

Nebraska Veterans Coalition



Leading the way for Nebraska's Veterans

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A Volunteer Organization Bringing Awareness To Veteran's Issues

Volume 5 Issue 4, April 1, 2024, Newsletter

We at the Nebraska Veterans Coalition continue to research and provide veteran-related information to military members currently serving and veterans who have served in Active, National Guard, and Reserve. We also recommend and have continued supporting legislation to improve the lives of military personnel in Nebraska since 2014. This Newsletter is sent to all Nebraska Legislators. We will do our best to post articles on our Facebook page and encourage those of the 5,200 followers to post to our page. All postings are reviewed by our Facebook administrators ensuring postings are appropriate. Our efforts to inform veterans are passed on to over 8,000 Nebraska veterans and supporters and forwarded or shared with many more.

You can post on our Facebook page (*Nebraska Veterans Coalition*). "Friend us," and encourage your Veterans Service organization to post veterans' events and other information View our Website- www.NebraskaVeterans.org, and follow Twitter (X) @VetsCoalitionNE

The Nebraska Veterans Coalition Mission
See our mission statement on our website!
www.NebraskaVeterans.org

We do not solicit or accept funding/donations for our efforts.

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Newsletter



Find our
Website



Open To America's #1 Veterans Magazine

The Grapevine

Published by John Stewart

Click on Publication of Your Choice

<https://veteransgrapevine.com/>

I began this publication 25 years ago for a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in order to help me recover from a serious health condition impacting my memory, numerous cardiac problems and cancer. Doing this project has been extremely helpful in my recovery from those problems. I have been able to help many, many veterans and family members around the world. I am truly and blessed over these two decades to have this project during my fight against many Agent Orange-related diseases from the Vietnam War. In addition to the publications, I have added hundreds of links to veterans-related websites.

Veterans Pages: <https://veteransgrapevine.com/>

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Find the previous Nebraska Veterans Coalition Newsletters here

County Veterans Service Offices Directory

Contact your County Veterans Service Officer and offer your help

Help with providing transportation for fellow veterans

Offer your business as a place for Buddy Check Meetings

This video is provided by the Nebraska Association of County Officials

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=bqhlwylZv2c>

A County Veterans Service Office staff provides confidential counseling and assistance to Veterans and their families who are applying for Federal, State, and County Veterans programs and benefits. Federal Veterans Benefits include Education Benefits, Vocational Rehabilitation, Service-connected disability, Non-service disability pension, Healthcare, and Burial benefits.

Nebraska Veterans programs include waiver of tuition, admittance to a Nebraska Veterans home, and emergency financial assistance from the Nebraska Veterans Aid Fund.

Eligibility for State financial assistance requires Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge from active duty. This requirement is not met by active duty for training only.

(Specific residency and service dates are required for some State Benefits)

Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/>

County Veterans Service Offices Directory (Updated Monthly)

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/cvso>

The Nebraska Veterans Coalition

presents this month's

FEATURED COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER INFORMATION

MADISON COUNTY

Service Officer Gregg Hanson (402) 370-3578 ghanson@madisoncountyne.gov

Assistant Tina Uttecht Fax: (402) 370-3579 tuttecht@madisoncountyne.gov

Mailing Address 1305 S. 13th Street Ste 200 Norfolk, NE 68701

Hours Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 5 pm

Closed from noon to 1 pm

Website <https://madisoncountyne.gov/veteran-services/>

MCPHERSON COUNTY

Service Officer Richard Cook (308) 636-6157 richcook47@yahoo.com

Location Court House, Tryon, NE 69167

Mailing Address 200 Anderson Street, Tryon, NE 69167

Hours TUESDAY ONLY 8 am to 12 pm

MERRICK COUNTY

Service Officer Thomas Reimers (308) 946-2466 tom.reimers@merrickcountyne.gov
Fax: (308) 624-4102

Location Courthouse, Central City, NE 68826
Mailing Address PO Box 27, 1510 18th St. Central City, NE 68826
Hours TUESDAY ONLY 8 am to 4:30 pm or by appointment

Website http://www.merrickcounty.ne.gov/webpages/veterans_services/veterans_services.html

This is the Veterans in Business Forum (VIBF)

<https://veteransinbusinessforum.org/>

The next Veterans in Business Forum, VIBF, meeting is Friday, 19 April, at 0800.

