classes, while Cornez Tucker Jr. secured second at heavyweight with a 2-1 record. He pinned Gering's Richard Roberts in 24 seconds before earning a 19-3 technical fall against Seward's Cooper Fern.

Loges, meanwhile, improved to 47-1 overall at 138 pounds with a 4-0 tournament run. The 2023 state champion had three pins and won his final against York's Colt Eimermann by injury default.

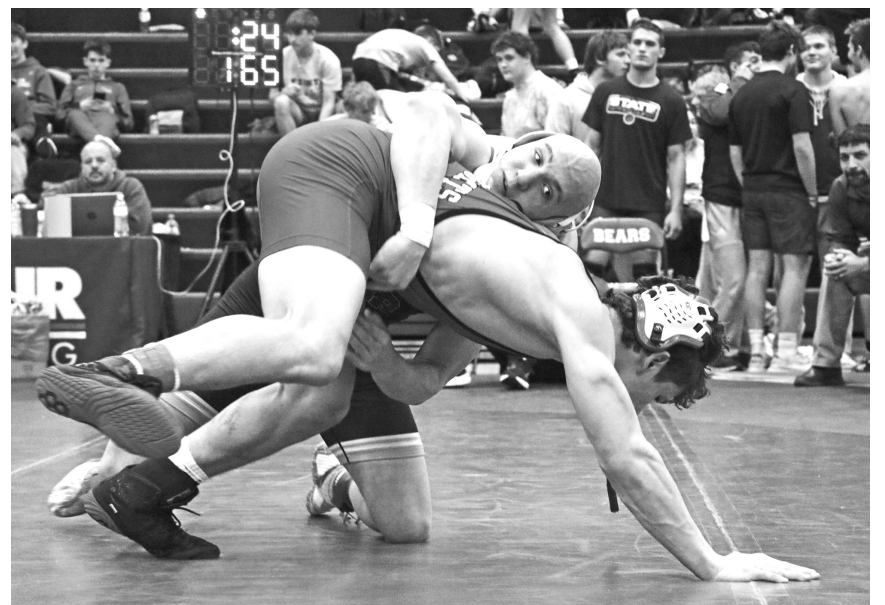
Baughman, who is 41-3 this season, went 3-0 at 190 pounds in B-3 District matches. The junior earned two pins and topped 43-4 Seward wrestler Caden Schadwin-



PHOTOS BY GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE  
The Bears' Jaxon Logan, top, squeezes his York opponent Saturday at Blair High School.



The Bears' Griffin Rosterman has his hand raised by the official Saturday at Blair High School.



The Bears' Wyatt Loftis, facing, attempts to return his Elkhorn Mount Michael foe to the mat Saturday at Blair High School.

kel by 9-4 decision.

The rest of the Blair finalists' teammates to qualify for state, however, had to win heartbreaking consolation semifinals matches. Tannon Bellamy, Jaxon Logan, Faue, Wyatt Loftis and

Griffin Rosterman did just that.

Bellamy had to after sitting out more than a month with an injury. He learned just days before his third-place finish at 126 pounds

SEE BEARS, 13

## 10th-place Eagles qualify 4 for state wrestling tourney

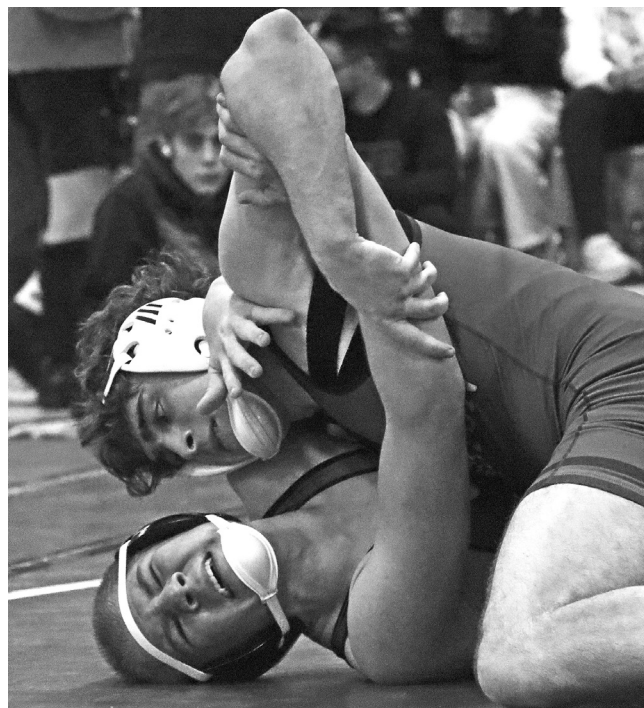
2 Flesners, Soll and Johannes earn spots

BY GRANT EGGER  
sports@enterprise.com

On a cold day with snow on the ground, four Arlington boys earned state wrestling qualifications inside the packed and toasty Malcolm High School gym.

Jake Flesner, Braxton Soll, Ben Flesner and Tate Johannes earned fourth in their weight classes, leading coach Doug Hart's Eagles to their 10th-place finish in the Class C-1 District Tournament.

“These (wrestlers) worked hard all season, not only on honing their wrestling skills, but on their mindset as well,” the coach said. “The whole team has been working



PHOTOS BY GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Arlington's Ben Flesner, top, controls his consolation opponent Saturday during a district tournament at Malcolm High School.

SEE EAGLES, 14

## FHS swimmers take 4th, 5th at HAC meet

Busboom sets new school record

BY GRANT EGGER  
sports@enterprise.com

The Heartland Athletic Conference's swimming and diving championships are contested across three days in two locations.

After dives in Lincoln, two rounds of swims were contested in the Dillon Family Aquatics Center pool — the home pool of the Fremont Tigers. In it, FHS — and its Washington County athletes — took fourth in the boys' standings and fifth in girls' competition.

“Very proud staff,” coach David Struble stated in his post-meet recap. “We had so many amazing swims from the whole team in both prelims and finals.”

While Elliot Vech secured two school records and Fremont's first HAC boys event win in several



GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Blair swimmer Jane Busboom, right, dives into the pool for the 200-meter freestyle relay as Ryleigh Schroeter, middle left, and Kennedy Zehner watch Friday at the Dillon Family Aquatics Center in Fremont.

years, Blair High School senior Jane Busboom broke the school record in the 100-yard backstroke for second place. She stopped the clock in 58.34

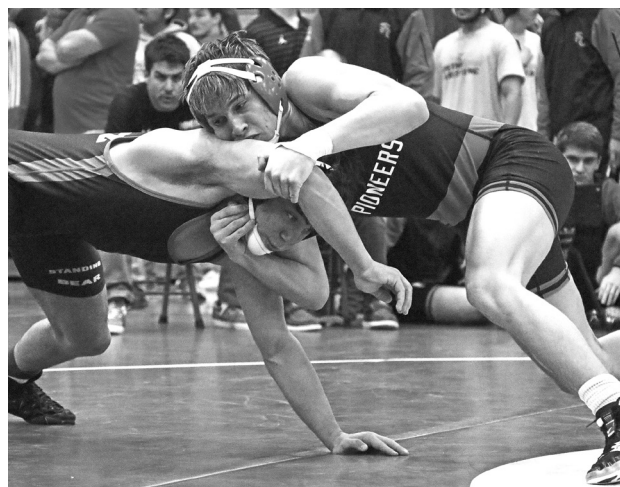
seconds. The future St. Thomas (Minn.) college swimmer was second in the 50 freestyle, too.

