

## DATES TO REMEMBER

April 5 Early Dismissal 2:00 p.m. April 6-9 NO SCHOOL


April 10 Kindergarten Round-up 7:00 p.m.

April 12
School Board Mtg. 7:30 pm in ITV room


April 18
Late Start 10:00
a.m.

## NHS INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS



National Honor Society members (back row 1 to r) Wes Prater, Ben Beckman, Jennifer Bush, Amanda Hemenway, Jenna Schindler, Suzanne Hoefer, Dana Uhrenholdt, Paige Redding. New members: (front row 1 to r) Tyler Reestman, Brett Mahnke, Jeff Bush, Linsey Bode

On Wednesday, March 14, 2007 Elgin High School celebrated the induction of four of its top students into the Dr. W.W. Graham Chapter of the National Honor Society. Students inducted were Brett Mahnke, Linsey Bode, Jeff Bush, and Tyler Reestman. They join the eight current members, juniors - Jenna Schindler, Suzanne Hoefer, Amanda Hemenway, and Jennifer Bush, seniors - Ben Beckman, Wes Prater, Paige Redding, and Dana Uhrenholdt.

In order to be a candidate for selection into the Elgin High NHS Chapter and be placed on the committee ballot, students must be a sophomore or junior and have a 3.0 grade point average. There were a total of 17 students who earned the right to be placed on the committee ballot. Once a student qualifies with a 3.0 GPA , they are evaluated in the areas of Leadership, Service and Character. Those who serve on the selection committee then rank all eligible students with a rating of $1,2,3$ or 4 with a 4 being the highest rating for each category.

It is truly the highest honor that a student can receive at Elgin High School. No other honor represents or carries with it this much prestige. Only a certain percent of a schools total population can obtain membership in any given year.

These twelve students are to be considered the best of the best or the elite of the Elgin High School student body. They all demonstrate great strength in the four quality areas of the National Honor Society -- Leadership, Service, Character and Scholarship. They all maintain the highest of integrity and reflect great pride in all that they do!

## COMMUNITY BIRTHDAY CALENDARS ON SALE SOON!

Band students will be contacting the community soon about renewing your calendars for the 2007-2008 school year. Remember it is a great way to have most school events and birthday reminders right at your fingertips. Please help support this worthwhile project!


The Elgin Public Art students will be competing in several shows during the next months. The Junior High and High school students start with the Keya Paha Invitational at Springview on March 28th.

This is followed by the ESU \#8 Elementary Spring Invitational in Neligh from April 13th-18th. Next is the ESU \#8 High School Invitational from April 23rd-25th at the Neligh park, followed by the NVC Junior and Senior High show on April 27th at Clearwater.

Last, the elementary will display their county fair work during the Spring Concert in May before it is taken to Neligh to be displayed this summer at the Neligh Park. For more information you can check out the "Activities-Art" section on the school webpage.


Elgin Early Learning Preschool is now accepting enrollments for the 2007-2008 school year.
Developmentally appropriate classes are held Monday through Friday 8:00-11:30 a.m.

- For children 3 or 4 years of age (must be 3 years old by October 15).
- Breakfast \& Lunch available.
- State accredited preschool
- Awaiting verification of National accreditation.
- Certified teacher endorsed in Early Childhood with 10 years experience. Tuition is $\$ 40$ per month unless you qualify for free/reduced lunch program.

To register your child, please call Sue Vanis at school 843-2455.


Kindergarten round-up will be held Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Kindergarten room that is located in the metal building behind the high school building.

One parent should be present to fill out the registration form. Please bring your child's immunization record, birth certificate and social security number. We are required by state law to have a copy of your child's birth certificate on file.

If you plan to register your student in Kindergarten at the Elgin Public School, please attend the round-up on the evening of Tuesday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m. If you cannot attend the round-up but intend to enroll your kindergartener in our school, please contact the school office at 843-2455.

