

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Advertised in this weeks paper

SAT., DEC. 7

9AM-3PM: Christmas Craft Fair
Candy & Cookie Walk in Auburn

FRI., DEC. 13

6:30PM: Country Jamboree at
Assembly of God Fellowship Hall

JOURNAL DEADLINES

December 24 paper:
Deadline December 19 by 10AM.

December 31 paper:
Deadline Thursday, December 26
by 9:00PM.

January 8 paper:
Deadline Thursday, January 2
by 3:00PM. Via email.

JOURNAL OFFICE CLOSED

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day,
New Years Eve, New Years Day,
January 2 and January 3

For more information on
the events listed above,
look for the ad in this paper.

To get in this Community
Events column an ad must
be placed in the paper. To
place an ad in the Falls City
Journal contact Nikki at
nikki@fcjournal.net or 402-
245-2431.



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Nebraska Press Association

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Public Notices and Minutes

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\$1.25



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Lighted Christmas parade officially begins holiday season

The crisp air nipped at noses and made cheeks rosy. The glow of Christmas lights reflected off the excited faces lining Stone Street in Falls City last Friday night. The annual lighted Christmas parade featured decorated floats, their lights twinkling as they rolled down the street. The ambulance with its lights flashing festively, followed behind, UTVs, golf carts, and other vehicles, all decked out in Christmas lights. It was truly a beautiful sight.

The true star of the show, perched atop a magnificent sleigh, waving to the cheering children. Their eyes shone brighter than the Christmas lights that covered every inch of the W7 pick-up entry.

The parade ended at Santa's house at 15th and Stone Street, where jolly old St. Nick disembarked to the delight of anxious children. He listened patiently to their Christmas wishes and

(Please turn to Page 14)

Journal holiday deadlines, print schedule and hours

The deadline for the December 24, 2024, paper will be Thursday, December 19 at 10:00 a.m. The paper will be sent off early for print, so please plan accordingly.

The office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25. The deadline for the December 31, 2024, paper will be Thursday, December 26 by 9:00 p.m. via email to Nikki or Brian (see Page 2). The paper will be sent off early for print, so please plan accordingly.

The office will be closed on Tuesday, December 31, and remain closed through the week. The staff will be working from home and on the road, but will accept ads and information via email. The deadline for the January 8 paper will be Thursday, January 2 by 3:00 p.m. Some late ads may be accepted via email to Nikki or Brian if sent by Sunday morning. Please plan ahead.

The Journal office will operate on a "flex schedule," for the foreseeable future outside of holidays.

Sometimes the office may need to close if staff needs to be away for appointments, meetings or events or we step away for periods of time in the morn-

(Continued on Page 4)



Community Medical Center recognized by Nebraska Department of Health and Human services for excellence in quality

Community Medical Center today announced it is the recipient of a 2024 Rural Provider Excellence in Quality Award from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Presented during the Nebraska Critical Access Hospitals and Rural Health Clinics Conference on Quality, this annual award recognizes Top 10 overall performance in quality among Nebraska's Critical Access Hospitals.

CMC Administrator, Ryan Larsen, remarked, "It was very heartening to receive this honor on behalf of our team of doctors, nurses, and other professionals. They work incredibly hard to provide care that is excellent technically while still seeing each patient as a unique individual deserving empathy and respect. We thank the Department of Health and Human Services for their work to promote and recognize quality hospital care."

The Rural Provider Excellence in Quality Award utilizes the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX© framework to analyze Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP) measures for the 63 Critical Access Hospitals in Nebraska. The analysis percentile-ranks performance for each facility across 24 metrics and those facilities with the 10 highest scores are recognized with the Rural Provider Excellence in Quality Award.

"Across the state of Nebraska, our Critical Access Hospitals are driven by their mission and focused on serving their communities through the delivery of high-quality healthcare," said Nancy Jo Hansen, Flex and SHIP Program Manager, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. "We're proud to honor the

(Continued on Page 4)

Questions answered regarding Mid-America Rail Campus

The Falls City Journal recently sat down with EDGE Director Lucas Froeschl in an attempt to answer often-asked questions from the public in reference to the recent announcement involving the Mid-America Rail Campus south of Falls City.

On November 4, 2024, EDGE announced a partnership with Citroniq Chemicals, LLC. Citroniq, a biochemical manufacturer, will be investing nearly \$5 billion in the production facility two miles south of Falls City. With the announcement, many questions from citizens in the area have arisen and we will attempt to answer as many of those as possible.

How do you pronounce Citroniq?
Sih-TRON-ick

How will the addition of Citroniq benefit already established businesses?

2,000 construction workers will be employed over the three-year construction schedule, spending wages on local food, fuel, and lodging. It is expected that spouses will accompany some of the 160 full-time employees, adding employee options for local businesses to the local workforce pool.

Will there be any odor associated with the facility?

This is not an ethanol processing plant, therefore it will not emit foul odors. Citroniq will bring ethanol in by rail.

Will the jobs be union jobs?

This is unknown.

Will eminent domain come into play?

No, Citroniq is a privately-owned company purchasing privately-owned land with funds backed by a private banking institution. None of those entities have eminent domain capabilities.

Will the development have solar panel fields?

The Mid-America Rail Campus is a 1,017-acre development with 187 wetland acres designated for solar infrastructure. Although solar is not a requirement for this project, it is possible there could be onsite co-generation to power the 120-megawatt operation. This could be a mixture of solar, wind, battery storage, or engines fed by natural gas similar to what's installed at the Falls City Power Plant. Renewables are in the conversation, but the primary focus is to address the electrical transmission infrastructure to Falls City for reliability to the site and our community.

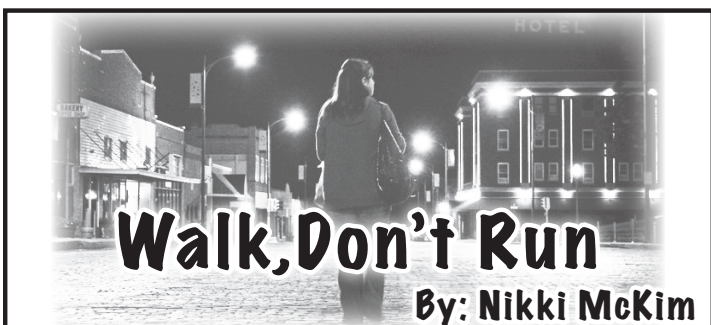
(Continued on Page 3)



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Another long Thanksgiving weekend has come and gone. They never seem to last long enough, do they?

I hope your Thanksgiving was as full of fabulous food and laughs as ours was. I discovered a couple of things during our Thanksgiving. At a very young 41, I only knew one person while watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, and that's because she was from my awful and wonderful reality television. Therefore, I have hit that scary age I've always dreaded where I no longer know anyone, especially anyone in the music world. At almost fifteen, my niece is far more funny and less scary than I was at that age. As I sat eating my oyster dressing and ham next to my niece, laughing with tears rolling down my face, I wondered if I ever made my aunt laugh as hard as Lucy makes me. The world is so scary, and these moments are fleeting and fabulous.

How wonderful was that Lighted Christmas Parade on Friday night? As I stood on Stone Street taking photos for the *Journal*, I sent videos of the parade to my friend Raquel, who lives on the edge of Boston. She always tells me the events here, like the Hot Air Balloon Festival, look like something out of a Hallmark movie or Gilmore Girls. I knew she would love the parade, and I was right. She said it was picture-perfect and how lucky I was to live in such a beautiful town.

It was very last minute, but Brian and I had the idea to open the *Journal* office Friday night a couple hours before the parade and for a bit after. It may give some people visiting town a chance to renew their subscriptions and grab holiday gift subscriptions. We had a few people stop by, see us, renew, chat, and have a few cookies. It was really nice to have some visitors stop by and chat with us. There may have been fewer people than we would have liked, but we thank everyone who came to see us. We will try a few different things here and there as we go. No idea is a bad idea if it only costs us our time.

Our next few months will be wonky around the office, but Brian and I can always be reached by email. We're about to have a new *Journal* baby join us. Our little full-time staff of three will be a full-time staff of two as our office manager will be gone for a while to expand her family. We are going to give her all the time she needs as she focuses on what's most important. In the meantime, Brian and I will be running around taking care of meetings, photos, sports, family events, a family wedding out of town, and more. So, the office may be closed, but we always have our phone and email on us. This business is incredibly important to us, and we will always do our best to work with you to do what we can to get what needs to be in, as long as the paper isn't about to go to print or it isn't too far past the deadline. The deadlines will be challenging to remember and hit the next month, so we will work with you as much as possible. Our email is always here on page two, down below this column.

On Sunday, my Aunt Amy got the ladies in our family tickets to see Joseph Hall (Elvis) in Humboldt at the Auditorium. It's my third time seeing him and our second time as a group. It's always such a great time going to see one of his shows. We saw Hall's tribute to Elvis in Humboldt at the beginning of this year. The Auditorium in Humboldt is such an excellent place for a show. Both times, I've been so impressed with the show's venue, attendance, and energy. I can't wait for the next time Hall comes back. Kudos to the Friends of the Humboldt Auditorium for another great concert!

All things Nebraska Republicans have a lengthy 'wish list' after retaining filibuster-proof majority

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner
Everyone has a "wish list" – things they'd like to get done, things they'd like to see happen, things they wish would come true.

But the Nebraska Republican Party recently put together the mother of all wish lists.

In a four-page document unveiled last month, the Nebraska GOP listed more than 70 policy changes they'd like to see at the state, local and national level.

The long list of wishes include returning the state to a "winner-take-all" system of awarding its electoral votes for president, further restrictions on abortions (just after voters approved a 12-week ban) and adopting an EPIC ("eliminate property, income and corporate taxes") tax system.

The Republican Party's wish list includes some other long-hoped-for policy changes, such as adopting a spending lid on local governments, ending secret ballots for state legislative leaders, and lowering the votes needed to fend off a filibuster in the State Legislature from 33 to 30.

To be sure, the Nebraska Democratic Party likely has a similar wish list of policies they'd like to see adopted.

But unlike the Nebraska GOP, they don't have a filibuster-proof majority in the State Legislature – the November elections gave Republicans 33 members in the officially nonpartisan Uni-cameral, which is enough to shut off a filibuster and pass controversial policies.

Whether or not those 33 legislators will vote for every one of the GOP's priorities, of course, remains to be seen. And remember, today's Nebraska Republican Party is run by a group of farther right members than in the past, after they ousted the less, far right backers of former governor and now U.S. Sen. Pete Ricketts from leadership posts.

There's still some independence in the Statehouse, if you ask me, though it gets less and less every year.

