

# THE FALLS CITY JOURNAL

Saying "I don't need newspapers; I get my news from the internet." is the same as saying "I don't need farmers; I get my food at the supermarket." - Jerry Raehal

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

ADVERTISED IN THIS WEEKS PAPER

### November

**22** ZCJB Hall Silent Movie night 7PM

Salem Community Hall  
Free Will donation  
Breakfast 8-12:30PM

**23** Salem Community Hall  
Free Will donation  
Breakfast 8-12:30PM

**26** **Early deadline for the 12/3 edition of the Falls City Journal-10:00AM Office Closed early.**

**27** Journal office open an hour prior to the lighted Christmas parade for treats and to pick up gift subscriptions or to renew or start a subscription.

**27** RC Courthouse Closed

**28** RC Courthouse Closed

Lighted Christmas Parade down Stone Street 6PM  
Santa, Sleigh Rides, Hot Cocoa, Soup Supper & Shopping

**29** Shop Small Saturday in Falls City.

Christmas Vendor Festival at Prichard Auditorium 9AM-3PM

### December

**5** NioCorp Town Hall Meeting at Elk Creek Community Center. 12 PM and 5PM

**6** RC Historical Society Museum Christmas Tea "Vintage Christmas Carols" 1401 Chase, 2PM

**9** Land Auction, FC Elks Club, 11AM

**26** **Early deadline for the 12/31 edition of the Falls City Journal-10:00AM.**

**PUBLIC NOTICES: BECAUSE YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW.**

## CONTENTS

From the Journal Files .....Page 3  
Public Record .....Page 6  
Sports .....Pages 7  
Restaurant/Retail.....Page 8  
Obituaries.....Page 9  
Public Notices/Legals.....Pages 10-11  
Classified Ads.....Pages 11

**\$1.50**



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## Falls City High School parts ways with head football coach Jack Bangert

Falls City High School has announced that Jack Bangert will no longer serve as head football coach, effective immediately.

In a statement, the school said the decision was made because the team's on-field performance has not met expectations for the program. The school described the change as being in the best long-term interest of the football program.

"Falls City Public Schools extends its sincere appreciation to Coach Bangert for his time, leadership, and dedication to our student-athletes," the statement said. "Over his tenure, Coach Bangert has worked hard to build relationships with his players and families,

we are grateful for his efforts and commitment to Tiger football."

Assistant Principal and Activities Director Gale Dunkhas said Bangert has given a great deal of time and energy to the program. "I want to thank him for his hard work and commitment during his time as our head coach," Dunkhas said.

Falls City High School will begin the process of selecting a new head coach in the coming weeks. The district said it remains focused on providing a positive, growth-oriented experience for all student-athletes and looks forward to the continued support of the community as the program moves forward.



Lori Gottula

## Richardson County House of Hope banquet highlights message of recovery and hope

The Richardson County House of Hope hosted its annual Benefit Banquet on Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Falls City Elks Club, drawing a large crowd for an evening of fellowship, food and faith. The event served as a fundraiser for the nonprofit's mission to provide transitional housing for unhoused women in Richardson County.

Sherry Huddleston, a member of the House of Hope advisory board and a longtime advocate for families in crisis, walked guests through how the organization grew from an idea to a working transitional home.

"We are a group of community members with hearts full of passion to serve others and become part of the solution to homelessness and

(Please turn to Page 3)



## "Veterans Day is not just another day on the calendar"

These were words spoken by U.S. Navy Commander Mike Hader at the Falls City Veterans Day Celebration held at the Falls City High School gymnasium on Tuesday, November 11, 2025. Hader was born and raised on the East Coast, specifically New Jersey, and after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Hader entered the submarine force, eventually serving on five submarines, three surface ships, three shore maintenance facilities, and two tours of duty at the Nuclear Field "A" School, once as an instructor and later as the school's director. Hader retired from the Navy as a Commander in 2009 after nearly 32 years of service.

He recalled Veterans Day was initially called Armistice Day until 1954, "Veterans Day is not just another day on the calendar. It's not a day of gratitude, a day of remembrance, it is a day to say with one voice, Thank You," said Hader. "Not only those who fought the great wars of the past, but those who continue to stand watch of this land, here at home and around the world."

Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day to honor all American veterans who served in wars and conflicts, not just those who fought

in World War I.

Hader went on to say that those who serve this country are everywhere, protecting people around the world. The day is about the people. The citizens who made a choice, "to serve their country, to defend freedom, to protect others, often at great personal costs to themselves."

Hader stated that Veterans Day is a day when the country stops to say thank you, not only with words, but also with appreciation and compassion.

He asked the students in attendance to reflect on why they were in the gym on Tuesday.

"The freedoms that we enjoy, every single day; our education, the opportunities we have, even this assembly, are all because of the sacrifice that others have made on our behalf," said Hader.

He also told the students that if they are uncertain of what they want to do with their lives after high school, there are many things worse than joining the military.

"You may find what you want to do the rest of your life," said

(Please turn to Page 8)

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# Prairie Doc

## Understanding Macular Degeneration: The Importance of Early Detection and Specialized Care

By: Jed Assam, MD, Founder and Vitreoretinal Surgeon, VRA Vision

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is one of the leading causes of vision loss among adults over 65. This condition affects the back of the eye where light is processed by macula. The macula is the part of the retina providing sharp, detailed vision needed for reading, driving, and recognizing faces. Two categories of macular degeneration are "dry" and "wet". This article will focus on dry macular degeneration and therapy options to help slow vision loss from it.

**Early Signs and Symptoms:** Macular degeneration begins silently. Early symptoms may include mild blurring, difficulty seeing in low light, or the appearance of wavy or distorted lines. Later on, a dark or empty spot near the center of the vision can develop. In advanced stages, central vision may be lost entirely. Regular eye exams are crucial because early AMD can be detected during a dilated retinal examination or with specialized imaging.

**Impact and Risk Factors:** A few major risk factors include age, family history, current smoking, and genetics. Individuals with a family history of AMD should be especially vigilant about screening.

**The Importance of Eye Exams and Specialist Care:** Routine eye exams with an optometrist or general ophthalmologist are the first line of defense in identifying AMD. However, once AMD is suspected or diagnosed, referral to a retina specialist is essential. Retina specialists undergo additional years of fellowship training specifically in identifying and treating diseases of the retina and macula. This specialized expertise allows for detailed diagnostic imaging, tailored treatment plans, and access to the latest clinical advances in emerging therapies for AMD.

**Current Treatments and New Technologies for Dry AMD:** For patients with intermediate dry AMD, one of the most promising new therapies involves photobiomodulation (PBM) using the Valeda Light Delivery System, an FDA-authorized device. PBM works by exposing the retina to specific wavelengths of light that stimulate the mitochondria—the "powerhouses" of our cells. By energizing these tiny structures, PBM helps improve cellular metabolism and reduce oxidative stress thought to have a role in slowing AMD.

**Clinical trials, including the LIGHTSITE III and LIGHTSITE IIIB, have shown that PBM can lead to improved visual function and contrast sensitivity in patients with intermediate AMD. These studies support PBM as a safe, non-invasive treatment option for eligible patients.**

In addition, there are FDA-approved injections for geographic atrophy, a more advanced stage of dry AMD. These treatments aim to slow progression and preserve remaining vision, marking a major milestone for patients who previously had limited options.

For AMD that has advanced beyond the ability to benefit from the therapies mentioned there are still options. Many vision aids and tools are available today that can help optimize remaining vision. Getting a referral to a Low Vision specialist is another step available to help individuals affected by advanced AMD.

**Treating Early to Protect Vision:** Early identification and intervention is key. Just like controlling blood pressure or diabetes early to prevent complications later on, addressing macular degeneration before it becomes advanced can make a significant difference in the long run. Current therapy slows down AMD to keep vision better for longer, but does not completely stop or reverse dry AMD. Regular follow-ups and referral to a retina specialist can ensure timely diagnosis, access to cutting-edge treatments, and personalized care to preserve sight for as long as possible.

*Dr. Jed Assam is a board-certified, fellowship-trained retina specialist dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of AMD along with other macular and retinal disorders. He is the founder of VRA Vision in Sioux Falls, a Center for Excellence in Macular Degeneration, and is passionate about patient education and early intervention to prevent vision loss. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).*

## All things Nebraska State climate report says what we already know: it's getting hotter

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner

As I sit down to write this column, my tomatoes have finally met with a hard freeze and the cannas we plant in the local park are giving up their red-topped glory.

It was one, long fall in my section of southeast Nebraska, with lots of warm days and only recently, a couple of cold snaps. After a killing frost finally arrived here, temperatures in mid-November again rebounded into the 60s and lower 70s. It all makes you wonder: what is going on?

The recent update of the State Climate Assessment gave us some idea.

The Assessment, funded by the Nebraska Legislature and compiled by 20-some climate experts, confirms that the state has gotten warmer, particularly in the fall, and that extreme weather events, like the record-worst wildfires of 2012, the bomb cyclone floods of 2019, and the damaging 90 mph winds that hit eastern Nebraska in August, are becoming more frequent and more devastating.

Checked the price of your homeowners or farm insurance? The average cost of homeowners insurance in Nebraska has more than doubled during the past decade. That's the biggest increase in the nation.

"Nebraska stands at a crossroads of experiencing and addressing the challenges climate change brings," begins the 312-page state climate report, which was issued in September by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Now, I enjoy a warm afternoon like the next guy, and there's a lot of outdoor painting and golf that can be done into November with this kind of weather, but the climate report included some warnings:

– higher temperatures, longer growing seasons and more intense droughts will put stress on the state's water resources.

– a hotter climate might mean farmers will have to shift to more resilient crops and livestock producers might need to look at species better adapted to warmer weather.

How much warmer might it get? The report predicts that Nebraska's climate is destined to be more like Oklahoma's by 2050, with average temperatures 5 to 6 degrees higher compared to 1951-2014.

The number of hot days, with temperatures of 90 and hotter, will increase two to four times, the report stated, while extremely warm nights of 70 degrees or more could be 10 times more frequent.

Time to check the air conditioning, eh?

Climate change is a touchy subject. But the climatologists and others who put together the plan say there's no doubt that the climate is changing, and changing more rapidly than can be attributed to natural changes.

"Reputable climate scientists worldwide continue to be in near unanimous agreement (greater than

99%) that human influences have warmed the atmosphere, oceans and land," the state report stated.

The report also includes some "options and opportunities" to address climate change. Things like better management of groundwater pumping and recharge, and using more regenerative agriculture techniques to better conserve water. Planting more native landscape grasses and plants that require less irrigation. And better preparation to mitigate flooding, and conservation of water to carry through droughts.

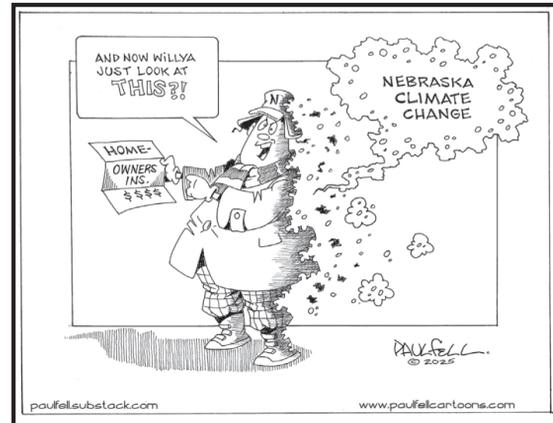
And there was a controversial suggestion – utilize more renewable energy sources, like solar and wind, and less fossil fuels to reduce carbon emissions and slow warming.

One of the state's leading landowners, Bill Gates, who owns several Nebraska farms, recently stated that climate change won't destroy civilization.

