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Official publication of the Lexington Clipper-Herald in cooperation with the Elwood Chamber of Commerce and the Johnson Lake Chamber of Commerce

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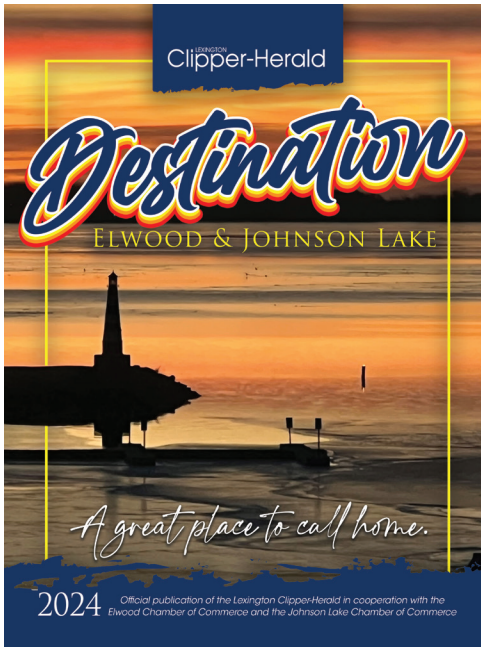
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Table of Contents



	ABOUT THE COVER	16	PRAISE & WORSHIP
	A sunset shot of Johnson Lake courtesy of Ryan Pickel of Elm Creek, Nebraska.		Chapel at the Lake and Local Church Directory
3-4	MAP	17	SERVING YOU FOR LIFE
	Full Fold-out map of Johnson Lake and Elwood Reservoir		New life-saving devices installed at Johnson Lake
6-7	HISTORY OF ELWOOD	18	ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS
	Welcome to North Platte.		State Recreational Areas
8-11	HISTORY OF JOHNSON LAKE	20-22	YOU'LL HAVE A GREAT TIME
	An abridged history		Check out some of Elwood & Johnson Lake's Attractions
12	A HOME AWAY FROM HOME	24	HOME OF THE PIRATES
	Check out these Rental Homes available at Johnson Lake		See what Elwood Public Schools has to offer for your student
13	A WALK IN THE WOODS	25	FUN & ENTERTAINMENT
	Johnson Lake Hiking & Biking Trails including a detailed map		Elwood & Johnson Lake Calendar of Events for 2024
14	WHERE FITNESS NEVER SLEEPS	26-29	BUSINESS DIRECTORIES
	Family Physical Therapy & Fitness Center is a hidden gem at Johnson Lake		A list of Chamber Members for Elwood and Johnson Lake



BARB FOSS, NP



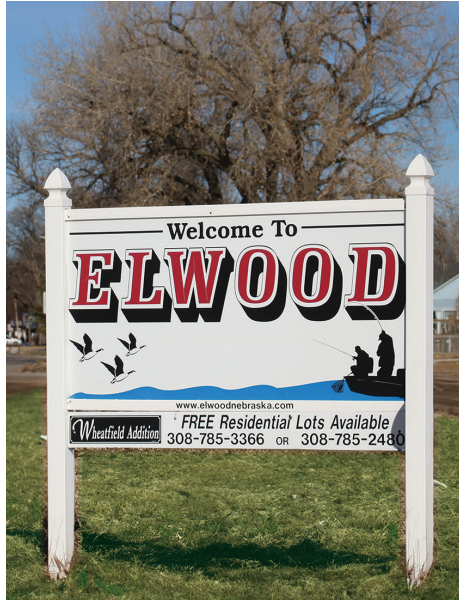
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THE HISTORY OF Elwood, Nebraska



The town of Elwood, the Gosper County seat and home to Johnson Lake and the Elwood Reservoir, is surrounded by lush pastures filled with cattle and table-like irrigated fields full of grain. It is hard to imagine how the area appeared in May 1885 when the railroad and land company decided to start a town at this location.

Elwood became a terminal for the railroad when a roundhouse was built on

the west edge of the town. People flocked to the area and began to build homes and businesses. Soon, a clamor rose to move the Gosper County seat away from the “current” community of Homerville, an inland town that had been by-passed by the railroad, to the up-and-coming village of Elwood. Ultimately, Elwood was selected as the Gosper County seat. The buildings and homes in

Homerville were moved nine miles north, across the hills to Elwood.

The population of Elwood steadily rose, and then took a jump in 1940 when the town was filled with construction workers building Johnson Lake and the irrigation canal system that is now Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District. Irrigation brought with it the ability to weather droughts. Agriculture income

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remains the primary base of the community.

Downtown Elwood was and still is the hub of the community. From the cooperative grocery store, banks, and gas stations, to the medical clinic and insurance businesses, there is always something going on. Elwood boasts many businesses, including a convenience store and motel, a senior center that provides

lunches for folks of any age, several retail businesses, and a caring and well-staffed care center/assisted living center. This small town with humble beginnings is still a close-knit and proud community.

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THE HISTORY OF Johnson Lake, Nebraska



An Abridged History of Johnson Lake by Jeff Buettner, Government & Public Relations Manager, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District

The area now covered by Johnson Lake was once a low-lying basin surrounded by gently sloping hills. The land, used mostly for pasturing livestock, was dotted with a few structures, including a rural school house (known as the Antelope School) and a couple farmsteads.

The construction of The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's huge irrigation and hydroelectric project -- anchored by Kingsley Dam and Lake McConaughy and spanning Nebraska from Keith County to Adams County-- began in 1936 and would change the landscape in the area.

During the surveying process that preceded construction, Central's engineers determined that a site southeast of Lexington was ideally suited for construction of a regulating reservoir and two hydroplants.

Construction of the dam on the south side of the basin began in 1939 and was completed in 1940. Soon after, water from Lake McConaughy was diverted from the Platte River below the city of North Platte into Central's 75.6-milelong Supply Canal and the process of filling Johnson Lake for the first time began. When full, the lake covered 2,230 surface acres within 13 miles of shoreline and held almost 50,000 acrefeet of water (enough water to cover 50,000 acres with 12 inches of water). In places, the water reached depths of more than 50 feet.

