

THE FALLS CITY JOURNAL

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

ADVERTISED IN THIS WEEK'S PAPER

November

26 10AM deadline for the 12/3 edition of the Journal-Office Closed early.

27 Frontier Bank Closed
 RC Courthouse Closed
 Armbruster Motor Co. Closed

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

RC Courthouse Closed
 Armbruster Motor Co. Closed

Frontier Bank Closing at 1PM

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.

29 Shop Small Saturday in Falls City.
 -See Page 12 for details

Christmas Vendor Festival at Prichard Auditorium 9AM-3PM
 Armbruster Motor Co. Closed

December

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

Christmas in Brownville starting at 10AM

Christmas Craft Fair Candy & Cookie Walk 9AM-3PM Nemaha Co Wellness Center, Auburn

9 Land Auction, FC Elks Club, 11AM

24 Frontier Bank Closed at Noon

25 Frontier Bank Closed

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

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\$1.50



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Council vote questioned amid conflicting explanations, legal standards guide next steps

By Nikki and Brian McKim

A special meeting of the Falls City Council to set non-union wages ended in confusion Wednesday after the council approved a motion referencing a November 3 wage proposal, while several council members later said they believed they were voting on a different proposal discussed on November 17. Conflicting explanations from officials after the meeting prompted the *Falls City Journal* to request the official written record.

The action taken by the council now depends on the exact wording of the motion, the vote taken in public, and the minutes prepared

by the city clerk. Under Nebraska law, the motion and the recorded vote determine what was adopted, not the intent of individual members or later verbal explanations.

City Administrator Anthony Nussbaum opened the meeting with a prepared statement criticizing the management wage process. He said some committee members did not attend the management wage meeting and said two committee members who supported the committee's recommendation later reversed their positions during the public meeting two days earlier.

Nussbaum said, "What has happened today was unacceptable for any city government." He said the wage process for management employees should mirror the method used for union negotiations and said the management team "deserves stability" and "deserves the same respect and process" used for union groups.

"That kind of reversal makes the entire process feel pointless. It tells staff the time had no value. We took time away from our families after hours to participate in the process, in a process that we were told was going to matter. It tells the committee that their work meant nothing. It signals to every municipal board in this City that their decisions can be discarded on a whim."

Nussbaum gave the council multiple documents. He said the November 3 management committee recommendation was unanimous. He also presented an alternative option based on a proposal offered by a council member at a previous meeting. He provided sheets outlining premium pay calculations for city administration staff based on hours worked beyond 40 per week.

"So, my priority as City as a city administrator and a leader of our management group is our management team deserves stability. They deserve fairness and deserve closure on this item," stated Nussbaum.

After the council examined the documents dispersed by Nussbaum, Council Member Don Ferguson made the motion that later became the focus of dispute.

"I would like to make a motion that we go back to what was originally proposed on November 3 with what the committee came out

(Please turn to Page 8)

Parents only meeting held to discuss Tiger football future

On Monday, November 17, 2025, parents and guardians of Falls City Public School 8th -11th grade football players were invited to the High School library for a discussion on whether to continue playing 11-man football or falling to 8-man for two years. Parents of 7th grade students, students, assistant coaches

and the media were not permitted in the meeting.

The following is a press release issued by Falls City Administration. The following statement is a summary of a meeting held on November 17th, at the FCHS Media Center. The criteria for attendance at the meeting were parents of current and prospec-

(Please turn to Page 5)

Falls City plans full weekend of holiday events Nov. 28 and 29

Falls City will open the holiday season with a full weekend of activities beginning Friday, Nov. 28, with the community's annual Lighted Christmas Parade.

The parade will start at 6 p.m. on Stone Street and will feature lighted vehicles and floats. Several activities will take place downtown before and after the parade, including free horse drawn sleigh rides, visits with Santa, children's activities in an elves workshop, a hot cocoa station, a soup supper and late night shopping at participating businesses.

Holiday events will continue Saturday, Nov. 29, with Shop Small Saturday. The promotion runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at participating Falls City businesses. Shoppers can enter the Jackpot Jingle for a chance to win \$500. Additional information about participating businesses is available at fallscitychamber.com.

Prichard Auditorium will also host a Christmas Vendor Festival on Saturday. The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 312 W. 17th St. and will feature more than 50 craft and direct sales vendors offering seasonal items and handcrafted goods.

The weekend lineup is organized to bring shoppers downtown, support local businesses and mark the start of the holiday season in Falls City.

(Please turn to Page 12)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church to offer free homemade Thanksgiving meal

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church will provide a free homemade Thanksgiving meal Nov. 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The menu includes turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, rolls and pumpkin pie. Drive-up and carry-out will be available. Delivery will be offered for shut-ins only. Reservations are appreciated. To reserve a meal and pick-up

time, call the church office at 402-245-3828 or contact Elysia McGill at 402-801-0521 by call or text on or before Nov. 26.

Meals will be picked up at the southeast ramp parking lot at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 20th and Towle Street in Falls City.

Funds for the Thanksgiving dinner will be supplemented by a Thrivent Action Team.

Falls City students share their words of thanks



Each year the *Falls City Journal* invites local students to share what they are thankful for as Thanksgiving approaches. This year third and fourth graders at Falls City Public Schools and first grade students at Falls City Sacred Heart offered their own words of gratitude. Here is what they said.

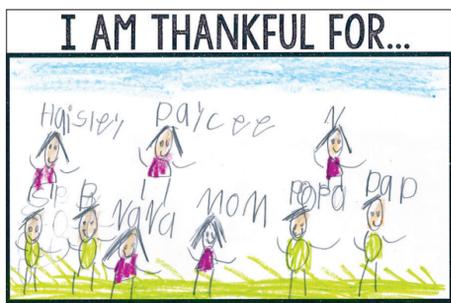
Mrs. Auffert's Third Grade Class at Falls City Public School

I am thankful for...
 My family and my dad and my mom and my cousins and sister. Celine H.

I am thankful for my friends, my mom and my dad and my Mrs. Auffert and my cousins and my clothes and my shoes and my principal and my school and God and Jesus Christ and my aunt and uncle. Nori R.

I am thankful for my family. I am thankful for my pets. And my friends and my school. Ryder D.

I am thankful for helping others and being kind and saying my kind words and saying hi or hello and helping my teacher Mrs. Auffert and helping my classmate. Ember V.



Drawing by Haisley

My family, my friends, my school, my fav aunt Aunt Lauri, my homes, my cousins, my clothes, my iPad.

Leia M.
 My mom and my dad and all of my sisters. I am also thankful for my cats and my friends and my teacher. And all my classmates. I am thankful for my cousins. I am thankful for my clothes. Maren P.

My family and friends even my dogs my house car, teeth my principal-my BFFs my gramma and my grampa, my peachers. That is what I am thankful for. Alexs

Food, Heaven Hell, life, earth, the universe, space, time, reality, animals, water, shelter, site, people, God, oxygen, aluminum, H20, plants. Kylen

I am thankful for my family, school, food, Aunt Lari Jo, my dog, my uncle Todd, Pikachu. Matteo T.

Mr. Balm's Fourth Grade Class at Falls City Public School

I am thankful for...

My family and my dog. I am thankful for youtube.

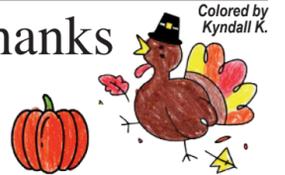
Jahiem M.

I am thankful for spending time with my family.

Landon H.

I am thankful for my teachers help-

(Continued on Page 4)



Drawing by Max H.



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Making the courthouse more festive discussed at Commissioners meeting

The County Board met on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at the Richardson County Courthouse. Commissioners Karas, Campbell and Caverzagie answered the roll call.

County Attorney Samantha Scheitel requested the approval of At-Scene, LLC for the subscription of iCrime Fighter and Enterprise and iCrimeFighter.com Gold Package.

Scheitel advised the Board that the request was for the same package she had asked for last year, which was due for renewal.

The County Attorney stated that the package would cost the county less than the prior year because she hadn't used as much as she had anticipated.

Scheitel told the Board that since the package hadn't been fully used, the company would discount this year's price.

"This is based off of what we actually did use," said Scheitel. "It's based off the number of cases you open; you create."

The County Attorney stated the subscription was included within her budget.

Campbell made a motion, and Karas seconded to accept the request for renewal. The motion passed.

Richardson County Sheriff Rick Hardesty met with the Commissioners to discuss business at the Law Enforcement Center.

Hardesty informed the Commissioners that the jail was experiencing problems with the kitchen grease pit, which was causing a smell throughout the facility.

Hardesty stated that floats and motors have been replaced in an effort to remedy the problem.

The Sheriff also reported that the dishwasher in the jail kitchen was not working properly, even after new sensors had been installed.

"They changed all three sensors, and it's still the same problem," said Hardesty.

Hardesty also informed the Commissioners that the jail was currently housing 11 inmates, and he is still waiting to hear if the department was approved for grants at the end of November and another one that runs from December 12 to January 1.

Next, Clerk of County Court Bethany Godemann met with the Board, asking them to consider purchasing and installing Christmas decorations on the courthouse.

Godemann submitted a letter with several signatures in support of adding decorations to the building.

"I think the courthouse needs to be more festive," stated Godemann. "A lot of people who work in the building, previously worked in the building, and community members agree that it's lacking in festive cheer."

Godemann mentioned other courthouses in the state that decorate for holidays, as well as the courthouse in Hiawatha.

She added that if hanging lights were an issue, large Christmas wreaths over the entrances could be sufficient.

She also mentioned that installing lights on trees or around the Statue of Liberty could be an option.

The Commissioners advised Godemann to obtain quotes for the project and bring them back to the Board for further discussion.

Commissioner Caverzagie made a motion to designate The Falls City Journal LLC at 1709 Harlan Street as the official county newspaper for 2026. The motion passed 3-0.

Claims were paid and the meeting was adjourned.

All things Nebraska We deserve transparency, not 'no comment'

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner

There's an old saying about government – "it's not that 'what is said isn't so,' it's what is so isn't said."

So that means that someone – maybe a state auditor, maybe a whistleblower, but often a news reporter – needs to dig in and find out what is really happening with our tax dollars and state policies.

That's why it was so disgusting to read recently about our "Secretary of War's" crack-down on access by reporters to the Pentagon.

Pete Hegseth, a former Fox News weekend host, is the U.S. Secretary of Defense. And it's his opinion that reporting by a free press – a right guaranteed in the Bill of Rights – is somehow disruptive to his job.

(President Trump wants to change the title to Secretary of War for some reason, but he can't do that without an act of Congress, so I'm sticking with the actual, legal title, which is "Secretary of Defense.")

So Hegseth wants reporters to sign what amounts to a loyalty oath, pledging that they will refrain from reporting about things his agency – one of the largest and biggest spenders in the federal government – has not authorized to be revealed.

Reporters have long self-restrained from reporting on troop movements and ongoing military exercises that would endanger soldiers.

But sometimes, reporters find out "what is so" clash with what's been said and have to report something. Has anyone ever heard of the Pentagon Papers?

That 1967 document, long held in secret by the Pentagon, revealed that our country's military leaders and presidents had concluded for years that a war in Vietnam was unwinnable. Yet our leaders kept sending troops, spending money and telling us we could win until a costly war – in terms of lost lives and wasted expenditures – ended in 1975.

That was a document that the Pentagon did not authorize for release. It took a whistleblower and reporters and editors with the New York Times in 1971 to tell us the truth.

Let's be honest, reporters and editors aren't very popular these days. Trump labels them often as "enemies of the people" and denigrates reporters and calls them insulting names if they write things he doesn't like. He's also sued several news organizations over petty grievances.

Government officials, when they screw up, would rather not read about it on the front page of a paper or a website. Hegseth, I gotta believe, wasn't too happy when the media revealed that details of a secret air strike were accidentally, and carelessly, shared with the editor of a national magazine.

But consider this – do you want government officials to hand pick what we know and shouldn't know? You trust them to always tell you what's going on, even when that's bad news?