All are welcome, and RSVP requested

Contact: Michel Thornhill info@littlemountainwebdesign.com

Michel Thornhill Little Mountain Web Design OmahaNebraska.com
PapillionBusinesses.com

Veterans in Business Forum 1299 Farnam St., #300
Omaha, NE 68102 (402)932-7243

Our guest speaker is Congressman Don Bacon



Veterans in Business Forum, 19 April 2024



Guest Speaker:
Congressman Don Bacon

Time: 0800 - 0900 (8:00 AM- 9:00 AM)

Location: UNO
College of Business Administration
Mammel Hall, Room 117
6708 Pine Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68182

Contact: Michel Thornhill
info@littlemountainwebdesign.com



Please share by email (Copy and paste) ; Share Facebook <https://tinyurl.com/2ca26lxl>

Legislation

Voter ID

On June 1, 2023, the Governor signed into law LB514, which establishes voter identification (ID) requirements for elections in Nebraska.

The first election requiring voter ID will be the May 14, 2024, statewide primary election.

All special and statewide elections after this date will require voter ID.
No special election prior to May 14, 2024, will require voter

<https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/voter-id>

Hearings for the bills related to Veteran/Active/Guard and Reserve

March Status of Veteran-related Bills 108th Nebraska Legislative Status

Search Bills and Resolutions
<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills>

Use this Link and enter the Bill Number to research the bill details

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/>

As a minimum please review the Statement of intent or read the Bill as Introduced

Blood LB835 Interstate Compact for School Psychologists 2/24/24, Placed in General File
Blood LB832 Juvenile Jurisdiction Military Children 2/20/24, Placed in General File
Holdcroft, Bosn and von Gillern's name added
Blood LB826 Reduced Games and Parks Veterans/Active Military Families 1/5/24 Referred to Natural Resources Lippincott, Ibach, Holdcroft Conrad name added
Blood LB824 Interstate Compact Dentists/Dental Hygienists 2/28/24, Placed in General File
Brewer. Holdcroft, Hughes name added
Blood LB823 Interstate Compact Physician Associates 2/28/24, Placed in General File
\ Brewer. Holdcroft, Hughes name added
BloodLB822 Interstate Compact Social Workers\ 2/28/24, Placed in General File
\ Fredrickson, Holdcroft, Hughes name added
Blood LB 821 Change provisions relating to the preliminary or advanced enrollments of certain students Da y, Holdcroft name added 2/5/24 Hearing for February 12, 2024,
Brewer LB 847 Changed provisions relating to emergency response to agree with other states & withdraw from interstate Civil Defense and Disaster Compact 3/12/24 Approved by Governor
Brewer LB 848 Change the maximum age for the Adjutant General 3/12/24 Approved by Governor
Jacobson LB 853 - Change provisions relating to homestead exemption 2/15/24 Hearing for 2/22/24
Brewer, Day, Blood name added
Bostar LB 869- Change provisions relating to services of the county Veterans Service Committees 2/24/24, Placed in General File
Sanders L 895 Change provisions relating to recruitment and retention for the Nebraska National Guard 3/18/24 Approved by Governor
Fredrickson LB 929 Provide for coordination of the 911 service system, and the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline Da y, Holdcroft name added 2/5/24 Hearing for February 12, 2024,
Holdcroft- LB965- Change provisions relating to certain license plates issued to persons with military affiliation as prescribed Lippincott, Day Hearing for 2/6/24
Lippincott LB 971- Change provisions for a free hunting permit for veterans to hunt on Veterans Day Amended into LB 867
Brewer LB 973- Withdrawn
Blood LB977 Prohibit discrimination based on the military or veteran status 3/8/28/24, Placed in General File
Conrad LB 1001 Provide a migratory waterfowl hunting season for veterans Hearing for 2/14/24
Decay, vonGillern, Lippincott name added
Vargas- LB 1036 Provide for issuance of free annual combination fishing, fur-hunting, and hunting permits, habitat stamps, aquatic habitat stamps, and Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamps to certain veterans and members of the armed forces of the United States Hearing 1/26/2024
Brewer- LB1037 - Prohibit certain conduct relating to assistance or referrals in veterans benefits matters, Brewer, Conrad, Aguliar, Holdcroft, Hughes, Lippincott, Blood name added
Notice of hearing for February 21, 2024
Hardin- LB1120 - Require affidavits for certain purchases of real property near military installations 3/13/24 Placed in Select File
Day- LB 1149 Provide an exemption from the motor vehicle tax for motor vehicles with Gold Star Family plates Hearing for 2/6/24
Bostar LB 1289 State legislative intent appropriate funds to the Adjutant General and provide for a transfer from the Cash Reserve Fund Hearing Scheduled Feb 7, 2024
Lippincott -LB1298 Provide for the issuance of veteran, honorary, and distinctive licenses under the Motor Vehicle Operators's License Act Hearing Scheduled for 2/6/24
McDonnell- LB 1363 Change provisions to the rate and disbursement of documentary stamp tax, the Military Base Development and Support fund, the Nebraska Film Office Fund, the Innovation Hub Cash Fund, and the Economic Recovery Contingency Fund 2/15/24 McDonnell Priority Bill
McDonnell LB 1364 Changes provisions of the Site and Building Building Development Act and provides for a transfer from the Cash Reserve Fund Hearing for 2/13/24
Sanders LB 1406 Provide for an active-duty military permit for state entry permit
Harding, Vargas name added 2/7/24, Notice of hearing for 1/31/24
Sanders LB 1407 Rename and change provisions relating to the Military Base Development and Support Fund Hearing Scheduled for 2/7/24
Brewer LB 1394 Exempt Nebraska National Guard income from state income taxation
Conrad, Albrecht, name added 3/13/24 Placed in Final Reading
Arch - LB 1412 Governor's request Provide, change, and eliminate appropriations for the operation of state government, postsecondary education, state aid, capital construction and federal funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 3/21/24
3/21/24 Placed in Final Reading

