MARCH 25, 2020
COVID-19
COVERAGE
Nearly all schools closed for the year.

by jenny higgins
wells@myantelopecountynews.com

Nebraska’s county-by-county list shows the majority of schools in the area have closed for the rest of the year.

Nebraska-Oakl. Church, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

United Methodist-Presbyterian

Blood drives set

by jenny higgins
wells@myantelopecountynews.com

With the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases rising every day, many organizations in the area are still holding blood drives.

Creative visits feel like ‘a hug for your soul’

By Carrie Pitzer

As Johnson looked out the window, the smile on her face sent a warmth through the glass toward Nikki Moore and her three kids.

Standing outside of The Willows Assisted Living on Monday afternoon, the Elgin family wanted Johnson to know — and to see for herself — just how much they care, even if the COVID-19 outbreak has restricted visitors to the Neligh facility.

It was like a warm, fuzzy hug. It’s like a hug for your soul,” Moore said. “She had curry and salad. She was really lonesome and missed everyone so much, as she really surprised to see us.”

Like many others, Moore and her children visited The Willows several times a week until it became too much of a health risk. Thanks to technology, they can see each other via Facebook video chat. But Johnson was still missing the face-to-face contact, especially with Moore’s young children.

As Johnson locked out the window on Monday afternoon, she couldn’t hide her excitement as she watched Kami, Miliaah and Zekkia run toward the window.

“It brought them to tears.”

Orchard exchange student forced to return home early due to outbreak

by jenny higgins
wells@myantelopecountynews.com

This wasn’t how she wanted her school year in America to end.

Madisen Keiper, a foreign exchange student at Orchard Public School, was sent back to Germany on Monday amid concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the notification came via email on Thursday, 16-year-old Madisen was devastated by the news.

“It was very sad,” she said. “It ruined all day.”

Madisen said the email from EF, her foreign exchange program, didn’t come as a complete shock, however.

“I was kind of expecting it because, a week before, we got emails which said we could decide if we wanted to go back or not. So, it was kind of our decision — at least,” she said.

At that time, it was up to her whether or not she wanted to return to Germany.

“My dad said it was my own decision if I wanted to go back because it was worse there anyway,” she said. “I would’ve been bored here probably, also with driving through these airports, hotels and having to wear masks, and who knows what else.”

Unfortunately, Madisen wasn’t able to spend Easter with her host family. Instead, she spent the holiday with her parents.

“It was still very nice,” she said. “I cried all day.”

Orchard exchange student forced to return home early due to outbreak.

No COVID-19 cases reported yet in county

by Carrie Pitzer

The doors may be locked, but there’s plenty of work still going on at the Antelope County Courthouse.

As of last Thursday, the Antelope County Courthouse is now open only by appointment as officials comply with the state mandated limit of six people per room due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

During an emergency meeting at the courthouse on Wednesday, commissioners dispensed ways to follow the social distancing rules in an attempt to keep employees and the public safe. Commissioners attending were Chairman Charlie Henery, Vice Chairwoman Regina Krebs, Carolyn Pedersen and Dean Smith. Eli Jacob was absent.

“We have no confirmed cases at this time. As a state there are currently 33, according to the CDC, and none in Antelope,”

According to the Nebraska Department of Health Services, all local health departments involved have started contact investigations to identify who people who come into contact to help reduce spread. All identified close contacts will self-quarantine and be monitored daily by public health officials for fever and respiratory symptoms.

Courthouse open by appointment only due to virus

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For County Assistance

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Dates of Grades PK thru 6th using a drop

Volume 119, No. 15

Sections, 16 Pages

Sunday Weather

Precip: 10%

Precip: 20%

Precip: 10%

Precip: 20%
Carrie Pitzer
Ad Director
Jenny Higgins
Robert Willats - Republican
For United States Senator
City of Tilden
UNITED STATES SENATORIAL TICKET
Bob Krutz - Republican
For Board of Directors -Subdistrict 7
Larry Marvin
For State Legislature
Boone Central Public School Board

making sure her contact information was educated on the bone marrow procedure little nervous about it because I wasn't he got chosen," she said. "And I was a date it was received in Antelope on your case, other than rule on

test — a .369 BAC (blood alcohol

she said. "The incisions are in my lower

physical. Then they returned to
even though it's typically an outpatient

Northeast Community College
of Heath and Jolene Jenkins,
my ancestors."

stuff and the square dance" were
the Sea." She said "displaying the

"I felt really good. I just had a follow up

Even with all the complications she

and added again that the situation

I cannot impose penalties

"No, I haven't done anything

"I'm not sure what time I got out of

for attempted stalking by a Neligh

"I'm not sure what time I got out of

Sarah Buff Moore, Clerk

After one year, the recipient has the

"My boyfriend and I were just boarding

even though it's typically an outpatient

"I felt really good. I just had a follow up

"It was a comfort for her. The

become available."