Would you have rather not heard what our governor leaders really thought about the Vietnam War?

I've seen this over and over when covering Nebraska state government. And while I believe that the vast majority of folks who work in government are honest and want to serve the public, there's those who figure they can cut corners, enrich themselves, and make their agency look good.

All too often we get the response, "no comment," or

requests for comment are ignored altogether. It used to be that when you called a state agency, even the governor's office, there was a chance you could talk to the agency director, a top administrator, or the governor themselves. But now, nada. It's most often "email a couple of questions and we'll get back to you," which results in half-answers and non-answers.

We need reporters, as well as inspector generals and auditors, to provide an essential double check on our government.

Please know, it's not the job of a reporter to take down everything a governor or president says and accept that what they provided must be true. "Trust but verify" was Ronald Reagan's famous warning. So that means fact checking what's being said, and doing some background work.

We spend more than \$900 billion on defense. That's dollars you and I pay as taxes. We deserve to know, exactly, how our money is being spent, and that it's not being spent on \$300 toilet seats or billion-dollar warships or jets that don't operate as intended.

Almost every reporter from a legitimate news outlet turned in their Pentagon press passes in response to the awful new rules proposed by Hegseth. And rightly so.

The last thing we need is some bureaucrat spoon-feeding us what he believes we should, and shouldn't, know about how our dollars are being spent.

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: THANKSGIVING

ACROSS

1. Fresh Prince: "____ ya later!"
6. Say "no"
9. "Nana" author ... mile ____
13. Capital of Vietnam
14. The home of the brave, acr.
15. Increase rpms (2 words)
16. Like yesteryear
17. Rejuvenating spot
18. Like a solder at attention
19. *Pumpkin pie or pecan pie, e.g.
21. *Plymouth ____
23. Seek damages
24. Light on one's feet
25. Like The Beatles
28. Certain blast's origins
30. *What tom said
35. Iranian money
37. Precedes GPT
39. Water nymph
40. Wisconsin's western neighbor
41. One tenth
43. Mountain, in Germany
44. The Statue of Liberty island
46. Cat sound
47. Instinctive motive
48. 1970s dance clubs
50. Do like buffaloes
52. Distress acronym
53. Opposite of genuine
55. Bow or bolo
57. *Moisturizing kitchen tool
60. *Turkey prepared certain way
64. Bottom line
65. Pub offering
67. Alley cat, e.g.
68. Extreme suffering
69. International help, e.g.
70. Bullwinkle J. ____
71. Fitness facilities
72. July-August sign of Zodiac
73. More so than #12 Down

DOWN

1. Not barefoot
2. Gender checkbox
3. Peters out
4. Loamy deposit
5. Form a queue (2 words)
6. Head and shoulders sculpture
7. Venomous snake
8. Civil rights organization, acr.
9. Whole number between -1 and 1
10. *Biscuit baker
11. *She took away the football from Charlie Brown
12. Mentally quick, e.g.
15. Put trust in (2 words)
20. Respond
22. Website address ending
24. Eminence
25. *Deep____, turkey prepared certain way
26. White condiment
27. Sheds tears
29. *Mayflower
31. Hindi courtesy title
32. Coffin holders
33. One of Florida Keys
34. Ruler sides, e.g.
36. Not of the cloth
38. Through, to a poet
42. Muse of love poetry
45. "Killing Me ____ with His Song"
49. Fraternity letters
51. Unwholesome atmosphere
54. Cattle enclosure in African village
56. Bar, legally
57. Unidentified aircraft
58. Niels Bohr's study object
59. Without, ‡ Paris
60. Overhaul
61. *Turkey ____, 5K run
62. "At ____!" military command
63. Indigo user
64. "You're it" game
66. Rest in state

CROSSWORD

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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 26, 1950 to December 2, 1950

Stores in downtown Falls City were preparing for the window opening on Wednesday, November 29. Santa would also make an appearance and hand out over 1,000 toys for the smaller children.

Charles Williams arrived in Falls City to take over the management of the Earl May Store, succeeding Harold Spargur. Mr. Williams had been the manager of a store in Nebraska City before moving to Falls City.

Byron Meinzer of Falls City High School was named to the Class B All-State second football team by the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Heinzelman returned Sunday evening from Norman, Oklahoma, where they had gone to attend the Husker-Sooner football game.

The County Board voted to shut down Mom's Spot for a period of six months on the recommendation of the County Attorney and Sheriff. The Commissioners had licensing authority over all dine-and-dance places outside the limits of incorporated towns.

Seventy-nine members of the BPO Does attended a turkey dinner at the Elks Club. Committee members included Mrs. Norman Shober, Mrs. Sam Philpot, Mrs. W.W. Marx, Mrs. Don Heinzelman, Mrs. John Eitel and Mrs. Ernest Hauser.

A Firestone Pilot bicycle was for sale at the store located at 18th and Stone Street for \$43.95. The store also featured ladies' white figure skates for \$9.95 and Famous Burke Custom Built golf clubs for \$54.94 for a set of eight irons.

Marvin "Preacher" Franklin, the end coach at the University of Nebraska, was scheduled to be the featured speaker at the Rotary Club's 24th annual football banquet at the V.F.W. Club.

A turkey dinner for members of the V.F.W. and Post and its Auxiliary and members was attended by 500 guests. A square dance followed the dinner, featuring the music of Ed Vogele and his orchestra.

Clarence Ratekin of Falls City and Rudy Vertiska, Jr., went to Kansas City, where both played in the Sesostri Temple Shrine band of Lincoln at the Central States Shrine convention.

A record crowd of between 700 and 800 people attended the Falls City Band Parents Soup supper at Prichard Auditorium.

Three days after suspending the license for Mom's Spot, the County Board retracted its suspension, stating it may have acted hastily.

Dr. S.D. Cowan announced that his son, Dr. S.D. Cowan Jr., who graduated from Northern Illinois College of Optometry, would become associated with him at his office at 1606 Stone Street.

Pawnee City walloped Table Rock 53-26 to open the basketball season. Ned Eckman led Pawnee City with 20 points, while Jim Bennett scored 11 and Chuck Jensen added 10 for Table Rock.

50 Years Ago, November 26, 1975 to December 2, 1975

Over six inches of snow was deposited in Falls City, making roads snow-packed and slick. The snow forced the cancellation of school at Dawson-Verdon, while Southeast Consolidated dismissed early at 1:30.

Tom Castle, West Des Moines, Iowa, was named the National High School Debate Coach of the Year.

The Falls City High School cast of "The Sound of Music" received a personal blessing and best wishes from Baroness von Trapp, the real-life Maria of the stage. Mrs. von Trapp was a friend of Mrs. John Morehead, whose hometown of Burlington, Vermont, was near Stowe, VT, home of the Trapp Family Lodge.

Gibson's Pamida advertised a 6-foot scotch pine artificial tree for \$9.97, an electric football game for \$5.97 and an 8-track stereo music center for \$129.88.

It was reported that Caroline Kennedy celebrated her 18th birthday in London with a modest hamburger and a glass of wine at Morton's Restaurant.

The United States Postal Service posted new limits on overtime and hiring extra workers due to its \$ 7-million-a-day deficit.

Bill Bruhn would lead the John Eickhoff-coached Dawson-Verdon Jets basketball team. Bruhn led the team with 652 points the year before and had a three-year total of 1,227.

William Parchen Morsman, Master Photographer, passed away at 58. Mr. Morsman, owner of Morsman Studio, had one of the highest ratings of photographers in the United States.

The Journal announced the marriage of Anito Santo to Brad Nolte. The Immaculate Conception Church in Rulo hosted nearly 250 guests for the nuptials. Mrs. Tim Pfister was the matron of honor, while Sean Nolte was the best man.

Two Falls City Bowling League teams, Bonnie's Beauty Shop and Imogen's Beauty Shop, participated in the Women's Tourney at Sky Lanes in Omaha. Lymonine Pipken bowled a 378 for Imogene's. Shirley Milam, 528; Mary Schulenberg, 356; Kay Walters, 545; and Kathryn Hansen, 561. For Bonnie's, Norma Smith had a 445; Mickey Piper, 460; Viv Zeigler, 619; Bev Koopman, 511 and Bonnie Hullman had a 413.

Ohio St. running back Archie Griffin became the first player to win two Heisman Trophies. Griffin finished his career with 5,177 yards rushing.

Mr. and Mrs. John Eickhoff were the parents of a daughter born in Hamburg, IA. Honor Elizabeth was welcomed home by two brothers, Jamie and Jeremy.

25 Years Ago, November 26, 2000 to December 2, 2000

The Falls City Jaycees presented checks totaling \$2,655 to civic and volunteer organizations in the area.

It was announced that the 36th annual Community Carol Sing, sponsored by the Falls City Area Fellowship of Churches, would be held on December 10 at Prichard Auditorium. The Falls City Middle School band and choral groups from Falls City High School and Sacred Heart would join traditional favorites the Joy Belles and Cleftsmen.

Behind pins from Anders Erickson, Jake Harkendorff, Andy Dunn, Chris Vollmer, Dana Dill and Shane Vollmer, FC whipped Nebraska City 45-26 to open the 2000 wrestling season.

Lee Hullman scored eight points and Mark Dunn added six as the Tiger seventh-grade basketball team improved to 6-0 with a 37-12 win over Pawnee City.

Four-H leaders were honored for their years of service at the annual Richardson County 4-H Leadership Banquet held at Country Catering. Those honored included Barb Goltz (10), Mark Huppert (1), Denise Schawang (1), Susan Nutzman (5), LaRita Weber (10), Lana Willman (20), Joyce Huppert (20) and Jan Duerfeldt (1).

The fourth annual Tour of Homes included seven stops. The list included Al and Kathy Hamilton, the Nick and Laural Harling, Mark and Angie Hillyard, Tom and Barb Hinrichs, Bob and Judy Ivey, Bill and Debbie Palmer, and Donnie and Julie Stice.

The BPO Does met at the Elks Lodge with Jean Saal giving the courtesy report and Glenda Bippes reporting on the auction and soup supper.

The Arrow Twin Theatre in Hiawatha showed "The Grinch" and "Meet the Parents."

Brian Bauman scored 18 points, and Kris Glathar added 16, but it wasn't enough as DV fell to Bern 76-59 to begin the 2000 basketball season.

Midland Villa nursing home received notification from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services that it was deficiency-free. The facility passed both the health department and the fire marshal's survey.

Council votes against non-union pay scale for second time at first meeting of the week

For the second time in two meetings, the Falls City Council failed to pass a resolution approving a non-union wage scale and benefits for the fiscal years 2026, 2027 and 2028, as recommended by the Management/Non-Union Negotiation Committee.

Councilperson Buckminster opened the discussion by stating his regrets that the Board added no comments after the nay vote on the non-union wage scale resolution at the prior meeting.

Mayor Harkendorff appointed a new negotiation committee after the previous meeting. According to Buckminster, the committee was comprised of himself, councilpersons Ruiz, Leyden, and Kaster, Board of Public Works members Joy and Koopman, as well as Trevor Campbell, Anthony Nussbaum, and Jamie Baker.

Buckminster stated that the committee had a "really good dialogue and very good discussion."

The changes made by the committee involved dropping the monthly stipend to \$150 across the Board for the City Administrator, Deputy City Clerk, Deputy Treasurer, Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police, Parks and Recreation Director and Public Works Director.

Another change was to reduce the severance package from 1 year to 3 months for the City Administrator and Chief of Police.

Ultimately, the committee proposed dropping the Administrator's hourly salary by \$10 the first year, \$6 the second and \$1.34 the third. The Public Works Director's salary would fall by \$7.50 per hour in the first year, drop by \$2.80 in the second year, and increase by \$2.02 in year three, compared to the previous numbers.

After a discussion, councilperson Fouraker asked whether he was the only member not on either of the previous negotiation committees. He then made a motion for a one-year contract, with the benefit package the same as the prior year and then reevaluate wages after the fiscal year audit was completed to see where the city's financials were. He proposed \$55.29 per hour for the Administrator, \$53.85 for the Public Works Director, and \$51.92 for the Chief of Police. The other positions' pay would remain as previously recommended.

