

BENNINGTON HERALD

A local edition of the Douglas County Post-Gazette

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Covering Bennington School, Community and Sports

www.benningtonherald.com



Photos by Marisa Dawson, Bennington Herald

Bennington Cub Scouts visited the Bennington Fire Department to learn about fire safety on Oct. 11. Above, the scouts of Pack 13 smile for a photo with Kaden Ross and Nate Johnson of the Bennington Fire Department.

FIRED UP FOR SAFETY

Cub Scouts learn fire safety at Bennington Fire Department

Marisa Dawson

Bennington Herald

BENNINGTON — Cub Scout Pack 13 of Bennington held their monthly pack meeting at the Bennington Fire Department on Saturday, October 11, combining recognition for their achievements with an educational visit focused on fire safety. The event, attended by Scouts ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade, was part of Fire Safety Awareness Month and offered the young Scouts a chance to learn critical skills, explore firefighting equipment and celebrate their

accomplishments.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by recitations of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Cubmaster Robert Myers led the ceremony, where Scouts were awarded for their recent efforts.

"They've been really active over the last couple of months, so there are a ton of awards that all the different kids have earned," Myers said. Younger Scouts received belt loops, while older Scouts were presented with pins for their hats

See **SCOUTS** on page **A2**



Scouts listen up as they learn about fire safety.

Bennington High entrepreneurs bring homemade treats to Mert's Market

Marisa Dawson

Bennington Herald

WATERLOO — Amid the autumn chill and the scent of fresh produce, Mert's Market & Farm in Waterloo welcomed a new vendor to its vibrant weekend lineup: Bennington Bakes, a budding bakery run by high school student Adalynn Wareham from Bennington. The event marked a sweet collaboration between the family-oriented farm and the young entrepreneur, highlighting community support for local startups and the joys of farm-fresh family outings.

Adalynn Wareham, a passionate baker and active FBLA member at Bennington High School, set up shop at the farm on Saturday, October 12, offering her signature homemade treats to visitors enjoying the seasonal activities. Baking since she was 4 years old, Wareham described her journey into business as a natural blend of her loves for entrepreneurship and the kitchen. "My mom is an entrepreneur through a chiropractic business that she inherited from my grandpa," she said.

See **MARKET** on page **A8**

Bennington Community Theatre to ring in the Holidays with 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'

Marisa Dawson

Bennington Herald

BENNINGTON — The Bennington Community Theatre (BCT) has wrapped up auditions for its upcoming production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, set to take the stage at St. John's Lutheran Church on December 5 at 7:00 p.m. and December 6 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Following a highly competitive audition process held on September 29-30, BCT has announced

the full cast for this heartwarming holiday production, directed by Donna Dahlsten.

Dahlsten, a seasoned director with a deep connection to the story, shared her enthusiasm for the project. "I first came across the book, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson decades ago when taking an adolescent literature class. I loved the book for its humorous yet heartfelt themes," she said. "So when I learned it had been made into a stage play, I knew it was something I

See **THEATRE** on page **A5**

Douglas County organizes groundbreaking K9 first aid training

Marisa Dawson

Bennington Herald

DOUGLAS COUNTY — On Friday, October 10, the Bennington Fire Department hosted a pioneering K9 first aid training program, organized by Douglas County Sheriff's Office, drawing law enforcement agencies from across the state. The training, led by veterinary professional Liz Talkington, equipped K9 handlers and paramedics with critical skills to treat injured police canines in the field. Agencies in attendance included the Douglas County Sheriff's Office (DCSO), Bennington Fire, Nebraska State Patrol, Papillion Police, Omaha Police Department, Hall County Sheriff's

Department, Cheyenne County Sheriff's Department, Ashland Police Department and others. The program featured both morning and afternoon sessions to accommodate as many participants as possible, combining classroom instruction with hands-on practice using canine anatomical models.

The training was organized in response to a growing need for specialized first aid knowledge for police K9s, as highlighted by Douglas County K9 Sergeant Jay Wineinger. "It's probably one of the first training classes I've had in 17 years of being in K9 that actually has a practical portion," Wineinger said. "They actually have two anatomical dog models so that we can practice applying treatment for injuries to the dog." This

hands-on approach marked a significant departure from traditional canine training manuals, offering participants the chance to practice life-saving techniques. "There's a classroom portion and then a hands-on practical portion," Wineinger explained. "You can read about doing these things to help save your dog, but actually practicing it, I think, is going to make the difference in saving that dog's life."

Liz Talkington, a registered veterinary technician and hospital administrator for Overland Park Veterinary Emergency and Specialty in Kansas City, developed the program after first responders approached her about the lack of

See **K9** on page **A6**



HERO SPOTLIGHT

Presented by the
Bennington Herald

Dr. Aaron Plas Bennington Superintendent

Marisa Dawson

Bennington Herald

BENNINGTON — Dr. Aaron Plas, superintendent of Bennington Public Schools (BPS), has been nominated for the Hero Spotlight, recognizing his dedication to education, transparency and community support. An anonymous nomination praised his quick response to natural disasters and his open communication with residents, highlighting how he has become a "great staple in our community" since assuming his role.

When Plas first stepped into the superintendency, his top priorities were clear and community-focused. "My first priorities when coming to the district were to learn the history of BPS, develop relationships in the community, and learn the priorities of the district," he said. "Those are paramount to beginning a successful tenure. BPS was already a great school district, so I wanted to learn where the community believed our next steps for improvement were needed."

His leadership was put to the test early on when a devastating tornado struck the area, causing widespread damage. The nomination specifically commended his "quick action and collaboration following the tornado damage," including assisting with meetings alongside the City of Bennington. Reflecting on the event, Plas recalled, "The tornado was a really hard day for our community and so many of the district patrons. I am still thankful there were no major injuries, but the work associated with the cleanup and getting 'back to normal' was going to last for years."

What stood out most to him was the community's resilience. "What I learned most during that time was the pride, support, and willingness to give within our community," Plas shared. "So often, I stood in awe of how much everyone was sacrificing to help each other. I knew at that moment that Bennington was a special place."

In a practical show of support, Plas opened school property for storm debris

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From **SCOUTS** on page **A1**

or sleeves. The pack also distributed new pack T-shirts and prizes tied to their ongoing fundraiser, including paracord bracelets, neck fans, and even a two-person tent for top sellers. Myers noted, “My kiddo’s excited for the next level. If he gets another couple sales, he gets the two-person tent.”

The fundraiser, nearing its goal, supports the pack’s activities, enabling events like this one. “We’re starting to get into the ending phases of our Cub Scout fundraiser, which is how we make it so we can do all the cool stuff we do,” Myers explained. Scouts received physical rewards based on their fundraising levels, adding excitement to the day’s events.

Following the awards, firefighters Kaden Ross and Nate Johnson led a presentation on fire safety, tailored to both home and camping scenarios relevant to the Scouts. Myers emphasized the importance of these lessons: “Safety is the most important part because we want them to respect fire, respect things that get hot.” He added that older Scouts are beginning to take on responsibilities like building and maintaining campfires, making these skills a “coming of age” moment. “They’re becoming more and more a part of the activities... I’m making campfires out there and I’m building the fire that we’re going to do s’mores on,” he said.

Firefighter Nate Johnson highlighted the dual purpose of the visit. “For fire safety, it’s an introduction to fire safety. But I think the kids definitely care more about the trucks and all the stuff in them,” he said. He stressed practical home



Photos by Marisa Dawson, Bennington Herald

Kids and adults had plenty of questions for Kaden and Nate.

safety tips, such as “keeping their address not covered up, well lit and visible from the street,” and campfire safety, including maintaining a 10-foot radius from flammable materials and keeping water on standby. Johnson also noted the potential long-term impact: “Down the road, it can probably evolve into some kids wanting a career in the fire service.”

The highlight for the Scouts was exploring a fire engine and ambulance, where they asked plenty of questions. “They just want to see the firefighters. Firefighters are cool,” Myers said, noting the appeal of the modern Bennington firehouse. Johnson also shared this enthusiasm, recalling his own childhood excitement that was partially responsible for his own career path: “I was always excited when the fire department showed up or we got to go to the fire station.”

