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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Advertised in this weeks paper

TUES., DEC. 31

CLOSING: Office of Jenkins Financial Services closing effective 12/31

WED., JAN. 1

CLOSED: Richardson County Court-house Closed for NY.

FRI., JAN. 10

5:00PM: Jaycees DSA Ceremony Nomination form due date.

JOURNAL DEADLINES

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

JOURNAL OFFICE CLOSED

All day on 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 the Community Events column an ad must be placed in the paper.

To place an ad in the Falls City Journal contact nikki@fcjournal.net or 402-245-2431.



PUBLIC NOTICES: BECAUSE YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW.

Public Notices and Minutes

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\$1.25



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“We’re not shying away from any capital expense that benefits the community”

Approximately 220 area citizens filled chairs and bleachers at Falls City High School on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, to listen to EDGE and Citroniq Co-Founders Kelly Knopp and Mel Badheka discuss the proposed Biochemical Manufacturing plant south of Falls City. The \$5 billion proposed site will sit on 420 acres south of town; 120 acres will be designated for the facility, while the other 300 will be needed for rail infrastructure. The plant will employ 160 premium-wage professionals once up and running and it will bring nearly 2,000

construction workers to the area during the three-year build. The co-founders of Citroniq Chemicals, LLC attended the meeting on Wednesday, EDGE Director Lucas Froeschl, City Administrator Anthony Nussbaum, and Julie Bushell, who leads the Nebraska BioEconomy Initiative and the Falls City EDGE Board.

Froeschl began the community engagement session by thanking everyone in attendance. “This has been a fun process that goes way further back than the three and a half years that I’ve been in the role as the EDGE Di-

rector,” said Froeschl. Froeschl stated his top concern when taking the position was the electrical power issues in Falls City. “We’ve got a big electrical issue right here in Falls City,” said Froeschl. “It’s something that I was motivated to try and solve.” Froeschl stated that this is the first step in community engagement and envisions many more meetings before the project is complete. Each will supply more details as they become available. “Citroniq is still working on some of their

(Continued on Page 3)



Journal holiday deadlines, print schedule and hours

The office of the Falls City Journal 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 morning 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.

Irish One Act nearly pulls off the upset at state competition

The Sacred Heart Irish one act play group had the most successful play season in the history of the school. After qualifying for the Class D2 State Play Production Competition for the first time in 2023, the Irish took the next step this fall.

Sacred Heart competed in the Class D-1 Play Production Championships on Wednesday December 11, at the Johnny Carson Theatre in Norfolk. Sacred Heart was the first to take the stage in Class D-1 at 2:15 on Wednesday afternoon but had to wait until the evening to find out where they stood.

Hours later the Irish learned their fate, a second-place finish, and by a mere four points. All said, Sacred Heart’s performance of Molière’s The Tricks of Scapin, adapted by Aurand Harris, earned 174 points, second only to state champion Wausa with 178. Wausa’s title was the 16th since 2006, trailing on Gretna (28) on the all-time list.

Not only did the Irish secure a second-place finish, senior Ethan Neddenriep was named one of two most outstanding performers.

Neddenriep said he envisions himself in the script as a tool to help him bring the characters to life. As far superstitions go, Neddenriep doesn’t subscribe to many, however, he makes sure to stop at Keller

(Continued on Page 6)



Letters to the Editor

I want to express my appreciation to Brad Ahern, Ahern Aviation, the Falls City Airport Authority, Falls City, and the Richardson County community.

Over the course of the last 35 years, I have departed from the Falls City Airport in a trusty Cessna 172 or a Cherokee 6. From here I've flown to Denver CO, Minneapolis MN, Lansing MI, Columbus, OH, Natchitoches LA, and small towns all over.

Since finishing harvest I've been busy with meetings and flying when I'm not delivering grain. I brought my pilot log book up to date and found I've crossed the 1000 hour total time mark. Over those hours I have so enjoyed flying and I, like all pilots, have many fun stories and memories. As I return home, I am always grateful to see the twinkling runway lights of Brenner Field coming up in the windshield.

None of this is unique...most pilots have shared experiences like mine. I have scouted my own crops and helped neighbors hunt for cattle. Too many times, friends and I have checked levees and flooded farm ground. On one occasion I helped emergency responders search for a missing person. Equipment breakdowns at critical times are expected in farming and each year I have flown somewhere to pick up repair parts and returned to get machines rolling quickly. Agricultural education seminars, trade shows, sales, ag research tours...nearly all of my flying has been business related.

Midwest communities offer a huge number of convenient airports that make getting very close to any destination a breeze. And importantly, nearly every airport has a courtesy loaner vehicle for visiting pilots that makes getting into town or to a meeting a snap. Private or charter, there is a steady stream of activity keeping Nebraskans on the move.

Most of this draws no attention but it's an important way our communities are connected. I see medical personnel traveling for clinics bringing services to communities far from urban centers. From farmers to Fed Ex, business is flying. You can bet that the new manufacturing facility planned here in our community will make good use our airport! Small companies and communities become competitive and attractive with a good airport facility.

Brad Ahern operates Ahern Aviation at Brenner Field, providing fuel and maintenance on planes for local and regional pilots as well as for planes arriving or traveling through our community. This valuable service is somewhat unique as many smaller airports have no maintenance facility. Brad's attentive and thorough work has kept our planes ready and safe for flight. No matter where I've landed or what mechanical challenge may have popped up, Brad is a cheerful phone call away with helpful guidance.

Our all-volunteer Airport Authority consists of Chair Dave Mullins along with Nick Aitken, Lauren Roland, Brandon Keithley, and Steve O'Grady supported ably by Secretary Dawn Bennett and Anthony Nussbaum, City Administrator.

Pilots and plane owners buy fuel, services, and hangar space, and through the Federal Aviation Authority and the federal government we all help with infrastructure projects like runways. My address is Humboldt, but I willingly pay taxes in both Humboldt and Falls City school districts, shop and do business, as well as get medical care in Falls City. I'm like most residents of Richardson County...we all play a part in supporting the Falls City Airport; we all benefit from Falls City hosting and supporting this important community asset in Brenner Field. Thank You!

Submitted by Ben Steffen

All things Nebraska Governor, legislators try again to tame the state's high property taxes

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner

Now that Gov. Jim Pillen appears to be on the road to recovery after a wild ride aboard a bucking bronco, his next rodeo act will be roping up enough votes to lower property taxes, cut government spending and return Nebraska to a "winner-take-all" system of doling out the state's electoral college votes.

Those are among the top priorities laid out by the governor - before he was bucked off a reportedly new horse - for the 2025 session of the Nebraska Legislature, which begins on January 8.

At the top of the list is something that is at the top of the list every year, by every governor: reduce property taxes.

Nebraska is a state with a lot of land but not a lot of people, and a place where special interests, if they threaten loudly enough to move their companies away, get generous sales and income tax breaks from our lawmakers. Thus property taxes, one of the alternatives, have remained high.

But the odds of Pillen riding a plan to victory that reduces property taxes seem pretty long, about as long as getting back up on that wild horse.

State lawmakers spent several days in Lincoln this summer trying to hash out a property tax relief plan without much success, and you wonder if there's a little tax-relief fatigue after pounding their heads against the wall for several weeks.

Taxation is a complicated subject with lots and lots of proposals to reduce property tax and not enough agreement on how to do it. Thus, it's hard to get much done.

Secondly, the November elections are bringing in a new wave of legislators - 18 in all - so it will take some time for them to get acclimated to the ins and outs of tax reform, and come together on a plan.

And among the departing senators, due to term limits, is State Sen. Lou Ann Linehan, who chaired the Revenue Committee, which deals with tax policies.

She was a pro at lining up support for plans advanced by the governor's office and crafting compromises, a skill honed in the halls of the U.S. Senate as an aide to then Sen. Chuck Hagel.

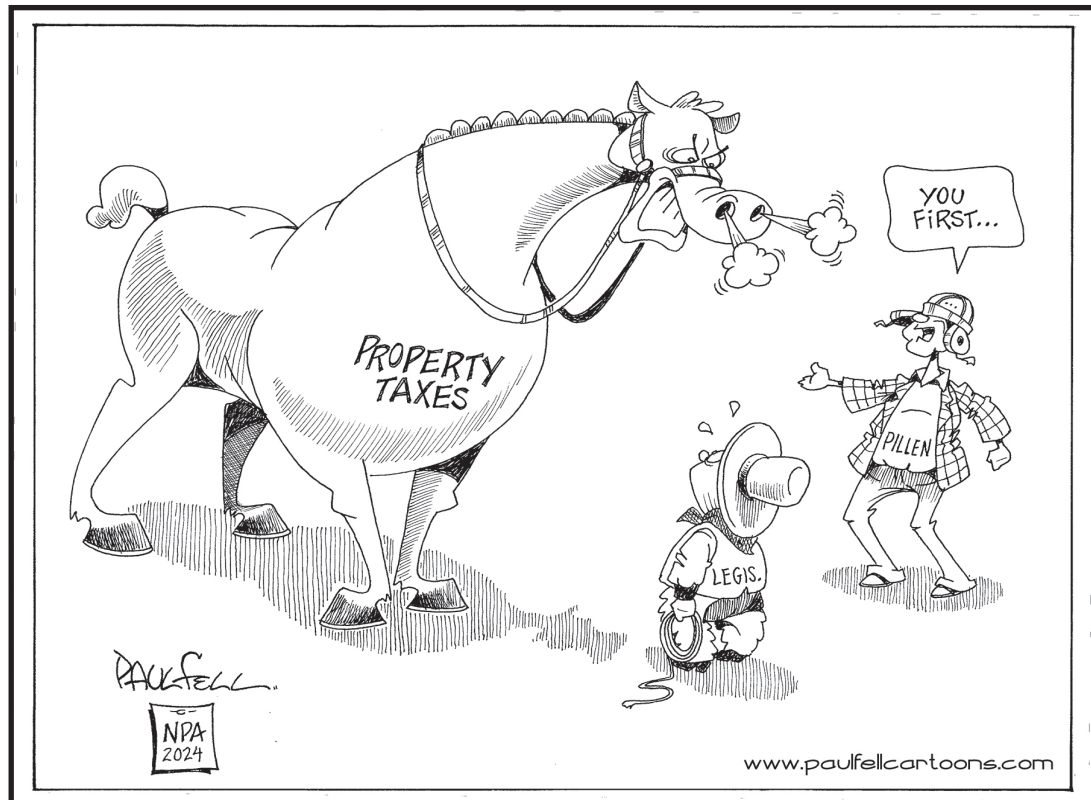
Like a big fullback, you need someone with some muscle to get proposals over the political goal line at crunch time. Linehan was that person, and her departure leaves a void.

Plus, there's a minor matter about the state budget, which has a projected \$432 million shortfall over the next two years.

(That shortfall would have been \$200 million larger had not the Legislature, during its special session, allocated \$200 million to reduce the budget hole, reported Martha Stoddard of the Omaha World-Herald.)

So paring the budget or, gulp, finding new tax revenue will be a huge issue in 2025.

Already, one influential senator, Rob Clem-



ents, who chairs the budget-writing Appropriations Committee, said he doesn't see how lawmakers can enact more property tax relief measures - which typically reduce state tax revenue - when facing such a deficit.

The Legislature can utilize cash reserve funds - the so-called "rainy day fund" of the state - to handle some of the shortfall, but Clements said he expects that some budget cuts will also be necessary to balance the budget.

Pillen has also said he wants to reduce state spending in the next budget, a goal often voiced but rarely achieved due to inflation and the annual demand for more - not less - state services.

So saddle up Nebraskans, and keep a tight rein, as the governor, and state lawmakers seek to tame an ever bucking bronco named "High Property Tax."