Another Blair senior,

SEE SWIMMING, 12



Fort Calhoun's Merritt Olberding, top, lifts his opponent from the mat Saturday at Crete High School.



The Pioneers' TJ DeMilt, right, wrestles Saturday at Crete High School.

## PIONEERS: FCHS boys finish 4th in Crete

FROM PAGE 11

Welte, a former Blair High School wrestler, but only after a 3-0 start. He finished a double-leg takedown early during his tournament-opening 17-1 tech fall win before pinning Plattsmouth's Mylus Robison and McCook's Tyce Hamerlun back-to-back.

In addition to two finalists, Fort Calhoun's Lucas DeMilt, Presley Olberding, Levi Lasher, TJ DeMilt and Ray Caruso won consolation semifinals to earn their state spots. Lucas DeMilt was third at 106 pounds, going 3-1 with an 11-10 decision victory against Omaha Skutt's Conner Cooper in the third-place match.

Presley Olberding was 3-1, too, taking third at 126 pounds. He claimed a 12-1 major decision to secure the second state qualification of his career and won the third-place match by 12-5 decision.

Lasher, meanwhile, advances onto state at 138 pounds. The fourth-place finisher overcame a 5-4 loss in his first match to win the next two before advancing through to the third-place match by medical forfeit. The senior is 26-21 overall.

TJ DeMilt is 34-20 for Coach Welchert's squad, securing his state spot at 157 pounds with a 3-2 district record. After a loss during the semifinals, he beat Elkhorn's Colton Nowaczyk by 7-2 decision to move onto Omaha.

Caruso secured his 175-pound Class B qualification with a 44-second pin of Elkhorn's Tucker Tollefson. The 9-8 Pioneer finished fourth after a tight, 5-3 loss to Gretna's Brody Silva in his final match of the day.

Before a single bout Saturday, though, Coach Welchert said FCHS focuses on physical, but

### CLASS B-1 DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

#### SATURDAY AT CRETE HIGH SCHOOL

**TEAM STANDINGS:** Omaha Skutt 258 points, Plattsmouth 138.5, McCook 125.5, Fort Calhoun 123, Gretna East 115, Lincoln Christian 113.5, Lexington 104, Gretna 70, Crete 60.5, Lincoln Northwest 59, Elkhorn 54.5, Lincoln Standing Bear 9.5.

#### Fort Calhoun Results (top-4 placers qualify for state)

(Weight, wrestler: Tourney record (overall record), place)

**106 POUNDS, LUCAS DEMILT:** 3-1 (28-16), third.

**113, KASYN STORM:** 0-2 (8-18), NA.

**120, MERRITT OLBERDING:** 3-1 (39-8), second.

**126, PRESLEY OLBERDING:** 3-1 (34-12), third.

**132, ROCCO RUMA:** 1-2 (8-14), NA.

**138, LEVI LASHER:** 3-2 (26-21), fourth.

**150, SETH WATERS:** 2-2 (12-22), NA.

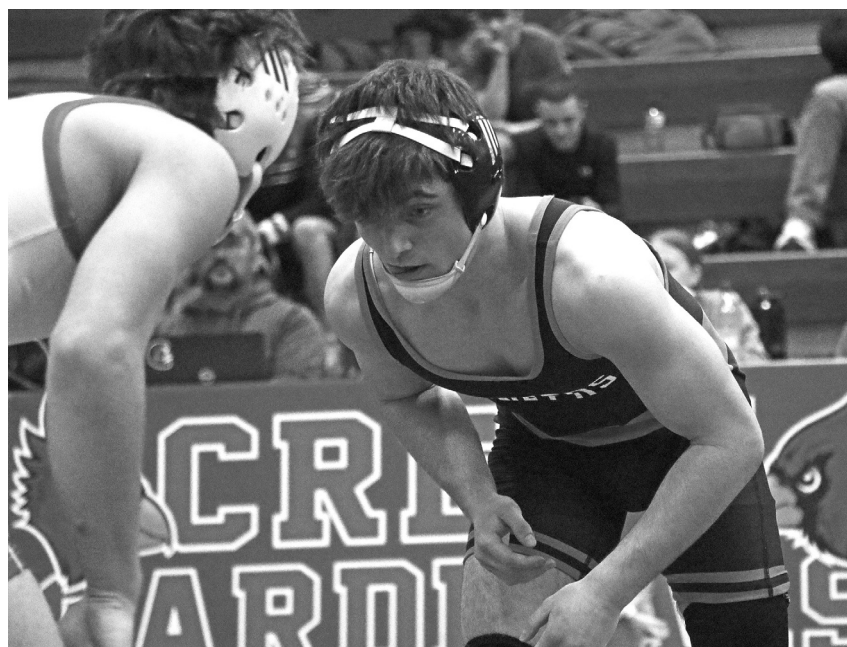
**157, TJ DEMILT:** 3-2 (34-20), fourth.

**165, BEAU RUMA:** 0-2 (8-22), NA.

**175, RAY CARUSO:** 3-2 (9-8), fourth.

**190, ALEX SCHULER:** 3-0 (29-17), first.

**285, NATHAN DUROS:** 1-2 (22-23), NA.



Fort Calhoun's Levi Lasher, right, faces a district opponent Saturday at Crete High School.

also mental preparation for days like the district tournament.

"We work on that through the year and we really hammered it home the last two or three weeks especially," he said. "You do

things one at a time. One match at a time is a big deal right now."

Seven Pioneers' next match will come Thursday in Omaha in front of thousands in the crowd.

PHOTOS BY GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

## FCHS boys pick up 2 victories

Seniors celebrate last home game in starting lineup

BY GRANT EGGER

sports@enterprise.pub

The Fort Calhoun High School basketball team dominated Tekamah-Herman on Thursday in its first game after a Feb. 11 loss to 3-17 Nebraska City.

"We had to come back and, kind of, gain some confidence back," senior guard Chase Premer said after the 73-36 win. "We played well and we made some shots tonight, which really helped."

Coach TJ O'Connor started Premer, junior Colby Bentley and three other seniors — Travis Skelton, Colton Miles and Max Halford — in what was likely their final home game.

It was Halford's season debut as he continues to rehab a shoulder injury. He took advantage, too, banking in a 3-point basket for a 3-0 Pioneers lead.

"That was the best thing I've ever seen in my life," Premer said.

