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of the Nebraska Grocery Industry
Fall/Winter 2023

2023 BEST BAGGER COMPETITION



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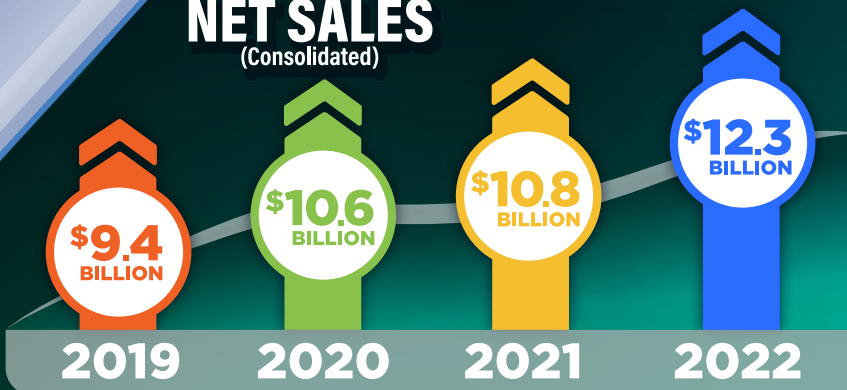
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Update from the Executive Director



Ansley Fellers
Executive Director

Welcome to the latest edition of the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association's quarterly magazine. We hope you enjoy the look as well as some new content, and always welcome feedback.

Our fall got off to a great start at our first-ever Grocery Industry Summit, hosted in partnership with the Nebraska Cooperative Development Center, in Kearney. Attendees,

including a couple state senators, heard from a variety of panelists, full of helpful information for existing grocers, as well as individuals and communities looking to recruit or retain a store. See pictures and read more on P. 11.



Pictured left to right: Ansley Fellers, NGIA, Tim Keigher, NPCA, De Lone Wilson, Cubby's, Sen. Pete Ricketts, Frank Woodward, Hy-Vee.

We also had an opportunity in August to meet with Sen. Ricketts, primarily to discuss the Credit Card Competition Act. The Senator took time with our group to listen to all our issues, provide feedback, and he continues to be a champion for business in Washington.

In September, we joined the Governor in the Warner Chamber of the State Capitol, where he signed a proclamation declaring September in Nebraska, "Family Meals Month," an effort to encourage making family meals a priority.

Speaking of the Governor, our tailgates with Governor and First Lady Pillen are a hit. They look a little different this fall, with the addition of a "Volleyball Day in Nebraska" tailgate in August, and the welcome highlight of various nonprofits at each event. Like years past, the Governor and First Lady have embraced these gatherings, and we're so grateful. Saturdays at the residence are a lot of fun (it certainly doesn't hurt that the Huskers are winning), and wouldn't happen without our generous sponsors (P. 22-23).

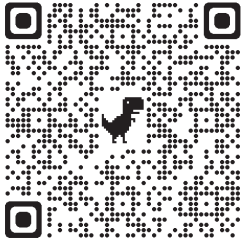
Our October golf event looked a little different as well. Not only because we were at a different course, Tiburon Golf Club, and got in only nine holes before being rained out, but also because we hosted our Best Bagger competition! Thanks to LinPepCo, all our generous product sponsors, and all the golfers who stuck around for a late lunch and to cheer on our competitors. Our statewide winner, Nolan McGregor, from Fareway Stores in Papillion, will go on to compete in the national Best Bagger Competition at the NGA Show in Law Vegas. See more on P. 25.

In less fun news, it has felt a little "politics as usual" in Washington and Lincoln the last several months. The House of Representatives elected a new speaker, which means they will (for better or worse), be back to work. We continue to lobby our delegation to support the Credit Card Competition Act, which would be a notable step toward sanity in the fees retailers pay on credit card transactions. Our Senators and Representatives have also been really receptive to our calls to keep fees off of SNAP transactions when they take up the next Farm Bill, halt the EPA's war on refrigerants, and bring some commonsense to the FDA's food traceability rule.

At the state level, State Senator Tom Briese of Albion was recently appointed Nebraska State Treasurer, following John Murante's departure for another state role. Governor Pillen recently appointed Fred Meyer of Saint Paul, Nebraska to replace Senator Briese. Mr. Meyer is expected to serve through the 2024 legislative session but has indicated he will not run for the next term. The seat is an important one, given the majority needs every vote they can muster to achieve the 33 votes needed to overcome a filibuster on legislative priorities.