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: YEAR-IN-REVIEW

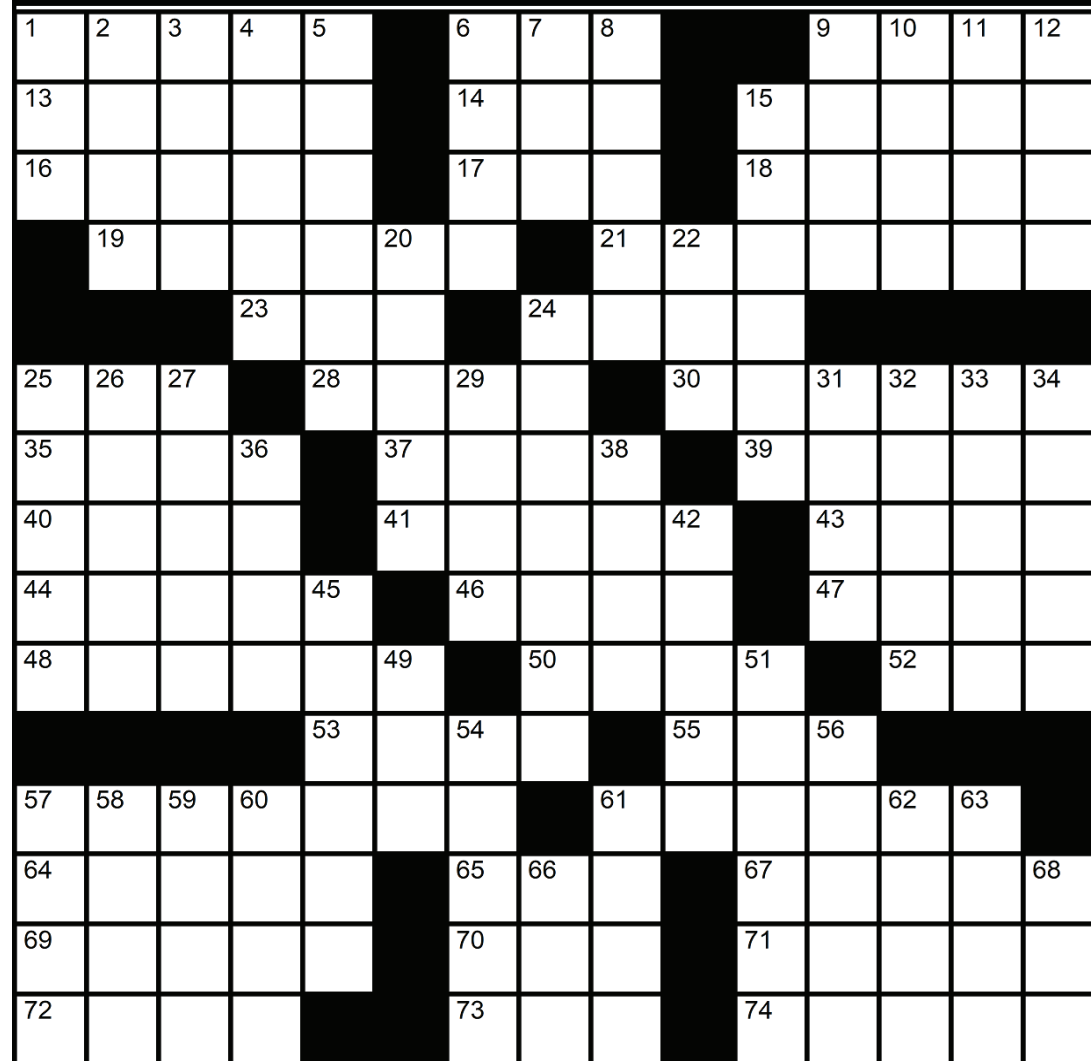
ACROSS

- 1. Cerberus' domain
6. Chop
9. Mama's husband
13. Unsuitable
14. Adam's partner
15. Echo sounder
16. Sunny prefix
17. Armed conflict
18. In a heated manner
19. *Highest grossing movie based on Broadway musical
21. *Time's 100 World's Most Influential People cover model in 2024 (2 words)
23. "___ and the City"
24. Not exciting
25. Accident
28. Rami's dress
30. Talking points
35. Aflame
37. Spanish sparkling wine
39. Slang for money
40. Velum, pl.
41. *November 5th 2024 winner
43. Short for "and elsewhere" (2 words)
44. Met's offering
46. River in Bohemia
47. Queen of Hearts' pastry
48. *Super Bowl winners in 2024
50. Visi___ or Ostro___
52. The Alan Parsons Project's "Eye in the ___"
53. ___ of passage
55. *Milton's center
57. *Miley Cyrus' Grammy-winning Record of the Year in 2024
61. *2024 Summer Olympic Games host
64. Cat's nine
65. Lowest or highest card
67. Accustom
69. E-wallet content
70. Backstabber
71. N in RN
72. Whipping mark
73. R&R spot
74. Support person

DOWN

- 1. "Say what?"
2. All over again
3. *MV ___, cause of 2024 Baltimore bridge collapse
4. Long stories
5. Tends a fire
6. Obscene
7. Spermatozoa counterpart
8. Lost, in Paris
9. *Olympic Gold winner Katie Ledecky's "court"
10. Dead against
11. Explore by touch
12. Maisie Williams' "Game of Thrones" character
15. Hello, in Haifa
20. Dead-on
22. Last month
24. Disclose
25. Wreaked state
26. Bet's predecessor
27. Pileus, pl.
29. Like steak order
31. Maya Angelou, e.g.
32. Itsy-bitsy bits
33. *Caitlin of college basketball
34. Gin and grapefruit juice cocktail, a.k.a. ___ dog
36. Scarlet O'Hara's home
38. Speaking platform
42. Dinklage or Townshend, e.g.
45. Again but differently
49. Elton John's title
51. Shenzi of "The Lion King"
54. Russian rulers, pre-1917
56. Tedium
57. "One ___ Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
58. Classroom pests
59. Elliptical
60. Sunset location
61. Sheep's milk cheese
62. Little Miss Muffet's morsel
63. Gaelic tongue
66. Upper limit
68. Poetic "always"

CROSSWORD



Falls City Journal logo and contact information including address, phone, fax, and subscription details.

Consumer Cellular advertisement featuring a \$25 discount and promotional code GZ590.

The views and opinions expressed in printed editorials, columns, articles or SEZ-I's run on this page are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Falls City Journal.

"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.

From the Journal Files

By Brian McKim

75-50-25 Years Ago

75 Years Ago, January 1, 1950 to January 7, 1950

A few more than 300 couples danced the night away at the Fireman's Ball at Prichard Auditorium. Counting advanced sales, the Volunteer Firemen's Association netted over \$700.

During the 12 months in 1949 in Falls City, there were 406 births and 150 deaths. October boasted 47 births, while July recorded 22 deaths.

Bayard T. Clark, a local attorney, was elected president of the Falls City Chamber of Commerce in 1950, succeeding George R. Froehlich.

Robert Edward Ringling, manager of the famed Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus, passed away at his home in Florida at 52.

Following the annual meeting of the stockholders, the directors re-elected Edwin J. Morehead, president of the Hotel Weaver Realty Company.

The area's rainfall in 1949 was 10 inches above normal. According to Miss Kate Kloepfel, 44.54 inches of rain fell for the year.

Chaney's was having a clearance sale, with every sectional suite in the store marked down. A 2-piece rose and grey tapestry sectional, regularly \$117.50, was on sale for \$69.50.

The Vogue Shoe Department offered a buy one pair of shoes, get the second pair free sale.

About 9,000 head of cattle, believed to be an all-time high, had been fed in the Salem area during the past year.

Ray Appleoff was named the Falls City Country Club president following the annual stockholders meeting. At the meeting, it was decided to raise family dues from \$30 per year to \$42.

Table Rock's Jerry Giles scored 19 points as they defeated Verdon 34-20 on the basketball court. John Bowers was the high man for Verdon with six tallies.

In Humboldt, a 6-pound, 4-ounce son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Nemecheck Jr., and a 5-pound, 2-ounce son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stevens of Dawson at the Holman Hospital.

The Monebia Development Company's No. 5 Schawang well in the Barada field had excited oil men in the area. The oil well was producing between 650 and 700 barrels of oil daily.

Salem's junior high basketball team edged Sacred Heart, 16-13, in action on the court in Salem. Jack Kent coached the winners, while John May directed the Irish.

Schock's Store, opened in 1910 by Fred Schock, celebrated its 40th anniversary. The dry goods store in Falls City was still in its original location on Stone Street.

The Tiger freshman basketball squad defeated Nebraska City 37-21. Forward Delmar Bowers paced FC with 14 points, while Ernie Ridgeway added 11.

50 Years Ago, January 1, 1975 to January 7, 1975

The first big snowstorm of 1975 hit Nebraska, making highways hazardous across a wide area due to snowpacks.

Nebraska had the most school districts in the nation, but the numbers were declining. A report showed the state had 1,243 districts, compared to Texas's 1,152.

The eighth-ranked Huskers defeated Florida 13-10 in the Sugar Bowl. Tony Davis was named the game's most valuable player. Davis ran for 126 yards on 17 carries.

The Merz Farm Equipment firm moved from its former location on the curve of Old Highway 73 to the new site, one-fourth of a mile north on the west side of the new strip of Highway 73. The new all-steel building had 10,000 square feet and parking for 15 vehicles. The business was opened on January 1, 1953, and was presently run by brothers Gail, Dennis and Bruce, along with their father.

Mrs. Marjorie Eames, who had been secretary for County Attorney Henry Shepman, took a state position as court stenographer for four counties. She would be the stenographer for Richardson, Nemaha, Pawnee and Johnson counties.

Petty Officer Third Class Dennis W. Frederick reenlisted in the Navy for six years.

The Falls City Green Thumb Crew had completed the construction of a concession stand under the west wing at Prichard Auditorium and had begun painting the interior of the building. The crew involved foreman Harvey Taft, John Brooks, Walter Bauer, Albert Suedmeier and George Rhodd. The crew spent the summer months on projects in the city parks and then moved inside during the winter. The men averaged 28 hours of work per week and were paid \$2 per hour.

George E. Kirkendall was sworn in as a member of the City Council, taking the spot vacated when Virginia Tisdell resigned.

According to the Council's action, the new city park in the southeast part of town would be known as Grandview Park.

The NCAA was beginning a pilot program to develop national sports championships for women that were comparable to those sanctioned for men. The action came on the opening day of the 69th annual NCAA convention.

25 Years Ago, January 1, 2000 to January 7, 2000

The community turned out in full force for the Millennium Celebration at Prichard Auditorium. An estimated 1,000-1,500 people attended the event, which was chaired by Ken Kuncle and Mel Harmon.

Construction played a significant role in the area in 1999. In March, District 56 patrons approved a bond issue of \$5.995 million. In April, the Council approved a \$1.8 million upgrade to the water treatment plant south of Rulo. In Humboldt, a \$1.5 million addition at the school was completed and in December, bids to renovate Prichard Auditorium were opened, not to exceed the engineer's estimate of \$1.5 million.

Kent and Susan Bieker were the proud parents of Falls City's millennium baby. Joseph Thomas Bieker was born on January 2 at Community Medical Center.

Kris Shubert, a 1995 graduate of Southeast Consolidated School, graduated from the University of Nebraska-Omaha with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biotechnology. Kris was working in research at Veterans Hospital in Omaha.

VFW Auxiliary Post 1765 members met with Donna Lape as the hostess. Kathleen Williams, Community Service Chairman, reported that 355 hours were given in November.

Sacred Heart, ranked No. 1 in Class D1, needed overtime to defeat Johnson-Brock, 65-60. Nate O'Grady has 21 points and 11 rebounds, while classmate Dan Simon scored 19.

Katie Parsons had 23 points to lead the Lady Tigers to a 49-34 win over Humboldt-Table Rock at Prichard Auditorium.

The Falls City wrestling team defeated Hiawatha 48-30 to move to 4-0-1 in duals. It was the Tiger's best start in duals since the 1988-89 season.

Jerry Oliver, plant manager at ALANCO Environmental Manufacturing, was appointed by Governor Mike Johanns to the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board and to the Greater Nebraska Workforce Investment Board.

Neeld Messler & Associates advertised a tri-level, three-bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom house with a three-car garage for \$79,500.

The United States Bureau of the Census was accepting applications to help with the 2000 census in the area. The job paid \$10.50 per hour plus 31 cents per mile for travel.



EDGE Director Lucas Froeschl fields a question from the crowd at the community engagement event. Seated left to right are Julie Bushell, Kelly Knopp, Mel Badheka and Anthony Nussbaum.

“We’re not shying away from any capital expense that benefits the community”

(Continued from Page 1) engineering; it's not all engineered,” said Froeschl. “We’re taking feedback from all the different stakeholders, and they are challenging their engineers to implement some of that feedback.

Falls City secured a \$15 million matching funds grant from the Nebraska Legislature in 2022 to help with electrical upgrades.

“We’ve got to come up with the other \$15,” said Froeschl. “We are working hard on that, diligently. We’ve made a lot of progress on that. Citroniq is here to help us make that a reality.”