Halford smiled wide when asked about the bucket.

"I knew I was going to make it, honestly," he said. "I was telling everyone. I was like, 'By the time I'm out of the game, we're going to at least be up by three.'"

FCHS actually built its lead out to 8-0 before the Tigers' first bucket and the Pioneers' regular starters substituted in. The home squad continued building its first-period lead to 24-6 before scoring 22 more points during the second for a 46-21 advantage.

Altogether, Skelton led a balanced Calhoun attack with 12 points for the game, while Dylan Keyser scored 11 and Bentley had 10. Miles made a 3-pointer and finished with five points, too, while Halford had his three and Premer scored two.

The win was FCHS' 10th of the season.

### FCHS BASKETBALL LINE SCORES

#### FRIDAY

**Fort Calhoun 61, Raymond Central 41**

FCHS (11-10) 15 16 18 12 — 61

RC (4-17) 10 7 10 12 — 41

**SCORING:** FCHS — Adam Elofson 20, Eli Tinkham 13, Kade Foy 9, Colby Bentley 8, Dylan Keyser 7, Blake Welchert 2, Chase Premer 2.

**RC —** Dawson Potter 12, Colton Dubas 8, Preston Lubischer 7, Jace Badberg 5, Asher Allen 3, Ryan Hand 2, Tavion Johnson 2, Gavin Gehle 1, Parker Ayres 1.

#### THURSDAY

**Fort Calhoun 73, Tekamah-Herman 36**

T-H (9-13) 8 13 7 8 — 36

FCHS (10-10) 24 22 10 17 — 73

**SCORING:** FCHS — Travis Skelton 12, Keyser 11, Bentley 10, Tinkham 8, Foy 7, Elofson 7, Welchert 6, Colton Miles 5, Max Halford 3, Gavin Barnes 2, Premer 2.

**T-H —** Brody Rogers 11, Griffin Breckenridge 10, Lane Loftis 6, Parke Loftis 3, Sam Oligmueller 2, Grady Belfrage 2, Camdan Chase 2.



The Pioneers' Chase Premer looks over the defense Thursday at Fort Calhoun High School.

"We're just continuing to gain confidence all-around," Premer said. "We're starting to figure each other out a little more and we're starting to play better together."

#### Pioneers beat Mustangs

The Pioneers produced their 11th win of the season Friday, too.

At Raymond Central, Coach O'Connor's squad led at the end



The Pioneers' Kade Foy leads a break down the floor Thursday against Tekamah-Herman at Fort Calhoun High School.

of each quarter, securing a 61-41 victory. The Mustangs dropped to 4-17 in defeat.

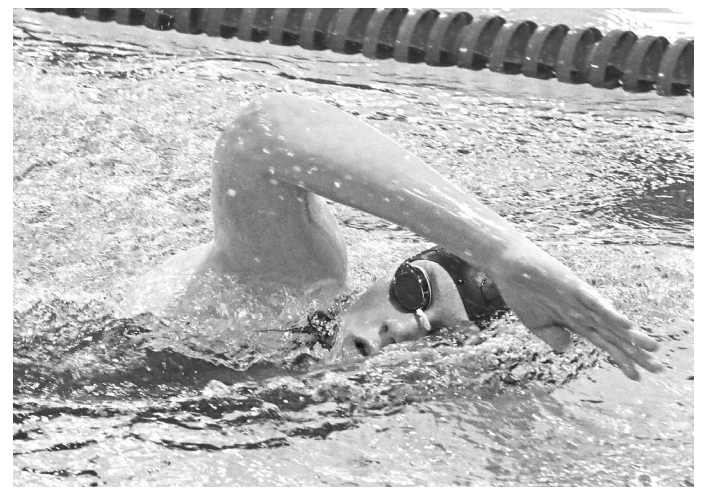
Adam Elofson scored a season-high 20 points to lead FCHS, scoring during every period. His teammate, Eli Tinkham, tallied 13 points as well.

Dawson Potter, meanwhile, led Raymond Central with 12 points in defeat.

PHOTOS BY GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

## SWIMMING: Busboom sets new school record

FROM PAGE 11



GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

LeLah Filows of Blair swims the 500-yard freestyle race Friday in Fremont.

Ryleigh Schroeter, took second in the 500 freestyle in 5:18.34. She was fourth in 200 freestyle as well.

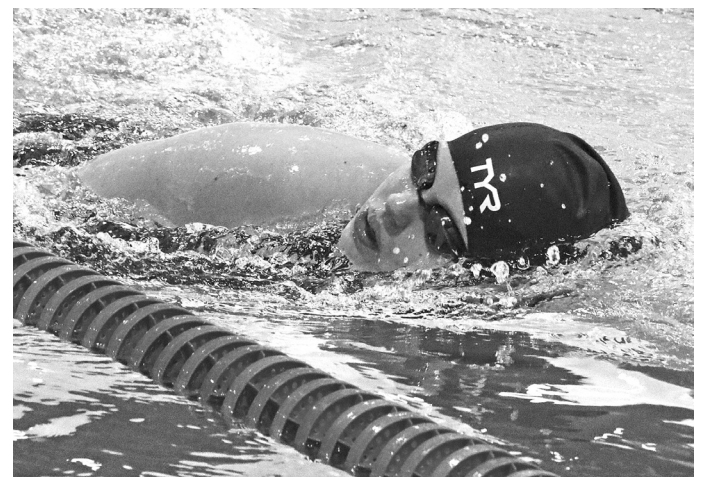
Jacob Hanson of BHS was second and sixth in the 50 and 100 free, respectively. His 50-yard, runner-up time was 22.31 seconds, while Kennedy Zehner's fourth-place time in the 100 breaststroke was 1:09.36. The Bears — as well as Busboom and Schroeter — were apart of multiple second-place relay finishes with their Fremont teammates as well.

Blair's Hannah Huenink added a sixth-place relay finish across 400 yards for her best finish, too, while Arlington senior Dathan Hansen helped his 200 free relay squad with Hanson, Zayne Keslar and Micah Moore take third.

AHS' Eli Hansen was ninth in HAC boys diving, while BHS' Mason Lau's best finish was 16th in the 100 backstroke.

LeLah Filows of Blair participated during preliminary swims on Friday, too.

Fremont next competes Feb. 27 through March 1 at the NSAA State Swimming & Diving Championships in Lincoln.



Hannah Huenink of Blair gets in a warmup lap Friday in Fremont.

## Blair girls produce blowout wins in Omaha

Basketball team is 13-9 overall

STAFF REPORTS

The Blair High School girls basketball team is on a two-game winning streak into today's regular season finale at Elkhorn.

With senior Addie Sullivan back in the lineup, the Bears routed both Omaha Concordia and Omaha Roncalli on Thursday and Saturday. To improve to 13-9 overall, coach Matt Aschoff's team blasted the Pride 67-39 on Saturday afternoon.