For Myers, the joy of the day came from watching the Scouts’ pride in their achievements. “I just like seeing the expressions they have when they’re earning those things... being able to show off to their friends and their parents all the cool stuff they’re doing,” he said. The event also served as an opportunity to connect with the community, with Myers welcoming new members: “We’re always open for new members, no matter what time of the year it is. And we’re co-ed; we have female Scouts here as well, so anyone’s welcome.”

The visit left a lasting impression, blending fun, education and community engagement. As Johnson put it, “I hope the kids like it.” With hands-on learning and a chance to see firefighters in action, Pack 13’s trip to the Bennington Fire Department was a memorable step in their Scouting journey.



Clockwise from above: Scouts hang out on the tail end of a Bennington Fire Department fire engine. Bennington Fire Department firefighters Nate Johnson and Kaden Ross speak to the kids about fire safety. Right: Scouts Easton Schalz and Max Howder smile together in front of a fire engine. Scouts Charlie Cartner (back left), Gavin Boatwright (back right) and Conor Muller (front) check out a fire engine.



Community Guide

Sponsored by Bennington Herald

CITY OF BENNINGTON

15505 Warehouse St. • P.O. Box 221
Bennington, NE 68007
402-238-2375

City Clerk

Mindy Laaker - clerk@benningtonne.com

City Treasurer

Tina Crawford - treasurer@benningtonne.com

Librarian

Lisa Flaxbeard - lisa@benningtonlibrary.org

Police Chief

Andrew Hilscher - chief@benningtonne.com

Public Works

Jake Conley - publicworks@benningtonne.com

Mayor

Clint Adams - mayoradams@benningtonne.com

City Council Members

Ward 1A

Adam Lee - cnclward1a@benningtonne.com

Ward 1B

Shane Pekny - cnclward1b@benningtonne.com

Ward 2A

Kaye Bridgeford - cnclward2a@benningtonne.com

Ward 2B

Rob Hamilton - cnclward2@benningtonne.com

BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

11620 N 156th Street
Bennington, NE 68007
402-238-3044

Superintendent

Dr. Aaron Plas - aplas@bennps.org

Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Matt Blomenkamp - mblomenkamp@bennps.org

Director of Student Services

Dan Bombeck - dbombeck@bennps.org

Bennington High School

16610 Bennington Rd. • 402-238-2447
Principal: Greg Lamberty - glamberty@bennps.org
Activities Director: Chris Kessell - ckessell@bennps.org

Bennington Middle School

11201 N 168th St. • 402-238-3082
Principal: Renee Rucker - rrucker@bennps.org

Bennington South Middle School

9809 N 171st St. • 402-238-3079
Principal: Lucas Apfelbeck - lapfelbeck@bennps.org

Anchor Pointe Elementary

17007 HWS Cleveland Blvd. • 402-238-2166
Principal: Chad Boyes - cboyes@bennps.org

Bennington Elementary

11620 N 156th St. • 402-238-2690
Principal: Danielle Robb - drobb@bennps.org

Heritage Elementary

9950 Rosewater Parkway • 402-238-2095
Principal: Katie Woodrich - kwoodrich@bennps.org

Pine Creek Elementary

7801 N HWS Cleveland Blvd. • 402-238-2372
Principal: Alison Dellwo - adellwo@bennps.org

Stratford Elementary

9303 N 171st St. • 402-238-3044
Principal: Craig Theis - ctheis@bennps.org

School Board Members

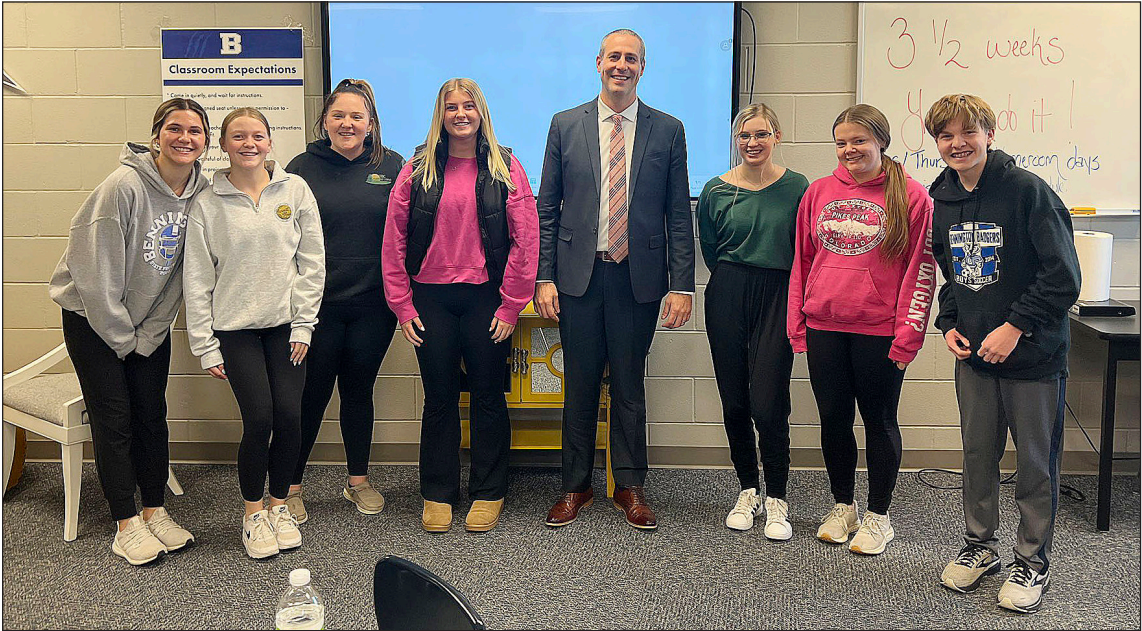
Allyson Slobotski - aslobotski@bennps.org (President)
Tim Dreessen - timdreessen@bennps.org (Vice President)
Jeremy Dick - jdick@bennps.org (Treasurer)
Steve Shannon - sshannon@bennps.org (Secretary)
Kara Neuverth - kneuverth@bennps.org
Joe Pick - jpick@bennps.org

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P.O. Box 148, Hickman, NE 68372

News/Advertising - Darren Ivy - reporter@dcpostgazette.com or 402-792-2255 • Sports - Mark Poeckes - sports@dcpostgazette.com

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Above, Dr. Plas and his Introduction to Education class gather for a photo at Bennington High School. Below, Dr. Plas assists a student in the classroom.

Courtesy photos

From **HERO** on page **A1**

drop-off on two occasions. “The school is a vital part of any community, and we knew we had to help however needed,” he explained. “We couldn’t stand back and just hope things worked out; we needed to make sure we were doing what we could to help our friends and neighbors. At that moment, it never really crossed our minds not to be a part of the solution.” The response from residents was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the district’s role as a community anchor.

Balancing the needs of students, staff, and the broader community during such emergencies is a key aspect of Plas’s approach. “I believe our mission to help educate students is critically important and something we are always going to prioritize,” he said. “But when tragic events strike, you need to find a balance. We had students, parents, and staff members who were all directly or indirectly impacted. We are not going to be able to offer the premier education we are used to when so many are just struggling for basic necessities like housing and food.” To achieve this, the district offered facilities and support outside school hours while maintaining normality during the day.

Transparency and accessibility have been hallmarks of Plas’s tenure, earning praise in the nomination for the “communication and transparency he has shown to the community.” He has prioritized not just sharing information but explaining the rationale behind decisions. “We have worked really hard to not just communicate, but also explain the thought process behind decisions,” Plas noted. “Most hard decisions aren’t perfect, so we have tried to be really open about how decisions are made, knowing that there are always strengths and weaknesses. We have tried to ensure we are detailed and timely so everyone feels informed.” Additionally, he makes a point of being present at events and engaging directly with residents, aiming to be “a great community member like so many others.”

