

COMMUNITY NEWS

Journey of Hope

ANN MCKNIGHT
VOLUNTEER REPORTER

ASHLAND, Neb. - As dozens of cyclists pedaled along U.S. Highway 6 through Ashland on July 9, Amber Vesely stood cheering for her son, Ethan.



Photo by Ann McKnight: Amber Vesely (right) and Haley Rockwell (left), cheering on cyclists on July 9.

Ethan Vesely is an incoming senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Vesely has been involved with Pi Kappa Phi since his freshman year and served as president of the UNL chapter during his junior year.

Journey of Hope is a cross-country cycling event organized by The Ability Experience, the philanthropic initiative of Pi Kappa Phi national fraternity.

Each summer, around 50 fraternity members ride more than 8,000 combined miles on two cross-country routes to raise awareness and funding for people with disabilities. They also participate in "Friendship Visits" with local organizations that serve those communities. Last summer, Ethan completed the organization's full cross-country route. This year, he returned to ride the Nebraska portion of the journey as the cyclists made their way toward Washington, D.C.

"It's a pretty exciting thing," Amber said. "I didn't understand it when Ethan was like, 'Mom, I'm going to bike across the country and I need to raise \$8,000.' But once you're there and you see the joy...when they show up for those friendship visits...It's fun, and it's really life-touching."



Courtesy Photo: Journey of Hope with Emma.

Friendship Visits include games, meals, dancing and other activities with people with disabilities. The visits are considered the heart of the program, emphasizing relationships and inclusion over the miles traveled.

Amber said the visits transformed the ride from an athletic challenge into something much more meaningful.

As she watched Ethan ride by, Amber saw months of preparation, thousands of miles and a commitment to serving others.



Courtesy Photo: Ethan Vesely (right) with Nia (left) from Nebraska Spina Bifida in Omaha, Neb..

STIR UP DAYS IN REVIEW

2026 King and Queen



Balloon Glow



5K Fun Run



Vendor Fair



Car Show



Cooling Stations



Peterson Ground Roots provided 3000 bottles of water to help keep people hydrated under the heat advisory on Stir Up Saturday.

Foam Party



American Legion Post #129 brought the National Guard Cannon back to Ashland with the help from M&M Towing. The cannon is waiting for the city to approve the location at the cemetery.



E-bike/scooter public hearing is at the August 6th City Council meeting at 6:00. This is the last reading.

ASHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

School Starts this month, here is what you need to know if your child is coming to the library...

We want the library to be a safe and welcoming place for everyone. Please review these expectations with your child:

- *Children must be 7 years or older to be in the library without an adult.
- *Children who are in the library independently must have a reliable way to contact a parent or caregiver. Please be aware that the library does not have a public telephone for children to use.
- *Library staff are not a messaging service and cannot confirm whether your child is in the library or not, if you call.
- *Children must follow the Library's Behavior Policy. Children who do not follow the policy may be asked to leave and may return the following day.
- *If your child cannot leave the library without an adult, they should not be at the library without an adult.
- *Please have a plan with your child for where they should go if the library is closed, closes unexpectedly, or they are asked to leave due to behavior.
- *The library staff is not responsible for keeping unattended children on library property.
- *Children may not remain in the library after closing. If a child says they cannot leave and no adult is present, staff will contact the Ashland Police Department for assistance.

Thank you for helping us keep the library safe and welcoming for everyone.



High School Fairytale Murder Mystery was a hit!

We have programs for all ages, so check the calendar to see what you want to come to next.

<https://ashlandne.librarycalendar.com/events/month>

Your Ashland Public Library card now gives you access to thousands of digital newspaper editions through NewsBank

READ AND RESEARCH THE OMAHA WORLD HERALD, LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR, & MORE!

Go to Readashland.org
& click on "Online resources"

Click on which newspaper you want to read, or search in the America's News section for a different publication.

Enter your Library Card Number when prompted.

If you see multiple hits of the publication you wish to read, look in the format column and choose the one that says, "IMAGE."

Popular



New Books



CITY OF ASHLAND

Reminder: Please avoid blowing grass clippings into the street. They can wash into storm drains, clog the inlets, and increase the risk of street flooding during heavy rain.

Sign up for e-billing and/or automatic payments at www.cityofashlandne.gov/187/Ashland-Utility-Billing

Public Hearing Notice: Ordinance #1262

The growing use of electric bicycles, electric scooters, and electric motorcycles has raised safety concerns in Ashland, particularly regarding their operation on streets and sidewalks. To help address these concerns, Ordinance #1262, which would regulate electric bicycles, electric scooters, and electric motorcycles, was introduced at the July 2 City Council meeting.

The Ashland City Council will hold public hearings on Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Ashland City Hall, 2304 Silver Street, to receive public input before taking final action on the proposed ordinance.