EDGE partnered with OPPD on a site-diligence plan in 2023 and created a marketing plan. With some help from state representatives at the Economic Development Office, EDGE decided to turn their attention to securing BioEconomy companies.

Froeschl stated that in September 2024, the prospect of bringing Citroniq to the area became a reality.

“Citroniq is partnering with Falls City to build the necessary power and utility infrastructure right here in Falls City,” said Froeschl. “The Nebraska BioEconomy Initiative, Falls City, is definitely a part of that. We are looking to create a biochemical hub right here in Falls City that can add value. This bio-polypropylene is going to be manufactured out of ethanol instead of petroleum, and that’s the value Nebraska can bring to the BioEconomy Initiative.”

According to Julie Bushell of the Nebraska BioEconomy Initiative, four things make Nebraska great. “Those four tenants are Nebraska’s people, our water, our crops and our livestock,” said Bushell.

Kelly Knopp, co-founder of Citroniq Chemicals, told the audience that after graduating from Kansas University, he went to Texas to pursue an engineering job.

“Forty-some years later, here I am back in the Midwest,” said Knopp.

Knopp said they have found that by using ethanol to make plastic pellets, the carbon is captured by the pellet.

“You basically capture five times more carbon, more CO₂, in pellet than the weight of the pellet,” said Knopp. “So, five tons for every ton of polypropylene. It’s very effective that way.”

“We’re excited to be here and excited about this

project,” said Knopp.

Mel Badheka said his family came to the United States in 1991 and has been involved in the energy business for over 30 years.

“One of the things that we want to make sure is that we are doing things in the right way and the right order,” said Badheka. “How we invest our money and our investors’ money is important, not just from today’s perspective, but how we leverage that financial strength for future growth. That is all around infrastructure; we are partnering with the Falls City administration to plan out how we are going to do the power, utilities, water treatment, roadways, and all the infrastructure that it needs to support this project.”

Badheka said that given the size of the project, they need to be good stewards of their investors and the community. He said it’s important to leave a legacy for his children they are proud of.

He also gave credit to Froeschl for securing this project for the Falls City area.

“The first time we came here, we were very impressed with Lucas and Anthony,” said Badheka. “Their drive, their energy, their enthusiasm, ingraining us to this town is exemplary. We have not seen that anywhere in this search. We talked to seven or eight states around the Midwest; this is the state where we want to be.”

According to Froeschl,

the area is being explored for annexation.

“We are not certain if it can be annexed,” said the EDGE Director. “We do know there is a statute on the books from about 20 years ago that was implemented for ethanol plants. We are exploring if annexation is an option; we are not sure yet.”

Froeschl also stated that the expectation is that the tax burden to everyone in the county should decrease due to the amount that the investor will pay.

“We are fine with that,” said Badheka. “That is a fair way for us to exist in this community. In fact, we are partnering with the Falls City administration on their \$15 million grant. We are going to match those funds as part of our effort to make sure that we build that together. We’re not shying away from any capital expense that benefits the community.”

The co-founders also disclosed that the company has already secured sales for the mega-site.

“All of our sales are already spoken for, for this site,” said Badheka. “We’ve already sold out this entire site.”

Bushell explained that the engagement session is one of many that will be planned.

“The goal is to continue to have these town halls maybe every six months, but certainly every time a new, large development happens in the project,” said Bushell.

Citroniq plans to have the plant operational by 2029.

JAYCEES DSA CEREMONY NOMINATION FORM

We invite community members to nominate an outstanding member of our community who best represents one of the following categories. Please include a letter explaining his or her qualifications for the award and return by 5pm on January 10, 2025.

Send your nominations to: Falls City Jaycees, PO Box 202, Falls City, NE 68355 or email fallscityareajaycees@gmail.com

I would like to nominate (print full name): _____
 Nominee's Profession: _____
 Nominee's Phone: _____

- For the following award:**
- Distinguished Service (person between the ages of 21 and 41 who gives the most deserving service to family, church, community, or nation)
 - Outstanding Educator (professional educator who excels in guiding the growth and development of our youth, career progress, and community service)
 - Outstanding Community Leader (person of any age who is a strong and vital force in volunteering their time and works to improve their family, church, community, or state)
 - Boss of the Year (employer who has given admirable service to his or her workplace, community, or nation)
 - Robert J. Chab Community Service (person who has shown excellent community service as a frontline employee such as ambulance squad members, firemen, law enforcement officers and nurses)
 - Good Neighbor (person who consistently puts other person's well-being, interests, and needs above their own without being asked or expecting rewards of any kind for their efforts)

Nominator's Name: _____
 Nominator's Phone: _____

Award winners will be honored with a plaque during the Jaycees' Annual DSA Banquet to be held on February 1st, 2025 at Elks.



Pictured in the bench show competition is Jake Howard with his dad Terry and dog Redneckn Rock n Roll Rambo.

UKC State Hunt held

Youngsters and their beloved dogs converged at Bob Howard's home on Saturday, October 19, for the 2024 Joe Hermsmeier UKC Nebraska Federation State Youth Hunt. It was the fourth year that the gathering was held at the Howard Farm. The event featured two groups: a 12 and under group and a 13 and over category.

The event featured a Bench Show, followed by a "hunt." During the bench show, dogs are separated by breed, then males and females, and finally by age. The dogs are walked in front of the judge and placed on a bench. At that point, the judge evaluates the dog's teeth, and the handler "stacks" the dog. Stacking consists of positioning the animal squarely for the judge to see.

After the bench show, the groups break up into casts, or groups of four, for a one-hour hunt. No coons are harmed during the hunt. The dogs earn points for "striking" and "treeing." A strike refers to a dog barking to show it has found a coon, while treeing is when the dog forces a coon up a tree.

Best of all, the event is free to all who want to participate. According to Judge Jeremiah Flynn, the goal is to "reach out to kids to keep the sport going."

The Tri-State Coon Hunting Club, a local group of hunters, hosts six hunts per year, three in the spring and three in the late fall.

ACCIDENTS

On November 14, 2024 according to Falls City Police Department accident reports, Bernice Burget of Falls City was traveling on Old Highway 73 when driver was trying to turning left into a parking lot and turned too soon and drove down into a ditch. Another vehicle was traveling south and the headlight of that vehicle blinded the driver of unit one and caused the Burget to misjudge the turn. An estimated \$1,500 in damage was done to the Burget vehicle.

Letters to Santa for new bike, Didn't get one? I can maybe fix broken one. 402-245-3101



SOCIETY

Falls City Does Drove #56

On Monday, December 9, 2024, Falls City Does Drove #56, NE met at the Elks for their annual Christmas social. Cathy Gutshall hosted the potluck dinner assisted by Mary Wiltse and absentee members, Jen Roberts, Cindy Witt and Debbie Witt. Members brought nonperishable items for the food pantry.

A gift exchange was held with a fun game directing gifts around the table.

A short business meeting was held to allow bills. Donations were made to SENCA, Richardson County House of Hope and Area Ministerial Association. Dessie Scholl accepted the nomination for drove president 2025.

The next meeting will be Monday January 13th, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Elks Lodge. Installation of officers will be held including President Dessie Scholl, First Counselor Phyllis Kreutzer, Senior Counselor Karen Ramsey, Junior Counselor Dana Caulfield, Secretary-Treasurer Linda Frost, Conductor Nancy McKim, Chaplin Phyllis Kreutzer, Inner Guard Susan Wilhelm, Musician Beverly Bernhardt, three Year Trustee Cathy Gutshall, Color Bearer one Cathy Gutshall, Color Bearer two Molly Kirkendall, Color Bearer three Mary Wiltse, Attendant one Glenda Bippes and Attendant four Marlene McKim. Annual dues must be paid and Officers should wear white.

Hostesses for the meeting are Glenda Bippes and Gina Scheitel.

The mission of the Falls City Does Drove #56 is to exemplify the principles of Patriotism, Charity, Loyalty and Love; to acknowledge a belief in God and to promote charitable works, patriotic ceremonies and social functions to instill hospitality and a spirit of love with the desire to work in harmony with the Protective Order of Elks.

Anyone is interested in being a part of this organization please contact any member for more information.

SOCIETY

Shubert American Legion Auxiliary Unit 222

By Tana J Brown
Secretary

The Shubert American Legion Auxiliary Unit 222 met December 10, 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

At this time Chaplain Dona Hall draped the charter for our deceased member Ensley Meyer-korth.

Tana Brown shared some thoughts from a 2023 American Legion Auxiliary article that referred to "peace on earth, goodwill toward men" as referred to in our preamble, and the first verse of "I Heard The Bells on Christmas Day" was sung.

Roll call was answered by seven members.

Secretary Tana Brown read the minutes of the November 12, 2024 meeting and they were approved as read.

In the absence of Treasurer Judy Schlosser, a copy of the Treasurer's report was shared. Elizabeth Ketner made a motion to accept the report, Marilyn Capps seconded and all approved.

Tour of Homes brought in a nice amount to be given to the Falls City Veterans Service office to be used for Veterans in Richardson County.

No bills were presented.

A Thank you was read from Cody Meyer-korth family and a donation was given in memory of Ensley. A card from Steve and Kellie Kennedy was read. They gave a nice donation in memory of Leroy Kennedy. A thank you from HTRS was passed around.

Dona delivered treats to Falls City Nursing and Rehab for November and they shared a very nice picture and comment on their Facebook page.

We currently have 84 members paid with a requirement this year of 96.

Cards were signed.

Elizabeth Ketner made a motion to update the Unit Standing Rules to reflect our new meeting time of 6:30. Marilyn Capps seconded the motion; motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on January 14, 2025 at 6:30 at the home of Elizabeth Ketner.

Chaplain Dona Hall gave the closing prayer.

Co-President Vicki Beilke declared the meeting adjourned and everyone enjoyed a time of visiting and Christmas goodies.

FALLS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS AND STATISTICS

December 9 through December 10 calls: three referred to another agency, one house watch, one information only, three gun permits, one records check, one suspicious person/vehicle, one vandalism, one parking complaint, two HHS intake/referral, one 911 call.

December 10 through December 11 calls: five animal calls, four ambulance/EMS, two miscellaneous, one nuisance, one 911 hang up/misdial, two suspicious person/vehicle, two fire calls (Dawson and Verdon Fire), two HHS intake/referral, two referred to another agency, one traffic/driving complaint, three 911 calls, one warning for ATV/UTV requirements, one warning for ATV insurance and permit required, one warning for improper/defective vehicle lighting.

December 11 through December 12 calls: one ambulance/EMS, two referred to another agency, one information only, two HHS intake/referral, one nuisance, one check welfare, two 911 hang up/misdials, one gun permit, one miscellaneous, one burn permit, five 911 calls, one citation for no proof of insurance, one citation for improper/defective vehicle lighting.

December 12 through December 13 calls: three 911 hang up/misdials, one ambulance/EMS, one traffic/driving complaint, one alarm, four 911 calls, one warning for speeding, one warning for unlawful display of plates, one warning for improper/defective vehicle lighting.

December 13 through December 14 calls: one burn permit, one found or lost property, one parking complaint, four ambulance/EMS, one motorist assist, five miscellaneous, two HHS intake/referrals, one 911 hang up/misdial, one traffic/driving complaint, two referred to another agency, one information only, one law enforcement assist, six 911 calls, one citation for no valid registration, one citation for improper/defective vehicle lighting, two warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one warning for speeding.

December 14 through December 15 calls: two ambulance/EMS, one burn permit, one runaway, one information only, one citation for misuse of school permit, one citation for speeding, one citation for nonresident violate 30-day immunity.

December 15 through December 16 calls: four 911 hang up/misdial, one ambulance/EMS, one miscellaneous, one referred to another agency, five 911 calls, one citation for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one citation for no valid registration, four warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one warning for plates not clear and visible.

December 16 through December 17 calls: two ambulance/EMS, two burn permits, two miscellaneous, one HHS intake/referral, one 911 hang up/misdial, one animal call, one information only, two 911 calls, three warnings for speeding, one warning for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one warning for no proof of insurance.

December 17 through December 18 calls: two information only, one referred to another agency, three records checks, one accident, one motorist assist, one miscellaneous, one fire call (Humboldt Fire), three 911 calls, one warning for plates not clear and visible, one citation for no operators license.