Councilperson F. Killingsworth seconded the motion.

Councilperson Leyden discussed displeasure in the delays, stating, "Am I wrong? When we left the other night, saying Hey, we're all happy with this, we all agreed. We shook hands, we all left."

After hearing from members of the public, councilperson Buckminster stated to the citizens of Falls City, "If you've got problems, speak here in these meetings. Don't be a keyboard warrior and sit there and type away on Facebook or TikTok or Snapchat, come to a meeting, watch the YouTube videos, call your councilman. Nobody does that."

He commended everyone who took the time to address the Council.

"Thank you, that's what I want."

After the discussion ended, the Council voted 4-4 for Fouraker's proposal. Voting nay were F. Killingsworth, K. Killingsworth, Kaster, and Fouraker. With the tie, Mayor Harkendorff chose not to cast the deciding vote, and the motion died.

At that point, Ferguson made a motion to pass the resolution provided by the Management/Non-Union Negotiation Committee. The Council voted 5-3 against adopting the resolution. Voting nay were F. Killingsworth, K. Killingsworth, Fouraker, Kaster and Ruiz.

In another action, the Council approved an application to USDA Ru-

ral Development for \$48,808.11 in assistance for the purchase of a 2026 Dodge Durango Pursuit AWD Police Cruiser.

The Board also approved the hiring of Nick Aitken as a Police Officer effective November 18, 2025.

Matt Beer was approved as Fire Chief, Jon McQueen as Assistant Fire Chief and Tim Daniels as 2nd Assistant Fire Chief.

The Board voted to enter into an agreement with Julie D. Bauman, CPA, P.C., for the Fiscal Year End 2025 for the preparation of adjusting entries and journal entries. The service fee totals \$8,950.

A resolution to sign the Year-End Certification of the City Street Superintendent for 2025 was approved.

The Council approved the appointment of Brian Friedrichsen as the City of Falls City Street Superintendent for 2026.

Finally, the Board authorized execution of an agreement with SEL Engineering Services, Inc., totaling \$98,605.00, for the Power Plant SCADA Controls Upgrade Project.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



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SAUNDERS COUNTY FARMLAND AUCTION

132 +/- DRYLAND ACRES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025 • 11 A.M.

SELLER: Milo & Rose Marie Bartek Family | AUCTION LOCATION: Saunders County Fairgrounds
 4-H Building, 635 E. 1st Street, Wahoo, NE 68066
 Online bidding opens Friday, December 5, 2025 at 11 a.m.
 and closes Friday, December 12, 2025 at the completion of the auction.

132 ± ACRES (DRYLAND) • LEGAL: BAL SE 20-13-8 (GREEN TWP) • DIRECTIONS TO GROUND: From Hwy. 63 south of Ithaca, take 13 Rd. south 5 miles to B Rd. Property is located on the NW side of the intersection
 NOTE: Here is an opportunity to purchase a dryland farm that lays well and is located just 1 mile off of a hard surfaced road. The topography is gently rolling and is located on a well-maintained gravel road and is close to marketing facilities. This farm has been well maintained and would be a great addition to your operation.

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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 or nikki@fcjournal.net and look in an upcoming issue or our Facebook page for answers.

FC students share their words of thanks

(Continued from Page 1)
 ing me learn. Robin H.
 I am thankful for my God, teacher, my family, my friends and my dog. Ike R.
 Frins, Family, Food, God, Jesus, Cherch, animals, my country, The people that served in the country. Emersyn A.
 This planet, my family, god, food, home, friends. Taylynn S.
 The food on the table and time with my family. Jaxon R.
 My family, my country,

my friends, food on the table, and my teachers. Kyndall K.
 My family, my dog, my friends and you. Lane D.
 I'm thankful for my freedom. Ryat
 My sisters birthday and for the food we will have for her birthday. Dakota S.
 Yummy food like turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy hot rolls, toast, family, dogs, football. Kenton C.
 I am thankful for food, home, family, friends,

holidays, Pets. Avery
 My dog Noel. Alice W.
 My family, my country, my planet, the sports I play. All my friends, and the food I eat. Gavin W.
 My family, God, my friends, my Bible, and Robin and Kyndall. Violet M.
 I am thankful for my family, the USA, food, Nebraska, my dog. Garrett G.
Sacred Heart's First Grade Class
 I am thankful for....
 mom, uncle Alex soldiers, Jesus, U.S.A., Dad, God, Vivian. Norah R.
 God, mom, dad, homes, Earth, friends, and Jesus. Haleigh J.
 Family, Jesus, military, sisters, mom, dad, pets, friends, God, brothers, homes, teachers. Jake H.
 God, family, Jesus, mom, dad, pets, whole life, Happy Thanksgiving.
 Paxton W.
 Zeus, God, family, military, my life, U.S.A., Earth, Jesus, mom, dad, brothers, sisters. Max H.
 Jesus, homes, family, mom, dad, pets, military. Everly S.
 God, Jesus, everyone friends mom.

Jonathan A.
 My family. Haisley.
 Pets, military, mom and dad, God and Jesus. Krew J.
 Mere, mom, dad, soldiers, my life, pets, dirt bikes. Griffin S.
 Family, God, military, homes, Jesus, brothers, Earth, mom, dad, my life. Dax V.
 God, military, Jesus, my life Dad mom deer hunt pets. Elliot B.
 My family. Paisley
 God, Jesus, military, Mon, Dad, family, Zeus and my life. Jack N.
 God, pets, family, homes, mom, dad, military, Earth. Mazie F.
 Military, Dad, Earth, Jesus, and Riley. Garrett B.
 God, Jesus, mom, Dad, friends, pets, my life, Earth. Cooper V.
 God, dirt bike, military, mom dad, brothers, justice, and sister. Walker B.
 God, Jesus, earth, mom, dad, military and teachers. Kaylie A.
 Thank you to the kids and their teachers for sharing all the things these students will be giving thanks for this week with all of us.

NioCorp to host Town Hall meetings in Elk Creek, on Dec. 5

NioCorp Developments Ltd. ("NioCorp" or the "Company") (NASDAQ:NB), a leading U.S. critical minerals developer, today announced plans to host two Town Hall meetings on Friday, December 5, 2025, to provide the public with updates on the Elk Creek Critical Minerals Project (the "Elk Creek Project") and answer questions from local residents.

Both events will be held at the Elk Creek Community Center, located at 383 Ash Street, Elk Creek, NE, 68348. The meetings will include a project update, a question-and-answer session with NioCorp executives, and a complimentary meal for all attendees.

Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen will attend the first Town Hall session at 12:00 p.m. CT.

Town Hall Overview: Friday, December 5, 2025

NioCorp is hosting two Town Hall meetings in order to accommodate high expected demand and to stay within the size limits of the Elk Creek Community Center. Each event will feature the same presentation and question-and-answer opportunities. Advanced reservations are required. Due to space limitations, participant reservations will be limited to a single event.

- Lunch Town Hall (with Governor Jim Pillen): Doors will open at 11:45 a.m. CT; event begins at 12:00 p.m.
- Dinner Town Hall: Doors will open at 4:45 p.m. CT; event begins at 5:00 p.m.

Advance registration required. Please visit: <https://www.niocorp.com/2025-town-hall-meeting-registration/>
 Representing NioCorp at the Town Hall meetings will be: Mark A. Smith, Executive Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer; Scott Honan, Chief Operating Officer and President of Elk Creek Resources Corp.; and Jim Sims, Chief Communications Officer.

A video recording of both events will be made available on NioCorp's website (www.niocorp.com) following the meetings.

NioCorp is developing a critical minerals project in Southeast Nebraska (the "Elk Creek Project") that is expected to produce niobium, scandium, and titanium. The Company also is evaluating the potential to produce several rare earths from the Elk Creek Project. Niobium is used to produce specialty alloys as well as High Strength, Low Alloy steel, which is a lighter, stronger steel used in automotive, structural, and pipeline applications. Scandium is a specialty metal that can be combined with Aluminum to make alloys with increased strength and improved corrosion resistance. Scandium is also a critical component of advanced solid oxide fuel cells. Titanium is used in various lightweight alloys and is a key component of pigments used in paper, paint and plastics and is also used for aerospace applications, armor, and medical implants. Magnetic rare earths, such as neodymium, praseodymium, terbium, and dysprosium are critical to the making of Neodymium-Iron-Boron magnets, which are used across a wide variety of defense and civilian applications.

NRDs now taking orders for spring tree seedlings

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) are now accepting orders for conservation tree seedlings for spring planting. By ordering early, you can secure your preferred species and make a lasting contribution to the environment.

Since 1972, Nebraska's NRDs have partnered with landowners to plant over 102 million trees statewide. At approximately \$1.20 per seedling, and with cost-share programs available in many districts, these conservation trees provide immense benefits to people, wildlife, and the environment. They offer shade, shelter homes, reduce soil erosion, protect crops and livestock, support wildlife by providing food and cover, buffer noise, and add beauty to the landscape.

"The NRD Conservation Tree Program is about more than just trees—it's about protecting our natural resources like soil, water, and wildlife," said Martin Graff, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts president. "Every tree seedling planted helps prevent soil erosion, shields crops and livestock, filters water and acts as a natural defense against harsh weather."

As windbreaks mature, NRD foresters recommend landowners consider rehabilitating old windbreaks or planning new plantings. The NRD Conservation Tree Program provides an affordable way for landowners to safeguard their property. NRD staff and foresters collaborate with landowners to choose the best tree species, create planting plans, and, in many cases, even handle the planting.

A notable collaboration in tree planting began in December 2021 when Lincoln-based Executive Travel launched its ETGreen campaign, pledging to plant 1 million trees in partnership with Nebraska's NRDs. The campaign funded nearly 207,000 trees between 2022 and 2025, and Executive Travel has committed another \$50,000 for tree planting in 2026. This partnership offsets seedling costs for Nebraska landowners while supporting Executive Travel's long-term tree planting goal. Learn more about ETGreen: <https://vimeo.com/648711812>

NRD tree programs offer various services such as planting assistance, weed barrier installation, weed control, and drip irrigation. Popular tree species sell out quickly, so don't miss the opportunity to order early for the best selection. To learn more about cost-share options or to place an order, contact your local NRD or visit www.nrdnet.org and click on "Find Your NRD."

For more information on the NRD Conservation Tree Program, visit www.nrdtrees.org.

The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD), the trade association for Nebraska's 23 Natural Resources Districts (NRD), works with individual districts to protect lives, property and the future of Nebraska's natural resources. NRDs are unique to Nebraska, and act as local government entities with broad responsibilities to protect Nebraska's natural resources. Major Nebraska river basins form the boundaries of the 23 NRDs, enabling districts to respond to local conservation and resource management needs.

Learn more about Nebraska's NRDs at www.nrdnet.org.