The lake was named for George E. Johnson, Central's chief engineer. Johnson played a vital role in the promotion and design of the project from 1915 until its approval in 1935. He then became chief engineer and general manager of the project during its construction and subsequent operation.

The lake that bears his name is an important component of Central's project. As a regulating reservoir for the Johnson No. 1 and Johnson No. 2 (J-1 and J-2) Hydroplants, the lake converts

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the uniform flow in the canal above the reservoir into the variable flow required by the hydroplants. A.C. Tilley, who succeeded Johnson as Central's general manager in 1947, said the lake also serves as a secondary source of water in case of a "calamity" along the Supply Canal that might interrupt the flow of water to the hydroplants as well as a ready source of irrigation water for almost 50,000 acres of farmland along the Phelps Canal when irrigation demand suddenly increases. Tilley added that the lake can also serve as a "catch basin" for flows in the Supply Canal when rain storms temporarily halt demand for irrigation water.

Development of that potential started slowly. The large body of water that gradually appeared in the lake turned the minds of many in neighboring towns to the possibility of recreational development. A number of area sportsmen, including Neil Shreck of Bertrand, Claude Smith and Judge J.S. Fitzsimmons of Elwood (Smith and Fitzsimmons were original members of Central's board of directors) and a Mr. Bracken from Lexington, formed a wildlife preservation committee to make Johnson Lake "a spot to be enjoyed by everyone who desires to use it." Included in the committee's plans were a public boat dock and beautification plans for the shoreline that would include tree and shrub planting.

By 1950, boats were common on the lake, but almost all were small wooden or aluminum fishing boats powered by five and ten-horsepower motors. By the early '60's, larger crafts constructed of fiberglass with 50- and 60-hp motors were seen much more frequently on the lake. The experience of owning a cabin at the lake was simply not complete without a boat, and the number of boats swelled rapidly during the 1960's. As evidence, a group of cabin owners from Grand Island cooperated on construction of a boat dock that extended two blocks out



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into the lake and could accommodate as many as 32 boats.

During the first several years of the lake's existence, Central permitted only one "concession stand" at the lake, an establishment operated by a Mr. Remmenga from Elwood. The business was located on the east side of the lake on the site of what is now known as Medo's Resort. Butch and Ellen Stevens later acquired the lease and operated Stevens Cabins until selling it to Allen and Naomi Hudson in 1957. The Hudsons operated the business as Johnson Lake Resort until 1963 when Harry and Reba Collins acquired and operated the facility as Collins Resort. The Collins in turn sold the resort to Clinton and Roesetha Mutchie in 1968. Ownership then passed to Elmer Bergman (Bergman's Resort), Greg Medo, and then Shannon and Stafford Thompson, before returning to Medo in 2002.

The Nebraska State Game, Forestation and Parks Commission (now known as the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission) first stocked the lake with game fish in 1941, although fishing was prohibited for the first year to allow the fish to grow and reproduce. Fishing became instantly popular when it was first permitted on July 1, 1942. The first true "cabin" on the lake was reportedly constructed by S.E. Salisbury in 1942. It was described as a one-room, wood-frame building on Sandy Point. Cliff Hurliss and Dr. G.V. Reynolds of Overton claimed in a 1965 newspaper article to have placed the second permanent structure at the lake in the early 1940's. The home was moved from Overton to a site adjacent to what is now Crappie Corner. "A mighty deserted-looking area then," according to Dr. Reynolds. "No trees, no water, no plumbing, just a simple cabin on a sandy knoll."

More cabins soon followed, their owners coming from longer distances despite the difficulties posed by gasoline rationing. After the war ended and resources again became available, the pace of development increased. The boom in cabin-building was said to have started in about 1950 and a cabin sprung up on almost every available and suitable lot. By 1964 there were 548 cabins on the lake's shore, ranging from one-room structures to more elaborate homes costing as much as \$15,000. The number of cabins surpassed 600 by 1966 and another 36 lots in the North Cove, North Shore and Perch Bay areas were ready for development in 1969. Interest was unabated as more than 400 applications were entered into a lottery for the three dozen lots.

By 1971 the number of cabins exceeded 700 and many cabin-owners had taken up year-round residence at the lake. Today homes and cabins entirely encircle the lake and number above 900. Development of the cabin areas was overseen by the Johnson Lake Development, Inc., which was formed in 1941. Central -- its agenda dominated by the task of operating its fledgling power and irrigation project, facing an exploding demand for irrigation water and electricity, and hampered by a shortage of manpower and recreational expertise -- leased Johnson, Plum Creek and Gallagher Canyon lakes for development of recreational assets. The aim of the group was to appoint directors from every city in the area that might be interested in the water recreation available at the lakes. Johnson Lake soon became the destination of many fishermen, campers, boaters, swimmers and picnickers seeking relief from their cares. In 1945, Central leased 50 acres of land to the Nebraska Game, Forestations and Parks Commission for what would become the



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Johnson Lake State Recreation Area. The treeless landscape became the site of one of the state agency's first endeavors into tree-planting and the construction of its first recreation access road. A second camping area was added on the west side of the lake in the 1950's.

Water sports, particularly water skiing, began to become popular in the late 1950s and continued through the next three decades. Lake residents reported that it seemed like everyone at the lake was learning to ski in the 1960's. A project to create additional lakefront property began in 1970 with a dredging operation in the northwest corner of the lake. The result was the Lakeview Acres subdivision surrounding Mahaffie Bay.

Developers led by Virgil Eihusen of Grand Island created 169 residential and six commercial lots in the area. Subsequently, George and Delores Harder of Grand Island opened the Lakeview Marina in 1971, offering groceries, bait and tackle, as well as a cafe, laundromat,

boat slips and boat rental.