December 18 through December 19 calls: one ambulance/EMS, two miscellaneous, one 911 hang up/misdial, one animal call, one referred to another agency, one found or lost property, two 911 calls, one citation for speeding, one citation for careless driving, one warning for speeding, three warnings for no valid registration, one warning for improper/defective vehicle lighting.

December 19 through December 20 calls: two 911 hang up/misdials, one suspicious person/vehicle, one traffic/driving complaint, one fraud, one referred to another agency, one accident, one house watch, one miscellaneous, one ambulance/EMS, one information only, five 911 calls, one citation for improper/defective vehicle lighting, two citations for fail to use seat belt, one citation for speeding, one citation for exceed two auxiliary/spot lights, one citation for expired operators license, one warning for no proof of insurance, one warning for speeding.

December 20 through December 21 calls: two animal calls, one 911 hang up/misdial, five ambulance/EMS, one nuisance, two found or lost property, one motorist assist, one miscellaneous, two 911 calls, one warning for plates not clear and visible.

December 21 through December 22 calls: two 911 hang up/misdials, three miscellaneous, one disturbance, one information only, five ambulance/EMS, one animal call, one check welfare, five 911 calls, one warning for ATV and UTV oper. on city street for pleasure, one warning for ATV insurance and permit required, one citation for assault-cause bodily injury.

December 22 through December 23 calls: two animal calls, two 911 hang up/misdials, one found or lost property, two miscellaneous, one check welfare, one 911 call, one citation for invalid registration.

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Five years of Nebraska Youth Survey data reveal strong preference for rural communities

More than 4,000 students representing 43 schools across Greater Nebraska have overwhelmingly indicated their penchant for small communities according to five years of cumulative data released by Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) and the Center for Public Affairs Research (CPAR) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

NCF and CPAR began the Nebraska Youth Survey initiative in 2020 in an effort to better understand the priorities and perspectives of middle and high school students living in communities as small as Diller (population 260) and as large as Norfolk (population 25,928). Questions have uncovered everything from their perceptions on Nebraska and rural places, to plans for the future and expectations of the places they choose to live.

Feedback has remained consistent over the past five years, often with increasing favorability for rural communities over time. Key findings taking into account all 4,063 responses gathered since 2020 include:

1. Students prefer small towns and report no stigma attached to living in rural places. When asked about ideal community size, students most often answer “small like my hometown.” In 2020, 47% of those surveyed gave this answer and in each of the following years, that number rose well over 50% averaging 55% over all five years. A staggering 73% said there is no negative stigma with returning to or staying in the place you live now.

2. Their safety is a top priority. When asked to think about their ideal community and to rank its qualities from most important to least important, students have selected safety from violence and theft, good schools and proximity to family as the top three most important factors, in that order, for five consecutive years. Bullying (both online and in-person) is a common occurrence among Nebraska youth with a cumulative 44% reporting they have experienced it.

3. Many Young Nebraskans want to remain in the state. Of the over 4,000 students surveyed, 59% say they are somewhat or extremely likely to live in the area they live now as an adult. In 2020, 68% of the students surveyed said they felt connected to the place they live now. This number has also seen steady positive growth with a cumulative 76% reporting connection to their community over the five-year data collection period.

Findings from the Nebraska Youth Survey have been used extensively over the years by Nebraska Community Foundation’s network composed of 270 communities and 1,500 volunteers. For instance, only 34% of student respondents have agreed with the statement “I play a role in this community” since the survey began. In response, volunteers across the NCF network have been devising numerous strategies to better engage young people, with many NCF affiliated funds offering decision-making and leadership opportunities to youth. The survey has also reinforced the importance of work centered on inclusion, equity and diversity, something students say is of great value to the places they choose to live in the future.

“Our extensive youth survey work is helping NCF and the thousands of leaders we work with build communities of choice for the leaders of tomorrow,” said Jeff Yost, president and CEO of Nebraska Community Foundation. “In our global society, young people have more options than ever, but because of technology, the opportunities our rural communities present are also abundant. These five years of data indicate great promise for the future of our rural hometowns and our state.”

About the Center for Public Affairs Research: The Center for Public Affairs Research collaboratively produces and disseminates high-quality public scholarship about topics that impact the lives of Nebraskans. Ongoing projects from CPAR include policy analyses for the Planning Committee of the Nebraska State Legislature, the Nebraska Rural Transit Project, governing.unomaha.edu, and designation by the U.S. Census Bureau as a state-wide liaison for disseminating a range of data products. To learn more about CPAR and access many of our data resources go to cpar.unomaha.edu.

About Nebraska Community Foundation: Nebraska Community Foundation unleashes abundant local assets, inspires charitable giving and connects ambitious people to build stronger communities and a Greater Nebraska.

Headquartered in Lincoln, the Foundation serves communities, donors and organizations by providing financial management, strategic development, education and training to a statewide network of 1,500 volunteers serving 270 communities. Since 1994, NCF has reinvested \$553 million in Nebraska’s people and places. For information, visit NebraskaHometown.org.

FROM THE JOURNAL ARCHIVES



D 4289. Main Street, Looking North, Falls City, Nebr.

Nebraska Corn Board proud of Nebraskan’s Award and serving in leadership with the U.S. Meat Export Federation

The U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) recently met for their strategic planning meeting in Tucson, Arizona which included the election of officers for 2024-2025 and organization awards. Nebraska is well represented in leadership and one producer received a notable award.

Steve Hanson, a rancher and cattle feeder from Elsie, Nebraska, was elected the new USMEF chair, succeeding Minnesota pork and grain producer Randy Spronk. Dave Bruntz, president of Bruntz Farming & Feeding in Friend, Nebraska, was elected vice chair. Bruntz served on the Nebraska Corn Board from 2013 to 2022, including a term as chairman.

Adam Grabenstein, a farmer and cattle producer from Farnam, Nebraska serves on the USMEF executive committee and is the co-chair of the feed grains/oil seeds sector. Grabenstein serves as the district 5 director of the Nebraska Corn Board (NCB).

In addition to electing new officers, USMEF presented Mark Jagels with their Distinguished Service Award. Jagels, a corn and livestock producer from Davenport, Nebraska, and former USMEF chair was honored for his outstanding dedication to the red meat industry. He served on NCB from 1999 – 2014 as the district 2 director, including chairman of the board. USMEF’s Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the federation’s success. Jagels’ commitment to promoting U.S. red meat exports has been instrumental in growing the industry’s global presence.

“Nebraska has a strong representation with USMEF, and we are elated to see Nebraska’s agriculture leaders taking on key roles as well as celebrated in their service,” said Brandon Hunnicutt, chairman of NCB. “Steve, Dave, Adam and Mark are all highly respected and dedicated individuals who will and have served the federation and the state of Nebraska well. We congratulate them on their new roles and recognition.”

The Nebraska Corn Board commends these individuals as they help lead a well-respected international organization whose goal is “putting U.S. meat on the world’s table.” NCB has been a long-time supporter of USMEF.

The Nebraska Corn Board is funded through a producer checkoff investment of one-cent-per-bushel checkoff on all corn marketed in the state and is managed by nine farmer directors. The mission of the Nebraska Corn Board to increase the value and sustainability of Nebraska corn through promotion, market development and research.

Kirkendall makes Doane Dean’s List

Doane is proud to recognize Tiger students for academic achievement during the fall and spring semesters by placement on the Dean’s List.

To qualify, students enrolled full-time on Crete campus, by the census date of the grade reports: complete 12 credit hours of course work attain a minimum semester GPA of 3.700

Local students making the Dean’s list include Ashleigh Kirkendall of Falls City.

Nebraska awards 1,149 degrees in December ceremonies

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln conferred 1,149 degrees during commencement exercises Dec. 20 and 21 at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

The degrees were earned by 1,132 graduates from 41 countries, 40 U.S. states and 150-plus Nebraska communities.

Two honorary degrees were conferred during the graduate and professional degree ceremony Dec. 20: Ken M. Bird, longtime educator and founder of the nonprofit Avenue Scholars, received a Doctor of Education; and Marion LaVerne (Patton) Larmon, a 103-year-old Lincoln resident who attended the University of Nebraska from 1939 to 1941 but did not graduate, received a Doctor of Fine Arts.

Area graduates who received degrees were: Abby Lynn Phelps, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Bachelor of Science in Grassland Systems with high distinction and Will Stalder, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Bachelor of Science in Agronomy with high distinction, both of Humboldt.

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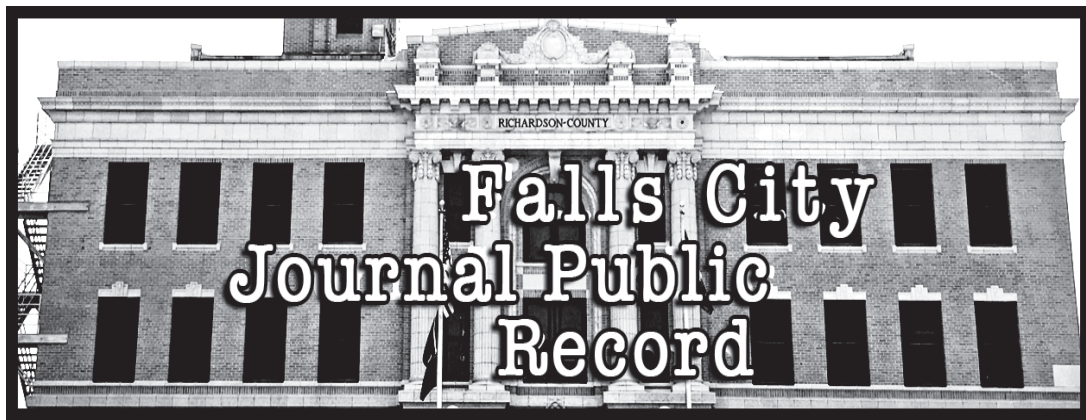
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Falls City JOURNAL



(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

Kylie Pohl of Falls City, count one, nonresident violate 30-day immunity, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25; count two, no valid registration, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Ramirez)

Swaray Perry of West Fargo, ND, count one, no valid registration, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Jones)

Jeffery Kramer of Hiawatha, count one, no operator's license, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75; count two, no valid registration, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25; count three, fail to use seat belt, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Ramirez)

Martin Wessels of Brownville, count one, no valid registration, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Novak)

Chevy Imel of Falls City, count one, speeding 11-15 mph municipal school, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$150 and court costs. (Ramirez)

Martin Ramirez Lozada of Baytown, TX, count one, no operator's license, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Anderson)

Chevy Imel of Falls City, count one, fail to yield ROW, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25; count two, fail to use seat belt, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Ramirez)

Chase Bryan of Port St. Lucie, FL, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Daniels)

Fernando Oviedo of Boca Raton, FL, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Franks)

Frances Frenzel of Falls City, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Holliday)

Ryan Rotterman of Weston, MO, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75; count two, fail to use seat belt, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Zost)

Jeffrey Woosley of Falls City, count one, fail to yield to pedestrian in crosswalk, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Ramirez)

Benjamin Logsdon of Falls City, count one, no valid registration, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$200 and court costs. (Ramirez)

Charles Sheetz of Topeka, count one, violate no passing zone, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Aitken)

Jennifer Strecker of Falls City, count one, stop sign violation, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Ramirez)

Alex Merryman of Humboldt, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Geyer)

Sean Hower of Nebraska City, count one, no valid registration, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$200; count two, use handheld mobile device CMV-1st, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$200; count three, nonresident violate 30-day immunity, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs.

Nicholas Stickney of Falls City, count one, no motorcycle operator's license, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75; count two, no helmet/no safety class, plead guilty, found

guilty and fined \$250 and court costs. (Novak)

Micah Derksen of Moundridge, KS, count one, nonresident violate 30-day immunity, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Jones)

Joshua Richardson of Le Mars, IA, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Wissmann)

Marcelino Balderas Barron of Lincoln, count one, no operator's license, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Shiley)

Darrell Anno of Rulo, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25; count two, fail to use seat belt, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Zost)

Christina Sipple of Falls City, count one, speeding 6-10 mph municipal school, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$50; count two, no license on person, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25; count three, fail to use seat belt, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Ramirez)

Christine Tibbets of Wichita, count one, speeding 16-20 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Holliday)

Breeze Wardrup of Hiawatha, count one, no valid registration, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Ramirez)

Zane Malson of Lincoln, count one, speeding 16-20 mph, plead guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Holliday)

Irish One Act nearly pulls off the upset at state competition

(Continued from Page 1)

Bakery the day of a performance for donuts.