Residents are encouraged to attend and share their views. Those who are unable to attend may submit written comments to Kristina Stoki, City Clerk, at Ashland City Hall, 2304 Silver Street, Ashland, NE 68003, by 4:30 p.m. on August 6, 2026.

For a copy of the proposed ordinance, please contact City Hall.

City Council Meetings at 6 p.m.

Thursday, Aug 6, 2026

Thursday, Aug 20, 2026

2026-2027 City Council Budget Workshops at 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

www.CityofAshlandNE.gov

ASHLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Join us to learn about the Ashland Wellness and Aquatic Center

August 5th
6:00 PM

MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
806 N 17th Ave

MORE INFORMATION



AshlandAWAC.org

Everyone is invited to the a public info meeting about the Ashland Wellness and Aquatic Center on Wednesday, Aug. 5th at 6 pm in the School Auditorium.

PARENTS OF PRESCHOOLERS (POPS)



A PARENTS OF PRESCHOOLERS (POPS) EVENT

SAT. AUGUST 29TH
9:30-11:30 AM

@ RIVERVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

324 N 32ND STREET
ASHLAND

- Free bike helmets from Three Rivers Public Health
- Bike Safety
- Wash and decorate your bike
- Bike Obstacle Course

THE AG AREA PARENTS OF PRESCHOOLERS (POPS) IS A GROUP OF PARENTS, PROVIDERS, & COMMUNITY MEMBERS THAT PROVIDE FUN & ENGAGING OPPORTUNITIES TO NETWORK WITH OTHER FAMILIES WITH AGES BIRTH TO 5 YRS.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @ "AG POPS"

Parents of Preschoolers (POPs) is a group of parents, providers, & community members that provide fun and engaging opportunities to network with other families with children ages birth-5. Come learn about topics in early childhood through guest speakers and interactive activities. Supported and funded by Ashland Area Communities 4 Kids (C4K) and AG Public Preschool. Check out our Facebook group: "AG POPS"

ASHLAND-GREENWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

Nebraska Choral Directors Association Outstanding Young Choral Director Award

AGPS's Vocal Music Teacher and Choir Director, Lauren Byers, was this year's recipient of the Nebraska Choral Directors Association Outstanding Young Choral Director Award. This award recognizes choral directors with fewer than ten years of experience who demonstrate excellence in teaching, musicianship, and service to the choral profession. Ms. Byers noted she was incredibly grateful to be recognized by her colleagues across the state, and she shared that this honor wouldn't be possible without the opportunity to work with such wonderful students and the support she has received from our school and district. Thank you, Ms. Byers, for so positively representing the district and our community! Our students are fortunate to be able to learn from you!



FBLA Nationals

Adelyn Harms, Peyton Nissen, and Vanity Laughlin brought home a 3rd place trophy in Social Media Strategies



Hazel Capp brought home a 7th place award in Customer Service

Athlete of the Year by the Lincoln Journal Star

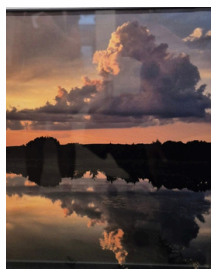


Omaha World-Herald's 2026 Boys Coach of the Year and Huskerland's Class C-1 Coach of the Year.
AG Coach Jacob Mohs

ASHLAND ARTS COUNCIL



The **Community Art Show** was a great success! Thank you to everyone who submitted art and those who came out to vote!



Here are this year's winners:

Elementary: Beckett Schwab
Middle School: Ben Chung
High School: Libby Lancaster
Adult Amateur: Jada Munro
Adult Professional: Cleo Wills



ASHLAND ROTARY

Thank you to everyone who helped support our Duck Derby Fundraiser.

Duck Derby Winners:

1st Place - Brian Beach
2nd Place - Wayne Rapp



REMEMBER WHEN WITH ASHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

10 Years Ago /2006

- *Ashland Area Chamber board member Bob Luebbe and Lynn Spackman held the second annual flea market downtown Ashland.
- *Camp carol Joy Holling Camp had their 28th Annual quilt auction. They sold 429 quilts.
- *A panel of four experts in the area of tax increment financing fielded questions from about 30 community members.
- *A thin funnel cloud near Ashland was spotted on Aug 4th at 4:45 p.m.



20 Years Ago /2006

- **There has been a rash of vandalism at the Ashland parks and sports fields. *A-G Public School welcomed two teachers back to the district, Matt Flynn, middle school social studies teacher and Dottie Heusman.
- *Nebraska Humanities Council has elected 25 Nebraska High School teachers to participate in the ninth annual Nebraska capitol Forum on America's Future.