"Putting it all together was

"I'm not sure what time I got out of

"No, I haven't done anything

Keith Hartofil - Non-Partisan

4 Year Term - Vote for ONE

4 Year Term - Vote for ONE

4 Year Term - Vote for ONE

4 Year Term - Vote for ONE

4 Year Term - Vote for ONE

4 Year Term - Vote for ONE

4 Year Term - Vote for ONE

314 M Street, Neligh NE 68756.

Claire Schindler
of Kathy and Eric Stuthman, said

...and the square dance" were

"I felt really good. I just had a follow up

"It was a comfort for her. The

non bigger advocate for Be The Match than

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Karen Doerr, 53, Neligh, said,

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**WARRIOR SPRING SPORTS**

**NELIGH FAMILY MEDICINE**

**CENTRAL VALLEY AG**

**Keetle, Carson Jones, Talon Krebs, (Front Row) Austin Rudolf, Thomas Johnson, Aiden Kuester, Julien**

**ACN   Sports**

**REINKE’S FARM & CITY SERVICE**

**BRUNSWICK STATE BANK**

**April 2      Golf Home vs Creighton 4 p.m.**

**Girls Track:**

“We had kids everywhere at our games watching us around the field and whatever bleachers we did have. From the town,” Darrel said. “We had some really good baseball days of the summer.”

**Boys Track:**

Dylan Wright, Walter Furstenau, Brendan Ollendick, Tristan Smith, Zack Hartl, Keegan Petersen, Kegan Gavyn Clause, Caden Reikofski, Brandon Evans, Reed Bennett, Kolton Krick, Damien Smith, (Front Row) Derek Hahne, Daniel Chvala, Ashton Gullickson, Tanner Sparr, Cody Qualset, Zane Richardson, (Front Row) Jesse Green, Caleb Luke Jacobsen

**Sports Reporter**

**April 6      Track @Battle Creek 12 p.m.**

**April 6       Track @ North Central 10 a.m.**

**YOU WIN SOME,**

improve for competition on the to focus on those styles now and due to all of this, but there are winning fashion, 15-5.

**WARRIOR SPRING SPORTS**

**FALCON SPRING SPORTS**

**Girls Track:**

**WARRIOR SPRING SPORTS**

**Neligh-Oakdale**

**SNIDER MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME**

**409 N. 2nd St., Elgin, NE**

**Deadline To Enter Is Over. Everyone Is Welcome To Vote Daily.**

**PREVENTION IN ACTION**

**HUNDREDS OF FLOWERS DELIVERED TO NURSING HOME, ASSISTED LIVING**

**By JENNY HIGGINS**

She smiled through the glass as helpfully colored curtains were bethought in the door. The beehive frames were a welcome sight as she slid out of the chair inside the nursing home and where she followed the bouquet guide her face light up even more.

**Father Pat Nidaas is new broadcasting Maas using Facebook Live at St. Francis of Assisi.**

**ELECT DON LALLIER**

**REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR**

**Antelope County District 2 Commissioner**

**Orchard/Clearwater**

**Our new sports series opens with a look at a classic’s legendary coaching back.**

**COVID-19**

A Local Survival Guide

**SPECIAL SECTION**

Pull out this educational section and support the local businesses that are included as sponsors.

**ANTELOPE COUNTY**

**Easter Egg Hunt**

Rewinders are encouraged to color — or design in their own unique way — the Easter Egg inside this edition of the newspaper and hang it in their window as part of the ACM’s Community Cure For Isolation Blues Fun going on April 10-12. Send a photo of your egg to be included in our column.

Look for details and instructions on Page 8.

**Bargain Buyway**

The Black Friday Start was scheduled for April 24. 25 and 26, has been cancelled for everyone’s safety at this time, according to organizers.