<br>\section*{2007 YEARBOOKS}<br>2007 Yearbooks are on sale now! Our theme this year is "007 Eagles...Elgin Eagles". Personalized yearbooks will be sold through April 1st. Non-personalized yearbooks will be sold until May 18th. Your 2007 yearbook will be delivered in August when you come back to school.<br>Contact a yearbook student or Mrs. Heithoff to purchase yours.<br>Yearbook students include...<br>Seniors: Brandon Anderson, Billie Beckman, Danny Henn, Michelle Oppliger, Wes Prater and Meghan Schindler<br>Juniors: Jonathan Gunderson, Becki Schindler and Allie Schiltmeyer<br>You can also check out our webpage, ActivitiesYearbook, for an order form and a list of icons available to personalize your yearbook.



DON'T THROW AWAY THAT EMPTY INK CARTRIDGE! BRING IT TO SCHOOL! Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and remanufactured. Our school will receive $\$ 2.00$ for each cartridge turned in. Bring in your empty cartridges (use a Ziploc bag to avoid ink spills) to the office recycle bin.

## EAGLE FOOOTBALL NEWS

2The Elgin Football team recently had their spring football meeting and the team voted for next year's captains. The 2007 Team captains are Andrew Bauer, Matt Anderson, Tad Henkenius, Jonathan Gunderson and Brett Mahnke. To remain a captain, they must lift 40 days during the summer and be a positive role model for fellow teammates. Congratulation to our captains.

## Counselor's

Corner by Ms Batb Bocte

## Seniors ... it's decision time!

Attention seniors: It's time to make the big college decision and determine where you'll spend the next 4-5 years of your life!
As you make your decision, have a heart-to-heart talk with your parents to make sure you pick your college for the right reasons, not because it's where your friends - or your girlfriend or boyfriend - are going. Talk about:

Location. Is the college too close? If you come home every weekend, you won't experience true campus life. Is the college too far away? If travel costs are prohibitive, you may not make it home as often as you'd like.

Cost. Can your family afford the school? What can you expect for financial aid beyond the freshman year? Did you receive renewable scholarships?

Academic program. Does the college offer the program that interests you? What happens if you change majors-does the college offer other programs of interest?

Amount of loans required. If you borrow the maximum Stafford loan amount each year for four years, you're looking at over \$19,000 in loans - and that means a future monthly payment of nearly $\$ 220$ per month. You should also calculate how much your parents will need to borrow in PLUS loans. Use the Student Loan Repayment Calculator at www.educationquest.org to estimate future student loan payments.

The EducationQuest website features other tools that can help you make the final decision including the Award Letter Comparison Calculator and the College Comparison Calculator.

## Juniors ... start looking for scholarships

Thousands of scholarships are available to help students pay for college. Students who earn the most scholarships complete at least 3040 applications. Here's how you can be one of those students ..

Start searching! In addition to your guidance office, check out free sites including ScholarshipQuest at www.educationquest.org , www.srnexpress.com and www.fastweb.com. Note the awards current seniors are receiving - they're often listed in your local newspaper. Other sources might include your church, your parent's employer, your employer or local service organizations.

Create files and place scholarship applications in deadline order.
Get involved in extracurricular activities and community service. This weighs heavy on most scholarship applications - and is the only criteria on some.

Earn the best possible grades and entrance exam scores. These factors are especially important for college-based scholarships.
Determine if you will qualify for need-based scholarships by completing the College Funding Estimator at www.educationquest.org.
Talk to colleges about specific scholarships they offer.
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## Beware of scholarship and financial aid scams!

As a junior or senior, you'll receive offers for scholarship and financial aid services. Don't ever pay for these services! EducationQuest will help you complete financial aid forms for free and will guide you to free scholarship search resources. For more information, call EducationQuest at 800-666-3721.