47th Annual Christmas Craft Fair Candy & Cookie Walk
Saturday, December 6th
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Nemaha County Wellness Center-601 J Street-Auburn, NE
Many vendors for you to choose from!
 Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Tastefully Simple, Tupperware, Scentsy
With goods including...
 Baked goods, freeze dried candies, jams and jellies, home décor, vintage re-purposed, sewn, crochet and knitted items, personalized sweatshirts, t-shirts, wood crafts/engraving, florals, soaps and lotions.
Plus Cookie & Candy Walk.... Choose items you want and make a donation!
 Show is sponsored by:
Nemaha County Giving Hope Cancer Fund
Lunch by American Legion Auxiliary

Sabetha Community Hospital Outpatient Calendar---December 2025

<p>Allergy Bilal Khan, MD: December 16</p> <p>Botox Levi Grimm, APRN: December 4, 11, 18, 29</p> <p>Cardiology Bashar Amr, MD: December 2 Tonya Stallbaumer, APRN: December 5 Swapna Mamidipally, MD: December 8 Kevin Bernd, DO: December 11</p> <p>Dermatology Tiffany Engelken, APRN: December 3, 10, 17, 31</p> <p>Diabetes Support Group December 16th @3pm</p> <p>Dizziness & Balance Gary McKnight, AuD: December 18</p> <p>Ear, Nose, & Throat Jason Lepse, MD: December 12</p> <p>Endocrinology Kelli Bradbury, APRN: December 11</p>	<p>Nephrology Haley Wingerson, APRN: December 8 Lakshmi Duvvur, MD: December 19 Keelyn Ericson, MD: December 15</p> <p>Neurology Abra Woolard, APRN: December 4, 18</p> <p>Nuclear Stress Tests December 11, 18</p> <p>OB/GYN Jamesina Dickson, MD: December 3</p> <p>Oncology Robin McKay, APRN: December 19</p> <p>Orthopedics Adam Streit, DO: December 4, 11 Maria VanDyke, PA-C: December 16, 23, 30 Michael McCoy, MD: December 4, 18</p> <p>Pain Management Karl Haake, MD: December 2, 16</p>	<p>Podiatry Robert Shemwell, DPM: December 10, 23, 30</p> <p>Pulmonology Michelle Warren, APRN: December 17</p> <p>Surgery Aaron Brown, MD: December 8, 10, 22, 24 Samuel Bruna, MD: December 1, 3, 15, 17, 29, 31</p> <p>Urology Kris Carlson, MD: December 9, 16, 23 Brad Rupp, MD: December 5</p> <p>Wound Clinic Susie Lueger, APRN: December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29</p>
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Parents only meeting held to discuss Tiger football future

(Continued from Page 1)

tive 8th -11th grade football players. The meeting was to give information related to the “state of our football program” and gather information from the parents that would impact the decision to play 8- man or 11-man football.

Administration wanted the meeting to be smaller so current and prospective players’ parents could speak openly, honestly, and freely. We believe that goal was accomplished. It was not a meeting to discuss the former coach and his removal. Twenty-three players parents attended the meeting.

The football program faces low participation, with a majority of underclassmen and significant safety concerns if remaining in 11-man football. The choice between 8-man and 11-man football centers on safety, participation, player development, and playoff eligibility. Eight-man football is favored by most stakeholders for

safety and increased Junior Varsity opportunities, despite temporary playoff ineligibility. The school board will receive a recommendation by administration and will make the final decision based on yesterday’s meeting and student survey information.

Parents felt the coaching changes may have impacted morale and may affect future participation; it was also stated that a coaching change could lead to players returning to the sport, to be determined.

Building a positive experience for athletes, increasing participation, and developing young players are key long-term goals. If the decision is to play 8-man, The school would be looking again at the next 2-year cycle to return to 11-man football and become playoff eligible. The community is encouraged to focus on supporting students/athletes and recruiting more players, regardless of format or coach.

Lori Hall

Lori Hall, 66, of Falls City, NE, passed away November 20, 2025 at Falls City. She was born October 26, 1959 at Falls City to Albert and Betty (Kirkendall) Lippold

She married Ronald Hall in 1982 in Falls City and they were later divorced.

Lori was raised in Falls City and graduated from Falls City Sacred Heart High School in 1978. Following graduation, she attended Lincoln School of Commerce before returning to Falls City in 1979 where she was employed by the Falls City Journal until 1993 when she began employment at Community Medical Center as a transcriptionist. She retired in 2015 due to her health. She was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

Lori is survived by her son, Brent of Mount Morris, MI, siblings, Nancy Campbell and Mike Lippold and his wife Rhonda both of Falls City, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Mark in infancy, aunts and uncles and grandparents.

A graveside service will be held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 11:30 AM at Falls City Catholic Cemetery with Father Jim Meysenburg as the presiding priest.

No viewing or visitation and friends may sign the guest register beginning on Monday from 9-7:00 PM at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home

AARP Nebraska’s November scam watch alerts your monthly guide to spotting, avoiding and reporting scams

Veterans Day, celebrated each year November 11, was a time to honor the service and sacrifice of those who have served in the U.S. armed forces. It’s also a reminder of the need to protect veterans beyond their time in uniform.

Earlier this year, AARP surveyed veterans and active-duty military service members to learn more about their experiences and concerns around fraud. The findings reveal that veterans face a higher risk of fraud and are often targeted with tactics related to their military background, benefits, or deep sense of trust.

Nearly four in ten veterans, representing more than 7.5 million people, say they’ve received solicitations from someone pretending to be from the Department of Veterans Affairs or another government agency. About 28%, an estimated 5.5 million veterans, believe their veteran status made them a target.

While many veterans are already taking steps to stay safe online, more than one in three say there aren’t enough resources available to help protect them. That’s where the AARP Veterans Fraud Center comes in. This online education and resource hub helps veterans, service members, and their families learn how to spot and avoid scams.

Unwrap Real Deals, Not Scams: The holiday deals are already rolling in, but not every offer you see online is the real deal.

Fraud criminals often create websites that look professional and offer big discounts on popular items. But after you pay for the item, the product you receive might be of poor quality, not what was advertised, or it never arrives at all.

Be cautious of any online offer that’s priced way below what other retailers are charging. The safest way to shop is by using trusted retailers’ apps or typing their website directly into your browser—not by clicking links from texts, emails, or ads.

TikTok and Social Media Scams: According to the Federal Trade Commission, more money is reported stolen through fraud originating on social media than by any other method of contact. Reports to the AARP Fraud Watch Network™ Helpline show a rise in scams on TikTok. Many are recycled fraud tactics with a social media twist. Here are three ways to help protect yourself.

Check your privacy settings. Limit who can see your posts and which apps can access your information.

Be skeptical of direct messages. Scammers often pose as celebrities, influencers, or even friends to request money, solicit “donations,” or promote fake investments. Red flags should go up if a friendly conversation turns into mentorship or romance that offers “investment” advice involving cryptocurrency.

Shop carefully on social platforms. TikTok Shop, Facebook Marketplace, and similar sites can host scams where products are misrepresented, poor quality, or never delivered. Review seller ratings, be wary of prices that seem far below market value, and use a credit card for the best protection.

Celebrity Imposter Scams: Social media can make it feel like we’re closer than ever to our favorite celebrities. But if a musician, actor, or athlete you admire suddenly sends you a private message, don’t get starstruck—get skeptical. It’s almost certainly a scam.

That personal attention isn’t coming from the celebrity. It’s from a criminal impersonating them or someone close to them. These scammers build trust through private messages, tailoring their approach based on your responses, sometimes turning it into a romance scam or a charity scam. The story may change, but the goal is always the same—to steal money and personal information.

Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) are making these scams even harder to spot. Criminals can now mimic voices, alter photos and craft polished messages without the spelling or grammar mistakes that once were red flags. Some even create fake ads or livestreams featuring celebrities who appear to endorse products or causes.

Enjoy following celebrities online, just remember that engaging with their posts can make you more visible to scammers. If an unexpected message sparks high emotion (like excitement) and involves urgency, let that be your signal to disengage because it’s likely a scam.

Report fake celebrity accounts or impostors directly to the social media platform. If you’re the victim of a scam, report it to law enforcement and insist on a record in case of possible future restitution.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with the AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call their free Helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to a trained fraud specialist about what to do next. Learn more at www.aarp.org/NebraskaScamAlerts.

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Don Shafer, Moderator - 402-245-5209

Good News Assembly of God (600 Reavis St.) Sunday School, 9:30am; Worship, 10:40am. Wednesday: Good News Kids, 6:30pm. www.mygnag.com. Tim Boatright, Pastor - 245-3977

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS (23rd & Barada) Sunday: Divine Service, 9 AM Sunday School and Bible study, 10:15 AM (September-May). Communion every Sunday. fallsclcms.blogspot.com

Rev. Ken Humphrey, Pastor- 402-245-3324
Corner Stone Baptist Church (N. Highway 73 Turn at Blue Valley Behavioral Health) Sunday School Bible Hour, 9:30am; Worship, 10:30am & 6:30pm. Wednesday: Bible Study & Prayer Time, 7pm; Lively Stone Kids Klub K-6. Pastor Mike Dunleavy - 402-245-4245

Valley Avenue Baptist Church (2023 Valley Ave.) Sunday School, 9:30am; Worship services, 10:30am; Evening, 6:00pm. Wednesday services, 7:00pm. Pastor Chad Berry-245-3890 valleyavenue.org

Church Of Christ (2701 Barada St.) Worship, 10:30am; Bible Study (All Ages), 9:30am. Wednesday Bible Study, 6:00pm. Josh Maxwell, Preacher - 402-245-7148

First United Methodist Church (1700 Harlan St.) Worship, 10:30am (Also Broadcast KTNC 1230am / 107.1fm at 11:00am) fumc@sentco.net - 402-245-3281

First Christian Church Disciples Of Christ (1322 Stone St.) Sunday School, 9:30am; Worship, 10:45am Facebook.com/fallsctcitycooperativeministry Pastor Grant Speece - 402-980-5960

St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church ELCA (20th & Towle St.) Sunday School (Sept-May), 9am; Worship, 10am. Wednesday: Confirmation 6:30pm; Choir 7:30pm. Joanna Kathol, Pastor - 402-245-3828

St. Thomas Episcopal Church (16th & Harlan) Sunday Worship, 10:30am (Holy Eucharist) <https://stthomasepisc.com>

Northridge (1820 Morton St.) Sunday School, 9am; Worship, 10am. www.northridgenetwork.org/Falls-City 402-245-2167

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church LCMS. (6 Mi. North of Falls City on US 73) Sunday School and Bible study, 9:30 AM (September-May). Divine Service, 10:30 AM. Communion on 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays. fallsclcms.blogspot.com
Rev. Ken Humphrey, Pastor - 402-245-4643

Sts. Peter and Paul (1820 Fulton) Weekend Mass Times: Sat., 5:00PM; Sun., 7AM & 10AM Daily Mass: Mon. thru Fri., 6:45AM Services livestreamed daily on www.facebook.com/sppfc Inquiry classes by appt. Sacrament of Penance: Sat., 3:45-4:45PM, or by appt.
Fr. Jim Meysenburg, Pastor 402-245-3002.

Zion United Church of Christ (65763 709 Rd, FC) Sunday: Worship service, 9:00AM; Communion, first Sun. of each month. www.facebook.com/fallsctcitycooperativeministry. Pastor, Grant Speece 402-980-5960 cell 245-2398 office

RULO

Immaculate Conception (Rulo) Sun. Confessions, 8:00AM; Mass, 8:30AM. Daily Mass schedule: Mon.-Fri., 6:30AM. Fr. Ben Rynearson, Pastor
Riverside Fellowship 117 S 3rd St., Rulo, NE. Sun. Worship 9AM. Fellowship, Sunday School, & Adult Bible Study 10AM Following Worship. David Showalter, Pastor

BARADA

Barada Global Methodist Church (717 Rd./652 Blvd.) Worship Service 9:15am; Sunday School 10:30am. Services held in Barada On The 2nd & 4th Sun. of the month. Services held at St. Peter’s ELCA On The 1st & 3rd Sun. of the month. Pastor Mike Hader. 402-245-4584

Bethel Global Methodist Church (70656 656 Ave ½ mile N of Preston Corner) Worship, 11:00AM; Sunday School, 10:00AM; Wednesday Choir, 7:30PM. Pastor Mike Hader - 402-245-4584.

St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) Williamsville, 12 miles NE of Falls City) Worship 8:15AM (1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays); Worship at Barada Global Methodist (2nd & 4th Sundays) Fellowship & Sunday School following worship. Pastor Mike Hader - 402-245-4584

SHUBERT

St. Anne’s (Shubert) Sun. Mass: 10:30AM; confessions before Mass. Fr. Anthony Bedient, Pastor. 855-3595 or 245-4151

Shubert Christian Church Worship, 9:30AM; Fellowship, 10:30AM; Sunday School, 10:30AM. Thursday Fellowship, 5:00PM. Pulpit Supply

Prairie Union Baptist Church (Rural Shubert) Sun: Morning Worship 10:30AM, Sunday School 9:30AM. Communion is served the first Sun. of every month. Bob Heusman, Pastor

VERDON

Verdon Christian Church Disciples of Christ (400 Walnut St.) Sun: Worship, Summer: 7PM, Winter: 6PM. Find us on Facebook at Verdon Christian Church. verdonchristianchurch@gmail.com. Rev. Daniel Spencer. Call or text: 402-801-0374.