"It hasn't failed me yet," Neddenriep said with a grin. He caught the acting bug as a freshman, first in One Act and later in Speech in the OID competition.

"Mrs. Bippes took a chance on me," said Neddenriep. "We got third at state that year and I think that is where I got my foot in the door."

It was a roller coaster of emotions that day in Norfolk for Neddenriep.

"I felt happy for sure and excited," said Neddenriep when his Outstanding Performance Award was announced. "I didn't really realize just how good of a thing it was until after I was thinking about it."

Neddenriep took home the top acting honor in his first appearance on the stage at state. Ethan competed his freshman year, but the following year walked away.

He and his brother were cast as a duo his sophomore year, but a broken leg derailed their efforts. His junior year he again decided to stay away from the stage, much to the chagrin of One Act Director Stephanie Bippes.

"This year I showed him the script and said Ethan, I expect people to try out for my stuff, but this character is basically Ethan Neddenriep," said Bippes. "So, I said please read this and let me know."

The Irish lost out on the Outstanding Technical Crew Award by one point. Evan Bailey, Thomas Aitken, Patrick Froeschl, Parker Hoffman, Hallie Jones and Tate Wilcox also earned Acting Awards.

This year's team, under the direction of director Stephanie Bippes and assistant director Mackensie Nelson continued to show improvement as the season went along. The production team went from placing fifth at the Peru State College One Act Festival in mid-November to winning the D1-1 District One Act competition at Giltner on December 3. At districts, Neddenriep and Aitken earned Outstanding Performer Awards, while the group also took home the Outstanding Technical Crew Award.

According to Bippes, the process of choosing a script is not an easy one and begins during the summer.

"I just read a ton of scripts," said Bippes. "They just stack up. I have to get the best one for the crew that I have. I think about what we have as a student body. Who are my actors? How many girls and how many boys and can we pull this off?"

This year's team included Tate Wilcox, Parker Hoffman, Ethan Neddenriep, Renee Drummond, Hallie Jones, Thomas Aitken, Patrick Froeschl, Evan Bailey, Brenden Lemerond, Adisen Fischer, Destry Groth, Isabelle Nussbaum, Kyle Frederick, Hayden Clow, Connor Nelson, Mason Goltz, Willa Fritz, Milayna Crofford, Cole Schawang, Cooper Knobbe, Eli Geisendorf, Kyler Sipple and Emily Tubbs.

The crew included Ellery Vonderschmidt, Addison Keller, Jocelyn Olberding, Quincy Koelliker, Emersyn Courtney, Gavin Clow, Clayton Keithley, Hudson Huffles, Dorothy Crouse, Alise Reschke, Ryann Westengaard, Flavia Kanyange, Avery Santo and Mya Dougherty.

The Play Production at Sacred Heart has taken a step forward in recent years due to many factors.

"Due to coaching, due to directing, also due to their talents and willingness to work hard and commit," said Bippes.

Bippes stated how proud she was of the entire cast and crew, which, as mentioned above, finished one point away from the Outstanding Technical Crew Award.

"I'm happy," said Bippes. "I'm happy with our performance, we got better every time. Our state performance was our best performance. It was a really good season."

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University of Nebraska programs, Nebraska nonprofits eligible for WIN grants

Women Investing in Nebraska (WIN) is now accepting funding ideas for its 2025 grant awards. University of Nebraska programs and Nebraska non-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

Grants are awarded based on the critical needs being addressed, the people the project serves and the impact made on Nebraskans. Grant seekers must submit an online letter of inquiry by Feb. 6, 2025, at womeninvestinginnebraska.org/grants/letter-of-inquiry/.

Based on submissions, WIN will invite 12 to 16 grant seekers to provide formal grant proposals. Grant seekers must be a part of the University of Nebraska System or be a Nebraska nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charity.

"WIN is proud to partner each year with organizations that are tackling important issues that matter to Nebraskans, and we're pleased to again request ideas for funding as we enter our 14th year of philanthropic service to the state," WIN Grants Committee Chair Halley Kruse said.

The amount granted will be based on the total gifts received in 2025 from WIN members. WIN will announce its grant awards in fall 2025.

For more information, grant seekers may contact WIN at win@nufoundation.org.

WIN awarded a total of \$244,752 to two programs for its 2024 grants season. Grants were awarded to the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing to develop new emergency training for nurse practitioners and to the Foster Care Closet of Nebraska to expand its Mobile Closet program.

A total of 302 WIN members contributed personally to make the grants possible. Committee members reviewed proposals in a four-step process culminating in a membership vote to select the two recipients. WIN's membership is comprised of women in and outside Nebraska who, through their collective giving, address issues that matter to Nebraskans.

About Women Investing in Nebraska

WIN operates in partnership with the University of Nebraska Foundation and the UNF Charitable Gift Fund to support women philanthropists. The UNF Charitable Gift Fund is a nonprofit organization affiliated with the University of Nebraska Foundation. It provides options for donors to support the University of Nebraska as well as other worthwhile charitable causes in their community or across the country. For information on becoming a WIN member, contact WIN Director Morgan Holen at 402-458-1254 or 800-432-3216, or visit womeninvestinginnebraska.org.



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Sheriff's Office makes felony arrests

The Richardson County Sheriff's Office conducted a methamphetamine distribution investigation that included two search warrants, two felony arrests, and the seizure of methamphetamine. The investigation revealed that the suspected methamphetamine, in this case, came from Saint Joseph, Missouri.

The Sheriff's Department stated "this case is another example of our continued partnership with East View apartment management, and our commitment to disrupt the flow of illegal drugs in Richardson County."

On December 19, 2024, at about

6:30 p.m., Deputies executed a search warrant on a motel room at the Vision Inn Motel in Falls City. During the search, suspected methamphetamine was located. Chad A. Clark was arrested at the scene.

On December 20, 2024, at about 4:00pm, Deputies executed a search warrant at East View apartment #66 in Falls City. During the search, suspected methamphetamine was located. Dustin J. R. Bernard was arrested at the scene.

Vision Inn Motel (December 19, 2024)

-Chad A. Clark

-Possession of a Controlled Substance-Methamphetamine

-Possession of Marijuana

-Possession of Drug Paraphernalia East View Apartment #66, Falls City (December 20, 2024)

Dustin J. R. Bernard

-Distribution of Methamphetamine within 1,000 Feet of a Playground

-Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine

-Possession of a Controlled Substance-Methamphetamine

All subjects are innocent until proven guilty.

An educator to the core, Moles joins PSC Foundation Board

From his days as a high school teacher and coach through his time as a school administrator and beyond, Jack Moles has always been dedicated to educating and advancing young people.

A new member of the Peru State College Foundation – a private non-profit organization dedicated to generating, managing, and providing private funds for Nebraska's first college – Moles brings a wealth of knowledge about what young people need to access and achieve a quality, affordable education.

Moles now resides in Lincoln with his wife Shelley. His three-year term on the all-volunteer Peru State College Foundation Board begins Jan. 1.

"My plan was always to be a history teacher," Moles said. "Becoming a coach was also something I was interested in, but it was always my intention to do something with history."

A native of Nebraska City, Moles graduated from Peru State in 1980 and embarked on his career. His first stop was Bartley, Neb., in Red Willow County in western Nebraska, teaching social studies and coaching volleyball, basketball, and track and field.

After 10 years in that capacity, Moles moved into administration, serving Bartley as principal for two years. He relocated to Amherst as superintendent for the 1995-96 school year before heading back to southeast Nebraska as superintendent of Nemaha Valley Public Schools in Cook.

Moles held that position from 1996 through 2007, when Nemaha Valley merged with the newly-created Johnson County Central Public Schools in Tecumseh. He was named as its first superintendent and stayed in that role for 11 years.

"I never had a plan to be an administrator," Moles said. "That goal came later in my career at the urging of a couple of administrators who I worked under."

In 2018 Moles was selected as executive director for the Ne-

braska Rural Community Schools Association, a position he holds today. The group serves 224 schools and an estimated 89,000 students in rural schools across Nebraska, as well as Educational Service Units and the three state colleges in 90 counties and 25 legislative districts across Nebraska.

Moles has always remained engaged with Peru State throughout his career, regularly attending college events and supporting various activities. His years in education give him a strong perspective on the role the Nebraska State Colleges play in educating Nebraskans across the state.

"Dr. George Schottenhamel and Dr. John Hahn were two of the more influential professors I had at Peru as I had so many classes with them," Moles reflected. "Dr. Tom Fitzgerald was someone I looked up to, although I didn't have many classes with him. I worked for him in the intramural department and enjoyed him."

Moles will bring his experience and energy to a volunteer board that supports Peru State through charitable gifts that support student scholarships and campus programs. The Foundation has approximately \$23 million in assets.

Moles has both his master's and his Educational Specialist degrees from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He knows firsthand the role small public colleges play in the state's educational landscape.

"What I believe I bring to the table is a great connection with educators across the state," Moles said. "I also have a connection with Dr. Paul Turman and the State College System and with the two other State Colleges as a result of my work in the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association."

Now he'll have a chance to help Peru State and its Foundation grow and increase its service to both young people and adults, many of whom take classes online. It's an opportunity he's excited to take on.

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Richardson County Area Churches

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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
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Richard Kent Martin, Pastor
402-245-2650

First United Methodist Church
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fumc@sento.net
402-245-3281
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Tim Boatright, Pastor

Grace Bible Fellowship
(Highway 62, east of Stella)
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www.gbfcchurch.com
Office: 402-883-2110
Dave Lockard, Pastor



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Fr. Ben Ryneerson, Pastor

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David Showalter, Pastor

St. Mary's (Arago)
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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)
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www.stthomasfallscity.org
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Tigers fall late at Palmyra

The Tiger basketball team played the Palmyra Panthers close for three periods before allowing the home team to take control late and pull away for the 55-39 win. Falls City held quarter leads of 12-10 and 23-15 in the first half. FC still was in front 27-26 with 2:26 to play in the third. The Tigers relinquished the lead for one and a half minutes in the third, but two free throws by Jacoby Bangert gave FC the advantage 29-28 with 1:02 to play in the period. Consecutive steals and layups gave the Panthers the lead, 33-29, heading into the final eight minutes.

The FC offense went cold and the Palmyra defense brought the heat to begin the fourth quarter. The Panthers turned a four-point lead into a 20-point advantage as they opened the fourth on a 16-0 run in the first five minutes of the period. With 2:51 on the clock, Eric Heinzelman ended the Tiger drought with a bucket under the hoop to make it 31-49. FC got outscored 10-22 in the final period as they fell by 16 to the Panthers and dropped to 0-6 for the season. After a four-game losing streak to open the season, Palmyra picked up its second straight win and improved to 2-4.

Falls City hit 12/33 (36%) of their shot attempts, while Palmyra was 34% (17/50) from the field. FC was efficient at the foul line, finishing 10/12, but the Panther pressure forced 30 Tiger turnovers, leading to 25 points on the other end of the floor.

Keifer Adams led Falls City with 23 points, finishing the game 9/22 from the floor. Adams added five rebounds and two steals. Heinzelman went 2/2 from the floor and 4/4 from the charity stripe for nine points and Elijah Leyden fought for a team-best nine rebounds.

Scoring for FC: Morris 2, Q. Adams 3, K. Adams 23, Bangert 2, Heinzelman 9.

Scoring for Palmyra: Martin 15, Petersen 3, Boyte 19, Kassebaum 3, Hippen 4, Mayo 9, John Hippen 2.

The Tigers played the 0-6 Raymond Central Mustangs in the 2024 Weeping Water Holiday Tourney opening round on Friday evening.

Tiger grapplers place fourth at Auburn

The Falls City boys wrestling team scored 125 points in Auburn on Saturday, December 21, and placed fourth. Fairbury took home the team title with 160.5 points.