## April "To Do" List

## Seniors

Expect your college financial aid award letters Continue applying for scholarships Start purchasing dorm essentials now to avoid sticker shock in August
___ Start looking for a summer job

## Juniors

Register by April 3 (revised per CollegeBoard.com) for the May 5 SAT

Register by April 27 for the June 2 SAT


## Driver's Education Sign-up

Registration for
Driver's Education at Elgin Public School has begun. Students must be 14 by October 1st of this year in order to register. Classes begin after Memorial Day and driving times are scheduled during that time. Fees for the class are $\$ 175$ per student and must be paid on the first day of class. Class size is limited so please call the school office (843-2455) to sign-up soon.


Full Name: Daniel Nicholas Henn
Parents: Harold Henn, Jr. and Connie Kai
Brothers: Josh, Steve, Jake
Sisters: Becky
Pets: 2 horses (Bonnie \& Clyde)
Favorite School Subject: Ag mechanics
Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Heithoff
School activities: football, FFA yearbook
Greatest Honor during school: All A honor roll \& academic letter
Favorite School Activity : State FFA convention because you get to meet a lot of different people
Most educational experience: working with my uncles on the farm
Most inspirational person: Larry, the cable guy
Favorite color: Chrome
Favorite thing to do in spare time: working on cars or hunting
Pet peeve: When people don't dim their lights when driving at night
If I could go back in time I would go: 1960's
Favorite saying: You miss $100 \%$ of the chances that you never take.
Something most people don't know about me: that I am an uncle
Favorite movie: Friday Night Lights
Dream car: 1967 Shelby GT Mustang
Favorite Food: pizza
Favorite School lunch: sloppy Joes
Favorite Pop: Dr. Pepper
Favorite TV Show: King of the Hill
Favorite type of music: pop/rock
Future plans after graduation: attend college at Southeast Community College in Milford for automotive technology.

Full Name: Wesley Ross Prater
Parents: Tracy \& Cindy Prater
Sisters: Meredith, Ivy (4th gr.)
Pets: dog (Comet) cat (Lydia)
Favorite School Subject: I don't have a favorite, at times I like them all.
Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Kamphaus
School activities: football, basketball, track, one-act, speech, acadeca, FFA, PALS
Greatest Honor during school: elected Boys State Governor and going to Boys Nation in Washington, D.C.
Favorite School Activity: FFA has been a blast but all have been great!
Most educational experience: PALS because I really learned a lot from those little kids and how they look up to the older kids.
Most inspirational person: my grandparents, they are very strong people
Favorite color: orange, blue, pink, red, or camo
Favorite thing to do in spare time: hunt, fish, spend time with friends and family
Pet peeve: When people chomp their food or gum really loud, it drives me up the wall.
If I could go back in time I would go: I would go back and be a mountain man/trapper and help tame the west.
Favorite saying: "Speak softly and carry a big stick" Teddy Roosevelt
Something most people don't know about me: I like to talk to anyone.
Favorite movie: I like about any movie (action adventure, some chick flicks, \& comedies)
Dream car: 2005 Ford Mustang convertible, baby blue with white racing stripes or 2007 Ford F150 Camo
Favorite Food: grilled steak with mashed potatoes and gravy
Favorite School lunch: chili cheese dogs
Favorite Pop: Pepsi
Favorite TV Show: hunting shows
Favorite type of music: mainly country but I have a little of everything
Future plans after graduation: stay in Nebraska at a small school for the first year then transfer to the University of Wyoming, and get my masters as a wildlife biologist.



Full Name: Jacob Daniel Bode
Parents: Ken \& Barb Bode
Brothers: Cody, Tyler
Pets: Ringo \& George
Favorite School Subject: Ag mechanics
Favorite Teacher: Mr. Wells
School activities: football, basketball, golf, FFA
Greatest Honor during school: making the honor roll and 1st team in Football
Favorite School Activity : State FFA convention because you meet all new people
Most educational experience: National FFA convention
Most inspirational person: Ron White
Favorite color: green
Favorite thing to do in spare time: hunt and train horses
Pet peeve: when some person's pants are too short for them.
If I could go back in time I would go: 1970's
Favorite saying: Did ya
Something most people don't know about me: I love to sleep
Favorite movie: Super Troopers
Dream car: 69 Impala
Favorite Food: tacos
Favorite School lunch: tater tot casserole
Favorite Pop: Dr. Pepper
Favorite TV Show: The Simpsons
Favorite type of music: rock
Future plans after graduation: go to college