Kate Wulf led BHS with 16 points during the road win, sinking five of her seven free throw attempts. Sullivan added nine points, and both Beau Wendt and Claire Anderson scored eight.

Jordyn Rohlfen led Roncalli with 16 points, too, but the home team slipped behind during the 20-12 first quarter and were unable to keep up as the game went on.

#### BHS routs Mustangs

Forty-eight hours after scoring a season-low 19 points at Gretna East, the Bears responded with their second-highest output of the campaign Thursday at Omaha Concordia.

BHS led 25-14 at halftime, but produced 40 more points during the second half for a 65-36 blowout victory. Freshman Cadence Field led the offensive effort, scoring 18 points against the Mustangs.

Wulf scored 17 for Blair, too, knocking down three second-half 3-pointers. A third Bear, Wendt, scored in double digits as well, producing 10 points.

Grace Hahn, meanwhile, led the outmatched Concordia lineup with eight points in defeat.

### BHS BASKETBALL LINE SCORES

#### SATURDAY

**Blair 67, Omaha Roncalli 39**

BHS (13-9) 20 12 12 23 — 67

RON (6-15) 13 10 7 9 — 39

**SCORING:** BHS — Kate Wulf 16, Addie Sullivan 9, Beau Wendt 8, Claire Anderson 8, Taytum Macholan 6, Cadence Field 6, Madeline Chikos 5, Hayden Frink-Mathis 4, Aftyn Sullivan 3, Renn Dresden 2.

**RON —** Jordyn Rohlfen 16, Rhionna Matthews 6, Agnes Lampe 5, Bridg McGill 5, Makenna Anthofer 3, Malia Mancuso 3, Jaiden Wageman 1.

#### THURSDAY

**Blair 65, Omaha Concordia 36**

BHS (12-9) 9 16 20 20 — 65

OC (9-13) 8 6 14 8 — 36

**SCORING:** BHS — Field 18, Wulf 17, Wendt 10, Macholan 5, Anderson 5, Kenzie Policky 4, Addie Sullivan 4, Frink-Mathis 2.

**OC —** Grace Hahn 8, Grace Samuelson 6, Charis Hughes 5, Eliza Secrest 5, Emersyn Spurgeon 5, Adelynn Suhr 4, Elly Domsch 3.

# BEARS: 8 Blair Bears earn state boys wrestling qualifications

FROM PAGE 11

that he'd be able to compete at all Saturday.

"It was rough," the now multiple-time state qualifier said. "I just knew I had to give it my all. I didn't want this to be my last match this year."

Bellamy earned his state spot with a 9-6 overtime victory against Gering's Kael Ramirez. His nose was leaking blood, but he was able to finish the clinching takedown anyway.

Logan, meanwhile, sat back on his heels and looked out into the gathered crowd when he secured his 144-pound Class B qualification.

"Honestly, just relief," he said when asked what he was feeling in the moment.

The Bear secured his state spot by 20-2 technical fall before he earned third-place finish with a pin of Aurora's Evan Hermanson.

Faue, who is 21-23 this season, beat Erickson to earn his state spot at 150 pounds, but also pinned 30-14 Elkhorn North wrestler Kingston McNeal for third.

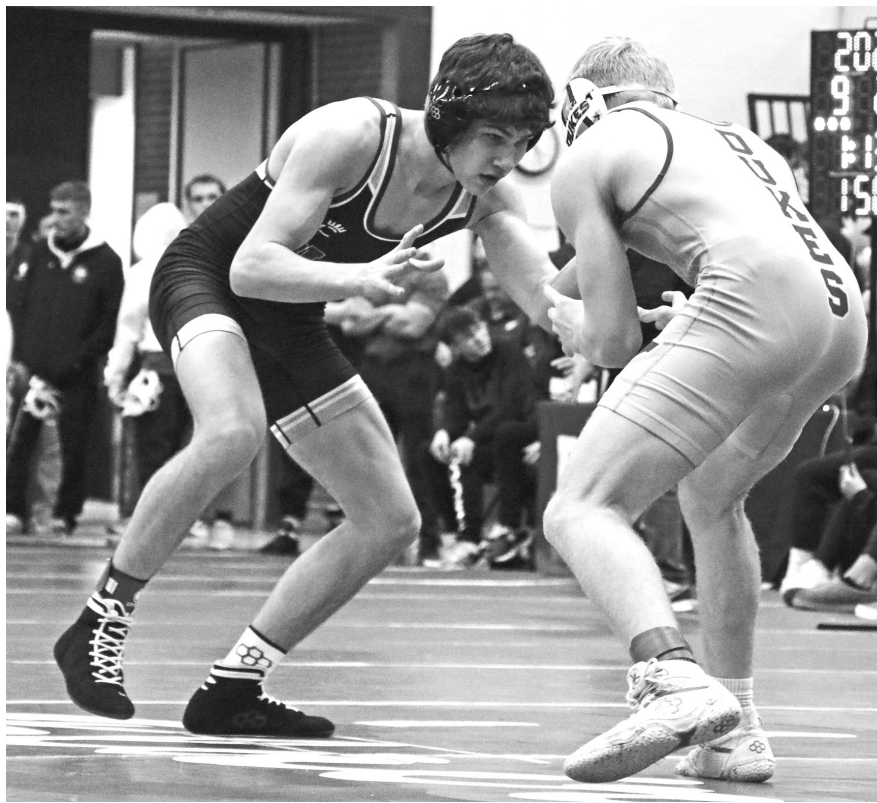
"I knew what I was going to have to do," he said after a 3-1 day. "I knew if I wrestled smart, the way that I have been, I was going to be able to beat all of those guys."

At 165 pounds, Loftis earned another Blair qualification with a 7-1 decision against Elkhorn Mount Michael's Aaron Duran.

"I stuck to what I knew and got that done," he said after a fourth-place effort.

Rosterman, meanwhile, earned fourth, but at 175 pounds. He rode out the third period to pick up a 1-0 victory against Norris' Hunter Jurgens during the heartbreak round, earning his state spot.

"It was probably the best feeling ever, actually," the Bear said. "All of that hard work and grinding finally



Blair senior Hudson Loges, left, wrestles his district finals match Saturday at Blair High School.

PHOTOS BY GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

## CLASS B-3 DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

### SATURDAY AT BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL

**TEAM STANDINGS:** York 187 points, Blair 148.5, Gering 124.5, Aurora 112, Elkhorn North 112, Seward 111, Elkhorn Mount Michael 107, Nebraska City 89.5, Norris 88, Douglas County West 70.5, Omaha Roncalli 14, Omaha Concordia 6.