**NELIGH**

**Blood drive planned**

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile in Neligh is seeking donors by appointment only for Monday, April 6. The bloodmobile is planned from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m at the Neligh American Legion. Organizer Darrel Stover said appointments may be made by calling the office at 402-929-3404 or email to dfoordotesk@redcross.org.

She encourages college students who are home to consider giving, as the need is great at this time. Donors are asked to stay home if they are not feeling well. Temperatures will be taken at the door. A self- service will not be served; however, donors will be given snacks to go.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Legals in this issue**

- Bank & Organizations
- Church Services
- Notice of Change in Name, or Date
- Cleaweld School, notice
- Village of Poyner, minutes
- Village of Orchard, minutes
- Village of Elmwood, notice
- Libby License, notice
- Medicine License, notice
- Cemetery License, notice
- Cook License, notice
- Look For Legals on Pages 10

**Weekend Weather**

Complete Forecast, Store Hours, Sales

**Volume 119, No. 18**

**1 Section, 12 Pages**

Church

Clausdels 2

Clearfield 11 Opinion

Clearwater 4

Orchard 1

Elwood 4 Puzzles

Legies 10 Stories

Neligh 6

Photos by LUKE JACOBSEN

Trey Jacobson delivers flowers to her grandmother, Lainna Taylor at Lainna’s Memorial Care Center. Jacobson offered, “Memorial Care equals A lifetime of flowers to members this week.”

**POSSIBLE EXPOSURE IN NELIGH, CLEARWATER**

By CARRIE FITZGER

Antelope County has its first positive COVID-19 case, as of Monday night.

The North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) was made aware of a COVID-19 case in Antelope County and said the individual and their family are in quarantine. No details, including the individual’s age or community, have been released as of press time.

NCDHD has initiated contact investigations and has been quickly answering potential exposures to Northeast Nebraska’s brigades.

**From Drive-In Service to Live Streaming, Churches Find Ways to Reach Congregations**

By JENNY HIGGINS

www.antelopecountynews.com

As the pastor looked out at his congregation, he hoped the sound coming through his microphone was loud enough.

“If you can hear me, honk!” Pastor Peter Sample instructed those attending his first drive-in service outside the Calvary Bible Church in Neligh on Sunday.

A surrounding flock of car and pickup home provided the answer he needed.

Pastor Sample worked and asked his congregation to come to the “front row” before beginning the service. Engines started up and vehicles turned closer to the pastor who stood on a flatbed trailer with guitarist Brooke Curtis in the background.

**CHECK YOUR EXPIRATION DATE**

**HONEST Public Service**

Paid for by Don Lallier for Antelope County Commissioner

**Antelope County’s First**

**POSITIVE TEST**

**CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE**

Don Carr listens to Tuesday’s services at Calvary Bible in Neligh from the pickup during their first drive-in services.

Pastor Peter Sample is working on the plans to continue drive-in service, including on Easter morning.

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In this time of the Coronavirus, many people have opinions. As always, opinions are not facts!

When we are growing up, some days, we’re going to be happy with our response. Individually or as a group — medical facilities, non-profits, city councils, etc. We’re told to stay at home and do the right thing. 

But that volunteer is needed more now than ever. The average age of volunteers is one of the most important things. But, like most organizations, we’ve downsized and fundraising have come to a grinding to a halt. Despite this pandemic, we want to continue to be there for the community. We’ve been there for the precedence on the prevalence of sexual content. In the United States, we one in three women and one in ten men experience some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime. Only 45% of sexual assault is ever reported to the authorities. Is this out of 10 cases of rape, the victim knew the perpetrator. These few extant statistics show the need to not only be aware, but work towards prevention of these crimes.

As we face the pandemic with COVID-19, we’ve seen a rise in domestic violence and sexual assault. There are no holidays this year and the stress is real. But as people are coming together and staying home, remember that there can be a safe place for some people. That sanitation is a priority for us and we can all be domesticated and thankful for what we have.

Why close libraries? 
Dear Editor,

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A safe celebration

Communities adapt to gathering restrictions

By JENNY HIGGINS

Both Orchard and Neligh have seen a shift to outdoor gatherings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has led to creative solutions and adjustments to traditional events.

In Neligh, a drive-through parade was organized to celebrate the birthdays of multiple children. Angie Belitz and her family surprised their daughter, Montana, with a parade of friends and family members. Angie Belitz, who was especially pleased with the event.

