

BENNINGTON (BUZZ)

Bennington to Host Free E-bike, E-scooter and Bicycle Safety Event

By Marisa Dawson, Courtesy Graphic

As electric-powered devices become increasingly common, the city is hosting "Ride Smart. Ride Safe." from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 24, at the Bennington Fire Department. The free event focuses on e-devices and traditional bicycles, with speakers from partner agencies to answer questions and share information. DCSO's Bike Patrol Unit will also do a drunk-goggles demonstration.

Mayor Clint Adams said the primary goal is education and prevention. "We want to help kids, parents and all riders better understand how to safely operate bicycles, e-scooters and other similar devices while sharing our streets and sidewalks

responsibly," he said. "I hope families leave with a better understanding of both the responsibilities and the risks that come with these devices. They can be a great way to get around and have fun, but they also require good judgment, awareness, and respect for others."

Police Chief Andrew Hilscher emphasized the focus is safety: "It's only about safety and keeping the kids and drivers safe... We are all on the same page on public safety." Adams added that technology and regulations are changing quickly, and the event is about information rather than lecturing. A limited supply of helmets will be available for kids who do not have one.

RIDE SMART. RIDE SAFE.

E-BIKE | E-SCOOTER | E-MOTO | BIKE

BENNINGTON E-BIKE, E-SCOOTER, E-MOTO, AND BIKE PUBLIC EVENT

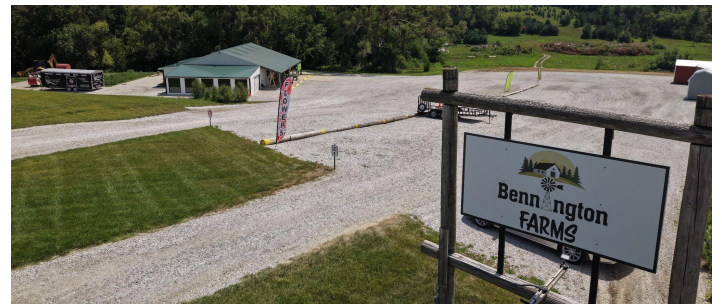
AUGUST 24TH 2026

BENNINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
10801 N 156TH ST
BENNINGTON, NE 68007

5 P.M. - 7 P.M.

Bennington Farms: A New Chapter for a Familiar Place

By Enrique Freed, Photos by Ethan Nguyen



Just north of Highway 36 near 161st Street, the building long known as Bennington Pines, where families once chose Christmas trees, is now Bennington Farms, a mercantile and farmer's market owned by Jeff and Jen Vollmer that opened on Mother's Day weekend. The couple drew inspiration from mom-and-pop shops they visited while traveling.

"We just kind of winged it and incorporated different aspects from all the shops we have visited over the years," said Jeff. They wanted to keep things local: "We live out here on an acreage and we hate driving into Maple for everything. So, we wanted to

incorporate a little bit of everything here." The store carries golf apparel, produce, plants, clothing, toys, crafts, groceries, gluten-free options, pies, meats, homemade soaps, sourdough, candles, ice cream and more coming soon.

"It's very important to support local, we are not backed by a corporation with deep pockets. ... We are not just doing it for our family; we are doing it for everyone in the community," Jeff said. "We hope everyone leaves the store happy with what they took home and their bellies are full!" Hours are Monday-Friday 12-6 p.m. and weekends 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; they plan to stay open year-round.

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August 10, 2026 Board of Education Meeting Recap

By Stacy Hawn, Bennington Public Schools

The Board received reports on elementary, middle and high school overviews, Student Services, Operations, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Transportation/Facilities, and Summer School. Dr. Plas updated the board on the Synergy Transition, start-of-year items, the NASB Area Membership Meeting and the budget timeline. Summer maintenance progress

included completed concrete repairs across the district and carpet replacement at Pine Creek Elementary; HVAC replacement at Bennington Elementary is nearly finished, with rooftop units installed and wireless thermostats still underway.

The Board approved a new 10-passenger van for \$62,888 and protective netting plus a canopy for the BHS tennis

courts for \$56,325 to improve safety once boys tennis begins alongside softball. Enrollment projections show the high school reaching 115% capacity by 2027-28, while elementary schools are projected at 90% by 2031-32; middle schools still have room to grow.

second high school Bennington South High School. It will open in 2028-29 with grades 9-11 (adding grade 12 the next year) to ease pressure at Bennington High School and allow current seniors to finish there. Attendance boundaries are expected in fall 2027.

The Board named the district's



Bennington City Council Approves Multiple Agenda Items in August

By Marisa Dawson

The Bennington City Council on Aug. 10 approved an amendment for additional commercial flex space in the McGregor Brae development (allowing two owners, five buildings instead of four, and about 140 parking stalls), authorized the Founder's Day street closure for Saturday, Sept. 26, and advanced a Recreational Trails and Parks grant application for the roughly \$329,000 Heritage Trail segment. Other items included a net-deduction change order for sanitary sewer improvements, a pay application for the Bennington Road bridge repairs (now reopened), and updates on Neumeyer Farm Park Phase 2 bids and the draft street plan.