**Blair Bear Results (top-4 placers qualify for state) (Weight, wrestler: Tourney record (overall record), place)**

**120 POUNDS, TATE HORACEK:** 0-2 (6-25), NA. **126, TANNON BELLAMY:** 2-1 (13-4), third. **132, LONDON BERNASEK:** 2-2 (20-12), NA. **138, HUDSON LOGES:** 4-0 (47-1), first. **144, JAXON LOGAN:** 4-1 (36-15), third. **150, CARSON FAUE:** 3-1 (21-23), third. **157, MAC TUPA:** 0-2 (2-20), NA. **165, WYATT LOFTIS:** 3-2 (28-24), fourth. **175, GRIFFIN ROSTERMAN:** 2-2 (34-20), fourth. **190, BLAISE BAUGHMAN:** 3-0 (41-3), first. **215, MICHAEL BUCKLEY:** 0-2 (11-16), NA. **285, CORNEZTUCKER JR.:** 2-1 (38-12), second.

got the job done."

He explained how staying on the attack, being aggressive and sticking to the basics were key. Those kinds of efforts made it a fun day

for BHS at home, too.

After just four qualifications in 2024, the Bears returned to their traditional form and doubled their total in 2025.

## WHEN AND WHERE

### TODAY

**SPOTLIGHT EVENT:** 4 p.m., NSAA Class A and B State Girls Wrestling Championships at the CHI Health Center, Omaha: The first all-girls NSAA State Wrestling Championship tournament starts on the big stage in Omaha.

4 p.m., Otte Blair eighth-grade girls basketball hosts Elkhorn Grandview  
4:30 p.m., Blair JV boys basketball at Elkhorn  
4:30 p.m., Fort Calhoun junior high girls basketball hosts North Bend Central  
6 p.m., Blair varsity girls basketball at Elkhorn  
7:15 p.m., Blair varsity boys basketball at Elkhorn  
TBD, Arlington and Fort Calhoun varsity girls basketball at Class C1 Subdistrict Tournaments, TBA

### WEDNESDAY

9 a.m., NSAA Class A and B State Girls Wrestling Championship consolation/semifinal rounds at the CHI Health Center, Omaha  
6:30 p.m., NSAA Class A and B State Girls Wrestling Championship finals at the CHI Health Center, Omaha

### THURSDAY

10:28 a.m. and 3:28 p.m., Blair dance team at Nebraska High School State Championship performance, Grand Island  
3 p.m., NSAA Class B and C State Boys Wrestling Championships at the CHI Health Center, Omaha  
4 p.m., Otte Blair seventh-grade girls basketball hosts Elkhorn Ridge  
TBD, Arlington and Fort Calhoun varsity girls basketball at Class C1 Subdistrict Tournaments, TBA

### FRIDAY

12:30 p.m., NSAA Class B and C State Boys Wrestling Championship consolation rounds at the CHI Health Center, Omaha  
12:34 and 3:18 p.m., Fort Calhoun dance team at Nebraska High School State Championship performance, Grand Island  
1:38 p.m., Arlington dance team at Nebraska High School State Championship performance, Grand Island  
4:30 p.m., Fort Calhoun JV boys basketball hosts North Bend Central  
5:30 p.m., Arlington JV boys basketball hosts Omaha Concordia  
6 p.m., NSAA Class B and C State Boys Wrestling Championship semifinals at the CHI Health Center, Omaha  
6 p.m., Fort Calhoun varsity boys basketball hosts North Bend Central  
7 p.m., Arlington varsity boys basketball hosts Omaha Concordia

Note: Schedules are subject to change. To submit events to be listed, email sports@enterpriseub.com with a brief description of the event, the date and start time.

# 3 Arlington Eagles celebrate Senior Night with win

## Trent Koger scores 1,000th point

BY GRANT EGGER  
sports@enterpriseub.com

Arlington's Trent Koger, Schuyler Logemann and Killian McIntosh celebrated Senior Night on Friday with a 61-33 boys basketball victory against Louisville.

Koger had the most to celebrate at home, though, scoring his 1,000th career point during the game. The senior post player finished with 20 points total, knocking down a third-period free throw with 1.9 seconds left to break 1,000.

"It was something I was looking at just the last two weeks," Koger said of the career feat. "I'm like, 'Oh crap, I'm really close right now to 1,000 points.'"

The timing worked for him, too.

"Getting it on Senior Night was really cool to do," he explained.

The Eagles dominated Friday's first half, outscoring the

## AHS BASKETBALL LINE SCORE

### SATURDAY

**Fremont Bergan 74, Arlington 69, OT**  
FB (13-8) 12 15 24 13 10 — 74  
AHS (12-9) 14 20 11 19 5 — 69  
**SCORING:** AHS — Trent Koger 31, Schuyler Logemann 13, Oliver Ladehoff 13, Owen Ladehoff 6, Killian McIntosh 4, Jack Morgan 2.  
**FB —** Gavin Baker 37, Trey Mooney 13, Cale Sheets 9, Alex Kruse 5, Gavin Dean 3, Owen Nelson 3, Trent Minarik 2, Nolan Paulsen 2.

### FRIDAY

**Arlington 61, Louisville 33**  
LHS (8-13) 7 2 18 6 — 33  
AHS (12-8) 21 14 16 10 — 61  
**SCORING:** AHS — Koger 20, Logemann 12, Oliver Ladehoff 12, McIntosh 7, Owen Ladehoff 4, Parker Robinson 4, Luke Sharp 2.  
**LHS —** Alex Sorensen 15, Keegan Witte 9, Isaac Clements 4, Houston Klein 2, Braxton Nebuda 2, Mitch Shelsta 1.

Lions 35-9. Oliver Ladehoff scored the first points of the first period, while McIntosh scored the last of the 8 minute frame from beyond the 3-point line, giving the home squad a 21-7 advantage.

Arlington built the lead from there, holding Louisville to two second-period points. Logemann and Ladehoff opened the quarter with 3-point makes before Ladehoff capped it with a drive into the lane.

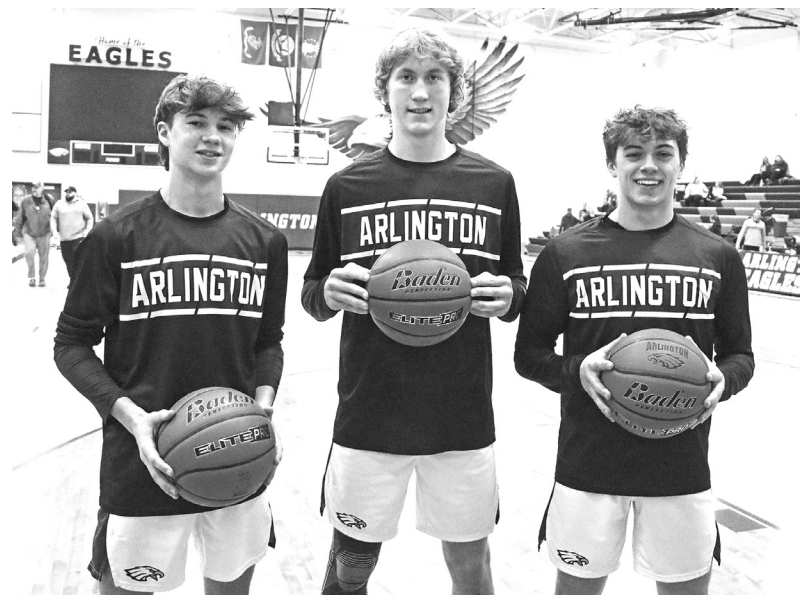
The Eagles' advantage on the

scoreboard continued throughout the second half. In addition to Koger's 20, Logemann and Ladehoff finished with 12 points apiece. McIntosh scored seven, too.