In Orchard, an outdoor movie night was held, with spectators watching from their cars as the movie projected on a screen.

These adaptations have allowed communities to continue celebrating while adhering to social distancing guidelines. Residents have expressed gratitude for the creativity and effort put into these events.

Please see CELEBRATION, page 3.
**Paynes honored as good neighbors**

By JENNY HIGGINS

The Neligh News & Leader

Angela Beltz loves to Neligh farmer Jason Krebs and Diane Jacobson, who led the celebration of party-givers during the social distancing birthday party for her 90th birthday on Friday.

"I thought about our options and knew we were limited on what we could do," said Moore. "So I thought maybe we could just invite a group of friends and we could drive up to her house with our cars decorated and tooting horns," he added. "Her birthday daughter噪声," said Moore. "They wanted to drop off a gift or gift card could it on her porch to let her know 100 people were thinking of her."

The party was so well-organized and were very receptive to the idea, she said.

On Friday morning, Heritage correspondent Neligh Jacobson and Jason Krebs after learning they were helping people celebrate their birthdays. They were both willing to participate.

"That is such as great thing about living in a small town," Heather said.

"People rally around one another and are so supportive and kind," she added. "She was pleased with the surprise and thought the kids said everything worked out well.

The best part was being able to celebrate her friend, our colleague, because the current situation makes it more difficult to offer appreciation and gratitude," she said. 

"We also were pretty well prepared to see all of those people and same thing with her donation," she continued. 

"Her said the surprise certainly pleased her.

"Somehow that to give around people, I have left a little isolated lately due to this pandemic," she said. "I just just to get to grips with my job didn't come at an opportunity like this but also.

The best part was being able to see so many of her family. She was touched by the whole thing, she said.

"I literally was speechless. And I know, that's not maybe typically," she said with a laugh.

The American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Neligh Legion was just one of its 93rd annual on Monday, according to coordinator dort Hare.

"It was awesome," Hare said. "People knew we were only open by appointment, and we still were able to collect 95 units.


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**Neligh News & Leader**

Jenny Higgins

**Publisher**

Carrie Pitzer

**Managing Editor**

Jenny Higgins

**Sports Editor**

Luke Jacobson

**Creative Director**

Alber said he could not at this time say more joke or sarcastic comment... or maybe even one more joke. It is so apparent how many faces you have touched. Coach. You will be missed, but never forgotten.

Coach assistant Brooke Kneivel stated, "He's a person who strived to make your day, always being there for people and making them laugh. He was the best person to get along with. I'll miss a funny little bit of a troublemaker in his class and always being able to make you smile. He was very funny, very shy, but would laugh and smile at all the time."

"You will forever be missed," Coach Keeton said. "He was a hard worker, on the field or on the court, and always doing the best he could."

"He refused to let anything get the best of him," Coach Keeton said. "He persevered no matter what he was faced with. As long as he could play or train, he was satisfied."

"He was always having fun and never letting anything get in the way of what he loved to do," Coach Keeton said. "He was always looking for a way to improve himself and his team."

"He had a great sense of humor and always knew how to make others smile. His positive attitude and work ethic was contagious," Coach Keeton said. "He was a great coach and a great person."

"He was such a positive influence on me and my team and I will miss him dearly," Coach Keeton said. "He was always willing to lend a hand when needed and was always there for his teammates."
Wanek Pharmacy installs window to ‘help customers stay healthy’

By CARRIE PITZER
news@myantelopecountynews.com

When face shields to gear, to show the community how serious this alarming and scary situation,” Charf said. "It was officially installed on Monday," Charf said.

“Wanek Pharmacy has always tried to offer quick service to its customers, but even owner Dale Wilkinson said at quickly she added a pick up window.

“PDF relatively installed on Monday,” Chief said on Friday. "Dave Schmidt started breaking through the three layers of brick on that Friday, and by Monday, we locked our doors and started using only the window.

Whether it was iron or good timing, the new pick-up window was ready for use the same day the North Central Health Department announced Antelope County’s first positive COVID-19 test, which brought the novel virus close to home.

"With a positive case in the county, it’s alarming and a scary situation,” Chief said. “I have my employees wearing gloves and masks, and I’m not like, but it’s going to demonstrate to the community how serious this virus is. This is new territory for us.

