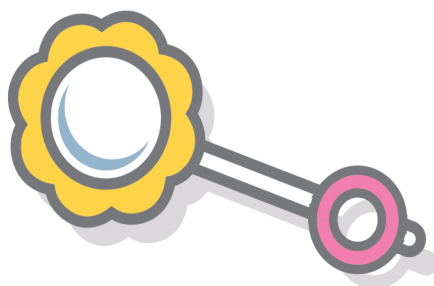


GET US YOUR INFO!

BABIES OF 2024  
SEE PAGE 3



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1709 Stone Street, Falls City, Nebraska

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

\$1.25

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Advertised in this weeks paper

### Wed., Jan., 22

2:30 PM: Ribbon Cutting at Falls City Journal.

### Fri., Jan 24

10AM-8PM: Midland Empire Farm and Rural Lifestyle Show

6PM: 3-State Stockyard Special Bred Cow, Cow/Calf & Breeding Bull Sale.

### Sat., Jan 25

9AM-4PM: Midland Empire Farm and Rural Lifestyle Show

### Sat., Feb. 1

8AM-5PM: Gun Show at the American Legion in Johnson, NE.  
6:30 or 8PM: SH Shrimp Feed.

### Sun., Feb. 2

8AM-3PM: Gun Show at the American Legion in Johnson, NE

### Thurs., Feb. 6

11:00 AM: Land Auction at Central City, NE

### Sat., Feb. 8

5:00-8:00PM: Shubert Christian Church Whole Hog Pancake & Sausage Supper

### Fri., Feb. 14

Babies of 2024 Journal deadline.

### Sat., March 1

Frontier Bank lobby hours are changing.

Connie Feek Tax Service has moved



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Dennis, Cheryl, Racy, Ryder and Ben Hullman receive the Investor of the Year Award.

## Hullman's Ford Lincoln, Inc. named Investor of the Year at EDGE Banquet

The 2024 Annual Banquet and Business Meeting for Falls City EDGE was held on Wednesday evening, January 15, at the Falls City Elks Lodge. EDGE Executive Director Lucas Froeschl welcomed everyone in attendance, and Fr. Jim Meysenburg of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church gave the prayer. Dinner was served, followed by comments from guest speaker Senator Bob Hallstrom.

Outgoing Commissioner David Sickel was honored for his service to EDGE for the past 18 years. Sickel served as the county's representative on the EDGE board for his 16 years of service as Commissioner of District 2 in Richardson County and for two years prior to his elected position as an individual member-investor of the organization.

Hullman's Ford Lincoln then received the 2024 Investor of the Year Award. In 1984, Dennis Hullman and his father, Lawrence, purchased the old Charlie Smith building at 14th

and Harlan. The pair slowly bought more property to house all of their inventory. Lawrence passed away in 1990, and Dennis and Cheryl purchased his stake in the company. Over time, their son Ben stepped into the family business. As a youngster, he unlocked cars on his way to school, and by 2002, he was a full-time salesman.

Twelve years ago, they purchased the Firestone building and began planning to renovate it to add an alignment machine. The entire back of the building was gutted, new concrete was laid, and windows and doors were installed. An alignment machine, lifts and tire and wheel balancing equipment were purchased and added to the area.

The renovation of the front of the building began in 2023 as a way to showcase new vehicles. By the following year, the new floor was complete, as were new windows, HVAC and a honeycomb LED lighting system. The company also added five additional employees during this time.

After the presentation, a brief business meeting was held.



## NEWS MAKERS OF 2024

### EPA Region 7 issues emergency order on drinking water safety at Colonial Acres of Humboldt

Falls City Journal • May 29, 2024

EPA said the facility's ongoing Legionella bacterial contamination may endanger public health. On May 20, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 issued an emergency order under the Safe Drinking Water Act to the City of Humboldt, Nebraska, for drinking water at the Colonial Acres of Humboldt Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facility (Colonial Acres).

### Infrastructure project breaking ground soon

Falls City Journal • May 29, 2024

The Falls City Electrical Distribution System Improvement project will begin in early April 2024, and the goal is to finish the much-needed project by December of the same year.

An open house meeting was held at the Southeast Community College Learning Center in Falls City on Tuesday, March 26. Employees from the City of Falls City, Watts Electric, JEO Consulting and Olsson, Inc. were on hand to answer questions and provide updates on the electrical construction through Downtown Falls City.

The Phase 1 Project Location will be between Chase Street and Harlan and from 11th to 20th Street. The initial work will originate at the new Power Distribution Center at the Power Plant and work up 11th Street from Crook to the east alley of Stone Street. From there, workers will move north from Stone Street east alley to 18th Street and Stone Street alley. The final phase will include work from 11th Street from Stone Street west alley to 20th Street and Stone Street west alley.

(Please turn to Page 12)

## Richardson County Sheriff's Office combats drug crimes with proactive enforcement

The Richardson County Sheriff's Office has made the investigation of drug crimes its top priority for the past five years. This commitment stems from the recognition that drugs, particularly methamphetamine, have been a persistent issue in the United States, including Richardson County. The use and sale of hard drugs often lead to a surge in other criminal activities such as violence, theft, and burglary.

To combat this, the Sheriff's Office has implemented a proactive law enforcement approach. This strategy has involved conducting over 18,000 traffic stops and executing over 220 search warrants, 80 of which were residential.

These efforts have resulted in the seizure of a wide range of illegal substances. Deputies have confiscated various classes of drugs, including: Methamphetamine, Heroin, Cocaine, Crack Cocaine, Fentanyl, Psilocybin mushrooms, Marijuana and Concentrated THC products.

In many instances, these seizures also led to the confiscation of

(Please turn to Page 6)



2024 Ford Bronco Raptor (List \$93,400) SALE \$80,000 after rebate (good until Jan 31st)



HULLMAN'S FORD LINCOLN, INC. 1416 HARLAN ST. 402-245-4413

Prairie Doc

Let's Get Moving

By Jill Kruse, DO

As we start the New Year, many people are making resolutions and setting goals for the next 12 months. One of the most common resolutions is to be more active. At Prairie Doc, we want all of our viewers to be both healthy and happy. This week, On Call with the Prairie Doc will be showcasing different ways people can incorporate movement into their lives. There is truly something for everyone.

Personally, I've explored a variety of activities with varying levels of success and competence. Regardless of the activity, what has made many of these experiences memorable and enjoyable are the people I have met along the way. Some of my most cherished friendships have formed through shared activities, proving to be just as beneficial to my mental health as any physical benefits of the activity itself.

Let me share some of the more unusual ways that I've stayed active throughout my life. In fourth grade, I joined the wrestling team. I became the first girl in my school to do so. I was not particularly good, ending the season with a 1-11 record. However, I was proud of myself for trying. By sixth grade, two other girls joined the team with me.

In junior high I tried volleyball, and while I loved, but was not very skilled. The place I did excel in was taekwondo. I started when I was ten and earned my 3rd degree black belt while in college. When I was in medical school, I still found time for activities and needed to try things that were the complete opposite of my school work. I tried rock climbing, belly dancing, and fencing. All activities that were outside my comfort zone, but quickly became welcome breaks from studying.

In Brookings, we are blessed with a multitude of activities in the area to try. I have participated in an adult kickball league. I have also started curling with the Brookings Curling Club. This game involves not only skill and strategy but a little bit of luck. On Prairie Doc, viewers will get to see me doing my favorite exercise activity, aerial silks. My medical residency training was in Baraboo, Wisconsin, the home town of the Ringling Brothers. I always loved the circus and aerial silks allows me to feel like I have joined the circus, if only for a few moments.

Finding the right activity may take some trial and error, but once you find something you love it will be worth it. So, as you set your goals for the coming year, consider trying something completely different. You may just discover an activity that brings you joy and a new community of friends along the way. Until next time, Stay healthy and active out there!

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook, Instagram, and Threads featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show on SDPB, 2 podcasts, and a Radio program, providing health information based on science, built on trust, streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central and wherever podcast can be found.

All things Nebraska 'Good Life District' idea 'a mess' of unintended consequences

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner LINCOLN — Be wary of unintended consequences.

That's good advice for any endeavor, and appears to be the problem facing proposed retail/sports/entertainment developments called "Good Life Districts."

The recent effort to create such districts was well intended. The idea was to lure out-of-state shoppers, visitors and youth sports teams to spend millions in Nebraska, rather than Kansas City, Des Moines or Minneapolis.

Envisioned at Gretna's Nebraska Crossing mall were stores like Nordstroms, IKEA and Crate & Barrel (high-end retailers that have bypassed Nebraska) along with youth sports complexes to lure regional tournaments. Hotels and restaurants would cater to visitors, creating a "transformational" attraction rivaling The Legends development in Kansas City.

The state would devote half of its sales tax of 5.5% to help finance such mega developments that must cost more than \$500 million and would lure more than 600,000 visitors a year.

The developer of Nebraska Crossing told state lawmakers that he could attract everything from a pro hockey franchise to an Olympic training center for USA Volleyball to the Omaha suburb, along with indoor surfing and rock climbing outlets.

But somewhere along the line, the Good Life District idea got off track.

Six communities have offered to host Good Life Districts, and the generous state tax break it provides, making you wonder if every one will be "transformational" and lure 600,000 visitors a year.

The Good Life District idea was novel. It departed from past state tax policy, which had not granted tax breaks for retail development. That's because a new shopping center typically just steals shoppers from old shopping centers — shifting rather than growing the economy — and retail jobs typically don't pay wages that will support a family.

So, the state wisely has focused its tax incentives on manufacturers and big corporations that pay good salaries and are more likely to be around in 30 years or so.

But you gotta wonder how many shoppers will venture to Nebraska to shop at a mega shopping mall and play in a regional sports tournament, when plenty of those places and events already exist in other cities.

It reminds me of the pitch promoters of the Kearney Archway Memorial made years ago — "if we build it and plop it over Interstate 80, travelers will pull over in droves." They will pay to see it, they said, providing plenty of revenue to finance the multi-million dollar, fort-like arch.

That projection was not even close.

The Good Life idea was described as "a mess" recently by former State Sen. Lou Ann Linehan, who sponsored the Good Life bills, according to the Nebraska Examiner.

A clean-up bill, passed hurriedly in the waning hours of the 2024 session, failed to solve the problems with the initial Good Life bill, passed in 2023.

The fiasco is part of a trend. Too many legislative proposals — including major changes — are introduced with the idea that any glitches can be hashed out later, as the bill works through three rounds of debate before the full Legislature.

But that often doesn't allow



enough time for lawmakers, as well as lobbyists and those representing competing interests, to digest what exactly is being amended, and then amended again. The clean-up bill was passed in the waning hours of a session, when attention was focused on a lot of other matters.

The result is unintended consequences.

Right now, the status of the Gretna/Nebraska Crossing project — which had grown to an anticipated 4,500 acres — is uncertain.

Gretna voters appear to have narrowly approved a Good Life District, but it's one that apparently won't include the main advocate, Nebraska Crossing developer Rod Yates. Yates recently sought to drop out of the partnership with Gretna, and is calling for a new law to allow him to work with the state on his plans, and not the city.

Kind of makes your head spin, sort of like state lawmakers trying to sort out last-minute deals in the Legislature and foresee any unintended consequences.

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: SNOW DAY

ACROSS

- 1. Larger-than-life
- 5. Capone's family
- 8. Wild swine
- 12. "You're not allowed," to a baby
- 13. Deal with it
- 14. Cunningly
- 15. Shower with affection
- 16. Allege
- 17. City in Belgium
- 18. \*Snow Day exercise?
- 20. Poet Pound
- 21. Ovine sign of the zodiac
- 22. Tasseled hat
- 23. All together (2 words)
- 26. Military College of South Carolina, with The
- 30. For every
- 31. a.k.a. association football
- 34. \*All-day Snow Day garb?
- 35. Delete
- 37. Crude fuel
- 38. Read-only disc
- 39. Good's counterpart
- 40. Popular flowering shrub
- 42. Female ancestor
- 43. Two heads are better than one, e.g.
- 45. Bering Strait state
- 47. Rudolph's Clarice, e.g.
- 48. Like thick smoke
- 50. Fountain option
- 52. \*No two are alike, sing.
- 56. Surround (2 words)
- 57. Tangerine plus grapefruit
- 58. \*Like a river, with over
- 59. #51 Down, pl.
- 60. Heidi's "Magic Wooden Shoe"
- 61. Olufsen's partner
- 62. Sound of a bell
- 63. Not him
- 64. Surfer's stop

DOWN

- 1. Odds' partners
- 2. Tubby little cubby
- 3. "He's Just Not That \_\_\_ You"
- 4. Of the same period
- 5. \*Popular Snow Day pastime
- 6. Some tournaments
- 7. Zugspitze, e.g.
- 8. \*Severe weather
- 9. Deed hearing
- 10. Algae, sing.
- 11. Marble bread
- 13. \_\_\_ Jack, English pirate
- 14. \*As opposed to rain
- 19. Irregular
- 22. Type of conifer
- 23. Musketeers' swords
- 24. High-strung
- 25. Cerebellum location
- 26. Unit of life
- 27. Students' dwellings
- 28. \*Snow Day reading choice
- 29. Helping theorem
- 32. \*Like soft pj's
- 33. Intelligence org.
- 36. \*Slope fun
- 38. Shorter than California
- 40. Number of years
- 41. No, it doesn't crawl in one's ear
- 44. Horse of certain color, pl.
- 46. Spontaneous additions
- 48. Obtuse one
- 49. Tom Cruise's "The \_\_\_ of Money"
- 50. Highway hauler
- 51. Bad sign
- 52. Of a particular kind
- 53. Smoothie berry
- 54. Superman's last name
- 55. Part of a seat
- 56. \*Like chocolate on a Snow Day

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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62						63				64		

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

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# From the Journal Files

By Brian McKim  
75-50-25 Years Ago

## 75 Years Ago, January 22, 1950 to January 28, 1950

First Lt. Tom Johnson, commanding officer of Company B, Falls City National Guard unit, announced the enlistment of seven new guards. The addition of Sgt. 1st Class John Weick, Corp. Lloyd Hager, Corp. Willard Mullins, George Lockard Jr., Glenn Hayes, Elmer Wist and Allen Scott pushed the total enlistment to 69 men.