But he says it still is a very big problem that will have serious consequences, particularly in poor countries and areas that aren't preparing for it.

The new state climate plan said much the same.

*Paul Hammel has covered the Nebraska state government and the state for decades. Prior to his retirement, he was 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: NORTH & SOUTH POLES

### ACROSS

- 1. Impromptu (2 words)
- 6. Chop
- 9. Little bit, in Cancun
- 13. Luffa, alt. sp.
- 14. The day before
- 15. Rn, a health hazard
- 16. Surveyor's maps
- 17. Black gunk
- 18. Run off, as in couple
- 19. \*Mount \_\_\_\_\_, Earth's southernmost active volcano
- 21. \*Antarctica - world's largest

### DOWN

- 1. Mountain peak
- 2. Pineapple producer
- 3. Gray-haired
- 4. As a rule
- 5. The Clash: "Rock the \_\_\_\_\_"
- 6. Answer to "Shall we?"
- 7. Female gametes
- 8. Lost, in Marseille
- 9. Opposite of sun-kissed
- 10. Deodorant's target
- 11. Native Egyptian, in Roman times
- 12. \*How many sunsets in a year on either pole?
- 15. Close again, as in envelope
- 20. Yards and miles, e.g.
- 22. "Slippery" tree
- 24. Quick and clever reply
- 25. \*North Pole "base"
- 26. Fraction, e.g.
- 27. Beastly person
- 29. Front of the head
- 31. Not top-shelf
- 32. Part of archipelago
- 33. Sound like Secretariat
- 34. Clear the whiteboard
- 36. Ancient Briton
- 38. Dog command
- 42. Supercharger
- 45. Glen Powell's 2023 role, pl. (2 words)
- 49. Cuban dance step
- 51. Half-shell delicacy
- 54. English homework
- 56. Chopin's composition
- 57. Ad jingle, e.g.
- 58. Shakira's don't lie
- 59. Milo's adventurous canine friend
- 60. Giant kettles
- 61. Change for a five
- 62. Glacier's deposit
- 63. \*Midnight \_\_\_\_\_, opposite of polar night
- 65. Old-fashioned "before"
- 67. Aptitude test, acr.

## CROSSWORD

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		57	58	59					60				61	62
63								64	65			66		67
68								69				70		
71								72				73		

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**Monday:** 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM • **Tuesday:** 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
**Wednesday:** 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM • **Thursday:** 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
**Friday:** 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Unless we have ballgames to cover or a personal event to attend we are often in the office after-hours. Call ahead if you want to confirm we will be around.

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## "SEZ-I" LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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



75 Years Ago, November 19, 1950 to November 25, 1950

The American Legion established a new national committee on un-American activities to fight Communism in the United States and urged the State Department to do the same.

The Sheriff's Department in Des Moines, Iowa, assembled a posse to hunt for a black panther in a residential area north of the city. Residents of the wooded area one mile from the outskirts of Des Moines reported seeing the animal for three days.

Ten Richardson County men left for Omaha to be inducted into the Army. The men included Eugene Lewis, William Martin, Robert Fisher, Donald Mayer, Chester Barker, Dale Hottendorff, Benjamin Braun, Dale Dettman, Donald Hunker and Daniel Thomas.

Hinky Dinky advertised Thanksgiving food specials. Cranberries were just 15 cents per pound, smoked hams were 49 cents per pound, and a ten-pound bag of Idaho Russet potatoes was 49 cents.

The City Council voted to install parking meters in downtown areas as a possible solution to a growing parking problem in the business district. It was estimated that 300 individual meters would be installed on Stone Street and some adjoining side streets.

The Falls City Creamery Company processed over 42,000 turkeys and sent them to areas in New York and Boston for the Thanksgiving season.

Australian Tag Team wrestling was set for the Humboldt Auditorium on Friday, November 24. The main event featured Ernie and Joe Dusek against Bob Geigal and Danny Plechas. Ringside seats were available for purchase at Vertiska Drug Store and A&T for \$1.50.

A movie fashion designer in Hollywood predicted women would soon be wearing longer hair, more sweaters and shorter skirts.

A Thanksgiving dinner and dance was held for the American Legion and its Auxiliary at the Legion Hall. The event was chaired by Bert King, Jr and Mrs. Wm. Milliron and was attended by 250 guests.

The Hotel Weaver Coffee Shop advertised a Thanksgiving Menu featuring homemade pie for 15 cents per slice and roasted turkey, celery dressing, and cranberry jelly for \$1.25.

Wisconsin's week-long deer hunting season ended with 17 hunters dead and 17 more wounded. Nine of the 17 hunters died from fatal heart attacks; the other eight died from gunshot wounds.

A fire caused considerable damage at the One Stop lunchroom at 21st and Stone Street. Mrs. Ira Tudor, owner, said the blaze started in a storage room in the northeast corner of the building. The fire was confined to the storage room and the kitchen. Mrs. Tudor hoped to reopen in a couple of days.

50 Years Ago, November 19, 1975 to November 25, 1975

Dennis Meyer, 32, was presented the 1975 Jaycee Outstanding Young Farmer Award at the annual Farmer-Merchant Banquet. Dennis, along with his father Henry, farmed 1,400 acres of which 200 was pasture. The pair fed roughly 400-500 head of cattle.

Charles Ebel was the top corn yield producer; Carl Arnold had the top soybean yield, and Charles Arnold topped the county producers in grain sorghum yield.

The Scarlet and Cream singers from the University of Nebraska performed for 1,350 people at the Farmer-Merchant Banquet.

According to evidence released by the Senate Intelligence Committee, the FBI conducted a six-year campaign to destroy Martin Luther King Jr. as a leader of the civil rights movement. Evidence showed the FBI bugged hotel rooms and attempted to blackmail the activist.

The Village Market in Verdon advertised pork chops for \$1.59 per pound, Golden Delicious apples for 15 for \$1.00, and Cool Whip for 65 cents.

Mrs. Clifford Elwonger and Everett Loper reached the six-gallon plateau in blood contributions at the Red Cross Bloodmobile stop in Falls City.

The Falls City Tiger basketball team boasted 17 players for coach Dennis Crawford and assistant Mike Castle. Six lettermen returned, including Bob Ewing, Bill Jahn, Alan Koenig, Gary Gratz, Skip Lewis and Jim Murphy.

The Pleasantview Suzies' home extension club met at the home of Mrs. Ron Dodds. Linda Ebel, as a guest, was in attendance.

One Stop advertised nightly specials, except on Sunday, for \$1.50.

The First National Bank of Falls City ran a full-page ad to announce an open house showcasing the newly remodeled building. The open house boasted prizes that included a microwave, a toaster oven, a digital clock, a three-piece radio, a portable TV, and more. Patrons also had the opportunity to meet C.W. McCall of Old Home Bread fame. Over 2,500 locals attended the festivities.

Twenty-five wrestlers were ready to hit the mats for coach Larry Munn and assistant Marshall Nelson.

Ventriloquist Grover Ruwe and his puppets, Sunshine and Louie, performed at Rulo's Bicentennial program. Also pictured was County Bicentennial Chairman Heasty Reesman presenting the Bicentennial Community plaque to Mrs. Doshia Brown and Mrs. Ethil Liberty.

Marvin Carpenter, an Air Force Reserve Airman, graduated from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

Mrs. Dianne Dickson, an elementary music teacher at Falls City Public School, was named a Young Career Woman by the Falls City Business and Professional Women's Club of Falls City.

Frank's Jewelry advertised a NOVUS watch for sale at \$89.00 or more.

Sheets Pharmacy advertised Christmas gifts for her, him and teens. The half-page ad promoted perfume, colognes, cameras, jewelry boxes and much more.

25 Years Ago, November 19, 2000, to November 25, 2000

Thanks to the effort of the Falls City Area Ministerial Association and volunteers, Thanksgiving for 40 families in Falls City and Richardson County was a whole lot brighter. Each box of food contained a Mickelberry ham, fresh fruit, canned and boxed food and more.

The Lydia Bruun Woods Memorial Library announced the addition of internet access, made possible by grants from the federal Library Services and Technology Act.

Josh Rhodd scored seven points and Brian Lemerond added six as Peru State defeated Hastings College 66-64. The pair of former Irish athletes were in the Bobcat starting five. "The Grinch" and "Little Nicky" played at the Arrow Twin Theatres in Hiawatha.

The Verdon Neighborhood Club met with Evelyn Auxier for lunch at noon. Thelma Swisgood, president, called the meeting to order.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at Staff Source, 1423 Harlin Street. The new business provided opportunities for RN's, LPN's and CNA's.

The Falls City Area Jaycees advertised the sale of Christmas Trees in the Sun Mart parking lot. The fresh-cut Scotch, White and Austrian Pine trees came from the Maze Tree Farm.

A land auction for the Marguerite Bachman Estate included a 348.5-acre tract and a 265.3-acre tract. Ryan Patton purchased one tract for \$605,000, while Sax & Fox Nation of Missouri purchased the other for \$515,000.

A fire wiped out Kelly's Café in Auburn. Firefighters from six towns battled the blaze, which saved a 17-year-old who lived below the café and four people in the neighboring Grand Central Hotel.

Allison Weaver was named to the Omaha World-Herald Class D1 All-State Volleyball First Team, and Branden Bonk was named the Class D1 Defensive Football Player of the Year.

Peru State students inducted into the national education honorary Kappa Delta Pi included Janelle Haveman, Allison Davis, Jessica Sneathen, and Ryan Zeigler.

Falls City Middle School Students of the Month included Ashton Lampe, Mark Dunn and Tylen Windle.

## Richardson Co. House of Hope banquet highlights message of recovery and hope

(Continued from Page 1)

addiction in our community," Huddleston said.

She reminded the audience that the effort grew out of local pastors doing jail ministry and outreach workers seeing more people with nowhere safe to go.

"We were formed out of a concern and compassion from a couple of pastors that started a jail ministry and a new outreach worker seeing an uptick in vulnerable individuals with nowhere to go to stay safe," she said.

Huddleston noted that in November 2022 the group held its first fundraiser banquet, then spent the next several years securing support from churches, businesses and individuals. This year, she said, has been a turning point.

"In 2025, we purchased a house. And in March of 2025, we hired a house manager," Huddleston told guests the next goal is a second house dedicated to men.

"As we move forward, please take this message with you," she said. "When a person's not making it financially or they can't find a place to stay or they're fleeing abuse, those are all things that can lead to levels of stress that we can't even imagine. Where we can shut off that movie or get off that roller coaster, their horror story goes on. That's why we do what we do and why your support is so important."

The evening's featured speaker was author and former Falls City resident Lori Gottula. She explained that the first part of her testimony is hard to hear but necessary to understand what addiction can do.

"I titled my book 'Broken and Chained' because I was broken and chained," she said. "A chain is anything that keeps us from living our best lives in God. My chains were addictions to prescription drugs, alcohol, food and codependent relationships."

Gottula told the audience she grew up an active church kid in Auburn, then became a teacher, writer and small business owner. On the outside, she said, she looked like a successful wife, mother and community leader.

"Behind closed doors, I was taking medication that steals your soul so gradually, you have no idea anything is even happening to you," she said.

She described years of drinking and taking hydrocodone for back pain, then adding medications for anxiety and sleep. The combination led to dangerous episodes where she would stop breathing.

"My lungs flatlined," she said of one night at home. "I ran into the living room because I was panicking and I couldn't draw any air in, and my lungs sounded like the screeching of a pinched balloon."

She said that didn't stop her from her addiction. It was a broken friendship and deep depression left her considering ending her life.

"I saw no way to fix this," Gottula said. She gathered her prescription bottle and alcohol, walked into the bathroom and looked in the mirror. "I saw my daughter's eyes in mine. How

could I do this to her?"