Wanek Pharmacy employees April Buck, Ken Wright, Heather Bauer, Mary Knoff, Dona Charf and Sonya Jensen are now serving customers through a newly-added pick up window.

Social Distancing Egg Hunt

Neligh Rescue ‘as prepared as can be’

By CARRIE PITZER
news@myantelopecountynews.com

"If someone is sick and needs quick service to the hospital, call us,” Simonsen said. “We are prepared and have the gear to get you safely from the patient to the hospital, if you need help.”

Calls to Neligh Rescue have decreased in the past several weeks. While there are no specific reasons why, both EMT Captain Jared Jacob and Simonsen said people should not be concerned about spreading illness to the EMTs.

"If EMTs are called to a scene where there are no COVID-19 cases, they will wash their hands first,” Jacob said. “EMTs follow the protocols set by the CDC and health department if they’re needed."

"We’re all on the same page as to what’s expected of the fire department if they’re needed,” Jacob said. "Our goal is to keep them away from the patient and keep them as safe as possible." While there are no COVID-19 cases, the fire department also would have worn masks.

"Neligh Rescue handles all non-emergent calls in Neligh, Oakdale and Brunswiek. Several members of the Orchard Rescue also work for Neligh Rescue,” Simonsen said. "As our policies have kept the policies consistent among local EMTs. Simonsen said that’s a key reason the squad is so prepared.

"It’s pretty much starts from the top down. We work for the fire department, and they’re in touch with the CDC and health department. We get information every day and are passing that down to our captains, so things may change," he said. "Today we’re ready, though chances may change. Right now, we’re as prepared as we can be for what’s going on."

Jacob said potential COVID-19 cases can call Antelope Memorial Hospital’s triage for assistance.

Teacher Parade

By CARRIE PITZER
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Staffing changes at Clearwater

BY JENNY HIGGINS
news@myantelopecountynews.com

On Monday night, the Clearwater Original Board accepted its third elementary teacher resignation since March and discussed the possibility of combining some of its classes.

Both grade teacher Abbey Schonadt submitted her resignation, which will take effect Sept. 20. On Aug. 8, kindergarten teacher Lila Wondercheck and John Doe resigned from the Denmark and Beardsdale cross country teams.

After the latest resignation, Principal Kristi Schutt said if its current plan is to combine this year’s underclassmen, one of 17 students next year, the teachers who are moving forward with staffing here at this point,” Schutt said.

In other matters, the board:

• Approved the March spreadsheet of the school’s continuity of learning plan. Sanne said they are using a combination of packets and online learning at this time, the board will continue to look into options and said, “This will probably change and grow as the things go along.”

• Learned that 28 students are Please see CLEARWATER, page 12

Orchard earmarks $400,000

By CARRIE PITTER
news@myantelopecountynews.com

After months of discussions on potentially exploring funds for the demolition of the oldest section of the Orchard school building, the original board moved forward with it on Monday.

The Orchard Original Board met via Zoom due to gathering restrictions because of COVID-19, and voted 5-1 to earmark $400,000 for restructing the school. Principal Cathy Cooper said by definition, that means “to change the make-up, organization or pattern of the building.”

Kleenette made the original motion, “so the public likes this,” it was in response to the discussion.

About 15 minutes of discussion of the motion was made, Terri Herger said she supported the motion, “to push it on the ballot.”

All of the board members voted in favor of the earmark, except for Sara Bollinger, who during discussion, said he wanted to put a hold on and meet with the Village of Orchard, Orchard Young Men’s Club and Orchard Economic Development Association. The board members were interested in purchasing this bond.

“The problem is with our

Please see ORCHARD, page 4

Orchard grad designs 3D printed face shields

By CARRIE PITTER
news@myantelopecountynews.com

Before Matt Newman even went to kindergarten, he built a working elevator out of blocks while his grandfather’s living room door in Lincoln.

Now a mechanical engineer — and 2010 Orchard graduate — Newman designed the face shields being 3D printed for healthcare professionals dealing with COVID-19.

“Everyone needs to do their part right now to help,” said Newman, who is an engineer at Nebraska Innovation Studio and is working on his PhD at UNL. “There are a lot of shortages and people have to do their part to reduce the stress on the medical industry. They are getting overwhelmed.”

Newman — son of Beth Newman of Orchard and Debra Newman of Axtel, Texas — dedicated six weeks to design the process, which would normally take months. He said it was essential to finish the design for the more than 600 shields that are needed to help mask production for the shields for Nebraska healthcare workers.