This commitment extends to handling difficult issues, such as the high school bond discussions, where Plas met with the public and community leaders to address



tough questions. “I have always found that being honest during conversations has had the best results,” he said. “Everyone knows when a tough decision or topic is being addressed. By recognizing the different ideas, opinions, and perspectives, you can either come to a resolution or at least understand all the different viewpoints.”

Community feedback has directly influenced district decisions under his leadership. “Absolutely,” Plas affirmed when asked if input had ever changed a course of action. “We are always trying to meet the needs of our students and staff while also staying in line with community expectations. During the last bond proposal, we surveyed our community in several different ways. Based on their feedback, we created a new proposal that addressed as many of the community concerns as possible. This helped us create a plan that was ultimately approved.”

At the core of his work is a leadership philosophy rooted in “excellent communication, detailed organization, and consistent follow-through,” mixed with strong relationships to drive meaningful improvements. Plas fosters a culture of collaboration by seeking input from staff, parents, and students through committees, organizations, and surveys. “We work really hard to get input from as many internal stakeholders as possible on almost all topics,” he explained. “We believe when we gather these different perspectives, it allows us to establish a culture of collaboration and make decisions that are best for the district. I have always believed the smartest person in the room is the room. That is

why collaboration is so important.” One initiative he introduced was a Superintendent-Teacher Advisory Committee, which meets quarterly to bridge communication between leadership and classrooms.

What sets Bennington Public Schools apart, according to Plas, is its “amazing students, wonderful educators, engaged parents, and supportive community,” making it one of the best in Nebraska. Looking ahead, he is optimistic about the district’s growth. “I am excited for our next five years as we continue to refine our systems to ensure BPS is prepared for the level of growth we are anticipating in the coming decade,” he said.

Plas draws daily inspiration from his staff’s dedication. “I am inspired by the work of our staff members every day,” he shared. “It doesn’t take much to see the amount of time, effort, and support they give our students. Every time I am around our staff, I get inspired to do more, be better, and try harder. Educators are wired to help and they are always providing me a jolt of inspiration.”

The Hero Spotlight nomination has left Plas humbled. “I am really humbled and honored to be nominated as a hometown hero,” he reflected. “To be honest, I think there are several community members who are far more deserving. But to even be considered for this nomination warms my heart and motivates me to keep trying to make BPS and the community of Bennington even more special.”

For Plas, a true community hero is defined by selfless service and a commitment to collective well-being, qualities he strives to embody every day.

THIS WEEK’S QUICK INFO

WEATHER FORECAST

Brought to you by the Bennington Herald

WEATHER FORECAST

Wednesday, Oct. 15

High: 79 • Low: 63 • Sunrise: 7:36 a.m. • Sunset: 6:43 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 16

High: 82 • Low: 62 • Sunrise: 7:37 a.m. • Sunset: 6:41 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 17

High: 74 • Low: 50 • Sunrise: 7:38 a.m. • Sunset: 6:40 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 18

High: 66 • Low: 42 • Sunrise: 7:40 a.m. • Sunset: 6:38 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 19

High: 66 • Low: 49 • Sunrise: 7:41 a.m. • Sunset: 6:37 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 20

High: 72 • Low: 50 • Sunrise: 7:42 a.m. • Sunset: 6:35 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 21

High: 64 • Low: 43 • Sunrise: 7:43 a.m. • Sunset: 6:34 p.m.

WEATHER ALMANAC

Reported Conditions Last 7 Days

High: 88 • Low: 43 • Precipitation: 0.08 in.

Reported Conditions Month to Date

High: 90 • Low: 43 • Precipitation: 1.08 in.

Oct. 14, 2025

Averages: High: 64 • Low: 44

Records: High: 87 (1963) • Low: 25 (1969)

Historical Monthly Average

October: High: 63 • Low: 43 • Precipitation: 0

November: High: 84 • Low: 65 • Precipitation: 0

December: High: 36 • Low: 20 • Precipitation: 0

Weather information compiled and recorded from weather.com.

HAVE A HERO TO NOMINATE FOR THE BENNINGTON HERALD?

EMAIL: REPORTER@DCPOSTGAZETTE.COM

25th Annual Winterfest Flea Market, Antique and Junk Festival

Saturday, Feb. 28 • 8 am - 5 pm

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156th & Maple

State Farm



tom@tomrivera.com



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A large crowd of fans gathered to watch as Mayday Parade, The Cab, The Paradox and All Time Low rocked the stage at Steelhouse Omaha on Saturday, Oct. 11. Photos by Marisa Dawson, Bennington Herald

‘Somewhere in Omaha’ All Time Low brings the party to Steelhouse

Marisa Dawson
Bennington Herald

OMAHA — Steelhouse Omaha was a sea of dancing energy and screaming fans as pop-punk legends All Time Low headlined a sold-out show, supported by an explosive lineup of openers Mayday Parade, The Cab and The Paradox. The night was a masterclass in high-octane performances, with each band delivering relentless enthusiasm and crowd connection that left the packed venue looking for more.

Kicking off the evening, The Paradox stormed the stage with a fiery set that set the tone for the night. The up-and-coming act wasted no time, their members leaping across the stage with infectious energy. Their dynamic sound and animated stage presence, complete with synchronized jumps and playful crowd banter, had the early arrivals screaming along, proving they’re a band to watch.

The Cab followed, dialing up the charisma with their smooth blend

of pop-rock and soulful vibes. The band’s frontman led the charge, weaving through the stage while engaging fans with witty exchanges and heartfelt moments. Their set was a seamless mix of catchy hooks and high-energy choreography, with every member visibly feeding off the crowd’s enthusiasm. The packed house roared in approval, already swept up in the night’s momentum.

Mayday Parade took things to another level, their emotive performance striking a balance between heart-wrenching ballads and anthemic bangers. The band’s relentless movement, drummer pounding with ferocity, guitarists spinning and jumping, kept the energy sky-high. They connected deeply with the audience, tossing guitar picks and sharing smiles, as fans sang every word of their setlist with fervor. The venue felt alive, with not a single soul standing still.

When All Time Low finally hit the stage, the room erupted. The pop-punk veterans delivered a career-spanning set that blended

their signature upbeat anthems with slower, introspective tracks like “Missing You.” Frontman Alex Gaskarth’s commanding presence and sharp crowd interactions had fans hanging on his every word, while guitarist Jack Barakat and bassist Zack Merrick stole the show with jaw-dropping leaps several feet in the air, without missing a note. The entire band was a whirlwind of motion, feeding off the crowd’s energy as they tore through hits from across their discography. From the raw edge of their early days to the polished power of their latest releases, All Time Low proved why they remain genre heavyweights.

The night was proof of the enduring power of pop-punk and its ability to unite a room. Steelhouse Omaha was more than just a venue—it was a living, breathing celebration of music, with every band pouring their heart into the performance. Fans left hoarse, sweaty and elated, already counting down to the next show.



Clockwise from above: Mayday Parade Bassist Jeremy Lenzo sings at the mic on Saturday. The Cab bassist Joey Thunder jams on stage. All Time Low Bassist Zack Merrick jumps in the air during the band’s performance. Mayday Parade puts a hand in the air during the band’s performance. All Time Low lead Alex Gaskarth plays guitar. Eric Dangerfield of The Paradox gets into the music. Alexander DeLeon of The Cab sings with vigor.





Photos courtesy of Bennington Community Theatre

Members of the Bennington Community Theatre cast rehearse for “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,” directed by Donna Dahlsten. The holiday production will be performed Dec. 5-6 at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Bennington.

From **THEATRE** on page **A1**

wanted to direct. The play is easy to adapt for various performance settings and audience sizes. This will be my third time directing or producing the show.”

The auditions drew an impressive turnout, making the casting process both exciting and challenging. “I was overwhelmed by the number of people who auditioned. There were many talented adults and children who auditioned so that made cast selection difficult,” Dahlsten noted. “You never know if you have selected the right cast until after you work with them during rehearsals, but I feel we have a strong cast and I am looking forward to seeing the finished product.”