Full Name: Brandon Brian Anderson
Parents: Bruce \& Joanne Anderson
Brothers: Blake (6th), Nathan (8th)
Sisters: Alisha (Jr.)
Pets: dog (Pepper)
Favorite School Subject: Ag mechanics
Favorite Teacher: Mr. Simpson
School activities: FFA band, basketball, football
Greatest Honor during school: making All A honor roll
Favorite School Activity : Senior sneak to get away from school and have fun with senior class
Most educational experience: went to St. Louis
Most inspirational person: Dad
Favorite color: Silver
Favorite thing to do in spare time: talk on phone or mess around on computer
Pet peeve: When someone is driving really, really slow and I cannot pass.
If I could go back in time I would go: back to when my dad and uncles were in high school
Something most people don't know about me: I shoot pool and shovel left-handed
Favorite movie: Super Troopers
Dream car: 67 Shelby GT
Favorite Food: pizza
Favorite School lunch: pizza
Favorite Pop: Mountain Dew
Favorite TV Show: Wildboyz, South Park
Favorite type of music: rock
Future plans after graduation: Go to college at UNL



## Eighth Graders Compete

 in Science MeetsThe Elgin Public eighth-graders recently had the opportunity to compete in two non-school science fairs. Four students also chose to attend the Health Science Meet in Norfolk on March 19. This meet is focused primarily on students interested in pursuing a career in the healthcare field. Besides being judged, students participated in many health-related hands-on activities. Students were able to dissect eyeballs, participate in paramedic procedures, and hear from a physical therapist. The top 100 students from all around Nebraska will be asked to attend the state meet in June to be held at UNMC. The results will not be known until April, when all the regional meets have been held. Those in attendance for this meet were A.J. Braband, Brieann Grosserode, Anthony Hemenway, and Taylor Ivers.

The entire $8^{\text {th }}$ grader class attended the NJAS (National Junior Academy of Science) meet on March 15. The regional meet was held in Wayne with 91 junior projects in attendance. Students earned 10-2 ${ }^{\text {nd }}$ place, and $2-3^{\text {rd }}$ place finishes. The Elgin eighth graders also were taken on a tour of the campus facilities. Participating students included: Nathan Anderson, Michelle Bauer, A.J. Braband, Rose Fangman, Brieanne Grosserode, Jessica Heithoff, Anthony Hemenway, Taylor Ivers, Sebastian Janssen, and Kevin Schinder.

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## 央克 News from the Gym

Tad Henkenius recently broke the school record in Bench Press. Tad, a sophomore, recently maxed out at 331LBS. He broke the old school record of 325 held by Nathan Codr.

The Elgin Fourth, Fifth and Sixth graders will be attending a hockey game March 31. Students that qualified will leave from Elgin around 3:00 p.m. and return around 12:00 midnight. I will be sending out a letter with each kid that earned the privilege to attend.

The 2007 track season has begun. There are 16 boys and 6 girls on the team. We return one state qualifier, Matt Anderson. Our team has high expectations for the season. We have some tremendous athletes that are ready to compete. Some of our best events should be the hurdles, $4 \times 100$ relay, high jumpers and distance events. We recently added pole vault to our

# OPIPA NHWS 

Wednesday, February $28^{\text {th }}$, found the Elgin FFA Chapter at the 2007 District 10 Career Development Events. Northeast Community College hosted the event. The Elgin FFA Chapter had members compete in a variety of events. The members spent many hours working hard, preparing for their event.

The Meats Judging team of Jonathan Gunderson, Brett Mahanke, Tad Henkenius, and Jared Scholl won the Meats contest, qualifying them for State. The team of Paige Redding, Jessica Morrison, Michael Miller, Nathan Codr, Brandon Grosserode, and Tyler Reestman won the Livestock Management contest, which qualified this team for State.