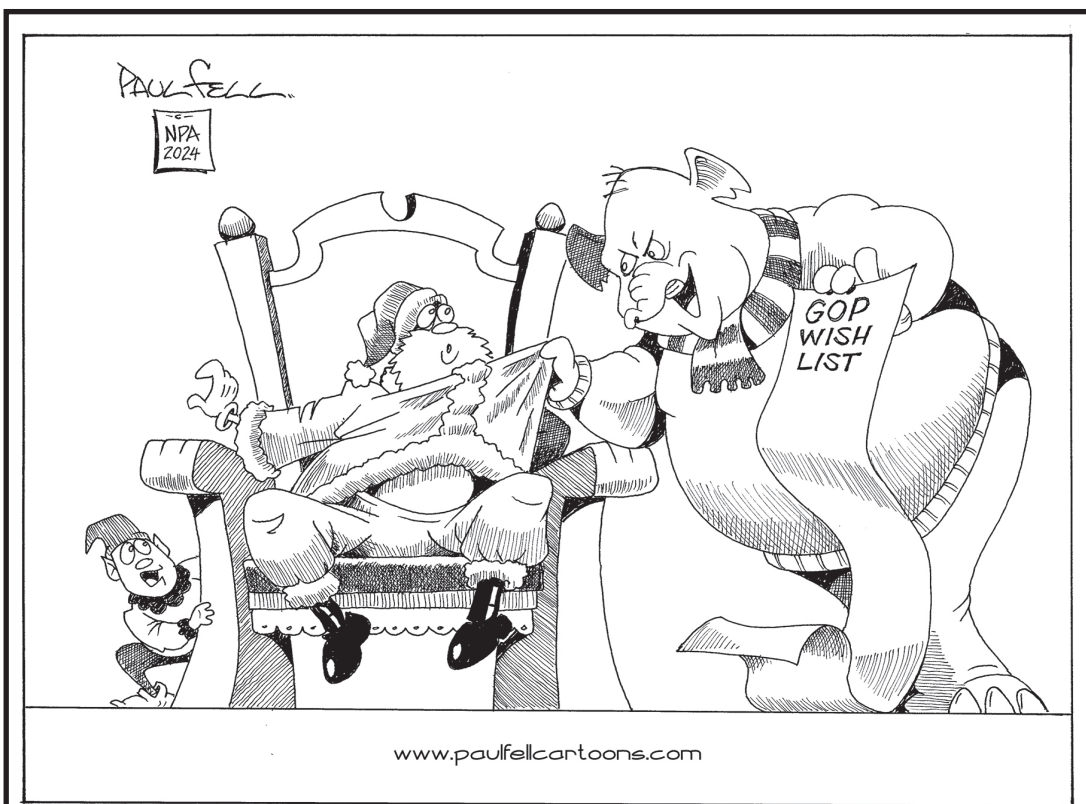
Example No. 1 recently was when State Sen. Merv Reipe of Ralston, a Republican, declined to vote in favor of an abortion bill in 2023 that banned the procedure after a fetal heartbeat was detected, which is around six weeks.

Reipe, a former hospital executive who is in his second go-around in Lincoln, argued that the "heartbeat bill" was too strict. That demonstration of independence later prompted state lawmakers to pass a compromise abortion bill, which banned the procedure after 12 weeks.

In addition, some Republicans in the past have not supported doing away with Nebraska's unique system of awarding three of its electoral votes by congressional district, and returning to a winner-take-all approach.

A dose of skepticism was sprinkled on the GOP's current wish list by one Republican, Central City Sen. Loren Lippincott.

"You have to remember we live in 'Realville,'" Lippincott told Andrew Wegley of the Lincoln Journal Star. ("Realville" was a term used by the late Rush Limbaugh, a conservative radio



commentator to describe the difference between fantasy and what can really happen in Washington, D.C.)

Of course, some Democrats also have an independence streak. Omaha Sen. Mike McDonnell (who is now running for mayor in Omaha) voted more than once with his GOP colleagues in the Legislature before he switched to become a Republican. Democrat Sen. Justin Wayne also voted in favor of some conservative, GOP-backed bills.

Which leads us to another item on the GOP wish list – turning the nonpartisan Legislature into a partisan body.

That, in my estimation, is a really bad idea. It makes senators more beholden to a political party rather than to the voters who put them in office, and makes it less likely that more than one candidate from each political party will run for election.

Let's hope that one stays on the wish list.

Paul Hammel has covered the Nebraska state government and the state for decades. He retired in April as senior contributor with the Nebraska Examiner. He was previously with the Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha Sun. A native of Ralston, Nebraska, he loves traveling and writing about the state.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: MANIAS AND PHOBIAS

ACROSS

1. Figaro's solo, e.g.
5. Not sin, as in math
8. Designer Laroche
11. Pi-meson
12. Cut, like a log
13. *Telephobia, or fear of this device
15. "He's Just Not That ___ You", movie
16. 2D measurement
17. Gives a helping hand
18. *Ludomania, obsession with
20. Therefore
21. Poetic feet
22. Accident
23. *___mania, obsession with wealth and power
26. Type of throw, in baseball
30. Miner's load
31. Member of Round Table
34. Quartet minus one
35. Spacious
37. Last word of "America the Beautiful"
38. Young chicken
39. Cocoyam
40. Largest Asian antelope
42. Haute couture gala location, with The
43. Slimy phlebotomists
45. *___phobia, fear of public speaking
47. Took the bait
48. Tempter
50. Dumbstruck
52. *Gamophobia, fear of ___
55. September stone
56. Cantina cooker
57. Apple leftover
59. Lakes, in Scotland
60. ___gin
61. "On a ___," or carefree
62. *___mania, obsession with oneself
63. Cough syrup amt.
64. Additional

DOWN

1. *___phobia, fear of bees
2. Bananaphone preceder
3. Itty bit
4. Language disfunction
5. Indigenous person of Lesser Antilles
6. Track and field star, 1936 Olympics
7. Tear in pantyhose
8. Struck with a mallet
9. Back arrow key
10. Indeed
12. Against the stream swimmer
13. Say "pretty please"
14. *___phobia, fear of snakes and crocodiles
19. Uncooperative, like a mule
22. "Battleship" success
23. Kind of mushroom
24. Grind down
25. Glittery stone
26. Carpet style
27. Lily genus, pl.
28. Angers
29. "All for one and one for all," to Musketeers
32. Egyptian goddess of fertility
33. Hair raiser
36. *___ effect, or compulsive handwashing
38. Pileus, pl.
40. Entomologist's catcher, sometimes
41. Agora, plural
44. Tannery supply, pl.
46. Delphi talker
48. Room partitions
49. Lowest deck on a ship
50. Full of excitement
51. Home to Baylor University
52. Lion's share
53. Hockey score
54. Commits a faux pas
55. A in IPA
58. Increase

CROSSWORD												
1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11					12				13	14		
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STAFF DUE TO ILLNESS, WEATHER, OR POWER OUTAGES.**

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"SEZ-I" LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We always welcome and encourage letters to the editor "Sez-I's." All letters sent to the Falls City Journal must include the authors full name, address and phone number for verification.

We reserve the right to edit factual errors or not publish letters we believe to be in poor taste, libelous, advertisements or not deemed fit for publication. Form letters or spam will not be published.

Letters may be emailed to nikki@fcjournal.net or mailed to the Editor at 1709 Stone Street, Falls City, NE 68355.

From the Journal

Files

By Brian McKim

75-50-25 Years Ago

75 Years Ago, December 4, 1949 to December 10, 1949

Shirley Temple was granted a divorce from husband John Agar. Temple was awarded a property settlement and custody of the couple's 21-month-old daughter, Linda Susan.

A fire at Wittrock Dairy caused several hundred dollars of damage. The fire department's quick work prevented widespread damage.

Desperado William Dunkin, a Nebraska Penitentiary fugitive, was killed in Rulo by a Kansas Highway Patrolman. Dunkin had been the object of a wide manhunt covering several states. Dunkin's car failed to negotiate a turn in Rulo and overturned. The fugitive pulled a gun and failed to give up. At that time, the patrolman fired two shots with his rifle, effectively ending Dunkin's life. Dunkin had been on a crime spree for 11 days leading up to his death.

Over 700 persons attended the annual Farmer-Merchant dinner at the auditorium, while over 200 participated in the Farmer-Merchant wives' banquet at the Tiehen Gymnasium.

A potluck supper was held at the Methodist Church in Falls City for members of the Senior Rainbow Horizon group and the Blue Horizon group. Miss Lucille Daniels, Mrs. Wm. Buthman and Mrs. Dan C. Arendt were the guardians in attendance.

Homer G. Wiltse, who quit the FBI to lead a more humdrum life, was joining his brother John H. Wiltse in the law firm of Wiltse & Wiltse. Wiltse was a firearms instructor and FBI trick shooter.

With the Christmas mailing season off to a good start, many people were finding out that the 1 1/2 cent stamp had gone the way of the five-cent cigar and the 50-cent haircut.

Larry Axon and M.L. Boatman announced they had leased the brick school building a mile north of Falls City and planned to operate a television and radio sales agency there.

According to superintendent Guy Omer, Mrs. George Lessel, Falls City, who had been principal and teacher at Rulo High School, resigned.

Jerry Martin led Salem with ten points as the Bobcats fell to Reserve 31-45.

Jennifer Jones, Van Heflin and Louis Jourdan starred in "Madame Bovary" at the Rivoli Theater.

Radio Star of "Name It and Play It" and "Meet the Band" Lee Barron and his Musical Memories performed at the Humboldt Auditorium.

The coldest weather of the season was recorded on December 8. The mercury dropped to 15 degrees, as Miss Kate Kloepfel reported.

The Hinky-Dinky store at 15th and Harlan Street was set to open on Monday, December 12 Dan Welch, an Oklahoma A & M Wildlife Management student, tried to bathe his pet rattlesnake. It was reported he was recovering from a snakebite.

Approximately 300 Elks gathered for a turkey dinner and initiation at the lodge room. Kenneth M. Gaither was chosen Master of the local Masonic Lodge at the election of officers.

50 Years Ago, December 4, 1974 to December 10, 1974

A medical scientist warned that cancer of the lungs was rapidly approaching a national calamity and cigarette smoking was almost entirely responsible for lung cancer.

Following a meeting with the football coaches, athletic director Eldon Lindquist and junior high principal Lowell Lewis, the school board voted to drop seventh-grade football.

In Dawson news, Mrs. Allen Fischer entered the Falls City Community Hospital for treatment on her back. She was in traction. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Williamson and their daughters were Thanksgiving Day guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hogrefe.

A team of state penal experts proposed a 10-year plan for upgrading Nebraska's prison, featuring \$22.1 million in capital construction and nearly \$10 million for new programs.

Kenny Meinzer of the Falls City FFA Chapter won a purple ribbon in the corn division of the Nebraska Grain Show.

Creighton University center Mick Heck, 21, was found dead in his dorm room. Initial reports were that the 7-1 giant died of natural causes.

The homes of Mrs. Nan Wolverton, Dr. and Mrs. Ted Kiekhaefer, Dr. and Mrs. Victor Arana, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Maze and the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith were included on the annual tour of homes sponsored by the Community Hospital auxiliary.

An unimproved 80-acre farm belonging to Emma Horn northeast of Falls City sold for \$1,081 per acre, believed to be the highest amount paid for an unimproved 80 acres in the county.

Approximately 200 persons, including the supreme president Myrtle Looney of Hobbs, N.M., attended the gathering of the 24th annual district convention of the B.P.O. Does at the Elks Club.

Alan Koenig scored 15 points and grabbed ten rebounds to lead the Tigers past Syracuse, 42-28, to open the 1974 season.

The Dairy Dip at 14th and Lane Street advertised chicken baskets for \$1.69 and chocolate sundaes for 29 cents.

A year's subscription for the Falls City Journal, delivered by a carrier was \$16. (Sixteen dollars in 1974 would equal roughly \$102.45 in 2024).

Humboldt defeated Sacred Heart, 54-44, in Galaxy Conference action. Bill Boss led the Cardinals with 17 points, while Steve Pokorny pumped in 18 for the Irish.

The Falls City wrestling team opened the year by winning the Auburn Invitational Tourney. Team members included Dwight Thompson, Tom Burton, Jim Cook, Ed Kirkendall, Darrell Schulenberg, Jeff Laney, Tim Wilson, Marty Meinzer, Ken Meinzer, Carl Messner, Paul Ivey and Scott Nelson.

The Tiger wrestling cheerleaders included Sandy Appleoff, Marta Prichard, Denise Coupe and Debbie Larkin.

25 Years Ago, December 4, 1999 to December 10, 1999

Teresa Chandler was elected the president of the Falls City Area Jaycees for the upcoming year.

The Falls City Area Chamber of Commerce members selected five new members to the Board of Directors. Sharon Comer, Judy Gilkerson, Mike Gilmore, Bart Keller and Charlene Schuetz were elected to three-year terms.

Four bids for the renovation of Prichard Auditorium were presented at the City Council meeting. All four fell outside the engineer's estimate of the project, which was projected at \$1,535,000.

The Irish boys, the preseason No. 1 ranked team in Class D-1, fell to the 7th-ranked Sterling Jets, 53-70. Meanwhile, the two-time defending champion Irish girls defeated the Jets 38-29. Julie Froeschl led SH with 16 points, while freshman Katie O'Grady poured in 12.

