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Neumann crowned golf state champs  
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## Honoring Their Service and Sacrifice



### Memorial Day Service

A nice crowd attends the annual Memorial Day services held at Sunrise Cemetery west of Wahoo on Monday morning. Those in attendance were treated to the customary 21-gun salute followed by a rendition of "Taps" played by Paul Eddie. For more photos, go to Page 6A and online at [wahoonewspaper.com](http://wahoonewspaper.com). (Staff Photo by Jason Unger)

## Bostelman resolution to be reviewed in summer session

### Second resolution put on pause

By Elsie Stormberg  
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LINCOLN – On May 18, two legislative resolutions related to the ethanol plant in Mead were introduced during the waning time legislators had left in the 107th session.

District 23 Sen. Bruce Bostelman of Brainard introduced Legislative Resolution 152 (LR152) which proposed an interim study "to evaluate the need for laws that would allow the Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) to expeditiously respond to emergency situations that threaten the health of agricultural land, water and air quality, livestock, and other plant and animal life from toxic or harmful products that are a part of or created by pesticide-treated seed or grain."

While the resolution doesn't specifically name AltEn, an ethanol plant in Mead, NDEE is currently

overseeing the plant due to the use of pesticide-treated seed corn in the production of ethanol which has resulted in the potential risks to the surrounding environment.

AltEn's process has resulted in byproducts such as pesticide-ridden distillers grain and wastewater that are being stored on the property.

The one-page resolution states that the study will be conducted by the Natural Resources Committee and gather information on alternative uses of treated seed corn in Nebraska, identify "emergency response and enforcement options" accessible to NDEE to "protect against harmful materials or byproducts resulting from use of pesticide-treated seed or grain" and review additional options for the state to "order, enforce, and facilitate expedited cleanup or removal" of byproducts and treated seed corn.

Bostelman also introduced

legislative bill 507 (LB507) in January which was recently voted in as law by the Nebraska Legislature. The bill bans the use of treated seed corn in the ethanol process and also comes as a result of the situation in Mead.

Bostelman's resolution states that the Natural Resources Committee would report its findings to the Legislative Council or Legislature upon completion of the study.

With the 107th session ending on May 27, the interim study was referred to the Natural Resources Committee on May 20, and could be addressed in a late-summer or fall session. District 3 Sen. Carol Blood also introduced a legislative resolution which specifically named AltEn in the resolution and is a more "deliberative examination," Blood said in an interview, compared to Bostelman's LR152.

"I respect that Sen. Bostelman is definitely taking this seriously and he's doing it in good faith, but I don't feel

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**TRACTOR DRIVE:** Larry Mach leads a previous Prague American Legion Tractor Drive on his McCormick Farmall tractor. His daughter, Wendy Mach, will be at the wheel of the same tractor to start this year's drive, which is in honor of her father and mother, who passed away last September.

## Tractor drive to honor Machs

By Suzi Nelson  
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PRAGUE – For years, Larry Mach was the driving force behind the Prague American Legion Tractor Drive each June. He'd map out the course the tractors would take as they slowly wound through the Bohemian Alps on a leisurely late spring drive, the drivers

and passengers enjoying the scenery and each other.

His daughter, Wendy Mach, enjoyed helping her father plan the pathway.

"I would always go with him to make the route," she said.

This year, Wendy had to map the route by herself, without her former traveling companion. Larry Mach and his wife, Margaret "Marty"

Mach, were killed in a car accident on Sept. 25 in Wahoo.

Larry organized the first Prague American Legion Tractor Ride in 2013, and one was held every year since, with the exception of last year, when the COVID-19 pandemic put the brakes on the event.

This year's event will hon-

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## Wahoo PD gains grant from Steelers QB's foundation for K-9 unit

By Elsie Stormberg  
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WAHOO – Wahoo Police Department (WPD) was one of 10 other agencies across the country to receive a grant from The Ben Roethlisberger Foundation for a K-9 unit.

WPD has been fundraising for a K-9 unit since fall of 2020 with the initial goal of raising \$25,000. The amount was determined after looking into the Bellevue Police Department's K-9 unit program that spring, WPD Chief Bruce Ferrell said. After retiring from Omaha Police Department, Ferrell worked at BPD as civilian background investigator for six years so he is familiar with the success the K-9 program has had.

When the WPD determined a K-9 unit would be the right fit, Ferrell said they reached out to the Wahoo Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Wahoo Development Foundation (GWDF) for partners in the fundraising process.

The department now fundraises through GWDF to act as a 501C3 pass-through account where donations can be stored. With the \$6,600 the department received from the Steelers QB, WPD has reached about \$17,000 of its

goal.

"The Wahoo Police Department would like to thank the Ben Roethlisberger Foundation for the generous donation to the Wahoo Police Department K-9 program," Ferrell said in a press release. "Without their assistance our agency would be hard pressed to move forward with this project. I truly believe the K-9 program will enhance safety and promote positive community relations in our city."

The Ben Roethlisberger Foundation distributed grants to 15 departments, including five departments from Pennsylvania specifically and 10 to departments across the country.

The \$6,600 received will go toward equipment for the K-9 unit including an insert for the police vehicle that safely separates the dog from arrestees and regulates temperature. The department also requested a ballistic vest harness and other miscellaneous equipment.

Ferrell said there has been an increase in the goal because the police vehicle they intended to act as the K-9 unit vehicle has had quite a bit more mileage added to it this year than they planned.

"What I don't want to do is invest a bunch of money into equipment for one

vehicle and then a year later it disappears," Ferrell said.

Ferrell has and will continue to apply for grants and fundraise because he said after they have established and trained the K-9 unit, it will continue to cost the department money. Ferrell estimates it could cost \$2,000 to \$4,000 annually for equipment maintenance, veterinary bills, recertification and dog food.

For those interested in donating, Ferrell said contributors can drop their donation at WPD or at the Wahoo Chamber of Commerce office, both in downtown Wahoo. If a check is being donated, Ferrell asked that it be made out to WPD and in the memo section "K-9 Fund."

Ferrell said the goal is get the dog before the end of 2021 and start on the training process. The dog will be a single purpose dog trained for narcotics instead of also being trained in apprehension.

"We're also able to utilize that animal as community policing as well," he said. "For going to schools, going up to nursing homes, community events (and) things like that. It's a good community relations piece as well."



**SUMMERFEST:** Wahoo Police Officer David Page sits at the department's booth at Wahoo's first Summerfest on May 22 in Wahoo.

### Death Notices

- Frances "Tanny" Pekarek, 78, Bartlesville, Okla.
- Walter F. Sklenar, 83, Weston

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