DAWSON

St. Mary’s (Dawson) Weekend Mass: Sat., 5:30PM; Sun, 8:30AM. Daily Mass: 7:30AM Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. Check bulletin for changes, weekday mass schedules. Call rectory; confessions before Mass. Fr. Anthony Bedient, Pastor. 855-3595 or 245-4151.

ARAGO

St. Mary’s (Arago) Sunday: Confessions, 10:10AM; Mass, 10:30AM. Fr. Ben Rynearson, Pastor

STELLA

Stella Community Church Sun: Church service, with children’s Sunday School, 9:30AM; adults Sunday School, 10:30AM. John States, Pastor
Grace Bible Fellowship (Highway 62, east of Stella) Sunday School, 9AM; Church Service, 10:15AM. Website: www.gbfcchurch.com. Dave Lockard, Pastor. Office: 402-883-2110

HUMBOLDT

The Four Mile Church (South of Humboldt) Sunday: Church services, 9:00AM.
Howard Blecha, Pastor

WHITE CLOUD, KS

Lighthouse Church of God (2202 330th, White Cloud, KS) Sunday School, 9:30AM; Church Service, 10:30AM. Rev. Charles J. Haney, Pastor. 785-862-1107

BIG LAKE, MO

Big Lake Baptist Church (213 Lake Shore Drive) Sun: Fellowship breakfast, 8:45AM; Sunday School, 9:30AM; Service, 10:30AM. Mon: Prayer & Share Monday, 8:30AM. Wed: Children’s, Youth & Adult Bible Study, 7PM.
Dick Lionberger, Intern pastor

FOREST CITY, MO

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

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

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

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

DISTRICT COURT
Aimee L. Vermeer, count one, possess controlled subs, pled not guilty; count two, possess marijuana 1 oz or less-first, pled not guilty; count three, possess or use drug paraphernalia, pled not guilty. Entry of plea scheduled for November 25, 2025.

Donald E. Murphy Jr., count one, fail to report every three months/prior, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for December 23, 2025.

Thomas L. Bassett, count one, operate motor vehicle/avoid arrest-felony, pled not guilty; count two, drive while revoked from DUI/refusal, pled not guilty; count three, habitual criminal, pled not guilty; count four, drive without ignition interlock, pled not guilty; count five, willful reckless driving-first, pled not guilty; count six, improper/defective vehicle lighting, pled not guilty; count seven, violate no passing zone, pled not guilty; count eight, violate stop or yield sign, pled not guilty; count nine, drive left of center,

pled not guilty; count 10, no motorcycle operator's license, pled not guilty; count 11, fail to use turn signal, pled not guilty; count 12, fail to use turn signal, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for December 9, 2025.

Edward J. Perman, drive while revoked from DUI/refusal, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for December 9, 2025. Offense date 6/30/25.

Edward J. Perman, count one, drive while revoked from DUI/refusal, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for December 9, 2025. Offense date 9/29/25.

Jennifer N. Anderson, count one, aiding and abetting a Class 1D felony, pled not guilty; count two, aiding and abetting a Class 1D felony, pled not guilty; count three, aiding and abetting a Class 1D felony, pled not guilty; count four, burglary, pled not guilty; count five, theft-unlawful taking \$1,500-4,999, pled not guilty; count six, criminal trespass-first degree, pled not guilty; count seven, possess or use drug paraphernalia, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for December 23, 2025.

COUNTY COURT
Jessica Simmons, count one, commit child abuse negligently/no injury, pled not guilty. Entry of plea scheduled for December 17, 2025.

Roderick Rowland, count one, commit child abuse negligently/no injury, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for December 10, 2025.

Ida M. Rowland, count one, commit child abuse negligently/no injury, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for January 14, 2026.

Adam D. Bek, count one, assault-cause bodily injury, amended to disturbing the peace, pled not guilty and fined \$75.

Kyle A. Hague, count one, criminal trespass-2nd degree/defy order, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for December 10, 2025.

Kyle A. Hague, count one, disturbing the peace, pled not guilty. Pretrial

scheduled for December 10, 2025.

Kyle A. Hague, count one, criminal mischief-\$501-1,499, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled December 10, 2025.

Marya L. Johnson, operate motor vehicle/avoid arrest-misd, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$150; count two, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and

fined \$125.

Dontrell L. Quince, count one, amended to dropped/dismissed; count two, possess controlled subs, amended to attempt of a class 4 felony, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$750; count three, possess marijuana 1 oz or less-first, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$300.

Hansen-Mueller Co. announces strategic restructuring plan to facilitate sale of assets and maximize value for stakeholders

Hansen-Mueller Co. ("Hansen-Mueller" or the "Company") announced it is pursuing a strategic financial restructuring to address its current financial challenges, facilitate the sale of its assets, and maximize recoveries for its creditors and stakeholders. To implement this restructuring in an orderly and efficient manner, the Company has voluntarily filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska.

The Company is pursuing a Court-supervised sale process for substantially all of its assets under Section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code. This process is designed to attract one or more buyers who can continue the business operations, while providing the highest possible return to its creditors.

"After careful consideration of all available strategic alternatives, the Board of Directors determined that a Court-supervised process is the most effective and efficient way to achieve an orderly sale of our assets," said Josh Hansen, Chief Executive Officer of Hansen-Mueller Co.

"We believe this path will maximize the value of the Company's assets for the benefit of our creditors, employees, and all stakeholders."

Hansen-Mueller is working closely with its legal and financial advisors to navigate this process efficiently.

The Company intends to continue managing its operations in the ordinary course and hopes to move through the sale and Chapter 11 process as quickly as possible.

Key Information About the Restructuring: Operations: The Company expects to

continue its operations as a "debtor-in-possession" under the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.

Employees and Suppliers: The Company intends to meet its obligations to employees and key suppliers for goods and services provided after the filing date.

Court Details: Case information, including Court filings and claims information, can be found at the Company's restructuring website, managed by its claims agent, Epiq, at <https://dm.epiq11.com/HansenMueller> or by calling toll free (US & Canada): 877-717-1702.

Koley Jessen P.C., L.L.O. is serving as legal counsel, Silverman Consulting, Inc. is serving as financial advisor, and Ascendant Consulting Partners, LLC is serving as investment banker to the Company.

Hansen-Mueller Co. is a nationwide merchandiser and processor of grain with a diversified agribusiness platform with locations throughout the central United States. More specifically, the Company operates nine elevators, five across the Midwest along Interstate 29. Hansen-Mueller Co. also operates four port terminals: Duluth, Minnesota; Houston, Texas; Superior, Wisconsin; and Toledo, Ohio.

Hansen-Mueller Co. further owns an oats processing facility in Toledo, Ohio.

Additionally, Hansen-Mueller Co. leases and operates grain trading offices located in Ohio; Omaha, Nebraska; Salina, KS; Kansas City, Missouri; Louisiana; Grand Island, NE; and, Alabama. The Company is headquartered in Omaha, NE.

FALLS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS AND STATISTICS

November 6 through November 7, 2025 calls: one ambulance/EMS call, one house watch, two fire calls (Stella Fire), one nuisance, six miscellaneous calls, one noise disturbance, and one animal call. Two warnings for improper or defective vehicle lighting, one warning for speeding, and one warning for no valid registration. Two 911 calls.

November 7 through November 8, 2025 calls: two animal calls, one nuisance, four miscellaneous calls, two ambulance/EMS calls, one house watch, three records checks, one investigation, one traffic/driving complaint, one call referred to another agency, and one warrant arrest. Three 911 calls. One citation for speeding, one citation for driving under suspension/before reinstatement, one citation for assault causing bodily injury, and one citation for fugitive from justice.

November 8 through November 9, 2025 calls: two animal calls, two alarms, two miscellaneous calls, two calls referred to other agencies, two 911 hang-up/misdial calls, and three ambulance/EMS calls, totaling five 911 calls.

November 9 through November 10, 2025 calls: three ambulance/EMS calls, one information-only call, one gun permit call, one investigation, one welfare check, two alarms, one 911 hang-up/misdial, and one miscellaneous call. Totaling three 911 calls.

November 10 through November 11, 2025 calls: one ambulance/EMS call, one burn permit, one welfare check, one HHS referral, one traffic complaint, one alarm, one miscellaneous call, and one referred-agency call. Three 911 calls, plus one citation for dogs/cats nuisance and three warnings: one for a muffler, one for speeding, and one for registration.

November 11 through November 12, 2025 calls: two alarms, two information-only calls, four ambulance/EMS calls, three fire calls, five referred-agency calls, one 911 hang-up/misdial, one theft, one animal call, two traffic/driving complaints, one report of a suspicious person/vehicle, and one miscellaneous call. Totaling nine 911 calls. One citation for speeding, two citations for invalid registration, one citation for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one citation for no operator's license, one citation for animals running at large, and one citation for muffler violation. Two warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting, three warnings for speeding, and one warning for no license on person.

November 12 through November 13, 2025 calls: one fire call (Verdon Fire), one animal call, three referred other agency calls, three 911 hang-up/misdial calls, five miscellaneous calls, one house watch, and one burn permit. Totaling three 911 calls.

November 13 through November 14, 2025 calls: one information-only call, five ambulance/EMS calls, five referred other agency calls, two animal calls, two motorist assists, one miscellaneous call, one burn permit, one HHS intake/referral, and one disturbance. One warning for invalid registration, one warning for no lights after dark, and six 911 calls.

November 14 through November 15, 2025 calls: two information-only calls, four miscellaneous calls, two animal calls, four ambulance/EMS calls, two suspicious person/vehicle calls, two HHS intake/referral calls, one investigation, and one referred other agency call. Three 911 calls total. Five warnings for improper or defective vehicle lighting, two warnings for muffler violation, one warning for speeding, one warning for registration violation, and one warning for misuse of permit.

November 15 through November 16, 2025 calls: one noise disturbance, four miscellaneous calls, one loitering call, two ambulance/EMS calls, four suspicious person/vehicle calls, two referred-other-agency calls, one parking complaint, one animal call, one investigation, one traffic/driving complaint, and one disturbance. Nineteen calls total. Three 911 calls. Two citations for curfew violation, one citation for invalid registration, one citation for possession of marijuana less than one ounce, one citation for failure to use a child passenger restraint, three citations for invalid registration, two citations for muffler violation, and two citations for improper or defective vehicle lighting.

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Ninety-eighth National FFA Convention

By Bowdy Jones

On October 28, eight students traveled to Indianapolis for the 98th FFA National Convention and Expo. The students that attended were Malori Kuker, Brean Eickhoff, Aubrey Kapustka, Kinsie Riggs, Taiylah Moore, Ethan Morris, Dayton Snethen, and Wyatt Coonce.

The first day the group took a tour at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville where they learned about the different programs and got to see multiple places on campus. Next they toured Trans Ova Genetics in Chillicothe, MO where we learned about the process of multiple reproduction techniques they use at the facility.

The second day, the group attended the first opening session of the 98th Convention where they watched opening ceremonies and listened to powerful motivational speaker A'ric Jackson who described how to get past mental blocks in your life.

On Wednesday, the group spent the day touring different companies and places in the area. The first tour was an Angus beef cattle farm, where the owners also grew non-gmo corn for foreign countries and also supplied the local community with home grown beef. We were able to see their equipment they used and also their herd of cattle. They then traveled to the second tour at Ozark Fisheries, where the owners raised Koi and Goldfish,

they told us the growing process of the fish and the kids were allowed to touch the tadpoles, and crawfish that were by products of the fisheries koi and goldfish, they then also showed us the packing process for fish that would be sent to valued customers. The final tour of the day was at Hunters Honey where members got to look at a large scale bee farm and even try some fresh honey there were multiple different stations where they saw how honey was collected, how it was stored, and also how it was packed. After the presentations they were even allowed to package their own bottle of honey and bring it home.