Instead of ending her life, she checked into a detox facility.

"I'm telling you this so that you understand not only what I went through and how far God has brought me, but so you understand what some of the women in the House of Hope will be coming away from," she said.

She described violent physical withdrawal, sleepless nights and mental pain she said was "torture." When she returned home, she eased herself off her medication and fought cravings and anxiety until she reached a breaking point in her kitchen.

"There in my kitchen, I did the one thing that I hadn't done in a really long time," she said. "I slid down onto my knees and I talked to God in quiet desperation for the strength to make it through the next four minutes."

She said a verse came to mind, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," and she chose not to take the next pain pill.

"There is no way that I could have done that on my own without the power of God," she told the audience.

She also encouraged guests to think about their own "chains," whether addiction, depression, anxiety or something else.

"We don't talk about our chains because we want everybody to think that our lives are comprised of our Facebook posts," she said. "So we put on our masks when we leave our houses, and then we wonder why we're exhausted at the end of the day."

She credited simple habits for helping her heal.

"Nature is God's antidepressant. Movement is his painkiller," she said. "If anxiety and depression are part of your chains, get outside and move. I cannot tell you what a difference it will make."

Today, Gottula told the crowd, she is living proof that recovery is possible.

"I have now been clean

and sober for 13 years and I am all in on my walk with God and I am never going back," she said, drawing sustained applause.

She closed by reminding guests that their support for the House of Hope may help someone else find that same freedom.

"If you're still breathing, God's not done," she said. "He has a plan for your life. And God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called and I am living proof."

After her testimony, Gottula performed the worship song "O Praise the Name" in American Sign Language.

Organizers thanked six congregations that have committed regular support, including Bethel Global Methodist Church near Falls City, Good News Assembly of God in Falls City, St. Peter Lutheran Church and Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, as well as Community Medical Center and the Richardson Foundation, which have both provided significant financial help.

According to the House of Hope website, additional donors include local banks, businesses and civic groups that have sponsored events or given toward the mortgage and furnishings for the home.

Huddleston told banquet guests that continued fundraisers, grant applications and new partnerships will be essential as the board looks ahead to operating the current women's home and planning a future house for men.

"We couldn't be here without you," she said. "That's why your support is so important."

For more information about the Richardson County House of Hope, including ways to donate or volunteer, you can visit the organization's website (<https://rc-hoh.org>) or follow its social media updates.

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6:00-9:00PM  
TO WISH HIM  
A HAPPY 70TH  
BIRTHDAY

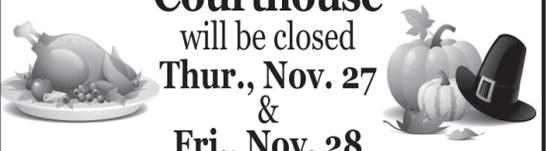


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THE AMERICAN LEGION IS A  
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**The Richardson County  
Courthouse**  
will be closed  
**Thur., Nov. 27**  
&  
**Fri., Nov. 28**  
in observance of Thanksgiving



SOCIETY

Stella Community Church Circle

Elizabeth S Ketner, secretary

The Stella Community Church Circle met in the church's basement on October 28, 2025. Co-president Vicki Beilke called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Pastor John States gave an opening prayer. Mrs. Beilke gave a devotion titled "Floods of Life". The group sang "Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus". Eleven members answered roll call with a verse on trust.

Secretary Elizabeth Ketner read the minutes of the September 23, 2025 meeting. They were approved with the notation that the sanctuary piano needed tuned, and the basement piano would also be tuned, although it was not as bad.

Donna Monnette gave the treasurer's report. A bill was presented by Mrs. Beilke to pay for Christmas boxes, and two coffee pots. It was decided to re-pay the Mission fund, which had donated to pay the Tea and Guest Day speaker. Money was also to be given to Pastor States for Pastor Appreciation month and the Hager funeral. Cathy Donahoe made a motion to allow all the bills, and the motion was seconded by Dot Kelsay. All voted Aye.

Old business- The large print bibles have been received and paid for by a donor. They will be placed around the sanctuary. The basement stool did not need to be replaced, but a grab bar was installed for safety. No news about the repairs on the parsonage. Of the shoe boxes received, twenty-six have not been picked up by churchgoers. It was decided that various Circle members; Mrs Beilke, Mrs States, Mrs Kelsay, Mrs Ketner, Mrs Donahoe, Mrs Monnette, Mrs Bredemeier, and Ms Gould, would complete filling them. Mrs. States



Terri Hogue, center, received the Esther Pilster Classroom Project Award from the Nebraska Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. She is pictured with June Bowers, left, and Sherry Maddox-Kermoade, right. The award is funded through the Esther Pilster Endowment Fund, which was established to encourage and support Nebraska educators in developing projects of excellence. The Classroom Project Award provides funds for projects that enhance education and promote the seven purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma. Projects must reflect the ideals of the organization, involve educational innovation, and demonstrate careful planning. Funds are intended to assist with educational projects and may not be used for salaries. Notification of award recipients is made within one month following the selection, and recipients may receive the award once per project.

SOCIETY

Falls City Does Drove #56

On Monday, November 10th, 2025 Falls City Does Drove #56, NE met at the Elks Lodge.

The meeting was called to order by President Dessie Scholl. The Opening Ceremony was held followed by the Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken by Secretary-treasurer Linda Frost.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read. Dessie reported for benevolence and told about the Falls City Public School eighth grade fundraiser. They are collecting used shoes any size in good condition and can be left at the Hometown Floral store or given to students to get to the school. This is a project towards their Junior-Senior Prom when they are juniors in high school. Nancy McKim had sent birthday and anniversary cards. Linda read communications.

A new member application was read and voted on. Al-lisa Wickham will be initiated at the January meeting.

Dessie reported the pecan and other nut sales are going well. The Does will be selling the nuts at the annual Christmas Craft sale on Saturday, November 29th and are also available at Hometown Floral or any Doe.

Nancy read the slate of officers nominated for the new year. Present officers will remain in their positions for another year.

The Drove By-Laws will be reviewed by the Judiciary Committee Mary Ann Wenz and Nancy McKim.

The next gathering will be our Christmas social on Monday, December 8 at the Swing'n Doors in Rulo. Social hour is at 5:30 followed by the sit down dinner. Members should call Mary Wiltse for reservations and more information.

The coin march was held and happy birthday was sung to Mary. Hostess Nancy served great pumpkin bars with hot coffee on a cold night in a cold atmosphere. She was assisted by absentee member Molly Kirkendall.



Falls City One-Act public performance *When Bad Things Happen to Good Actors*

By Jason Pizzarello and Ian McWethy

Join the FCHS One Act Team on Saturday, November 22 and Sunday, November 23 for their home performance. The students will attempt to perform *The Wizard of Oz*, but sadly, the performance does not go as planned. Disaster turns humorous as lines are forgotten, props are misplaced, and the alarms continue to go off.

Over 34 cast and crew members are excited to entertain you. The performance is scheduled for Saturday at 7:00 pm and again on Sunday at 2:00 pm. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. The team is directed by Mrs. Kris Simon.

Midwestern communities safely dispose of 18,710 pounds of unwanted Medications at DEA Take Back Day event

Midwestern communities across the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Omaha Field Division safely disposed of 18,710 pounds of unneeded and expired medications, October 25, at the 29th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Nationally, the DEA and its law enforcement partners removed 571,054 pounds of medication at 4,317 collection sites.

More than 125 law enforcement partners in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota and counties in western Illinois joined the DEA in hosting 132 Take Back Day locations.

"Thank you to everyone who took time out of their day to clean out medicine cabinets and drawers of unused and expired medications," DEA Omaha Field Division Special Agent in Charge Dustin Gillespie said. "Each pill, patch and capsule that was dropped off at a Take Back location represents one less temptation for misuse or abuse. We're grateful for your support and hope you will continue to dispose of unneeded medications at year-round collection sites near you."

Since its inception in 2010, more than 20 million pounds of medication have been collected at DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The removal of these medications from homes nationwide helps prevent prescription drug misuse and reduces the potential for accidental overdoses and poisonings.

For those unable to participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, there are nearly 16,500 pharmacies, hospitals and businesses, in addition to numerous police departments, that offer safe medication disposal year-round. For information on permanent drop-off locations, please visit DEA's Every Day is Take Back Day website.

Complete results for DEA's fall National Prescription Drug Take Back Day are available at [www.dea.gov/TakeBackDay](http://www.dea.gov/TakeBackDay).

**SALEM COMMUNITY HALL**  **SATURDAY, NOV 22 & SUNDAY, NOV. 23 8:00-12:30PM**

**BREAKFAST**

JOIN US FOR SAUSAGE, EGGS, BREAKFAST BURRITOS & GRAVY, COFFEE, HOT CHOCOLATE & JUICE & CINNAMON ROLLS  
FREE WILL DONATION-PROCEEDS GO TO FUND SALEM COMMUNITY HALL  
All are welcome! - Join us Hunters!

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**SATURDAYS**  
5pm - 10pm

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**\$2000**

**CASH GIVEAWAY**

**THURSDAY**  
4pm - 8pm  
November 27

**\$12,000**

**HOT WHEEL**  
CASH AND FREE PLAY  
HOT SEATS

**TUESDAYS**  
4pm - 8pm



**Sax & Fox**

**CLAW MACHINE**

**TUESDAYS**  
10am - 3pm

**Sax & Fox**  
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Visit the Winner's Club for Details. Must be 21 years of age.

2026 National Civics Bee® essay application portal now open for Nebraska middle schoolers  
*Calling all middle school students to share their ideas, showcase their civics knowledge, engage in their communities, and compete for prizes and recognition.*

Middle school students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade from public, private, charter, and home schools across Nebraska are invited to apply for the 2026 National Civics Bee, a nonpartisan competition created and organized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Students begin by submitting a four-paragraph essay proposing ideas to improve their communities, and the top scoring essay finalists will be invited to a live quiz competition in their state.

Finalists who advance to live quiz competitions at the regional, state, and national levels have the chance to win prizes and represent their communities. They also strengthen their civics, writing, and public speaking skills, and form friendships with other young leaders along the way.

The first-place winner of the Nebraska State Finals in June will earn a trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Championship in Fall 2026. Finalists who advance to the National Championship will compete for cash prizes, national recognition and a \$100,000 529 education savings plan contribution. Thanks to the generous support of the Fisher Global Foundation, the first-place winner in each state may also secure a \$5,000 donation for their school.

Educators, youth leaders, and parents are encouraged to share this opportunity with their middle school students. Educator and student resources are available to help students craft and submit their essays. Access these resources here.

The application portal is open now through February 3, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time. Students can apply here. Students without access to the internet or a computer may submit their applications by mail.

“Every middle school student in Nebraska — whether attending public or parochial school — should apply to compete in the National Civics Bee,” said NE Chamber Foundation President, Tera Norris. “As we prepare to celebrate America’s 250th birthday, there’s no better time to empower the next generation with a deeper understanding of the rights, responsibilities, and values that shape our democracy. This competition not only sharpens students’ civic knowledge but gives them the opportunity to proudly represent their communities and the great state of Nebraska on a national stage.”

“Fostering a deep understanding of civics and government among our young students is critical to the vibrancy of democracy and civic life in America. The National Civics Bee provides a unique platform for them to not only showcase their knowledge but also become active and engaged citizens

of the future,” said Hilary Crow, vice president of civics at the U.S. Chamber Foundation.

For Nebraska companies interested in sponsorship opportunities for the Nebraska State Finals competition, please contact Tera Norris, NE Chamber Foundation President, at [tnorris@nechamber.com](mailto:tnorris@nechamber.com).