Brewer- LB 1417 Governor.s request Change, terminate, and provide change, eliminate, and transfer powers, duties and membership of boards, commissions, committees, councils, task forces, panels, authorities, and departments and change and eliminate funds **Hearing Scheduled Feb 29, 2024**

[Bills carried over from the 2023 session](#)

[Open This Link and enter the Bill Number](#)

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/>

Blood LB10 - Change motor vehicle and property tax exemptions for disabled veterans
Brewer, Conrad, Day, Hunt, Aguilar, Holdcroft name added

Briese LB 16 Requires occupational boards to issue certain credentials based on credentials or work experience in another jurisdiction and decide regarding an application with a criminal conviction, provide for jurisprudential examinations, and appeal from the denial. requirements for membership of the State Board

Approved by the Governor

Lippincott LB 52 Eliminate a limitation on the amount of tuition credits available to National Guard members **1/31/24 Placed in Final Reading**

Cavanaugh, M LB57 - Adopt the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act

LB80 - State intent regarding appropriations to the Department of Veterans Affairs

Day LB 126 - Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions **3/28/24. Select File**

Hansen- LB 188 - Authorize the Commissioner of Education to issue temporary certificates to teach veterans as prescribed

Erdman LB230 - Require qualifying identification for voter registration and voting, require in-person voting, provide penalties, eliminate certain fees for state identification cards and certified copies of birth certificates, and change provisions relating to operators' licenses and state identification cards

Brewer LB250 - Require periodic command climate surveys of the Nebraska National Guard

Brewer LB252 - Change provisions relating to veterans' homes and veterans' aid

Approved by Governor Feb 14, 2024

Brewer- LB 266- Change provisions regarding eligibility for Military Honor license plates

Holderoft LB274 - Provide for persons with disabled veterans license plates to park in handicapped parking spaces

Blood LB561 - Adopt the Cosmetology Licensure Compact

Walz LB686 - Adopt the Cities of the First Class Firefighters Cash Balance **3/20/24 Placed in General File**

Brewer LB731 - Provide for service by state agency department heads in reserve components of the armed forces of the United States\ **3/5/24 Approved by Governor**

Sanders LB 771- Provide for the Department of Veterans Affairs to award grants to qualifying postsecondary institutions **3/18/24 Approved by Governor**

[Nebraska Legislative Information](#)

[New for 2024](#)

[Open this link and test it out](#)

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/new/new.php>

Simplified Bill View

New and experienced users of the legislature's bill page may find sorting amendments, motions, and bill activity confusing. The Legislature is introducing a simplified bill page alternative. This page will show the process of the legislative bill, akin to a delivery tracker, as well as adopted amendments and successful motions. Those that wish to see all bill activity, including filed and pending matters, should switch to the "detailed view".