Gynae Hall, daughter of Tom and Kathie Hall, received the Lydia Mae Fethers Swinford Scholarship. The award was given to a nursing student who demonstrated academic excellence and outstanding leadership abilities.

Matt Wenz won the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben and River City Roundup Art Contest. Fellow Tiger Erin Borg placed as the runner-up. Both were students of Pat Steinman at Falls City High School.

Katie Parsons scored 17 points to lead the Lady Tigers to a 67-31 season-opening win over Lincoln Parkview Christian at Prichard Auditorium.

Russ Plager scored 17 points and grabbed 20 rebounds as Humboldt Table Rock defeated Diller-Odell 63-57.

Tecumseh voters rejected a proposal to build a new 350-student elementary school by an 818-92 vote.

Falls City Middle School Students of the Month were Lee Hullman, Kathy Lock and Kevin Duerfeldt.

Questions answered regarding Mid-America Rail Campus

(Continued from Page 1)

Can schools and hospital handle the influx of people? (teacher shortages)

Leaders of these organizations are aware of the project as board members of EDGE and have been included in discussions during this entire process. Although decisions will be addressed by the elected Board of Education, it is widely believed that our public school system has the infrastructure to support this growth. The Hospital Board will function in a similar way, evaluating infrastructure, employee, and service needs for the community.

What role will Union Pacific play?

Union Pacific will play a key role in infrastructure design and development. The project site exists along a Union Pacific mainline that runs from Kansas City to Omaha. It is the former Missouri Pacific Railroad that employed as many as 450 local railroaders 75 years ago in 1949. It is this valuable infrastructure that we are leveraging to create economic activity for the region. EDGE is engaged with Union Pacific's executive leadership team for a mutually-beneficial and long-term development strategy.

Was anyone forced to give up their land?

No, only those willing to sell the land they own will be involved in acquisition discussions.

Is China involved in any way?

No, Citroniq is a US-owned company by US Citizens. The owners are Houston-based executives with experience in the oil and gas and renewables industries.

Will this cause any air pollution?

The plant's atmospheric emissions will amount to less than a local hospital or large retail store. This is a green operation that is categorized as environmentally friendly.

Are there any specific hazards or health risks?

There are no significant health risks or hazards being created by the plant's operation.

How will schools prepare students for the jobs available?

We expect Falls City High's Career Academy, especially their Agriculture division, to prepare our youth with the skillsets necessary to create a career in Falls City. We have engaged with Southeast Community College and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln leadership to notify them of Falls City's desire to become a hub for the Nebraska

Bioeconomy Initiative. This could potentially lead to other education options that create career opportunities for our youth.

Will this increase taxes?

Citroniq's real estate value is still to be determined, but this investment is expected to offset property taxes for owners in Richardson County. When the cost of social services is shared by investors like Citroniq, it helps alleviate the property tax burden of citizens that live in the local city or county. We expect real estate revenues to increase significantly more than social service costs, offsetting tax burdens, but a lot of that is still to be determined.

Will the new power line only benefit the new facility, or will it benefit the entire town?

In the Spring of 2022, we were successful in passing a \$15 million allocation from the State of Nebraska to address Falls City's redundancy and resilience issues caused by the lack of electrical transmission infrastructure in the far-Southeast corner of the state. It is unknown whether a new transmission line will be built, the existing one increased, or if we increase our local generation capacity. Whatever decision is made, it will be made in the best interest of the citizens and utility rate payers in Falls City. The Falls City Power Team is fighting hard and negotiating with the best interest of Falls City top of mind. We are in a good position for beneficial outcomes.

Will the taxpayers have to help fund the power line?

Now that we have a large customer interested in purchasing power, it is expected that additional infrastructure to Falls City will be paid through service agreements with this new customer, providing indirect benefits to the local tax and rate payers. Citroniq's announcement provides Falls City an opportunity to invest in our infrastructure without burdening the rate payers.

Citroniq and EDGE will collaborate to conduct extensive community outreach and information sharing programs. A project of this importance to the region will generate significant interest so it is a project priority to work closely with elected officials, civic leaders, and other stakeholders to ensure timely and transparent communication.

Stay tuned to the *Journal* for future articles on the formation of EDGE and information pertinent to the Mid-America Rail Campus Project.

BUILDING PERMITS

Gary Frederick, 214 E. 7th St., Demo Scale House and Concrete; \$2,000.00.

Anna Thompson, 1115 Lane St., Demo Garage; \$1,000.00.

Herzog, 300 Fulton St., Replace Existing Sign; \$10,000.00.

James and Janelle O'Tool, 1715 Crook St., Repair Roof; \$5,000.00.

State of Nebraska, 1525 E. 14th St., Water Heater; \$1,033.57.

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EVERYONE WELCOME!

Questions: 402-883-0289

Donations are needed

to continue upkeep and maintenance of the
ST. MARK'S CEMETERY near Verdon.
These donations are used to cut grass
and keep the cemetery presentable.

Donations may be sent to:
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46th Annual **MANY CRAFTERS & VENDORS**

**Christmas Craft Fair
Candy & Cookie Walk**

Saturday, December 7th

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Nemaha County Wellness Center-601 J Street-Auburn, NE

30 Vendors for you to choose from!

Plus Cookie & Candy Walk....

Free will Donation

Show is sponsored by:

Nemaha County Giving Hope Cancer Fund

Lunch by American Legion Auxiliary

SOCIETY

Shubert American Legion Auxiliary Unit 222

Tana J Brown Secretary

The Shubert American Legion Auxiliary Unit 222 met November 12, 2024 at the home of Vicki Beilke. Co-president Vicki Beilke called the meeting to order and called for a moment of silence. Chaplain Dona Hall offered the opening prayer.

At this time Elizabeth Ketner draped the charter for our deceased member Vicki Owings.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, "God Bless Our Native Land" was sung, and the Preamble was recited.

Roll call was answered by 11 members.

Secretary Tana Brown read the minutes of the October 8, 2024 meeting and they were approved as read.

Treasurer Judy Schlosser, shared the treasurer's report. Elizabeth Ketner made a motion to accept the report, Marilyn Capps seconded and all approved.

A motion to pay the bills presented was made by Jana Wheeler, 2nd by Elizabeth Ketner and all approved.

We currently have 81 members paid with a requirement this year of 96.

Dona said she will be taking treats to FCNR for Nov. The commemorative Veterans coins have been tabled for now. Those who attended Fall Roundup shared the highlight was the food and Mary Eickhoff's talk about how Richardson County does County Government Day. Several of the counties do not do County Government day, but would like to start again.

The Veterans Day Program went very well at HTRS. It was discussed how this program could be more published in the future. Jerry Joy came at the beginning of our meeting to share his appreciation for what we do and how nice the program was.

The Unit will again take treats to HTRS for Education week of November 18.

Tour of homes is 12-8-24 from 4-6. The current homes on the list are Trevor Eickhoff and Cory Rademacher. Jana Wheeler will have her outside decorations up for all to enjoy.

Marilyn Capps invited everyone to the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Steel Cemetery on Saturday, December 14th at 11 AM.

The Standing Rules of our Constitution will need to be updated at the December meeting to show our new meeting time of 6:30.

The next meeting will be held on December 10, 2024 at 6:30 at the home of Vicki Beilke.

Chaplain Dona Hall gave the closing prayer.

Co-President Vicki Beilke declared the meeting adjourned.

Taking care of the land: A conservation ethic

Craig Derickson, Nebraska Soil Health Coalition Secretary

There's an old saying in conservation circles: "If you take care of the land, the land will take care of you." Conservationists often trace this idea back to Hugh Hammond Bennett, the leader of the U.S. soil conservation movement in the 1920s and 1930s. Bennett saw soil erosion as a "national menace" and convinced Congress to take action. He also established a new federal agency to address the issue, which we now know as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The idea of "taking care of the land"—or having a conservation ethic—reflects the core belief that we're all responsible for the natural resources we rely on. For those of us in conservation, farmers and ranchers have always been among the best stewards of the land. After all, their livelihoods depend on the long-term health and productivity of their soil. But despite their dedication, it's becoming more challenging for some producers to implement these practices due to evolving trends in land ownership and management.

One big hurdle we're seeing is the rise of "non-operating landowners"—landowners who don't farm the land themselves. According to a USDA report from 2015, around 41% of U.S. farmland is rented or leased, and in the Midwest, this number jumps to 62%. This trend can make conservation efforts more difficult, as these non-operating landowners often lack the practical knowledge about conservation or assume that their tenant farmers will handle it.

There are several reasons for this. Many absentee landowners may have inherited the land or received it as a gift, and they may not be aware of today's conservation practices or emerging opportunities, like regenerative agriculture. They also may not feel the need to invest in conservation practices, especially if they're uncertain about how those efforts would provide a positive return on investment (ROI).

For tenant farmers, there are other obstacles. Investing in soil health and conservation practices takes time and resources, and if they're working on a short-term lease, they might not see the benefits of their investment before their lease ends. Short-term leases can discourage regenerative practices because their full benefits often take years to materialize.

America has a proud history of farm and ranch families who have tended to the land for generations, creating a legacy of responsible land stewardship that benefits crops, livestock, wildlife, and clean water. Aldo Leopold, a prominent conservationist in the 1930s and 1940s, coined the term "land ethic" to capture this commitment. He saw land as a community that includes soil, water, plants, animals, and people—a philosophy of caring for the land and all its resources as a moral duty for both land users and owners.

Fortunately, resources are available to help producers and landowners care for their land. The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) partners with local conservation districts, called Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) in Nebraska, to offer technical and financial support. These organizations have experienced staff who provide guidance and assistance to both farmers and absentee landowners on various conservation practices, and they accept annual applications for funding.

Here at the Nebraska Soil Health Coalition (NSHC), we're dedicated to supporting land stewardship by providing information, tools, and resources to help produc-

ers and landowners implement conservation and regenerative agriculture practices. Our motto is to be producer-led, community-focused, and partnership-driven.

As a non-profit organization founded in 2023, NSHC aims to promote soil health and sustainable practices that build resilient farms, ranches, and communities across Nebraska. Our mission is simple: foster collaborative efforts to adopt soil health systems. With strong partnerships and a clear vision, we're working toward a future where sustainable agriculture strengthens both our rural communities and the land they depend on.

About Nebraska Soil Health Coalition: The Nebraska Soil Health Coalition is a collaborative effort to increase sustainable agricultural production and thriving rural communities. As part of that vision, we support Nebraska's community newspapers. Our mission is to advance producer-centered education, outreach, and adoption of soil health principles to build resilient farms, ranches, and communities across Nebraska. Our purpose is to advance producer-centered education, outreach, and adoption of soil health principles to build resilient farms, ranches, and communities across Nebraska. You can learn more at www.nesoil-health.org.

FALLS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS AND STATISTICS

November 14 through November 15 calls: one 911 hang up/misdial, one burn permit, two referred to another agency, one miscellaneous, two ambulance/EMS, one animal call, two information only, one accident, four 911 calls.

November 15 through November 16 calls: one ambulance/EMS, one referred to another agency, one alarm, one fingerprint, one 911 hang up/misdial, one traffic/driving complaint, one miscellaneous, three 911 calls, two citations for speeding, one citation for driving under suspension, two warnings for no valid registration, two warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting.

November 16 through November 17 calls: two miscellaneous, two traffic/driving complaints, one accident, one ambulance/EMS, two check welfare, one motorist assist, two referred to another agency, one investigation, six 911 calls, one citation for terroristic threats, one citation for possess deadly weapon while commit a felony, one citation for commit child abuse negligently/no injury, one citation for possess deadly weapon by prohibited person, one citation for speeding, one citation for careless driving, one citation for no valid registration.

November 17 through November 18 calls: one ambulance/EMS, two miscellaneous, two burn permits, one fire call (Verdon fire), one disturbance, one warning for plates not clear and visible, one warning for fail to yield ROW.

November 18 through November 19 calls: one suspicious person/vehicle, one accident, one burn permit, one traffic/driving complaint, three referred to another agency, three ambulance/EMS, one HHS intake/referral, one miscellaneous, one parking complaint, one alarm, seven 911 calls, one citation for leave accident-fail to furnish information-first, one citation for fugitive from justice, one citation for resist arrest-second/subsequent offense, one citation for obstruct a peace officer.