“His dedication was of little surprise to his sister, Amanda Schott, who is also an Antelope Valley Graduating Class of 2018 at UNL in Lincoln.

“Matt is very dedicated when he starts a project,” she said. “As a mom and in the healthcare field, I’m very proud of him and proud that is the direction he chose to go to help. He’s focusing on health care and that’s awesome.”

Through additional partnerships with the University of Nebraska-based National Strategic Research Institute and private companies including Belden, Finn Precision, Midlands Packaging, Lincoln Volvo and the Department of Defense, UNL in Lincoln at Innovation Design and Virtual Incision, the team at Innovation Studio and is working on two of the pieces have to be machined to a tight tolerance.

“The corroboration and effort everyone has put forth is fantastic. I’m proud of the guys running printers and the machinists who have supported us,” Newman said.

The rapid turnaround, Newman admitted, is unheard of in the field and purely due to the teamness of the entire process described as a “very intricate process,” including the consistent workflow that keeps the shield doesn’t warp. Two of the pieces have to be machined to a tight tolerance.

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Early voting ballots are due on or before June 30, 2020. Please call the Antelope County Assessor with any questions at 402-887-4515.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, there will not be a voting place in Neligh on Tuesday morning. Cole plans to retire and her last day will be June 30.

Tax exempt filings are due on or before June 30, 2020. Please call the Antelope County Assessor with any questions at 402-887-4515.

The 1955 Ewing Sand & Gravel, a business for Hinrichsen Sand & Gravel on Lawrence and 30th, has named the Ewing business for 54 years.

 exploits the food pantry to keep the community running. "We are here for a reason. It's to help people, and the more people we can help, the better. We feel very, very, very much. Together, we will get through this trying time," Hart said.

"The food pantry is typically open on the first and third Thursdays of the month, but now we head to the food pantry whenever she does," said Bev. "It's important to me, but not as important as it is to others, she felt it was. Although the pantry has been completely shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic, it was important to her.

"I have people that only live on Social Security, so I don't know how they are making ends meet anyway, and then without this to rely on..." Bev Alderson traveled off with a sadness in her voice.

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Carrie Pitzer & Owner

Ad Director

The Neligh News & Leader

"Yes, who is this?"

Mosaic in Axtell, Neb., so I didn't answer the weird number."

years."

"I was puking, I was blacking out, I was feeling like my brain was going to explode."

Summerland Golf Course.

The judge said the county court doesn't have any jurisdiction with such a demand for road gravel, I think he said it once housed a still years ago.

"They go hand-in-hand," he explained.

"The best part is seeing them get power of prayer and believing in Him will shine through.

"In times like these it definitely takes a team approach, and I am so proud to be part of that team and this community. We will come out all the stronger, healthier, and happier," wrote Angie Belles, a physical therapist at Overland Health Center.

"There are so many others who deserve this recognition, not only the City of Neligh, but the surrounding rural communities who provide their support and assistance in the area," he posted.

"No one goes through this journey alone, and also much love to all of my co-workers from the Neligh Pharmacy and Care Center," she wrote. "You are all my angels and I am grateful to have you in my life and I know that power of prayer and believing in Him will shine through.

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By JENNY MCGREGOR
news@myantelopecountynews.com
When area seniors left their high schools in mid-March, they expected to return in a few weeks. All of them still had prom, senior trips and graduation.

Most didn’t realize it may have been the last time they were together as the Class of 2020.

Within one week, schools started announcing closures due to the coronavirus pandemic. On April 1, all of Antelope County was placed under a Directed Health Measure by Governor Pete Ricketts, effective until at least May 15.

This unprecedented canceled school and all school activities — abruptly halting events the seniors had been looking forward to and leaving behind many uncertainties.

Since then, local communities have shown their support for the Class of 2020 in different ways. Elgin turned on the football field lights at 7 p.m. on April 3 and 10 at 7:55 p.m. and set off fireworks to celebrate senior night.

Due to the health directive, seniors were unable to gather. In addition, parents have created senior displays at their homes. Here are some of their thoughts on a senior year cut short:

Cade Heithoff, Elgin Public

“I feel sad knowing we won’t be going back to school,” Heithoff said. “What I am most sad about is not being able to see all my friends every day.”

Cade said he was very told school was closing down until March 15 before he would not return for the rest of the year.