This production marks a milestone for BCT as its first holiday show outside of the annual Valentine Variety Show. “BCT tries to offer ‘something for everyone’ and this show just seemed to be a good fit this season,” Dahlsten explained. “This particular show has an engaging storyline that appeals to audiences of all ages.”

Audiences can look forward to a memorable experience, as Dahlsten promises a “delightful holiday show that is appropriate for all. It is a family-friendly show that uses humor to share the heartwarming message of the magic and true meaning of Christmas.” The play, based on Barbara Robinson’s beloved book, follows the chaotic yet transformative involvement of the Herdman siblings in a local church’s Christmas pageant, delivering both laughs and touching moments.

Dahlsten’s creative approach to the production leans traditional but with room for personal touch-



es. While she did not elaborate on specific twists, her passion for the story suggests a thoughtful interpretation that honors its roots while engaging modern audiences. As for why this play was chosen, Dahlsten emphasized its universal appeal and its ability to bring the community together through its timeless message of redemption and holiday spirit.

BCT announced the full cast, congratulating everyone who auditioned and expressing excitement for the talented ensemble:

Cast List – Bennington Community Theatre’s “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” 2025

Grace Bradley (Mother) – Chentel Wanek

Bob Bradley (Father) – Trevor Kern

Beth Bradley – Jane Moody
Charlie Bradley – Gavin Kathol
Ralph – Lance Boulton
Imogene – Leah Bocker
Leroy – Andrew Boulton
Claudine – Rosalie Harkin
Olive – Jada Stueckrath
Gladys – Nora Schmidt
Mrs. Armstrong – Karen Hector
Mrs. Slocum – Robyn Hames
Mrs. Clausing/Clark – Misty

Shope

Mrs. McCarthy – Konni in den Bosch

Alice Wendelken – Finley Johnson

Maxine – Rebecca White
Elmer Hopkins – Dai’One

Acton

Hobie – Edison Wanek
David – Owen Thompson

Beverly – Liz Shope
Juanita – Anna Thompson

Shirley – Addilyn Cartner
Reverend Hopkins – Eric

Rothell
Firemen – TBD

Angel Choir: Bailee Andersen, Brenna Bates, Georgie Cameron, Madeline Doan, Addisyn Gentry, Clara Greunke, Arielle Hames, Abby Holling-Karas, Karly Knajdi, Piper Koliach, Clare Lee, Clara Mathis, Monica Mixan, Josephine Muhlbach, Avry Murcek, Violet Portwood, Avery Stoltenberg, Ella Totty, Emma Totty, Caylee Wilkerson, Danika Windorski

Shepherds: Elijah DeMink, Will Dettmer, Jameson Howard

Baby Angel Choir: Mazlowe Ard, Belle Bochynski, Isabella Cady, Waverli Diaz, Daveney Dingleline, Henley Evert, Lennon Halski, Lupita Hames, Grace Highland, Willa Humphrey, Evelyn Johnson, Oakley Nicholson, Gracelyn Pagel, Hailee Putney, Juanita Ramirez, Vivianne Stropm, Josephine Vlach, Gracie Lee

Mark your calendars for this festive production that promises to capture the spirit of the season. Tickets and additional information will be available through the Bennington Community Theatre’s website or at the venue. Don’t miss this chance to experience a holiday classic brought to life by a talented local cast!

at Buck’s Bar and Grill in Venice

Sunday, Nov. 9

Clint Park

at Buck’s Bar and Grill in Venice

Friday, Nov. 14

Caleb Michael & The Arrested
at Buck’s Bar and Grill in Venice

Saturday, Nov. 15

Joe Stamm & The Filthy Heathens
at Buck’s Bar and Grill in Venice

Crossword/Sudoku puzzles

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	
12						13	14						15
16			17									18	
19			20			21				22			23
24		25			26			27		28	29		
	30			31			32		33		34		
		35	36					37		38			
	39								40				
41					42				43				
44				45		46		47			48	49	
50			51		52		53			54			55
56			57	58		59				60		61	
62			63		64				65			66	
67		68									69		
	70								71				

See page A7 for answers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Martial arts in China

6. The butt of jokes

12. Nevertheless

16. Sportscaster Michaels

17. A firm believer

18. Atomic #18

19. One’s bestie

20. Of I

21. Hamburger accessory

22. Thus

23. Partner to Pa

24. Scottish tax

26. Cuts away

28. Require

30. Government lawyer

31. Own (Scottish)

32. Body cavity

34. Brew

35. Young woman (French)

37. Platforms

39. Pair of points in mathematics
40. Attack suddenly

41. Aviators

43. Make perfect

44. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)

45. Neither

47. The center of a city

48. Sacrifice hit in baseball

50. Singer Redding

52. Dragged forcibly

54. Puncture with a knife

56. Belonging to me

57. Expresses surprise

59. Haul

60. The Golden State

61. Biblical Sumerian city

62. Integrated circuit

63. Opposed to certain principles

66. Sodium

67. Qualities

70. Walk

71. It awaits us all

CLUES DOWN

1. Ate quickly

2. Peyton Manning’s alma mater

3. Moves through water

4. Run away from

5. Utah resident

6. Natural objects

7. Children’s game

8. Obligation to prove

9. Ancient Greek building for performances

10. Soldier

11. Decorated

12. Catches

13. Russell __, author

14. Speak indistinctly

15. Students get them

25. Japanese warrior

26. Dessert

27. Doleful

29. Most cushy

31. Moon crater
33. Small evergreen Arabian tree

36. Something fugitives are “on”

38. 007’s creator

39. Paintings on hinged panels

41. Type of bomb

42. Japanese classical theater

43. U.S. gov’t department

46. Flightless bird

47. One who cuts wood or stone

49. Buttock and thigh together

51. A way to gather

53. Body part

54. Argentinian city

55. Undergarments

58. Jai __, sport

60. Container for shipping

64. Type of screen

65. Get free of

68. Indicates position

69. Business department

		8			4				
2			1		7		5		6
4									
				3	8				
								6	9
5							8	1	
		2	3						
		5			6			2	8
7					4		5		

See page A7 for answers

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday, Oct. 15

Evil Dead in Concert

at The Astro Theater

Friday, Oct. 17

Mallory Everett

at Buck’s Bar and Grill in Venice

Saturday, Oct. 18

Kenny Feidler & the Cowboy Killers

at Buck’s Bar and Grill in Venice

Friday, Oct. 24

Russell Dickerson

@ Steelhouse Omaha

Johnny Mullenax

at Buck’s Bar and Grill in Venice

METRO

Entertainment Scene

Saturday, Nov. 1

Blue October @ The Astro Theater

Hockett

at Buck’s Bar and Grill in Venice

Friday, Nov. 7

Tony Logue & The 184

at Buck’s Bar and Grill in Venice

Saturday, Nov. 8

David Graham & Eskimo Brothers

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BENNINGTON HERALD

Your Hometown Local News Source

at Buck’s Bar and Grill in Venice

Sunday, Nov. 9

Clint Park

at Buck’s Bar and Grill in Venice

Friday, Nov. 14

Caleb Michael & The Arrested

at Buck’s Bar and Grill in Venice

Saturday, Nov. 15

Joe Stamm & The Filthy Heathens

at Buck’s Bar and Grill in Venice



Clockwise from above: Liz Talkington (right) walks K9 handlers through K9 CPR. A K9 handler plays a “getting game” to train a dog. DCSO Deputy Kait Rohde with her K9, Shiva. Officers and deputies from multiple agencies team up to practice CPR skills.



From **K9** on page **A1**

medical training for working dogs. “I had some first responders approach me and say they had no medical training on what to do with the police canines if they get injured while they’re on the job,” Talkington said. “As a veterinary professional, I had no idea that they weren’t provided that training.” She began offering the course about 10 years ago and relaunched it aggressively in the past year, with this event marking a significant expansion. “They have about 30 participants from 12 different teams as far away as Wyoming,” she noted. “That makes me really excited to know that this is something really needed for our working dogs.”