As a reminder, Nebraska's minimum wage increases to \$12 in January (find additional details and a printable poster on P. 20). NGIA continues our legislative push for a youth and training wage as well as a cap on the CPI increase enacted on the ballot, to help Nebraska businesses remain competitive. Now, the same entities (primarily located out of state) who contributed to the minimum wage ballot initiative, are funding an initiative to establish a paid leave mandate for employers of all sizes.

The ballot is the wrong place to be legislating, in part because there are constitutional restrictions on the subject matter, making them overly broad and unmanageable, especially if the Legislature is unwilling to step in to offer balance. Not every state has this issue – only around half of states allow voters to bypass elected officials and directly enact legislation. To be sure, the NGIA Board of Directors is leaving no option off the table when it comes to fighting unreasonable and costly unfunded mandates.



Save the Date!
February 20, 2024

**NGIA Legislative Dinner
& Day at the Capitol**

A big thank you to our veterans and to those of you honoring them with meals, specials, and events to show our collective gratitude. We are thankful to all those who have served and continue serving for their families, neighbors, and communities.

And, as always, thanks to all our generous sponsors, donors, teams, and to the NGIA staff who make NGIA advocacy and events possible. We will continue doing our best to keep you well-informed, and give you the tools you need to continue doing business. If we can do anything to be helpful, moving forward, please don't hesitate to reach out: afellers@nebgrocery.com or 308-631-2165.

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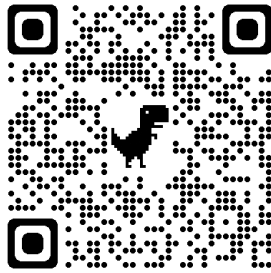
Grocery Industry Summit

In August, NGIA and the University of Nebraska Cooperative Development Center (NCDC) teamed up to host the inaugural Grocery Industry Summit in Kearney. The summit, which was free for attendees, was designed to be an opportunity for grocers, wholesalers, vendors, policymakers, and others to learn about, discuss, and seek to address the many challenges facing the grocery industry in Nebraska.

From panels full of financing experts, to speakers discussing their work within communities to retain a grocery store, the Summit was designed to help NGIA members and others more fully understand existing solutions.

As a result of the Summit, NGIA has established a landing page, designed to be a one-stop shop to find possible solutions and how to implement them one in your business or community. Visit [**https://nebgrocery.com/rural-grocery-resources/**](https://nebgrocery.com/rural-grocery-resources/)

Some attendees were current grocery and convenience store owners, while others were interested in getting into the business or trying to keep or attract a store to their community.