For more information about entering the National Civics Bee, visit [national-civicsbee.org](http://national-civicsbee.org). For interview requests or additional information, please contact Tera Norris, NE Chamber Foundation President, at [tnorris@nechamber.com](mailto:tnorris@nechamber.com).

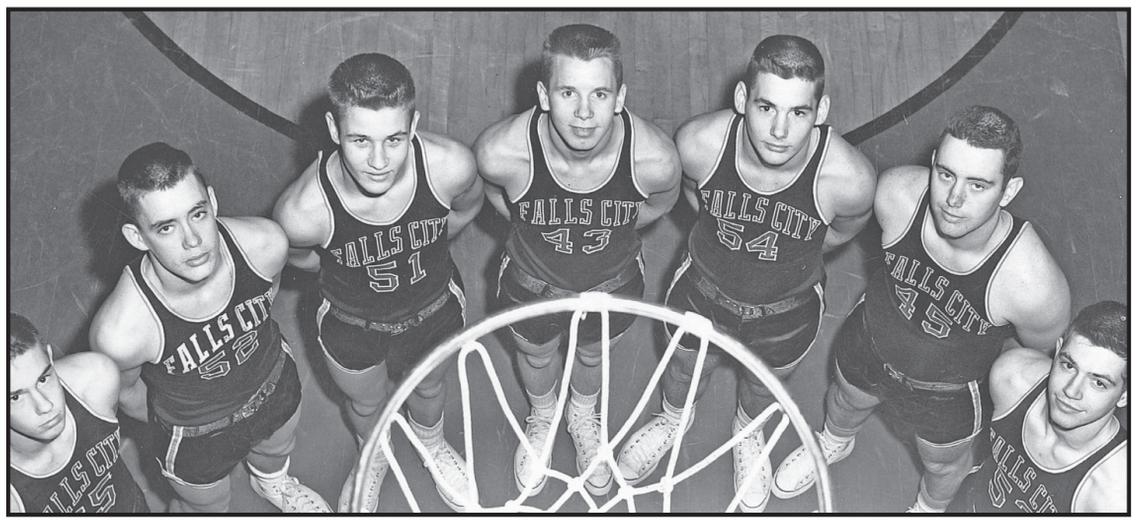
NE Chamber Foundation unveils latest research study -  
 Unlocking Nebraska’s potential: child care as a key to Nebraska’s economic future

The NE Chamber Foundation will release the findings of its newest research initiative: Unlocking Nebraska’s Potential: Child Care as a Key to Nebraska’s Economic Future in a webinar for NE Chamber members, state senators and the media scheduled for November 10th at 11:00 AM CT. Conducted in partnership with First Five Nebraska and the Bureau of Business Research (BBR) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the study provides an in-depth look at how child care access, or lack thereof, is impacting the state’s workforce, economic output, and long-term growth trajectory.

This comprehensive analysis for Nebraska uncovers both the cost of inaction and the significant opportunity for investment in solutions. The findings come at a critical time as state leaders look for ways to support workforce participation and grow Nebraska’s economy.

“The estimated annual economic impact of inadequate child care in Nebraska is \$1.74 billion in business output and \$1.61 billion in lost labor income,” said First Five Nebraska Director Jason Prokop. “We found that the economic impact of inadequate child care in Nebraska doubled since our previous Bottom Line report in 2020. This shows huge implications as we work to increase child care access, provide greater support to working families, and grow our economy.”

FROM THE JOURNAL ARCHIVES



Who’s in this week’s photo? We’re asking for your help in solving the mystery each week of our thousands of photos. If you know who is pictured, please email us at [brian@fcjournal.net](mailto:brian@fcjournal.net) or [nikki@fcjournal.net](mailto:nikki@fcjournal.net) and look in an upcoming issue or our Facebook page for answers.

Silent Movie Night is this Saturday at the Du Bois ZCBI Czech Hall

By Charla Sitzman

Don’t say you didn’t know it was happening. I’m here to tell you that there will be silent movies at the DuBois ZCBI Czech Hall on Saturday, November 15 at 7 pm.

It will be super special because Marty Mincer, acclaimed ragtime pianist, will be playing with them. If you haven’t heard him, he’s terrific. His music is not random; it is carefully

“Child care is no longer just a family issue but a workforce and economic imperative,” said Tera Norris, President of the NE Chamber Foundation. “If Nebraska wants to stay competitive and attract working families, we must create a system where high-quality child care is accessible, affordable, and reliable. This study makes it clear: strategic action now will pay dividends for generations.”

The study will be unveiled during a statewide webinar, which will highlight economic impacts, examples of successful models from other states, and actionable policy recommendations tailored to Nebraska’s needs.

Key findings from the study include:

- \$1.74 billion in lost business output and \$1.61 billion in lost labor income annually due to inadequate access to child care, more than double the estimated impact in 2020.
- More than 6,800 jobs lost across the Nebraska economy as a result of child care-related workforce disruptions.
- Center-based child care costs range from \$9,000–\$15,000 per child annually, placing significant financial strain on families.
- Nebraska’s high labor force participation rate and strong birth rate signal a growing demand for accessible care, placing the state at a pivotal moment for investment.
- Peer states (including Michigan, Iowa, and Colorado) have implemented public-private partnership models, from cost-sharing initiatives to employer-supported child care facilities, with measurable success.
- The report underscores the need for better data infrastructure to assess gaps, track progress, and inform effective policymaking.

To register and receive the webinar link, please contact Tera Norris at [tnorris@nechamber.com](mailto:tnorris@nechamber.com).

synchronized to the action on the screen.

One of the movies will be a Harold Lloyd movie that is 100 years old. It’s called “Get Out and Get Under” and it’s about a young man and his beloved Model T coup. Marty has played Silent Movie night before and we’ve asked for this movie each time. It is clever. Each and every time, the audience laughed, caught their collective breath, exclaimed, and clapped. And Marty Mincer played piano just like in the old days, shifting gears as often as the car.

On the upcoming night, there will be a second movie. Marty hasn’t decided which one, but it will star Buster Keaton. Marty Mincer comes to us from Hamburg, Iowa. He will bring a big smile, his own piano, and sparkly fun like you don’t get watching movies on television.

The evening of fun is co-sponsored by the Pawnee County Arts Council and the Pawnee County Promotional Network, which runs the Harold Lloyd Museum in Burchard.

Many people know that Harold Lloyd was born in Burchard. Few know

anything else. Did you know that the Lloyd family also lived in Pawnee City and in Humboldt? Harold wrote about the family moving from place to place in his autobiography. “I was just a plain, freckled, ornery American kid,” he wrote. “My folks were just folks. We weren’t any different from other folks in Nebraska except that we moved oftener than any other family in the state. We lived in little towns, in small frame houses, and our existence followed the ordinary course of families of our class in that location.” He said his father “an itchy foot” and changed his occupation with every move.

A Buster Keaton movie

will also be featured. He was only two years younger than Harold Lloyd, born in 1893 and not so far from here. If you get on Highway 75 and drive south for three hours, down south of Topeka, you will get to Piqua, Kansas. That’s the birthplace of Buster Keaton.

Admission is free. Bring yourself, bring your kids, and bring your own smile to the silent movie night on Saturday, November 15. There’s more to life around here than Netflix, the Hallmark Channel, and YouTube.

The ZCBI Czech Hall is in rural Du Bois, a mile north of town and a half mile west. The address is 62728 706 Road, Du Bois.

**SATURDAY NIGHT**  
**November 22, 2025, 7 pm**

**SILENT MOVIE NIGHT WITH PIANIST MARTY MINCER!**

ZCBI HALL  
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 1-mile north, 1/2 mile west of Du Bois, NE

Free Admission

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## More Bobcat greats join Hall of Fame

Nearly 180 alumni, family, and friends gathered in the Student Center October 24 to recognize the 2025 Peru State College Athletic Hall of Fame honorees.

The 33rd Hall of Fame Class included individuals Mike Harmon (Wood River, Ill.), Cindy Plantenga Hoffman (Ashland), Ron Shaneyfelt (Omaha), and the late Mark Williams (Aurora). Also inducted were the coaches and harriers from the 1967-71 cross country teams and the coaches and players from the 1989 football team.

Harmon, a 1966 graduate, remains the career rebounding leader in the Bobcat record books with 979 boards. After his senior season, he was named as a NAIA honorable mention All-American. A 1982 graduate, Hoffman was the first female athletic trainer at Peru State and perhaps the first in the state. She has had a long tenure of service to the College and owns Rixstine Recognition in Lincoln with her husband Tim.

An award-winning kicker, Shaneyfelt still holds many Bobcat kicking records. By the end of his football career, the 1992 graduate was named three times as a First Team All-American. Considered as one of most dangerous dual-threat baseball players in PSC history, Williams was a four-year starter and earned post-season recognition each of the four years he played at PSC. The 1987 graduate then spent 27 years with the Nebraska State Patrol while rising to the rank of captain.

Each of the individuals thanked those who helped make their selection happen and all had a common theme which they shared: high regards for the education and support they received while at Peru State.

The 1967-71 men's cross country teams were part of a powerhouse program developed by PSC Hall of Fame coaches Dr. James Pilkington and Jack McIntire. All five squads competed in the national championships with the first four teams winning the NAIA District 11 (Nebraska small colleges) championships. The 1967 team finished seventh in the national meet while the 1968 team finished 11th.

Six of the team members attended the Hall of Fame with Ron Jones (Auburn) providing some updates about the teams. Also recognized were Van Allen (Nemaha), Dave Hillman (Elkhorn), Jerry Stukenholtz (Nebraska City), Daniel Trout (Lincoln),

and Ron Uher (Wilber).

The 1989 football team was the first to qualify for the NAIA national playoffs. The Bobcats compiled an 8-2 record and set the stage for Peru State's one and only national championship in any sport the following season. The team finished ranked sixth in the final poll.

Coach Tom Shea (West Union, Iowa) spoke on behalf of the team and coaches — many of whom were in attendance Friday evening. Other coaches in attendance were Blake Faulkner (Oxford, Ohio) and Paul Wyczawski (Haniska, Minn.). Players in attendance were Dave Addison (St. Joseph, Mo.), Aaron Bailey (Omaha), Tim Bowen (Bellevue), Cory Catterson (Tucson, Ariz.), Mark Fritch (Nebraska City), Dan Gauchat (Nebraska City), Scott Gerdes (Omaha), Bob Hansen (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Matt Hug (Auburn), Scott Jones (Aurora), Kory Lind (Nebraska City), Sam Pfeifer (Lead Hill, Ark.), Roger Pokorney (Whiteland, Ind.), Steve Rasmussen (Wichita, Kan.), Kevin Schuelke (Greenwood), Jason Seymour (Walnut Grove, Mo.), Chuck Trom (Andover, Minn.), Ron Shaneyfelt (Omaha), Tony Uhlir (Sidney), and Jim Wenzl (Sterling).

In addition to the Friday night banquet, the inductees were recognized at halftime of the Bobcat football game with Graceland. Several additional football players were in attendance including Terry Clark (Falls City), Delyn Feighner (Gretna), Dave Hoatson (North Platte), Todd Klopfenstein (Seward), Ryan Rischling (Fremont), Bryan Sullivan (Roca), Scott Sullivan (North Bend), and Sam Walkup (Princeton, Mo.).

The Peru State Hall of Fame Gallery is located on the second floor of the Al Wheeler Activity Center.

During the weekend, members of the 1990 championship football team gathered to watch the game film of their win over Westminster (Pa.).

The events of the weekend were under the direction of the Peru State College Foundation and were sponsored in part by Bridges Trust of Omaha, Jerry and Christina Joy (Stella), Kent Propst (Bennet), Paul and Arlene Fell (Lincoln), Jeff Greenwald (Lincoln), Al and Kristen Urwin (La Vista), and Bob and Jody Bowman (Platts-mouth).