“The final quarter I was looking forward to lots of events that take place during April such as the state gymnastics, cheer, and graduation. I am looking forward to meeting my classmates and going to school activities with my class.”

Cade said it is too soon that there will still have a graduation ceremony “eventually” and would like to have a graduation party with his family and friends otherwise it’s “OK to do.”

For high school, he plans to find a job related to agriculture.

Skyler Long, Neligh-Oakdale

“I was pretty upset, crying — my friends will tell you I was pretty moody. Skyler said she found out school was closed for the rest of her senior year.

She is disappointed about not seeing her friends and teachers, making a senior countdown, going on a senior skip day, but most of all, prom and graduation. Skyler was also looking forward to state FCCLA.

“My favorite memories are of National FCCLA Central Regionals, Ms. Skunes teaching me not to compare computer crunching out of stealing her computer charger and spending six out of eight class periods with Ms. Stenstrom learning from her while annoying her, and using her room as my locker,” she said.

Skyler remains hopeful that a normal graduation ceremony can be held, along with the party she and her mom have been planning for so long. She promised to write a time capsule at this time to future generations to tell future generations, telling younger kids to live your life, and use your mom as your locker — and enjoy every minute because it is too fast!” she said.

Skyler plans to attend college at Wayne State and major in PSC.

Brynn Dilly, Pope John

“I am probably the most disappointed about missing out on many memories I would have made, like senior prom, graduation and football. Brynn said of ending her senior year early.

“I was looking forward to making these final memories with my classmates before we all left for college,” Brynn said. “I will definitely miss the close relationships I have formed with all of my friends and teachers because they are all like family to me.”

Brynn plans to attend University of Nebraska — Lincoln for pre-professional bachelor’s degree in physical therapy, followed by her doctorate.

Connor Napier, Evelyn

“I thought it was just for precaution, like two weeks and we’ll be back, not a big deal,” Connor said when school was temporarily called off.

He is most sad about not being able to graduate with his classmates in May of 2020.

“My favorite memories just have to do with being in class, a few here to do sports, but having all of us in class, we made many memories throughout the day,” Connor said.

He and his classmates really want to walk the stage together at graduation.

“Looking back, it’s an eye opener,” Connor said. “None of us would have guessed our senior year would have gone like this, just shows things can happen in the blink of an eye.”

He plans to attend Northeast Community College for heating and air, then go back for plumbing.

Stacey Mitchell

“Storytelling is over too fast!” she said.

Stacey said she is going to look back at this time as unique and will most likely have a good story to tell.

She plans to attend University of Nebraska — Lincoln to get her pre-professional bachelor’s degree in physical therapy, followed by her doctorate.

Joey Getzfred

“I was probably the most disappointed about missing out on many memories I would have made, like senior prom, graduation and football. Joey said of ending her senior year early.

“I was looking forward to making these final memories with my classmates before we all left for college,” Joey said. “I will definitely miss the close relationships I have formed with all of my friends and teachers because they are all like family to me.”

Joey plans to attend University of Nebraska — Lincoln for pre-professional bachelor’s degree in physical therapy, followed by her doctorate.

THE ELGIN POPE JOHN

What are your future plans (college or workforce)?

My future plan is to attend the University of Nebraska — Lincoln with a major in Interior Design. In 5 years I hope to be working for a good business in the Agriculture area.

What advice can you offer for high school?

Be kind to everyone and friends gave me a surprise 18th birthday party at my parents’ house in Lincoln. But due to the pandemic it will be over too fast.

What advice can you offer for college?

My advice to everyone is be sure to plan out and have fun; the 4 years with your underclassmen?

High school is

Graduate from college and have a job with major if known or workforce)

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HUNDREDS SHOW SUPPORT FOR CLASS OF 2020 DURING ORCHARD’S COMMUNITY CRUISE NIGHT

By CARRIE PITZER

Nearly 100 vehicles surrounded the Orchard football field Friday night as the community cruise night on Saturday, May 2, will be held on Saturday, May 2, from 6-8 p.m. along the football field.

Neligh offers grants to help businesses

By CARRIE PITZER

The Neligh City Council unanimously approved a grant program that is designed to assist the “most vulnerable businesses” in Neligh. The council approved $25,000 to be used for grants up to $5,000 per business that meets the criteria.