Shannon McCord, Peter Clarke, Tony Severs



De Lone Wilson & Nathan Brtek

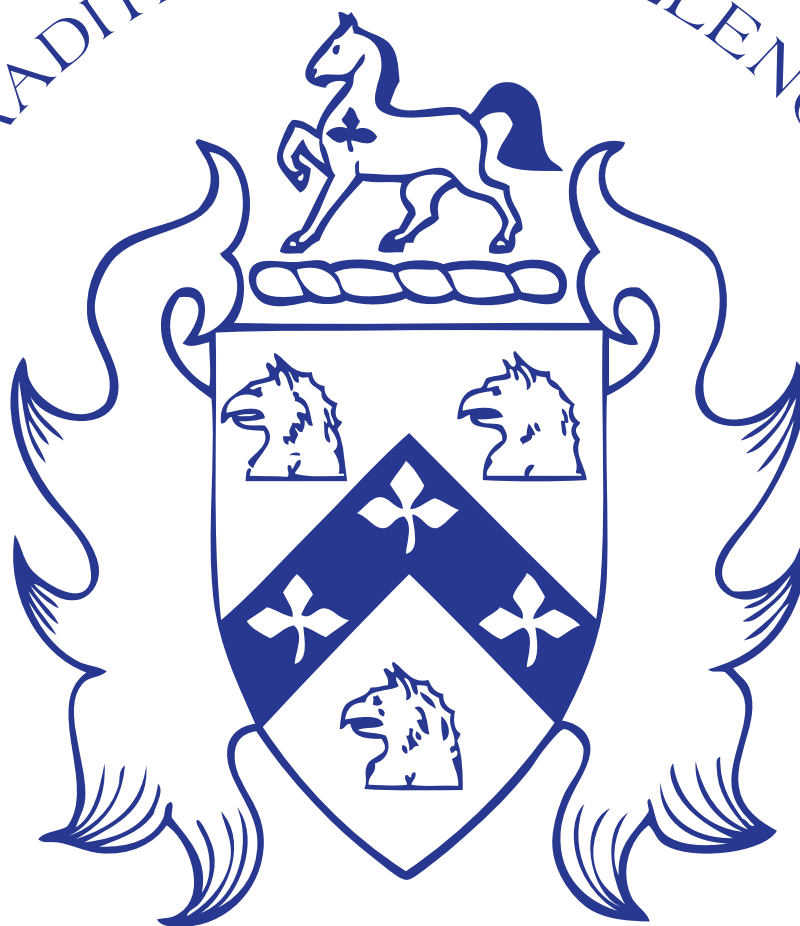


John Schmaderer, President & CEO of Tri-County Bank in Stuart, NE, speaks about the community of Stuart coming together to retain their local grocery store at the Nebraska Grocery Industry Summit in Kearney.



Charlotte Narjes, NCDC Director/RPN Extension Educator, speaks during a panel with colleagues Cindy Houlden, NCDC Cooperative Specialist, Shawn Kaskie, RPN Extension Educator, and Marilyn Schlake, RPN Extension Educator, Statewide.

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Congressman Adrian Smith Visits Boogaarts Market in Kearney



Third District Congressman, Adrian Smith, stopped by Boogaarts Market in Kearney as he traveled the state in August. The Congressman took time to meet staff, address issues, and chat about what sets the store apart.

Boogaarts Assistant Manager, Grant Lassek, discussed the difficulty of keeping up with increasing credit card fees, especially in such a competitive market. Meat Manager, Robert Lynn, talked about the store's focus on delivering high-quality cuts of meat, while Jeff Lien with AWG in Norfolk discussed supply chain challenges and helping independent retailers access products consumers demand.

Rep. Smith was really receptive and wants to do things to help drive a business-friendly climate. NGIA appreciates members of our congressional delegation taking time to meet our independent grocers and what they have to offer.



Third District Congressman Adrian Smith visits with Boogaarts Assistant Manager, Grant Lassek, Meat Manager Robert Lynn, and AWG District Manager, Jeff Lien.



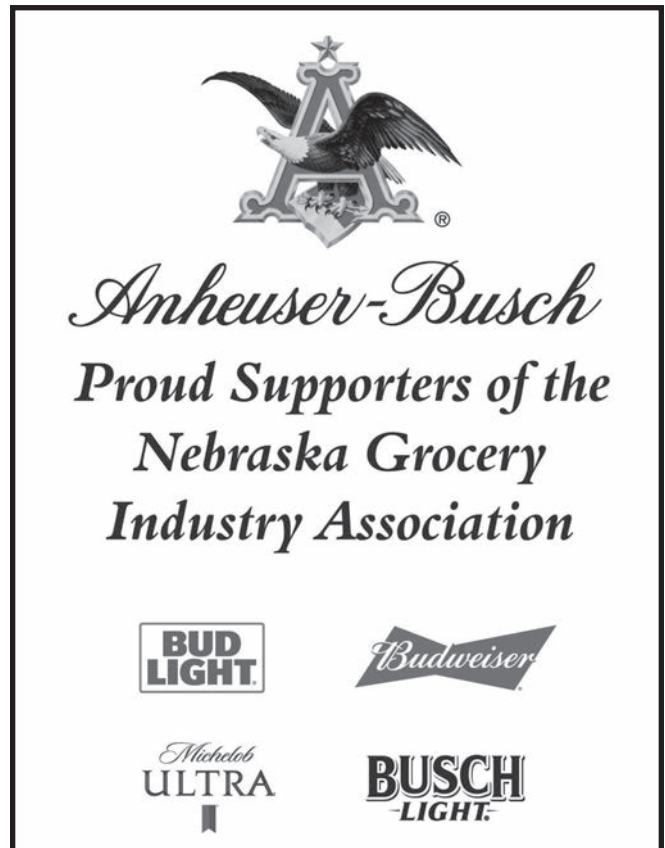
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The advertisement features a scenic farm background with a red barn and silos. In the foreground, several dairy products are displayed, including a carton of Select 1% milk, a jug of milk, a tub of Light Sour Cream, a carton of Select 1% milk, a tub of Cottage Cheese, and a tub of Top the Tater Dip It! Chive-Onion dip.