To make a donation to the PSC Foundation, go to: <https://alumni.peru.edu/g/standard-giving-form>

## Ultimately, Lady Irish fall short of goals

To look at the Sacred Heart Irish volleyball team's final record wouldn't do the squad justice. At 18-16, the Irish fell one match short of a trip to the NSAA State Tournament in Lincoln, an objective it hasn't reached since the 2022 season. However, when you dig deeper, you will see that Sacred Heart only lost four matches to teams in Class D2. The strength of the Irish schedule prepares them for the tough, late-season clashes.

Although the Irish haven't punched their ticket to the state event for three seasons, the expectations of the coaches and players haven't wavered.

"I think my expectations always remain the same, to get to state, compete," said Head Coach Emma Ebel. "If you don't set the standard, it can never be met."

Ebel stated the 2-7 start wasn't easy and had some of the girls questioning themselves.

"I'm extremely proud of them," said Ebel. "I think people look at our record and write us off, but we were part of the top 14 teams in the state. We play a hard calendar, and they could've let that define them, but they didn't."

After the slow start, SH rallied to win eight consecutive contests and finished the year at 16-9 after a loss to HTRS on September 13.

Coach Ebel said that primarily, the team needs to focus on cutting down errors to become more successful.

"So, working to play smart ball in moments of competition is going to be my primary goal," said Ebel. "We will return all but one, and that will be key for us."

Coach Ebel and the Lady Irish have the luxury of only losing one senior to graduation. Gone will be senior setter Daycee Witt. Witt was second on the team with 164 kills, she led the squad with 54 aces serves and 349 assists, while finishing second with 247 digs.

As a unit, the Irish finished with 765 kills on 2665 attempts for a .071 hitting percentage.

Hallie Jones led the Irish with 196 kills on 629 tries. Dorothy Crouse added 140 kills, Ryann Westengaard had 89, and Kemper Sipple finished with 81.

Isabelle Nussbaum had a team-best 28 blocks, while Westengaard added 24, and Sipple finished with 14. Crouse led the way with 306 digs, Emersyn Courtney added 273, and Westengaard finished the year with 159. Behind Witt, Bailey Lemerond added 263 assists.

Coach Ebel acknowledged that while the goals may not have been met, she was still proud of the team overall.

"We had a lot of kids grow individually before we ever grew as a team, and that was fun for me to watch," stressed Ebel. "We were fairly varsity inexperienced, and so it was about learning how to compete with confidence also."

Ebel said seeing how the girls grew as teammates and friends was also an important aspect of the season.

"Those are the moments that mean so much more than wins and losses," said Ebel. "When they leave me, I hope they can look back and say one, I cared, and two, they were a better person because of being with me, whether I pushed them or they experienced personal growth."

The Irish season ended in a three-set loss in the district final to eventual Class D2 runner-up Cambridge.

## Lady Tigers taking steps

The Falls City Lady Tiger volleyball team wrapped up a successful season, ending one game below .500 at 14-15. The season was full of ups and downs, as FC had a season-best four-game winning streak in October and suffered a four-game losing streak at the end of September. Falls City took an 18-13 Louisville Lions to five sets to end the regular season and gave Fort Calhoun all it could handle in a four-set loss in the first round of the Class C1-1 subdistrict in Omaha.

The team also celebrated a couple of milestones: Head Coach Allison Haines earned her 100th career coaching victory, and junior Gabi Young passed the 1,000-dig plateau.

"This year was definitely a step in a positive direction," said Coach Haines. "We ended the season 14-15. Anytime a team ends under .500, the athletes and coaches are disappointed, but I think our young team made huge strides this year."

Haines is referring to the fact that underclassmen made up a large part of the team this fall, with three upperclassmen on the squad and five freshmen playing in the varsity rotation.

"The younger players had growing pains when it came to tough game situations and taking losses and learning from that situation," said Haines. "My expectations were very high going into the season after having a strong summer showing, but ultimately falling in the first round of sub-districts was not the goal of this team."

Coach Haines stressed the importance of continued growth in the off-season, whether they are involved in winter sports or on a club volleyball team. She also pointed out the difficulties of playing in Class C1 and of being so far from the state's metropolitan areas.

"Our girls have to travel, and many of these athletes and their families have made a commitment to this time and financial sacrifice to grow their volleyball skills," stated Haines. "To be successful in our class, you have to play some sort of club volleyball."

The Tigers will return a bulk of the team next fall; however, they are losing some essential pieces in seniors Ella Glathar and Carlea Dunkhas. Glathar finished the season with 90 kills and a .033 hitting percentage, while Dunkhas added 84 kills and had a .011 hitting percentage.

As a team, FC finished

with a .082 hitting percentage, completing 732 kills on 2873 attempts, with 497 errors.

Three freshmen and a sophomore led the squad in kills. Liv Buckminster hit .262 and had 173 kills, Bella Johansen finished with a .060 hitting percentage with 138 kills, Ashlyn Alexander added 120 kills and had a .039 hitting percentage, while Tessa Gossman finished with a .094 percentage and 119 kills.

"We will have to replace two front row players, but will return seven players in the varsity rotation," said Haines. "These athletes will bring back valuable experience, another summer of weights and the hunger to want to be one of the best teams in our conference and be competitive when sub-districts time rolls around."

The team leaders in serving included Johansen (40 aces), Gabi and Hallie Young (39 aces) and Gossman (35). Buckminster ended the season with 47 blocks, while Gabi Young was the top player with 490 digs. The ball handling duties were split with Leah Goff leading the team with 336 assists, while Gossman added 255.

Coach Haines stressed that the team possesses all the tools necessary to make 2026 a successful season. She was also grateful to have reached her landmark win.

"Getting my 100th win this year was such a great feeling," said Haines. "It was a secret I was keeping, and I really didn't want to share it with anyone until it happened. My road to 100 wins took longer than some other coaches, but I am so proud of all the athletes throughout my seven years that helped me get to this milestone."

## Lady Titans looking for consistency

The HTRS Lady Titans ended the 2025 season with a 15-15 mark, having moved up to Class D1 this fall. HTRS began the year with a bang, beginning the year with a 9-4 mark at the mid-September part of the season. Unfortunately for the Lady Titans, from that point forward, they went 6-11 and ended the season with a three-set loss to Lourdes Central Catholic in the Class D1-1 subdistrict in Nebraska City.

HTRS won a season-best five straight matches from September 13-16, including a win over the Sacred Heart Irish. Unfortunately, two four-game losing streaks followed, effectively sinking the hopes of the Lady Titans.

HTRS ended the 2025 campaign with 649 kills on 2259 attempts with 458 errors for a .085 hitting percentage. The Lady Titans finished with 227 ace serves, 44 blocks, 1104 digs and 586 assists.

Seniors Maddie Bredemeier, Lillian Bowen and Elie Bstandig led HTRS in nearly every category this fall.

Bstandig powered home a team-high 306 kills on 900 attempts for a .212 hitting percentage. Bowen followed

(Continued on Page 8)



### LAND AUCTION

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**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**

# “Veterans Day is not just another day on the calendar”

(Continued from Page 1) Hader. “Even more important, you may find out what you don’t want to do for the rest of your life.”

By choosing to join the military, Hader said, individuals are essentially saying they are going to give up comfort, time, and possibly even their lives for something larger than themselves.

“That kind of selflessness is rare,” stated Hader.

Hader stated that some veterans served during wartime, while others served during peacetime. However, all made the identical promise to protect and defend the United States of America and the Constitution.

Commander Hader told the contingent that while living in 13 states across the country and having had an opportunity to ex-

perience cultures across the world, “If you do not think that you don’t live in the greatest country in the world, try living somewhere else for a couple of years and find out the advantages that we have is a true blessing that we have.”

He closed his remarks by quoting President John F. Kennedy from a speech given in 1963 at the U.S. Naval Academy.

“I can imagine no more rewarding career, and any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, ‘I served in the United States Navy.’”

Hader stated that veterans are not just people we read about in history books; they are all around us. He encouraged those in attendance to say thank you, listen

to veterans’ stories, ask questions, and make sure they know they are appreciated.

Hader and his wife, Julie, moved to Falls City in 2019, where he became the Pastor at Barada and Bethel Global Methodist churches and at St. Peter’s Lutheran church.

The event also featured an invocation and benediction by Pastor Chad Berry, a welcome from Falls City High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Gale Dunkhas and the posting of colors by the Falls City Ceremonial Honor Guard. The celebration also highlighted the combined Falls City Sacred Heart and Falls City High Schools bands and chorus, under the direction of FC Band Director Ally Phillips, SH Music Director Sebastian Boelhower and FC Director of Choirs Alisha Sutton.

Following the morning observance at the high school, blue skies and warm temperatures greeted those who marched and attended the Veterans Day parade on Stone Street.

# Board approves quote for ten light post bases around the Courthouse.

The Richardson County Board of Commissioners held its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2025. Commissioners Karas, Caverzagie, and Campbell answered the roll call.

In new business, County Attorney Samantha Scheitel and Clerk of District Court Pam Scott proposed amendments to an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for child support collection enforcement.

Commissioner Caverzagie made a motion to approve Amendment Two for the Clerk of District Court and Amendment Three for the County Attorney to the grant agreements with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for child support enforcement. The motion was seconded by Karas and passed with a 3-0 vote.

Highway Superintendent Steve Darveau Jr. met with the Board and provided updates on ongoing work throughout the County. He informed the Board that his crew was working on projects they usually try to complete around this time each year. Commissioner Karas made a motion to accept Resolution 2025-2026-15, authorizing the Chairman of the Board to endorse the year-end certification of the County Highway Superintendent Service for 2025, in order to receive an annual incentive remittance

from the State of Nebraska. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Next, Sheriff Rick Hardesty provided the Board with an update on activities at the Law Enforcement Center, reporting that the Jail was currently holding 10 inmates. Hardesty noted that his department has applied for the Drive Sober, Get Pulled Over Grant, which will run from December 12, 2025, to January 1, 2026. Additionally, Hardesty informed the Commissioners that the Sheriff’s Department recently applied for a grant to replace bulletproof vests.

Board member Caverzagie motioned to authorize Sheriff Hardesty to sign and enter into an agreement with the Nebraska State Patrol Network Access and Support Agreement. Commissioner Karas seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.

Caverzagie made a motion to approve a \$9,000 quote from Schawang Masonry, LLC, to install ten bases for light posts around the Courthouse retaining wall. Karas seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

In other news, Jail Supervisor Genevieve Loveless was appointed to the Safety Committee, filling the vacancy caused by Nathan Stewart’s resignation.

The claims were paid, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

# Lady Titans looking for consistency

(Continued from Page 7) with 110 kills, and Eden Duryea added 63.

At the service line, Bowen served 110 points, including a team-best 49 aces. Harlee Hardesty was next with 37 aces and 111 points, while Bstandig finished with 33 aces and 88 points. PJ Howe led the team, serving for 123 points and 31 aces.

At the net, Bstandig paved the way with 24 blocks, while Jazi Frey had 12 and Howe finished with 10. Defensively, Bowen paced the team with 210 digs, Hardesty was next

with 202, Bredemeier added 185, and Howe finished with 184.

Bredemeier dished out a team-leading 271 assists, while Howe was close behind with 262.

Coach Brittany Rogers has the unenviable task of replacing Bstandig, Bredemeier and Bowen. While there are plenty of young athletes ready to step into roles, it will remain difficult to fill their shoes.

Returners who will have the opportunity to make a significant impact next season include Eden Duryea, Makenna Dunlap, Harlee

Hardesty, Jazi Frey and P.J. Howe.

Look for the Lady Titans to remain competitive and continue to grow on the court next fall.

# BUILDING PERMITS

Shawn and London West, 1822 McLean St.; Fence, \$800.00.