During the same time period, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission was also improving its facilities. The NGPC added three modern restrooms, six shelter houses and two change rooms to its campground on the east side of the lake in 1969 at a cost of \$25,000. Also that year, the lake was completely encircled with a paved road for the first time when 4.3 miles of asphalt was laid. Several other stretches of road around the lake had previously been paved, mostly by cabin owners who agreed to fund construction through paving assessments.

A couple of other noteworthy events in the early 1960's included the opening of a nine-hole golf course -- then known as the Lexington Golf Club -- below the dam in 1963. The owners of the Lexington golf course sold the land on which the course was situated because of construction of Interstate 80. With the money from the sale, they purchased land at Johnson Lake and built a new course. Nine more holes

were added to the course in 1990.

Over the years, cabin-owners and thousands upon thousands of campers and daily visitors have enjoyed their leisure time at Johnson Lake. From the earliest days, newspapers ran photos of fishermen with their stringers straining under the weight of the day's catch. The stories that accompanied the photos either told of the fight to land the huge catch, or recounted the inevitable story of "the big one that got away." Other photos showed sailboat regattas, water skiers, campers, picnickers, swimmers and sunbathers, all brought together by the lure of the water.

Johnson Lake continues to be one of the most popular destinations for recreation in Nebraska and a key component in the operation of Central's hydro-irrigation project. Its construction and development are a testament not only to the men who designed and built the project, but to those who realized and cultivated its potential for recreation.

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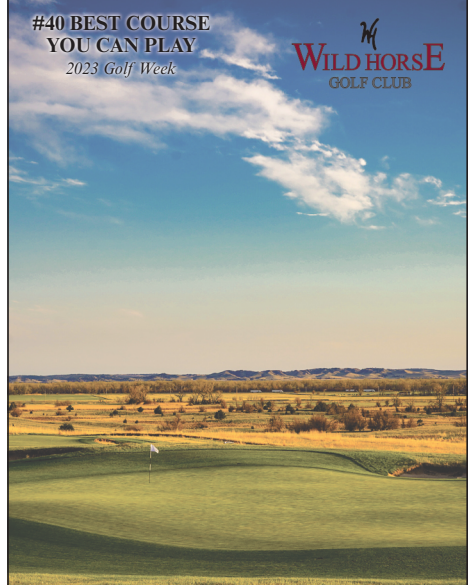
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Lake Lovers' Paradise awaits at Bonita Bay, a cozy 2-bedroom cabin that can accommodate up to 6 people, located on Johnson Lake, Nebraska. Guests only need to bring food and clothes as the cabin is abundantly furnished with everything else you'll need! Bonita Bay is located at #14 Mallard Beach, Drive #20, directly on the lake, providing access to the seasonal dock for swimming, sunbathing, fishing, and docking watercraft during the day.

Also available are kayaks, paddle board, bicycles, yard games and more! Guests often relax in the lakeside hammock, enjoying the extended patio that provides multiple tables and seating, propane grill, and firepit!

This being my 16th year renting Bonita Bay, I feel so privileged to have met so many amazing people! Most people are from all parts of Nebraska, but also from 18 different states. Several guests have gone on to purchase their own cabins once they have discovered Johnson Lake with the lifestyle and amenities the lake has to offer.

Bonita Bay is available year-round with reasonable and off-season rates. No VRBO, No Airbnb, just me – Bonnie (308) 233-7638. Visit Bonita Bay online at <http://bonitabay.rocks>.

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A WALK IN THE WOODS

Johnson Lake Trails



The Johnson Lake Trail project was first talked about in the early 2000's and the dream took shape in the years that followed. The first segment was built in 2005 and additional trail added as funding and easements were acquired. Today the trail has over 8 miles of off-road concrete pathway. The 10.3 mile circle around the lake includes segments of shared roadway on the dam and near the inlet to the lake.

The trail is designed to allow users to experience some of the various environs around the lake. There are segments that pass

through shady tree stands, follow the edge of farm fields, follow canals, or pass through nature areas. The ultimate goal is to complete the trail forming a safe and assessable circle for non-motorized recreation and transportation.

The Johnson Lake Trail is much more than just a concrete pathway. Spaced along the trail are gazebos, pergolas, and rest areas for users to enjoy. There are three Little Free Libraries and two bike repair stations along the trail. Trees, shrubs, a Nebraska-shaped pollinator garden, and flowers have been added to provide shade and color to the trail corridor. In 2020 the trail was recognized for the diversity of trees and shrubs as an affiliate to the Nebraska State Arboretum. Trailhead signs and parking areas provide access and directions for visitors to the lake. In 2023 two new playgrounds were added with access directly from the trail.

The trail is open to walkers, runners, and cyclists of all ages. Pets on leashes are welcome and bags are provided for cleaning up after your pet. Motorized wheelchairs and electric assist bikes are welcome. All other forms of motorized vehicles are not allowed. The trail provides an opportunity for residents and visitors to enjoy the beauty of Johnson Lake.



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- Park like environment with 23 rest stops with benches, 7 gazebos or pergolas, 10 parking trail heads, 3 Little Free Libraries, a pollinator garden, 6 archways, canal bridge, 2 playgrounds, and 2 bike repair stations.
- The trail connects two Nebraska Game and Parks campgrounds with water and restrooms.
- Lake amenities include rental cabins, 3 restaurants, 2 bike rental shops, swimming beach, chapel, and golf course.

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Are you tired of the same old gym routine? Look no further than Family Physical Therapy & Fitness Center! This family-owned business is a hidden gem at Johnson Lake, offering a wide range of services for all ages. They provide 24-hour gym access, athletic training, physical and occupational therapy, and medical care. They've got it all!

With their team of experienced therapists, you can get the personalized care you need to achieve your fitness goals safely and effectively. Kapra, Family PT's certified Physical Therapy Assistant, works Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Therapists are also available by appointment if Tuesday or Thursday works better for you!