November 19 through November 20 calls: two traffic/driving/complaints, three ambulance/EMS, two miscellaneous, one information only, two 911 hang up/misdials, two animal calls, one HHS intake/referral, one burn permit, one alarm, 12-911 calls, one citation for invalid registration, one citation for overtake/pass stopped school bus.

November 20 through November 21 calls: one theft, two referred to another agency, one ambulance/EMS, one alarm, one domestic disturbance, five 911 calls.

November 21 through November 22 calls: six information only, two HHS intake/referrals, one phone/digital/mail scam, one burn permit, two referred to another agency, one traffic/driving complaint, one gun permit, one investigation, one 911 call.

November 22 through November 23 calls: three ambulance/EMS, one referred to another agency, one burn permit, two gun permits, four records checks, two miscellaneous, one HHS intake/referral, two traffic/driving complaint, one check welfare, one theft, one 911 call.

November 23 through November 24 calls: one check welfare, one accident, one domestic disturbance, one theft, two burn permits, one found or lost property, one disturbance, one motorist assist, one 911 hang up/misdial, one 911 call, one citation for terroristic threats.

Journal holiday deadlines, print schedule and hours

(Continued from Page 1)

ing or afternoon and return later. Brian and Nikki are accessible most nights and weekends via email. Please see page two for email addresses for staff.

The dropbox in our entryway will be monitored closely for any advertising, subscriptions and information you wish to place in the paper. Please feel free to place things there for us to pick-up when we return to the office.

We appreciate your understanding at this time and hope to return to regular hours in the future.

Community Medical Center recognized by Nebraska Department of Health and Human services for excellence in quality

(Continued from Page 1)

efforts of these 10 Critical Access Hospitals as standard-bearers for the patient experience in our state's rural communities."

"Through our INDEX framework, we have grown accustomed to seeing such strong performance from Nebraska's Critical Access Hospitals. This award program provides a wonderful opportunity to focus specifically on Critical Access Hospital quality and we're delighted to celebrate the achievements of this year's Top 10 in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services," said Troy Brown, Network Consultant, The Chartis Center for Rural Health.

Community Medical Center is the premier critical access hospital in Richardson County. Having served the area for over 100 years, CMC continues to work diligently to provide the most up-to-date healthcare to our patients and maintain the highest standards for patient care, quality, and safety each and every day.

BUILDING PERMITS

Ryan Schutte/Kawres, 1515 Stone St., spray foam roof; \$25,000.00.

James and Janelle O'Tool, 1715 Crook St., replace sidewalk; \$1,926.00.

Michelle Dodge, 1114 Lane St., replace furnace; \$4,500.00.

Lowell Eickhoff, 1915 Nemaha Ave., repair ga-

rage roof, soffit, fascia and gutters; \$6,003.00.

Paulo Bruxellas, 1518 Stone St., rebuild masonry wall; \$7,000.00.

Bart and Gayle Keller, 401 E 24th St., install generator; \$5,000.00.

Opal Frye, 2724 Abbott St., replace roof; \$7,600.00.

Sac & Fox casino

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For more details, see the Winner's Club. All promotions are subject to change. Must be 21 years of age or older.
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Belmont University's Pressler Bruxellas to Perform in 'Christmas at Belmont: Live from Nashville' Concert, Streaming Live on Amazon Prime and Twitch

Belmont University's beloved annual concert tradition, "Christmas at Belmont Live from Nashville," will be live-streamed for the first time through Amazon Music. Pressler Bruxellas (Humboldt) will be among more than 600 student musicians and vocalists to perform in the beloved annual concert tradition.

Beginning Wednesday, Dec. 11, this popular holiday spectacular will stream to a global audience on Prime Video and the Amazon Music channel on Twitch and marks the first time the event has been available on a global streaming service. A showcase of Belmont's musical talent through an array of traditional carols, classical masterworks and seasonal favorites, this year's event will feature performances from Belmont alumni Ashley Cooke, Cody Fry and Dwan Hill.

This tremendous opportunity exemplifies the enduring value of a Belmont education.

Belmont University President Greg Jones noted, "Christmas at Belmont Live from Nashville" highlights the College of Music and Performing Arts' commitment to fostering innovative creativity and providing comprehensive training. The 90-minute performance will feature more than 600 student musicians and vocalists where viewers will witness the depth of Belmont's musical education. Filmed live in front of an audience at the University's Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, more than 15 student choirs and ensembles will perform including the Belmont Chorale, Symphony Orchestra, Southbound (country) and Voxology (Gospel, R&B), among many others.

This year's performance will feature special guest appearances by acclaimed Belmont alumni Ashley Cooke, Cody Fry and Dwan Hill. Ashley Cooke, a 2019 corporate communications graduate and a rising country music star, recently celebrated her first No. 1 song and earned the Breakthrough Female Video of the Year at the 2024 CMT Awards for her song, "your place." Since graduating, Cooke has rapidly ascended country music charts, touring with notable artists and releasing critically acclaimed music showcasing her authentic songwriting and powerful vocals.

Cody Fry, 2012 commercial music alum and multi-faceted artist, brings his diverse talents as a singer-songwriter, composer, arranger and multi-instrumentalist. Fry's innovative approach to music production has garnered him widespread acclaim, including a Grammy nomination for his orchestral version of "Eleanor Rigby." His ability to blend classical elements with contemporary pop has led to viral success on platforms like TikTok and collaborations with major symphony orchestras around the world.

Multiple Grammy and Dove award winner Dwan Hill brings his extensive musical experience to the performance featuring The Choir Room, a nonprofit he founded. The Choir Room brings together a diverse community of hundreds of singers and musicians, exemplifying a commitment to inclusive, community-driven music. The Choir Room's recent partnership and funding from Belmont University's Creative Arts Collective for Christian Life and Faith supports Hill's mission of reviving choral music and fostering faith-driven artistic expression. Hill, a 2008 music education graduate and 2013 Master of Music graduate, now serves as an adjunct professor in the University's songwriting program.

The performance will be recorded and broadcast live from Belmont University's Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, a 1,700-seat venue that opened in 2021. The Center's advanced acoustics and production technology allow for nuanced sound control and dynamic lighting, enhancing the diverse musical styles showcased in "Christmas at Belmont Live from Nashville." As both an educational resource and a cultural asset for Nashville, the Fisher Center embodies Belmont's dedication to excellence performing arts education and presentation.

The "Christmas at Belmont: Live from Nashville" broadcast will begin with a tune-in event, Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. CST on Prime Video and the Amazon Music channel on Twitch and will be available throughout the holiday season via video on demand. For more information, visit belmont.edu/christmas.

FROM THE JOURNAL ARCHIVES



Northwest Falls City, Nebraska in an undated photo.

2024 Falls City Public School State Accountability Report

The Nebraska Department of Education annually evaluates all Nebraska school districts and schools, assigning classifications of Excellent, Great, Good, or Needs Improvement through AQuESTT (Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow). This classification reflects a comprehensive review of key performance areas, with data gathered from:

- * Grades 3-8: Proficiency in English Language Arts and Math, emphasizing student growth, school improvement, and reduction in non-proficient students.

- * Grades 5 and 8: Science proficiency and score improvement on state assessments.

- * Grades 9-12: Junior year ACT scores, specifically the percentage of students on track for college readiness benchmarks.

- * District-wide Requirements: 95 percent participation rate in state assessments, as well as four-year and extended graduation rates.

- * Chronic Absenteeism: Efforts to reduce absenteeism (defined as being absent 10 percent or more of membership days).

- * English Language Proficiency: Advancement toward proficiency for English Language Learners.

Falls City Public Schools received a Great designation in this year's AQuESTT evaluation, as part of the Nebraska Department of Education's accountability report released on November 27, 2024.

A few accountability highlights:

- * Chronic Absenteeism: FCPS reduced its chronic absenteeism rate from 17.6 percent to 15.0 percent, outperforming the statewide average of 21.19 percent.

- * College Enrollment: Falls City High School increased the percentage of students pursuing post-secondary education from 63.79 percent in 2022-2023 to 67.92 percent in 2023-2024.

- * Graduation Rate: FCPS achieved a remarkable 96.49 percent graduation rate, surpassing the state average by eight percentage points.

- * Academic Proficiency: Grades 3-8 students demonstrated 53 percent proficiency in English Language Arts, 57 percent in Math, and 75 percent in Science—a six-point improvement in Science from the previous year.

Other information released included:

- * FCPS has received a Great designation as a district. In addition to receiving a district classification each building also receives their own individual designation. High school received a designation of Great while middle school, south school, and north school have received designations as Good.

- * Schools may also receive federal designations—Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI)—for under-performing subgroups. Notably, FCPS received no federal designations for 2024, reflecting positive strides in equitable student performance across all subgroups.

While celebrating these achievements, FCPS remains dedicated to addressing ongoing challenges through a sustained focus on instructional improvement. Our commitment to equitable outcomes drives our work to enhance accountability scores and ensure every graduate of our district is college and career ready.

Nebraska State Accountability: FCPS District NSCAS & ACT Proficiency

SUBJECT	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ELA Grades 3-8	44%	54%	53%
Math Grades 3-8	40%	57%	57%
Science Grades 5, 8	69%	69%	75%
ACT ELA, Math, Science Grade 11	34%, 27%, 34%	58%, 46%, 41%	47%, 51%, 58%

FCPS's success reflects a district-wide commitment to supporting all learners:

- * Data-Driven Instruction: Staff leverage formative and NSCAS assessments, as well as regular team meetings, to track student progress, make timely adjustments to support structures, and set data-informed goals.

- * On To College Program: The continued integration of John Baylor's On To College program during the school day has enhanced students' access to college preparatory resources, fostering real-time collaboration and support from teachers.

- * Strengthening Core Subjects: The district prioritizes rigor in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. Staff engage in both horizontal and vertical curriculum alignment conversations to refine instructional approaches and develop grade-level support plans.

- * Through-Year Progress Monitoring: FCPS monitors student progress across the year using DIBELS, MAP, NSCAS, and Pre-ACT assessments, ensuring instruction is responsive to student needs.

Falls City Public Schools, backed by the District 56 Board of Education, administration, faculty, and strong parental and community support, remains steadfast in its mission to graduate students equipped with critical skills for future success. Through continuous collaboration, targeted initiatives, and a focus on developing resourceful, resilient, and responsible individuals, FCPS is committed to empowering students for a bright future.

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RECITAL NEWS

Students from the music studio of Glenda von Behren were recently featured in recitals at Christ Lutheran Church. Performers were as follows: Piano – Reese Andrew, Emersyn Ankrom, Lynnley Ankrom, Evi Bangert, Liv Buckminster, Cole Castaneda, Kyler Castaneda, Gus Clemmons, Berklie Davis, Lily Harrah, Hattie Johansen, Jayce Kearney, Miyuna Kong, Liliana Lowe, Lorelei Lowe, Liam Maddox, Addy Martin, Auroara Martin, Charlie Merz, Corban Miller, Elise Miller, Caroline Powell, Ethan Ramsey, Kylie Ramsey, Lillian Riley, Kase Schawang, Willow Strecker, Theo Sullivan and Liam Sutton; Voice – Reese Andrew, Renee Drummond, Miyuna Kong, Liliana Lowe and Molly Merz; Violin – Kyler Castaneda; Percussion – Justin Drummond.