Falls City's Robert Gilkerson improved to 10-2 with a first-place finish at 157. Gilkerson won by tech fall over Johnson of Fairbury 15-0 in the quarterfinals. In the semis, Gilkerson pinned McLaughlin of Thayer Central at 5:30 and in the finals, he won by fall over Colton Hauschild of Lincoln North Star at 5:22. At 165, Mason Collier moved to 9-3 with a second-place finish. Collier lost by fall at :51 in the finals to Konrad Kuzelka of Fairbury. The Tigers got their second silver medal at 175 when Blakely Sells went 2-1, dropping a tech fall, 21-4, to Andrew Rubino of Omaha Buena Vista in the championship match. Bailey Thimmes won the third silver, finishing 3-1 at 120. In the championship, Thimmes lost by fall at 1:38 to Sinn of Thayer Central. At 215, Chase Simpson went 3-1 to earn third. In his last match, Simpson pinned Arner of Fairbury at :22 to earn the win. Dayton Sneten went 1-2 and placed fourth at 106, Kaleb Kaiser went 2-2 at 132 and placed fourth, while at 150, Caden Collier went 1-3 and placed fourth. At 113, Wyatt Counce finished 0-2, Cade Caudle went 1-2 at 126, Zane Elms was 0-2 at 138, Ryker Jones finished 2-2 at 157, Ashton Martin was 1-2 at 190, and Jayden Mirelez went 0-2 at 215.

Titan wrestlers compete at JCC Thunderbird Invite

The HTRS wrestling teams traveled to Tecumseh on Saturday, December 21, for the JCC Invite. The Lady Titans scored 27 points and placed tenth, while the boys placed 15th with 11 points.

Ava Grimes improved to 9-2 for the year after going 4-1 and placing second. Grimes pinned Vinsonhaler of Meridian at :54 in her first match of the day. In round two, Grimes pinned Schwisow of Dorchester at 1:28 and won by fall over Meyer of Logan View in the third round. Grimes moved on to the final with a medical forfeit over Hoskins of Palmyra. In the finals, Grimes lost by fall to Aldrich of Palmyra at :58. At 135, Shawna Richey went 2-3 and placed sixth. After dropping her first two matches, Richey battled back to win her next two and put her in the fifth-place match. Richey dropped the match by fall at 1:41 to Bachle of EMF and finished her day with a sixth-place medal.

Alexander Drewberry went 2-3 for the Titan boys and placed fourth. Drewberry won his first match of the day by fall but dropped to 1-1 after falling by pin in the next round. Drewberry fought back to earn a win by medical forfeit in the third round but dropped a match to Troxel of Southern by fall at 1:06. In the third-place match, Drewberry lost by fall at 5:00 to Hernandez of Lincoln Northeast.

Carol J. Urbom

Carol J. Urbom, 80, of Falls City, NE, passed away December 22, 2024 at Falls City. She was born April 24, 1944 at Dodge City, KS to Henry and Florence (Tacker) Kephart.

She married Robert Urbom on December 19, 1967 at Dodge City. He passed away in 1970.

Carol was raised in Ford, KS and graduated Ford High School in 1962. She worked at a Certified Nursing Assistant in various places at Nursing Homes throughout her life. She was a member of

First Christian Church.

Carol is survived by her daughters, Tina Russell and her husband Victor of Dodge City, Tami Henry and her husband Tracy of Garden City, KS, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and a brother, Donald Kephart.

Carol has been cremated and a graveside service will be held on March 8, 2025 at 2:00 PM at Bloom Cemetery in Bloom, KS with Pastor Angela Gregg officiating.

Lady Tigers drop contest to Panthers

The Falls City Lady Tiger basketball squad fell for the fifth time in six contests when they dropped a 26-53 road contest at Palmyra on Friday, December 20.

FC took an early 2-0 lead when Izzy Armbruster hit a driving bucket at the 7:30 mark. The Tigers held onto the lead until Palmyra sank two from the free throw line to take a 3-2 lead. Free throws by Armbruster at 2:30 put FC back in the lead, 4-3, and Armbruster's three from the corner made it 7-3 with 1:55 to play in the first. Palmyra scored the final four points of the period to tie the contest at 7-7 after one.

An offensive rebound and score by Palmyra to open the second quarter put them in front for good, 9-7. On the ensuing Panther possession, the shooter hit a trey and drew a foul, completing a four-point play and making it 13-7. Falls City never recovered. The Panthers went on to a 23-13 lead at the half and outscored FC 30-13 in the second half to earn the 27-point win.

Falls City went 9/37 from the floor, while the Panthers finished 18/58. Palmyra won the rebound battle 38-26 and forced 24 turnovers while committing 13.

Armbruster led FC with 16 points on 6/14 shooting and secured five rebounds. Carlea Dunkhas added six boards, two assists and two steals.

Scoring for FC: K. Titus 4, Armbruster 16, Gode-mann 3, Kirkendall 3.

Scoring for Palmyra: Erhart 7, Vasa 4, Green 8, Wal-ter 19, Fick 2, Schroeder 7.

The Lady Tigers looked to get back into the win column when they played Conestoga in the opening round of the 2024 Weeping Water Holiday Tournament on Friday afternoon. Each team entered the contest at 1-5 with wins over Boys Town.

Lady Titans earn win versus Southern

The HTRS Lady Titans found themselves trailing early but rebounded to pull out the four-point win, 42-38, over the Southern Raiders.

HTRS, 2-5, trailed after the first period 5-7 but rallied to take a three-point lead, 17-14 at intermission. The 1-5 Raiders battled back to even the game at 29-29 with only eight minutes to play. The Lady Titans had just enough left in their tank to outscore Southern 13-9 down the stretch and pull away for the four-point win, snapping a three-game skid.

The Lady Titans shot 27% (16/60) from the field, including a 7/25 effort from beyond the three-point line. HTRS finished with 25 rebounds, 13 assists, 12 steals and only ten turnovers.

Maddie Bredemeier had her top performance of the winter, going 4/9 from deep for a team-best 16 points. Lillian Bowen was close behind with 15 points on 5/26 shooting with five steals and four assists. Laramee Glathar added a team-best 12 rebounds and four assists.

Scoring for HTRS: Bstandig 8, Glathar 2, McClarnen 1, Bredemeier 16, Bowen 15.

The Lady Titans played Parkview Christian in the opening round in the "B" division of the 2024 Weeping Water Holiday Tournament. The Weeping Water tourney was where the Lady Titans turned their season around last year. After falling to Falls City in the opening round last year, HTRS went on to win nine of its final 14 contests and finished the season at 11-11.

Deborah "Debbie" Ebel

Deborah "Debbie" Lynn Kirkendall Ebel of Verdon, Nebraska, passed away December 21, 2024, as Falls City. She was born July 15, 1958, to Don and Sheila (Yoder) Kirkendall of rural Falls City.

She married David Ebel on October 29, 1977, and they lived on a farm south of Falls City. Later the couple moved to their current home on a farm north of Verdon. Debbie was raised on a farm east of Falls City and graduated from Falls City Public School in 1976. She went to work at First National Bank and worked there for many years holding different positions at the bank. She then worked at Dawson-Verdon Public School as the school secretary and bookkeeper. She later went to work at the Richardson County Courthouse as the Deputy County Clerk.

Debbie was a lifelong member of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church. She served as a church council member for several years. She enjoyed music and played the piano for the Saint Paul's church choir. She also enjoyed singing in the Humboldt Community Choir for the Palm Sunday Cantata.

David and Debbie supported their nieces and

nephews in many of their activities over the years. She loved watching the Nebraska Cornhuskers, especially Husker volleyball. She and David also enjoyed going out to eat with friends and family.

Debbie is survived by her husband, David, mother-in-law, Ramona Ebel, brother-in-law, Brad (Sue) Ebel, sister-in-law, Deanne (LD) Johnson, sister-in-law Lori May, sister-in-law, Linda Kirkendall, and their family dog Onyx. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

She was proceeded in death by her parents Don and Sheila Kirkendall, brother, Doug Kirkendall, father-in-law, Charles Ebel, and a great-nephew Royce Linton.

In lieu of flowers the family asks to please leave memorials designated for Family Choice to be designated at a later date.

Her funeral was held on Friday, December 27, 2024 at 10:30 AM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 20th and Towle St. Interment was in Steele Cemetery.

The family received friends on Thursday from 7-8:00 PM at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home.

Irene Heineman

Irene Heineman, 101 of Wahoo/Fremont died Monday, December 23, 2024, in Fremont. Irene was born February 23, 1923, in Auburn, Nebraska to Walter and Cora (Spradling) Larkin. She married Jean Heineman on June 30, 1947, in Verdon, Nebraska.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Wahoo. She loved spending time with her family, was an excellent cook, enjoyed playing cards with her family, was an avid bridge player, an exceptional seamstress, and loved to crochet, knit and do needlepoint. Irene and Jean had many enjoyable times with their family and friends at Hilltop Country Club where she helped organize many parties and kept score for numerous golf tournaments.

Survivors include sons Bill Heineman and Don Heineman, both of Fremont, and former Gov-

ernor Dave (wife Sally Ganem) Heineman of Fremont; daughter Ege (husband Larry) Reichert of Georgetown, Texas;

sister Evelyn Davidson of Las Cruces, New Mexico; brother Bob (wife Karen) Larkin of Tucson, Arizona; sisters-in-law Elaine Heineman and Opal Frye, both of Falls City; six grandchildren,

nine great grandchildren and several great-great grandchildren.

Irene was preceded in death by her husband, Jean; a sister and three brothers.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 am Saturday, December 28, 2024 at the First United Methodist Church. Visitation was Friday, 5-7 pm at the Pruss-Nabity Funeral Home. Interment was in Sunrise North Cemetery. Memorials have been established to First United Methodist Church in Wahoo.



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www.fcjournal.net

Check online for late obituaries that didn't make the print edition

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Richardson, Nebraska will meet weekly for a regular meeting on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m., Room 202 in the Richardson County Courthouse for the purpose of conducting any and all county business that will come before the board. The agenda for the meetings are kept continuously current and are available for public inspection at the office of the Richardson County Clerk, Courthouse, Room 203, 1700 Stone Street, Falls City, NE during normal working hours. The agenda is closed 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting and is posted on the Commissioner's Meeting Room door, the 1st floor lobby and the lower level lobby of the Courthouse and also on the Richardson County website www.co.richardson.ne.us.

The Board of Equalization of the County of Richardson, Nebraska meet when times may necessitate for the purpose of conducting any and all business that requires the action of the County Board of Equalization. The agenda for the meetings are kept continuously current and are available for public inspection at the office of the Richardson County Clerk, Courthouse, Room 203, 1700 Stone Street, Falls City, NE during normal business hours. The agenda is closed 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting and is posted on the Commissioner's Meeting Room door, the 1st floor lobby and the lower level lobby of the Courthouse and also on the Richardson County website www.co.richardson.ne.us.

Mary L. Eickhoff
Richardson County Clerk
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF FORMAL HEARING FOR COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Estate of Keith Gerweck, Deceased. Estate No, PR24-4

Notice is hereby given that the Personal Representative has filed a final account and report of her administration, a Formal Closing Petition for Complete Settlement, Determination of Personal Representative's fee and attorney's fee and expenses which has been set for hearing in the County Court of Richardson County, 1700 Stone Street, Room #205, Falls City, Nebraska, on January 13, 2025 at 2:30 p.m.