Alex Sorensen, meanwhile, led Louisville with 15 points.

## Bergan tops AHS in OT shootout

Arlington hosted a second home game Saturday against



GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Arlington High School seniors Schuyler Logemann, from left, Trent Koger and Killian McIntosh pose for a photo before Friday's Senior Night home game against Louisville.

Fremont Bergan, but lost in overtime.

The Knights won the 74-69 shootout led by Gavin Baker's game-high 37 points. Koger scored 31 for the Eagles, who were outscored 10-5 in extra time.

AHS led 34-27 at halftime, but

struggled to slow Bergan during the third quarter. Coach Jake Polk's team trailed 51-45 going into the fourth and later tied the game, but ultimately lost it.

The Eagles' regular season finale is Friday at home against the highly-touted Omaha Concordia Mustangs.

# Nielsen scores 1,000th as AHS tops Louisville

## Forward hits milestone on Senior Night

BY GRANT EGGER  
sports@enterpriseub.com

Arlington senior Britt Nielsen scored her 1,000th career point Friday as the Class C1 No. 10 Eagles girls basketball team closed out the regular season with a 70-32 win against Louisville.

It took the forward a few third-period shot attempts to reach four figures, but when she did — with an off-glass shot from inside the lane — coach Tashia Wolf took a timeout to commemorate the career milestone.

"Before the season, I did calculate how many I needed to get 1,000 and I, honestly, had no faith in myself to hit it," Nielsen said. "There's nothing

else I can do except thank my teammates."

It's been a joint effort in the standout's eyes.

"I'm just so blessed with who I am surrounded with," she said. "I have an amazing coach. I have amazing teammates and my parents have always been so supportive."

Altogether, Nielsen finished Friday's win with 23 points. Her team improved to 18-4 overall, while the visiting Lions dropped to 6-16.

AHS scored the first 24 points of the game, producing six from beyond the 3-point arc

on Emme Timm and Hailey O'Daniel buckets. Louisville finally broke the scoring streak with its own 3, but Hayley Arp added her second bucket down the stretch to answer.

Ultimately, the Eagles led 26-4 through one quarter and pushed their advantage to 26 points during second. Nielsen's 3-pointer midway through the period pushed her game total to 14 — two shy of 1,000.

In celebrating Senior Night with Nielsen, O'Daniel and Libby Hegemann finished with seven and two points, respectively. Macy Wolf scored



GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Eagles senior Britt Nielsen, left, moves into a shot attempt against Louisville on Friday at Arlington High School.

14 points for Arlington as well, while school assists leader Emme Timm had nine points.

The Eagles next play 7:30 p.m. today during the Class C1-5 Subdistrict Tournament

semifinals on their home court. As the top-seeded team, it'll face the winner of Monday's Wayne-Winnebago matchup. The finals will then be 6 p.m. Thursday at AHS.

# EAGLES: 2 Flesners, Soll and Johannes earn spots

FROM PAGE 11

on building confidence on and off the mat.”

Ben Flesner will make his state debut with a 20-21 overall record. The 165-pounder went 4-2 in Malcolm, though, beating two wrestlers with winning records to advance.

During the third consolation round, Flesner beat 26-18 Carter Herrington of Palmyra by pin. He then upset 39-11 Conner Neuhalffen of Battle Creek during the all-or-nothing consolation semifinals, securing another fall in 1:43.

Johannes, meanwhile, earned his first Class C state appearance with a 6-5 decision win against Lincoln Lutheran's Logan Lampe during the consolation semis. Before that, though, he also picked up a pair of pins to start his 190-pound bracket run. One took 54 seconds, while the second came just 13 seconds before the end of the third period.

Soll, however, had to bounce back after a loss in his first match of the day to qualify for a second state tournament. The 126-pounder — who is 21-8 after missing the first part of the season due to injury — responded with a pair of pins in 30 and 20 seconds. He then secured an ultimate tiebreaker overtime win against 37-17 Tristan Sisco of Syracuse in the consolation semifinals, clinching his state spot.

Jake Flesner is headed back to the state tournament after going 2-2 in C-1 matches. The Eagle bounced back after a 10-0 major decision loss in the 120-pound semifinals to win his state-clincher by pin. He stopped Falls City's Bailey Thimmes in 2:36 to earn his spot — two years after his last state bout.

Arlington's Cameron Hancock, Tanner Kylo and Stokely Lewis

## CLASS C-1 DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY AT MALCOLM HIGH SCHOOL

**TEAM STANDINGS:** Battle Creek 215.5 points, Broken Bow 159, Syracuse 137, Columbus Scotus 132, O'Neill 105, Albion Boone Central 91, Falls City 86, Tri County 82, Madison 72.5, Arlington 68, Norfolk Catholic 67, Malcolm 50.5, Lincoln Lutheran 30.5, Palmyra 21, Centura 20, Freeman 8.

**Arlington Eagle Results (top-4 placers qualify for state)**  
**(Weight, wrestler: Tourney record (overall record), place)**  
**120 POUNDS, JAKE FLESNER:** 2-2 (27-10), fourth.  
**126, BRAXTON SOLL:** 3-2 (21-8), fourth.  
**132, CAMERON HANCOCK:** 2-2 (26-15), NA.  
**150, TANNER KYLLO:** 2-2 (24-16), NA.  
**165, BEN FLESNER:** 4-2 (20-21), fourth.  
**175, STOKELY LEWIS:** 2-2 (29-13), NA.  
**190, TATE JOHANNES:** 3-2 (27-11), fourth.  
**285, ZANE GERRISH:** 0-2 (19-18), NA.



Arlington state qualifiers Jake Flesner, second from left, and Tate Johannes, right, watches district matches alongside teammate Tanner Kylo, middle, on Saturday at Malcolm High School.