The training covered common canine injuries and conditions, such as leg fractures, lacerations, puncture wounds, and bloat- a life-threatening condition in larger breeds. Wineinger said, “There’s a condition called bloat in a dog... we just actually practiced being able to alleviate some of that bloat symptom by inserting a catheter into the abdominal wall and therefore allowing us to transport that dog to an emergency vet and help save its life en route.” He emphasized the urgency

of such interventions, noting, “Time is of the essence... the more remedial first aid you could provide for that dog before transporting it to an emergency vet, the better the chances that dog has to survive.”

Bennington Fire Assistant Chief Chad Nixon shared the value of the training for paramedics, who are increasingly involved in canine care following a new Nebraska state law. “Last year, Officer Chris Richardson with Nebraska City got a new state law passed that allows ambulance medic crews to transport police canines,” Wineinger explained. Nixon added, “Nobody in the group has really messed with the canine side of things before... it’s a very important piece just knowing that we can work with our law enforcement partners when it comes to their canines and being able to help them if they need it from us.” He noted similarities between canine and pediatric care, saying, “Most everything that we learned this morning relates very closely to pediatrics as far as dosing and the amounts of fluids.”

The program’s impact is already evident. Talkington shared, “We actually have a couple of K9 officers in Kansas City that have sustained some

injuries, and they’ve been able to apply the techniques that we implemented in our courses to provide care for them until they got them to us.” Each participant received a K9 first aid kit, and Bennington Fire plans to create a dedicated space in their ambulances for this kit.

The training’s success has sparked interest in future sessions. “The sergeant asked if we would come up again,” Talkington said. “They have several teams still interested in training that weren’t able to make it today.” Wineinger shared a similar statement: “This is the first time we’re having this. We’re hoping to expand it out, and we’re going to have a lot more interest from other medics as well.”

For Talkington, the mission is personal: “The last thing I want is for our officers to feel helpless if their K9 gets injured and unable to do something. So I want to give them the tools to do something in the field.”

This groundbreaking training shows the vital role of police K9s, which include narcotics detection, explosive detection, and patrol canines that track and apprehend suspects. As Wineinger noted, “They work every day to protect us... and it’s our obligation to make sure they’re safe as well.”



Left: Quintin, Luka, and Amaya Bottrell explore the back of the truck. Right: Herbie Chambers, Captain Jordan Smith, Marc McCoy and Josh LeClair were on pancake duty.

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Family Fun Column: Indoor Playground at StoneBridge Church perfect for families

Marisa Dawson
Bennington Herald

OMAHA — As the colder months approach and the need for indoor activities rises, StoneBridge Church, located near 156th & Fort in Omaha (15801 Butler Ave), offers an inviting indoor playground perfect for little ones to burn off energy. This family-friendly space is designed to accommodate children of all ages, providing a warm, welcoming environment for both kids and parents to enjoy.

The play area features a towering climbing structure ideal for adventurous kids, with plenty of room to explore. For younger children, there is a dedicated toddler area at the base, ensuring that all ages can have a safe, fun experience. The equipment is well-maintained and the space is kept clean and fresh, making it a comfortable spot for regular visits.

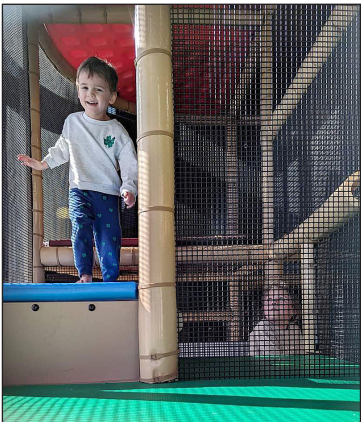
Parents will appreciate the nearby amenities that make supervising children easier. Bathrooms and a drinking fountain are conveniently located next to the play area, while numerous tables and chairs provide ample seating. Whether you're there for

a quick play session or a longer coffee date, you'll have everything you need within reach.

Speaking of coffee, the on-site coffee shop, The Commons, offers a variety of drink and snack options (for kids too), making it the perfect spot for a casual meet-up with friends. The friendly atmosphere and great selection mean you can grab a coffee while the kids enjoy some much-needed playtime.

Additionally, StoneBridge Church features an outdoor playground for those warmer days, offering even more opportunities for fun. The play spaces, both indoor and outdoor, provide a welcoming and inclusive environment, fostering connections between families and the community. Whether you're planning a playdate or just looking for a place to chat with other parents while the kids have a blast, StoneBridge Church's playground is an ideal family destination.

Make sure to visit this gem in Omaha when you're looking for a fun, engaging place for your kids to play, and enjoy a warm beverage from The Commons while you're at it!



Photos by Marisa Dawson, Bennington Herald

Above left and below left: Callum Dawson enjoys playing on the indoor playground at StoneBridge Church in Omaha. Right: Lyra Dawson plays with interactive shapes on the playground.

Puzzle Answers

W	U	S	H	U		S	T	O	O	G	E			
N	O	T	W	I	T	H	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G
A	L	I	D	E	O	L	O	G	U	E		A	R	
B	F	M	E	B	U	N	S	O	M	A				
S	E	S	S	P	A	R	E	S	N	E	E	D		
D	A		A	I	N	S	A	C	A	L	E			
	M	L	L	E			D	A	I	S	E	S		
D	U	A	D				R	A	I	D				
A	I	R	M	E	N		H	O	N	E				
T	P	A		N	O	R		H	U	B	S	H		
O	T	I	S	H	A	L	E	D		S	T	A	B	
M	Y	H	A	T	O	W		C	A		U	R		
I	C	I	L	L	I	B	E	R	A	L		N	A	
C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	I	S	T	I	C	S
S	T	R	I	D	E		D	E	A	T	H			

6	8	9	2	4	5	1	3	7
2	3	1	9	7	8	5	4	6
4	7	5	6	3	1	8	9	2
1	9	2	3	8	6	4	7	5
3	4	8	5	1	7	2	6	9
5	6	7	4	9	2	3	8	1
8	2	3	7	5	9	6	1	4
9	5	4	1	6	3	7	2	8
7	1	6	8	2	4	9	5	3

Find puzzles on page A5

Public Notices

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION OF BENNINGTON COMMUNITY THEATRE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has formed a corporation under the Nebraska Non-Profit Act. The name of the corporation is Bennington Community Theatre, a Nebraska non-profit, public benefit corporation.

The name of the registered agent is Blake Thompson and the office address is 16637 Potter Street, Bennington, NE 68007.

The purpose of the organization is driven towards creating and implementing cultural and educational activities for the public benefit by providing theatrical arts opportunities for community participation.

The Company commenced its existence on July 17, 2023, and its duration shall be perpetual. The affairs of the corporation are to be conducted by the Managing Member and/or Members as authorized by the corporation's Operating Agreement.

The corporation has members.

The name and street address of the incorporating members are as follows:

Blake Thompson
President
6412 N. 168th Ave
Omaha, NE 68116

Donna Dahlsten
Treasurer
1160 S 212 Circle
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Gayle Goetz
Secretary
8005 N 167th St
Bennington, NE 68007

Oct. 1, 8, 15 - 46 Ins
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF CLW, LLC

Oct. 1, 8, 15 - 32 Ins
ZNEZ

REGISTRATION OF TRADE NAME OF NIELSEN NINJAS

Trade Name:
Nielsen Ninjas

Name of Applicant:
Karst Nielsen, LLC

Address:
12212 N 152nd Circle
Bennington, NE 68007

Applicant is:
Limited Liability Company

State under whose laws entity was formed:
Nebraska

Date of first use of name in Nebraska
Sept. 22, 2025

General nature of business
Martial arts studio and small event space

/s/ Katie Nielsen and Jacob Nielsen

Signature of Applicant or
Legal Representative

Oct. 15 - 32 Ins ZNEZ

kids' corner

Body FACT!

These devices stay on the eye due to surface tension of tear fluid and the eye's curvature.