Lori Owens, 901 Reavis St.; Roof, \$211.66.

Steve Frederick, 1923 Wilson St.; Replace HVAC \$10,000.00.

Mike Luff, 2207 Schoenheit St.; Front Deck, Back Deck, \$5,000.00.

# SE NE Women in Agriculture evening seminar series postponed

Due to delayed harvest in the area, the Women in Agriculture Evening Seminar Series is being postponed to the evening of Wednesday, February 4, 2026. The three-part program designed to celebrate, connect, and empower women in rural communities will continue, February 16 and conclude on March 10, 2026. The series will be held at The Wayside Event Center, 64480 718 Rd., Stella, NE, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on: Wednesday, February 4, 2026, Monday, February 16, 2026 and Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

Seminar topics will include Crop and Livestock Insurance, Digging into Financial Management and Enterprise Budgeting, featuring an introduction to the Agricultural Budget Calculator, Estate Planning: Getting Started, and Managing Stress – Rural Resiliency, among other topics to be determined by the interest of attendees.

For more information, contact: Ritika Lamichhane, 402-274-4755, rlamichhane3@unl.edu (Nemaha County Extension) or Kaytlyn Kennedy, 402-245-4324, kaytlyn.kennedy@unl.edu (Richardson County Extension)

This series is offered in partnership with the Nebraska Women in Agriculture program (wia.unl.edu) and inspired by Annie’s Project, a nationally recognized program that brings together experts, resources, and peer support to strengthen women’s roles in agriculture, business, family, and community.

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**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

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

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

Mary L. Eickhoff  
Richardson County Clerk  
ZNEZ

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING  
Special Board Meeting**

Monday, November 24th at 5:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Special Board meeting of the Falls City Board of Education for District No. 74 - 0056 will be held on Monday, November 24th at 5:00 PM in the Central Office in Falls City Middle School. This meeting is open to the public.

An Agenda for this meeting is kept continually current and is available for public inspection at the Superintendent's Office during regular District business hours. The agenda sequence is provided as a courtesy. The board reserves the right to consider items in the sequence it deems appropriate and may be modified at said meeting. Therefore, we encourage patrons to attend the meeting from the beginning.

Dr. Andrew Offner  
Superintendent, Falls City Public Schools  
ZNEZ

**NOTICE**

In compliance with State Statute Section 23-1609, Richardson County has undergone a governmental audit performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States on the combined cash basis financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025. This audit report is dated November 12, 2025. A copy of the report is on file in the office of the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts and can be accessed at [www.auditors.state.ne.us](http://www.auditors.state.ne.us). A copy is also available for inspection at the Richardson County Clerk's Office located in the County Courthouse, Falls City, Nebraska.

John Caverzagie  
Chairman Richardson County Board of Commissioners  
19  
ZNEZ

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Falls City, pursuant to Nebraska Statute 17-503.02, will sell and dispose of certain personal property belonging to the City that is no longer of use to the municipality. **Said property will be sold at public auction conducted online through [www.municipibid.com](http://www.municipibid.com), beginning Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 6:00 a.m. CST, and closing Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 7:00 a.m. CST, or as otherwise posted on the auction site.**

The items to be sold include, but are not limited to: Chevy Pickup, Ford Dump Truck, Ford Pickup, Ferris Mower, GMC Dump Truck, Case Loader, Ram Trailer Jack, Grasshopper Mower, Bicycles, International Mower, Trailer Dump Box, Chairs, Script Talk Station, Vacuum, Computer, Computer Accessories, Soap Dispensers, Tables, Truck Tool Boxes, Mower Blades, Drill, Dispenser, Barrel Pumps, Tables with Benches, Poulan Riding Mower, Scanners, Pool Float, Chevrolet Truck, Tire Chains, Sign Posts, Cub Cadet Mower, John Deere Sprayer, and I-Beams.

All bids shall be submitted electronically through [www.municipibid.com](http://www.municipibid.com)

- Winning bidders will be notified electronically following the close of the auction.
- All online fees must be paid to [www.municipibid.com](http://www.municipibid.com)
- Payment for items must be made at City Hall, 2307 Barada Street, Falls City, Nebraska, by cash, money order, cashier's check, or card (processing fee applies).

Items must be paid for and picked up within two (2) weeks of the awarded bid unless otherwise agreed upon, or the sale will be forfeited.

For further information, contact the City Clerk's Office at (402) 245-2851.

**NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA**  
**Estate of Randy Allen Havener, Deceased. Estate No. PR25-59**

Notice is hereby given that on November 12, 2025, in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Deceased and that Gary L. Havener, whose address is 78 Lone Elk Rd., Loveland, Colorado 80537, has been appointed Personal Representative of this estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before January 19, 2026 or be forever barred.

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

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Tracy A. Burns, #25398  
Halbert, Dunn & Burns, LLC  
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19-26-23  
ZNEZ

**NOTICE**

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Estate of Joyce Moerer, Deceased  
Estate No. PR 25 -56

Notice is hereby given that on November 13, 2025, in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and Carol Herr whose address is 63151 718 Road, Humboldt, NE, 68376 was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before January 20, 2026 or be forever barred.

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

Allen Fankhauser, #11239  
713 4th Street  
Humboldt, NE 68376  
402-862-2321

19-26-3  
ZNEZ

**ESU #4**

The Board of Educational Service Unit 4 held its regular meeting on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 5:15 p.m. in the Carson Board Room of Educational Service Unit 4 in Auburn, Nebraska. The following claims were paid for the month of November:

General Fund -- \$182,381.17  
Payroll -- \$509,093.90  
NCECBVI -- \$23,149.18  
Federal Programs -- \$125,150.80

The Board of Educational Service Unit 4 will hold its Regular Meeting at 5:15 pm on Monday, December 8, 2025, in the Carson Board Room at Educational Service Unit 4, 2301 Dahlke Avenue, Auburn, Nebraska. The Region 4 Preschool Planning Team will hold their meeting at 9:00 am on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, in the ESU 4 Conference Center, 2301 Dahlke Avenue, Auburn, Nebraska. The agendas for both meetings are kept current and readily available for public inspection at the office of the Administrator during normal business hours.

[www.esu4.org](http://www.esu4.org)

ZNEZ

**VILLAGE OF SHUBERT**

**Village of Shubert  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
November 3, 2025  
Shubert Library**

The Village Board of Shubert, NE held the monthly board meeting on November 3, 2025 in the Shubert Library. Chairman Donna Lockard opened the regular meeting at 7:00 PM with the following board members present: Tom Borrego, Linda Patchen and Ron Ramer. Gary Hays was absent. Clerk was present to record the meeting. Chairman announced the posting of the Open Meetings Law. Chairman asked for any additions or deletions to the agenda, hearing none. No Visitors. Chairman moved on to regular business. There was a motion and second (Patchen/Borrego) to approve the October 6, 2025 Public Hearing for the One & Six year street meeting minutes. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried. There was a motion and second (Patchen/Ramer) to approve the October 6, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried. There was a motion and second (Patchen/Lockard) to approve the account balance sheets and monthly claims, with the addition of one claim. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried. General: Second Reading (Borrego/Ramer) of Ordinance #5-301 Highway 62 Speed Limit Ordinance. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried. Truck Insurance: Board discussed insurance coverage. Motion and Second (Patchen/Lockard) to get liability coverage vs. full coverage. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried. Water & Sewer: Board reviewed Tracy's report. Wood & Brush pile: Ramer has been shredding and keeping the brush piled up. Buildings and Park: Community Building: Board discussed plans and current projects. Possible location for the new bathroom has been marked. Park: Bathrooms will be winterized soon. Library is open every other Saturday morning. Check window for hours. Streets: Bid from Midwest Coatings to Chip seal Elm Street was reviewed. Motion and Second (Lockard/Ramer) to accept bid. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried. Discussion about where in town to store surplus rock and sand. Motion and Second (Lockard/Ramer) to store rock and sand where it used to be stored on the right of way of 4th and Main. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried. Fire: Fireman's Breakfast fundraiser will be November 16 at the community building.

The next regular board meeting will be Monday, December 1, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Shubert Library. With no further business: Motion and Second (Patchen/Ramer) to adjourn meeting at 7:40 p.m. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried.

Jennifer Buchner  
Village Clerk

Name	Memo	Amount
Dearborne Group, Firemans Insurance		\$58.48
NPPD - Fire Barn, Fire Barn		\$32.63
Jennifer Buchner, Payroll		\$676.01
Borrego, Tom, Mowing		\$250.00
US Treasury, Tax Deposit		\$238.22
Aue & Company, Mo Fee		\$225.00
Schendel Pest Control, Termite Control		\$475.00
NPPD - Community Building, Community Building		\$34.78
NPPD - Library, Library		\$32.80
Buchner, Jennifer S Truck Registration Reimb.		\$20.00
Gary Hays, Reimb. for fuel		\$40.90
NPPD - 8th & Elm, 8TH & ELM-\$13.72		\$13.72
NPPD -Streets, Streetlights		\$310.51
Pat Kelly, Welding Repairs		\$750.00
Aaron Davis, Payroll		\$253.96
Tracy Milke, Payroll		\$507.92
Tracy Milke, Expenses October 2025		\$140.17
Aaron Davis, Mileage Oct.		\$50.00
Falls City Sanitation Service, Trash service		\$1,300.00
State of Nebraska PHEL Water Testing		\$15.00
Village of Stella, Sludge + Sampler		\$480.00
Midwest Labs, Testing		\$155.35
Village of Shubert - USDA Account, Transfer from W/S/G to USDA Account		\$906.00
Village of Shubert - Water Tower, Trans to Water Tower acct.		\$1,000.00
Southeast Telephone Company, Well Phone		\$107.61
NPPD - Sewer, Sewer		\$293.05
NPPD - Wells, Wells		\$165.24
USPS Office, 100 Postcard stamps		\$61.00
		ZNEZ

**VILLAGE OF VERDON**

**VERDON MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING - NOVEMBER 5, 2025 - 7:00 P.M. - VILLAGE HALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Denise Koso. She called attention to the updated Open Meetings Act posted on the wall. ROLL CALL: Present: Kerry Fritz, Denise Koso, Lois Miller, Richard Strecker Jr. Absent: Cody Bahr  
Clerk Dawn Bennett was also present.

GUESTS: Verna Shelton, Mike Adair, Chuck Bennett, Gary Jom  
MINUTES: Motion by Koso, second by Fritz to approve, all Trustees present voting YEA.

AGENDA: Motion by Fritz, second by Strecker to approve, all Trustees present voting YEA.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion by Koso, second by Miller to approve, all Trustees present voting YEA.

NOVEMBER 2025 CLAIMS: Motion by Fritz, second by Miller to approve, all Trustees present voting YEA.

All claims were verified and checked over by Chairperson Koso.

COMMUNICATIONS:  
1. The November 2025 Shut Off Notices were reviewed - all have been paid  
2. It was reported that notice had been received from Richardson County Rural Water that a rate increase will be on the December billing for \$8.33/1000 gallons. This is a .25 increase.

3. The October 9, 2025 Land Bank Minutes were available for the Board members' review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:  
1. COMMITTEE REPORTS: General: The Christmas lights are still getting worked on. Streets: N/A

Water: N/A Sewer: N/A Cemetery: The entrance sign still needs installed.

Parks: 1) Solar lights have been ordered for the basketball court and will be installed by Raven Weimann. 2) The new swing set has been picked out and will be ordered after the company receives the signed agreement and down payment.

2. WATER HOOK UP AT COCHRAN PROPERTY: This is to be completed before the end of 2025.

3. NUISANCE PROPERTIES: 1) Discussion was held on a property and the necessary steps that need to be taken to start the abatement process to get the property cleaned up. 2) Discussed possible properties for the Land Bank option.