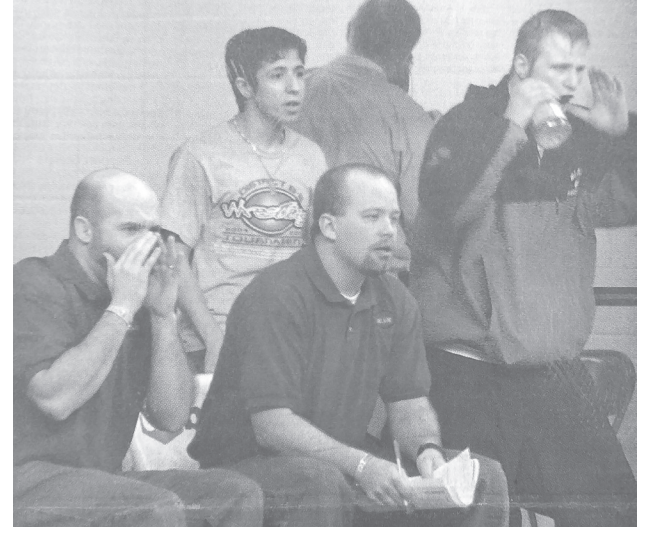
earned two district wins apiece, too, but finished shy of the state tournament Saturday afternoon.

“We wrestled well today,” Coach Hart said. “The boys all put themselves in a position to get to (the CHI Health Center). If we had a minor

setback or a loss, they reset their mind to fight back and make it.”

The NSAA State Boys Wrestling Championships begin 3 p.m. Thursday in Omaha and continue through the 3 p.m. Saturday championship finals.

## A LOOK AT TIMES GONE BY



PILOT-TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Blair coaches Aaron McClain and Terry Bellamy, from left, sitting, and wrestlers Dan Scott and Jake Smith cheer on Luke Sutherland during the 2004 state wrestling tournament in Lincoln.

# 2 Blair wrestlers earn state medals in '04

BY GRANT EGGER  
 sports@enterprisepub.com

*Editor's Note: "A Look at Times Gone By" is an in-depth look at weekly Times Gone By entries compiled since 2015. These articles represent the history of Washington County sports.*

Blair High School's Jake Smith and Luke Sutherland earned state wrestling medals in 2004.

With coaches Aaron McClain and Terry Bellamy among those matside in Lincoln, Smith took fourth at 189 pounds. He won three decisions and notched a pin against Ogallala's Jacob McCormick, but dropped his third-place match to Platteview's Eric Dolezal, who went onto serve as a BHS assistant coach and is the current Waverly head coach.

Sutherland, meanwhile, earned sixth at heavy-weight during the '04 state tournament. After an 8-4 decision loss during the quarterfinals, he earned two consolation round pins and a 5-3 decision to earn a fifth-place match, which he lost by 6-2 decision.

A third Bear — Dan Scott — also qualified for the state tournament 21 years ago, going 0-2 at 112 pounds. His team finished 23rd in the Class B team standings.

# Meier scores 20 in BHS boys win

## Bears top Roncalli after Concordia loss

STAFF REPORTS

Two days after a loss to Concordia High School in Omaha, the Blair boys basketball team bounced back with a win against Roncalli in the same city.

The Bears (10-11 overall) beat the Crimson Pride by 11, 64-53.

Coach Chris Whitwer's team earned a hearty first half lead, 34-23, and held it during the second. Post player Bo Meier led all scorers, producing 20 points with nine baskets, including two 3-pointers.

Freshman Kalan Steinbeck added 17 points, scoring six from beyond the arc and two from the foul line, while senior guard Cooper Sorensen scored 11.

Blair plays at Elkhorn tonight in its regular season finale.

### No. 2 Concordia bests Bears

BHS dropped a 65-46 game to Class C1 No. 2 Omaha Concordia

## BHS BASKETBALL LINE SCORES

SATURDAY

Blair 64, Omaha Roncalli 53

BHS (10-11) 18 16 13 17 — 64

RON (6-13) 12 11 16 14 — 53

**SCORING:** BHS — Bo Meier 20, Kalan Steinbeck 17, Cooper Sorensen 11, Brevin Leggott 8, Aidan Slominski 6, Andrew Smutny 2.

**RON —** B. McGill 15, Benjamin Mansbach 13, Carson Kay 9, Jace Dasher 5, Henry Drexel 5, Nathaniel Kenney 3, Vinny Schwarz 2, Amir Kercheval 1.

THURSDAY

No. 2 Omaha Concordia 65, Blair 46

BHS (9-11) 7 12 12 15 — 46

OC (17-3) 8 24 13 20 — 65

**SCORING:** BHS — Steinbeck 14, Leggott 10, Meier 10, Slominski 9, Sorensen 3.

**OC —** Drew Kulus 28, Owen Abendroth 9, Jackson Shepherd 7, Cole Cheatham 6, Lincoln Goetz 5, Ryan Taylor 4, Eliotte McCafferty 4, Logan Hermann 2.

last Thursday.

The Mustangs held just a one-point advantage 8 minutes in, but took control of the game with a 24-12 second period. Drew Kulus led the way for the home team, scoring a game-high 28 points.

Steinbeck, meanwhile, led the

Bears with 14 points in defeat. The freshman started slow, but scored 12 points during the second half.

Brevin Leggott, meanwhile, hit two 3-pointers and had 10 points for Coach Whitwer's squad.

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

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The Pioneers' Maelie Nelson, left, looks to score against some tight Tekamah-Herman defense Thursday at Fort Calhoun High School.



The Pioneers' Ari Nelson, middle, looks to pass the ball between Tekamah-Herman's Taryn Sheets, left, and Kallie Moore on Thursday at Fort Calhoun High School.



The Pioneers' Ansley Elofson, right, fights for the ball with Tekamah-Herman's Carsyn Magill on Thursday at Fort Calhoun High School.

# Calhoun girls split last 2 regular season games

## Basketball team routs Tekamah-Herman 64-23

BY GRANT EGGER  
sports@enterprisepub.com

Senior student manager and Unified basketball player Reilly Rauterkus capped the Fort Calhoun High School girls' last regular season home game with a long, off-glass jump shot make Thursday evening.

With the bucket, the Pioneers beat the Tekamah-Herman Tigers 64-23, improving to 15-7 on the season with their second-straight win. They'd finish the regular season 15-8 after Friday's game at Raymond Central.

Against the Tigers, though, coach Eric Jones started his varsity seniors — Anna and Kaylee Taylor, Aimee Boyd and Samantha Thomas — with junior Maelie Nelson. The 12th-graders have had limited playing time this season, but stuck with their teammates throughout.

"I started tearing up at the beginning of the lineups because it just felt like I just had so much support from all of the fans and the students at this school," Boyd said. "Fort Calhoun is just a good community to be in."

Thomas said it was an "amazing" feeling being introduced to the crowd with the video board showcasing her name.

"It's so weird being on a different side because I'm usually cheering on my teammates," Thomas said. "But, it was a nice change and I love the support here. It makes it even better."

Kaylee Taylor, a Nebraska Coaches Association softball all-star and future Nebraska Wesleyan track and field athlete, scored the game's first bucket before the Pioneers' regular starters took over. FCHS led 18-11 through one period, 30-15 through two and dominated the second half before Rauterkus got into the action.

Sophomore Raeann Massey led Fort Calhoun with 16 points against Tekamah, while Jovi Grenier added 11 and Ella Bouwman scored eight. The last home win was the Pioneers' seventh there this season.