Rev. Harry Lawyer of Dodge City had moved to Falls City and was the new pastor of the local Church of the Nazarene.

Eighty couples attended an Elks dance given at the club rooms. Alton's Trio furnished the music and a buffet lunch was served.

Bob Gibson returned from the International Harvester Company's refrigerator plant in Evansville, Indiana. Gibson won the trip in a district sales contest on refrigerators.

Traffic was snarled for two hours on Highway 73, north of Falls City and east of Verdon. A semi-trailer went into the ditch at Prichard Corner when it lost control as it tried to avoid a passenger car that had skidded on ice and was lodged crosswise on the road.

The Empire State Building, the tallest structure in the world, was increased by 199 feet with the addition of a multiple-use television tower.

The Humboldt High School basketball team maintained its No. 10 position in the state Class C ratings of Gregg McBride of the Omaha World-Herald.

At Prichard Auditorium, the Tigers routed the Nebraska City Pioneers 42-14. Pat Ferguson scored 12 and Charley Hunley added 11 in the win.

Herman (Hunk) Braun, a former Falls City resident, was elected president of the Carter Lake Water Skiing Club in Omaha.

Miss Kate Kloeppel, a local weather observer, reported a temperature of nine below zero for Falls City, the lowest recording for the winter up to that point.

Falter's Men Clothing Store advertised Knox \$20 hats for \$14.50 and McGregor corduroy shirts for \$5.95.

According to State Auditor Ray Johnson, the state penitentiary cost \$763,565 to operate in 1949. Salaries accounted for \$353,042, food was \$142,238, and building maintenance was \$19,882.

A.L. Sonner, a Missouri Pacific railroad engineer for 45 years, retired at the age of 66. Mr. Sonner, the oldest engineer, worked out of Falls City and was in good health. Mr. Sonner was an avid outdoorsman and also had a hobby of collecting guns.

The Falls City junior high basketball team defeated Pawnee City 23-19. George Percell hit for 12 points for the Tigers.

Actress Ingrid Bergman filed for divorce from her husband, Dr. Peter Lindstrom, in El Paso, Texas.

About \$90 was cleared at the soup supper and dance sponsored by the Salem Music Boosters Club.

## 50 Years Ago, January 22, 1975 to January 28, 1975

The Tigers thumped St. Joseph Lafayette on the mats, 42-12. It marked the 30th dual win for the Tigers under Coach Larry Munn. Ed Kirkendall recorded the quickest pin of the night, needing just one minute and twelve seconds to win.

Kevin Tanner scored seven points as Southeast Consolidated defeated Sacred Heart 23-18 in junior high basketball action. Charles Kreifels scored eight for the Irish.

Bill Bruhn scored 49 points as the Dawson-Verdon Jets lost 72-89 to Lewiston. Bruhn added 20 rebounds and Charlie Fiegenger had 13.

Real estate experts in the Agriculture Department said farmland had cooled off but was still up 21% from the year before. The national average was \$339 per acre, up from \$280 per acre in November of 1973.

The Nebraska Department of Education figures for 1974-75 showed 2,663 students enrolled in schools in Richardson County.

Falls City Wrestlers of the Week included Ed Kirkendall, Ken Meinzer and Tim Wilson, while Deryl Hancock earned the honor at Humboldt.

Paul Wiggins was named head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs.

Pam Fritz, a senior at Dawson-Verdon High School, was named the school's Betty Crocker Family Leader of Tomorrow.

Approximately 1,000 people attended the film "The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams" Thursday night at the Rivoli Theater. According to theater operator Howard Schroedl, the lines extended up and down the block for both showings.

Southeast lost for the first time on the hardwood, falling to Palmyra 65-63. Kerry Mehlin led the Mustangs with 18 points.

Larry Fine, the wild-haired member of the Three Stooges, died at the age of 73. Fine died of a stroke at the Motion Picture Country Home in Woodland Hills.

Miss Paula Mullins left for Tulsa, OK, where she competed in the Miss Rodeo U.S.A. pageant.

James G. Stephenson was elected president of the Falls City Country Club at the board of director's annual meeting. Max Rathman was chosen as vice president, Neal Parsons was secretary, and Don Heinzelman was treasurer.

## 25 Years Ago, January 22, 2000 to January 28, 2000

Ed O'Grady was named the Nemaha Natural Resources District board of directors chairman.

Sacred Heart was marking its 109th year during Catholic Schools Week from January 30 to February 4.

At the Falls City Jaycees banquet, Teresa Chandler took the gavel from outgoing president Ann Severin.

Rob Gerweck, project chairman and Charlie Radatz, Falls City Lions Club president, provided certificates and \$25 checks to Mark Lippold, a 7th grader at Sacred Heart and Deke Reichardt, a Falls City 7th grader. The boys won the local competition in the Lions International Peace Poster Contest.

At the Jaycees Passing of the Gavel Banquet, Appreciation Awards were presented to Scott Shock of Falls City Journal, Tony Brunett of First National Bank and Trust, Bruce Merz of Merz Farm Equipment, Don Stevens of Triple S Construction and Fred Brewer of Brewer Farms.

A ribbon cutting was held for Farm Bureau Insurance at the firm's new office at 105 East 17th Street.

Hinky Dinky advertised Tombstone Pizza, two for five dollars and Campbell's Chunky Soups, two for three dollars. Twelve packs of Coke and Sprite were \$1.99.

The Falls City Area Chamber of Commerce presented the Millennium Planning Committee with an "Atti Dude" award. The committee's members planned the New Year's Eve party at Prichard Auditorium.

Marc Gerard Knobbe was among the students who received honors for ranking in the top 10 percent of their class at the University of Kansas State.

Matt Mezger scored all 11 points for Humboldt-Table-Rock in the fourth quarter as they defeated Sacred Heart, 57-50. Mezger finished the game with 36 points. Josh Rhodd had 15 points and six assists, while Nate O'Grady added ten points and eight rebounds.

Katie Parsons scored 24 points, but it wasn't enough as the Lady Tigers fell to Troy 58-63 at the Hiawatha Invitational.

# Commissioners designate duties and reappoint positions

(Continued from Page 1)

Grounds and Law Enforcement Center, Region V Systems and Services, member of the Product Development and Public Policy Committee of the Greater Falls City Economic and Development Growth Enterprise (EDGE) and alternate to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

Commissioner Campbell: County Roads, The Greater Falls City Economic and Development Growth Enterprise (EDGE), Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Falls City Airport Road Committee and the Southeast Nebraska Health Board

Steve Darveau, Jr. was reaffirmed as the Richardson County Highway Superintendent, License #S-1660 Class A with an annual salary for 2025 approved at \$70,227.00 (two percent increase).

Mona Godemann was reappointed as the Veterans Service Officer for 2025.

Brian Kirkendall was reappointed as the Richardson County Emergency Manager and the Noxious Weed Control Superintendent with an annual salary for 2025 approved at \$66,894.64 (two percent increase)

Dr. Allan W. Tramp was reaffirmed to the County Health Board for the year 2025 pursuant to Nebraska State Statute 71-501

Charles O'Grady was reappointed to the Richardson County Planning Commission for a term of three years which expires December 31, 2027. A position still remains open

and the Board will be considering the appointment to this position at a later meeting.

A motion was made by Caverzagie to reaffirm the appointment of the members of the County Safety Committee: Sheriff Hardesty; Jail Administrator, Kristen Morehead; Ryan Curtis, Courthouse Maintenance; Steve Darveau, Jr., Highway Superintendent; Wyatt Martin, Road and Bridge Department; and Brian Kirkendall, EMA Director. The motion carried.

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the business within the Law Enforcement Center.

An agreement with Combined Public Communications, LLC was presented to the Board review and approval. This company provides the phone calling card service, inmate messaging service, commissary and other services for inmates to purchase. It was approved for the Sheriff to enter into a signed agreement.

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

Brian Kirkendall, Noxious Weed Supt. presented to the Board the 2024 annual report of the Noxious Weed Control Plan program in Richardson County which will be submitted to the NE Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Protection. Kirkendall reported that the infestation of sericea lespedeza has become less in the County but that it is still prevalent in the Coun-

ty but with areas of infestation smaller than in previous years.

The 2024 annual report of the Noxious Weed Control Plan program in Richardson County as presented was approved to authorize the Chairman to sign.

Review of the request for a subdivision of property located in S30, T1, R18 for Robert D and Joyce K Bachman was held and the Board requested that the Highway Superintendent review this requested subdivision with the landowners and the Board will consider this further at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City, NE. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk's Office.

## The office of FC Journal on flex schedule

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

Some afternoons the office may need to close early if staff needs to be away for appointments, meetings or events or we may step away for periods of time in the morning or afternoon and return later.

You can always reach all of us by email day or night, seven days a week for advertising, questions or information. You may also use our drop box inside the door to leave payments or information. Please see page two for Brian and Nikki's email addresses.

We appreciate your understanding at this time.

## Falls City Journal ribbon cutting, Wed., January 22

Please join us here at the Falls City Journal office at 1709 Stone Street on Wednesday, Jan 22 at 2:30 p.m. for a ribbon cutting.

## Babies of 2024

**THIS YEAR IN FULL COLOR!!!**  
ATTENTION PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS AND UNCLAS OF BABIES BORN IN 2024

Whether you live near or far, *The Falls City Journal* would like to show off your pride and joy in a special section in the **February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025** edition of the *Journal*. The rules are simple:

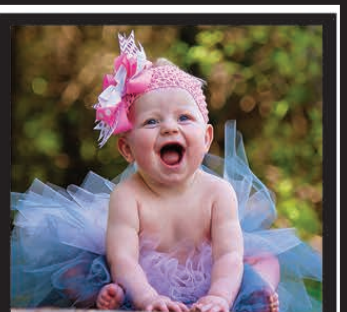
1. The baby must have been born in 2024.
2. The baby doesn't have to be a resident or have to have been born in Falls City.
3. Send or bring in the form below along with a photo of the baby (A digital (computer) file is preferred) to The Babies of 2024 C/O Chelsie Alexander, 1709 Stone St., Falls City, NE 68355 or email them to chelsie@fcjournal.net
4. **The deadline is Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025\***
5. If the provided information does not fit the required space, (example: twins, extra grandparents, etc.) an additional charge will be required.
6. All ads must be paid for before the run date.

Please Print Legibly Per Baby

Child's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Weight at Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parents: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parents City/State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Living Grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Living Great-Grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Size Ad:  1x3  1x3.5  1x4/2x2

**YOUR PAYMENT PER BABY MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER!**



-Child's Name-  
-Date of Birth-  
-Weight-  
-Parents-  
-Residence-

**1x3 - \$40**

Information only includes parents names and residence



-Child's Name-  
-Date of Birth-  
-Weight-  
-Parents-  
\* -Residence-  
-Grandparents-

**1x3.5 - \$45**

Information only includes parents names & residence, and living grandparents names.

**2x2/1x4 - \$50**

Information only includes parents names & residence, living grand & great-grandparents names.



-Child's Name-  
-Date of Birth-  
-Weight-  
-Parents-  
-Residence-  
-Grandparents-  
-Great-Grandparents-

**SOCIETY**

**HUMBOLDT CH 234--ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR**

By Donna Monnette, Secretary

Fourteen members of the Humboldt Chapter #234 Order of the Eastern Star met for a stated meeting on January 2, 2025 at The Meeting Place at 2:00 p.m. Worthy Matron Nancy Nemechek presided in the East. The meeting opened in short form with prayer and singing of the Opening Ode, "He Leadeth Me." All present pledged Allegiance to the American flag.

The Worthy Matron directed the Conductress to introduce our newest member, Past Grand Patron David Wetrosky of Nebraska City. He was given a hearty welcome. The regular order of business followed with the reading of the December meeting minutes which were approved. The Treasurer gave her report. Bills were allowed for the Secretary gift, Treasurer gift. Hall rent for 6 months until June, and stamps for the Secretary.