On Friday, the group went to the convention and expo again where they attended many workshops and learned essential skills such as how to be kind to yourself, they also attended a Parliamentary Procedure Finals demonstration. The members then traveled downtown and had a team meal at a local restaurant.

After the convention, they went to the FFA Rodeo and got to see many different ranked rodeo stars in action. Saturday morning, the group attended the American Degree Recipient Ceremony. They all watched as Falls City Graduate, Kemper Foster, received his FFA American Degree. At the conclusion of the American Degree ceremony, the group started their journey back home.



A foggy Thursday morning. Last week Southeast Nebraska woke up to dense fog, some said it was some of the worst they had driven in for some time. But it made the side streets eerily pretty during this fall season.

Titans fight through bumpy season

The HTRS Titan football squad endured a rocky year, finishing the 2025 campaign with a 1-7 record. HTRS dropped the first five games on its schedule by a combined score of 265-74. HTRS outscored Cedar Bluffs 50-44 in the season's sixth contest but fell the following week to Weeping Water 60-0. The Titans ended the season with a forfeit to Johnson County Central.

HTRS finished the 2025 year with 935 passing yards and 541 yards on the ground. The Titans passed for 11 scores and ran for four additional touchdowns. Titan quarterbacks tossed 12 interceptions, while runners lost three fumbles.

QB Bradyn Bowen handled the bulk of the snaps under center, completing 56/125 pass attempts for 832 yards, eight touchdowns and 10 interceptions. Kameon Dettmann completed 10/19 attempts for 103 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions.

The Titan ground attack was led by sophomore running back Alex Dewberry. Dewberry toted the ball 58 times for 305 yards and two scores. Dewberry had a season-long run of 75 yards. Dettmann was next up with 159 yards and two scores on 43 carries. Bowen carried the rock 32 times for 66 yards.

Dewberry also led the receiving corps with 30 grabs for 353 yards and five touchdowns. Dettmann was close behind with 24 catches for 303 yards and two scores. Jack Hilgenfeld snagged nine pass attempts for 169 yards and two scores, and Emmett Glathar, playing in only three games, finished with five catches for 88 yards and two scores.

On the defensive side of the action, Dewberry led the squad with 49 total tackles, 30 of which were solo stops. He also added a team-best five tackles for losses. Axton Wamsley was next up with 44 tackles and three TFLs, while Jake Davis finished with 39 stops and five TFLs.

HTRS enjoyed its most success through the air versus Southern when Titan QBs passed for 275 yards. The best ground total came against Cedar Bluffs when the Titans ran 35 times for 219 yards.

HTRS will lose three seniors from its roster: Emmett Glathar, Jonathan Koch, and Bennett Arth.

HOLIDAY HOURS

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PREP TIME: 30 MINS COOK TIME: 35 MINS 8 SERVINGS BY: MARY MALONE

INGREDIENTS: CRUST & TOPPING

- ONE LB 1.5 OZ POUCH SNICKERDOODLE COOKIE MIX
- 1/2 C (CUP) BUTTER, SOFTENED
- ONE EIGHT OZ. PACKAGE CREAM CHEESE, SOFTENED
- 1/4 CUP SUGAR
- ONE TABLESPOON FLOUR
- ONE TEASPOON VANILLA
- ONE EGG
- ONE 1/4 CUPS APPLE PIE FILLING, CHOPPED
- 1/2 TEASPOON CINNAMON

INSTRUCTIONS

PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES. GREASE A 9 IN. GLASS PIE PLATE. PLACE COOKIE MIX INTO A LARGE BOWL. ADD THE 1/2 CUP BUTTER. BLEND WITH PASTRY BLENDER UNTIL YOU HAVE CRUMBS. PRESS ABOUT 2 CUPS OF CRUMBS INTO THE BOTTOM & UP THE SIDES OF THE PIE PLATE. BAKE 10 MINUTES. SET ASIDE.

ADD ONE TABLESPOON MELTED BUTTER TO THE REMAINING CRUMBS & TOSS TO COMBINE. ADD ONE TABLESPOON CREAM CHEESE IN A MEDIUM BOWL. ADD SUGAR & FLOUR. MIX BEAT THE CREAM CHEESE UNTIL SMOOTH. ADD VANILLA & EGG AND BEAT UNTIL SMOOTH. UNTIL INCORPORATED. ADD VANILLA & EGG AND BEAT UNTIL SMOOTH. PLACE APPLE PIE FILLING INTO A SMALL BOWL. ADD CINNAMON AND STIR TO COMBINE.

SPREAD THE CREAMED CHEESE MIXTURE INTO THE BOTTOM OF THE COOKIE CRUST. SPOON THE CHOPPED APPLE PIE FILLING OVER THE CREAM CHEESE LAYER. TRY TO GET MORE OF THE APPLE AND LESS OF THE THICKENED FILLING ONTO THE TOP OF THE CREAM CHEESE.

SPRINKLE CRUMB MIXTURE OVER THE APPLES EVENLY.

BAKE ABOUT 35 MINUTES OR UNTIL THE TOP IS GOLDEN BROWN.

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Council vote questioned amid conflicting explanations, legal standards guide next steps

(Continued from Page 1) of committee unanimously," he said.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Council Member Frank Killingsworth addressed earlier comments about committee attendance and said he was unable to leave work, but had told another council member he could participate by phone. "I said call me," he said. "Did I receive a phone call on that one? No."

Nussbaum said the information "was not relayed" to him. Nussbaum stated in that meeting that he represented the management committee and the management team. "It's not my obligation."

Several residents addressed the council.

Resident Mark Lowe urged the council not to rush a vote and asked whether all members had seen "the benchmark" used to evaluate salaries. "I do not feel like this is something we should rush," he said.

Resident Becky Littrel read prepared remarks questioning the size of the proposed increases and said many residents feared speaking publicly, saying she believed there could be several reasons for that. Addressing Councilmember Leyden, she said, "As Council President and President of the bank, don't you think that maybe employees are concerned

with the repercussions of speaking their concerns and what that might do to their job or their relationship with their boss?"

Littrel addressed a member of the EDGE board and the Vice President of another bank in town. "Fear of repercussion is the thought that comes to mind over and over."

She said the same could be said for the city employees concerned with any repercussions for them.

Continuing, Littrel said raises are based on performance and the ability to meet deadlines, complete tasks, and follow procedures and safety regulations. She added, "Being a good person does not justify a 60 percent wage increase." She encouraged the council to consider a one-year proposal and conduct a complete written compensation study. "It's time for all of you to step up and work together for the people that you represent. That's what you are elected to do. The yelling, the inappropriate comments, the narcissistic behaviors, the persuasion tactics, and whatever else are going on to get someone to vote a certain way is completely wrong. And quite frankly, it's a violation of the Nebraska legislature."

Former city councilperson Mitch Merz spoke to the audience, stating that all the committees and subcommittees are volunteer

positions. He also advised those in attendance that he agreed that the comps and comparisons should be carried out.

"The comparisons are presented during the subcommittees," said Merz. "That's all done. It is done and it has been done. He continued, "Everything that you guys, I believe, are asking for has been done by the subcommittee."

Kevin Malone addressed the Council. He then spoke of the "accomplishments of our management administrative team." He said, "They've added revenue of \$500,000 per year for five years from EVERGY for a power plant capacity contract." He continued, saying that Nussbaum secured over \$460,000 in federal funds from the EPA, which paid for the water main replacement project nearing completion. The City received \$15 million from the state for the transmission line project. Malone also said that Nussbaum is working on a project that, upon completion, could bring a total of \$23 million.

"We have a young, talented, progressive leadership team that wants to live and raise their family in Falls City just like all the rest of us do. We are working on a potential project that would be the largest new investment in Nebraska history. Let me repeat that. We are working on a potential project that would

be the largest new investment in Nebraska's history," said Malone. "They are here and talking to us because of our leadership team of Anthony, Trevor, and Lucas. Let's let them finish the job. As you treat union members, let's treat all nonunion members with comparable and fair wages."

Linda Ebel said comparable wage information should be documented in writing.

"Maybe you need a committee that doesn't involve any of you, but private citizens to come forth and bring that together. I'm just saying, if you're going to use salary comps, there's more to it than just picking up the phone and saying, "Hey, what are you paying your guy or your gal for each position?" And it needs to be in writing."

Jerry McKim pointed out all the local businesses that have shut down and encouraged the council to wait until Citroniq moves into town before implementing any significant raises.

"Once we land a big business or big revenue coming into this town, I could see where you're wanting to pay this kind of money out. But right now, I don't think we can afford to pay that kind of wages. If everything keeps dwindling, everyone left here is going to have to pay it."

McKim said the council should consider pressures on households.

"Your insurance goes up, your taxes go up, your utilities go up, food goes up, everything going up, and it's getting harder and harder for the old blue collar, retired guy, single family parent."

At the close of the meeting, it was confirmed that the council passed "the resolution submitted at the November 3 meeting."

The council voted 4-3 to pass the resolution. Voting for the proposal were Leyden, Ferguson, Buckminster and Ruiz. Casting nay votes were F. Killingsworth, K. Killingsworth and Fouraker. Kaster was unable to attend as he was out of town for work.

A member of the crowd asked what resolution was passed.

"The resolution passed," said Ferguson.

"Which one?"

"The resolution that was submitted at the November

3rd meeting."

"The November 3rd meeting," confirmed Nussbaum.

Several council members later told the Journal they believed they were voting on the November 17 proposal because those documents were the sheets in front of them. They said they did not realize the action taken was tied to the November 3rd proposal until after adjournment.

After the meeting, City Administrator Nussbaum contacted the Journal and said the council voted on the November 17 proposal. Councilmember Don Ferguson also said the council acted on the November 17 version.

Those explanations conflict with the wording confirmation at the end of the meeting. The Journal reviewed the audio recording and the motion references the November 3 package.

The outcome of a council vote in Nebraska is determined by: The motion as stated aloud. The vote was taken in open session. The minutes recorded by the clerk.

Under Nebraska's Open Meetings Act, all votes must be taken in public. Nebraska law does not consider after-the-fact explanations to be part of the official action.

Under Robert's Rules of Order, which govern municipal procedure unless superseded by local code, the wording of the motion controls. The intent of members does not override the wording. Misunderstandings or confusion must be corrected by a new motion in a later meeting. The only way to change a mistaken vote is for the council to meet again and vote to rescind or amend the action.

The Nebraska Public Records Act also requires the City to provide, upon request, the adopted resolution, the motion language, and any documents used during the meeting.

Under standard municipal procedure, if the council did not intend to adopt the November 3 proposal, the only legally recognized remedy is to take new action in a subsequent meeting. A public body cannot correct an unclear or mistaken vote through informal explanations or later statements outside a meeting. A new motion and vote are required to replace or

rescind the action recorded in the minutes. If the council takes no further action, the recorded vote remains in effect.

To determine which wage resolution was legally adopted, the Journal requested written clarification from Nussbaum and Ferguson regarding which proposal they believe was adopted.

The following steps depend on the official documents:

Minutes and resolution: If the minutes confirm the wording of the motion referencing the November 3 package, that becomes the official action unless the council votes to rescind or amend it.

If council members believe they voted in error: Nebraska law allows a public body to "rescind or amend something previously adopted" in a later meeting. The action can only be changed through a public vote at a future meeting.

If there is a dispute over interpretation, the city attorney may issue a written interpretation. Still, the attorney's view does not override the motion or minutes unless the council votes to act on that advice.

The proposal will raise the City Administrator's salary to roughly \$156,000 per year in 2026. The City Administrator was hired in 2022 at \$85,000 per year and currently makes \$95,604.60. The hourly wage would be \$75 in 2026, \$78 in 2027, and \$80.34 in 2028.