Hover to the image to see a larger image

Inclusion of New Public Input Methods

Hover to the image to see a larger image

New this session, every bill voted out of committee will have additional documentation displayed along with the committee statement. The first document will be a list of those who submitted comments for the public hearing record. These names will be listed based on the position they took on that particular piece of legislation. The second document is a list of non-testifiers who attended the public hearing. These individuals signed the "white or gold sheet" in the back of the room but did not testify before the committee. **For more information about our public input options, we invite you to visit our [Public Input page](#).**

Public Committee Documentation Review

Starting this session you may see some committee statements adorned with the legislative seal and unique serial number. This indicates that the public document has been reviewed by a veteran legislative attorney with extensive committee experience. Senators, Staff, Lobbyists, and members of the public who rely on these documents can be assured that the contents are thorough and clear.

Hover to the image to see a larger image



Advocacy in Action 2024

MOAA's annual advocacy event will bring members from across the nation to Washington, D.C., on April 17 to address critical topics on MOAA's legislative agenda. Bookmark this site ([MOAA.org/AiA](https://www.moaa.org/AiA)) for updates on these issues, details on the event for attendees and virtual participants, our annual MOAA awardees, and much more. And be ready to take part by registering today to use [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#), an easy way for all members and supporters to connect with their lawmakers.

Continue to follow [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#) for ongoing updates regarding all of MOAA's legislative priorities.

Have a question about MOAA legislative efforts? Contact MOAA's Member Support Center at msc@moaa.org or call (800) 234-6622. To learn more about joining MOAA, [click here](#).

<https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/advocacy-in-action-2024/>

Hagel pitches expanded veterans courts to Nebraska lawmakers

Former Nebraska Sen. Chuck Hagel testifies Friday at the State Capitol about a proposal for the state to adopt the Veterans Justice Act.

KENNETH FERRIERA, LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

The legislation was brought to Nebraska by former U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, who is a member of the Council on Criminal Justice's Veterans Justice Commission, a 15-member committee that launched an examination of veterans' involvement in the criminal justice system in 2022. Hagel also served as a Republican U.S. senator from Nebraska.

https://omaha.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/hagel-nebraska-veterans-court-legislature/article_bfe341a2-f74a-5d90-8cfa-516ec3c890d7.html#tracking-source=home-the-latest

LINCOLN — A group of state senators is aiming to expand veterans' access to problem-solving courts in Nebraska through legislation that would give judges the option to help connect those individuals with treatment and other services.

Sen. Tom Brewer of Gordon said the Veterans Justice Act would build upon the success of Nebraska's existing problem-solving courts by providing extra opportunities to help them deal with their underlying traumas.

"It's not a permission slip to commit crimes, but a way to address those issues that are specific to veterans," said Brewer, who spent 37 years in the military as an infantryman and airborne ranger.

HEALTH CARE

Home Base's Dr. Ross Zafonte Testifies to the U.S. Senate on the Impacts of Traumatic Brain Injuries

Ross D. Zafonte, DO, Spaulding Rehabilitation President and Home Base Chief of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Health and Wellness Programs, testified in front of the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services' Subcommittee on Personnel on Wednesday, February 28th. A renowned expert on TBI, Dr. Zafonte spoke to and provided written testimony on the impacts of TBI and blast exposure care on active-duty U.S. Special Operations Forces personnel.

We sincerely thank Dr. Zafonte for his continued leadership and advocacy for our Veterans and Service Members. We also wish to thank Senator Elizabeth Warren and the Committee for this well-deserved recognition of Dr. Zafonte's vast expertise as a leading clinician, researcher and supporter in the critical area of Veteran and Service Member Care.

Click below to read his written testimony and watch a recording of the hearing on the committee's website.

https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/to-receive-testimony-on-traumatic-brain-injury-and-blast-exposure-care/?re_appeal=2402EMMGXXFN

Get To Know Your TRICARE Options in the U.S.

Are you new to TRICARE? Have you or a family member recently had a Qualifying Life Event? You might be wondering what your health, dental, and vision coverage options are. You might

also be wondering what you and your family need to do to enroll.

You don't need to look hard to find this information. If you live in the United States, the TRICARE Choices in the United States Handbook is a great place to start.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USMHSTMA/bulletins/391afa9>

Women Veterans' Voices on Managing Depression

Hear from women Veterans who have experienced depression. They talk about challenges that are unique to women, the symptoms they experienced, and what led them to get the help they needed to manage their mental health challenges.

[View Video Transcript](#)

Find Local Support

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Resources

SAMHSA Behavioral Health Treatment Locator

National Resource Directory

<https://www.maketheconnection.net/stories/836/>

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Amazon bringing 'last mile' facility to Grand Island

By [Lorena Carmona](#)

Published: Mar. 19, 2024 at 5:17 PM CDT

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (KSNB) - Amazon has plans to open up a facility in central Nebraska. The company confirmed to Local4 that Amazon has leased a facility with the intent of opening an 'last mile' facility. According to the Amazon Freight's website, a 'last mile' facility means this is the last mile of the delivery stage, where goods are sorted at a fulfillment facility and loaded onto delivery vehicles to be sent to customers.