Answer: Contact lenses

Crossword Puzzle

1				2		3				4
			5							
6										
8										
				9						

ACROSS

2. Involves the eye
6. In a line
8. Abbreviation for "hours"
9. Stings or pains

DOWN

1. Vision
3. Foot treatment
4. Corrects vision
5. Bends
7. One who plays

Answers:
Across
1. Eyesight 3. Pedt 4. Contacts 5. Curves
Down
7. Ganner
9. School
2. Optic 6. Straight 8. Hrs 9. Burns

NEW WORD

SOLUTION

a liquid mixture used for cleaning and storing contact lenses

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Eye

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Photos by Marisa Dawson, Bennington Herald

Clockwise from above: Merritt Keiser, Mert’s owner with some of her products. Emily (sister to Adalynn) and Adalynn Wareham (owner of Bennington Bakes) smile for a photo at Mert’s Market. A selection of squash and gourds are ready for purchase at the market. Brooklyn and Emilia Lien picked pumpkins at the market.

From **MARKET** on page **A1**

“And so I was always like, oh, I would love to do my own business and learn from her. I love baking—it’s a really good stress reliever for me. So I’m like, I love business, I love baking. Why not combine it? I absolutely adore this! I love making other people happy with my food.”

Inspired by her mother’s encouragement to pursue passions over conventional jobs, Wareham launched Bennington Bakes as a creative outlet. “My mom has always said, ‘if you love something, why not go for it?’” she explained. Wareham shared how she was inspired to follow her passions doing something she enjoys versus a job that she may not enjoy in the long-run.

Balancing her bakery with schoolwork and extracurriculars, including FBLA, has been a whirlwind for the teen. “It’s chaotic,” Wareham admitted. “There’s some days we stay up late— we were up until 1am last night doing all this. I’m very grateful for my family and my friends and it’s chaotic, but I love it. It’s a nice break from doing everything by the book and I can be more creative with it.” Her secret to juggling it all? Strict time management. “It’s a lot of time management. I have to write [a list] down every day.”

As a young business owner, Wareham has faced challenges in carving out her niche in a competitive baking scene, where everything she creates is made from scratch. “Probably trying to figure out where I fit in, like the rest of the niches of the world because I make everything homemade,” she said. “There’s not one thing here that is not homemade, because that’s my favorite thing ever.” She shared that a friend also has a baking business making cakes and how they both shared a similar challenge: “It’s hard just to find repeating customers because of all the niches



in baking.”

Yet, the overwhelming community support has been a delightful surprise. Wareham said, “The support... I was kind of shocked about how many people would come out and support me because it’s not like they don’t love me or they don’t care about me, but it’s like, oh, you are actually wanting to talk to me about this.” It was heartwarming that those who see her in the school setting daily have taken an interest in learning what she does outside of school and how she reveals her creative side.

The partnership with Mert’s Market & Farm came about through family connections. Farm owner Merritt Keiser explained that a coworker’s friendship with the Wareham family sparked the idea. Keiser said, “I wanted to keep things simple and just have a bakery out on the weekends as a vendor... I really wanted to have local people just starting out.”

Wareham shared more about the seamless connection. She found out through a family connection, “They’re looking for another table. This would be great for you. You were just talking about how after two years of taking a break, you wanted to get back into it, so why not reach out to her? And so I did, and it all worked out which is great.”

For Wareham, the farm setting added a special touch to the day. “Oh, it’s just so nice,” she said. “It’s really nice just to be on a farm. I like it. We’re in Bennington, and it’s a great little suburban area, but this is peaceful, and it’s nice.”

Keiser, who runs the farm alongside her husband, has focused on expanding family-friendly features this year to draw more visitors. “We have added some new activities for families to do, which I think has been great,” she noted. “So families are spending more time here with each other... To see families just



being outside and enjoying time together has been awesome. So not only do they have pumpkins, but we have a witch’s hat ring toss [among several other activities], so they’re having a great time doing that.” Two new things happening at the farm this year include the disco pumpkin scavenger hunt and pumpkin porch deliveries.

The farm’s success owes much to a tight-knit support network. “The biggest thing is my friends who have been a huge part of this endeavor— if I didn’t have my friends helping me, this would not have happened,” Keiser said. “I have friends come out every weekend to help and support me doing this. They help with getting wheelbarrows from the parking lot... They just do it out of the kindness of their hearts and their love for me.”

To boost visibility, Keiser help with social media management, a move that’s paid off. “She has helped an enormous amount with

getting the word out about Mert’s Market and Farm,” she said. “So she’s taken that off my plate and she’s been amazing.” The efforts have led to noticeable growth: “Every weekend has been busy, busier than last year. So we see an increase in people coming. Not only are families staying longer, but more families are attending, more new people that have seen us online and then our families that come up every single year.”

Keiser’s commitment to nurturing young talent like Wareham fits her broader vision of fostering local entrepreneurs, particularly women-owned businesses. This season, Mert’s has featured a lineup of women-owned bakeries, including KCC Bakery, French Vanilla Bakery, Sweets and Sourdough, and Sixth Street Sweets. “I’m keeping it simple,” Keiser added, emphasizing her goal to spotlight emerging talents. Wareham, too, is eyeing more community ties, from farmers markets to church vendor tables alongside friends at K&D Woodworking.

Looking ahead, both women shared optimistic goals. Wareham aims to expand her reach and learn new recipes. For Keiser, the season’s highlight remains the simple magic of family moments: “Watching the families come out here and enjoying themselves and having a great time with their kids and just sharing how much fun that they’ve had out here... Means the world to me and my husband. And just having them stay out here and just watching them smile and laugh, it’s been great. I loved seeing that— just them having a great time.”

As fall festivities continue at Mert’s Market & Farm, collaborations like this one highlight the power of local connections, proving that a little homemade sweetness can make any harvest season brighter.

From the Past

A look back at Bennington’s 4-H Lassies in 1958

Marisa Dawson
Bennington Herald

BENNINGTON — In the late 1950s, the small farming community of Bennington was a hub of agricultural tradition, and its youth were deeply engaged in the 4-H movement. Among these groups was the Bennington Lassies 4-H Club, a girls’ club that thrived in 1958, focusing on home economics and community service. Composed of local girls aged 10 to 18, the Lassies embodied the 4-H pledge—dedicating their “Head, Heart, Hands, and Health” to personal growth and civic duty.

During this era, 4-H was a cornerstone of rural life, reflecting Nebraska’s agricultural heritage. The Bennington Lassies mastered skills like sewing, cooking and gardening under the guidance of volunteer leaders. These activities were more than hobbies; they prepared young women for household management and leadership roles in a post-war America that valued self-sufficiency. In 1958, the Lassies likely showcased their handiwork

(perhaps hand-stitched quilts or prize-winning preserves) at the county fair, a highlight of the region’s summer calendar.

Nebraska’s 4-H program, formalized in the early 20th century, had grown to over 1,000 clubs by the 1950s, driven by the University of Nebraska’s Cooperative Extension Service. In Bennington, with a population of roughly 500 at the time, 4-H clubs like the Lassies were vital for fostering community ties. They participated in local fundraisers, such as bake sales for the Farm Bureau, and joined regional events like the 4-H Junior Leaders Conference. These efforts connected Bennington’s youth to a broader network of rural innovators.

The Bennington Lassies 4-H Club represents a vibrant chapter in the town’s history. Their work in 1958 highlights how 4-H empowered young women to build practical skills and confidence, leaving a lasting legacy in Nebraska’s heartland and continuing on to today’s successful Bennington 4-H group—Badger Buddies.