The proposed Public Works Director salary would increase from \$91,341.44 per year to \$145,600 per year in the first year under the submitted resolution. The hourly equivalent is \$70 in 2026, \$72.80 in 2027, and \$74.98 in 2028. The Board of Public Works discussed the wage increase with the City Administrator and Public Works Director at the October 7, 2025, Board of Public Works meeting. The Board recommended that the City pay the Director \$70 per hour.

Each would also receive a \$250 per month stipend. The wage estimates are based on a 40-hour work week at the proposed increases.

Other proposed raises include the Deputy City Clerk/HR Coordinator, who would make \$32.90 per year in 2026, \$34.22 in 2027, and \$35.24 in 2028, with a \$150 monthly stipend.

The Deputy Treasurer/Utility Billing Manager would earn \$34.71 in 2026, \$36.10 in 2027, and \$37.18 in 2028, with a \$150 monthly stipend.

The Chief of Police's wages would be \$53.85 per hour in 2026, \$56.00 in 2027 and \$57.68 in 2028. The Chief's salary is currently \$ 86,847.56.

The Assistant Chief would make \$43.50 per hour in 2026, \$45.24 in 2027 and \$46.60 in 2028. The Parks and Rec Director would make \$35.50 per hour in 2026, \$36.92 in 2027 and \$38.03 in 2028 with a \$150 monthly stipend. The Parks and Rec Director's current salary is \$62,004.80.

The proposal also requests that management staff be fully vested in the

(Continued on Page 10)

The MENU

SINCE 2021

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<p>SAC & FOX TRAD'N POST 3226 US Hwy 73 Reserve, KS- 785-742-2037 DAILY ALL WEEK 10:30AM-9:00PM CHAMPS Chicken Strips Dippers Bone-In BLU TACO Tacos, Burritos, Bowls & More!</p>	<p>SMILEY BEE COFFEE & SWEETS SHOP 1715 Stone St., Falls City • 402-245-5171 Breakfast items available until Lunch - SOUP DAILY! LUNCH SPECIALS: NOV. 26TH-DEC. 2ND WED-Spaghetti/Meatballs & Garlic Drop Biscuits THURSDAY-Closed for Thanksgiving FRIDAY-French Dip Sliders & Bean Salad MONDAY-Mexican Pulled Pork & Baked Beans TUES.-Cheesy Chicken Spaghetti & Side Salad</p>

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City of Falls City, NE		
Annual Report of Receipts & Expenditures		
Fiscal Year 2024-2025		
Fund	Receipts(\$)	Expenditure (\$)
100 - General	\$2,336,564.62	\$503,615.72
110 - Police	\$16,466.35	\$1,247,291.73
115 - Animal Control	\$6,624.00	\$49,008.27
120 - Fire	\$27,366.65	\$179,195.02
130 - Building Inspections & Code Enforcement	\$77,549.00	\$128,947.32
150 - Parks	\$76,087.29	\$795,624.17
151 - Auditorium	\$28,676.12	\$246,005.18
160 - Tree Board	-	\$5,632.92
170 - Library	\$29,800.76	\$449,373.40
180 - Cemetery	\$23,154.26	\$171,294.55
190 - Streets	\$936,432.32	\$1,243,280.26
195 - Mechanic Shop	\$70.62	\$127,720.64
205 - Dispatching	\$22,003.11	\$485,734.04
206 - NG911-PSAP	\$49,636.74	\$42,833.34
210 - Solid Waste	\$36,392.00	-
220 - CDBG Downtown Revitalization	\$44,202.56	\$124,943.47
240 - CDBG Owner Occupied Rehabilitation	\$52,123.13	\$64,605.60
245 - Rural Workforce Housing	\$317,900.00	\$323,440.00
250 - LB840	-	\$39,134.23
255 - Revitalize Rural Nebraska	\$22,100.00	\$22,100.00
260 - Capital Improvement Sinking	\$1,553,540.84	\$0.00
280 - Housing Abatement/Demolition	\$37,034.33	\$26,712.79
281 - Sidewalk Improvement Program	-	\$15,420.00
400 - Energy Forward	\$15,000,000.00	-
500 - Cemetery Trust	\$11,700.00	-
600 - Electric	\$8,171,605.79	\$9,349,154.13
610 - Water	\$1,593,751.15	\$2,048,621.06
620 - Gas	\$3,011,224.93	\$3,149,686.35
630 - Wastewater	\$1,244,919.89	\$1,207,875.93
800 - Airport	\$223,585.79	\$235,324.48
810 - Community Redevelopment Authority	\$154,974.43	\$125,548.59
820 - Mutual Finance Organization	\$185,389.94	\$185,340.00

26
ZNEZ

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

Michael R. Dunn, #16825
 Tracy A. Burns, #25398
 Halbert, Dunn & Burns, LLC
 111 East 17th Street
 Post Office Box 44 7
 Falls City, Nebraska 68355-0447
 Phone: 402 245-4486

19-26-3
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

NOTICE OF INFORMAL ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANITA I. DeLONG, Deceased. Estate No. PR25-57

Notice is hereby given that on November 19, 2025, 2025, in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, Shawna N. Bindle, whose address is 2221 Abbott Street, Falls City, Nebraska, has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before January 26, 2026, or be forever barred.

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

Michael R. Dunn, #16825
 Tracy A. Burns, #25398
 Halbert, Dunn & Burns, LLC
 111 East 17th Street
 Post Office Box 44 7
 Falls City, Nebraska 68355-0447
 Phone: 402 245-4486

26-3-10
ZNEZ

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.

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

FALLS CITY CITY COUNCIL

November 3, 2025

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Falls City, Nebraska, was held in said City on the 3rd day of November 2025, at 6:00 o'clock P.M. Council met in regular session. Mayor Harkendorff called the meeting to order, and Clerk Nussbaum recorded the minutes of the meeting. On roll call the following Council persons were present: Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. Absent: None. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in three public places, a designated method for giving notice as shown by the Certificate of Posting Notice attached to these minutes. Notice of this meeting was given to the Mayor and all persons of the Council and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. Mayor Harkendorff publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted in the room where the meeting was being held.

STANDING REPORTS

Standing reports from the City Administrator and Chief of Police were presented. No formal action was required.

AGENDA APPROVAL FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2025

A motion was made by Council person Leyden and seconded by Council person Ferguson to approve the agenda as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL FOR OCTOBER 20, 2025

A motion was made by Council person Leyden and seconded by Council person K. Killingsworth to approve the minutes for October 20, 2025, as presented. Roll was called on this mo-

tion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. Motion carried.

CLAIMS APPROVAL FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2025

A motion was made by Council person Ferguson and seconded by Council person K. Killingsworth to approve the claims for November 4, 2025, as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

A motion was made by Council person Leyden and seconded by Council person Buckminster to approve the treasurers' report as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR RESTRICTED PARKING ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE 900 BLOCK OF MORTON STREET

Bing Bindrum presented a second request to the City Council to restrict parking on the east side of the 900 block of Morton Street. Following discussion, a motion was made by Council person F. Killingsworth and seconded by Council person Ferguson to approve restricting parking on the east side of the 900 block of Morton Street from the intersection of 9th and Morton to a point 182 feet north of the intersection. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Ruiz. "NAY" Leyden. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

A resolution declaring certain city property surplus was presented. Upon review, a motion was made by Council person Leyden and seconded by Council person Kaster to adopt the resolution as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION FOR AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE DONATION OF REAL ESTATE AT 1511 AND 1515 STONE STREET

A resolution for agreement to receive donation of real estate from Dorothy Towle, Owner of Southeast Nebraska Communications, at 1511 and 1515 Stone Street Mini Park was presented. Upon review, a motion was made by Council person Ferguson and seconded by Council person F. Killingsworth to adopt the resolution as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPUTY CITY CLERK AND DEPUTY CITY TREASURER TO SIGN, ATTEST AND CERTIFY MUNICIPAL DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY CLERK AND CITY TREASURER

A resolution authorizing the Deputy City Clerk and Deputy City Treasurer to sign, attest and certify municipal documents on behalf of the City Clerk and City Treasurer was presented. Upon review, a motion was made by Council person Ferguson and seconded by Council person F. Killingsworth to adopt the resolution as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. Motion carried.

AGREEMENT TO AMEND ARTICLE 10 PENSION FOR THE LABOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF FALLS CITY AND THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS IUOE LOCAL 571

City Administrator Nussbaum provided a written report along with an amendment agreement. Upon review, a motion was made by Council person K. Killingsworth and seconded by Council person Buckminster to authorize execution of the agreement upon ratification by the IUOE. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE PURCHASE OR OPTION AGREEMENT OF LAND FOR A NEW ELECTRIC SUBSTATION AND COORDINATE WITH THE SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND FALLS CITY EDGE ON GRANT FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR THE ENERGY FORWARD TRANSMISSION PROJECT

City Administrator Nussbaum provided a written report and presented a resolution for consideration. Upon review, a motion was made by Council person Buckminster and seconded by Council person Leyden to adopt the resolution as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION APPROVING NON-UNION WAGE SCALES AND BENEFIT ADJUSTMENTS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 12, 2025

City Administrator Nussbaum provided a written report and presented a resolution for consideration. Upon review, a motion was made by Council person Ferguson and seconded by Council person Buckminster to adopt the resolution as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Leyden. "NAY" Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Ruiz. Motion failed. No further action or discussion was taken.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:25 P.M.

I, the undersigned, City Clerk for the City of Falls City, Nebraska, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings had and done by Council on November 3, 2025; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk; that such agenda items were sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that at least three copies of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by persons of the public; that the said minutes from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting; and that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available and accessible to persons of the public, posted during such meeting in the room in which such meeting was held.

City Clerk
 Mayor
 ZNEZ

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION NOVEMBER 12, 2025 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Richardson County Board of Equalization was called to order by Chairman Caverzagie at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025. Roll call was answered by Karas, Campbell and Caverzagie; Treasurer, Amanda Bartek-Ramsey and Clerk Eickhoff. Chairman Caverzagie announced that the open meeting laws have been posted at the entrance to the meeting room.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the agenda as posted. Motion seconded by Campbell. 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.

REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION

Motion was made by Caverzagie to remove the real estate exemption for tax year 2025 for the First Presbyterian Church, Lots 13, 14, 15 & 16 of Block 5, Original Town, City of Falls City, and to now include on the 2025 tax rolls. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

MOTOR VEHICLE TAX EXEMPTION

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve a motor vehicle tax exemption for the Community Medical Center, Inc. for a 2024 Ford utility vehicle. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 a.m. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.
 John Caverzagie, Chairman
 Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk
 ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF DAWSON

VILLAGE OF DAWSON PUBLIC HEARING OF ONE AND SIX YEAR ROAD AND STREET PLAN NOVEMBER 11TH, 2025 DAWSON VILLAGE HALL

The Dawson Board of Trustees met for the purpose of holding a public hearing for the One and Six year Road and Street Plan on Tuesday, November 11th, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the Dawson Village Hall.

Present: Trustees: Chairperson Bill Koch, Larry Koch, Tom Burns, and Brian Burns.

Clerk was present to record the minutes.

Absent: Stephanie Ingraham
 Guests: Britinna Burns and Jamie Gresham

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in three public places on November 4th, 2025: Dawson Village Hall, Dawson Post Office, and Dawson Fire Department. Notice of the meeting was simultaneously given to the Chairman and all members of the Board of Trustees. All proceedings thereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Chairman Koch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll call was conducted. Chairman Koch informed the audience of the location of the Open Meetings Act poster on the west wall.

Public Comment
 Chairman Koch advised the public that a three 3 minute time allotment would be given to each and every person who would like to address the board for the public hearing.

Chairman Koch opened the hearing for the One and Six year Road and Street Plan at 7:03 p.m.

Hearing no public comment, Chairman Koch closed the hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Motion by Chairman Koch, seconded by Larry Koch to adopt Resolution 25-369, One and Six year Road and Street Plan 2025/2026 through 2030/2031. ROLL CALL: B Koch - aye; L Koch - aye; B Burns - aye; T Burns - aye; S Ingraham - absent; motion carried.