Amazon said they would share more details at a later time, including an opening date.

Signs could be seen for 'Amazon Deliveries' outside the old FedEx building in Grand Island, located at 4201 Gold Core Road.

Job postings on [Amazon's website](#) show openings for an area manager and assistant manager to work in Grand Island.

[Click here](#) to subscribe to our KSNB Local4 daily digest and breaking news alerts delivered straight to your email inbox.

<https://www.ksnblocal4.com/2024/03/19/amazon-bringing-last-mile-facility-grand-island/>

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Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Open this link and visit the NDVA website

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/>

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NDVA Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NEVetsAffairs/>

NDVA Twitter https://twitter.com/NEVetsAffairs?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

Newsletter & Events

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/news>

MORE

- [Benefits and Services Overview](#)

Part of our mission is to help veterans identify and access benefits. There is a wide range of county, state, and federal benefits related to education, employment, finance, health care, housing, legal assistance, recreation, taxes, and more. Use our Benefits Expert to help guide you to the benefits you're interested in or learn about some of the most-used benefits. If you have additional questions, don't hesitate to contact your County Veterans' Service Officer or a State Service Officer.

[Benefits Expert](#)

There are a lot of benefits available for veterans and their family members. Our Benefits Expert will guide you through all the county, state, and federal benefits available to help you find just the ones you are

eligible for or interested in.

Nebraska Veterans' Aid
Waiver of Tuition
DD-214 Request

MORE: <https://veterans.nebraska.gov/benefits>

[Nebraska Veterans' Gateway](#)

Welcome to your gateway to career and employment resources for Nebraska veterans.

[Get Started](#)

[Nebraska Veterans' Homes](#)

Nebraska's state veterans' homes offer top-of-the-line domiciliary, intermediate, and skilled nursing care for the men and women who have served our country, as well as eligible family members.

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/homes>

[Military & Veterans' Registry Application](#)

Applicants must submit a DD-214 or NGB-22 indicating the length and character of services.

https://www.nebraska.gov/va_registry/index.cgi

[Community Resource Directory](#)

There is a wide variety of resources throughout the state, including resources for housing assistance, substance abuse treatment, transportation, community support, and more. Select one of the state's six behavioral health regions on the map below to see what resources are available in that area.

Disclaimer: These resources are not managed or delivered by the Nebraska Department of Veterans

A. <https://veterans.nebraska.gov/contact>

Other VA social media:

[U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

[Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care System](#) [Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care System](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaIowaVA/>

[Army to build 500 rooms for privatized junior enlisted barracks](#)

According to the service's top civilian housing official, the Army hopes to begin work on its first privatized barracks building for junior enlisted troops at Fort Irwin, California, next year.

“At some locations ... we could use a privatized barracks solution,” Coulson said. “But it’s not going to work everywhere.”

The housing official said most installations are not a good fit due to a combination of [inadequate housing allowance rates](#), population instability due to deployments, low projected demand, or a lack of suitable land for the project.

MORE:

<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2024/03/28/army-to-build-500-rooms-for-privatized-junior-enlisted-barracks/>



NATIONAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

The NRD is a database of validated resources that supports recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration for service members, veterans, family members, and caregivers.

[Explore Popular Resources](#)

<https://nrd.gov/>

DOD - Office of Financial Readiness: VA Caregiver Support Program: TRICARE: milConnect:
VA-The U.S. National Archives & Records Administration: - National Veterans Financial
Resource Center: Defense Manpower Data Center: , Defense Finance Accounting Service

Come on out to the Seward VFW on the 22nd of the month in 2024!

Please note:

Buddy Check will now be at the Seward VFW. Buddy Check will NOT be held at Bottle Rocket. Bottle Rocket has been good to us, and we thank them for the great support they have been giving us. Over the past few months we've been discussing the pros and cons of moving Buddy Check to the VFW. We found that there are more pros to this than cons.

I plan to be ready to serve at 1900. We'll break a little bread, and talk about what needs to be talked about.