Communications read included: OES News reminding members to participate in the May Grand Session.

A Christmas card from the Fremont Childrens' Home designed by one of the children. Thank you letters for a donation to the Home and \$5 for each child for Christmas. A thank you for the recent donation the Service and Therapy Dog project.. An invitation to the Installation of new officers of the Masons and Eastern Star Members on January 12 in Nebraska City at 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. The Cornerstone brochure from the Masonic Home in Plattsmouth stated the need of a fundraiser for the purchase of an industrial cooler within three months.

Annual reports were given by the Secretary, Treasurer, and Auditing Committee. Carolyn made a motion to dismiss the committee. Motion seconded and carried.

Trudy Fankhauser nominated David Wetrosky to the office of Worthy Patron for the ensuing year. He was elected.

The Worthy Matron requested a recess to prepare for the Installation of 2025 Officers. Installing Officers were announced as Past Matron--Carolyn Bredemeier, Installing Marshal-Trudy Fankhauser, Chaplain--Joan Wheeler and Organist--Debbi Dunn. Newly installed officers are: Worthy Matron--Phyllis Kreutzer; Worthy Patron--David Wetrosky; Associate Matron--Sarah Nims; Conductress--Trudy Fankhauser; Associate Conductress--Nancy Nemechek; Secretary--Donna Monnette; Treasurer and Chaplain--Joan Wheeler; Organist--Debbi Dunn.; Adah--Mary Ellen Gaither; Ruth--Jennifer True; Esther--Carolyn Bredemeier; Electa--Elizabeth Ketner; Warder--Debbi Dunn; and Sentinel--Don Monnette. Mrs Nemechek congratulated the chapter for filling most of the offices.

Worthy Matron Phyllis Kreutzer thanked the installing officers and all others accepting their respective offices.

Mrs. Ketner asked all members to check the membership list for any additions or changes at the close of the meeting.

The Chapter closed in form with prayer and singing of the Closing Ode, 'God Be With You.' A social hour followed with refreshments provided by Mrs. Ketner.

**Small church making big impact**

By Vicki Beilke and Jennifer True

We are blessed to live in rural communities where people take care of those in need. Our community has many small churches that illustrate this giving spirit. While members are not wealthy, we are charitable. Acts of kindness and charity are illustrated on a daily basis, but even more so at Christmas. My little church, which has an average attendance of around 30 people, was extremely generous this holiday season in the following ways:

- Donated 400 pounds of food to the Falls City food pantry.
- Participated in the Good Samaritan Christmas Shoebox project - packing large shoeboxes ready to explode with gifts to children around the world who would not otherwise have a Christmas.
- Supported the Child Savings Institute in Omaha with regular monetary and supply donations.
- Provided substantial gifts to a local SENCA family at Christmas.
- Prepared and delivering homemade treats to twenty families this Christmas.
- Contributed monetarily to several worldwide charities.

We support our charitable donations through the weekly generosity of church members and through our annual garage sale and bake sale.

Today we hear too much about what is wrong in this world; let's celebrate something going well. Thank you to everyone at our church and in our communities helping others where they can - whether it is money, time, donations, or friendship.

**Using deicing salts around plants**

By Nicole Stoner

In the winter months, snow and ice can be a detriment to most anything we do outdoors. Ice on sidewalks and driveways can cause people to fall and get injured. Deicing salts are used to melt the ice and help give people and vehicles the traction they need to move forward and not fall. But, be careful with deicing products as they can be harmful to plants.

Plant damage from Deicers

Deicers get piled around plants or sprayed onto our landscape from roadways, this can be very harmful to plants. Sodium found in deicing salts can damage soil causing roots to struggle to absorb water. Deicing salts can also cause a crust to form on the soil surface making it very difficult for water to penetrate through to where roots are found. This lack of water can cause desiccation or drying out of the plant material which shows up as yellow or brown spots on the plant. It can also cause stunted growth, dead patches in the lawn, branch dieback, or leaf tip burn.

Damage from deicers typically does not show up in plants until spring. As plants green up, those that were injured by deicing salts will not green up correctly or will develop damaged areas. We often see this in evergreen plants when they develop brown patches in the spring.

How to avoid damage from deicers

Damage from deicing salts can be avoided. Try using products that are less harmful to plants. Sodium chloride is used most often, especially on roads. This product is inexpensive and easy to find, but quite harmful to our plants. Products such as calcium chloride or calcium magnesium acetate are less harmful to plants. The safer products are more expensive but are more difficult to find. You can save a little money by applying a light layer of deicing salts in combination with gravel. The gravel will get you the traction you need while using less deicing salt. In general, deicing salts only need to be applied as a light layer to melt the ice and then scoop it away. Don't use too much and always follow the label for application.

Another way to reduce plant injury is to feather the snow out on the landscape when scooping, rather than piling it in the same location every time. If you continue to pile snow and deicing salts in the same spot, the sodium level will build up in that area of soil. Spreading it out over the landscape reduces the amount found in each area and therefore reduces the damage to plants.

Avoid hand-removal of snow and ice from trees

Snow and ice can also build up on tree branches causing them to bend and sometimes break. If the snow and ice cause branches to bend but not break, let it melt naturally. If you try to knock the snow and ice off branches with a broom you may end up breaking the branches causing more damage to the plants. If the branches are bending they will pop back to their original structure with time. If the branch breaks due to snow and ice load, wait until the snow melts off and then have an arborist prune the branch correctly, when safe to do so. A broken branch wound will not seal up correctly. Making a good pruning cut will allow the tree to seal the wound correctly and will cause less damage and decay in the long run.

If you have any further questions please contact Nicole Stoner at (402) 223-1384, nstoner2@unl.edu, visit the Gage County Extension website at www.gage.unl.edu, or like my facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/NicoleStonerHorticulture and follow me on twitter @ Nikki\_Stoner

**ACCIDENTS**

On January 13, 2025 according to Falls City Police Department accident reports, Nancy Kentopp of Falls City was driving east on 17th Street. Katelyn Kimmi of Everest, KS was backing out of parking space. Everest backed into Kentopp. An estimated \$3,000 in damage was done to the Kentopp vehicle; an estimated \$3,000 in damage was done to the Kimmi vehicle.

**FALLS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS AND STATISTICS**

**December 30 through December 31 calls:** one alarm, four ambulance/EMS, one vandalism, one animal call, one house watch, two miscellaneous, one burn permit, one motorist assist, one 911 call, one warning for speeding, one warning for fail to use turn signals, one citation for speeding, one citation for driving while suspended, one citation for criminal mischief \$501-1,499.

**December 31 through January 1 calls:** two ambulance/EMS, one investigation, one house watch, one theft, three check welfare, one animal call, one miscellaneous, one noise disturbance, one disturbance, one 911 call, one citation for theft-shoplifting \$0-\$500, one warning for improper/defective vehicle lighting.

**January 1 through January 2 calls:** three alarms, one check welfare, four ambulance/EMS, ten vandalism, one burn permit, one animal call, three 911 calls.

**January 2 through January 3 calls:** one vandalism, one burn permit, one traffic hazard, one traffic/driving complaint, two miscellaneous, one gun permit, one information only, one ambulance/EMS, two 911 calls.

**January 3 through January 4 calls:** one found or lost property, two burn permits, two motorist assists, one ambulance/EMS, one nuisance, two miscellaneous, one gun permit, one animal call, one fire call, one investigation, one citation for burning ban violation.

**January 4 through January 5 calls:** two 911 hang up/misdial, two information only, four ambulance/EMS, one animal call, one burn permit, one referred to another agency, one alarm, six 911 calls.

**January 5 through January 6 calls:** seven ambulance/EMS calls, one alarm, five referred to another agency, four information only, four miscellaneous, two check welfare, seven 911 calls.

**January 6 through January 7 calls:** two 911 hang up/misdials, six referred to another agency, seven miscellaneous, three motorist assist, three alarms, three parking complaints, five burn permits, two ambulance/EMS, one information only, two traffic/driving complaint, ten 911 calls, one citation for juvenile uncontrollable, one citation for assault cause bodily injury.

**January 7 through January 8 calls:** two miscellaneous, five ambulance/EMS, one referred to another agency, one parking complaint, ten burn permits, two information only, one animal call, three 911 calls.

**January 8 through January 9 calls:** one records check, two information only, four burn permits, one gun permit, one check welfare, one fire call (Humboldt Fire), one animal call, two 911 calls.

**January 9 through January 10 calls:** five ambulance/EMS, nine burn permits, two law enforcement assist, one 911 hang up/misdial, one theft, one house watch, one nuisance, one miscellaneous, two warrant arrests, one investigation, four 911 calls, two citations for fugitive from justice.

**January 10 through January 11 calls:** three accidents, two referred to another agency, seven ambulance/EMS, one information only, six burn permits, one escort, two miscellaneous, one traffic/driving complaint, one parking complaint, six records checks, one fire call (Falls City Fire), one alarm, eight 911 calls, one citation for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one citation for no license on person, one citation for expired license.

**January 11 through January 12 calls:** ten burn permits, one animal call, three ambulance/EMS, one referred to another agency, one fraud, one check welfare.

**January 12 through January 13 calls:** two alarms, two referred to another agency, two burn permits, two parking complaints, one citation for no proof of ownership.

*Shubert Christian Church*  
**Whole Hog Pancake & Sausage Supper**  
  
 Sat. Feb. 8  
 5-7 PM  
 Free Will donation

The office of  
**Jenkins Financial Services**  
 is closing  
 effective 12/31/24  
 To contact Bill for future services  
 call: 402-801-2620 or  
 email: billjenkins258@gmail.com

**LAND AUCTION**   
**160 AC± | 1 TRACT MERRICK CO, NE**  
**2/6/25 AT 11 AM**  
**AUCTION HELD AT: MERRICK CO. ACTIVITY CENTER 1304 16TH ST CENTRAL CITY, NE 68826**  
 IN COOPERATION WITH  
 WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE, LLC  
 TY JOHNSON, AGENT: 308.258.1733  
**RANCHANDFARMAUCTIONS.COM**

  
**WE'VE MOVED!**  
**CONNIE FEEK TAX SERVICE**  
 923 Dakota Street  
 Suite #7 & 11  
 Sabetha, KS 66534  
**NEW PHONE NUMBER: 785-300-3388**  
 We look forward to seeing you!

**Gun Show**  
 American Legion Bender-Reese Post #330  
 Johnson, NE  
**Saturday, Feb. 1 from 8am-5pm**  
**Sunday Feb. 2 from 8am-3pm**  
**Raffle - AR15 Pistol Tickets**   
 1/\$5 or 5/\$20  
**\$5 admission for visitors**  
**\$25 per table for vendors**  
 To reserve a table or for questions  
 call Patrick Hahn at 402-297-2448  
 or 402-297-7283 or r Hector@bbwi.net  
**301 Main Street, Johnson, NE**



Roger Windle, Gabe Ramsey and Kevin Scheitel are given the oath of office prior to their seating at the January 13 school board meeting, administered by Superintendent Tim Heckenlively, (left).

## FCPS Superintendent's District Update

By Tim Heckenlively

The Falls City Public Schools Board of Education held the regular board meeting on Monday, January 13, 2025. Here are the highlights of the meeting.

Falls City Public Schools Honors Outgoing Board Members at January 13th Meeting - At the beginning of the January 13, 2025, Falls City Public Schools Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Tim Heckenlively and Board President Teresa Olberding recognized three dedicated board members for their years of service and leadership. The outgoing members, Scott Hollens, June Bowers, and Dan Jones, were each honored for their unwavering commitment to the success and well-being of the district's students, staff, and the broader Falls City community.

Scott Hollens served on the Falls City Public Schools Board of Education from 2009 to 2025. June Bowers served on the Falls City Public Schools Board of Education from 2015 to 2025. Dan Jones served on the Falls City Public Schools Board of Education from 2021 to 2025. Superintendent Heckenlively and President Olberding extended heartfelt thanks to these outgoing members, acknowledging their significant contributions to the district and the positive change they helped bring about. Their service has played a key role in shaping the educational landscape of Falls City Public Schools.

Reorganization of the Board of Education - Newly elected school board members Roger Windle, Kevin Scheitel and Gabe Ramsey were given the oath of office prior to their seating at the January 13 school board meeting, administered by Superintendent Tim Heckenlively. Following the seating of the new board members, Board President Teresa Olberding conducted the annual reorganization of the school board. Cassandra Goff was elected as the President of the Board of Education for 2025 and Anthony Johansen was elected the Vice President. Upon election, President Goff made the 2025 committee appointments for policy, projects, negotiations, Falls City Educational Foundation and American Civics, while also approving the necessary designations.

109th Legislature, 1st Regular Session convened on Wednesday, January 8 - Speaker John Arch was elected to his second two-year term as Speaker of the Legislature. The body re-elected Senator Dave Murman as Chair of the Education Committee Bill introduction began January 9th. Under a new rule of the Legislature, each member is limited to the introduction of no more than 20 measures per regular session. Bill introduction will conclude on January 23rd. The 2025 session is the first session of the 109th Legislature, and will be 90 legislative days, ending on June 9th.