Family PT's Fitness Center offers 24/7 fob access. It is equipped with new treadmills, ellipticals, bikes, free weights, and a cable machine. Monthly and annual memberships are available starting at just \$25 a month for Seniors and \$50 for Family Memberships.

Do you hate working out alone? We've got a trainer for that! Family PT offers certified athletic training one-on-one or with a buddy, whatever you prefer! Single sessions start at only \$40! The PT/Trainer Andrew provides individuals with holistic and effective personalized workouts. Schedule a session today!

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PRAISE & WORSHIP AT THE LAKE

Chapel of the Lake



The Chapel of the Lake is an interdenominational ministry at Johnson Lake. In the summer of 1962, the idea of a church to service the people who come to the lake to enjoy its many recreational activities was discussed among several cabin owners.

Fourteen persons gathered at a cabin on Sandy Point one Sunday morning for an informal service with a Methodist minister preaching from a rocking chair. As others heard of the services the interest and enthusiasm grew. For the remainder of that summer, services were held in the former Camp Fire Girls cabin on Mallard Beach with between 80 and 85 attending. Realizing the need for a permanent meeting place, a committee was formed. They purchased the original chapel building from the Latter Day Saints in Eustis. It was moved to the present location in 1963. The bell, pews and reed organ were also added that year.

The first service in the little chapel at its present location was on June 2, 1963 and was attended by 83 persons. Since that day, services have been held every summer beginning Memorial Day

weekend and continuing through the Labor Day weekend. To date, the total attendance for 59 years has reached 143,919 worshipers representing many denominations.

Worshipers come from all over Nebraska, numerous states and occasionally from countries outside the United States. Visitors are asked to register once each season and share where they reside.

Services begin at 8:30 a.m. Sunday with a guest minister bringing the message each week. In addition to the regular Sunday morning services, the Chapel is used for weddings and funerals plus numerous lake related meetings from mid-May through mid-September.

The Chapel of the Lake is supervised by the Chapel Committee whose members have included volunteers from both permanent and summer residents of the lake. Anyone wishing to use the Chapel can contact the present chairman at 308-785-2287 to discuss any rent fees and availability of the chapel.

The Chapel is self-supporting through generous weekly collections, donations

and memorials.

The Chapel Committee wishes to thank all persons who have given of their gifts, time and talents to this ministry through the years. A special THANKS goes to the ushers, the presiding laymen, the organists and those providing special music each Sunday.

Come to a service and return again to worship and enjoy the fellowship at the beautiful lake setting. After attending you will leave with a prayer in your heart thanking God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon us.

ELWOOD & JOHNSON LAKE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Chapel of the Lake Johnson Lake

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Life Saving Devices



Johnson Lake EMS and Central Nebraska Power and Irrigation installed new Life Saving devices along the canal from the inlet to the outlet. These are very visible and easy to use if a rescue is needed.

The Johnson Lake EMS volunteers are trained and certified to perform medical needs, assistance and triage to prepare the patient for transportation to the Lexington Hospital. Our motto is "Serving you for life".

Every Memorial weekend Saturday we have a walk/run event followed by a helicopter fly-in if they are available. Come and have lunch with us at noon.

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STATE RECREATIONAL AREAS

Enjoy the Great Outdoors



Johnson Lake State Recreation Area, located off of U.S. Highway 283 south of Lexington, offers guests excellent camping, fishing, water sports, and more.

The area has 112 pad camping sites with 20, 30, and 50-amp electrical hookups, modern restrooms, a shower house and dump station. All campers must register and reservations are accepted. There are 61 nonpad sites without electricity for basic camping.

Anglers will find a variety of fish, including walleye, white bass and wipers. Recent angler access improvements provide great habitat for quality fishing.

Two handicap-accessible fishing piers are available, one on the north side of the inlet and another on the south side along

with two fishing cleaning stations.

A public swim beach provides a place for families to enjoy the water close to amenities and grills for family barbecues.

New amenities at the lake include a playground at the main campground and a public archery range, which is located on the north side of the Inlet. The range is open daylight hours only and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Johnson Lake is joined with nearby Gallagher Canyon State Recreation Area, Elwood Reservoir Wildlife Management Area, Plum Creek and Phillips Canyon, which are part of the Central Irrigation District Supply Canal and all link together for great recreational opportunities.

Gallagher Canyon State Recreation Area is located south of Cozad off of Nebraska Highway 21, is a 400-acre irrigation impoundment with 24 acres of recreation land in a secluded and beautiful setting. Gallagher Canyon offers good crappie fishing in the coves, as well as channel and flathead catfish, walleye, sauger, and white bass. Gallagher Canyon has water access to more than 10 miles of the canal and is open to all boats but is in a no-wake zone. There is one boat ramp and one dock are available along with a heavily wooded campground offering 24 non-pad campsites with no electricity. Vault toilets are available. There are no showers, water or dump stations.

Elwood Reservoir Wildlife Management Area, south of Johnson Lake on U.S. Highway 283, is a hot spot for catching walleye, sauger, wiper, white bass, catfish, and northern pike. It is open year-round for fishing and many hunters have great success with waterfowl. There is no camping at Elwood Reservoir.

Amenities include a vault toilet and one boat ramp and dock. The reservoir has a 5 mph, no-wake restriction for boats. Habitat consists of a 1,330-acre reservoir and 724 adjacent acres of grassland with some wooded sites.

Visitors and residents are strongly encouraged to read and follow the Nebraska boater regulations, available at <https://outdoornebraska.gov/parks/go-boating/boat-registration-licensing>.



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Abigail Cornelius, Agent 308.530.2009

Troy Ten Bensel, Agent 308.962.6528

Richard Dawson, Broker 308.325.0839



2802 Plum Creek Parkway, Lexington
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ELWOOD & JOHNSON LAKE ATTRACTIONS

You'll Have a Great Time



Johnson Lake has been referred to as Nebraska's best-kept secret partly due to the pure enjoyment of lakeside living, but also due to the number of attractions, activities and outright outdoor fun!