"I just love how positive the environment is and how we all push each other to our limits," Thomas said when asked about her team. "We make sure we're getting each other better each practice."

For their efforts, the seniors took the court first against the Tigers.

"I haven't started a single

### FCHS BASKETBALL LINE SCORES

#### FRIDAY

Raymond Central 60, Fort Calhoun 36

FCHS (15-8) 6 6 6 18 — 36

RC (18-4) 8 22 16 14 — 60

**SCORING:** FCHS — Raeann Massey 14, Maelie Nelson 7, Ansley Elofson 7, Jovi Grenier 3, Dehlia Hallberg 3, Ari Nelson 2.

**RC** — Kenzie TenEyck 35, Quincy Cotter 7, Julia Schultz 6, Alexa Otto 4, Jacey Hofpar 3, Izzy Lubischer 3, Peyton Niemeier 2.

#### THURSDAY

Fort Calhoun 64, Tekamah-Herman 23

T-H (2-20) 11 4 3 5 — 23

FCHS (15-7) 18 12 28 6 — 64

**SCORING:** FCHS — Massey 16, Grenier 11, Ella Bouwman 8, Elofson 7, Ari Nelson 5, Hallberg 4, Kaylee Taylor 4, Maelie Nelson 4, Isabel Wray 3, Reilly Rauterkus 2.

**T-H** — Josie Brodersen 5, Kallie Moore 4, Cassidy Magill 4, Emily Stansberry 4, Brooklynn Olson 3, Aspen Arnold 2, Aisley Walpole 1.



PHOTOS BY GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

The Pioneers' Raeann Massey shoots a 3-pointer Thursday against Tekamah-Herman at Fort Calhoun High School.



A loose ball makes its way out of bounds as the Pioneers' Samantha Thomas, right, and Josie Brodersen (25) give chase Thursday at Fort Calhoun High School.



The Pioneers' Aimee Boyd, left, looks to pass as Tekamah-Herman's Kallie Moore plays defense Thursday at Fort Calhoun High School.



The Pioneers' Jovi Grenier, right, looks to score as Tekamah-Herman's Emily Stansberry plays defense Thursday at Fort Calhoun High School.

varsity game my whole four years I've played basketball," Boyd said. "Just getting to do that and feeling that moment with my family, it just felt so surreal."

#### Raymond Central game

On Friday, though, Fort Calhoun lost a 60-36 game at 18-4 Raymond Central.

Coach Jones said he didn't get his team adjusted to the Mustangs' 1-3-1 zone defense quick enough. The Pioneers trailed just 8-6 after one period, but

were behind by 16 and 26 points after the second and third quarters, respectively.

Massey led FCHS in defeat with 14 points, while Maelie Nelson and Ansley Elofson scored seven apiece.

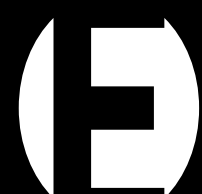
The Pioneers next play 5 p.m. today during the Class C1-3 Subdistrict Tournament semifinals on their home floor. FCHS will compete against Monday's winner of the Omaha Roncalli-Conestoga matchup. The finals are 6 p.m. Thursday in Fort Calhoun.

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# FCHS' Miles signs with Midland football

Lineman earned all-state honorable mention last fall

BY GRANT EGGER  
sports@enterprise.com

Fort Calhoun senior Colton Miles celebrated signing to play for the Midland University Warriors on Friday.

"I've always dreamed of playing college football," said the offensive and defensive lineman.

An Omaha World-Herald Class C1 honorable mention recipient this past season, Miles was in the mix with his Pioneers from his freshman season on. There were a lot of successes across four football seasons, but some low points, too.

"I've struggled through injuries, so it's kind of cool to just be able to persevere through all that and finally make my dream

come through," he said.

The lineman played on both sides of the ball as a senior, notched eight total tackles and a sack defensively as FCHS reached the C1 playoffs.

Altogether, Miles said he had about 10 offers to play for different colleges, choosing Midland in the end of his recruitment.

"They were my first offer," he said of the Warriors.

The coaching staff, the Pioneer said, was key to his decision.

"I love the coaches there," Miles explained, noting offensive line coach Mike Adams and head coach Jeff Jamrog specifically. "They made me feel at home."

He goes into college football with high goals. He said he'd like an oppor-

tunity to play right away and one day hopes to earn All-American status.

Midland, meanwhile, went 6-5 last fall with a 5-5 Great Plains Athletic Conference record.

GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE  
**Midland University football recruit Colton Miles poses for a photo with his family Friday at Fort Calhoun High School.**



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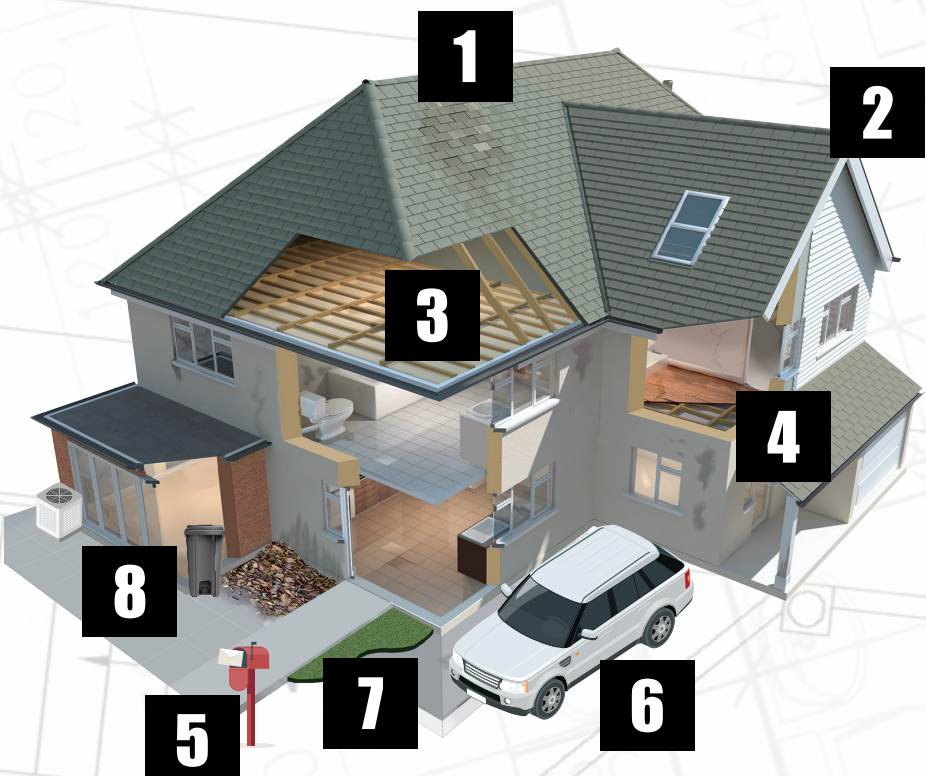
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