The Ag Sales team of Ben Beckman, Luke Beckman, Jake Bode, and Tony Selting, placed 2nd and qualified for State. The Welding team of Kyle Childers, Travis Sprout, and Steven Bartak placed 2 ${ }^{\text {nd }}$, and will represent District 10 at the State FFA Contest.

Individually Jonathan Gunderson was the overall Champion in the Meat Judging contest. Ben Beckman was the top individual in the Ag Sales contest. Jamie Bode finished $5^{\text {th }}$ on the Agriscience test. Travis Sprout finished second overall in the Mig (wire) Welding Contest, Steven Bartak finished third in Oxy-Acetylene welding, and Kyle Childers finished third individually in the Arc Welding event.

The next Major event for the Elgin FFA Chapter is the State FFA Convention to be held in Lincoln March 2831. The chapter has several teams and individuals qualified for contest and are hoping to have a great showing at this years State FFA Convention. Jake Bode is a finalist for the proficiency award and Ben Beckman has advanced to the next round of interviews for state officer. Those awards and officer elections will be announced during the state convention
"Gotta make the donuts"..."Gotta make the donuts"..."Gotta make the donuts". If you are someone who grew up in the 80 's and 90 's generations, you may remember this catchy phrase spoken by Michael Vale, who played the "gotta make the donuts" guy in a long-running series of commercials for Dunkin' Donuts. The reason for my beginning this month's piece with this stroll down memory lane is that I think it is a great example of someone who is truly dedicated to his job. I mean, this guy had to be at work every single day before the sun came up. He had to make the donuts because at Dunkin Donuts, they were made fresh everyday. This slogan was their way to sell their product. Hang on because I do have an important topic to discuss this month!

Every year at this time, I read through the handbook and try to make all the important improvements and changes so that the board can approve the handbook and it can go to print before the summer. When I read the portion of the student handbook regarding student attendance, for some reason, this donut-making guy pops into my mind. I mean, did this guy ever wake up and not feel well? Did he ever just wake up and think to himself...aw shoot, I think I will just call in sick and watch game shows and soaps...you know just take the day off? I think the commercial makes a great point for people who can recall it. The Dunkin Donuts Company obviously are like most other businesses in that they demand accountability from its employees. Most jobs that we all hold require that attendance be as close to $100 \%$ as possible. Sick days are a part of almost all jobs. As an educator, each year, I have a set number of days that I can utilize should I be ill. It does not mean that I must use the sick days, just that they are available to me if I need them. Maybe a better example would be when I was a college student; I had the privilege of working on a dairy farm. Talk about a real education! The family business I worked for understood what it meant to be dedicated. It was a way of life for them. Sick days were really not an option. The cows had to be fed and milked. I found out quickly that I had to be at work everyday because if I wasn't, then the operation would suffer. I can remember waking up on the weekends for morning milking during those cold winter months around 4:30 a.m. and hoping I had the flu or something that would allow me to not have to go because at times it is only natural to feel a little lazy and not want to be accountable. I realized though, that my keeping a job meant that I had to be there. More importantly, that family's way of life depended on all employees being accountable.

The student attendance policy for Elgin High School students allows for seven absences per semester. That is fourteen days of absence per school year. Students are given these days to use only if they truly need them. These days should only be used if they are legitimately ill, injured, for family emergencies and etc. Situations can arise that prove to be unavoidable and those times are certainly excusable. The seven days per semester are there because the school understands that it is not always possible to have perfect attendance. I do want to point out, however, that I have a growing concern with some students who routinely miss school on a continual (sometimes once a week or more) basis for reasons that become very questionable. The school's attendance policy is to be used only when needed. When these kids leave our school and enroll in college, apply for and take jobs, join or take over the family farm/ranch or join the military it is attendance that really becomes a main focus. Not being accountable can mean the difference between keeping and losing a job and in the life of a military person; sometimes it can mean life or death. To me, the concept of showing up for work and showing up on time is learned while kids are school age. There is a difference between having the flu and just not feeling the best. I am sure that the men and women who are serving and fighting the wars overseas may have days when they do not feel the best. Yet, I doubt they just call in sick or hit that snooze for a few extra hours. Those students who reach and/or exceed the maximum seven absences per semester on a routine basis need to be aware that they are only fooling themselves.