NEW BUSINESS:  
1. PEOPLESERVICE - MIKE ADAIR: Discussion with Mike Adair was held on concerns with services being provided by PeopleService. He will address the concerns.

2. GIFT CARDS: A motion was made by Miller and second by Strecker to purchase \$50 gift cards for Board members and employee.

3. WATER RATE INCREASE - RURAL WATER DISTRICT: Discussion was held on the .25 per 1000 gallons water rate increase for the Village on water purchased from the Richardson County Rural Water District #2. We will address increasing the Village rates to our customers at a later date.

4. SNOW REMOVAL: Lucas Fritz has agreed to provide the snow removal for the Village for the 2025-2026 season.

RESOLUTIONS:  
1. Resolution 2025-08 "SIGNING OF THE YEAR-END CERTIFICATION OF CITY STREET SUPERINTENDENT 2025" was read by Denise Koso. A motion was made by Koso and second by Fritz to approve the Resolution. All Trustees present voting YEA.

Motion by Miller and second by Strecker to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. and all Trustees present voting YEA.

Meeting adjourned.  
Dawn Bennett, Verdon Clerk  
The next regular Verdon Board Meeting will be held on December 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

**VILLAGE OF VERDON OCTOBER 2025 CLAIMS PAID**

EFTPS EX	\$292.08
People Service SE	\$2,172.50
Verdon Library EX	\$25.00
Seneca Sanitation Service, Inc., SE	\$2,279.00
S.N.C. SE	\$92.55
NE Public Health Lab SE	\$92.75
Tom Borrego SE	\$825.00
Richardson Co. Rural Water, SE	\$2,213.68
Kim Liberty SE	\$234.00
Dawn Bennett RE	\$386.34
USDA EX	\$11,296.00
Falls City Journal EX	\$142.73
Animal Health Center SE	\$30.00

Davis PHE, LLC SE	\$643.00
Denise Koso RE	\$28.91
J&A Traffic Products SU	\$92.93
JEO Consulting Group SE	\$4,500.00
Viking Industrial Painting, SE	\$34,000.00
NPPD EX	\$896.62
Gerdes Lawn Care SE	\$475.00
OPPD EX	\$104.70
Falls City Mercantile SU	\$124.34
Midwest Laboratories SE	\$409.14
Lewis Implement SU	\$206.47
One Call Concepts SE	\$1.21
Ne Dept. of Revenue EX	\$98.04
Ne Dept. of Revenue EX	\$329.49
Dawn Bennett SA	\$1,202.58
RE=EXENSE, FE=FEE, MI=MILEAGE, RE=REIMBURSEMENT, SA=SALARY, SE=SERVICE, SU=SUPPLIES	
DAWN BENNETT, VERDON CLERK	ZNEZ

**VILLAGE OF STELLA**

**Village of Stella Board of Trustees  
regular meeting, November 3,  
2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stella Community Building**

Present: Rick Ramer, Jim Donahoe, Kyle Gossman, Ira Hall, Heath Stanley  
Absent: None  
Guest: Kristy Fischer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Stanley and roll call was taken. Chairman Stanley noted the posting of the open meeting act and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion made by Ramer and seconded by Gossman to approve the agenda. All voted yea.

Motion mad by Ramer and seconded by Donahoe to approve the treasurer's report. All voted yea.

Motion made by Hall and seconded by Gossman to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All voted yea.

COMMUNICATIONS: Ordinances were discussed.

COMMITTEES: Parks - ok; Streets - main street, 1st and 2nd streets all need repairs; water and sewer - written report, street lights, ok, it was suggested that if possible the Christmas lights be put up by November 22nd, the date that Christmas on Main Street will be held; planning - none.

OLD BUSINESS - The village will contact the Richardson County Humane Society and trap cats for one month and pay to spade/neuter the cats trapped. This will be discussed again at the next meeting to see if the village would like to proceed with this.

NEW BUSINESS: the modem for well will cost approximately \$2800.  
2026 Street Superintendent Appointment- We appoint Evan B. Wickersham, License number S-1139, Class A, from JEO Consulting Group, Inc as our contract Street Superintendent beginning on January 1, 2026 on a motion by Donahoe and second by Gossman. All voted yea.

2026 Street Engineer Appointment- The Village of Stella has appointed JEO Consulting group, Inc as the Village Engineer for 2026 on a motion by Hall and seconded by Gossman. All voted yea.

Resolution 2025-15 - Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent 2025 was read by Chairman Stanley and it's adoption was moved by Donahoe and second by Gossman. All voted yea. Chairman Stanley signed the Certification. Water shut offs were signed.

No miscellaneous.  
Motion by Gossman and second by Hall to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. All voted yea.

Jana Wheeler, clerk

**Claims and payroll for November 3, 2025 Village of Stella Board Meeting**

Tracy Milke, water/sewer operator	350.00
Tracy Milke, expenses	263.96
Aaron Davis, assist water/sewer operator	300.00
Dennis Bahr, maintenance - 2 hours	30.00
Dennis Bahr, mowing	180.00
Jody Bahr, 2 cleaning - community building	50.00
Ira Hall, 10 hours library	135.00
Jana Wheeler, clerk	700.00
Jana Wheeler, community building supplies	21.49
OPPD, water	561.60
Cathy Donahoe, Halloween candy	42.48
NE Public Health Lab, water	15.00
Berwick, streets	118.13
Propane	47.62
	165.75
Falls City Journal publications	150.00
USA Blue Book	20.00
One Call Concepts	10.66
American Recycling & San, trash and dumpsters	2362.52
	ZNEZ

**HTRS DIST. 70**

**Board of Education Regular Meeting Monday, November 10, 2025 7:00 PM Music Room, Humboldt**  
Attendance Taken at 7:02 PM. Quentin Bowen: Present, Kyle Hilgenfeld: Present, Mike Kanel: Present, Neal Kanel: Present, Dave Mezger: Present, Scott Ogle: Present.

1. OPEN MEETING NOTICE - CALL MEETING TO ORDER- ROLL CALL -PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE"  
2. WELCOME PATRONS & GUESTS: PATRON COMMENT

3. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA  
Move to approve Consent agenda with exception of \$7,000 payment to EPS LLC. Passed with a motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Dave Mezger. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

3.1. Meeting Minutes  
3.2. Bills for Payment  
3.3. Review Treasurer's report

4. REPORTS  
4.1. Principal Caniglia discussed recent staff recognition and achievements, HS Counselor report and upcoming activities.

4.2. Principal Standerford discussed PT Conferences, Veteran's Day, MTSS committee and in-service tasks.

4.3. SPED Director Kroll  
4.4. NASB Report - Neal Kanel  
4.5. Committee Reports: Americanism and Negotiations

4.5.1. Building and Grounds Meet Af

ter Board Meeting

5. AGENDA ITEMS  
5.1. Approve board member's leave of absence

5.2. 2026 to 2027 Football Classification

Motion to move forward with 6-man Football (D-6) passed with a motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Mike Kanel. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

5.3. Josh Manning Eagle Scout Project

Motion to approve passed with a motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Neal Kanel. Yea: 6, Nay: 0  
5.4. Josh will make something in our storage closet to hold the appropriate flags.

5.4. 3MT Act Prep  
Motion to move forward with Option 2 passed with a motion by Mike Kanel and a second by Dave Mezger. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

5.5. EPS Training (Funded by CLSD Grant)

Motion to approve purchase of services and payment to EPS passed with a motion by Neal Kanel and a second by Scott Ogle. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

5.6. Nider's  
Motion to approve authority for the business manager to pay Nider's grocery bill on or before each due date passed with a motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Dave Mezger. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

5.7. Policy 4030.1 Amendment and Application Retirement Incentive

Motion to waive the regular procedure of three readings and approve amendment to policy 4030.1. Passed with a motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Neal Kanel. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

5.8. ELC Bank Account Update  
Motion to approve removing Chelsey Sullivan and adding Saydee Hardesty passed with a motion by Mike Kanel and a second by Scott Ogle.

6. SUPERINTENDENT GRIFFITH REPORT  
6.1. Audit Report 2025

7. BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS  
8. ADJOURN  
Motion to adjourn at 7:30pm passed with a motion by Mike Kanel and a second by Neal Kanel. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Respectfully submitted,  
Chantel Farwell

**CLAIMS**

914 Coatings LLC, Roof Repair..... 17,500.00  
AG Partners Cooperative, Inc, Maintenance - Chemicals..... 348.84  
Amazon Capital Services, Pos 8627, 8644, 8643, Sixpence..... 2,241.52  
Beatrice Mechanical Service, parts & repairs..... 937.50  
Cardmember Service, credit card charges-gen fund..... 12,289.45  
Cash-Wa Distributing, Steam ... 233.08  
Chadwell, Mindy, Po 8364 Lmhp Jt..... 388.00  
City Of HumboldtUtilities-Water/Sewer..... 2,680.89  
Cleaning Cousins, Llc, Steam.prek.ell Snacks..... 840.29  
Das State Accounting - Central Finance, Tech /Ocio..... 953.61  
Dietz Music House, Music..... 274.69  
Dstk Phillips, Inc, repairs & parts..... 74.67  
Eakes Office Solutions, Maintenance Supplies..... 1,838.05  
El Camino Electric, Lc, Ads..... 1,703.20  
Emergent 3 Inc.....E3 School Safety App..... 1,500.00  
Eps Operations, Llc ...Dg Sci Of Reading Training..... 7,000.00  
Essential Screens ...Emplmt Background Screenings..... 161.80  
Esu #4, workshops + Oct billing, 2,631.65  
Esu #6, Workshops: Prek+Asd+Tech Services..... 187.46  
Esu 5, Esu Cloud Hosting 2025-26 .... 388.00

Falls City Journal, Ads..... 110.60  
FC Mercantile Co., El Snacks..... 322.43  
FC Sanitation, Trash-Utilities... 670.00  
Farm & City Supply, Maint Supplies ... 219.46  
Fiber Platform, Llc..... Distance Learning..... 429.21  
Fol

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
NOVEMBER 5, 2025  
CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Caverzagie at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 5, 2025. Roll call was answered by Karas, Campbell and Caverzagie. The Invocation was given by Chairman Caverzagie and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chairman Karas. Chairman Caverzagie announced that the open meeting laws have been posted at the entrance to the meeting room.

A motion was made by Karas to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2025, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the agenda as posted. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The agenda is posted at the Richardson County Courthouse in the First Floor Lobby, the Lower-Level Lobby and on the Commissioner's Meeting Room door on the 2nd Floor and on the Richardson County website www.richardsoncountyne.gov.

**COUNTY TREASURER**

County Treasurer, Amanda Bartek-Ramsey presented to the Board the Distress Warrant List for the unpaid 2024 personal property taxes. The report contained 1 warrant that was unpaid from Cogent Communications, Inc. County Assessor, Kim Riggs, was also available for this presentation to provide information on this personal property return and schedule from Cogent Communications, Inc. for tax year 2024.

This list has been delivered to the Richardson County Sheriff to be collected.

**ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.**

Highway Superintendent, Steve Darveau, Jr. updated the Board on the routine road and bridge maintenance being done this week.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER**

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center this past week. He reported that 11 inmates are currently being held in the Jail.

For the month of October, 2025, he reported that there were 849 total calls with 349 of those being traffic stops with 35 arrests (6 other agencies, 4 out-of-county holds, 25 arrests). He also presented a report on jail statistics by age report for the current year-to-date.

It was also announced that Deputy Nick Aitken has resigned from his position effective November 18, 2025.