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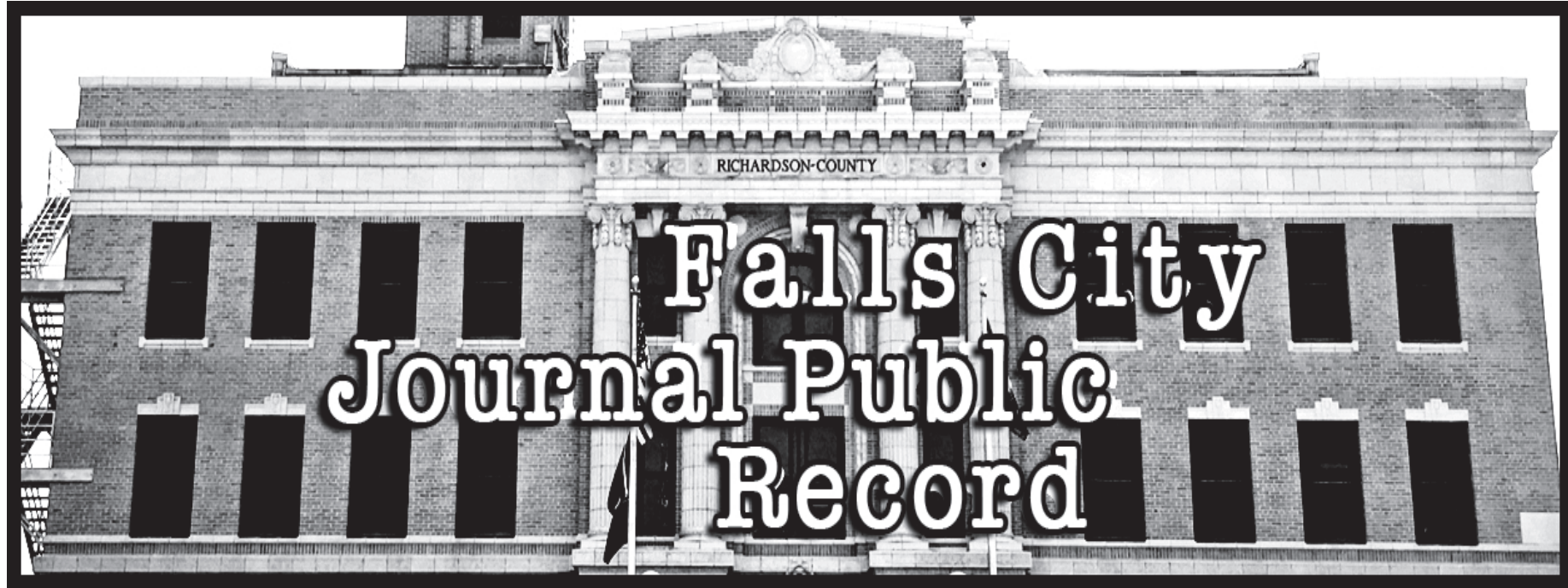
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Falls City
JOURNAL



(Editor's Note - dismissal without prejudice) means the government did not waive its right to litigate the matter in a subsequent action).

(Editor's Note - dismissal with prejudice) bars the government from prosecuting the accused later on the same charge).

Legend drug means drugs that are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and that are required by federal or state law to be dispensed to the public only on prescription of a licensed physician or other licensed provider.

The *Falls City Journal* publishes the Public Record as part of its obligation to inform readers about the business of public institutions and to serve as a keeper of the local historical record. The information contained in this list is processed from an electronic copy of the official record, which is submitted by the Richardson County Courthouse

CITATIONS

Cameron Hayes of Oklahoma City, OK, count one, speeding 21-35 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$200 and court costs. (Anderson)

Damon Gullicks of Valley City, ND, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Wissmann)

Franklyn Rist of Humboldt, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Franks)

Stephanie Kearney of Falls City, count one, speeding 6-10, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Ramirez)

Michael Morris of Wichita, KS, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Anderson)

Troy McAtee of Omaha, count one, unlawful/fict display of plate/renew tab, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$50; count two, fail to display proper number of plates, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Novak)

Rao Gutta of Omaha, count one, speeding 21-35 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$200 and court costs. (Holliday)

Daniel Martinez Rojas of Topeka, KS, count one, no operator's license, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Anderson)

Michele Frederick of Rulo, count one, speeding 11-15 municipal school, plead guilty, found guilty

and fined \$150 and court costs. (Ramirez)

Jesse Herman of Perry, KS, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Novak)

Ellarie Owen of Gretna, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Holliday)

Dylan DiGiovanni of Omaha, count one, no valid registration, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Racliffe)

Melissa Feighner of Falls City, count one, speeding 6-10 mph municipal school, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$50 and court costs. (Ramirez)

Roberto Rosales Diaz of Lincoln, count one, no operator's license, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Anderson)

Colin Obrien Pherigo, count one, failure to yield ROW, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Keller)

Misael Paz Guillen of Lincoln, count one, unlawful/fict plate/renew tab, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$50 and court costs; count two, amended to dropped/dismissed. (Novak)

Ethan Kiefer of Greenwood, IA, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Holliday)

Tedd Gilkerson of Falls City, count one, speeding 6-10 municipal school, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$50 and court costs. (Ramirez)

Steven Koelzer of Sumter, SC, count one, speeding 6-10 mph municipal school, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$50; count two, no valid registration, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs; count three, amended to dropped/dismissed. (Ramirez)

Desmond Connolly of Papillion, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Holliday)

Jeffrey Brammer of Lincoln, count one, no valid registration, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs; count two, amended to dropped/dismissed. (Aitken)

Donald Losch of Humboldt, count one, improper/defective vehicle lighting, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs; count two, amended to dropped/

dismissed; count three, amended to dropped/dismissed. (Novak)

Keesha Parker of Sioux City, IA, count one,

speeding 16-20 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Holliday)

Trent Strahm of Sabe-

tha, KS, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Novak)

RICHARDSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
REPORT RETRIEVED FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

ALL SUSPECT'S ARE INNOCENT
UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY.

November 7, 2024

Nicholas R. Barrows, 31, Stillwell, KS was arrested for third degree domestic assault, possession of a controlled substance, terroristic threats, possession of a deadly weapon during a felony, and child abuse.

November 8, 2024

Tiffany S. Allen, 32, Falls City, NE was arrested on an extraditable warrant out of Leavenworth County, KS.

November 9, 2024

Hunter A. Clifton, 22, Cook, NE was arrested for False Reporting.

November 10, 2024

Thomas J. Epperson, 65, Shubert, NE was arrested for third degree domestic assault and assault by strangulation.

Alicia M. Parnell, 36, Omaha, NE was arrested for Driving Under Suspension.

Wyett D. Karpinski, 18, Stella, NE was arrested for Driving Under Revocation.

Tyler N. Banks, 42, Horton, KS was arrested for Driving Under Revocation, No Operators License and Traffic Offenses/Acts Declared Unlawful.

November 13, 2024

Hayden J. Fairchild, 22, Lincoln, NE was arrested on a Lancaster County warrant.

November 14, 2024

Max J. Ash, 62, Sabetha, KS was arrested for driving under suspension.

Hugh R. Berry, 58, Belmond, IA was arrested on a Richardson County warrant for failure to appear.

Taylor A. Rogers, 30, Tarkio, MO was arrested on three Richardson County warrants for failure to pay fines and costs. Rogers was also arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

November 15, 2024

Broderick CJ Smith, 25, Falls City, NE was arrested on a Probation Sanction.

November 16, 2024

Amy J. Phroper, 39, Lincoln, NE was ar-

rested on two Lancaster County warrants and Driving Under Suspension.

November 17, 2024

David C. Wells, 41, Humboldt, NE was arrested for possession of a firearm by a prohibited person, habitual criminal enhancement charge, possession of a firearm with felony II drug violation, possess controlled substance with intent to distribute within 1000 ft of a playground, possession of a deadly weapon by a prohibited person, possession of a deadly weapon while committing a felony, no drug tax stamp, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Bianca R. Ramirez, 32, Humboldt, NE was arrested for possession of a firearm with felony II drug violation, possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute within 1000 ft of a playground, possession of a deadly weapon while committing a felony, no drug tax stamp, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

November 19, 2024

Chad A. Clark, 40, Falls City, NE was arrested for Driving Under Suspension.

Gary L. Prater, 69, Falls City, NE was arrested on a Court Commitment.

Charles L. Ochoa, 61, Dawson, NE was arrested for possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, habitual criminal enhancement charge, possession of a firearm by a prohibited person, use of explosives to commit a felony, possession of a deadly weapon by a prohibited person, possession of a deadly weapon during the commission of a felony, possession of a destructive device, possession of a controlled substance, use of explosives without a permit, obstructing a peace officer, storing explosives in violation of safety regulations, maintaining a drug house, possession of drug paraphernalia.

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Tigers struggle to find consistency

The Lady Tiger volleyball squad finished the 2024 fall season with a 9-19 record. The nine wins was the lowest total since FC went 9-21 in 2019. Falls City had a season-best three-game winning streak in mid-September. Right after the three-game streak, FC experienced its season-longest six-game skid. Down the stretch portion of the season, Falls City was unable to string together a meaningful winning streak, dropping its final match of the season to Omaha Roncalli in sub-district action.

"Anytime you finish below .500, there is a lot of what ifs that come across a coach's mind," said Head Coach Allison Haines. "During the preseason, our coaching staff emphasized to go out and compete each night. There were several nights that our team went out and competed but came out short in the win column. With our low numbers and injuries that we endured, I was very proud of our team."

Falls City ended the season with 465 kills on 2,354 attacks with 419 errors for a .020 hitting percentage. The Lady Tigers served 155 aces, had 1,280 digs and 430 assists.

"Overall this season, I saw a lot of growth through this team," said Haines. "Each night we stepped out on the court, we were undersized and did not have a deep bench to rely on. This team experienced every possible ro-

tion, position change and adversity possible."

Coach Haines relied heavily on the senior group of Taylor Kreifels, Paige Young and Kaitlyn Kirkendall.

"Paige had to change positions from previous seasons and led our team in the back row," said Haines. "Kaitlyn played three different positions and was effective at all positions. Taylor experienced a high ankle sprain and came back faster than I have ever seen. These challenges can be devastating at the time, but overall made us a closer and stronger team."

Freshman Bella Johansen ended the season as the team leader in kills with 116. Senior Kaitlyn Kirkendall added 115, Carlea Dunkhas had 86, Kreifels finished with 59, and Ella Glathar added 41. Gabi Young led the team with 32 ace serves and 356 assists. Senior Paige Young finished her career with 334 digs, 29 ace serves, and 425 serves received.

Coach Haines is hoping for an influx of competitors next fall.

"Next year, there will be a big freshman class coming into high school with many of them planning to play volleyball," said Haines. "I am planning on having my biggest volleyball team during my tenure. These incoming freshmen will enter high school with a lot of club experience and playing

volleyball at a high level. They will be coming off an undefeated middle school season."

Falls City will lean on juniors Dunkhas and Glathar, sophomore Gabi Young and freshman Johansen.

"With the experience coming back to our team and the new players, we look to compete and build back the program," said Haines. "During the summer, we plan to have high numbers in the open gym, the weight room and summer league. My goal as the head coach is to develop this team and begin to compete with the teams in our conference and the arguably hardest class (C1) in the state."



Lady Tigers power through 2024 season, hoping to make a jump in 2025

The Lady Tiger softball team suffered through its most challenging season since finishing 2-22 in 2018. The 2024 group went 1-24 on the field, securing its only win 13-10 versus Buena Vista on September 7. Falls City struggled to put runs on the board this season, suffering shut-outs in 13 of 25 contests. The win versus Buena Vista was the only time the FC offense scored in double figures.

As a team in 2024, Falls City batted .283 with 108 hits, 40 RBI, 49 runs scored, drew 29 walks and struck out 125 times. The Lady Tigers swiped 15 bases in 17 attempts. Tiger pitchers tossed 82 1/3 innings, allowing 249 hits, 336 runs, 186 earned runs, striking out 32 batters and walking 134 for a team ERA of 15.81. Opponents stole 126 bases on 137 attempts. Tiger opponents batted .467.

Senior Emilou Schulenberg led the Tigers with a .472 batting average. Schulenberg finished with team-bests of 25 hits, five triples, 14 runs scored and four stolen bases. Delaney Godemann was next with a .333 average. Godemann finished with 16 hits, including three doubles, a team-high 13 RBI and nine runs scored. Right behind Godemann was Brylee Liberty. Liberty hit at a .326 clip, finishing with 14 hits, including a team-best four doubles, five RBI and

four runs scored. Jazzy Strecker batted .275 for the season, and Bristol Titus hit .270.