The Lake offers a wide variety of on-the-water fun including boating, sailing, waterskiing, Jet Skiing® and wakeboarding. Johnson Lake is known across the region for excellent fishing (boasting some of the best walleye fishing the country), hunting and wildlife viewing.

The fun isn't all about being near or on the water. The area offers a local 18-hole golf course including 11 courses within a 50-mile radius. The hike and bike project provides residents and visitors with 7.6 miles of off-road trails at the lake.

Other attractions include two public beaches, two state campgrounds, shopping, and annual events such as the Memorial Day Community Garage Sale, local county fairs, Elwood Carnival, Fourth of July Fireworks Show, fishing tournaments, sailing regattas, Antique Shows (Lexington). Come see for yourself. We guarantee you'll have a great time!

Other year-round attractions and events going on in Gosper County:

The Annual Elwood Spring Gala, hosted by the Elwood Area Foundation,

takes place in late March every year. This elegant affair is a community fundraiser disguised as a fantastic night out. Each year, a sold-out crowd is treated to an incredible dinner, complimentary beverages, and live entertainment. Proceeds from the Gala auction are used for youth grants and grants for community projects. The House on the Hill Bed & Breakfast & Catering holds classes ranging from crafting to cooking to gardening.

In July, Gosper County increases in size as alumni, family members, and folks from neighboring communities come to Elwood to celebrate the world-famous Gosper County Fair and Rodeo. Our hometown operated, family-friendly carnival is open Thursday- Friday-Saturday from 7 p.m. to midnight, and the Rodeo is held on Thursday and Friday evenings. The carnival is full of rides and games for all ages, and includes a full concession stand. Other fair-time events include a golf scramble, sand volleyball tournament, horseshoe tournament, 4-H events and displays, free entertainment at the Civic Center bandstand, and a parade every other year on "odd" years.

Fall and winter months in Gosper County are full of sporting events, Husker

parties and good food. The Great Elwood Chili Cook-off is a bi-annual event, held on election years. The general public is invited to show off their best chili or soup; or, if you are more into eating than cooking, we invite you to come out and try all the offerings and vote on your favorite.

In December, the Elwood Chamber hosts Old Fashioned Christmas, where businesses and organizations invite the public to attend their open houses in beautiful downtown Elwood. Attendees can talk to Santa at the Gosper County Senior Center, ride on a fire truck at the Fire Hall, and be treated to endless amounts of delicious food at each stop, all while entering drawings for door prizes and Chamber Bucks. Be sure to check out the Elwood Chamber's Facebook Page or website www.elwoodnebraska.com, for the latest news on attractions in Gosper County, as well as the dates for Old Fashioned Christmas and other upcoming events.

The Johnson Lake State Recreation Area is another favorite of outdoor lovers. Ten minutes north of Elwood, Johnson Lake SRA offers excellent camping, fishing (including ice fishing) and water sports. This recreation area packs a lot of



outdoor fun in 68 acres and provides three access points to the 2,068-acre lake. It is the heart of a complex of lakes on the Tri-County Canal south of I-80 between Lexington and Cozad. It provides fine outdoor recreation opportunities, especially when joined with the nearby Gallagher Canyon SRA, Elwood Reservoir WMA, Plum Creek and Phillips Canyon.

Two Johnson Lake attractions that provide entertainment, such as karaoke and live bands, are Nautical Rose and Canyon Lakes Brewing Company. Both venues offer entertainment, craft fairs, a farmer's market, and great food and beverages. Medo's Resort is another Johnson Lake restaurant, lounge, along with a pool table and dart board for friendly competition. In addition, Medo's Resort has lakeside cabins for rent, a public boat ramp, dock, and swimming beach.

CraZy Marv's RV & Cabin Retreat offers RV pull throughs with full hook-ups, two remodeled cabins, a spacious three bedroom/two bath house rental, bike rentals for every age, and a rental hall for events. Call CraZy Marv's at 308-325-0760.

Price's Rentals is in the business of renting FUN! They rent out lake houses, boats, jet-skis, paddle boards, kayaks, electric scooters, bicycles, and party buses! They also sell live bait and tackle, water sports equipment, boating and camping supplies,

lake-themed apparel, yard games, unique gifts, beverages, and snacks. Price's Rentals is famous for axe throwing and a cool place to hang out while playing games with family or friends. Come join in the FUN by boat or vehicle, located next to Lakeshore Marina. New for 2022 is property management and indoor boat storage.

Another outdoor attraction is Lakeside Golf Club located at the southeast corner of beautiful Johnson Lake. The par 72 course offers a tee for all players with four tee locations on each hole. The course provides an exciting experience with every round of golf for all level of players with some of the best greens statewide that meets the needs of all golfers. Before or after your round you can enjoy a cold beverage and a picturesque view of the course and surrounding area. Call 308-785-2818 or visit www.playlakeside.com for a tee time at a superior course at the lake.

Bald Eagle and American White Pelican viewing

Johnson Lake is a birder's paradise. Bald Eagles winter at Johnson Lake and surrounding areas and White Pelicans begin to arrive in the early spring when the ice is breaking up into areas of open water.





Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's Eagle Viewing facilities will be open to the public at Johnson No. 2 Hydroplant the first weekend of January and continue to be open every weekend through the end of February. Hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the J-2 site. You can also view many bald eagles on and around Johnson Lake during the winter months. Each year the bald eagles travel to areas along the Platte River from as far away as Canada, Alaska and the Great Lakes state to look for

fish and other food sources. They can be seen in the trees around the lake, as well as standing on the ice near areas of open water. The bald eagles and the white pelicans are a spectacular sight to behold!

Lighthouses at Johnson Lake

Johnson Lake is fortunate to have two Lighthouses: One at the Mallard Beach jetty and one at the Lakeview Acres jetty. The Lakeview Acres Lighthouse was dedicated on July 4, 2021 at a special ribbon-cutting ceremony. A dedication speech was written and delivered by Cinde Wendell, who was instrumental in organizing and collecting funds for the lighthouse. "Our Lighthouse began by forming a committee at the Lakeview Acres annual meeting in 2019 and grew to be an entire Johnson Lake project. All the planning, fundraising and installation happened during the pandemic.