NDE Teacher Vacancy Survey Results for 2024. All public-school districts, nonpublic school systems and Educational Service Units (ESU) have been included in the collection of data. Overall, there were 153 school districts reporting unfilled positions, or 49.35% of the returned sample, at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. Districts reported 669.35 positions as unfilled with fully qualified personnel, and 200.65 left vacant for 2024-25. Of those 669.35 positions, 167.95 positions (25.09%) were in districts/systems with less than 500 students.

Of the 17 endorsement shortage areas, six have been designated shortage areas each year for the last 15 years: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Special Education, Speech-Language Pathology, and World Language. In addition to these, 8 others have been designated shortage areas each of the last five years: Career Education Areas; Art; Early Childhood Education; Health and/or Physical Education; School Counselor; School Library; School Psychologist; and Music/Instrumental/Vocal.

The District 56 Board of Education acted on one item before concluding the regular meeting.

1. Approved the Negotiated Master Teacher Contract for 2025-2026.

The next regular monthly Board of Education meeting is scheduled for February 10, 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, Tim Heckenlively.

## FROM THE JOURNAL ARCHIVES



Undated Falls City Public Schoolhouse.

### PSC closes Lumen investigation issues findings

The Nebraska Public Service Commission has approved an Order (911-075/PI-248, 911-077/C-5581/PI-252) closing its investigation and issuing its findings into three separate 911 outages/disruptions involving telecommunications carrier Lumen.

The three separate Lumen outages/disruptions occurred on August 31, 2023, April 17 and July 9, 2024, impacting 911 service over a wide area of Lumens' Nebraska network.

"Lumen guaranteed, and we expect Nebraska's 911 system to be available 99.999 percent (five-nines) of the time, and that didn't happen," said Commission Chair Tim Schram.

Through its investigation and hearings, the Commission finds that Lumen's level of performance was not acceptable for Nebraska's 911 system and that the carrier failed to meet the level of service provided within its state contract.

Commission Chair Schram said, "While Lumen has engaged in substantial work to improve

its network, the carrier's lack of redundancy and diversity remains a concern."

The Commission directed the State 911 Department to identify potential changes to the state's current 911 system. To support the process, Commission consultant 911 Authority will conduct an independent verification and validation of the Next Generation 911 system provided by Lumen.

State 911 Department Director, David Sankey said, "This independent testing is important to determine whether Lumen is capable of fulfilling its contractual obligations to provide the level of service the Commission expects and demands moving forward."

Additional information to include the Order can be found on the PSC website at <<https://psc.nebraska.gov/lumen-affiliates-911-outage-investigation>>.

### President's List at Peru State College - Fall Term 2024

Peru State College is proud to announce the President's List for the Fall Term 2024, recognizing outstanding academic achievement. This year's honorees include students from Nebraska, 13 other U.S. states, Puerto Rico, and countries around the world, such as Malaysia and the Dominican Republic.

To qualify for the President's List, students must maintain a grade point average of 4.0 for the semester, complete at least 12 graded credit hours, have no incomplete grades, and be degree-seeking.

If you have any questions, contact the Student Records Office for further information at 402-872-2276.

Kadyn Hunter Dowdy, Harlee Beth Kathleen Pritt both of Rock Port, MO.

Jacob Patrick Bowman, Jessica E. Bowman, and Sheila Jo Miller of Auburn, NE.

Trevor Sierks of Brownville, NE.

Danielle Kristine Bippes, Zoe Lea Ebel, Ashlynn Brooke Strauss, and Wyatt James Wason all of Falls City, NE.

Shannon Lee Jones of Humboldt, NE.

Alexis LeAnn Wittwer of Salem, NE.

Laney Marie Craine of Shubert, NE.

Avery Jane Dierberger of Table Rock, NE.

### BUILDING PERMITS

Barb Shurtleff, 513 W. 20th St., Replace Roof; \$16,974.75.

Matthew Froeschl, 2615 Hiland Ave., Replace Roof and Gutters-House and Shed \$27,916.50.

Rob and Kristy Gerweck, 2415 Fulton St., Replace Roof; \$28,000.00.

### Dvorak named to Missouri State University's fall 2024 dean's list

Each semester, students at Missouri State University who attain academic excellence are named to the dean's list.

For undergraduate students, criteria include enrollment in at least 12 credit hours during the fall semester and at least a 3.50 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Jocelyn Dvorak from Hiawatha made the list. Dvorak was among more than 5,300 students named to the fall 2024 dean's list.

Missouri State University is a public, comprehensive university system with a mission in public affairs.

For more information about MSU, visit [www.missouristate.edu](http://www.missouristate.edu).

**Cub Cadet SNOW BLOWER GIVEAWAYS**

**SATURDAY**  
January 25th

Drawings at 7pm & 9pm

**WIN 1 OF 2 CUB CADET SNOW BLOWERS**

Earn 1 Entry for Every 10 Slot Points Earned Starting January 1 to January 25 at 9:00PM

See Winners Club for Details. Limit one prize per patron. Must be present to win.

**\$50 SLOT FREE PLAY**

**THURSDAY**

**50/50**

**MATCH PLAY**

**THURSDAYS**  
4pm - 7pm

See Winners Club for Details. Limit one offer per patron. Previous points not eligible.

**\$15,000 PLINKO**

CASH AND FREE PLAY **HOT SEATS**

**WEDNESDAYS**  
January 8, 15, 22, & 29  
2pm - 8pm

**HOT SEAT DRAWINGS**

15 DRAWINGS FROM 2PM - 8PM

See Winners Club for Details. Limit one offer per patron, per Promotional Day.

**\$15,000 FAB FRIDAY'S**

FREE PLAY HOT SEATS

**FRIDAYS**  
4pm - 10pm

(20) \$150 Slot Free Play Winners Weekly.

See Winners Club for Details. Limit one offer per patron, per Promotional Day.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For more details, see the Winner's Club. All promotions are subject to change. Must be 21 years of age or older.  
1322 US HWY 75, POWHATTAN, KS 66527 | Phone 1-800-990-2946 | [saxandfoxcasino.com](http://saxandfoxcasino.com)  
Gambling Problem? In Kansas, call 1-800-522-4700.



## Lady Tigers are warming up

The Falls City Lady Tiger basketball team scored its third win in four games when they won two of three in the 93rd Annual Fairfax Basketball Tourney. Along the way, legendary Tiger coach Don Hogue picked up his 300th career win on the hardwood.

FC dropped the first game of the tourney on Tuesday, falling to East Atchison 28-38. The Tigers were in the contest throughout, trailing 7-9 after one, 12-14 at half-time and 22-25 heading into the fourth.

Turnovers proved costly as FC committed 19 and forced nine in the ten-point loss.

Izzy Armbruster led FC with nine points and nine rebounds.

Scoring for FC: Anderson 3, Titus 3, Dunkhas 3, Armbruster 9, Godemann 3, Kirkendall 7.

On Wednesday, Coach Hogue secured his 300th win when his Lady Tigers defeated South Holt, 35-18. FC used a strong first and fourth period to secure the win. The Tigers led 10-3 after one and 17-8 heading into the break. FC continued to lead 23-13 after three and outscored South Holt 12-5 down the stretch for the win. FC went 14/63 from the field, while South Holt was just 7/34. Delaney Godemann went 5/15 for a team-high ten points.

Scoring for FC: Anderson 4, Titus 4, Dunkhas 3, Armbruster 6, Godemann 10, Kirkendall 8.

On Friday, FC defeated St. Joseph Christian to improve to 5-9. The Tigers' defense was relentless in the 27-13 win.

The teams were cold early, with the first period ending in a 0-0 tie. It moved to 7-7 at halftime, then FC outscored the Lions 20-6 in the second half to earn the win. FC forced 32 turnovers and had an 11-3 edge on points off of turnovers.

Dunkhas and Armbruster each had eight points and Anderson added seven rebounds and three assists.

Scoring for FC: Anderson 5, Titus 3, Dunkhas 8, Armbruster 8, Godemann 3.

The Lady Tigers travel to Nebraska City to face the 5-8 Pioneers on Thursday. FC will host 8-5 JCC on Saturday and 1-12 Auburn on Tuesday, January 28.

Scoring for SH: Santo 9, Witt 4, Lechtenberg 17, Jones 6.

Scoring for J-B: Behrends 9, Pelican 10, K. Vice 6, Buchmeier 9, C.

Scoring for FC: Anderson 3, Titus 3, Dunkhas 3, Armbruster 9, Godemann 3, Kirkendall 7.



Lady Irish are the A Division runner-up at the MUDECAS basketball tournament in Beatrice

## Lady Irish fall in MUDECAS final

The Sacred Heart Lady Irish had been on cruise control since a 49-51 setback to Tri County back on December 17. The Irish had rattled off ten consecutive wins before falling to Johnson-Brock, 36-42, in the "A" division finals at the 96th Annual MUDECAS Basketball tourney in Beatrice.

The Irish led early on Friday night in Beatrice, taking an 11-7 advantage over the No. 5 team in Class C2. The Eagles turned up the pressure and fought back to take the lead heading into the locker rooms, 22-17.

Johnson-Brock controlled the third out of the break, racing to a 29-17 lead, but SH continued to battle. A strong flourish by the Lady Irish cut the lead to 29-25, but the Eagles added a late bucket to push their advantage back to six, 31-25, heading into the fourth.

An Irish steal and bucket by Jentry Lechtenberg cut the lead to two at 31-29, but SH couldn't quite get over the hump. The Eagles rebuilt their advantage to six, but a three from the left wing by Avery Santo cut the deficit in half with 2:15 to play. Hallie Jones hit two clutch free throws with 1:39 to go to make it 36-35, but a deep three by Johnson-Brock's Daley Pelican put the Eagles back in front 39-35 with just over a minute to play. SH had opportunities down the stretch as Johnson-Brock combined to go just 3/8 from the foul line in the final twenty-five seconds.

Lechtenberg led SH with 17 points and seven rebounds. The Irish outshot J-B, 36% to 30%, but the Eagles went 14/25 from the foul line, while SH was 7/10. SH outrebounded the Eagles 24-19 but turned the ball over 22 times while forcing just 12.

Scoring for SH: Santo 9, Witt 4, Lechtenberg 17, Jones 6.

Scoring for J-B: Behrends 9, Pelican 10, K. Vice 6, Buchmeier 9, C.

Vice 2, Ottemann 6.

To get to the final on Friday, SH had to get past Class C2 No. 8 Freeman on Thursday. Sacred Heart led the Falcons after one period 10-4, but Freeman wasn't giving up quite that easily. Freeman battled back to cut the Irish lead to 19-16 at the break. Neither team caught fire after intermission. Sacred Heart saw their lead trimmed to 22-20 heading into the fourth and held on for the 30-28 win.

The Irish defense was tough, forcing Freeman to shoot just 10/41. However, SH struggled as well, finishing the game at just 21% from the floor. Free throws sealed the win for the Lady Irish, as they converted 14/26 attempts, compared to Freeman's 3/9 effort.

Scoring for SH: Santo 4, Westengaard 2, Witt 7, Lechtenberg 14, Jones 3.

Scoring for Freeman: Veerhusen 3, Johansen 4,

Wallman 2, Rinne 2, Pella 3, Mahler 14.

The Irish struggled with Exeter-Milligan-Friend in Monday's opening round of the tourney. The game was tied at 10-10 after one, but SH got a little breathing and headed into halftime with a 29-20 lead. E-M-F outscored the Lady Irish 19-18 in the final two periods, but the Irish held on for the 47-39 win.

The Irish shot 46% from the floor and held a 25-23

rebound edge, but they turned the ball over 15 times, which was costly.

Scoring for SH: Santo 2, Crouse 5, Witt 13, Reschke 1, Lechtenberg 18, Jones 8.

Scoring for E-M-F: Schluter 7, Bartley 4, Tuttle 3, Oldehoeft 7, Tuttle 6, Meints 12.

The 13-2 Irish will host 1-12 Auburn on Tuesday and will hit the road on Friday to face the 4-8 Pawnee City Indians.



F&M Bank is here today to make their "Spirit That Pays" donation that was earned by all the F&M Bank Irish debit cardholders. Over the last six months those cardholders have earned \$1,055.02 for Falls City Sacred Heart. F&M Bank presented a total of \$4,104.17 to both schools this last week.

The Spirit That Pays program launched in August of 2017 and since then the school spirit debit cardholders have earned an overall total of \$45,973.76 for their schools. Great job!