243 S 9th St, Seward, NE 68434

[#buddycheck](#) [#SuicideAwareness](#) [#Stop22](#) @followers



**A new employment opportunity has been posted to the Nebraska
Department of Revenue's website:**

[Law Clerk -1](#) - Lincoln (closing date - 5/31/2024)

[Revenue Senior Agent](#) - Lincoln (closing date - 04/19/2024)

[Rev Operations Supervisor II](#) - Lincoln (closing date - 04/12/2024)

[Revenue Operations Clerk I](#) - Lincoln (closing date - 04/09/2024)

[Office Technician](#) - Lincoln (closing date - 03/28/2024)

[Attorney III](#) - Lincoln and Omaha (closing date - continuous)

[Compliance Revenue Agent](#) - Various (closing date - continuous)

[Revenue Operations Clerk II](#) - Lincoln (closing date - continuous)

[Revenue Operations Analyst II](#) - Lincoln (closing date - continuous)

[Revenue Auditor](#) - Lincoln, Norfolk, Kearney, Omaha, or North Platte (closing date - continuous)

[Taxpayer Assistance Revenue Agent](#) - Lincoln (closing date - continuous)

Apply to statejobs.nebraska.gov or 1526 K Street, Suite 100, Lincoln, NE 68508, or your local Workforce Development Office.

NE State Personnel

Special Accommodations

Under ADA and/or to

Apply call: 402-471-2075

EEO/AA/VET

(TDD Calls Only: 402-471-4693)



Trout stockings continue across state

It's spring, and that means great fishing. Especially for trout, as Nebraska Game and Parks has been busy stocking these fish at public waters across the state. Most stockings took place in March, but there are still some trout releases planned for April.

Brush up on your morel hunting skills

Morel season in Nebraska is right around the corner — are you ready? Visit our website to brush up on your morel hunting skills.

Additional incentives offered for CRP signups

[Explore opportunities for early spring wildlife watching](#)

BY Jerry Kane ON Mar 12, 2024

Spring has come early, and there are many wildlife-watching opportunities. Bird migration is underway, and other animals will also take advantage of the warm weather.

The following are some opportunities to see wildlife in March and April.

Sandhill crane viewing

Witness one of the world's greatest wildlife viewing spectacles: sandhill crane migration. More than half a million cranes descend on central Nebraska each spring to rest and refuel before continuing their journey north.. Resources like viewing platforms and tours are available.

Northern painted turtles

Warm weather is great news for the northern painted turtle, Nebraska's most-seen turtle, which cannot produce its own body heat like mammals can. Normally from March throughout the summer, you can spot these turtles sunning themselves on rocks and logs along the edge of ponds and lakes.

Greater prairie-chickens

When displaying for a mate, greater prairie chickens put on quite a show. They stamp, strut, leap, whirl, and inflate bright orange air sacs on their necks.

Ringneck snakes

Reaching about the length of a ruler, ringneck snakes are some of Nebraska's smallest snakes. They are also one of the first snakes to emerge from hibernation in Nebraska.

Shorebirds

Shorebirds are worldwide travelers – and they can be seen in Nebraska. “Even though we're not a coastal state, the diversity of shorebirds that we are able to see here rivals any coastal state,” said Joel Jorgensen, nongame bird program manager for Nebraska Game and Parks.

Boreal chorus frogs

Have you ever heard the call of a boreal chorus frog? Their song has been described as the sound of someone running their fingers over a fine-toothed comb.

Sharp-tailed grouse

Take the opportunity this spring to watch the incredible courtship displays of sharp-tailed grouse. Males will rapidly stamp their feet, rattle their tail feathers, spin in circles and utter cooing sounds to attract a mate. This activity happens primarily in April, mostly north of the Platte River.

American white pelican

" During peak migration, you may be lucky to see several hundred at a large Nebraska lake. "

For additional tips on wildlife watching in Nebraska, visit [OutdoorNebraska.gov/learn/watch-wildlife](https://outdoornebraska.gov/learn/watch-wildlife).

Read More News

<https://outdoornebraska.gov/about/press-events/news/>



WHO WE ARE

Join Today: <https://teamrwb.org/>

Team RWB is a community of veterans, service members, military families, and supporters, united by teamwork, shared values, and a common goal.

We help veterans lead healthier lives through fitness events, training, and programs

“Team RWB has been helping to keep me in the “game.” I don’t feel alone to continue my journey in life and I’m around others who are caring about their wellbeing while sharing commonalities around health and wellness. I’m so grateful for this community!”