The Lighthouse design is a replica of the Bodie Island Lighthouse currently standing in the vicinity of Bodie Island on the Outer Banks in North Carolina. Our black and white lighthouse is the second lighthouse at Johnson Lake with the first red and white one on Mallard Beach. The Mallard Beach Lighthouse is a replica of Montauk Lighthouse in New York. The Mallard Bay light house organizers were extremely helpful with blazing a trail for this lighthouse as well as their unending support.

Thank you to Johnson Lake Chamber of Commerce, Central Nebraska Irrigation & Public Power District, Lexington Community Foundation, the Mallard Bay Lighthouse Committee, JLDI, Lakeshore Marina & Nautical Rose for allowing access, Lakeview Acres, and all the support from all around the lake with donations, letters and encouragement.

This lighthouse quote seems fitting for today... "Don't forget that maybe you are the lighthouse in someone's storm." – Unknown author

Finally, this project has turned out to be a positive beacon during a dark, pandemic time. May the lighthouse always serve as a shining example of hope for all of us. God Bless America!" Delivered by Cinde Wendell on July 4th, 2021.

Dawson County Fairgrounds
 1000 PLUM CREEK PARKWAY, LEXINGTON
 dawsoncountyfair.com | 308.324.3600 | dawsonfairgrounds@gmail.com

Dawson County Fair & Rodeo
JULY 17-21, 2024

Dawson County High School Rodeo
AUGUST 16-18, 2024

Nebraska State Rodeo Finals
SEPTEMBER 6-8, 2024

Thanksgiving Classic Beef Show
NOVEMBER 29-30, 2024

Additional events and information can be found on our website - dawsoncountyfair.com



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Elwood Public School is located in central Nebraska 15 miles south of Lexington, NE. The Elwood School is a PreK-12 facility serving approximately 205 students.

The elementary contains around 110 students and the 7-12 population is around 95. Students can participate in athletic activities which include cross country, football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, golf and track. These activities are in cooperation with Eustis-Farnam. This co-op is referred to as the Hi-Line Bulls. Other activities students are

involved in are Speech, One Act, journalism, FCCLA, FFA, choir, band, student council, quiz bowl, Future Problem Solvers, Math Counts, National Honor Society, county government day, conference music contest, district music contest, honor band and choir clinics, state FCCLA convention, livestock judging competitions, and science fair. Class sizes range from a low of 10 to a high of 20.

A PreK program was added in 2016-2017. This program serves mostly four-year-old students. It consistently averages

12-18 students.

The list of school employees includes the Superintendent, Principal, 25 certified staff members and 20 noncertified employees.

The current district land valuation is around \$500,000,000. The current total levy .7285 cents per \$100 of valuation. The district just completed an addition to the east side of the school. The addition includes restrooms, a concession area, custodial storage and food service storage. This addition was completed and opened in August of 2020.

“The mission of Elwood Public Schools is to provide a safe environment that fosters continuous learning and prepares students for an evolving global society.”



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fun and Entertainment



The 4th of July is the highlight of the summer at Johnson Lake and anticipation grows as the holiday approaches. The campgrounds are packed and residences are overflowing with friends and family visiting to enjoy the festivities. The Fireworks Committee has been working for months to raise funds for the fireworks and plan the big display. The Johnson Lake Chamber of Commerce has been busy organizing the Boat Parade.

As darkness falls on the evening of the 3rd of July, people gather from surrounding areas, campgrounds and neighborhoods

and watch as hundreds of boats make their way to the dam area where the fireworks are displayed. The beautiful fireworks and their reflection in the lake is a sight to behold.

Mid-morning on the 4th, the creativity of many boat owners comes to life as the decorated boats gather at the Marina Bay. The parade then makes its way around the lake for all to see as the crowd on shore clap and wave their flags with appreciation. Every year decorated boats are over the top with creative and clever themes. At the conclusion of the parade prizes are

awarded by the Johnson Lake Chamber.

As the day continues, you can see many boats anchor in the shallow water by the island as people enjoy music, wading, swimming and merriment!

The aroma of hamburgers on the grills, sounds of firecrackers, laughter, speeding watercraft and splashing of the wakes on the shoreline combine to make yet another year of 4th of July cherished memories with family and friends. Even Norman Rockwell would be envious of this special celebration at Johnson Lake.

2024 ELWOOD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May • Chamber Golf Outing/Banquet

Memorial Day - Labor Day • Yard of the Week

May 31 - June 1 • Community Garage Sales

July 25-27 • Gosper County Fair & Rodeo - The best little hometown, family friendly fair around. Our home-owned and volunteer run carnival is fun for kids and affordable for parents. FFA and 4-H events all days. Rodeo: Thursday & Friday. Carnival: Thursday, Friday, & Saturday.

August • Farmers Market

September • Team Jack Radiothon

November 7 • Give Big Elwood

December • Old Fashioned Christmas - See Santa, ride the Fire Truck, and enjoy business open houses and holiday events throughout beautiful Downtown Elwood.

Watch for more Elwood Chamber updates at
www.elwoodnebraska.com

2024 JOHNSON LAKE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Memorial Day Weekend

Garage Sales around the lake, EMS 5-K Walk/Run and lunch,

June • Craft Fairs, Farmers Markets,

Annual Chamber Member Appreciation Concert

June 8 • Artisan Market

July • Craft Fairs, Farmers Markets

July 4 • 4th of July Boat Annual Boat Parade 10 a.m.

Register at the Marina boat dock 9-10 a.m.

July 5 • Light-Up-the-Lake Fireworks 10 p.m.