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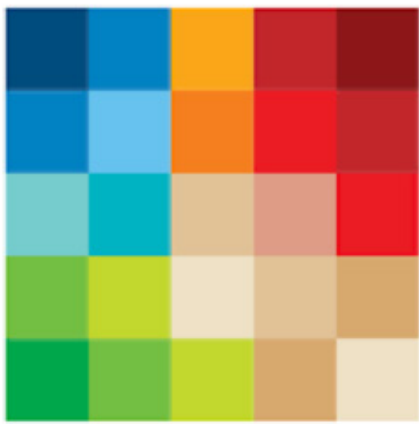
The advertisement features the Anheuser-Busch logo at the top, which is a stylized eagle with its wings spread, perched on a shield. Below the logo, the text reads "Anheuser-Busch Proud Supporters of the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association". At the bottom, there are logos for Bud Light, Budweiser, Michelob Ultra, and Busch Light.



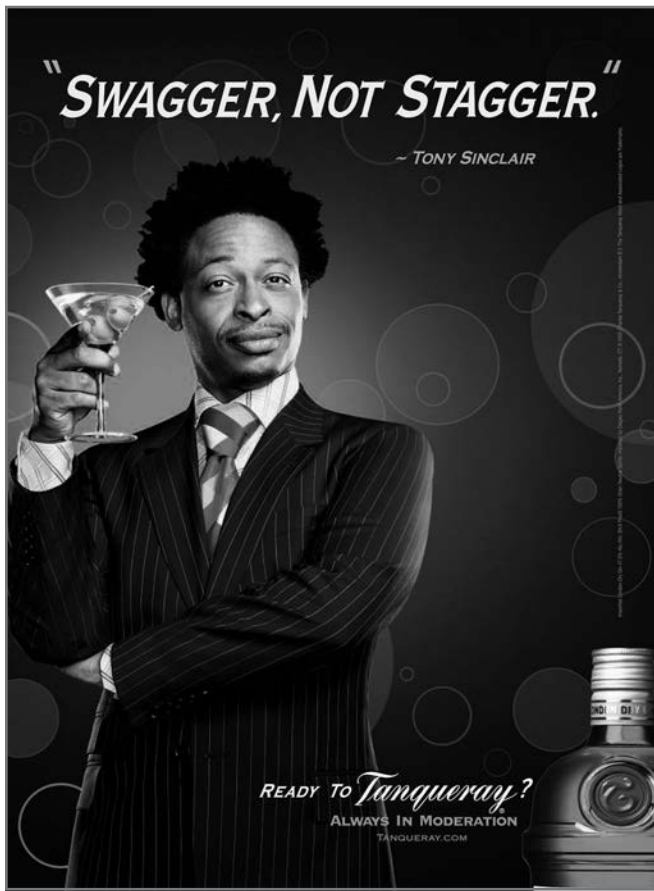
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pepsi pepsi diet

The advertisement features three condensation-covered cans of Pepsi. The cans are arranged in a row, with the first can in the foreground and the others behind it. The word "pepsi" is written in white lowercase letters on the first two cans, and "pepsi diet" is written on the third can. The background is a dark, smoky grey.



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Applicants

Applications - 37 Interviews - 25 Offers and Hires - 19

Name	Applied On	Stage	Position	Score	Hiring	Onboarding
Erin Stevens	Applied via poster					

Company documents

- Employee agreement Mitch completed Mar 6 View
- Safety manual Mitch completed Mar 8 View
- Manager agreement Assigned to you Sign

Chat

- Josh Parr Excited! Thanks for the time!
- Kimberly Rodgers Perfect! See you soon!
- Mitch Jenkins I can do Sunday any time if that...
- Erin Stevens
- John Martin Smith
- Blake Perez

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NGIA Awards Scholarships to High School & College Students

The Nebraska Grocery Industry Association awarded eight scholarships in 2023. Funds raised from the Silent Auction held during the Legislative Dinner each year and money raised from Mulligans and other games during our golf outings are used to fund the scholarships. The application can be found on our website by scanning the QR code below or at www.nebgrocery.com/membership/member-programs/scholarship-program/. Scholarship applications must be received no later than April 1 to be eligible for participation. The 2023 winners are as follows:



Charlie Henkel works at Lou's Thrifty Way, in Norfolk. He was captain of the robotics team, where he qualified for the world championship. He is also involved in band and his church. He served as a youth camp counselor for two summers. Charlie will be going to

Northeast Community College to study in their Media Arts program.