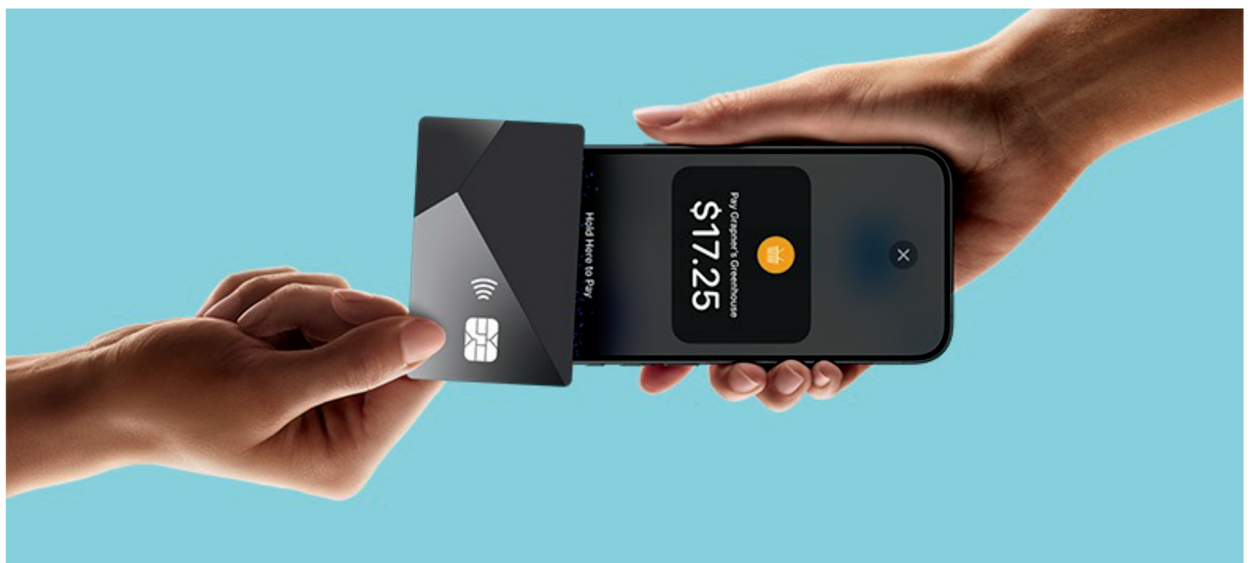
F&M Bank strives to make local decisions, provide local solutions, and create local focus. You can be sure when you bank with F&M Bank your money is being invested back into our community. Stop into F&M Bank today and see what they can do for you!

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fmbankfc.bank • 402-245-2491



Member FDIC Local Decisions Local Solutions Local Focus LENDER

## We now have Contactless debit cards!!



### Key points:

1. A contactless credit card allows you to make a secure transaction without swiping or inserting your chip.
2. If you see the contactless symbol on the front of your payment card and on the payment reader, you can tap to pay.
3. Contactless pay is widely accepted, but you can swipe or insert your contactless chip card when needed.

### TAP TO PAY



Effective March 1st, 2025  
Lobby hours are changing from 8:00am to 8:30am Monday - Saturday.  
Drive Thru hours unchanged - Open at 8:00am

Member FDIC



1616 Harlan St., Falls City, Nebraska • 402-245-2486  
ATM Location: Frontier Bank, 1616 Harlan St., Falls City



(Continued on Page 12)

## Lady Titans draw tough seed at MUDECAS

The HTRS Lady Titans dropped two straight games at the MUDECAS Basketball Tourney in Beatrice last week. First, HTRS fell to Class C2 No. 5 Johnson-Brock 35-69 on Monday and then to Tri County 32-38 on Friday.

Against the Eagles on Monday, HTRS shot 24% from the field, going 10/41. Lillian Bowen led HTRS with 16 points, while Elie Bstandig added ten rebounds. The loss ended a five-game winning streak for the Lady Titans.





## Gary Wittwer

Gary Lou Wittwer, 88, of Salem, Nebraska was born on October 2, 1936, in Salem, Nebraska to James and Grace (Windle) Wittwer. He was raised with his family in Salem where he began his schooling. After the passing of his father, Gary attended Boys Town High School in Omaha, Nebraska where he graduated with the class of 1954. On June 13, 1956, Gary entered active-duty status in the United States Air Force in Omaha, Nebraska and served his country until his honorable discharge from Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana on June 12, 1960. Gary was united in marriage to Mary Ellen Kaufman and to this union five children, Tammie, James, Cheri, Thomas, and Gary L. were born. After the passing of Mary, Gary was united in marriage in Omaha, Nebraska to Andrea "Ann" Lucas in 1989. To this union two children, David and Alexis were raised. Gary was a life long on the road trucker. He began his career driving truck for Ed Wickham in Salem. In 1971, Gary started driving truck for Universe Truck Line in Omaha and dedicated his career for 40 years until retiring. After retiring, he stayed busy working outside, mowing his yard and helping care for area cemeteries. Gary passed away on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at the Bryan LGH Medical Cener West in Lincoln, Nebraska having reached the earthly age of eighty-

eight years, three months, and nine days. He was preceded in death by his parents; son Thomas Wittwer, brothers: Frederick, Jack, Richard, David, and an infant brother Robert, twin sister Mary Eoff, his sister Janice Kirkendall, and an infant sister Janet, and brothers-in-law Jim Frey and Edward Weir. Gary is survived by his loving wife Ann Wittwer of Salem, children: Tammie Gillespie and husband Charles of Council Bluffs, IA; James "Jim" Wittwer and wife Sue of Council Bluffs, IA; Cheri Andersen and husband Scott of Portland, OR; Gary L. Wittwer and wife Tammy of Columbus, NE; David Wittwer of Salem, Alexis Wittwer of Salem, 12 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren, sisters: Pat Weir of Bakersfield, CA; Kay Frey of Sabetha, KS; brother-in-law Randy Kirkendall of Falls City, and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Memorial Services will be held at a later date at the Four-Mile Congregational Church in rural Humboldt, Nebraska with Pastor Howard Blecha officiating. Inurnment will follow services at the Maple Cemetery in Salem, Nebraska with full military honors conducted. Memorial contributions may be given to the family's choice with a later designation. Condolences can be shared online at [www.hallfuneral.net](http://www.hallfuneral.net) Services entrusted to Hall Funeral Home-2403 Harlan Street-Falls City, NE 68355 (402) 245-3131

## Lance Foster

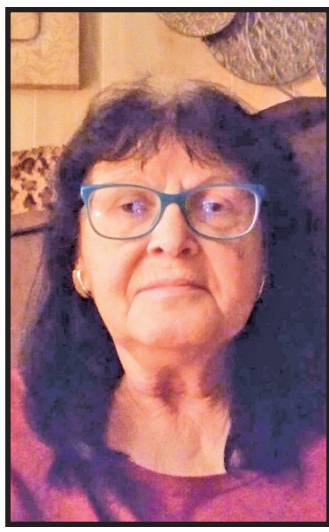
Lance Foster, 64, of White Cloud, KS, passed away January 12, 2025 at White Cloud. He was born June 2, 1960 at Whittier, CA to Gary and Rita (Pippin) Foster. He married Lisa Nelmda in 2002 at Anchorage, AK. Lance was raised at Helena, MT and graduated from Helena High School in 1978. He attended the Institute of American Indians Art and later earned a bachelor degree from University of Montana at Missoula. Later he earned Master's Degrees in Archeology and Anthropology as well as Landscape Archetector from Iowa State University. He worked for the National Forest Service in Montana, The National Park Service in Sante Fe, NM and was the Director of Native Rights in Honolulu, HI. In

2013 they moved to White Cloud where he became the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. He was also vice chair of the tribal council for one term. He was baptized Catholic and was a member of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. Lance is survived by his wife, Lisa of White Cloud, brothers, Bryan of Port Angeles, WA, Garth and his wife Gloria of Helena, Brandi Brockbank and her husband Kevin of Spokane, WA, nephews and niece, Dempsey, Lily and Eamonn. He was preceded in death by his parents. Mr. Foster has been cremated and no services will be held at this time.

## Deborah Holloway

Deborah Lynn (Dean) Holloway, 68, of Falls City, Nebraska, died unexpectedly January 6, 2025. She was born September 2, 1956, at Indio, California, the oldest of three children of Orville and Christine Housley Dean. The family moved to St. Joseph, Missouri until 1962 when they returned to California for a short time. The family

Kansas area. Debbie was secretary and co-owner of Sutherland Printing on main street Hiawatha prior working as a certified nurse aide at the Brown County Infirmary, later Maple Heights Nursing Home, both of Hiawatha. Debbie later attended classes to become a certified medical aide. Survivors include her Father Orville L Dean; her children: Shawn M. McQueen, Brandon E. McQueen (Desiree), and Tiffany N. Boyce (Jason); her brothers: Terry Dean, Jerry Dean (Jerry), and many grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her mother Christine Dean, and her uncle Wilbur Dean. Services pending at Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, Hiawatha. Memorial contributions are suggested to Debbie Dean Memorial Fund, send in care of the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, 124 South Seventh Street, Hiawatha 66434. [www.chapeloaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.chapeloaksfuneralhome.com)



## John Price

John Price, 85, of Rulo, NE, passed away January 15, 2025 at Rulo. He was born September 8, 1939 at Wrightsville, GA to Marcus David and Lillie Mae (Temple) Price. John was drafted into the U. S. Army on August 9, 1957 at Atlanta, GA. He was honorably discharged on October 7, 1957 at Ft. Benning, GA. He married Dorothy Goltz on October 27, 1963 at Falls City. John was raised in Johnson County, Georgia and he worked for a propane company before being drafted. When he was discharged, he worked as a meat cutter for a grocery store before moving to Lincoln, NE in 1962 where he became employed at Capital Bridge. When married the couple lived various places due to his work. He eventually became employed at Judds Brothers and erected steel buildings and after that he worked for

Karr Construction. Later he and his brother, Albert, started Price Enterprises and did general contracting in the construction business. In 1995 he built J. P.'s Butcher Block and retired in 2017. John is survived by his wife Dorothy of Rulo, children, Jan Price of Falls City, John Wayne Price, Jr. and his wife Heidi of Pickrell, NE, brothers, James and his wife Linda of Irwinton, GA, Tillman and his wife Judy, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Albert, Marcus, Jr. and Kenyon, sisters, Mary Martin and Betty Sue Herrington. John has chosen to donate his body to the Nebraska Anatomical Board. A memorial service will be held at a later date. A registration book is available to sign and cards may be left at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home during regular business hours.

## Rodney Kuhlmann

Rodney L. Kuhlmann. May 19, 1948; January 14, 2025 Rodney was born and raised in Humboldt, Nebraska. In 1969, he joined the U.S. Air Force, where he served for six and a half years. He spent 31 years as an electronic technician and training instructor at the OPPD Ft. Calhoun nuclear power plant. He loved traveling, doing woodworking projects,

and most of all, spending time with his kids and grandkids. He is survived by his wife, Susan; four daughters; 10 grandchildren; and brother, Kevin. A Celebration of Life was held Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 2:00 pm at Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 7909 Mormon Bridge Rd, Omaha, NE. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to OTOC or Holy Name St. Vincent de Paul Society.

## Titans make run at MUDECAS title

The HTRS Titans improved to 8-5 after going 2-1 at the 2025 MUDECAS Basketball Tournament in Beatrice last week. The No. 3 seed in the "B" division defeated Sterling in the first round 51-37. The Titans went 24/52 from the field, secured 30 rebounds, dished out 17 assists and had 11 turnovers. Emmett Glathar led the Titans with 21 points on 10/16 shooting. Brogan Dunlap added 11 points, seven boards and six assists.

Scoring for HTRS: Dunlap 11, Vaughan 6, Dettmann 9, Glathar 21, Bohling 4. In round two, HTRS got past Diller-Odell 40-33 to gain a spot in the title game. The Titans went 17/53 from the floor, grabbed 34 rebounds, had ten assists and finished with eight steals. Hunter Bohling led the offense with 11 points and 11 rebounds. Glathar added seven points and eight boards. Scoring for HTRS: Koch 2, Dunlap 8, Vaughan 4, Dettmann 5, D. Bohling 3, Glathar 7, Bohling 11. On Saturday, HTRS faced Falls City Sacred Heart in the "B" division title game at the Beatrice Auditorium. SH edged the Titans, 31-22, to win the contest. For championship game coverage, see Irish story. The 8-5 Titans hosted 6-3 Pawnee City on Tuesday and played at JCC on Thursday, January 23 and Parkview Christian on Friday, January 24.