40 Years Ago: Aug,1986

- *The new A-G Senior High addition is scheduled to open August 15th.
- *The Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools Foundation was organized and established, initiated by School Board member, Martha Fricke.
- *Irene Vance was first Ashland resident to have Lifeline Alert System installed in her home.
- *Public Works Committee held a well-attended meeting regarding Natural Resource District water drainage within Ashland and Salt Creek basins.
- *Ashland observed National Day of Peace declared by Gov. Kerry as the first Sunday of August.
- *Platte Valley Wranglers 4-H Club received fifteen trophies at Saunders County Fair.
- *Debbie Roeber, 11, was the Champion Jr. Showman and Russell Roeber, 16, was Champion Senior Showman at Saunders Co. Fair.

60 Years Ago: Aug,1966

- *A new Red Cross Chapter Board formed with twelve Ashland members.
- *A large delegation of Post 129 American Legion and Auxiliary members attended the Nebraska Convention in Weston.
- *The Ashland Women's Association attended a bowling meeting at Silver Lanes, 1430 Silver Street.
- *FFA re-organizational meeting was held with twenty-four in attendance. Steve Bundy was elected President.
- *American Lutheran Church held a groundbreaking ceremony for their new addition.
- *Order of Rainbow Girls, Chapter 19 entertained eighteen Grand Officers.
- *Molly Greene is a member of Nebraska Youth Council at UNL Kellogg Center.
- *The Junior Garden Club held their last meeting of year at the home of Pauline Miller.

80 Years Ago: Aug,1946

- *The Ashland WWII Memorial Fund Association was organized for the purpose of constructing a memorial stadium at the new athletic field east of the schoolhouse. Dr. O.H. Ziegenbein, who originally proposed the athletic fund, was elected president.
- *Ashland Grange Number 386 meeting was held with Worthy Master Robert Graham chairing.
- *Rotary Club held their monthly meeting at the Silver Cafe annex with President C.N. Turner presiding. Lee Wagner presented the program on his Post Office experience during WWII 19th Corps in E.T.O. illustrated by maps and the many kinds of currency handled by the European Army Post Offices.
- *Mrs. Harley Parrish, City Librarian, furnished a list of eighteen new books obtained recently.
- **"Bedside Manor" movie starring John Carroll plus three short subjects was shown at the Neu Theatre.
- *The Ashland City Band final concert of the season was held in the Band Shell under the direction of Dr. O.H. Ziegenbein and emceed by Dr. B.H. Baer.
- *Coach Willard Smith estimates fifty students will be on Ashland's football squad. Equipment was checked out and first practice was held.

EVENTS



15th Annual Ashland Backpack Program

Serving the Ashland-Greenwood School District, the local backpack drive serves all students in grades Pre-K through 12th. The program provides backpacks with suggested school supplies each year, and with your generous donations, 93 students from 41 families were helped last year.



2026-2027 Donation Items
Needed by JULY 26th

- Glue Sticks (large or small)
- Tissue boxes
- #2 Ticonderoga pencils
- Pencil Boxes
- Pencil Pouches
- Backpacks for all ages
- Crayola Markers, 8-pack
- Highlighters
- Composition Notebooks
- College-ruled loose leaf papers
- College-ruled spiral notebooks

Cash donations are welcome. Please make checks to "Ashland Backpack Program" and drop them off at any Ashland area church or Farmers & Merchants Bank.

FAMILIES INTERESTED IN REGISTERING

Families who indicated interest in this program on the school form titled "Sharing Information with Other Programs" are considered "registered" and will be contacted in July for pickup times. If a family wants to enroll or check if they are enrolled, call

Karen Beranek (402)-499-0632
or
Pam Garber (402)-679-7922

Drive Through Distribution Dates/Times

Registered families will be notified to attend one of the two dates below:

MONDAY, AUGUST 10TH (5:00-6:30 PM)
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11TH (5:00-6:30 PM)

@ ASHLAND METHODIST CHURCH
1442 ADAMS ST



YOU'RE INVITED!

ASHLAND STREET ART SHOWDOWN

LIVE ART. LOCAL TALENT. YOUR VOTE!

COME ENJOY A FUN EVENING IN DOWNTOWN ASHLAND! Watch local artists create live, explore unique artwork, and vote for your favorite!

SATURDAY AUGUST 22

ART WALK 5:00 - 9:00 PM

VOTING ENDS AT 8:00 PM

♥ Downtown Ashland, Nebraska

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:

ASHLAND Chamber of Commerce

DRAWING FOR THOSE WHO VOTE PRIZE!

Watch local artists create live, explore unique artwork, and vote for your favorite!

ARTIST PRIZES INCLUDE:

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD | CASH PRIZES

ARTISTS MAY OFFER:

- Pottery
- Jewelry
- Sculpture
- Paintings & More!