Photo courtesy of Bennington Historical Society
Members of the Bennington Lassies 4-H Club pose for a group photo. The club, active in home economics and community service, was part of Bennington’s strong 4-H tradition that continues today.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

10/15 - 10/21

BENNINGTON VOLLEYBALL
10/16 Senior Night: Home Game v. Gretna East 10/18 Lewis Central Invite: Game 1 v. Treynor at 8:30a.m. / Game 2 v. Stanton / Game 3 v. Clarinda 10/21 Home Game v. Waverly at 6:30 p.m
OMAHA CONCORDIA VOLLEYBALL
10/16 Road Game @ Fremont Bergan Catholic 10/21 Wahoo Bishop Neumann Triangular: Game V. Bishop Neumann at 5p.m. / Game v. Columbus Lakeview at 7 p.m.
BENNINGTON FOOTBALL
10/17 Senior Night: Home Game v. Skutt Catholic at 7 p.m.
OMAHA CONCORDIA FOOTBALL
10/17 Road Game @ Mount Michael at 7 p.m.
BENNINGTON CROSS COUNTRY
10/16 Cross Country B-1/B-2 District Meet at Omaha Skutt Catholic at 11 a.m.
OMAHA CONCORDIA CROSS COUNTRY
10/15 C-2 District Meet at Mount Michael 11 a.m.

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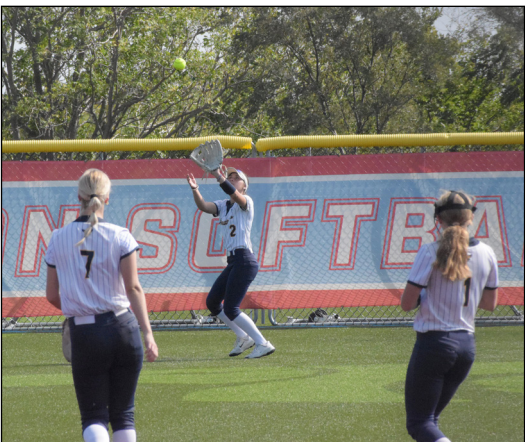
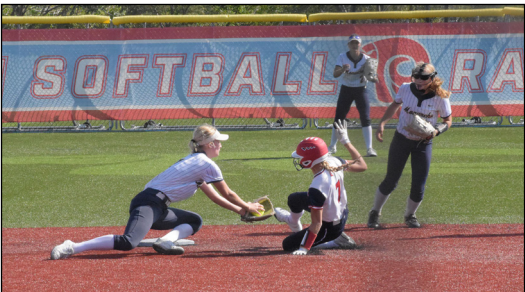
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Photos by Mark Poeckes, Bennington Herald
Above, left: Alexis Neufind delivers a strike during her final win for the Monarchs. Above, right: Vanessa Burton (left) dives back as she tags out a Platteview runner trying to steal second. Below, Halley Heavey (2) moves to her right as she tracks a fly ball for an out.

Mercy softball season ends at Districts

Mark Poeckes
Bennington Herald

RALSTON – The Omaha Mercy softball season ended in the NSAA B-5 District Softball tournament after a 7-0 loss to Ralston on Thursday, Oct. 9.

The Monarchs finished with a 9-22 record in 2025 after picking up one win and one loss during the district tournament. They entered as the No. 5 in the B-5 District. Mercy defeated Platteview 11-1 in the first round of the tournament.

The Monarchs offense came out swinging in the first round with 14 hits. Cloe King picked up four RBI on two hits thanks to a three-run home run and an RBI single.

Vanessa Burton reached base in

all four at bats with one walk and three hits to go along with four RBI. She picked up one extra-base hit with her fifth inning double.

Rae Carmichael did a great job at the top of order with three hits in four plate appearances, and Halley Heavey delivered two doubles and one RBI for the Monarchs.

Senior Alexis Neufind controlled the circle in both contests for Mercy. She delivered a gem for the Monarchs in round one with four strikeouts, one unearned run allowed and five innings pitched. Neufind picked up the win for her exceptional performance while she allowed just seven base runners in the 23 batters she faced.

Against top-seeded Ralston,

the Monarchs struggled to find their rhythm at the plate, recording only two hits as the Rams’ pitching staff kept them off balance throughout the game. Despite the loss, Neufind showed her senior leadership, battling through tough innings and keeping her team in the game as long as possible.

While the season ended earlier than hoped, Mercy showed signs of growth and resilience throughout the year. With several underclassmen contributing key performances, the Monarchs built a foundation to build upon for next season. For Neufind and the senior class, their leadership and effort helped set the standard for the younger players who will carry the program forward.



Mark Poeckes, Bennington Herald
The Mustangs defense waits in between plays during the second half of their game on Friday.

From **CONCORDIA** on page **A12**

Concordia’s defense pitched a first half shutout after the offense scored on the opening drive of the game. The Pioneers struggled to move the ball against a disciplined Mustang’s defense.

In the second half, Fort Calhoun found its groove with 27 unanswered points. It was a balanced attack with 173 yards in the air and 260 yards on the ground. The Pioneers offense

got some assistance from their counterparts, as the defense forced two second half turnovers to maintain control of the game.

Concordia will need to regroup ahead its week eight matchup against a tough Mount Michael team. The Knights are 5-2 this fall and enter the contest fresh off a 24-20 comeback win over Douglas County West.

Mount Michael’s offense has been explosive this season, with

it scoring at least 20 points in six out its seven games this season. The Mustangs offense will need to take care of the ball if they want to keep up with the Knights.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday night at Mount Michael Benedictine High School in Elkhorn.

This will be an important game for Concordia as it tries to make a push for the postseason over the next three weeks.



Mark Poeckes, Bennington Herald
Thomas Morgan runs down the first backstretch of the EMC Conference Meet.

From **MEET** on page **A12**

Lucy Lampe and Selah Carson. Lampe finished 19th in 21:03.91 and Carson 23rd in 21:08.01. Mazlynn Cornett rounded out the scoring for the girls team with her 33rd place finish in 21:39.05.

The boys team had three runners who cracked the top 40 outside of Morgan. Alex O’Connell finished second best on the team with a 37th place finish in 18:06.68. Keaton Striffler ran an 18:12.36, which was

good enough for 39th place. Carter Boyer rounded out the scoring with his 40th place finish in 18:17.11.

It was a solid showing for both teams in their final regular season event of the season. Both teams will travel to Omaha Skutt Catholic for the B1/B2 District Championships Meet on Thursday, Oct. 16. With a shot at the state championships on the line, Bennington will need a strong performance to qualify as a team.

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Above, Emily Fulton (2) and Claire Perks (9) rise as they combine for a block against Hastings St. Cecilia. Below, Addie Stater (24) watches as the ball falls the floor for a kill after one of her hits.

Photos by Mark Poeckes, Bennington Herald

Concordia finishes runner-up in Centennial Mustangs fall to Lincoln Lutheran in title match, strengthen case for state berth

Mark Poeckes
Bennington Herald

KEARNEY — Omaha Concordia finished as the runner up in the Nebraska Centennial Conference Volleyball Tournament after a 2-1 loss to Lincoln Lutheran on Oct. 11.

The Mustangs (25-6) won their first four matches of the conference tournament without dropping a set. They defeated Hastings Saint Cecilia, Fremont Bergan Catholic, David City Saint Aquinas and Grand Island Central Catholic on the way to the Conference Championship.

Concordia took the first set 25-20 before losing 17-25, 13-25 over the last two sets. Addie Stater performed exceptionally in the championship match with 11 kills, 1 ace and 1 block.

The Warriors defense took over the match as the Mustangs struggled to find kills in the final two sets. Lincoln Lutheran collected



13 blocks to Concordia's five team blocks.

The Mustangs defense kept them in the game in the second set as Kyra McNair picked up a team-high 12 digs. Natalie Perkinson and Breckynn Snyder pitched in with seven digs a piece and the team finished with 43 digs total.

At the end of the day, the Warriors Block proved to be the

difference maker in the Match as Concordia struggled to find points late in the match.

The tournament was a resounding success for the Mustangs as they make a push for the teams first state tournament appearance since 2017. With a 25-6 record through 31 matches, they are ranked fourth in the wildcard points and are set up with a chance to host a district

tournament.