**Thank you to everyone who helped make our 50th wedding anniversary special by sending a card or offering warm wishes in person. Also thanks to our children and grandchildren for the nice dinner, cake and arranging our celebration.**  
John and Rita Seeba

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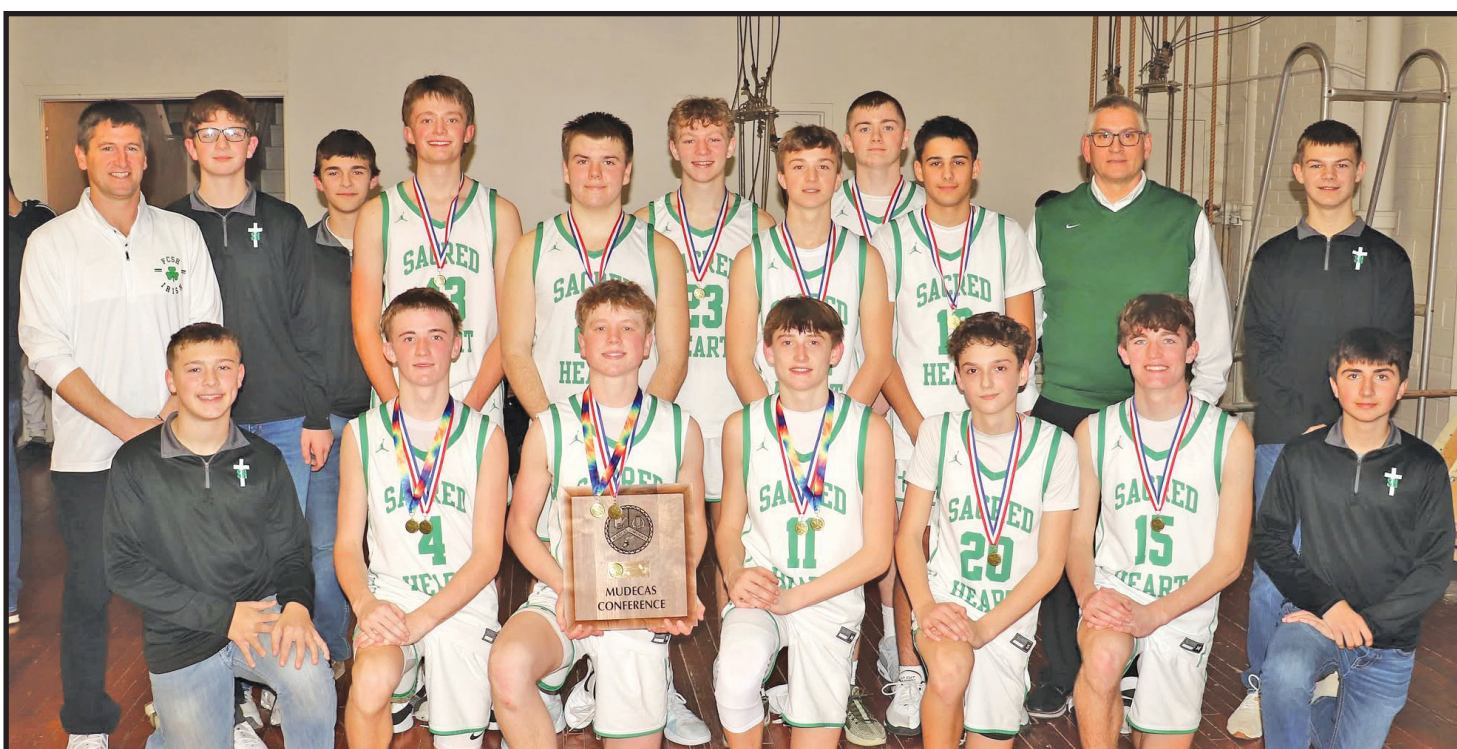
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## Jim Davis

Jim Davis, 68, of White Cloud, passed away peacefully on January 13, 2025 at home in his recliner. He was born December 14, 1956 to Billy and Phyllis (Keller) Davis in Falls City, NE. He was proud member of Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. He was a 1975 graduate of Hiawatha High School. After high school, he pursued an Auto Body certification in Hastings, NE. Jim was married to his love and best friend, Wanda (Robertson) on October 11, 1981; they were married 43 years. Jim was a hard worker his entire life. He worked in the construction industry for nearly all his life. He worked several years for Babcock Sales and later for Jade Millwrights. He found his true calling at Local Union 441 Plumbers and Pipefitters where he worked up until retirement. Jim enjoyed the work and brotherhood of the Union. He then slowed down his pace and worked at Hiawatha Elementary School as the janitor. He truly enjoyed seeing the kids each day and helping out the staff. In his spare time, you could find him in his shed where enjoyed working on his 1963 Chevy Impala, his first car. He also loved fishing, traveling and being the best "Pa" to his eight grandkids.

Jim is survived by his wife, Wanda of White Cloud, Jason of Tampa, FL (Stephanie of White Cloud), Jennifer (Kirk) Miller of Topeka and Chyenne (Brandon) Colborn of White Cloud, grandchildren Kailey, Christian, Gray, McKenzy, Jax, Letty, Sabrina and Sway. He is survived by brothers: Bob (Cathy) Davis, Kenny Davis; a sister, Lynn (JR) Scott; and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncle and other family and friends. Jim is preceded in death by his beloved parents and a brother Tom. A Celebration of Jim's life was planned for 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 18, at Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Hiawatha. Tony French officiated. Friends could sign the register book Thursday until 4:30 p.m. and after 9 a.m. Friday. The family received friends at the funeral home from 6 until 7:30 Friday evening. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Jim Davis Memorial Fund sent in care of the funeral home, 124 S 7th St., 66434. [www.chapeloaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.chapeloaksfuneralhome.com)



2025 MUDECAS B-Division Champions

## Irish and Titans tussle for title at MUDECAS

Saturday evening, a pair of familiar teams faced off for the "B" title at the MUDECAS Tournament at the Beatrice Auditorium.

HTRS opened the game with a four-point lead behind Brogan Dunlap and Brennan Vaughan buckets. SH finally got on the board at the 3:53 mark with a free throw from Cole Taft, but HTRS claimed a 10-4 lead at the end of the first.

Irish guard Bo Fletcher took over in the second period, hitting two treys, as he led the Irish to a 15-14 lead at the break.

After intermission, both teams struggled to put points on the board. With the Irish leading by three, Emmett Glathar sank a pair at the foul line to make it 19-18 with just over a minute to play in the third. However, thirty seconds later, Hayden Clow sank a long three to push the Irish

to their most significant lead of the game, 22-18, heading into the final period.

With just over five minutes to play, Dunlap hit a driving bucket, the first field goal of the second half for HTRS, to make it 22-20. Cooper Knobbe hit a baseline jumper to push the SH advantage back to four. Glathar scored in the lane moments later to cut the lead to 24-22, but it would prove to be the game's final points for HTRS. The Irish closed the game on a 7-0 run to seal the championship with a 31-22 win.

SH got 26% from the floor, while HTRS struggled at 16%, including an 0/12 effort from deep. HTRS went 6/7 from the foul line, while SH made 3/12 attempts.

Fletcher led SH with 14 points, nine rebounds and six steals. Glathar led

HTRS with eight points on 3/12 shooting.

Scoring for SH: Taft 3, Fletcher 14, Clow 6, Baxter 5, Wilcox 1, Knobbe 2.

Scoring for HTRS: Koch 2, Dunlap 4, Vaughan 6, Glathar 8, Bohling 2.

The win improved Sacred Heart to 7-6, while HTRS fell to 8-5.

The Irish advanced to the championship by defeating Palmyra 53-41 on Friday night. After the first period, the Irish took a 15-11 lead and extended it to 25-13 by halftime. The two teams were even in the final 16 minutes, with each scoring 28 points after intermission.

The Irish shot 48% from the floor on Friday, including a 5/14 effort from beyond the arc, while holding the Panthers to 28% shooting (16/57). The Irish held a 27-18 rebound edge, including an 8-4 advantage

on the offensive glass.

Fletcher led SH with 21 points, seven rebounds and four steals. Taft added 20 points on 7/15 shooting.

Scoring for SH: Taft 20, Fletcher 21, Lemerond 10, Knobbe 2.

Scoring for Palmyra: Martin 16, Kosch 3, Peterson 2, Boyle 10, Kassebaum 2, Hippen 8.

The top-seeded Irish defeated the No. 8 seed Meridian 54-29 on Tuesday night at Beatrice Middle School to open the 2025 MUDECAS Tournament.

The Irish will host the Auburn Bulldogs on Tuesday night at the RAC and play at 7-3 Pawnee City on Friday, January 24.

## Tiger sweep home triangular

In boys wrestling on Thursday night, Falls City swept both contests in a triangular versus Maryville, MO and Sabetha, KS. The Tigers defeated Maryville 61-18 and Sabetha 42-35.

Against Maryville, FC only dropped three matches, winning easily by 43 points. Zane Elms won by forfeit at 138 to open the night. At 144, Orion Cattrell defeated Bryce Bennett by a major decision, 11-3. At 150, Caden Collier pinned Brody Davis at 1:45 for the win. Robert Gilkerson won by forfeit at 157, and at 165, Mason Collier won a 13-0 major decision over Kendrick Watkins. At 175, Blake Sells pinned Xander Brown at :51. Ashton Martin got an unopposed win at 190 and Chase Simpson won a 15-0 tech fall at 2:00 over Kade Watkins. Caleb Zimmerman got a forfeit win at 285, as did Dayton Snethen at 106. At 113, Bailey Thimmes fell to Dayn Henderson by fall at 2:38. Cade Caudle picked up a pin at 126 pounds at 1:04 and at 132, Caleb Kaiser fell to Landon A at 3:09 by fall.

In the next round of the night, FC downed Sabetha 42-35. At 150, Collier lost by fall to Kayl Murray at :23. Gilkerson moved quickly for the win at 157,

pinning Curtis Fitzgerald at 1:35. Mason Collier won by fall over Brandon Hundley at 1:15 and Sells pinned Derek Wahwasuck at 1:59. At 190, Martin dropped a major decision, 12-4. Simpson and Zimmerman each won by forfeit. Snethen lost by a 15-9 decision to Braxton Pyle and Coonce lost by fall at :32 to Korbyn Stinnett. At 120 pounds, Thimmes rebounded with a pin of Jackson Jacobs at 1:40. Caudle lost by fall to Lincoln Menold at 3:09 and Kaiser also lost by pin at :53 to Issac Wikle. Zane Elms came through with a pin at the four-minute mark to win against Bullvai Wilson. In the final match of the evening, Cade Renyer won an 18-10 major decision over Cattrell.

On Friday, FC placed second at the Weeping Water Invite with 151.5 points. Raymond Central took home the team title with 196.5 points.

Robert Gilkerson, 3-0, improved to 22-2 for the year and placed first. At 175, Blakely Sells went 4-0 and won the gold.

Bailey Thimmes went 2-1 and placed second at 120 pounds. Orion Cattrell improved to 12-6 and placed second, Mason Collier went 2-1 and placed sec-

(Continued on Page 12)

## Lady Tigers defeat Maryville

The Lady Tigers hit the mats Thursday evening in Falls City against Maryville, MO, defeating the Spoofhounds 18-6. Gabi Young picked up the Tiger's only win on the mats with a pin of Avery Berry at 3:44. Taytum Maddox and Paige Young each won by forfeit, while Kenley Alexander lost by pin to Arryonna Bartlett at 1:06.

Saturday, Falls City participated in the Rumble in River Country in Nebraska City. The Lady Tigers scored 43 points to place tenth. Yutan won the meet with 150 points, Nebraska City scored 127 for the silver and Auburn finished with 120 for

third.

Paige Young improved to 17-10 with a third-place finish on Saturday. Young went 3-1 for the day, including a 13-5 major decision win over Adi Bittner of Nebraska City in the third-place match.

At 155, Taytum Maddox also improved to 17-10 and brought home a third-place medal. Maddox went 4-1 for the day, pinning JennRae Hallsted of Seward at 1:56 for her third-place medal.

At 125, Kenley Alexander went 1-2; at 145, Gabi Young went 2-2 and earned a fourth-place finish.

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Leo Rue



Barrett Johansen



Braxtyn Bauman

## Falls City Wrestling Club Tournament Results

The Falls City Wrestling Club kept busy over the holidays. Participating at multiple tournaments and hosting a home dual.

Trojan Wrestling Club Tournament in Springfield, NE on Sunday, December 22. Braxtyn Bauman placed first with two pins and a 2-0 record. Randy Wilson Novice/Girls Tournament in Lathrop, MO on Saturday, December 28. Bowen Gerdes placed third with a 1-2 record.

Conestoga Wrestling Club Invite in Conestoga, NE on Sunday, December 29. Barrett Johansen placed first with two pins and a 3-0 record.

Holiday Dual with Sabetha and Seneca at Falls City High School on Monday, December 30. There were 101 total wrestlers and 60 matches.

NEUSA Eastern Districts 5-8 Boys Duals in Omaha, on Thursday, January 9.

Brantly Sells and Braxtyn Bauman competed with the District 6 Dual Team. The team finished second. Sells landed three pins through-

out the night.

Waverly Wrestling Tournament at Waverly on Sunday, January 12.

Leo Rue placed first with three pins and a 3-0 record. Nash Vollan and Nolan

Nicholson placed second.

Huxlee Carroll, Axton Donahoo and Barrett Johansen placed third.

Kenton Cochran and Gavin Dean placed fourth.