The purchase of the new data master equipment has been made totaling \$2,190.25 which was approved by the County Attorney, Falls City Attorney and Police Chief in order for payment to be made with available STOP funds.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the quote received from Air-stream Heating & Cooling to proceed with the replacement of the existing lavatory/toilet combination and master components with Acorn that is located in the jail for a total price of \$10,567.00. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

**PROJECT RESPONSE**

Jill Garcia of Project Response requested to meet with the Board to present a quarterly report of the agency.

**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**

Odus Fields, Veterans Service Officer, presented to the Board the Annual Veterans Aid Report and also a Memorandum of Understanding between the NE Dept of Veterans Affairs and Richardson County for the purpose of allowing Richardson County access to view and add certain information to the web-based database "VetraSpec" in order to assist veterans and/or their eligible dependent(s) to access all benefits which they are entitled by law.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding as presented to acquire access to the NE Dept of Veterans Affairs information for the time period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 75)

**SE NE COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERS, INC.**

Kay Wissman, Community Services Director of the Southeast Community Action Partnership, Inc. requested to meet with the Board to inform them on the funding needs of the Richardson County Transit program.

With reductions in federal and state government funding for this program realized at about 30%, the Richardson

County Transit will be reducing hours of operation from Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be no service on Wednesdays.

**SIRENS**

Brian Kirkendall, Emergency Management Agency Director, met with the Board to review information received regarding insurance coverage on the outdoor warning sirens located within the Villages and the City of Humboldt. The response from the villages and the City of Humboldt determined that insurance coverage has been and is being maintained by them. The Board reviewed the idea of developing an interlocal agreement to be presented to all the villages and cities within the County and also to the Boy Scout Camp located south of Humboldt detailing that insurance coverage will be maintained by them and that the County will provide the maintenance of the outdoor warning sirens.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to request that the County Attorney's Office prepare an interlocal agreement with all the villages and cities within the County and also an agreement with the Boy Scout Camp regarding insurance and maintenance for the outdoor warning sirens. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER  
Mid-Continental Restoration Co., Inc. Quote**

The Board reviewed a quote received from Mid-Continental Restoration Co., Inc. regarding the need for mortar work on the 4th floor north elevation on the Courthouse roof area. This quote will be tabled for further review.

**Letter of Support for Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri**

Motion was made by Karas to approve a letter of support for grant funding for the Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri for renovation of the community building to a daycare facility and for the construction of a new community building. Motion seconded by Campbell. Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

**Fee Reports**

Reports were approved for the following officials for fees collected during the month of October, 2025: Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk, \$321.50; Mary L. Eickhoff, Register of Deeds, \$18,470.38; Pam Scott, Clerk of Dist. Court, \$696.00.

**Monthly Operating Statement**

The Board reviewed the monthly operating statement for October, 2025.

**CLAIMS**

Motion was made by Karas to allow the payment of all claims that were submitted today. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (The claims listed below are available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours.)

**GENERAL FUND**

BuckIT, serv.....	7186.14
Clerk of District Court, fees.....	441.00
Courtyard by Marriott Omaha, fees.....	302.40
CVSOAN, dues.....	200.00
Embassy Suites, lodg.....	625.80
Falls City Journal, adv.....	546.72
Falls City Utilities, serv.....	6096.59
Johnson County Sheriff, serv.....	18.00
Kennedy, Kaytlyn, reimb.....	511.00
Marvin Planning Consultants, serv.....	2640.00
Microfilm Imaging Systems, serv.....	110.00
Pictometry, serv.....	39972.20
Quill, supp.....	47.23
SNC, serv.....	1067.52
US Signal, serv.....	945.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$60,709.60

**ROAD & BRIDGE FUND**

Culligan, serv.....	40.00
East Richardson Rural Water #2, serv.....	46.00
Falls City Auto Supply, supp.....	205.31
Lanter SPS, serv.....	18100.00
OPPD, serv.....	87.89
Richardson County CPR, serv.....	200.00
Sapp Bros., fuel.....	18739.67
SNC, serv.....	104.40
Tri State Truck & Tractor Repair, supp.....	12.18
Unifirst, supp.....	41.25
Vander Haag's, truck.....	33314.00
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$70,890.70

**HIGHWAY BOND REPAY FUND**

BOK Financial Corp, interest.....	1443.75
TOTAL HIGHWAY BOND REPAY FUND	\$1,443.75

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made Karas to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 a.m. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. for the regular weekly meeting in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk's Office.

John Caverzagie, Chairman  
Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk  
ZNEZ

**HELP WANTED**

**HTRS TITANS HTRS Early Learning Center has an opening for a PART-TIME CHILD CARE PROVIDER**  
Applications are available online or at the district office at 810 Central Ave. Humboldt NE 68376. Contact Dr. Griffith at georgegriffith@htrstisans.org or by calling 402-862-2151.  
HTRS is an Equal Opportunity Employer 46-49

**HTRS TITANS HTRS Public School has an immediate opening for a SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER(S)**  
for the 2026-2027 school year. Hiring incentive available to strong candidates. The candidate should have or be eligible for a NE Teacher Certification with the appropriate endorsement. Email your cover letter, resume, license, transcripts\* and three letters of reference from you most recent employer to: georgegriffith@htrstisans.org or mail them to HTRS ATTN: Dr. Griffith 810 Central Avenue, Humboldt NE 68376.  
HTRS is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Veterans' Preference. 46-49

**HTRS TITANS HTRS Public School has an immediate opening for a CUSTODIAN**  
Work involves a variety of custodial tasks including but not limited to routine cleaning and light maintenance work and working evening events and they may be scheduled to work during the day or at night. Work is generally performed in accordance with established procedures, but specific instructions may be given for unusual problems or situations. Employees may also be required to perform general security duties, such as locking and unlocking facilities, and light maintenance duties when needed. Work for this full-time regular position is subject to inspection by a superior for maintenance of established standards of cleanliness and compliance with instructions. Applications are available online or at the district office at 810 Central Ave. Humboldt NE 68376. Contact Dr. Griffith at georgegriffith@htrstisans.org or by calling 402-862-2151.  
HTRS is an equal opportunity employer. 46-49

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**HTRS TITANS HTRS Public School has an immediate opening for a HEAD COOK / FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR**  
DUTIES: Include, but are not limited to, planning, organizing, supervising and participating in the preparation, cooking, baking, and serving of a variety of foods in quantity. Responsible for ordering food and supplies; operate commercial kitchen equipment and appliances. Responsible for following the nutrition guidelines associated with the Nebraska Nutrition Services lunch program and training requirements. QUALIFICATIONS: Associate's degree or equivalent educational experience, with academic major in specific areas with 1 year of relevant food service experience or High school diploma (or GED) and at least 3 years of institutional food service experience. BENEFITS: Starting pay is \$18.00/hour with a 10 month contract. Benefits include District paid Family Health and Dental insurance. Employee Vision coverage is also included. Applications are available in the office at 810 Central Ave., Humboldt, NE 68376 or online at https://www.htrstisans.com/page/employment and mailed to Dr. George Griffith, HTRS Public School 810 Central Ave., Humboldt, NE 68376 or emailed to georgegriffith@htrstisans.org. HTRS is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Veterans' Preference. 46-49

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**Social Services Case Worker - Sac and Fox Nation- Full Time**

Preferred qualifications include 2 years of experience in family services/ case management or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Education in the field of Social Work or related fields a plus. Will consider qualified applicants with work history and experience in case management. Required: valid driver's license, and maintain a clean driving record. Benefits package includes full BCBS, Dental, Vision.

This position will include working with Native American families and individuals who are in need of assistance with client resources, referrals, transports to and from appointments. This person will be responsible for assisting in child welfare cases & advocating for the families being served and educating the public. We are working four 10-hour days: 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM Monday thru Thursday. There may be instances where client needs or conference attendance extends your day beyond 5:30 PM. Indian preference does apply. Application form and more complete job description at Sac and Fox Administrative Office, 305 North Main Street, Reserve, KS 66434 or request via phone at (785)742-7471 Ext 2500 or via email tammy.epple@sacandfoxks.com. Submit application form, cover letter, and resume at postal address listed above, or email to employment@sacandfoxks.com no later than December 18, 2025. 46-47

AMERICAN WALNUT. Buying standing walnut timber, 25 or more. Call 816-232-6781 in St. Joseph for details. 47-1f

**WANTED**  
AMERICAN WALNUT. Buying standing walnut timber, 25 or more. Call 816-232-6781 in St. Joseph for details. 47-1f

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Call Troy for an appointment to view Property.  
RE Agent Troy Novak  
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City Realty Real Estate Broker 402-792-2820

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The show around Falls City was incredible last Tuesday. Jason Scott captured the above shot of the greens dancing in the sky, and Alex McKim captured the reds above Stanton Lake park on the right.



# Aurora brings incredible views to Southeast Nebraska

A strong geomagnetic storm produced vivid aurora across much of the United States this week, bringing rare views of the northern lights to parts of southeast Nebraska.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the event followed multiple coronal mass ejections from the sun. When those bursts of plasma reach Earth, they can disturb the planet's magnetic field and create geomagnetic storms. The interaction of charged solar particles with gases in the upper atmosphere produces the colors seen during an aurora.

According to the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, the current storm reached a G4 level on its scale. Events of that strength can push the aurora far beyond its typical range near the North Pole.

Statewide reports showed the lights were visible across Nebraska, including areas of the southeast. Nebraska Game and Parks Commission officials noted this type of viewing is not common in the region because the state sits well outside the usual auroral zone.

There is no confirmed historic count of how many times the northern lights have been visible in Falls City. Records show that sightings in Nebraska generally occur

only during strong geomagnetic storms.

The aurora has been visible in parts of the state several times in recent years during periods of heightened solar activity. NOAA reports that storms of this type can also briefly affect satellites, radio communication and GPS, although most impacts are minor.

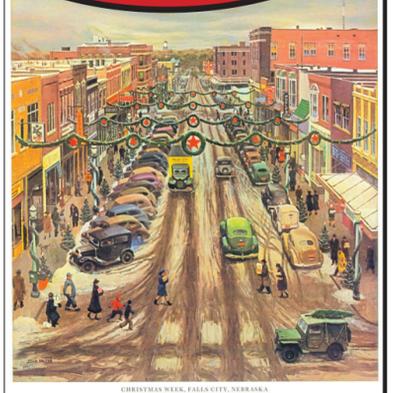
Clear skies and low light pollution helped local residents capture the display as it moved across the northern horizon late Tuesday and again Wednesday.

## VETERANS DAY PARADE 2025 SNAPS



Our selection includes Christmas ornaments, jigsaw puzzles, Christmas cards, 2026 calendars, and various prints (including Falls City at Christmas) all featuring images by John Philip Falter.

The John Philip Falter Museum has unique holiday gifts this season



THE GIFTS ARE AVAILABLE AT HEARTLAND FINE ARTS, HERITAGE FALLS CANDLES AND GIFTS, WOLFE'S PRINTING, AND THE FALTER MUSEUM.

A portion of each sale supports the art departments at FC Public and SH Schools.

For more information, please call 402-450-3724.

**NioCorp**  
Critical Mineral Security

## Elk Creek Project Town Hall Meetings

**Elk Creek Community Center**  
383 Ash St., Elk Creek, NE 68348  
**Friday, December 5, 2025**

Attending will be Governor Jim Pillen + Meet the NioCorp Team

① Lunch Session (Governor attending) 12 p.m.  
② Dinner Session 5 p.m.

Register by Scanning Below



Complimentary meal provided at both events.

Reservations Required: Due to limited space, community members may register for one.

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## ARMBRUSTER'S ALL-STAR PERFORMANCE

Congratulations to Senior Malori Kuker, Junior Jazzy Strecker, and Sophomore Taytum Maddox on being selected Honorable Mention All-Conference in Softball for the 2025 season.