I encourage all parents to really address this issue with their child. Make sure that you are reinforcing the importance of attending school and make the point to discuss with your child the difference between being sick where you are not able to attend school and just not feeling the best and could probably be in school. Sometimes there is a difference and as parents, you have a huge responsibility in helping your child make that decision. Please do not confuse my concern with those times where we are ill and should not be in school or have to attend matters that mean we have to be absent a day or more. After all, I am thinking that even the Mr. Vale was not immune to getting sick or having to miss from time to time. It is my expectation that all students realize the correlation of being at school, accountability and success. It is a lesson that will only prove to benefit our kids for a lifetime.

Best wishes to our farming families. They will soon hit the fields for spring planting. Enjoy the spring and lets all do our part to make it a safe season!

## Community Infrastructure

The young lady turned in her resignation after only one year. Tearfully, she explained, "There are no young men to meet out here, I need to go to Omaha or somewhere like that. I don't want to be an old maid!"

A young man resigned this year. He didn't do it tearfully, but his reasoning was the same. Both felt that social opportunities in North Central Nebraska were too limiting to provide the life they wanted. Wouldn't it be ironic if they connected in Omaha and found they were just right for each other?

These are actual occurrences with real young people that will no longer be living in our area. Some of you are no doubt thinking, "Well, I met my husband (or wife) out here so I know it's not that limiting." I would tell you that I found a husband on Baking Powder Creek in rural and remote Southeastern Montana (I challenge you to even find that creek) so I might share some of that thinking.

The broader question, however, is the type of infrastructure we need to have in our community so that we are attractive and viable to people currently living here, and for those contemplating a move. A number of years ago, I decided to interview for a principal's job. We asked our children what things a community had to have before they would want to move there. We were told, "It has to have a library and a swimming pool!" We moved to a community that had both. My children spent a great portion of their summer in the swimming pool and picked up books to read at the library. Everyone was contented with the move.

Communities often discuss attracting business or industry to their community, but they seldom discuss what they need to have in place to be an attractive place in which to live. The generation gap may show up in the expectations of a community. An older person might want a library, a senior citizen center, a place to eat, a church, a health care clinic and a golf course. A person with a young family might want, adequate day care, a preschool, adequate housing available for rent or sale, a swimming pool, a library, places to eat, a church, a health care clinic, a fitness center and a golf course. There will be some amenities that appeal to certain age groups, but there will also be an overlap of services both groups desire. All groups will probably want basic services such as: a gas station, a car repair shop, a grocery store, a bank, a hair salon, a pharmacy, etc.

These amenities may have been provided haphazardly in the past, but community groups are going to have to think seriously about these types of services if they want to remain viable places for people to live. I was seriously disappointed when Vickie Miller, the city clerk, told me that Elgin will not be able to apply for any grant money to help develop the community because not everyone turned in their survey. We may all be impacted by the unwillingness of a few to cooperate with the city by filling out a rather benign survey. I believe this response is unfortunate and would like to urge those that may still have a survey hanging around the house to get them in.

Fortunately there are people in our community willing to work on acquiring amenities that we may not currently have, or don't have enough of. These people are to be commended. There is no status quo in community building. Communities are either becoming better places to live or worse places to live. Only a concerted effort in rural areas will make them better places to be. The statement, "If it is to be, it's up to me!" really applies to community building. Are you doing your share?

## ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 399

Elgin, NE 68636

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POSTAL PATRON

STOP, before you throw me away as junk mail! If you are receiving this newsletter with your name and address on it and do not wish to, please call us at 402-843-2455 or return the page with your mailing address to the school at the above address and you will be removed from our mailing list. Also, if you know of someone who would like to have information regarding Elgin Public Schools, please have them contact the school to be added to our mailing list.