Lydia Herbolsheimer is attending Benedictine College in Atchison, KS where she plans to major in Graphic Design. She has been an employee at Burnell's Foodtown in Hartington since the sophomore year. She is active in acting, choir, and Track. She was a Lincoln Journal Star

Academic All-State Track honoree in 2022. Her hobbies include knitting, sewing, reading & photography.



Harrison Kuta is a graduate of Bonne Central High School in Albion. He worked at the Albion Thrifty Way for the past two years. Harrison played football throughout high school. He was a National Honor Society member for three years. He is a Premed major at the

University of Nebraska – Kearney.



Noah Lawrence is attending the University of Nebraska – Kearney where he plans to study Pharmacy, one day his goal is to be rural area pharmacist. He already has experience in this field working as a pharmacy clerk at Hy-Vee. At

Columbus High School he was involved in Cross Country and Track. He also enjoys pickleball, golf, and snowboarding.



Lucas Ransen is attending Northeast Community College and is working towards a degree in Electrical Engineering. He is an employee at Lou's Thrifty Way in Norfolk. Lucas was an Honor Roll member every semester in Norfolk Senior High. Lucas stays busy with

his seasonal lawn business and was involved in band, orchestra, 4-H & FLBA.



Jackson Reece is attending Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD. He plans to major in Data Science and have a second major in Computer Science. He was an employee at Hy-Vee.

Jackson was on the Honor Roll & inducted into Gretna High School National Honor Society. He participated in Cross Country and Marching Band.



Daina Rosenlund is a graduate of Northwest High School in Grand Island where she was Valedictorian of her class. She is planning on attending BYU and studying nursing. She was involved in Marching Band, Show Choir, and other music groups.

She is involved in her church and other volunteering programs. Daina is an avid reader as well.



Benjamin Zavadil is graduate of Gretna High, and an employee at Hy-Vee. He played on the Gretna High School Men's Tennis team also serves on the Gretna High School leadership Team and Honor Roll. He is attending Morningside University studying Aviation with professional

flight focus and business minor. His goal is to become a professional pilot.



Nebraska Grocery Industry Association

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR DUES PAYING MEMBERS

Members are asked to make copies of this fact sheet available to their employees.

Purpose/Philosophy

The Nebraska Grocery Industry Association has established the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association Scholarship Program to recognize and aid qualified students who are related to Nebraska's food industry by virtue of their parents' or their own employment by businesses which are **dues paying members of the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association (NGIA)**.

Eligibility

1. Employees or children of employees of **businesses which pay dues to the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association** are eligible to apply for a scholarship.
2. All applicants must have been employed for at least one year as of the scholarship deadline and must still be employed at the time the scholarship is awarded.
3. Applicants must have a minimum 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Applicants must plan to enroll in an undergraduate course (full or part time) of study at an accredited two or four year college, university, or vocational-technical school.

High School Applicants must be high school seniors
Current College Students are eligible to make application for a scholarship each year they are an undergraduate.

Non-Traditional Applicants are classified as:

- adult learners
- students who didn't go directly to college after graduating high school or receiving their GED;
- students who have experienced an interruption in their higher education for some years and are returning to complete their degree.



Scholarship Award

1. The scholarship award will be a grant of \$1,500 which must be used within 12 months of receipt.
2. The NGIA scholarship must be applied toward tuition and fees in order to be considered tax-free.

Application Procedure

1. Applicants may obtain an application form at our website www.nebgrocery.com.
2. Completed applications will be accepted between Jan. 1 and May 15 the year of the award. Applications must be postmarked or received by May 15. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Selection of Winners

1. An impartial Selection Committee composed of educators will meet in May to select the winner(s).
2. In evaluating the applicants, the committee will consider each applicant's academic record, test scores, extracurricular or workplace activities, recommendations, and a personal essay.
3. All applicants are notified of the results of the competition in June.

Responsibilities of Recipients

1. Scholarship recipients must enroll as a full-time or part-time student within 12 months of receiving the grant.
2. Recipient is responsible for having an Enrollment Certificate completed at the beginning of the term and forwarding a copy of the Certificate via email to NGIA.

Payment of Scholarship Funds

Payment is made directly to the student at the beginning of the academic term upon receipt of an Enrollment Certificate. Any refund of scholarship funds will be made to NGIA and placed back into the fund for redistribution.