TURTLE CREEK GALLERY
1412 SILVER ST., ASHLAND, NE 68003

TURTLE CREEK GALLERY ON FACEBOOK





ASHLAND

Chamber of Commerce

10TH ANNUAL SILVER STREET Flea Market

DOWNTOWN, ASHLAND, NE

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2026

12:00PM-5:00PM

RAIN OR SHINE!

MULTIPLE VENDORS FEATURING:

LOCAL ARTISANS	NEW ITEMS	VINTAGE & ANTIQUES	GOODS & PRODUCE
EXCESSIVE STORE INVENTORY	TOOLS & CARPENTRY	FOOD TRUCKS	and so much more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ATTENDING THE EVENT OR BECOMING A VENDOR, please email ashlandfleamarket@gmail.com

SHOP • EXPLORE • SUPPORT LOCAL

AG Soccer League-

Great news, its time to get ready for another great Soccer season!
Our registration is now open. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/AG2026FallSoccer>
Deadline to sign up is 8/16/26. Please share with your friends and neighbors, so that no kiddo gets left out of the fun.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Drive-Thru Food Distribution from Food Bank of Lincoln

First Thursday of every month 3:00-4:00 p.m. at the American Lutheran Church, 1941 Silver St.

ALC Closet will be open on Wednesday, Aug 12th from 4:30-7pm and again on Saturday, Aug 15th, from 9am to noon. All clothing, linens, and shoes are free for everyone! Bring your own bags to collect items. American Lutheran Church basement, 20th and Silver Street, Ashland.

Seed Catalog and Ashland Food Pantry Donation Drop-Off at Ashland Public Library available M-TH 10am-7pm, Saturday 10am-3 pm. During summer there is also a drop table for extra garden produce. Take what you want/leave what you can't use up. 1324 Silver Street, Ashland.

Ashland Food Pantry

Open every Wednesday 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the American Lutheran Church, 1941 Silver St.

Ashland Kids Cupboard

Open every Thursday from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at the American Lutheran Church, 1941 Silver St. Kids Cupboard is a supplemental food pantry designated for children ages preschool-12th grade in the AGPS district. It is located in the American Lutheran Church basement and is a combined effort of 7 local churches and private donations.

If you want to donate, they accept single snack items like a pudding cup, cheese sticks, fruit snacks, canned fruit or veggies, fruit cups, pudding, snack packages of cheez it's/crackers/chips, granola bars etc.

Senior Meals

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 12 p.m.

Call 402-944-7332 to sign up

Held at Golden Apartments, 2401 Adams St. Ashland, NE

Memory Support Group

Last Tuesday of Each Month from 6-7 pm at the Oxbow Community Room, 1617 Bills Drive. The Memory Support group brings individual caregivers together to talk about their experiences and feelings, share stories, learn information about the dementia disease process, tips for caregiving skills and stress management, and to get connected to helpful local resources.

Questions? Call 402-944-3400 or email cmayer@oxbowliving.com.

Ashland Sunday Night AA

Sunday, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, 1941 Silver St. Ashland, NE

Ashland Tuesday Night Step Meeting

Tuesday, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, 1702 Boyd St. Ashland, NE

COMMUNITY FAITH DIRECTORY

Ashland

American Lutheran Church

1941 Silver St.
Pastor Suzanne How
Worship Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Ashland Bible Church

552 Ashland Road
Pastor Ken Buttermore
Worship Sunday at 10:10 a.m.
402.218.7681

Ashland Methodist Church

1442 Adams
Pastor David St Aubin
Worship Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
402-944-7135
www.ashlandnemc.org

Bahai Faith

Devotional meetings
402-598-2569

First Christian Church

1702 Boyd Street
Pastor Bob Schofield
Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
402-944-7070

First Congregational Church in Ashland

1542 Boyd Street
Pastor Ray Smith
Sunday Services 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Children's
Sunday School at 9:15 402-944-7121

St Mary's Catholic Church

Pastor Fr. Robert Matya
1625 Adams
Saturday evening Mass 5 p.m.
Sunday morning Mass 10:30 a.m.
402-944-3554

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

1833 Furnas St.
Meetings Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
and Sunday at 10:00 a.m
402-521-2038

Riverview Community Church

324 N 32nd Street
Pastor Tim Karges and Pastor Daniel Kerr
Sunday Services: 9:00 am and 10:45
Kids life held during both services
Nursery provided
402-944-6134

Word Of Hope Lutheran Church - LCMC

157 S 22nd St
Pastor Wilson Metz
Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.
402-521-0046 (Message)
www.WordofHopeLutheran.org

Outside of Ashland

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

16820 South 164th Avenue, Omaha
Sunday Meeting 9:00 a.m.
Gretna Ward

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

7 Oak St, Greenwood
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Pastor Fr. Robert Matya

United Methodist Church

220 Kansas St, Murdock
Michelle Chesnut, pastor
Worship Service: 9:00 am