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# SCHOOL MENUS

## Falls City Sacred Heart

### Wednesday, January 22

Chili, Corn, Peaches, Cinnamon Roll, Bread, Milk

### Thursday, January 23

Chicken Quesadilla, Smiles, Applesauce, Grapes, Milk

### Friday, January 24

Pulled Pork Sandwich, Calif. Veggies, Mixed Fruit, Cookie, Milk

### Monday, January 27

Popcorn Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Pears, Roll, Milk

### Tuesday, January 28

Crispito, Broccoli & Cheese, Peaches, Bread, Milk

## HTRS Titans

### Wednesday, January 22

Totchos, Spanish Rice, Fruit/Veggie Bar, Milk or Water

### Thursday, January 23

Pepperoni Bakes, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit/Veggie Bar, Milk or Water

### Friday, January 24

Sloppy Joe/Bun, Green Beans, Fruit/Veggie Bar, Milk or Water

### Monday, January 27

No School

### Teacher In-service

### Tuesday, January 28

Corn Dog, Baked Beans  
Fruit/Veggie Bar, Milk or Water

## Falls City Public Schools

### Wednesday, January 22

North & South School: Chili Soup, Baby Carrots, Orange Smiles, Cinnamon Roll, 8ounce Milk Middle School: Mrs. Hogue Special: Chili Soup, Baby Carrots, Apple or Orange, Cinnamon Roll, 8ounce Milk High School: Hot Lunch: Chili Soup, Baby Carrots, Apple or Orange, Cinnamon Roll, 8ounce Milk Combo Line: Smoked Turkey & Cheese Sandwich, Chips, Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Bar, 8ounce Milk

### Thursday, January 23

North & South School: Chick Strips, Potato Smiles, Broccoli, Mixed Fruit, 8ounce Milk Middle School: Macaroni & Cheese, Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich, Green Beans, Pine-apple, 8ounce Milk High School: Hot Lunch: Chicken Flatbread, Lettuce Salad, Baked Beans, Fruit, 8ounce Milk Combo Line: Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Yogurt, Chips, Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Bar, 8ounce Milk

### Friday, January 24

North & South School: Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Baked Beans, Corn, Applesauce, 8ounce Milk Middle School:

Pig in a Blanket, Lettuce Salad, California Vegetables, Pears, 8ounce Milk

High School: Hot Lunch: Tater Tot Casserole, Green Beans, Fruit, Cornbread, 8ounce Milk Combo Line: Taquito, Seasoned Fries, Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Bar, 8ounce Milk

### Monday, January 27

North & South School: Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Peaches, Hot Roll, 8ounce Milk Middle School: Mr. Huppert Special: Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Pears, Hot Roll, 8ounce Milk High School:

Hot Lunch: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit, Hot Roll, 8ounce Milk Combo Line: Crispsitos, Tater Tots, Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Bar, 8ounce Milk

### Tuesday, January 28

North & South School: Macaroni & Cheese, Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich, Green Beans, Ruby Red Juice, Pears, 8ounce Milk Middle School: Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Baked Beans, Broccoli, Applesauce, 8ounce Milk High School: Hot Lunch: Italian Dunkers, Peas & Carrots, Broccoli, Fruit, 8ounce Milk Combo Line: BBQ Wings, Chips, Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Bar, 8ounce Milk

# Hundreds of private burial sites dot Nebraska

## *They rely on guardian angels to keep blight at bay*

By Kevin Warneke  
*Flatwater Free Press*

Ernest Kobs knows his family history. He knows his great-grandparents both emigrated from Germany, married in 1870 and, in 1874, bought and then worked a farm in northwest Douglas County. He knows they're both buried on the land, but pinpointing exactly where is a bit fuzzy.

"He's either buried on my great-grandmother's left or to her right," Ernest Kobs says of his great-grandfather. "We just don't know which."

While the land has changed hands several times, the family cemetery they established in 1879 remains.

The Kobs family burial ground, now part of a nature preserve owned and operated by the University of Nebraska at Omaha, is one of hundreds of private cemeteries scattered throughout Nebraska.

Some are active, others haven't had a burial in decades. Some contain only a few graves, while others are home to more than 100 headstones and markers.

They all have history, some of it documented with official state historical markers, yet many depend on local do-gooders and other low-key guardian angels to ensure their upkeep.

People like Larry Carlson.

Carlson doubles as cemetery association president and caretaker — meaning he mows the grounds — at Farmers' Valley Cemetery, which sits about 15 miles west of McCool Junction. His daughter serves as association secretary.

"It's pride and duty both to care for this cemetery," Carlson said. "It's such a peaceful place in the middle of a section."

Farmers' Valley is an active cemetery with more than 100 graves, including those of Civil War veterans. Relatives from around the country converge there each Memorial Day for a potluck meal. Members of a local American Legion post place flags throughout the cemetery and conduct a memorial service.

The cemetery's significance became evident a few years back when vandals damaged gravestones and a fence. Word spread and the association raised more than \$50,000 for repairs, Carlson said.

"We had people from all over the United

States call us and help. We learned about people buried here that we didn't even know about."

The Kobs family also isn't quite sure who all is buried in their cemetery. A state historical marker erected by the family in 2015 states that as many as 25 Kobses are buried there.

"Mom thinks it's closer to 27 or 28," says Ernest Kobs. Then, he admits he isn't sure whether only members of the Kobs family are buried there. "The family had lots of hired hands. It's likely some were buried there."

Every county in Nebraska likely has a cemetery similar to the Kobs family cemetery, said Crystal Werger, director of the Dawson County Historical Society and Museum. "Probably more than one."

These cemeteries are mostly rural and either connected to a church, a community or a homesteading family, Werger said. Nebraska once was filled with rural churches. Most had cemeteries.

"When populations shifted and congregations moved to town, parishioners still cared for the cemeteries," she said.

The Kobs family's final resting place is one of 65 cemeteries with an official state historical marker, according to Autumn Langemeier, the Nebraska State Historical Society's historic marker programs coordinator. Overall, there are more than 600 markers across the state.

Langemeier relies on reports from state roads workers, local law enforcement officers and tourists to alert her when historical markers start to show their age. The historical places they represent, however, typically fall outside the state's purview, she said.

Kobs said he is comforted knowing that UNO's Department of Biology will keep watch over the family cemetery long after he is buried there.

UNO received a donated quarter section of land in 1959 and converted it to native prairie. After a housing development project fell through 15 years ago, UNO started buying adjacent land, which included the cemetery, and expanded the preserve.

Today, UNO uses Glacier Creek Preserve for research, teaching and community engagement.

When a spring storm blew through the area last year, it dropped tree limbs and

damaged a fence and some gravestones. Preserve staff spent the summer clearing debris and repairing damage, said Tom Bragg, a biology professor and preserve director. The repairs will continue this spring.

"We feel a responsibility for the cemetery," Bragg said.

Aside from Farmers' Valley Cemetery, Hamilton County contains 38 other cemeteries, the majority of which are rural, some with just a few gravestones and some on private land, said Tina Larson, executive director of the Plainsmen Museum and Hamilton County Historical Society. The county is fortunate to have cemetery associations, community groups and a Veterans Service officer care for them, she said.

Larson said she always learns something when she walks a cemetery. "I look at the headstones — they're a page from a history book."

Dawson County has a remote cemetery of its own — one that didn't have a champion and fell into disrepair. Enter John and Katie Kugler, whose only connection to the Rosehill Cemetery was driving by it each week on their way to Sunday worship services.

"We first noticed the wooden gate was falling down. We thought that needed to be fixed," John Kugler said.

So, they installed a metal gate to keep the cattle out and started searching for a map of grave sites. No luck. The Kuglers started mowing the cemetery and uncovered gravestones — some short, others larger and several that were knocked over. "We tried to set them up."

The Kuglers located the original deed for the cemetery, located near what was once known as Buffalo Community.

"None of these people are around anymore and their families aren't here either. That's where we are right now," John Kugler said.

Kugler said he and his wife have developed a personal interest in seeing Rosehill restored. A historical marker may someday be in order, he said.

"My wife fell in love with this cemetery. She's decided she wants to be buried at Rosehill. If she's there, I'm there."

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



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# NEWS MAKERS OF 2024

(Continued from Page 1)

## Dr. McPeak recognized as 2024 Optometrist of the Year

Falls City Journal • April 17, 2024

Dr. Eric McPeak, Hiawatha, was recognized as the 2024 Optometrist of the Year during Kansas Optometric Association's (KOA) Convention and Seminar in Manhattan, Kansas. This is the highest award an optometrist can receive from the KOA and is in recognition of personal sacrifices to advance the profession and the welfare of the public.

## Volunteer Ambulance Squad turns 50

Falls City Journal • June 5, 2024

On May 16, 1974, the Falls City Journal announced the transition of the Falls City Volunteer Ambulance Squad from a part-time service to 24-hour coverage, following the closure of the Simmonds Ambulance Service. Howard Simmonds cited family and financial reasons for his decision. At that time, the squad had 18 volunteers, led by president Peter Beekman, emphasizing the necessity of continuous ambulance service. One month later, volunteer Harold Prichard reported responding to approximately 20 calls weekly, utilizing a new plectron radio for dispatch.

Today, the squad continues to play a vital role, averaging nearly 35 calls and 12 transfers monthly. President Robert Olberding highlighted recent expansions, including a new long-distance van for patient transfers. The squad operates three semi-interchangeable units and has had to implement charges for specific calls due to rising costs, though community donations remain vital. Currently, there are 11 EMTs and four drivers, with an ongoing need for volunteers, especially as some members approach retirement. Interested individuals can join without prior experience, with a 60-90 day training period provided. The squad also participates in community events like high school sports, fostering local engagement.

## Humboldt Mayor resigns

This comes after two other recent resignations alleging bullying from Council and broken state statutes

Falls City Journal • June 12, 2024

In a surprising announcement, Mayor Rhonda Dettmer resigned during a City Council meeting, citing a lack of cooperation and respect from council members as her primary reasons. Initially enthusiastic about contributing to the community, Dettmer expressed frustration over the council's refusal to work collaboratively on important issues and noted their disregard for the law, which she described as daily violations. The stress of ongoing harassment and bullying took a toll on her and her husband, leading to her immediate resignation.

In her statement, Dettmer reflected on her initial excitement in taking the role and her dismay over the council's dysfunction, highlighting that important business was consistently ignored. Following her resignation, Council President Jan Wilhelm is set to assume the mayoral position, leaving another vacancy. Councilmember Vicky Lynch also resigned, stressing the divided council and the lack of effective governance. She criticized the council's disregard for state laws and the misallocation of taxpayer money.

Amid these departures, concerns over city issues like the sewer plant and street maintenance persist. The remaining council members face the critical task of addressing the underlying issues that led to these resignations to ensure effective city administration moving forward.

## The Quilted Truck: "Everyone that we've met is a piece, a functional beautiful piece of this town, and all together it's just this beautiful thing."

Falls City Journal • June 19, 2024

On June 12, Falls City unveiled a new mural at 16th and Harlan Street, created by artists Sarah and Andrew McWilson. This artwork symbolizes community unity and creativity. The project emerged after a previous mural on the Chaney building garnered positive community response, leading to a collaboration with building owner Mitch Glaser and Chamber Director Amber Holle. The McWilson's, who refer to themselves as 'Hand In Hand,' draw inspiration from their love for public art, which they see as inclusive and reflective of shared experiences.

Their mural, inspired by the concept of "quilted trucks" seen in the area, represents resilience and community. Andrew likened the metaphor of quilted trucks to life in Falls City, emphasizing that each person contributes uniquely to the town's fabric. The artists captured local beauty and moments of everyday life, dedicating three weeks and 22 gallons of paint to their vision.

Community support was integral, with local businesses providing materials and services. The mural, encapsulating local charm and connections, features poetic words from the McWilson's that enhance its significance. Holle and the community expressed gratitude for the artists' contribution, highlighting the mural as a testament to the power of art in fostering relationships among residents.

## Two-night Hot Air Balloon Festival pays off on Friday as storms move in Saturday

Falls City Journal • June 19, 2024

Falls City came alive during its annual Hot Air Balloon Festival, held on Friday night, attracting residents and visitors with beautiful weather, colorful kites, hot air balloons, live music, and delicious food. The evening began with a vibrant kite show complemented by the sounds of JB Acoustic and preparations for balloon liftoff at Brenner Field. Although the 7:00 p.m. launch was delayed due to wind, several balloons ascended against the sunset, while others participated in the enchanting balloon glow.

Chamber director Amber Holle expressed relief that conditions improved, allowing some balloons to launch. Saturday offered various family activities, including kite flying, bounce houses, and performances by Dixie Cadillacs and the Kyle Saylor Band. Despite the festive atmosphere, a severe thunderstorm later halted further balloon activities. Holle noted the decision to enhance entertainment with kites and inflatables to ensure a good time despite challenging weather.

Events were cut short as storms hit Brenner Field, postponing the fireworks display. The festival was supported by numerous local sponsors, showcasing community spirit. Overall, the festival provided memorable moments, even if Mother Nature intervened on Saturday.

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## Lady Titans draw tough seed at MUDECAS

(Continued from Page 7)

Scoring for HTRS: Bstandig 2, Glathar 6, Bredemeier 5, Bowen 16, Howe 4.

On Friday, HTRS faced the Tri County Trojans. Coming off a five-point loss to Diller-Odell, Tri County led at the half 22-8, before HTRS fought back to make it close. HTRS outscored Tri County 24-16 in the second half, but ultimately fell 32-38.

Bowen again led HTRS with 17 points, hitting 3/11 from deep. Bstandig added 18 rebounds and four steals.