— TREY-SHAWN P., ARMY VETERAN

[Team RWB encourages Veterans to stay connected, stay active](#)

[Find free local events with Team RWB's new app](#)

[Maybe this is why people don't talk about physical health for Veterans?](#)

[Team Red, White and Blue connects Veterans to their communities with social and physical activities](#)

[Reaching out to Veterans where they listen](#)

[Join the journey: Help carry Old Glory across the country](#)

[Purple Heart Day August 7: Honoring Those Wounded or Killed While Serving](#)

[How technology supports Veterans' health and wellness](#)

[Functional fitness is for every Veteran](#)

[Team RWB to engage Veterans, supporters through Marching Orders movement challenge](#)

[Afghanistan Response: The power of community](#)

[Team RWB Old Glory Relay 2021: Veterans, supporters to carry American flag through 62-day journey](#)

[Veterans get new chance to serve on vaccination campaign](#)

[Team RWB Invites You to Accept The 1776 Challenge!](#)

[Borne the Battle #193: Mike Erwin, Army Veteran, Team RWB Founder](#)

[VetResources Facebook Live shares resources for Veterans, families, caregivers and survivors](#)

[Maybe this is why people don't talk about physical health for Veterans?](#)



The [Army](#) has officially fielded its brand-new Next Generation Squad Weapon rifles to its first unit, bringing an end to the service's decades-long effort to replace its [M4](#) and [M16](#) family of military firearms.

Army Futures Command announced Thursday that soldiers from 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, at [Fort Campbell](#), Kentucky, accepted delivery of the XM7 Next Generation Rifle and XM250 Next Generation Automatic Rifle ahead of training in April. Produced by firearm maker Sig Sauer, the XM7 is intended to replace the M4 carbine in close combat formations, while the XM250 will replace the [M249 Squad Automatic Weapon](#), or [SAW](#). Both new rifles are chambered in 6.8 mm to provide improved range and lethality against enemy body armor.

Read Next: [2 Fort Carson Soldiers Injured in Second Apache Helicopter Crash in 48 Hours](#)

The Next Generation Squad Weapon series also includes the XM157 Fire Control smart scope, [built by Vortex Optics](#), which integrates advanced technologies such as a laser range finder, ballistic calculator and digital display overlay into a next-generation rifle optic.

The fielding "is a culmination of a comprehensive and rigorous process of design, testing and feedback, all of which were led by soldiers," Col. Jason Bohannon, manager of soldier lethality for the Program Executive Office Soldier project, said in a statement. "As a result, the Army is delivering on its promise to deliver to soldiers the highest-quality, most-capable small-caliber weapons and ammunition."

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/03/29/army-has-finally-fielded-its-next-generation-squad-weapons.html>



***What we do:** <https://ateaseusa.org/>*

We support active military, veterans and more with confidential, research-supported, cost-effective treatment for [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\)](#). We're excited to share that our organization has earned a 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency with Candid!

At Ease USA was founded in 2009 in response to the lack of wounded warriors getting the treatment needed upon their return home.

At Ease USA (AEU) is committed to providing access to confidential trauma treatment and therapeutic support for active military, veterans and their loved ones, regardless of their ability to pay. AEU complements existing services offered by military and veterans organizations, with a focus on the elimination of barriers to treatment for those suffering from the effects of deployment and the uncertainty of war.

Programs

Behavioral Health Services

Vets 4 Vets Peer Support Group

Peer Support Services

[Omaha](#) [North Platte](#)

Virtual Military Spouse & Caregiver Support Group

Virtual Women's Vets 4 Vets

Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) group

Trauma-Informed Yoga

Buddy Check

<https://ateaseusa.org/programs/>

Veterans / Military

[How We Can Help](#)

[PTSD Resources](#)

[Find a Provider](#)

We support active military, veterans and more with confidential, research-supported, cost-effective treatment for [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\)](#).

Healthcare Workers

[How We Can Help](#)

[PTSD Resources](#)

[Find a Provider](#)

Mental Health Practitioners

Nebraska Provider Roster <https://ateaseusa.org/our-providers/>

Contact us

At Ease USA

10605 Burt Circle

Omaha, NE 68114

[531.247.4040](tel:531.247.4040)

[Mon-Fri: 8am - 5pm](#)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

[1.800.273.TALK \(8255\)](tel:1.800.273.TALK)

[Emergency 988 suicide and crisis lifeline](#)

[Live Online Chat](#)

American Legion Post 211 & Auxiliary Unit 362, Elkhorn/West Omaha NE

Favorites · [2d](#) ·

We welcome people who wish to start an Elkhorn/West Omaha "Sons of the Legion."