Bethany K. Godemann
Clerk Magistrate
County Court of Richardson County
1700 Stone Street, Room 205
Falls City, NE 68355

Michael R. Dunn, #16825
Tracy A. Burns, #25398
Halbert, Dunn & Burns, LLC
111 East 17th Street
Post Office Box 447
Falls City, Nebraska 68355-0447
Phone: (402) 245-4486
24-31-8
ZNEZ

The Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors will hold their regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, January 9, 2025, at the NRD headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska. Committee meetings, if necessary, begin at 6:00 p.m. An agenda is being kept current at the office, 62161 Hwy 136, Tecumseh, NE 68450.
31
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

You are hereby notified that the following property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder without warranty, by Eric H. Lindquist, Successor Trustee, on February 14, 2025 at on the first floor, lobby area of the Richardson County Courthouse, 1700 Stone Street, in the City of Falls City, NE 68355, at 10:00 AM for the purpose of foreclosing a Trust Deed executed by Branson W. Dougherty and Patricia R. Dougherty, husband and wife, as Trustees, in favor of West Gate Bank as Beneficiary, and West Gate Bank as Trustee. The Trust Deed was filed for record on July 27, 2017, as Instrument No. 2017 00965, in Book 271, at Page 33. The trust property affected is legally described as follows. Lots 1 and 2, Block 1 of Novak-Zusman Addition to the City of Falls City, Nebraska; AND: Beginning 360 feet North of the Northwest corner of Block 4 in Crook and Towle's Addition to the City of Falls City, Nebraska; thence North 50 feet; thence East 126.7 feet, more or less, to West line of a tract of land conveyed to May C. Butler and Asa E. Butler by Warranty Deed recorded in Book 115, Page 176, Deed of records of Richardson County, Nebraska; thence South 50 feet; thence West 126.7 feet, more or less, to place of beginning, being in the NW 1/4 of Section 10, Township 1 North, Range 16 East of the 6th P.M., Richardson County, Nebraska. TAX # 740075128. Purportedly known as 2522 Schoenheit St, Falls City, NE 68355 (the undersigned disclaims liability for any error in the address). West Gate Bank is the current Beneficiary of the Trust Deed. Record owners of the property as of the recording of the Notice of Default is reported to be Branson W. Dougherty and Patricia R. Dougherty. The highest bidder will deposit with the Trustee, or the attorney for the Trustee, a \$5,000.00 deposit in the form of a bank or credit union cashier's check or a bank official check, payable to Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. The successful bidder must tender the deposit at the sale and the balance of the purchase price by 12:00 noon the following business day. The balance must be in the form of a wire transfer, bank or credit union's cashier's check, or bank official check payable to Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. A bank or credit union cashier's check must be pre-printed and clearly state that it is a cashier's check. A bank official check must be pre-printed and clearly state that it is an official check. The requirement is waived when the Beneficiary is the highest bidder. Successor Trustee disclaims liability for any error in the street address shown herein. Successor Trustee may void sale due to any unknown facts at time of sale that would cause the cancellation of the sale. If sale is voided, Successor Trustee shall return funds to bidder, and the Successor Trustee and Beneficiary shall not be liable to bidder for any damages. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Beneficiary, Trustor, Successor Trustee, or the Successor Trustee's attorney. This is an attempt to foreclose a security instrument and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Dated this 19 day of December, 2024.

/s/ Eric H. Lindquist,
Successor Trustee
10050 Regency Circle, Ste. 505,
Omaha, NE 68114
Telephone: 801-355-2886
File No. NE21824
31-8-15-22-29
ZNEZ

NOTICE IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Estate of Gregory Wassmuth, Deceased
Estate No. PR 24-32
Notice is given that on December 16, 2024, in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, that Katrina Dettmann, 70974 632 Ave, Humboldt, NE, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before February 24, 2025 or be forever barred.

Bethany K. Godemann
Clerk Magistrate
County Court of Richardson County
1700 Stone Street, Room 205
Falls City, NE 68355

Allen Fankhauser, # 11239
Fankhauser, Nelsen, Welts, Ziskey, & Merwin PC
713 Fourth Street-Box 126
Humboldt, NE 68376
402.862.2321
24-31-8
ZNEZ

DISTRICT #56

Notice for the Board of Education Meeting, 5:00 PM, Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at the Central Office at Falls City Middle School

The agenda sequence is provided as a courtesy. The board reserves the right to consider items in the sequence it deems appropriate. Therefore, we encourage patrons to attend the meeting from the beginning.

- 1.0 Business Items:
 - 1.1 Roll Call, Open Meetings Act Notice, and Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.2 Approval of Absences
 - 1.3 Verification of Advanced Publication
 - 1.4 Approval of Agenda

- 2.0 Old/New Action Items:
 - 2.1 Resignation
 - 2.2 Select Superintendent Search Service

3.0 Executive Session: Requested by member, approved by majority, as per statute

4.0 Adjournment and Next Meetings: The next regular monthly Board of Education meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in the Central Office in Falls City Middle School. Regular and special meeting agendas are kept in the Office of the Superintendent. Board Committee meetings TBD.
ZNEZ

B.O.P.W.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FALLS CITY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
December 5, 2024
2307 Barada Street
Falls City, Nebraska**

A regular meeting of the Board of Public Works of the City of Falls City, Nebraska, was held at the City Hall, 2307 Barada Street in said City on the 5th day of December 2024 at 5:30 o'clock P.M. Present were: Board Members: Froeschl, Joy, Koopman, Rieger. Absent: Johansen. Trevor Campbell recorded the minutes of the meeting. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in three public places, a designated method for giving notice as shown by the Certificate of Posting Notice attached to these minutes. Notice of this meeting was given to the Board Chairperson and all members of the Board and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Chairperson and Board of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. The Chairperson publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and

indicated the location of such copy posted in the room where the meeting was being held.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Joy and seconded by Froeschl to approve the consent agenda as follows: WHEREAS, certain business of the Board of Public Works of the City of Falls City (City) transpires on a regular and routine basis or is not of controversial nature; and WHEREAS, roll call votes on each individual issue greatly extend the meeting time. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY the Board of Public Works that in the interest of economizing time, yet complying with the Public Meeting Laws of the State of Nebraska, which require roll call voting, the following issues are hereby consolidated in this Consent Resolution: 1. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Board of Public Works that the minutes from the November 21, 2024, regular meeting are hereby approved. 2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Board of Public Works that the agenda for December 5, 2024, is hereby approved. 3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Board of Public Works that the Claims for November 9, 2024, through November 22, 2024, are hereby approved. 4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Board of Public Works that the Consent Agenda for December 5, 2024, is hereby approved. Roll was called on this motion and the members voted as follows: "YEA" Froeschl, Joy, Koopman, Rieger. "NAY" None. "ABSENT" Johansen. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS FROM BOCKMANN INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,690.00 FOR THE REMOVAL OF ASBESTOS AT THE OLD WATER PLANT AND EXHAUST PIPE INSULATION AT THE POWER PLANT

A motion was made by Joy and seconded by Rieger to approve the proposals as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the members voted as follows: "YEA" Froeschl, Joy, Koopman, Rieger. "NAY" None. "ABSENT" Johansen. Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE PROPOSAL FROM FARRIS ENGINEERING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000.00 TO CREATE PLANS AND BID DOCUMENTS FOR A CONTROLS SYSTEM AND RELAY UPGRADE AT THE POWER PLANT

A motion was made by Froeschl and seconded by Joy to recommend to City Council to approve the proposal from Farris Engineering as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the members voted as follows: "YEA" Froeschl, Joy, Koopman, Rieger. "NAY" None. "ABSENT" Johansen. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #3 TO IES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,163.99 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF GROUNDING MATERIALS AT THE PDC SUBSTATION SITE

A motion was made by Joy and seconded by Froeschl to approve the Change Order #3 to IES as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the members voted as follows: "YEA" Froeschl, Joy, Koopman, Rieger. "NAY" None. "ABSENT" Johansen. Motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:37 PM

I, the undersigned, City Clerk for the City of Falls City, Nebraska, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings had and done by the Chairperson and Board on December 5, 2024, that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk; that such agenda items were sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were pro-

vided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting; and that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available and accessible

to members of the public, posted during such meeting in the room in which such meeting was held.

City Clerk
Secretary
Chairperson
ZNEZ

New marketing assistance now available for specialty crop producers

USDA makes \$2 billion available to support expansion of current and development of new markets

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency's (FSA) \$2 billion Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) program, aimed at helping specialty crop producers expand markets and manage higher costs, is now accepting applications from Dec. 10, 2024 through Jan. 8, 2025. Funded by the Commodity Credit Corporation, MASC was announced in November alongside the \$140 million Commodity Storage Assistance Program for facilities impacted by 2024 natural disasters.

"Specialty crop growers have typically faced higher marketing and handling costs relative to non-specialty crop producers due to the perishability of fruits, vegetables, floriculture, nursery crops and herbs," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "Through this marketing assistance program, we can expand U.S. specialty crop consumption and markets by providing specialty crop producers the financial support needed to help them engage in activities that broaden and enhance strategies and opportunities for marketing their commodities."

MASC helps specialty crop producers meet higher marketing costs related to:

- Perishability of specialty crops like fruits, vegetables, floriculture, nursery crops and herbs;
- Specialized handling and transport equipment with temperature and humidity control;
- Packaging to prevent damage;
- Moving perishables to market quickly; and
- Higher labor costs.

To be eligible for MASC, a producer must be in business at the time of application, maintain an ownership share and share in the risk of producing a specialty crop that will be sold in calendar year 2025.

MASC covers the following commercially marketed specialty crops:

- Fruits (fresh, dried);
- Vegetables (including dry edible beans and peas, mushrooms, and vegetable seed);
- Tree nuts;
- Nursery crops, Christmas trees, and floriculture;
- Culinary and medicinal herbs and spices; and
- Honey, hops, maple sap, tea, turfgrass and grass seed.

Eligible established specialty crop producers can apply for MASC benefits by completing the FSA-1140, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Program Application, and submitting the form to any FSA county office by Jan. 8, 2025. When applying, eligible specialty crop producers must certify their specialty crop sales for calendar year 2023 or 2024.

New specialty crop producers are required to certify 2025 expected sales, submit an FSA-1141 application and provide certain documentation to support reported sales i.e., receipts, contracts, acreage reports, input receipts, etc. New producers are those who began producing specialty crops in 2023 or 2024 but did not have sales due to the immaturity of the crop, began producing specialty crops in 2024 but did not have a complete year of sales or will begin growing specialty crops in 2025.

MASC applicants, established and new, must also submit the following information to FSA if not already on file at the time of application:

- Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet.
- Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity.
- Form CCC-941, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information.
- Form FSA-942, Certification of Income from Farming, Ranching and Forestry Operations, if applicable, for the producer and members of entities.
- A highly erodible land conservation (sometimes referred to as HELC) and wetland conservation certification (Form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification) for the ERP producer and applicable affiliates.
- Other Documentation if requested by FSA to support reported specialty crop sales.

Most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, will likely have these required forms on file. However, those who are uncertain or want to confirm the status of their forms or producers who may be new to conducting business with FSA, can contact their local FSA county office.

For MASC program participation, eligible specialty crop sales only include sales of commercially marketed raw specialty crops grown in the United States by the producer. The portion of sales derived from adding value to a specialty crop (such as sorting, processing, or packaging) is not included when determining eligible sales. Further explanation of what is considered by FSA for specialty crop sales as well as an online MASC decision tool and applicable program forms, are available on the MASC program webpage.

For established specialty crop growers, those who certify crop sales in 2023 or 2024, FSA will calculate MASC payments based on the producer's total specialty crop sales for the calendar year elected by the producer. Payments for new producers will be based on their expected 2025 calendar year sales. Payment calculation details and examples are available on the MASC webpage or related questions can be directed to local FSA county office staff.

FSA will issue MASC payments after the end of the application period. If demand for MASC payments exceeds available funding, MASC payments may be prorated, and the payment limitation of \$125,000 may be lowered. If additional funding is available after MASC payments are issued, FSA may issue an additional payment.

Specialty crop producers interested in applying for MASC benefits, are encouraged to review the program fact sheet for detailed information on program eligibility, required documentation, payment calculations and more.

Additional information on MASC is available in the Notice of Funding Availability, which went on public inspection in the Federal Register on Dec. 9, 2024.

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We Care for Kids

NOTICE TO ALL RICHARDSON COUNTY RESIDENTS

The Richardson County Assessor's Office is notifying all Richardson County Residents that have built or are planning on building on their property, have torn down any buildings, or if the conditions of buildings have changed to please report it to the Assessor's Office.

The reporting period to make adjustments to the following year property tax is between January 1st and March 15th.

If you have any questions please contact the Richardson County Assessor at (402)245-4012.

4-11-18-24-31
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GET YOUR deduction ahead of the year-end! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous year-end tax credit. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-877-730-8167 today!

WE BUY 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-910-0760

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**If you want it,
you'll find it in the
Classifieds.**

**JOURNAL DEADLINES AND
OFFICE HOURS**

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.

HELP WANTED

POSITION OPENINGS

Pawnee County Memorial Hospital is seeking

- » Medical Office Manager
- » Radiology Tech
- » Medical Lab Technologist
- » Food Service
- » EMS Coordinator
- » Registered Nurse
- » Director of Finance

Our small-town atmosphere offers a professional environment in a critical access facility with a competitive salary and benefit package.

For a full description of this position and to apply, visit our website at www.pawneehospital.com to complete an application.

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AMERICAN WALNUT. Buying standing walnut timber, 25 or more. Call 816-232-6781 in St. Joseph for details. 47-tf

MISCELLANEOUS

Anniversary, birthday, shower, wedding-Chaney Furniture Gift Certificates are always a great idea. 34-co-tf

The Falls City Journal assumes no responsibility for employment opportunity, earn at home, rental, sale or other similar advertisements which are placed in our paper. This newspaper has neither the resources nor the time to investigate the reliability of such offers or sales.