Strecker tossed 51 2/3 innings in the circle, finishing the year with a 1-11 record. Strecker surrendered 160 hits, 193 runs, 112 earned runs, 69 walks, and struck out 21 for a 15.17 ERA.

Godemann accumulated 25 2/3 innings in the circle, finishing the year at 0-11. Godemann allowed 74 hits, 121 runs, 58 earned runs, walked 55 batters, and struck out ten for an ERA of 15.82.

In the field, Falls City finished the season with a .722 fielding percentage. The Lady Tigers had 407 total chances and made 113 errors. Behind the plate, Kenley Alexander threw out four of 52 stolen base attempts. Schulenberg threw out two of 45 would-be base runners, and Taytum Maddox cut down five of 29 attempts in 19 2/3 innings.

The Tigers must replace seniors Delaney Godemann and Emilou Schulenberg. Both proved integral parts of the team this season, but expect the underclassmen to step up and fill holes next fall.

Schulenberg was chosen for the ECNC All-Conference first team, while Strecker and Godemann were named honorable mention.

Commissioners approve hiring of dispatcher to begin after beginning of year

The regular meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Caverzagie at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 27, 2024. Roll call was answered by Sickel and Caverzagie. Commissioner Karas was absent.

Amanda Bartek-Ramsey, County Treasurer presented to the Board the replacement for a pledge security receipt from State Bank of Table Rock.

A motion was made by Sickel to approve an Irrevocable Letter of Credit No. 90428 as a replacement for pledge security receipt #JC78556E from State Bank of Table Rock which was presented by County Treasurer, Amanda Bartek-Ramsey. The motion carried.

Highway Superintendent, Steve Darveau, Jr. updated the Board on the routine maintenance being done on the county roads and bridges.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to adopt Resolution 2024-2025-19 to authorize the Chairman to sign the Certification of County Highway Superintendent to be submitted to the NE Department of Transportation so Richardson County would qualify for the annual incentive payment. The motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 18)

Jeremiah Franks, Chief Deputy Sheriff updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center. Franks reported that 12 inmates are being held at the Jail.

A request was made by the Sheriff to hire an additional dispatcher. After discussion, the Board relayed to Deputy Franks that this would be approved but that they would recommend employment of the new hire begin after January 1.

A motion was made and approved to allow the payment of all claims that were submitted.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

The Board will meet again on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk's Office.

Brooks Ivey named new softball coach for Falls City Tiger Softball program

Brooks Ivey will lead the Tiger softball team moving forward for the 2025 school year. Coach Ivey replaces Trista Hutchings, who coached the last five seasons. Coach Hutchings has resigned her position. Trista stated, "she is thankful for the five years working with the team, and grateful for all the support and trust she has received over the years". The need to focus on her family and the distance from our community were the leading factors in her decision. She will cherish the relationships and the experiences during her tenure as Falls City's coach.

Coach Brooks Ivey began his softball coaching experience helping out with the FC Travelers 18U practices and games in 2015 and 2016. In the fall of 2016, he went on to the collegiate level as an assistant coach at Peru

State College. He served his first season as a volunteer assistant then became the graduate assistant the following two years.

Ivey then moved on to Lamon, Iowa in 2019

where he became the Sports Information Director and assistant softball coach for three seasons at Graceland University. He then returned to Peru State for one season before

coming back home to Falls City where he has been an assistant coach for the high school program the past two seasons. In addition to his wealth of coaching experience at different levels, Ivey has also done hitting lessons for girls in the community and has been an active supporter of all levels of the FC Travelers teams in the summer. Please welcome and support coach Ivey moving into this new position.



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Richardson County Area Churches

Barada Global Methodist Church

717 Rd./652 Blvd.
Worship Service 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Services held in Barada on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month. Services held at St. Peter's ELCA on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month "...with God all things are possible." Matt. 19:26
Pastor Mike Hader
402-245-4584

Bethel Global Methodist Church

(70654 656 AVE) (1/2 mile N of Preston Corner)
Sunday: Worship, 11:00 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.; Wednesday Choir, 7:30 p.m.
Pastor Mike Hader
402-245-4584

Big Lake Baptist Church

(213 Lake Shore Drive)
Sunday: Fellowship breakfast, 8:45 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. Monday: Prayer and Share Monday, 8:30 a.m. Wednesday: Children's, Youth & Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m. We welcome you to all of our services.
Dick Lionberger, Intern pastor

Church of Christ

2701 Barada St.-245-5857
Sunday: Worship service, 10:30 a.m.; Bible study (classes for all ages), 9:30 a.m. Wednesday: Bible study for all ages, 6 p.m. "Preach the Word . . . for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." 2 Timothy 4:2-4.
Josh Maxwell, Preacher,
402-245-7148

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS

(23rd & Barada)
402-245-3324
www.fallscitylcms.blogspot.com
Holy Communion celebrated 2nd and 4th Sundays. Sunday: Divine service, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m. First Tuesday Care & Outreach - 6:30 PM Third Thursday of every month: Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 2:00 p.m.
Kenneth Humphrey, Pastor

Corner Stone Baptist Church

(Independent & Fundamental)
N. Highway 73 to Blue Valley Behavior Health Inc., turn east (or right) Sunday: Sunday School Bible Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Hours, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday: Bible study and prayer time, 7 p.m. Lively Stone Kids Klub, (ages K-6 grade). We welcome you and your family to come worship the Lord with us.
Pastor Mike Dunleavy
402-245-2049 (home)
402-245-4245 (church)
http://www.csbc.vpweb.c

First Brethren Church

(1902 Lane St.)
Sunday: Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School, Nursery (or pre-school), Adult, 10:45 a.m.; Fellowship Hour, 6 p.m.
Don Shafer, Moderator
402-245-5209

First Christian Church Disciples of Christ

(1322 Stone Street)
Office Phone, 245-2398 or Parsonage, 245-2397
Sunday: Adult School, 9:30 am; Worship Service, 10:45am
http://www.facebook.com/fallscitycooperativeministry
Pastor, Grant Speece
402-980-5960 cell

First Church of Nazarene

(1812 Wilson)
Sunday: Sunday School, 9:00-10:00 a.m.; morning worship, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Rob Wheeler, Pastor
402-245-3755

First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

(20th & Harlan)
Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m., Facebook Live & Youtube Live
Mondays: Diaper Closet, 4:00-6:00 pm. 2nd & 4th Wednesday: Mosaic Table 6:00-7:15 pm. Basement-Use East side door (Chairlift Accessible)
Richard Kent Martin, Pastor
402-245-2650

First United Methodist Church

(1700 Harlan St)
fumc@sento.net
402-245-3281
Sunday: Worship Service, 11 a.m. Broadcast live on KTNC AM 11 and 107.1 FM. Adult Bible Study, 9:45 a.m., Lauri Beach, Pastor
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.

Good News Assembly of God

(600 Reavis St) 245-3977
Sunday: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:40 a.m. Wednesday: Good News Kids, 6:30p.m. A variety of small group Bible studies are available for adults throughout the year. Listen to sermons online,
www.mygnag.com
Tim Boatright, Pastor

Grace Bible Fellowship

(Highway 62, east of Stella)
Sunday: Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Church Service, 10:15 a.m. Web page:
www.gbfcchurch.com
Office: 402-883-2110
Dave Lockard, Pastor



Immaculate Conception (Rulo)

Sunday Confessions, 8 a.m.; Mass, 8:30 a.m. Daily Mass schedule: Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m. Fr. Ben Rynearson, Pastor

Lighthouse Church of God

(2202 330th, White Cloud, KS) One quarter mile west of Iowa Tribal Com-plex
Sunday: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Church Service, 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Charles J. Haney, Pastor
785-862-1107

NorthRidge Falls City

(1820 Morton St.)
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Non-Denominational, Bible-based Contemporary worship Sunday: Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.; Worship Services, 10:00 a.m. (402) 245-2167
www.northridgenetwork.org/falls-city

Prairie Union Baptist Church (Rural Shubert)

Sunday: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Please join us to worship the Lord.
Communion is served the first Sunday of every month.
Bob Heusman, Pastor

Riverside Fellowship

117 S 3rd St., Rulo, NE
Sunday Worship 9 am
Fellowship, Sunday School, & Adult Bible Study 10 am
Following Worship
David Showalter, Pastor

St. Mary's (Arago)

Sunday: Confessions, 10:10 a.m.; Mass, 10:30 a.m.
Fr. Ben Rynearson, Pastor

Sts. Peter and Paul (1820 Fulton)

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday, 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. Daily Mass: Monday through Friday, 6:45 a.m. Services livestreamed daily on www.facebook.com/spfpf
Inquiry classes by appointment.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday, 3:45-4:45p.m., or by appointment.
Fr. Jim Meysenburg, Pastor
402-245-3002

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church - ELCA

(20th and Towle Street)
402-245-3828
Sunday: 9a.m.-Sunday School (pre-school thru adult, during school year); 10a.m.-Worship; Wednesday: 6:30p.m.-Confirmation; 7:30p.m.-Choir Practice. Call for Youth, Bible Studies and Women's Group schedules.
God's Work. Our Hands.
Joanna Kathol, Pastor

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)

12 miles Northeast of Falls City (Williamsville)
Sunday: Worship 9:15 a.m., first, third and fifth Sundays with communion on the first Sunday. We worship on the second and fourth Sundays at Barada Global Methodist Church in Barada, Nebraska. Fellowship and Sunday school following worship.
WELCA 1:30 first Monday Church Council, 7:30 p.m. on third Tuesdays
Mike Hader, Pastor

St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMS

(6 miles North of Falls City)
402-245-4643
www.fallscitylcms.com
Sunday: Sunday School/Bible Study-9:30 am (Sept-May)
Divine Service-10:30 am with Holy Communion celebrated 2nd and 4th Sundays. Second Tuesday of the month: Dorcas Circle-7 pm First Wednesday of the month: LWML-9 am (August) then 2 pm (Sept-May)
Kenneth Humphrey, Pastor

St. Thomas Episcopal Church (16th & Harlan)

www.stthomasfallscity.org
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Worship, Holy Eucharist (coffee, tea and conversation follow worship) We invite you to worship with us at any of our services. We will pray for you, your friends and loved ones.

Stella Community Church

Sunday: Church service, with children's Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; adults Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.
John States, Pastor

The Four Mile Church (South of Humboldt)

Sunday: Church services, 9:00 a.m. A Reformed church endeavoring to teach and to practice Biblical principles of the Reformation.
Howard Blecha, Pastor

Valley Avenue Baptist Church

2023 Valley Ave.
Sunday: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship Services, 10:30 a.m. Sunday Night Services: 6:00 p.m. Midweek: Wednesday Services, 7:00 p.m. Bible preaching, and a warm welcome. Building is handicap accessible.
Chad Berry, Pastor
Office phone: 245-3890
valleyavenue.org

Verdon Christian Church Disciples of Christ

(400 Walnut St.)
Sunday: Worship, Summer months: 7:00 p.m. Winter months: 6:00 p.m. Find us on Facebook @ VerdonChristianChurch
verdonchristianchurch@gmail.com
Rev. Daniel Spencer
Call or text: 402-801-0374

Zion United Church of Christ

(4 1/2 miles East of Falls City, 3 miles North and 1 1/2 miles East) 65763 709 Rd., Falls City Office: 245-2398
Sunday: Worship service, 9 a.m.; Communion, first Sunday of each month. All are welcome to this friendly church in the country.
http://www.facebook.com/fallscitycooperativeministry
Pastor, Grant Speece
402-980-5960 cell



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RIGHT OR WRONG, IT'S MY OPINION.

BY BRIAN MCKIM

The Husker football team flopped in the season finale versus Iowa on Friday. Maybe flopped isn't the correct term, but they did give the game away to the Hawkeyes at Kinnick Stadium. You can pick a stat, virtually any stat, and Nebraska was in front; that is every stat except the most important of them all, the final score.