Megan Detjens of the Chamber's Founder's Day committee received approval for the closure covering South Molley Street and Second Street for the farmers market,

beer garden, live music, cornhole, barbecue contest and possible Huskers watch party. The trail grant (maximum request \$250,000) would build an ADA-compliant non-motorized segment from the 156th Street bridge past the fire department into the Heritage subdivision. OPPD also updated the council on its Integrated Systems Plan and asked leaders to flag potential large users.

Public comments covered vehicle and scooter speeds on 158th, property maintenance, and clearer e-scooter rules. Staff will evaluate speed-calming measures and noted MAPA is studying regional approaches. The meeting also included budget discussion (including possible Keno funds for a near-new police cruiser) and a joint city-school board conversation earlier that evening.

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Backstreet's Back, and so are the '90s: Girl Scouts Celebrate New Season

By Marisa Dawson



The Bennington Girl Scouts took a nostalgic trip back to the 1990s on Sunday, filling the library with colorful activities, crafts and opportunities for local girls and families to learn more about scouting. The event was designed both as fun for current members and as a recruitment opportunity;



Scout Leader Rana Forrest said the group is trying to start six new troops, one for each elementary school including Legacy.

"GSUSA constantly says, you have to pull the attention, bright colors, fun activities," Forrest said. "And we're like,



we want the fun for the parents too. We all love the 90s!" The theme featured a Game Boy photo prop, time machine, Lisa Frank station, Guess Who, video games and more, with help from organizers Ashley Rongish and Phylcia Robertson. "Girl Scouts is all about giving opportunities to girls," Forrest said. "The more opportunities out there for girls, the more they're gonna flourish. ... But most of all, what do you want to do? And we will support you going there."

Forrest emphasized that Girl Scouts are active in Bennington and that connectedness helps preserve the small-town feel. Girls can join at any time; additional opportunities include a free DreamLab Back to School Rally on Aug. 22. "A lot of people forget that Girl Scouts are in Bennington," she said. "We are here and we are very active."



Molly Hoge Named to Forbes Top Next-Gen Wealth Advisors in NE

By Marisa Dawson, Courtesy Photos

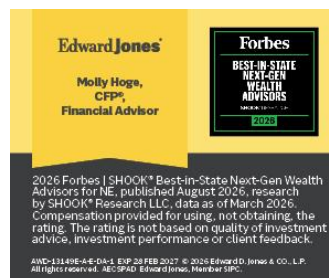
Local financial advisor Molly Hoge ranked No. 8 in Nebraska on the 2026 Forbes | SHOOK Best-in-State Next-Gen Wealth Advisors list, which recognizes advisors age 40 and younger with at least four years of experience. Hoge, who serves clients from her new Edward Jones office in Bennington, said the recognition is meaningful because of the relationships she has built.

"It's an incredible honor to be recognized on a national scale," Hoge said. "I'm grateful for the trust my clients place in me and for the support I've received from our community. ... Many of the families I serve have introduced me to their friends and loved ones. My

business has grown through those referrals and long-term relationships. That's something I'm especially proud of, because it means the work we're doing together is making a positive difference in their lives."

She helps clients navigate competing goals such as retirement, supporting family, taxes and lifestyle by looking at the full picture. "My goal is to help clients make informed decisions and feel confident that their financial plan supports the life they want to live." As a next-generation advisor she values the chance to guide clients through many life stages: "There's something really rewarding about serving multiple generations of a

family and being a trusted resource as their needs evolve over time."



Molly Hoge's office is at 8053 N. 157th St.; call 402-403-3713.



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BENNINGTON ((BUZZ)) SPORTS

Bennington Buffaloes Bring Home Medals From Special Olympics Games

By Marisa Dawson, Courtesy Photos

Four Bennington Buffalo unified softball teams traveled to Lincoln on August 7 for the Special Olympics Nebraska Fall Games, returning home with two gold medals, a silver and a bronze. For the Buffaloes, the weekend was about much more than medals—it was an opportunity for athletes and unified partners to compete together, support one another and celebrate each other's successes. Special Olympics Nebraska approved the use of a softer "Incrediball" for three teams so more athletes could

play traditional games; those teams (Buffalo Thunder, Trailblazers and Chargers) competed against one another, while the Buffalo Stampede used a standard slow-pitch ball and also finished first.

"They all wanted to play a couple of games!!" said Jennifer Hammer, head of the Bennington Buffaloes. "Seeing these individuals work so hard at practice and even harder at the tournament, the medals around their necks were super special. I know the majority of them have a ton of medals at



home from previous years and events, but every time they earn one, it's like it's their first!" Athletes and partners highlighted hitting, competing with friends, the joy and smiles, and the supportive atmosphere. "We are a family!" Hammer exclaimed. "Even if we were competing against each other, they were all supportive and exhibited the best sportsmanship."

"Unified sports give opportunities for both athletes and partners to learn what inclusion really means," she

said. "They celebrate the good and are concerned when things are not going right or tough. It's more than just about competing, it's truly a family that cares for each other." The program has grown significantly and is preparing for unified bowling, cornhole, flag football and soccer. "The Bennington Buffalo are here to stay!" Hammer said. "Our family continues to grow and would love the community's support. Become a fan! Become a coach! Become a unified partner! Become a donor! We are all stronger together!"



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