Scoring for HTRS: Bstandig 4, Glathar 2, McClarnen 3, Bredemeier 4, Bowen 17, Howe 2.

The 6-7 Titans hosted Pawnee City on Tuesday and play at JCC on Thursday and Parkview Christian on Friday.

## Tiger sweep home triangular

(Continued from Page 10)

ond, Jayden Mirelez went 3-1 and earned a silver, while Chase Simpson went 3-1 and finished second.

Cade Caudle (1-2), Brandon Feighner (1-3) and Caleb Zimmerman (2-2) all finished fourth.

On Saturday, FC wrestled at the Rumble in River Country Duals. In pool play, FC fell to Crete 41-40 and Waverly 62-18.

FC defeated Platview 60-24 in the bronze bracket and Fort Calhoun 42-40.

Against Crete, Snetten, Thimmes, Gilkerson and Sells got wins. Versus Waverly, Gilkerson, Collier and Sells all won by fall.

In the bronze bracket against Platview, Gilkerson, Collier, Zimmerman, Thimmes and Caudle won by fall.

In the final matches of the day, Cattrell, Gilkerson, Collier, Sells and Simpson earned wins by pin against Ft. Calhoun.

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## Tigers fall at Fairfax Tourney

The Falls City boys dropped both contests at the 93rd Annual Fairfax Invitational Tournament. On Tuesday, FC dropped the contest to Nodaway Valley 38-65; on Wednesday night, FC fell to St. Joseph Christian 34-63.

The Tigers trailed 8-13 after the first period on Tuesday but kept the game close, trailing by eight, 24-32 at halftime. Nodaway Valley pulled away in the second half, outscoring FC 15-7 in the third and 18-7 in the fourth.

Nodaway Valley outshot Falls City 39% to 31% from the floor and went 15/23 from the charity stripe, while FC was 2/4. Falls City was outrebounded 24-40 and turned the ball over 18 times while forcing nine.

Keifer Adams went 7/24 from the field for 18 points to lead the offense. Eric Heinzelman added eight rebounds and Jacoby Bangert had a team-best five assists.

Scoring for FC: Morris 6, Q. Adams 2, K. Adams 18, Bangert 3, Brown 4, Heinzelman 5.

On Wednesday, Falls City fell to St. Joseph Christian 34-63. The loss dropped Falls City to 0-13, while the Lions improved to 9-7 with the win.

Falls City will look to get on track Thursday when they travel to Nebraska City to take on the 1-12 Pioneers. The Tigers will host JCC on Saturday, January 25 and Auburn on Tuesday, January 28.

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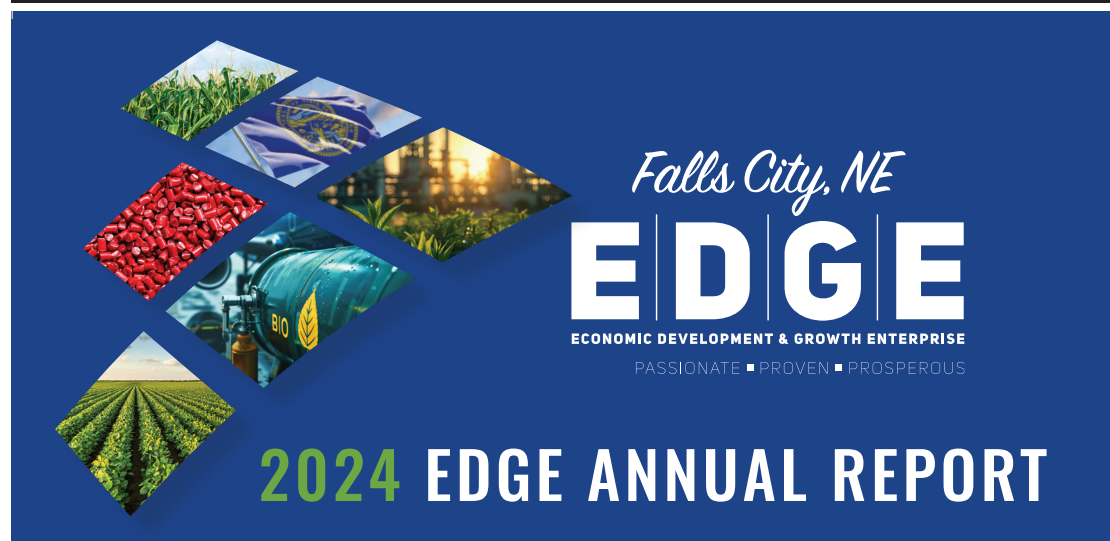
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**Mid-America Rail Campus**

Located two miles south of Falls City along the Kansas state line and east of Hwy 73 along the Union Pacific rail are 1,017 acres secured through option agreements for development opportunities. The options, secured by Falls City EDGE with landowners, have been in place for more than five years. Within the last two years, it was decided to market the site to companies exploring emerging biofuel technologies that utilize corn and soybeans as feedstock. In an effort to decarbonize global production systems to meet corporate carbon intensity score goals, many companies have been successful proving proof of concept to minimize usage of fossil fuels. Some of these markets include sustainable aviation fuel, biodiesel processing, bio-polypropylene production, and other forms of energy generation using agriculture residues.



BioEconomy will safeguard the United States, enhance U.S. food systems, revitalize rural America, and create a decarbonized future for the United States and the world while protecting our four most precious resources: people, crops, water, and livestock.



On November 5th, Citroniq Chemicals LLC announced a partnership with Falls City EDGE to locate at the Mid-America Rail Campus for one of their bio-based production facilities. Citroniq will transform ethanol produced from Nebraska corn into bio-based polypropylene, reducing the reliance on petroleum-based production while driving additional revenue to Nebraska's farms and rural communities. The plant is expected to be operational in 2029. ■



On August 9th in Kearney at the Ag and Economic Development Summit, Governor Pillen announced his Nebraska BioEconomy Initiative to elevate Nebraska's economic capability, revitalize rural communities, protect family farms, spur investment in rural infrastructure, and transform the products, services, technologies and production our country is demanding for a fully resilient future. The Nebraska

**Communities LEAP Grant Awarded from Department of Energy**



Falls City EDGE was one of thirty energy-burdened communities awarded the Communities LEAP (Local

Energy Action Program) Cohort 2 grant through the DoE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to address economic impacts from historical reliance on fossil fuels to build community-driven action plans for clean energy-related economic development. Falls City's application was two-fold as we work to implement solutions for the electrical infrastructure in far-Southeast Nebraska and the development of the Mid-America Rail Campus which is designed to attract companies interested in reducing their carbon footprint with new technologies and production practices.

The grant includes 18 months of Technical Assistance from experts in the renewables field that are assisting with a cost-benefit analysis of potential community solar infrastructure that could offset peak electrical use with the goal of cost savings to rate payers' monthly invoices. The cost-benefit analysis report will be instrumental in applying for future grants to offset the cost of solar installation. The grant also includes a \$50,000 award which is being used for engineering cost of opinion to build a secondary transmission line into Falls City to power the Mid-America Rail Campus and to support the Nebraska BioEconomy Initiative. This study will assist elected officials in deciding the best-possible option for transmission infrastructure into Falls City and use of the \$15,000,000 grant allotted by the Nebraska Legislature in the Spring of 2022. For more info on the project, you can read this article from the American Public Power Association featuring Falls City. ■



**Falls City Recognized as Economic Development Certified Community**



In an effort to better position communities for development opportunities, the Nebraska Diplomats recognizes communities that display a preparedness for economic development and a desire for growth. Becoming certified signifies to employers and potential newcomers that these communities have the essential ingredients for economic opportunity and a great quality of life. Falls City was first recognized in 2009 and has successfully recertified in 2014, 2019, and now 2024. Successful applicants must demonstrate a high level of economic proactivity and a readiness to succeed. Each applicant is evaluated on program standards related to elements like local preparedness, support for business growth, organization and partnerships, well-identified targets and/or markets, infrastructure, local financing and business assistance, and available information on existing sites and/or buildings. ■

Full press release may be viewed on EDGE website under NEWS tab

**Land Bank Acquires Properties Abandoned by Private Market**



The Southeast Nebraska Land Bank meets at City Hall on the second Thursday of the month at noon. The mission is to revitalize interior dilapidated neighborhoods and bring tax-delinquent properties back to a product revenue-producing position. An online listing of available properties is available on the EDGE website. The Land Bank could be motivated to offer these properties at no cost to developers wishing to create workforce housing in Verdon and Falls City. The Land Bank currently owns 7 Falls City properties, many of which are strategically located between downtown and the schools. Falls City and Verdon were the first communities to create a regional land bank in the State of Nebraska on August 7, 2023. Since then, about 3 or 4 have been created and leadership teams from each land bank meet quarterly to compare strategies and discuss objectives. Although not affiliated, the EDGE Board approved offering their executive director's services at no charge to be the land bank's director. This quasi-governmental entity is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and provides a vehicle to revitalize our interior neighborhoods. ■

**Hospital Opens Community Kids Center**



With the need to grow childcare capacity and impending closure of Falls

City's largest facility, Community Medical Center was issued the proper certificate and assumed operations of the Sacred Heart Childcare Center at 18th and Fulton. Expanding childcare options for working families is part of EDGE's strategic plan and maintaining current facility operations was critical for the community.

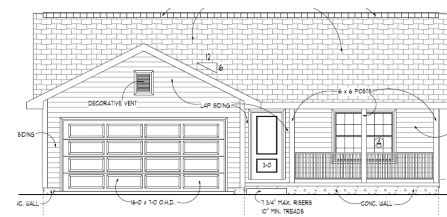


Without childcare services, parents are forced to stay home or move out of the community resulting in reduced workforce and decreased community services.

Expert childcare providers met at Falls City High School in April to offer education and answer questions from those interested in offering in-home childcare services. The engagement session was supported by Nebraska Children's Communities for Kids, Falls City Sixpence, Falls City Public Schools, Corncat Entertainment, the Chamber of Commerce, and EDGE.

Falls City EDGE also co-hosted a Town Hall in August with District 1 Legislative candidates, Dennis Schaardt and Bob Hallstrom. The event was held in Auburn and focused on childcare service needs in far-Southeast Nebraska and provided attendees an opportunity to ask questions. ■

**House to be Built with Rural Workforce Housing Funds**



After two years of planning, the City of Falls City, in partnership with EDGE and the Housing Board, will build a

4-bedroom 2-bathroom house with extended-length 2-car garage and 1,662 sq. ft. of finished living space. The Housing Board was instrumental in choosing a preferred floor plan that can fit on 75-foot-wide lots throughout Falls City. Construction of the property at 1612 Fulton will be managed by Southeast Nebraska Development District who manages the grant funds. EDGE is working closely with the general contractor, SEND Contracting, to hire as many local sub-contractors as possible. The house will have an open concept kitchen on the main level with two bedrooms, living room, and one bath in the basement. The list price is expected to be around \$330,000 and available in the Fall of 2025. Potential buyers interested in purchasing and customizing the house are encouraged to contact EDGE. The goal is to sell the house for what it's constructed, minimizing private market profits and added coststo buyers, to build one new house each year. The goal is to utilize this program to assist revitalization of our interior neighborhoods. ■

**Wilderness Falls 3 Opens**



After 3 years of planning, 16 units at Wilderness Falls opened for seniors 55+ that meet income level requirements. An open house was held on June 13th and the units were all filled within just a few months. On August 16th, a ribbon cutting was held to thank all of our partners: City of Falls City, Excel Development Group, Forten Building Group, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Marble Cliff Capital, Advantage Capital, Horizon Bank, REGA Engineering, and Midwest Housing Initiatives. ■



Falls City EDGE has established the Richardson County Asset Modernization Initiative, offering modernization resources to for-profit Richardson County businesses, including but not limited to, manufacturers and agricultural/food product processors. The initiative is intended to stimulate modernization of assets by county businesses that are members of EDGE or Chamber of Commerce.

The Small Business Gap Financing Fund is designed to assist small and start-up businesses with additional funding not provided by a local bank. Interested parties will have prepared a business plan for access to low-interest loans that can be paid back monthly over as many as five years.

Visit the Incentives page under the Location Advantages category on the EDGE website for more information. State incentives are also listed on this web page. ■



**USDA Grant for BDO Zone Issues Falls City 'A' Rating**

We are pleased to announce the issue of an investment-grade Bioeconomy Development Opportunity (BDO) Zone 'A' Rating for Falls City, Nebraska. Falls City's BDO Zone rating for 600,000 bone dry tons per year of corn stover is the first rating in the state of Nebraska and extends a 75-mi drive-distance from the center point in Falls City, NE. The 'A' rating confirms Richardson County, Nebraska as the home of consistent and productive corn yields and adds value to the agriculture industry that drives our local economy. Falls City's Mid-America Rail Campus is positioned to lead the way for bioeconomy investments to support our local family farms, create careers and prosperity for our working families, and capitalize on our land, rail, river, and air transportation assets. Nebraska is home to the agricultural resources necessary for the next chapter of bioeconomy investments. ■