Elkhorn Valley students shine with celebration, trivia night
Commending Handling situation

I am so glad Melanie Henry still
work while her children were young, without a
ordinary walk, because, as you all
knew, there is nothing
else.

EachTimestamp sidekick
did and was writing inspirational
messages in front of businesses on
Main Street of Neligh. In front of
the Clark Carver theater, “Choose
To Shush.” Next to our storefronts
the words, “Stay Strong.”

I told Melissa that she’s doing a
great job with her kids, and she
told me that she’s not a teacher
and couldn’t be one. But Melissa
didn’t do her best can still
ful-fill role, young children and
lot of uncertainty. I couldn’t agree
more.

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CARRIE PITTER
PUBLISHER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Keep School Building

Dear Editor,

I remember the paper from two weeks ago and read that the school board was
to tear down the older portion of the
school.

After reading this it made me
think about all the memories I
have of being in the school. It
made me tear up a little bit as
I heard that the building is just going to be ripped
down and that is just
terrible for our community.

Before the school was
tear down I would go there
to see my friend and
he would be playing
with the other kids. On
Saturday mornings,
the school would be
teenage and you
wouldn’t even
hear anything
even on a sunny day.

It’s a shame that we
only one who feels this way. I
would love to know what is
written. After all, my name
may not agree, but I will consider
others the way you would like to be
considered.

Let’s be the village that raises
our children together through this
time. Honestly, I’m guilty of that as
well.

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our children together through this
time. Honestly, I’m guilty of that as
well.

Tom Briese
State Senator

We’ve got you covered!
Don’t forget Donuts, Brats, Steaks, Chicken & More.

Call Ahme-
02-1994

We can bring it curb
in store or to your
house.

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WEATHER REPORT

WEATHER REPORT

PT ENGLISH

UNITED WITH YOU

Together we help one another.

Voting is best way to change government

By now, all registered voters in Nebraska should have had the
opportunity to fill out an application for an (absentee) ballot.
That application should be mailed to your county’s Election
Commissioner. Once the application is received, the
date it back to you.

To vote, simply fill out a
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End of the Year Procedures

• The last packet will be sent out on Monday, May 4. It will have the work that is to be done through May 14.
• On Friday, May 15, there will be a pick-up drive thru similar to packets and meals handed out, where families can return items they normally would at the end of the year such as books, computers, etc.
• Free breakfast and lunch meals through May 22. That will be the last day.
• Due to healthcare professionals being very busy at this time, the NSAA has relaxed the requirement to get a medical physical before participation in extra-curriculars this fall. Students who will be 8th, 10th, 11th or 12th graders in 2020-2021 school year will NOT need a new physical. Neligh-Oakdale will use the one they had this year. However, students still need the state required physical before 7th grade and they need a physical if they will be in 9th grade and plan to participate in athletics. Also, Kindergarten students and students that transfer into the district will still need their physicals as always.
• There will be virtual awards night video showed. A date has not been set.
• Awards will be handed out to students when they return their items on the 15th.
• All fees, fines, lunch accounts, etc. are paid in full by May 22.
Hamilton said that changing the format of the quiz was one of the easiest questions to answer.

Kahoot! — a game-based learning platform on electronic devices and then utilized was, “Black said.

revealed, and they had to guess what teacher it was,” she said.

Some kids can get online in the evening and for

The trivia included personal facts about

was important to do this because we have

from there,” he said.

connections that are present every day when

friendy competition.

The overall accuracy improved to 50 percent

of Aubrey and Brenna Lawson at 64 percent.

percent accurate overall with the winning team lead to some fun conversations when we are

The kids’ reactions were priceless,” she

Cooperative photo

“Said the idea was brought up by

Black said the idea was brought up by

She created questions or may not know, and she created questions from there,” she said.

Hamilton said the trivia events were a fun way to bring everyone together for “a little friendly competition.”

I helped us feel connected during this time of social distancing,” she said. “I think it was important to do this because we have been missing so much of the teacher/student connections that are present every day when school is in session.”

Black practiced the event, starting out with a 15-minute grace period before the trivia started. “I want them to join in and be ready for it to start, and for them to have fun,” Black said.

Dr. Hagemann, Dawson Hansen, Drew Hansen, Macy Hansen, Jailee Hogancamp, Montana Howard, Carney Black, Erica Brown, Karissa Fernau, Walter Furstenau, Bria Gale, Carleigh Greene.

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