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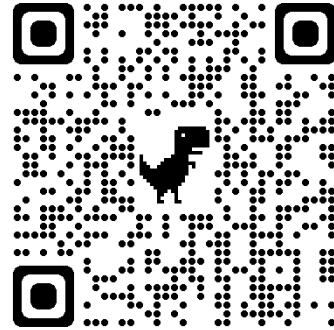
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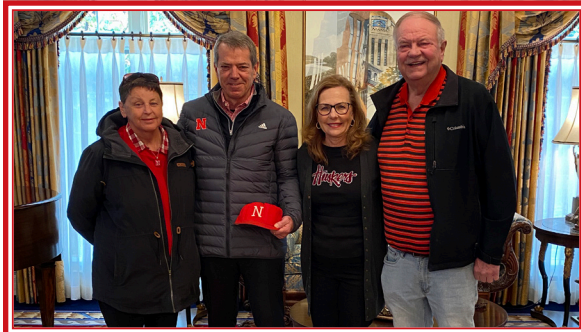


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REYNOLDS 
A BETTER TOMORROW

Tiburon Golf, Best Bagger Successes!

Competing against five others from across the state, Nolan McGregor from the Fareway Store in Papillion, NE, took home first place in the NGIA Best Bagger Competition held after our annual Hackers & Snackers golf outing at Tiburon Golf Club on Tuesday, October 3.

Nolan will represent Nebraska at the National Grocers Association Best Bagger championship in Las Vegas!

Contestants in the Best Bagger competition were judged by speed of bagging, proper bag-building technique, weight distribution in the bag, as well as style, attitude and appearance.

Thanks to our Title Sponsor Linpeco of Lincoln, and Dorothy Lynch, Rotella's Italian Bakery Inc, Sparboe Companies, The Brenmar Company, advantagesolutions.net, and Colby Ridge Popcorn. And thank you to our volunteers, Shannon McCord, Ideal Market in Superior, Kathy Gunlock, CoreMark, Iowa Division, Scott Jepperson, Bernatello's Foods, and Cindy Schroeder.

We look forward to cheering on Nolan at the national competition!



Best Bagger Competitors (From left to right): Lorie Lambrecht, Fareway, Nebraska City; Delaney Nielsen, Hy-Vee, Omaha; Olivia Lodu, Hy-Vee, Omaha; Nolan McGregor, Fareway, Papillion; Dale Tyler, Ideal Market, Superior; Sean Greenwood, Russ's Market, Lincoln.



Nebraska's Best Bagger

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Thanks to our
Judges & Timers!



L to R Scott Jepperson with Bernatello's Foods, Cindy Schroeder; Rich Otto, and Kathy Gunlock with CoreMark.



Best Bagger Champion: Nolan McGregor, Fareway Stores, Papillion



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Sponsor Spotlight



1. Can you give readers a little history of your brand/ organization?

Advantage Solutions has evolved over the years. Our original company is a conglomeration

of various Regional companies to become a national Sales and Marketing Company. We

have since expanded our services into other areas as well as internationally.

2. What do you find most valuable about being part of the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association?

Connecting with our customers.

3. What sets your product apart?

We have a wide array of products with various attributes.

4. Where can customers find your products?

A wide variety of Brick and Mortar stores as well as online through our customers.

5. What excites you most about the industry this year?

I really enjoy the lunches with various Customers.

6. Who should grocers contact if they're interested in carrying your product?

Stu Brown
 Advantage Solutions
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 stu.brown@advantagesolutions.net
 www.advantagesolutions.net

News at Advantage Solutions

FMI has named Advantage Solutions CEO Dave Peacock to its board of directors, along with 17 other high-level grocery retail, wholesale and food industry executives.





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Governor Pillen Proclaimed September as Family Meals Month!



Representatives from B&R Stores, Hy-Vee, NGIA, and Governor Pillen.



Use this link to view full size document:

<https://nebgrocery.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/proclamation-9-15-2023.pdf>

In Loving Memory of

Larry Temme

1965 - 2023



Larry M. Temme, 58 of Petersburg, NE passed away Tuesday, October 31, 2023, in Lincoln, NE. Larry, an NGIA member, purchased the Petersburg, Nebraska grocery store, now Rae Valley Market, in 2007. In 2015, Larry purchased the grocery store in Newman Grove, NE, with his brother Tom, renaming it Shell Creek Market. He also managed the Lindsay Cooperative Grocery Store in Lindsay, NE. Larry sat on the Boone Central School Board for 12 years, and was a member of the Petersburg Industrial Development Corp., Petersburg Community Foundation, Boone County Development Agency, and a Boone County Commissioner. Our sympathy goes out to Larry's wife, Radene, as well as his children, grandchildren, family, and friends.

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