Head coach Shelby Bretschneider has been proud of how her team has improved this season. With just two losses in their last 18 matches, Concordia has established itself as a team to watch out for in Class C1. Bretschneider has reminded her team that success needs to be carried into the final stage of the season.

“(Bertschneider) said in a couple of weeks it’s about to be some big matches, so they need to be ready for that,” she said. “Ever since the beginning of the season we have been motivated because of our loss to Pierce last year. They remember that and we are determined to not have that happen again.”

Concordia has had a chip on its shoulder this fall, and the Mustangs have proven they belong with the best teams in the state. With three matches left in the regular season, they have put themselves in a position to make the State Playoffs. But Concordia must continue its high-level play to deliver on that.



Myles Gifford (2) hauls in a catch during the Badgers win over Elkhorn High.

From **VICTORY** on page **A12**

In the first quarter, the Badgers steamrolled over Elkhorn with three touchdowns in the first 10 minutes. Will Gutz wasted no time with a 63-yard rushing touchdown and six-yard score in the first quarter. Gutz finished the game with three TD’s and 142 rushing yards.

Ty Bouaphakeo connected with Parker Douglas for a 51-yard touchdown towards the end of the first quarter as Bennington held a 21-0 lead. The Antlers responded with a 62-yard passing touchdown immediately after to make it 21-7 at the end of the first.

The Badgers scored three more touchdowns in the second quarter with one in the second half as they cruised past a winless Elkhorn team.

After a week one loss to Waverly, Bennington has been on a dominant run over the past six weeks, outscoring opponents by 194 points across that stretch. The win steak will be put the test next week as the Badgers host Class B rival, Omaha Skutt Catholic.

The Skyhawks handed Elkhorn North it’s first loss of the season last week, and they are currently riding a six-game winning streak heading into Bennington.

Only one team can improve its win streak to seven games on Friday, Oct. 17. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at Bennington High School. The Badgers are out to avenge their loss to Skutt in the 2024 NSAA Class B State Championship.



Mark Poeckes, Bennington Herald

The Bennington Softball team huddles together after the end of an inning.

From **SOFTBALL** on page **A12**

this fall. Trebil and Fitch each showcased their power with both players collecting a home run this fall.

Unfortunately for Bennington, it will lose key seniors Kaelyn Muller, Alyssa Anderson and Hannah Wageman. The trio combined 63 hits and 38 RBIs, providing steady production and leadership throughout the season. Their experience and impact will be missed as the Badgers look to younger players to step into larger roles next year.

While the season didn’t end the way the Badgers hoped, it was one filled with growth, grit and valuable experience against tough Class B competition. With a strong core returning Bennington has the talent and depth to build on this year’s foundation.

The loss of seniors Muller, Alyssa Anderson and Hannah Wageman will be felt, but their leadership helped set the standard for the program’s future.

With lessons learned and confidence gained, the Badgers will look to return in 2026 ready to compete at a higher level.



Left: Hayden Liebsack rises up right before she fires a kill from the backrow. Right: Evynn Olson settles into the backrow as the Badgers await the serve.

From **VOLLEYBALL** on page **A12**

Kate Sebree as well. The Bennington setter had her best match yet, as she set a new career-high with 48 assists on Tuesday. The most impressive part of the evening is that Sebree did not have a single passing error across all four sets.

The Badgers will return to action on Tuesday, Oct. 14 with a match on the road against Elkhorn High. The Antlers are 15-12 this season, and they enter the contest fresh off a match win over Gretna East.

First serve is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Elkhorn High School as the Badgers attempt to take down another Eastern Midlands Conference foe on the road.



Photos by Mark Poeckes, Bennington Herald

Concordia girls golf claims first 18-hole title

Team takes top honors at Oakland-Craig Invitational, Nothwehr advances to state meet



Photo courtesy of Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha

The Concordia Omaha girls golf team took first place at the Oakland-Craig Invitational on Oct. 5, which was the school's first-ever 18-hole tournament championship. At Districts at Quail Run Golf Course in Columbus, Lucy Nothwehr qualified individually for the Mustangs. She will represent the Mustangs at the State Meet in North Platte on Oct. 13-14.

Concordia falls to Fort Calhoun

Mark Poeckes
Bennington Herald

FORT CALHOUN – Omaha Concordia lost its third straight game after a 27-7 defeat to Fort Calhoun on Friday, Oct. 10.

The Mustangs (4-3) have hit a roadblock in the 2025 season after starting off with four-straight wins. They took control of the game early with a quick touchdown in the first quarter, however the offense stalled out and Fort Calhoun took advantage of that with a dominant second half.

See **CONCORDIA** on **A10**



Mark Poeckes, Bennington Herald
Tanner David adjusts his mouthguard in between plays on Friday night.

Bennington volleyball tops Standing Bear 3-1

Mark Poeckes
Bennington Herald

LINCOLN – The Bennington High School volleyball team picked up a conference win on the road against Lincoln Standing Bear on Tuesday, Oct. 9.

The Badgers (13-9) won the match 3-1 via set scores of 19-25, 25-14, 30-28, 25-18. Hayden Liebsack was unstoppable as she racked up a career-high 32 kills while hitting .375.

Liebsack's impact extended beyond the service line as well as her and fellow senior Evynn Olsen combined for 9 aces against the Grizzlies.

Olsen, Liebsack and Addy Olson powered the defense with 45 combined digs out of Bennington's 70. Olsen finished the match with a team-high 19 digs as the Badgers defense showcased its hustle to keep plays alive.

It was a special night for senior
See **VOLLEYBALL** on page **A11**



Mark Poeckes, Bennington Herald
The Badger volleyball team celebrates after they won a point over Standing Bear.

Bennington softball season ends in district opener

Mark Poeckes
Bennington Herald

BEATRICE – The Bennington High School softball team saw its season come to an end after a 7-0 loss to Seward in the first round of the B-2 District Softball Tournament in Beatrice on Thursday, Oct. 9.

The Badgers closed the year with an 11-15 record after opening

the season with six consecutive victories. The fall season is often about getting hot at the right time, and unfortunately for Bennington, the momentum faded as the team dropped its final five games.

Despite the late struggles, there was plenty of growth and promise for the young Badgers squad. All three pitchers — Skylar Johnson, Addie Kapple and Allie Boever —

are set to return next season, giving Bennington a solid foundation in the circle. Johnson led the way with eight wins across 23 appearances, finishing with a team-high 88 strikeouts and establishing herself as the ace of the staff.

Offensively, Bennington showed flashes of power and consistency throughout the season. Kapple and Boever each delivered key hits

in big moments, while the lineup benefited from contributions across the roster. The team's mix of young talent and returning experience points toward a bright future.

Underclassmen Adrienne Trebil, Ally Blumenkamp, and Taylor showed promise as they take over the program. All three players combined for 46 hits and 28 RBI

See **SOFTBALL** on page **A11**



Marisa Dawson, Bennington Herald
Above: Will Gutz points out of the end zone after he scored his second touchdown of the night for the Badgers.

Badgers roll past Elkhorn in 49-7 victory

Mark Poeckes
Bennington Herald

ELKHORN – The Bennington High School football team earned its sixth-straight win after it dominated Elkhorn High 49-7 on Thursday, Oct. 9.

The Badgers (6-1) defense forced four turnovers (one interception and three fumble recoveries) as they locked down the Antlers (0-7) offense. Defensive back Myles Gifford took an interception back for a touchdown midway through the second quarter for Bennington's first defensive touchdown of the season.

See **VICTORY** on page **A11**

Bennington runners place at EMC meet

Mark Poeckes
Bennington Herald

GRETNA – The Bennington High School boys and girls cross country teams competed in the Eastern Midlands Conference Championship Meet at the Capehart Soccer Fields in Gretna on Thursday, Oct. 9.

The girls team placed fifth with 88 points and the boys eighth with 124 points. Thomas Morgan was the highest place finisher out of both teams with his eighth-place finish in 17:10.38. Madeline Scott led the girls team with her 13th-place finish in 20:20.97.

The girls team had two other runners finish inside the top 25,

See **MEET** on **A10**