Watch for Johnson Lake Chamber updates at

www.johnsonlake.org

and on Facebook at

Johnson Lake, NE-Chamber of Commerce

Business Directory

ELWOOD, NEBRASKA

007 Ranch	- 123 -		
Elwood.....		308-440-2226	
1st Methodist Church of Elwood/Bertrand			
Elwood.....		308-785-2315	
	- A -		
Applied Communications Technology, Inc.			
Arapahoe		308-962-7298	
Avanti Salon/Smack N Smooch			
Elwood.....		308-325-2669	
	- B -		
B & B Veterinary Services			
Elwood.....		308-785-2722	
Bader Insulation & Sandblasting Inc.			
Elwood.....		308-325-3962	
Berryman Funeral Homes			
Cozad		308-784-3000	
Beverly Bogle Louthan, P.C.			
Elwood.....		308-785-2550	
BHA Real Estate			
Lexington.....		308-324-5581	
Black Hills Energy			
.....		888-890-5554	
Blue Moose			
Bertrand.....		308-325-0751	
Byrns Floorcovering & Installation			
Elwood.....		308-785-2402	
	- C -		
Central NE Public Power & Irrigation			
Holdrege.....		308-995-8601	
Clear View Realty			
Alma/Elwood.....		402-875-2156	
Connecting Kidz Pediatric Therapy			
Elwood.....		308-455-9025	
	- D -		
Dawson County Ag Society			
Lexington.....		308-324-3600	
DC Climate Control Services			
Cozad		308-325-3986	
Dawson Public Power District			
Lexington.....		308-324-2386	
	- E -		
Eclipse Staffing			
Elwood.....		308-746-4553	
Elwood Area Foundation			
Elwood.....		308-785-8113	
Elwood Auto Detail			
Elwood.....		308-325-8680	
Elwood Care Center			
Elwood.....		308-785-3302	
Elwood Clinic (part of LRHC)			
Elwood.....		308-785-8175	
Elwood Funeral Home			
Elwood.....		308-785-2514	
Elwood Hometown Cooperative Market			
Elwood.....		308-785-2182	
Elwood Public Library			
Elwood.....		308-785-8155	
Elwood Public Schools			
Elwood.....		308-785-2491	
Elwood Volunteer Fire Department			
Elwood.....		402-380-5025	
Empire Hay Inc.			
Elwood.....		308-785-2051	
Eustis Body Shop			
Eustis.....		308-486-5515	
Eustis Plumbing & Underground			
Eustis.....		308-486-3391	
	- F -		
Fagot Refrigeration & Electric, Inc.			
Lexington.....		308-324-4018	
	- G -		
Galloway Financial Advisors, Inc.			
Elwood.....		308-785-8034	
Gosper Co Senior Citizens Center			
Elwood.....		308-785-2500	
	- H -		
Heartland Chevrolet Buick			
Lexington.....		308-324-2306	
Hi-Line Paint & Body LLC			
Elwood.....		308-785-2101	
House on the Hill B & B			
Elwood.....		308-785-3828	
	- I -		
Idlewild Massage			
Elwood.....		308-991-5936	
	- J -		
Jerrold A. Remmenga DDS, PC			
Lexington.....		308-325-7475	
Johnson Lake Area Chamber of Commerce			
Johnson Lake.....		303-638-4458	

Business Directory

ELWOOD, NEBRASKA

- K -

Knoerzer Farms Inc.
Elwood.....308-785-2418

KRVN
Lexington.....308-324-2371

- L -

L2ForKids, c/o Ann Johnson
Elwood.....308-325-4548

Lakeside Golf Club/ Lexington Golf Club, Inc.
Johnson Lake.....308-785-2818

Larry Brell Inc.
Elwood.....308-785-2533

Lawn in Order
Elwood.....308-746-1838

Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce
Lexington.....308-324-5504

Lexington Area United Way
Lexington.....308-324-5774

Lexington Regional Health Center
Lexington.....308-324-1626

Little Angels Christian Child Care
Elwood.....308-785-3502

- M -

Mary's Flour Sack, Mary Hershberger
Ewood.....402-450-8312

Moonlight Electric
Eustis.....308-325-5479

- N -

Nautical Rose
Johnson Lake.....308-785-4031

Norder Supply Inc.
Elwood.....308-962-7275

Nutrien CPS
Elwood.....308-785-9999

- O -

O'Hanlon Seed Inc.
Lexington.....308-324-4567

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Elwood.....308-785-7575

- P -

Paulsen Inc.
Cozad.....308-784-3333

Pinnacle Bank
Elwood.....308-785-2280

Platte Valley Auto Mart
Lexington.....308-324-5619

Plum Creek Medical Group, P.C.
Lexington.....308-324-6386

- R -

Reliable Pest Control Services, Inc
Holdrege.....308-995-6773

Remmenga Drilling Co.
Elwood.....308-785-2290

Ryde Transit/ Community Action Partnership
Elwood.....308-785-2527

- S -

Schaben Sanitation/Waste Connection Inc.
Gothenburg.....308-537-3840

Security First Bank
Elwood.....308-785-3366

Security First Insurance
Elwood.....308-785-2993

Service Master of Mid-Nebraska
Lexington.....308-324-3072

Sharon's Little Pirates In Home Daycare
Elwood.....308-785-8143

Sign Pro
Lexington.....308-324-8000

SteakMaster
Elwood.....308-785-2002

- T -

The Home Agency
Elwood.....308-785-2803

The Press
Elwood.....308-408-0105

Those Blasted Signs
Smithfield.....308-472-5066

Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
Holdrege.....308-995-6688

- U -

UNL Gosper County Extension
Elwood.....308-785-2390

- V -

Valley Voice
Cambridge.....308-697-3326

Village of Elwood
Elwood.....308-785-2480

- W -

Weissert Construction Inc.
Elwood.....308-785-3357

Weissert Hardwood Flooring
Elwood.....308-746-1254

Business Directory

JOHNSON LAKE

- 123 -

222 Hardware

Cozad 308-784-2221

4Agtech

Johnson Lake..... 308-830-2222

4URTOYS Storage

Kearney 308-236-6633

- A -

A2 Roofing & Siding

Grand Island..... 308-233-1961

Adams Seed Co

Holdrege..... 308-995-8100

Ag Team Land Brokers

Lexington..... 308-325-0002

AMW Tree Service

Johnson Lake..... 308-870-3288

Artistic Innovations NE, LLC

Eustis..... 308-529-8992

A to Z Lawn Pro/Landscaping

Broken Bow 308-872-5182

Atmosphere Cleaning Services

Overton 308-303-1508

Axxent Buildings, LLC

Cozad 308-784-2575

- B -

Bare Grounds, LLC

Lincoln..... 402-630-6197

Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate

Johnson Lake..... 308-440-9988

BHA Real Estate, Inc.