As a Husker fan, you had to be excited as the two teams made their way to the locker rooms at the half. The Big Red held a 10-0 lead, a time of possession lead of 19:08 to 10:52, and a total yardage advantage of 182-20. By the way, Nebraska had ten first downs to only one by Iowa; not a bad half by the Big Red.

A few plays in the second half gave the game away to the Hawkeyes. A combination of a bad snap and a lousy kick led to a missed 34-yard field goal by the Huskers in the third quarter. A muffed punt inside our five-yard line, leading to a field goal, was highly detrimental. Then the dagger, a 72-yard touchdown pass to Kaleb Johnson. The Blackshirts missed multiple tackles on the play, leading to the score. Even if they gave up 30 yards on the play, the drive would have ended with a field goal opportunity. There is no way the Iowa offense was driving the entire field against the Husker defense on Friday night.

That 72-yard play to open the fourth quarter accounted for nearly half of Iowa's offensive output. In the 40+ offensive snaps the rest of the game, Iowa totaled 92 yards. The nation's second-leading rusher was held to his lowest output of the year, 45 yards on 17 carries, which is 2.6 yards per touch.

For the game, Nebraska outgained the Hawkeyes 334-164. They also held a 20-5 advantage in first downs and a 144-45 edge on the ground. If I gave you these stats without telling you which team had which, I bet you'd guess a blowout win. Not the case. Nebraska made just enough mistakes to allow Iowa to escape with the win.

A lot has been made about the Big Red not shaking hands with the team captains at the coin flip. Big deal. Get over it, Iowa. You are delusional if anyone thinks that had anything to do with the outcome. There's bad blood between these programs. Trust me, it pales in comparison to what happened at other venues across the country this past weekend.

In a postgame interview, Iowa linebacker Jay Higgins said he knew when the Huskers didn't shake their hands that Iowa was going to win. Boloney. It makes a good postgame soundbite, but when Iowa had 20 yards of total offense at the half, no one in that locker room thought they were going to win. Nobody.

Hey, we are going bowling. That's a step in the right direction. Iowa fans, don't celebrate too much. It's not so much that you won the game; it's that Nebraska lost it. Go Big Red.

Moving on to better news, the Husker volleyball team earned its second straight Big Ten Conference title, ending the season as co-champs with Penn St.

The Lady Huskers finished the season at 28-2 and had just one conference loss, to the Nittany Lions on Friday night. A loss at this point of the season doesn't hurt Nebraska at all. In fact, I'd say it will help motivate them and allow them to direct their focus on the task at hand, which is a return trip to the National Championship in Louisville.

Nebraska earned the No. 2 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament and will host Florida A&M on Friday night at the Devaney Center. If Nebraska gets past the Rattlers, they will play the winner of No. 8 Miami and South Dakota. The top four national seeds include No. 1 Pitt, No. 2 Nebraska, No. 3 Penn St. and No. 4 Louisville.

To reach the final four, Nebraska could have to defeat Wisconsin for a third time this season, a feat that is not easy to do. However, the Badgers need to get past a tough Arizona St. team first.

The path won't be easy, but the Husker's demanding schedule sets them up for a deep run in the tourney. Look for Nebraska to take one of the final four spots in Louisville later this month.

Nancy Foster

Nancy L. Foster, 77, of Falls City, NE, passed away November 23, 2024 at Falls City. She was born December 19, 1946 at Fremont, NE to Marlin O. and Claudia J. (Hill) Armbruster.

She married Jerry Foster on February 1, 1984 at Lake Tahoe, NV. He passed away on April 22, 1994.

Nancy was raised in Falls City from the age of 2 and graduated Falls City High School with the class of 1964. She was a stay-at-home mother until moving to Omaha, NE where she worked at Jerico's and then following their marriage she and Jerry ran Jerico's restaurant in Omaha for many years before selling it in 1989 and moving back to Falls City. She then took employment at the Flower Cart and worked there for 24 years. She loved to make things beautiful.

Nancy is survived by her daughters, Jolie Edwards and her husband Marty of Kellerton, IA, Cassy Williams and her husband Mike of Oakland, NE, Monique Blehyl of Fremont, NE, sister, Carole DeBusk and her husband Larry of Falls City, brother, Dave Armbruster and his wife Joyce of Rulo, grandchildren, Quaid, Lane and Chelsi Edwards, Ingrid and Kelsey Williams, Justin Little, Sean and Devan Blehyl.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

Her memorial service will be held on Friday, December 6, 2024 at 10:30 AM at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home. Inurnment will be in Steele Cemetery.

The family will receive friends on Thursday from 5-7:00 PM at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home.

Diane Berlett

Diane Ruth Berlett, 84 of Plattsmouth, a beloved educator and cherished member of the Plattsmouth community, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 24th, 2024. Born on December 27th, 1939, in Salem, NE to Merle and Ruth (Irvin) Kennedy.

Diane's passion for education began at Salem High School, where she graduated in 1957. She received her teaching certificate in 1959 and began her teaching career, she later went on to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Peru State College, graduating in 1966. Her dedication to teaching spanned an impressive 39 years, with her career initially beginning at Plattsmouth Public

Auxiliary, and the VFW Auxiliary. She was honored to be named Lady of the Realm for the Plattsmouth Harvest Festival and also served as secretary of the club for many years.

In her leisure time, Diane enjoyed playing cards, reading, spending time with family and friends including trips throughout the country and weekly dinners.

She is survived by her brother, Barry (Diane) Kennedy of Lincoln, NE, as well as her nieces and nephews:

Rich Kennedy, Mike Kennedy, Kathy Kennedy Long, Jason Kennedy, Christy Cook, and Melissa Beckman. She also had the joy of watching her family grow to include nine great-nephews and two great-nieces. Diane was preceded in death by her parents, Merle Kennedy and Ruth Kennedy, her brother Richard Kennedy and his wife Carol, and her sister Lana Kennedy.

Funeral services to honor Diane's life was held at the First United Methodist Church in Plattsmouth, NE, on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at 10:30 am. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to either the Cass County Historical Society or the First United Methodist Church.

Arrangements are under the direction of Brian P. Harvey Funeral Home, Plattsmouth, Nebraska 402-296-4445.



Thomas Bangert

Thomas Bangert, 63, of Falls City, NE, passed away November 26, 2024 at Rochester, MN. He was born March 21, 1961 at Falls City to Gerald and Edna (Buchholz) Bangert.

He married Lana Last on March 9, 1985 at Falls City.

Tom was raised in rural Falls City and graduated from Falls City Sacred Heart in 1979. He attended the University of Nebraska before enrolling and graduation from Milford as a diesel mechanic. Following graduation, he returned to Falls City where he worked for Merz Farm Equipment and then owned and operated Bangert Repair. He then became employed at Hiawatha Implement where he worked until recently, when he retired due to his health. He also farmed and raised livestock with the Bangert Brothers. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus.

Tom is survived by his wife, Lana of Falls City, children, Jessica Binder and her husband Michael, Adam and his wife Madison both of Falls City, Ryan of Barada, NE, Aly Bangert and her fiancé Shane Campbell of Lincoln, NE, sisters, Mary

McKeighan of Omaha, NE, Elizabeth Moffatt of Denver, Sister Theresa Bangert of Kansas City, KS, Rita Cavataio of Stafford, VA, Margaret McMeeking and her husband Mike, Dolores Barrientos and her husband Carlos both of Omaha, Joan Scheel and her husband Dr. Mike of Lincoln, Patricia Doig and her husband Dr. David of Denver, brothers, John and his wife Cindy, of Falls City, Charles and his wife Doloris of San Francisco, Joe and his wife Susan of Falls City and four grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a grandson, Lincoln.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 10:30 AM at Prichard Auditorium with Father Ben Rynearson as the presiding priest. Interment will be in Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery at Rulo.

A Parish Rosary will be held on Wednesday at 7:00 PM at Prichard Auditorium. The family will receive friends following the rosary at Prichard Auditorium.

In lieu of flowers the family prefers memorials be made to Family Choice for later designation.

Joyce Burghart

Joyce Burghart, 87, of Falls City, NE, passed away November 27, 2024 at Falls City. She was born February 22, 1937 at Greenville, MS to Peter and Bessie (Barker) Dall-riva.

She married E. L. O'Banion on June 7, 1954 at Greenville and they were later divorced. She then married Vern Ketter on May 30, 1969 at Flagstaff, AZ and they were later divorced. She married Dr. R. L. Burghart on November 28, 2003 at Falls City and he passed away February 21, 2021.

Joyce was raised in Greenville and graduated Owenton High School in Owenton, KY in 1956. She was a homemaker and lived in various places due to her husband's military service. She moved to Falls City in 1972 and was employed at Davie's Jewelry Store, later she worked as a surgical technician at Falls City Hospital. She became an LPN in 1992 and worked at Falls City Hospital, becoming a Registered Nurse in 1994. She worked at Falls City Hospital until her retirement in 2012. Following retirement, she volunteered at Sacred Heart School with the Rescue Reading Program and at

Thea's. She was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church and the Altar Society.

Joyce is survived by her children, Trena Rogge and her husband Phil of Fairbury, NE, Cindy Bangert and her husband John of Falls City, Mark O'Banion and his wife Lorra of Elkhorn, NE, Lisa Bartek and her husband Tom, twelve grandchildren and twenty-five grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sister, June Moore, daughter, Sandra Ann in infancy, her husband and a great-grandchild.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 2:00 PM at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church with Father Jim Meysenburg as the presiding priest. Interment will be in Falls City Catholic Cemetery.

The Mass will be livestreamed on Dorr and Clark Funeral Home's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/dorrandclarkfuneralhome/>

A Parish Rosary will be recited on Monday at 6:00 PM at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home. Family will receive friends following the rosary.



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He left the priesthood, was spied on by the FBI. She helped Omaha's poor. Together they changed lives.

By Erin Grace; Flatwater Free Press

Mary Ann Beckman awaited the late-arriving guest from her open front porch on a quaint postcard of a block that might have faded into Omaha oblivion had it not been for people like her husband, Mel.

Saving Bemis Park was among Mel Beckman's many noble aims. He rehabbed old houses, pushed the city to save single-family homes and started one of Omaha's first neighborhood associations.

This was but one example of how Mel, a former Catholic priest turned anti-war and criminal justice advocate, and Mary Ann, a pediatric nurse by trade and a de facto social worker, try to live their values.

In ways big and small, public and quiet, grass-roots and quixotic, the couple have spent their lives in service to others.

"They have touched a lot of lives and have made things better and made it easier for people on the inside to feel they are connected to something on the outside," said Jeanie Mezger, a friend who recently took over the criminal justice newsletter that Mel founded.

Mezger and others recently gathered at the old Holy Family Catholic Church to celebrate the Beckmans' lifetime of "peace and justice work," as a friend put it.

The event also represented a passing of the torch. At 85 and 86, Mary Ann and Mel still support the same causes. But they are winding down.

They agreed to sit for an interview with this somewhat late visitor with the stipulation they do it together, just as they've approached every challenge since meeting over 50 years ago.

Sitting at their well-used dining room table, the Beckmans took stock of what they had set out to do amid the messiness and heartbreak of life.

Of the three children they adopted years ago, only a son lives — and he is in prison with a parole date they may not live to see. Holy Family, their longtime Catholic parish, no longer exists as a church — the Omaha Archdiocese closed it during the COVID-19 pandemic. The world seems no closer to peace than when they met in the 1960s.

And yet, this soft-spoken pair did not seem dissuaded or embittered.

"Just keep the work going," Mary Ann suggests. Mel nods.

They were Nebraska farm kids who found meaning and purpose in the state's largest city. Mary Ann grew up in a rural central Nebraska community. Mel is from Raeville, born the 11th of 12 children.

She wanted to be a nurse. He wanted to be a priest. Their paths crossed when Mary Ann landed a job with Catholic Social Services, which later became Catholic Charities. Mel, ordained a priest during Vatican II, the church's modernization effort in the 1960s, was working as associate pastor at St. Mary's in South Omaha.