**SBA Nebraska Lending Activity
Year In Review: FYE2024**

\$195.7 Million in SBA guaranteed financing to Nebraska small businesses created or retained more than 4,158 jobs during past 12 months

The total dollar amount of SBA guaranteed loans increased by 19.9% and the number of SBA guaranteed loans increased by 39.3% from fiscal year 2023. Nebraska's entrepreneurial climate continues to show signs of growth and remains strong today with lending patterns showing an increase in activity in our rural markets, as well as a strong microlending activity across the state. Small businesses and entrepreneurs continue to look for ways to gain access to capital to fund their business ventures.

The FY2024 SBA Capital Access Program loan totals for the Nebraska District Office were:

- 7(a) Loan Program: 368 loans approved for \$139.1M
- 504 Loan Program: 23 loans approved for \$56.6M
- Microloan Program: 61 loans approved for \$1.3M

These loans were made through banks, credit unions and certified development companies. As a direct result of SBA guaranteed 7(a) and 504 small business financing in Fiscal Year 2024, 4,158 jobs were created or saved.

The top 7(a) lenders who provided lending to Nebraska businesses by loan amount:

- Union Bank and Trust Company 77 \$26,726,200
- The Hershey State Bank 11 \$12,666,200
- Emprise Bank 15 \$ 9,024,000
- ReadyCap Lending, LLC 18 \$ 8,301,700
- First National Bank of Omaha 16 \$ 6,845,500
- First State Bank Nebraska 20 \$ 6,641,900

The top 7(a) lenders who provided lending to Nebraska businesses by number of loans:

- Union Bank and Trust Company 77 \$26,726,200
- U.S. Bank, NA 26 \$ 907,600
- First State Bank Nebraska 20 \$ 6,641,900
- Bayfirst National Bank 18 \$ 2,207,900
- ReadyCap Lending, LLC 18 \$ 8,310,700
- First National Bank of Omaha 16 \$ 6,845,500

As a federal agency, SBA helps lenders in Nebraska and across the country to make small business loans under the 7(a) Loan Guarantee Program and Microloan Program, which helps reduce risk to the lender and makes it easier for small businesses and entrepreneurs to get the funding they need. The benefits of SBA-guaranteed loans are:

- Competitive terms: SBA-guaranteed loans generally have rates and fees that are comparable to non-guaranteed loans.
- Counseling and education: Some loans come with continued support to help you start and run your business.
- Unique benefits: Lower down payments, flexible overhead requirements, and no collateral needed for some loans.

Tim Mittan, District Director, SBA Nebraska Office, states, "the SBA continues to play a critical role in helping small business owners access capital for startups and growth. We want to thank all the SBA lenders, resources partners, economic development professionals, associations and volunteers who helped keep our businesses going and growing this past year."

For more information on SBA's loan programs go to <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans>

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AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

Southeast NE Community Action Partnership, Inc. (SENCA) is currently seeking low-income applicants in Pawnee, Johnson, Nemaha, Richardson, Otoe, Cass, and Sarpy Counties for weatherization services on their homes. Such services may include attic, wall, and foundation insulation, door or window replacements, refrigerator replacement, pipe wrap, LED light bulbs, carbon dioxide or smoke detectors, general air sealing and HVAC repairs or replacements. To qualify for free weatherization services, your household income must be at the 200% of the poverty level. If you receive either Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Aid to Dependent Children (ADC), Supplemental Security income (SSI), or have received Utility Assistance from HHS in the past year, you will qualify automatically. Household of one's gross income is \$30,120 and for each member in that household it increases by \$10,760.

For more information or applications, go to www.senca.org. You can also call or email Gin Christiansen, Weatherization Director at 402-862-2411 x110 or email at gchristiansen@senca.org.

52-2

JOB OPENINGS
The Nemaha County Hospital,
Auburn, Nebraska has the following open positions:

Full-time Medical Technologist: 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. and "on-call" as needed. Technologists perform various clinical laboratory tests to obtain data for use in diagnosis and treatment of diseases, perform general phlebotomy and arterial blood specimen collection, and other duties. Requires Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology or a closely related field and current AMT or ASCP Certification.

Full Time Radiology Technologist: cross-trained in CT. The position is overnight, Monday- Thursday, working 10-hour shifts with a weekend call rotation every 3-4 weeks. Applicants must have ARRT, a Nebraska License, and be BLS Certified.

Registered Nurse: "Come collaborate with a multidisciplinary team to provide quality care, analyze physical and emotional needs, improve the lives of others, and utilize a wide variety of nursing skills." Full-time. 12-hour hour shifts, working every third weekend. Must have a current Nebraska RN license. \$10,000 sign-on bonus!

Apply online at <https://nemahacountyhospital.applicantpool.com/jobs/> Call Codi Sailors, CHRO at (402) 274-6121 with any questions.
EOE Employer/Vet/Disabled

 **NEMAHA COUNTY
HOSPITAL**
2022 13th STREET - AUBURN, NE

52-1

Falls City Public Schools
is seeking a full-time Sixpence Home Visiting Specialist to begin immediately.

Qualifications for the position include a bachelor's degree or higher in one of the following areas: Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Child Development, Human Services, Nursing, Social Work, Sociology, or Psychology.

To apply for this position, please visit our application website at: <http://www.fctigers.org/vnews/play.v/ART/500b4ac222d16>.

In addition to the application form, all candidates are asked to submit (a) letter of application (b) a resume, (c) unofficial/official copies of all undergraduate and graduate transcripts, (d) a copy of his/her certificate (if available), and (e) three letters of recommendation written within the past two years.

Contact Information:
Mr. Tim Heckenlively, Falls City Public Schools,
1415 Morton Street, Falls City, Ne 68355
Phone: 402-245-2825 - Fax: 402-245-2022
<http://www.fctigers.org>
Falls City Public Schools is an EEO employer

52-2

**TO RUN AN AD IN THE CLASSIFIED
SECTION EMAIL:
NIKKI AT NIKKI@FCJOURNAL.NET**

Falls City Wrestling Club excels at Sabetha Kids Wrestling Tournament

The Falls City Wrestling Club brought their talent to the Sabetha Kids Wrestling Tournament in Sabetha, KS, on December 15 with 29 wrestlers competing across various divisions. The team showcased their strength and skills, achieving an impressive record of 51-32. They also secured 26 pins and led the tournament with the most tech falls, tallying an incredible seven.

Here are the individual results: First place, Cohen Crabtree (6U 37-40); Cooper Vonderschmidt (6U 49); Cooper Lotter (8U 64); Kenton Cochran (8U 76-80); Noah Winters (8U 88); Collin Kaster (10U 61); Cooper Lotter (10U 64); Remington Marlowe (10U 95); Leo Rue (12U 96-105); Leo Rue (14U 110-115); Brantly Sells (14U 165-176).

Second place: Elliott Dettmann (6U 52); Grant Goff (6U 55); Cole Goff (6U 61); Meredith Cave (6U Girls 40-43); Nash Vollan (8U 49-52); Easton Ansel (8U 61); Mason Cave (8U 64); Hudson Eickhoff (8U 70); Axton Donahoo (10U 110-125); Cayden Goff (10U 67); Barrett Johansen (12U 88); Gavin Dean (14U 130-135).

Third place: Dax Vonderschmidt (6U 55); Maelynn Frank (8U Girls 88-95); Huxlee Carroll (8U 61); Liam Maddox (8U 76-80); Cameron Sailors (8U 70); Axton Donahoo (10U 100-110).

Fourth place: Aiden Seeba (8U 70).

Fifth place: Garrett Gresham (10U 100-110).

The Falls City Wrestling Club's outstanding effort and sportsmanship were on full display. Congratulations to all the athletes for their dedication and hard work. We look forward to seeing more great results in the upcoming tournaments.

The club is also holding the annual Cody Jones Memorial Wrestling Tournament on Sunday, February 9. Last year's event drew one of the largest groups of participants from the tri-state area, and this year, they anticipate an even bigger turnout as wrestlers and fans gather for a day of competition and camaraderie.



Sabetha Kids Tournament: Coach Nathan Cepuran, Coach Landan Scholl, Leo Rue, Cayden Goff, Cooper Lotter, Remington Marlowe, Barrett Johansen, Collin Caster, Aston Donahoo, Aubree Donahoo, Coach Jake Babb.



Front: Easton Ansel, Garrett Gresham, Dax Vonderschmidt, Cooper Vonderschmidt, Nash Vollan, Meredith Cave, Elliott Dettmann, Cole Goff. Back Row: Aston Donahoo, Collin Kaster, Grant Goff, Hudson Eickhoff, Cooper Lotter, Liam Maddox, Kenton Cochran, Huxlee Carroll, Cayden Goff.



District 6 Dual Team Qualifier: Brantly Sells and Braxtyn Bauman.



Takedown the Tumor: Leo Rue, Coach Jake Babb, Mason Cave



Takedown the Tumor: Eli Cattrell



Takedown the Tumor: Braxtyn Bauman and Nolan Nicholson

FC Wrestling Club season off to a solid start

The Falls City Wrestling Club had an impressive showing at the Takedown the Tumor Wrestling Tournament in Omaha on Sunday, December 8, finishing 14th out of 61 teams with 216 points. Eleven wrestlers represented the club going 15-18 for the day with five pins. Five earned spots on the podium in a highly competitive field.

Top Performers: First Place: Mason Cave, Leo Rue, and Braxtyn Bauman. Third Place: Nolan Nicholson. Fourth Place: Eli Cattrell.

This was the first tournament of the season for most Falls City wrestlers, who competed in brackets

as large as 16-man. The event also featured a special moms' division, where Falls City's own Audra Cave proudly represented the team and demonstrated the club's strong community spirit.

Beyond the competition, the tournament had a deeper purpose: raising funds for the Team Jack Foundation, which supports pediatric brain cancer research. Falls City wrestlers were honored to take part in an event that combined athletic excellence with a meaningful cause.

Falls City Wrestling Club continues to grow, with over 80 youth athletes ranging from

pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. After sending 19 wrestlers to state last year, the club is looking forward to another successful season.

The wrestling season runs November to March. New wrestlers are invited to join anytime. For more information email fallscitywrestlingclub@hotmail.com.

FC Wrestlers shine at NEUSA District 6 Dual Team Qualifier

On December 19, eight members of the Falls City Wrestling Club traveled to Lincoln to compete in the NEUSA District 6 Dual Team Qualifier event. Two of our wrestlers, Brantly Sells (195 lbs) and Braxtyn Bauman (250 lbs), earned spots on the District 6 Dual Team.

The District 6 team will compete against other district dual teams from eastern Nebraska on January 9th in Omaha. The winning team from this event will advance to face the western regional dual team winner on February 16th at Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln. This exciting match will take place just before the Nebraska Cornhuskers Men's Wrestling team faces Indiana.

Lady Tigers earn pair of medals at Platteview

The Lady Tiger wrestlers traveled to Platteview on Saturday, December 21, 2024, for a tourney. Falls City ended the day with 38.5 points and placed 15th. Yutan won the meet with 155 points.

Falls City made the most of their opportunity, winning two medals from the five wrestlers. At 145, Gabi Young went 3-1 and placed second. Young pinned Snelling of Millard South at 1:13 in the first round and won a 3-2 decision over Fletcher of Bellevue East in the quarterfinals. Young pinned Rocha of Millard North in the semis at 3:59 to earn a spot in the finals. Young dropped the cham-

ampionship match by fall at 1:51 to Ava Mahnke of West Point-Beemer. At 155, teammate Taytum Maddox was 4-2 and placed fourth. Maddox opened her day with a 4-1 decision over Codr of Weeping Water. In the quarters, Maddox lost by fall to Sebaaly of Crete at 3:19. Maddox battled back through the consolation rounds, going 3-0 and earning a spot in the third-place match where she lost to Lysandra Torres of South Sioux City by fall in fifteen seconds and placed fourth.

At 115, Jazlyn Strecker went 1-2, at 120, Paige Young finished 1-2 and at 130, Kenley Alexander went 0-2.

HAPPY NEW Year!

The Richardson County Courthouse will be closed Wed., January 1st, 2025 in observance of New Year's Day

COMMUNITIES DEPEND ON LOCAL NEWSPAPERS



1 out of 2 Americans read or access information from their local weekly newspaper every month.



Source: American Newspapers 2021 Local Newspaper Study conducted by Coda Systems