Sons of The American Legion - Detachment of Nebraska

[3d](#) ·

Are you still without a 2024 membership card? Take ownership of your membership today and renew online. Visit the website <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/SAL-Renew> or scan the QR code below and it will take you to the renewal page for the Sons of The American Legion.

Continue to honor the one who qualifies you! [#representingmorethanme](#) [#SALSTRONG](#)

[#proudpossessors](#) [#NEsons](#) [#membershipmatters](#) [#youmatter](#)

Welcome to American Legion Millard Post 374

13913 S St, Omaha, NE 68137

Map of millard american legion

Located in: Millard Plaza

Success of the American Legion and all its posts, including Post 374, depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the men and women it serves and the communities in which it thrives.

About

The American Legion Post 374 in Millard, Nebraska, along with its SAL, Auxiliary, Legion Riders, Honor Guard and Color Guard Programs, strive every day to strengthen the "Four Pillars of the American Legion". Post 374 and its family of programs support Legion Baseball, organize charity fundraisers, provide comfort items to veterans living in Nebraska veterans homes, participate in local parades and ceremonies and honor fallen comrades at funerals and memorial events. Success of the American Legion and all its posts depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism.

Post 374 Legion Family

Sons of the American Legion - men of all ages whose parents/grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership

Auxiliary - honors the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

Legion Riders - "The Legion Family" who share an interest in motorcycling.

Nebraska Rural Farmers Market Handbook

To view this publication in Spanish, [click here](#).

Are you considering implementing a farmers market in your community? Do you want to improve your farmers market outreach?

The Nebraska Farmers Market Manager Handbook brings together ideas, inspiration, and insight from farmers markets across Nebraska. It is the culmination of research, hands-on experience, and interviews with market managers, vendors, and professionals.

Download this toolkit for advice and inspiration from Nebraska's farmers markets.

Markets began as a way to do business but have evolved into a way to connect people with their communities, food producers, and the land that surrounds them.

<https://www.cfra.org/ne-farmers-market-handbook?emci=8b918ed7-4aec-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&emdi=9e918ed7-4aec-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&ceid=3524086>

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EVENTS

Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs

NDVA Calendar of Events

Every month, NDVA sends out a calendar of events that the agency will be hosting or attending. Below are some upcoming events.

April

- April 2-3 - Veterans Claims Clinic - Christensen Field, Fremont, NE
 - April 19 - CoffeeHaus - Auld Pavilion, Lincoln, NE
 - April 22 - Buddy Check - The Mill Coffee & Bistro at Nebraska Innovation Campus, Lincoln, N
-

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APRIL, 27TH 2024 | 6:00 PM
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THE DAY OF THE GAME
OR
SCAN QR CODE BELOW



Only at 16130 Evans St., Omaha For
AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY - ELKHORN
CARING & SHARING DAY

HELP SUPPORT THE
LEGION FAMILY WORK
VETERANS, MILITARY
FAMILIES & YOUTH
**DRIVE THRU
OR
DINE-IN!**

**SATURDAY
APRIL 20
11 AM - 9 PM**

Grab Family and Friends— Join us at
Don & Millie's! Twenty Percent (20%) of
Every \$\$ Spent on Great Food/Drink will
Help Fund Area Programs.
Order Online: [https://
donandmillies.com/locations/](https://donandmillies.com/locations/)
and pick up the food too!

**YOU MUST
TELL
THE CASHIER
You Are There For
THE
AMERICAN
LEGION &
AUXILIARY**

**REGISTER TO WIN A PATRIOTIC
BASKET PRIZE DRAWING!**
Name: _____
Phone: _____ or
Email: _____

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/150266289118867/permalink/1624369508375197/?mibextid=W9rl1R>



Our 4th Patriotic Parade is Saturday morning, May 25, in downtown Omaha. Draws 10,000. The mission is honoring Gold Star families, promoting patriotism and reminding people of the importance of Decoration Day, now Memorial Day. [

The Nebraska Remembering Our Fallen exhibit is the photos of the native sons and daughters of NE lost in Iraq and Afghanistan. It has been traveling the state since its unveiling on January 2, 2011, and has been seen by thousands. Until COVID hit, it was booked every week since its unveiling. Requires 40 feet and must be displayed indoors. Let us know if you are interested in booking it. The local fee is \$500, and there is no contract or deposit. www.patrioticproductions.org](<http://www.patrioticproductions.org/>). Thanks for considering it. Bill and Evonne Williams www.patrioticproductions.org Facebook.com/PatrioticProductions 402-612-0210

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