Lexington..... 308-324-5581

BHA Real Estate, Patti & Jacey

Johnson Lake..... 308-325-9790

Bonita Bay

Kearney 308-233-7638

Bruning State Bank

Holdrege..... 308-995-3880

Buzz's Marine

Kearney 308-234-4576

Byrns Floor Covering

Elwood..... 308-785-2402

- C -

Canyon Lakes Brewing Co.

Johnson Lake..... 308-785-4012

Central NE Public Power & Irrigation District

Holdrege..... 308-995-8601

Complete Roofing & Remodeling

Johnson Lake..... 308-440-1422

Contryman Associates, PC

Lexington..... 308-324-2368

Cornhusker Landing/Dredging

Central City..... 308-940-0438

Cottonwood Realty

Gothenburg..... 308-325-4999

Crawford Repair/ Golf Carts

Arapahoe 308-962-6101

Crazy Marv's RV & Cabin Retreat

Johnson Lake..... 308-325-5445

- D -

DC Express

Johnson Lake..... 308-472-5279

Dawson County Fairgrounds

Lexington..... 308-324-3400

Designer Craft Woodworking, Inc.

Lexington..... 308-324-5825

Downey Drilling, Inc.

Lexington..... 308-324-2303

Docks Unlimited, Inc.

Elwood..... 308-325-0661

Doran Post Agency

Lexington..... 308-324-6992

- E -

Eagles Nest

Elwood..... 308-325-5039

Edward Jones Investments

Lexington..... 308-324-7424

Eilers Machine & Welding, Inc.

Lexington..... 308-324-3751

Elwood Chamber of Commerce

Elwood..... 308-785-2480

Elwood Hometown Cooperative Market

Elwood..... 308-785-2182

Eustis Body Shop, Inc.

Eustis..... 308-486-5515

- F -

Family Physical Therapy

Lexington..... 308-324-3700

FRAE, Inc.

Lexington..... 308-324-4018

- G -

Galloway Financial Advisors

Elwood..... 308-785-8034

Graczyk Lawn & Landscape

Elm Creek..... 308-440-9854

Great Plains Clearing & Excavating

Johnson Lake..... 712-454-0004

Business Directory

JOHNSON LAKE

- H -

Heartland Chevrolet /Buick	
Lexington.....	308-324-2306
Holdrege Soft Water	
Holdrege.....	308-995-8791
Home Instead	
Cozad.....	308-529-5560
Home Agency, The	
Elwood.....	308-785-2803

- J -

Johnson Lake EMS	
Johnson Lake.....	402-604-1450
Johnson Lake Flying Service	
Johnson Lake.....	308-785-2100

- L -

L2 for Kids	
Willow Island.....	308-530-0441
Lakeside Golf Course	
Johnson Lake.....	308-785-2818
Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce	
Lexington.....	308-324-5504
Lexington Community Foundation	
Lexington.....	308-324-6704
Lexington Family Dentistry	
Lexington.....	308-324-7422
Lexington Regional Health Center	
Lexington.....	308-324-1626

- M -

MB Exteriors, LLC	
Lexington.....	308-320-8105
Mary's Flour Sack	
Elwood.....	402-450-8312
Medo's Resort	
Johnson Lake.....	308-785-2298
Mid Nebraska Docks & Lifts, LLC	
Kearney.....	308-237-0605
Mid Nebraska Garage Doors, Inc.	
Gibbon.....	308-216-0181
Midwest Elite Contracting	
Kearney.....	308-708-7332
Mike's Sprinkler Service	
Lexington.....	308-325-1813

- N -

Nautical Rose	
Johnson Lake.....	308-785-4031
Nebraska State Bank & Trust, Co.	
Broken Bow.....	308-872-2466

Nelson's Furniture & Floor Covering

Lexington.....	308-324-6406
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- O -

Off Course Lake House

Gothenburg.....	308-529-1247
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- P -

Paulsen, Inc

Cozad.....	308-784-3333
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Peace Love & Lavender

Johnson Lake.....	308-324-7397
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Platte Valley Auto Mart

Lexington.....	308-324-5619
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Plum Creek Dentistry, Bruce L. Hanson, DDS, PC

Lexington.....	308-324-5551
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Plum Creek Market Place

Lexington.....	308-324-2327
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Plum Creek Medical Group

Lexington.....	308-324-6386
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Press, The

Elwood.....	308-785-3000
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Price's Rentals

Johnson Lake.....	402-690-1418
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- R -

Rachel Hanson Photography

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Reliable Pest Control Services, Inc.

Holdrege.....	308-991-1697
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Ricky's Removal

Cozad.....	308-325-1963
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- S -

Sim's Shop EZ Golf Carts

Johnson Lake.....	308-233-7660
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Sign Pro/ Bennet Advertising Specialties

Lexington.....	308-324-8000
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Skyler Company Lawn Care

Johnson Lake.....	308-325-5716
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T&T Lawncare, LLC

Cozad.....	308-746-3169
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Tailgate Motors

Fremont.....	402-727-8681
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The Alternative

Cozad.....	402-926-9689
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Thomas Livestock Co., Inc.

Broken Bow.....	308-872-2020
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Tom's Midwest Liquor

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