Mary Ann wanted to help young people, principally young mothers in poverty, some of them unwed and in desperate straits.

A priest showed up to help. Mel.

"We were trying to get things going that needed to be done," Mary Ann explained.

They were quick and easy collaborators at a time of social upheaval and change. Like many young men of the day, Mel decided he could not remain a priest.

Mel and Mary Ann married and the couple settled into the wood frame house on a leafy stretch of Lafayette Avenue.

In those days, Holy Family bustled as "the hippie parish," retired Creighton University professor and Beckman family friend Linda Ohri said. Holy Family centered itself around service to the poor. It started the homeless shelters that evolved into Siena Francis House and a sack lunch program that continues to this day.

The Beckmans joined and instantly felt at home.

Mary Ann worked for Catholic Charities. Mel bought, fixed up, and rented or sold houses in the neighborhood. He organized various peace groups. He wrote prolifically — letters to the editor, op-eds, brochures, newsletters. His name appears hundreds of times in the Omaha World-Herald archives.

A sampling: He questioned nuclear deterrence policies, called on the Nixon administration to end the Vietnam War, criticized the establishment of junior ROTC programs in public junior high schools and backed Sen. Ernie Chambers' push to end Nebraska's death by electric chair. And that was just the '70s.

He made national news, too. In 2001, CBS News featured Mel in a story about former FBI Agent Robert Hanssen who was caught spying for the Soviet Union. Hanssen also participated in an old FBI spying operation that targeted ordinary Americans like Mel Beckman, who had come to the bureau's attention for opposing the junior ROTC program.

"That created some excitement on the block," Mel recalled.

He also appeared in a story about being a "house husband." Mary Ann worked the day job and Mel — while juggling his home repair business and advocacy — raised their three children: Kathy, Christine and David.

Each had been adopted through Catholic Charities at different times.

Kathy went through two prior placements before the Beckmans brought her home at about age 5 a year after they had married. Kathy later married, had two children, but died at age 38 in a head-on collision that was ruled a suicide. Christine, adopted next, grew up and had a daughter but died of breast cancer in 2018 at age 44.

Then there was David. Ohri, the family friend, remembered David being a loving and engaging kid. But he struggled in school, Mel and Mary Ann said, and became an impressionable young adult.

David built up a rap sheet and by age 20 went to prison for the first of two substantial sentences. In 1996, he was convicted of sexual assault and sentenced to 10 to 30 years. He was released in 2010 but returned to prison in 2020 on felony drug and weapons possession convictions. David's first chance at parole is in 2034.

The Beckmans' interest in the criminal justice system long predates David's entry into prison. But his experience spurred them to start the Nebraska Criminal Justice Review newsletter and a support group, Family and Friends of the Incarcerated.

The review is published quarterly and its archives are housed online by Creighton University. The printed 12-page document goes to some 1,400 subscribers, about 400 of whom are imprisoned in Nebraska.

Its most recent edition featured numerous articles on felon voting rights, solitary confinement and a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision allowing communities to impose criminal penalties on homeless people. The newsletter included letters from Nebraska's incarcerated population and a meeting schedule for support groups.

Dayne Urbanovsky, spokeswoman for the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, said the department receives the newsletter, reads it and has contributed to articles. She credits the newsletter and Mel for providing a way for incarcerated people to maintain bonds that are important for successful reentry.

Douglas County Public Defender Tom Riley called the newsletter "a great resource for information" and said the Family and Friends of Inmates support group gives voice to the quiet suffering of families.

Despite their soft-spoken nature, the Beckmans have displayed persistence, honesty and passion, Riley said.

"They really do care about the folks imprisoned. They care about their families," he said.

For their part, the Beckmans say the work is not done but they gave their causes a good try. And they have done it together.

As they walked the stranger to the door, Mary Ann turned to her husband and gently said, "You're a good one."

"It takes one to know one," Mel responded.

"Well," Mary Ann said, patting his arm. "I know one."

The Flatwater Free Press is Nebraska's first independent, nonprofit newsroom focused on investigations and feature stories that matter.

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over mobilization

During this Holiday Season, the Falls City Police Department wants to remind everyone; drunk driving is *Deadly, Illegal* behavior, it puts the driver, their passengers, and everyone else using the roads at terrible risks. If you feel impaired by any substance, do not get behind the wheel of any type of vehicle. We at the Department encourage everyone to make a plan, designate a driver, or make arrangements for another ride, before heading out to parties, gatherings or festivities so you avoid drunk/impaired driving at all costs. REMEMBER: it is never okay to drink and drive, even one drink can be one too many. Drinking and driving is a choice one should never make. During the most recent data year available, over 1000 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes with nighttime driving being significantly more dangerous than daytime driving. Almost half of drivers involved in fatal crashes between the hours of midnight and 2:59 a.m. were drunk. Young drivers ages 21-34 accounted for the highest percentage of alcohol-impaired drivers involved in fatal traffic crashes.

The Falls City Police Department wants everyone to enjoy this holiday season, so joining other State and Local Law Enforcement agencies, the Falls City Police Department is participating in the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over mobilization campaign from December 11, 2024, through January 1, 2025. This mobilization will hopefully result in reducing fatal and serious alcohol/impaired driving related injury-death crashes in Nebraska providing safer travels for all. During the enforcement period additional officers will be working overtime, conducting saturation patrols, concentrating on taking drunk/impaired drivers off the streets and highways. The overtime for this mobilization is being funded through a grant provided by the Nebraska Department of Transportation, Highway Safety Office.

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Falls City Sacred Heart

Wednesday, December 4

Chicken Noodle Soup, Peas, Peaches, Bread, Cinnamon Roll, Milk

Thursday, December 5

Taco Bowl, Cornbread, Corn, Peas, Refried Beans, Milk

Friday, December 6

Pulled Pork Sandwich, Broccoli & Cheese, Mixed Fruit, Orange, Milk

Monday, December 9

Biscuits & Gravy, Egg Patty, Tri-Tater, Applesauce, O.J., Milk

Tuesday, December 10

Crispito, Green Beans, Mandarin Oranges, Bread, Milk

HTRS Titans

Wednesday, December 4

Toasted Ham/Cheese Sandwich, Peas, Fruit/Veggie Bar, Milk/Water

Thursday, December 5

Chicken Legs, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Corn, Dinner Roll, Bananas/Strawberries, Ice Cream, Milk/Water (no fruit/veggie bar)

Friday, December 6

Pizza (Nachos) Fruit/Veggie Bar, Milk/Water

Monday, December 9

Wisconsin Ham & Cheese Soup, Deli Sandwich, Fruit/Veggie Bar, Milk/Water

Tuesday, December 10

Soft Shell Taco w/the fixins, Spanish Rice, Refried Beans, Fruit/Veggie Bar, Milk/Water

Falls City Public Schools

Wednesday, December 4

North & South School: Pizza, Lettuce Salad, Cherry Star, Peas, Chocolate Pudding, 8ounce Milk **Middle School:** Pizza, Lettuce Salad, Mixed Fruit, Chocolate Pudding, 8ounce Milk **High School: Hot Lunch:** Piza, Lettuce Salad, Fruit, Chocolate Pudding, 8ounce Milk **Combo Line:** BBQ Wings, Chips, Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Bar, 8ounce Milk

Thursday, December 5

North & South School: Cheeseburger, Sweet Potato Fries, Green Beans, Mixed Fruit, 8ounce Milk **Middle School:** Macaroni & Cheese, Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich, Broccoli, Peaches, 8ounce Milk **High School: Hot Lunch:** Chicken Monte Carlo Sandwich, Sweet Potato Fries, Green Beans, Fruit, 8ounce Milk **Combo Line:** Cheeseburger Sandwich, Tater Tots, Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Bar, 8ounce Milk

Friday, December 6

North & South School: Chicken Alfredo, Cooked Carrots, broccoli, Applesauce, Breadstick, 8ounce Milk **Middle School:** Chicken Alfredo, Cooked Carrots, Pineapple, French Bread, 8ounce Milk **High School: Hot Lunch:** Pig in a Blanket, Au Gratin Potatoes, California Vegetables, Fruit, 8ounce Milk **Combo Line:** Popcorn Chicken, Curly Fries, Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Bar, 8ounce Milk

Monday, December 9

North & South School: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Peaches, Hot Roll, 8ounce Milk **Middle School:** Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Mixed Fruit Cup, Hot Roll, 8ounce Milk **High School: Hot Lunch:** Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Fruit, Hot Roll, 8ounce Milk **Combo Line:** Burrito, Chips, Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Bar, 8ounce Milk

Tuesday, December 10

North & South School: Macaroni & Cheese, Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich, Green Beans, Ruby Red Juice, Peas, 8ounce Milk **Middle School:** Chicken Flatbread, Lettuce Salad, California Vegetable, Peas, 8ounce Milk **High School: Hot Lunch:** Fiestada, Oven Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit, 8ounce Milk **Combo Line:** Corn Dog, Seasoned Fries, Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Bar, 8ounce Milk



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DID YOU KNOW?

Contrary to popular belief, The Wizard of Oz was not the first feature film to be shown in color. Color has been around as long as film, but the first three-strip Technicolor live action film was Becky Sharp (1935) which stars Billi Burke, the same actress to play Glenda the Good Witch from The Wizard of Oz (1939).

In the Wizard of Oz Dorothy's last name is Gail – you can see it on the mail box.

In the movie 'The Wizard Of Oz', Toto the dog's salary was \$125 a week, while Judy Garland was \$500 a week.

Near the top of his game, W.C. Fields was offered the role of the Wizard in "The Wizard of Oz" (1939), but did refuse the part. The story went that he considered the role too small and that MGM did not offer him enough money - his going rate at the time was \$100,000 per picture.

Buddy Ebsen (who later went to star in TV's Beverly Hillbillies) was the original Tin Man and filmed about two weeks worth of footage before developing a severe reaction to the aluminum dust in the makeup, which landed him in the hospital. Jack Haley was hired to replace him.

There are several differences between the book and the film. The Wicked Witch has a much smaller role in the book, and she wears an eye patch. The most visible difference of all? In the book, the famous slippers were silver. They became ruby for the movie, because it was thought that hue would look better in Technicolor.

Terry, the female dog who played Toto also had a roles in many other films including the Norma Shearer/Joan Crawford film The Women (1939) and Jack Benny's George Washington Slept Here (1942).

"Over the Rainbow", also known as "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", is a ballad by Harold Arlen with lyrics by Yip Harburg. It was written for the 1939 film The Wizard of Oz, in which it was sung by actress Judy Garland in her starring role as Dorothy Gale.[1] It won the Academy Award for Best Original Song and became Garland's signature song.

According to his family, Gene Wilder died listening to Over the Rainbow, one of his favorite songs sung by Ella Fitzgerald.

The horses in the Emerald City were colored with gelatin powder. The relevant scenes had to be shot quickly before they started to lick it off.

The shot of Dorothy's house falling from the sky was achieved by filming a miniature house being dropped onto a sky painting on the stage floor, then reversing the film to make the house appear to fall towards the camera.

When the MGM Grand Casino in Las Vegas first opened in 1994, it had extensive decor related to the film decorating it and various parts of the resort, including life-sized statues of the main characters (including Toto) near the casino entrance. In 2000 nearly all of this decor was removed in a major renovation, and the casino is now generically themed around motion pictures.

The steam shooting from the Tin Man's cap startles Toto, who runs out of the shot.

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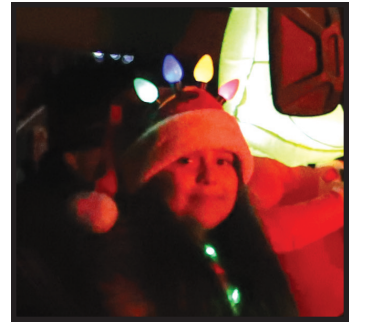
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Lighted Christmas parade

(Continued from Page 1) posed for photos.

Afterward, everyone enjoyed sleigh rides, sipping hot cocoa and munching on delicious cookies.

Downtown stores stayed open late to officially kick off the holiday season and encourage everyone to shop local and support Falls City.



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