

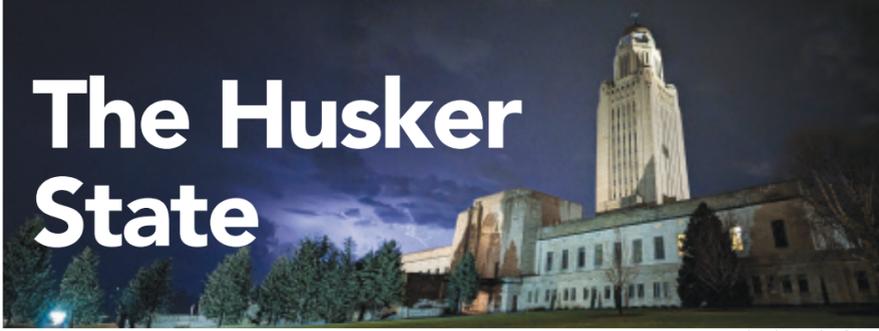


The Mini Page

Issue 05, 2026

Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:
Counting the birds



The Husker State

Nebraska, a midwestern state, was the 37th state admitted to the Union, on March 1, 1867. On its eastern edge, Nebraska is mostly bordered by the Missouri River.



Early Nebraska

Native American tribes, including the Omaha, Ponca, Pawnee and Sioux, lived in the area for thousands of years. Europeans traded with the native people through the 1700s, and in the mid-1800s, the United States established the Nebraska Territory, which included parts of what is now Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana.

Later, Native Americans were forced to give up their land and move to reservations, opening up the region for American settlement.

When African Americans started moving north in the late 1800s, Nebraska offered jobs in railroads, meat-packing and other industries. Since then, it has been a center for civil rights activism.

Living in Nebraska

Farming is important to the state, with people raising beef, pork, wheat, corn (maize), soybeans and sorghum. Many large companies are also headquartered in Nebraska, including

Cabela's, Union Pacific Railroad and insurance company Mutual of Omaha.

Nebraska is the only state that has a **unicameral** legislature, which means it has just one house. Legislators are called senators, and they are officially **nonpartisan**. In other words, when they run for office, they have no party affiliation with Democrats or Republicans.

Husker fun

Nebraska is known as the Cornhusker State. The University of Nebraska Cornhuskers football team has a loyal fan base, with Memorial Stadium selling out all its 85,000 seats for every game since 1962.

Nebraskans also love to explore the state's natural wonders, such as the Sandhills, a large area of sand dunes in north-central Nebraska. Others enjoy canoeing on the rivers crossing the state or visiting Chimney Rock, a landmark that weary travelers watched for as they navigated the Oregon and Mormon Trails. When they sighted this sandstone hill, they knew they were about halfway through their 2,000-mile journey.



Sandhills as seen from space.

Mini Fact:

The Nebraska state capitol building is in Lincoln.

Famous Huskers

- William Cody, or **Buffalo Bill**, started his famous Wild West Show near his home in North Platte. Experts believe this was the first true rodeo in America.



Buffalo Bill Cody
1846-1917

He got his nickname because he was so skilled at hunting buffalo. He also rode for the Pony Express, drove horses for wagon trains and later helped found Cody, Wyoming.

- **Red Cloud** was the chief of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) tribe that followed the buffalo across the Great Plains. He won important treaties protecting his people's land. He later became an important diplomat from the Lakota to the U.S. government.



Chief Red Cloud
1822-1909

Unfortunately, the U.S. later broke many of their treaties. This proud leader died on a reservation.

- Kool-Aid was invented by **Edwin Perkins** in 1927 in Hastings. He changed his soft drink syrup, Fruit Smack, into a powder to make it easier to ship. Today, Kool-Aid is Nebraska's state soft drink.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/48PhMhK

At the library:

- "Buffalo Bill: Boy of the Plains" by Augusta Stevenson

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Nebraska are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ACTIVISM, BUFFALO BILL, CHIMNEY, CORNHUSKER, FARM, FOOTBALL, KOOLAID, LINCOLN, MIDWEST, NEBRASKA, NONPARTISAN, OMAHA, RED CLOUD, RESERVATION, SANDHILLS, SIOUX, UNICAMERAL.

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

Cook's Corner

Nebraska Corn Casserole

You'll need:

- 1 (15-ounce) can of corn, drained
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 cup milk
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour

- 1 1/2 cups breadcrumbs
- 2 eggs, beaten



What to do:

1. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Mix well.
2. Pour into a greased 9-by-9-inch casserole dish.
3. Bake in a preheated 425-degree oven for 30 to 40 minutes. Serves 4.

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. it turns the light on (6) _____
2. make clean and shiny (6) _____
3. "Youth" singer Shawn (6) _____
4. shocked (9) _____
5. what a dog wags (4) _____
6. bad news at the dentist (6) _____
7. crime solver (9) _____

ITY	PRI	MEN	TA
SUR	SWI	DET	POL
ISH	IVE	CAV	ECT
IL	SED	DES	TCH

Answers: switch, polish, Mendes, surprised, tail, cavity, detective.

Mini Jokes



Nelson: What rank did the ear of corn reach in the Army?

Nancy: Kernel!

Niles: What does a baby corn call his dad?

Nina: Pop-corn!

Eco Note



A new study finds that the giant seaweed bloom stretching across the Atlantic Ocean near the equator has surged in mass to about 42 million tons, a 40% jump from 2022, while a centuries-old sargassum patch farther north is rapidly shrinking. Researchers say shifting climate conditions are driving the change, with warming seas, Amazon River floods, African dust and wildfire smoke acting as fertilizers. The expanding Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt continues to foul beaches in the Caribbean, Mexico and parts of Florida. Meanwhile, the northern Sargasso Sea patch has declined since 2015, as marine heat waves push water temperatures too high for healthy growth.

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For later:

Look in your local newspaper for news about farmers in Nebraska.

Wonderword Puzzle Books

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