With no further business, Chairman Koch adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Tiffany Jom, Village Clerk
 ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF SALEM

VILLAGE OF SALEM NOVEMBER 2025

The Salem Village Board met November 4, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Building.

Chairman Kenneth Strauch opened the meeting, Vogele, Wessel, Kean and Helmick answered roll.

The open meeting poster was acknowledged.

Clerk reported that RWD #2 would be increasing monthly rates effective the December 2025 billing. The new rate will be \$8.33 per thousand gallons. The clerk noted that the last Village rate increase was May 2023.

Strauch moved to increase Village rates effective in the January billing to \$9.50 per thousand and the connect fee to \$25.00. Motion seconded by Helmick. Motion carried. Strauch, Kean, Wessel, Vogele and Helmick voting yes.

Notice for snow removal for the 2025-2026 year were published in the Falls City Journal. One bid was received from KMW Construction for \$130.00 per hour. Kean moved to accept the bid, seconded by Wessel. Motion carried, Kean, Strauch, Helmick and Wessel voting yes, Vogele abstained.

Vogele moved to sign Resolution 2025-4 The Nemaha NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Motion seconded by Kean. Motion carried, Kean, Strauch, Helmick, Vogele and Wessel voting yes.

Claims were presented for payment. Strauch moved to pay claims, seconded by Kean. Motion carried, Vogele, Strauch, Kean, and Helmick voting yes. Wessel abstained.

The use of the brush dump was discussed. Residents are reminded the brush dump is for brush only. Nothing else. No burning is allowed without a burn permit obtained by the Fire Department. Strauch moved to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. seconded by Wessel. Motion carried, Kean, Wessel, Helmick, Vogele, and Strauch voting yes.

The next meeting will be December 2, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Building.

Village of Salem Claims November 2025

OPPD 480.36 utility general 66.00 street 339.72 FRHL 34.78 comb! 39.86 Falls City Public School 300.00 liquor license fee general
 Mary Jane Wessel 605.81 supplies for Hunters Breakfast comb!
 Robert McHenry 700.00 {water operator salary water
 RWD #2 2253.32 water purchased for sale water
 Village of Salem/water Fund 400.00 transfer general
 NE Public Health lab 485.00 water testing water
 Schendel Pest Control 77.00 service comb 30.00 FRHL 47.00
 Robert Mc Henry 25.00 mileage to Lincoln water sample water
 Carolyn Glathar 500.00 clerk salary water 100.00 street 200.00 general 200.00
 USPS 61.00 {postage water
 Jodie Schuetz 220.00 mowing street
 Falls City Journal 8.06 publication snow removal street
 Wolfe's printing 34.94 printing comb! Cemetery Claims/ November 2025
 Wolfe's Printing 20.00
 Bosselman Pump and Pantry 57.00
 ZNEZ

Council vote questioned amid conflicting explanations, legal standards guide next steps

(Continued from Page 8)

pension plan immediately, while other full-time employees would be 20 percent vested after one year, 40 percent after two years, 60 percent after three years, 80 percent after four years, and 100 percent after five years of employment.

The resolution also asks that, since the City Administrator and Police Chief serve at the pleasure of the mayor and could lose their jobs whenever the mayor's position changes, they receive a severance package equal to up to 12 months of the employee's base salary if they are terminated without cause. The severance package would be paid in a lump sum within 30 days of termination.

The *Journal* unexpectedly had to go to print early.

We had requested clarification on the wage package voted on at the Special Meeting so we could have some further accuracy in our reporting.

We requested written clarification regarding the wage package adopted at the special council meeting held on November 19, 2025, and paperwork handed out the same night in regard to the vote.

We asked the following, Which specific wage package you believe was adopted.

Which specific wage package you intended to adopt.

Any resolution number associated with the adopted package.

Any written material you believe supports your interpretation.

We received a response that it would be referred to the appropriate people.

When we receive any appropriate clarification we will report on it and any updates, meetings, votes or changes.

At the time the *Journal* went to print we had not received a written clarification and had not been asked to retract, recant, remove any social media post, or make any clarification on any social media post reporting on the vote made at the Wednesday, November 19th meeting.

The audio recorded during the meeting by the *Falls City Journal* made it clear that the motion made by Councilmember Ferguson was in regard to the November 3 package, confirmed three times that it was the November 3 package and the *Journal* sees no need to make any clarifications.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS NOVEMBER 12, 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 12, 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 Caverzagie to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2025, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Karas to approve the agenda as posted. Motion seconded by Campbell. 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 ATTORNEY AND CLERK OF DIST COURT

Samantha Scheitel, County Attorney and Pam Scott, Clerk of District Court presented to the Board amendments to the agreements with the NE Dept of Health & Human Services for child support collection enforcement.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve Amendment #2 for the Clerk of District Court and Amendment #3 for the County Attorney to the respective grant agreements with the NE Dept of Health & Human Services for the enforcement of the collection of child support. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

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

Motion was made by Karas to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-15 authorizing the Chairman to sign the year-end certification of county highway superintendent service for 2025 for the purpose of receiving an annual incentive payment from the State of Nebraska. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 76)

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center this past week. He reported that 10 inmates are currently being held in the Jail.

Applications for grant funding for the Drive Sober, Get Pulled Over program for December 12, 2025, through January 1, 2026, and for the replacement of bullet-proof vests for the deputies have been completed and now are waiting for approval.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve and authorize the Sheriff to sign and enter into an agreement with the Nebraska State Patrol Network Access and Support Agreement. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

Schawang Masonry, LLC Quote Lamp Post Pedestals

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve a quote received from Schawang Masonry, LLC to install the 10 bases around the Courthouse retaining wall for a total estimated price of \$9,000. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Other

Motion was made by Karas to appoint Genevieve Loveless, Jail Supervisor to the Safety Committee Meeting to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Nathan Stewart, Jail Supervisor. Motion

seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

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

Amazon, supp.....	116.08
Ameriflex, fee.....	70.00
Ankrom, Jami, reimb.....	435.40
Culligan of Percival, serv.....	96.00
Donahue & Sisco, fees.....	1016.50
CI23-129 Vice	
Dorr & Clark Funeral Home, serv.....	1050.00
Falls City Mercantile, supp.....	255.56
Fankhauser, Nelsen, Werts, fees.....	1266.50
CR25-168 P. Fellers; CR25-78 R. Paxson; JV22-38	
Farm & City Supply, supp.....	792.48
Generators for Sale, serv.....	279.00
Kollasch Law Office, fees.....	1716.00
CR25-64 C. Ochoa	
Kuker, Frances, serv.....	1000.00
Midwest Homes & Restoration, serv.....	146749.47
Midwest Mobile Radio Service, serv.....	30.00
MIPS, serv.....	3565.86
NACVSO, dues.....	50.00
NCEA, dues.....	570.00
NE Health & Human Services, serv.....	93.00
ProServ Business Systems, serv.....	177.00
Richardson Co Court, fees.....	1047.70
Richardson County EMA Petty Cash, reimb.....	55.26
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc.....	28560.00
Simpson, Krystal, reimb.....	172.20
SummerOne, serv.....	119.00
Visual Edge IT, serv.....	55.20
Weaver & Merz Law Office, reimb.....	901.95
Wolfe's Printing, supp.....	238.69
Payroll Expense.....	129757.45
TOTAL GENERAL FUND.....	\$320,236.30

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

City of Humboldt, serv.....	90.79
Falls City Auto Supply, supp.....	1593.67
Falls City Utilities, serv.....	373.46
Jim Hawk Truck Trailers, serv.....	355.11
Martin Marietta Materials, rock.....	33045.88
Nebraska Public Power District, serv.....	32.63
NMC, serv.....	449.65
Norris Quarries, LLC, rock.....	8761.23
Operation & Expense Acct., reimb.....	81.33
Powerplan, serv.....	6031.93
Salem, Village of, serv.....	22.85
Sapp Bros. Petroleum, serv.....	1282.05
Tri State Truck & Tractor Repair, serv.....	1918.46
Truck Center Companies, serv.....	1729.38
Unifirst, supp.....	15.06
Verdon, Village of, serv.....	33.52
Payroll Expense.....	36084.73
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND.....	\$91,901.73

RICHARDSON COUNTY VISITOR'S PROMOTION FUND

Richardson County, fees.....	25.00
Scott, Pam, fees.....	100.00
SE NE Tourism Council, dues.....	200.00
TOTAL RC VISITOR'S PROMO FUND.....	\$325.00

RICHARDSON COUNTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

Humboldt Community Foundation.....	5000.00
RC Historical Society.....	4750.00
TOTAL RC IMPROVEMENT FUND.....	\$9,750.00

REGISTER OF DEEDS PRESERVATION FUND

MIPS, Inc, serv.....	324.92
TOTAL REG. OF DEEDS PRESERVE FUND.....	\$324.92

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 a.m. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, November 19, 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@htrstitans.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.

letters of reference from you most recent employer to: georgegriffith@htrstitans.org or mail them to HTRS ATTN: Dr. Griffith 810 Central Avenue, Humboldt NE 68376.

Email your cover letter, resume, license, transcripts* and three

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@htrstitans.org or by calling 402-862-2151.

HTRS is an equal opportunity employer. 46-49

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EOE-Vets, Disability 45-e-47-e-49-e-51

HELP WANTED

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.htrstitans.com/page/employment> and mailed to Dr. George Griffith, HTRS Public School 810 Central Ave., Humboldt, NE 68376 or emailed to georgegriffith@htrstitans.org.

HTRS is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Veterans' Preference. 46-49

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45-48

Full-Time Deputy Sheriff

Pawnee County, Nebraska Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for a full-time Deputy Sheriff

\$10k Hiring Bonus for Nebraska Certified Officers
(Paid out over 3 years)

Wage up to \$31.50 for certified officers \$28.00 for non-certified

Pawnee County, NE offers full-time benefits including retirement, medical insurance for deputy, vacation, sick time, paid holiday.

For complete qualifications and application contact the Pawnee County Sheriff Office email: nancy.tilton@pawneecountyne.gov



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A Falls City Christmas begins this weekend, shop local, eat local, enjoy local

By Nikki McKim

People hold on to a certain picture of Christmas. It is the one built from childhood memories and old movies with warm lights in the windows, crowded sidewalks and the kind of togetherness that seems to slow the world down. It is a scene people search for every year because it feels familiar, its safe. It feels like home. In Falls City that picture becomes real on Stone Street as the holiday season opens.

For me that longing goes back to Dawson. I think if you have ever read any of my stories you know I love Dawson. The Dawson-Verdon sign in the office, my DV memorabilia, shirts, etc. kind of lets everyone know, I'm proud. I love that town. I would give anything to have the nostalgia of 1990's Dawson back again. I can still feel

the thrill of seeing Santa arrive on the fire truck and the excitement of walking into the Dawson Cafe with my brown paper bag to see what treats came with my annual orange. I can practically smell the breakfast and her my Aunt Mayree say, "What did you ask Santa for, Nikki Lynn?" It was simple and it was magic, it may be completely made up as a comfort memory over the years, but, I yearn for that now and I know how lucky people are to have grown up here with traditions that have never left.

The lighted Christmas parade on Stone Street on Friday evening? How fun is that? We used to load up in our old car and drive around the county just to look at Christmas lights, now the Christmas lights drive down the street in front of us. They are so unique and incredible. The time and talent our citizens have, its wild.

You just look down the street and see families gather early, holding cocoa and greeting neighbors they may not have seen in a while. The lights, music and familiar faces make the whole place feel wrapped in warmth. It is the kind of moment that reminds people why this town often feels like a Hallmark movie waiting to happen. (My west coast and east coast friends have mentioned Falls City is in fact a Hallmark movie location with its beauty and charm)

Falls City is charming, beautiful and idyllic in a way many places only dream of being. We often take that for granted.

This year the tradition continues with the parade followed by everything that gives downtown its holiday heart. Children will visit Santa. Families will climb into horse drawn sleighs for free rides. An elves workshop will keep little hands busy and hearts full. Soup, cookies

and cocoa will fill the sidewalks with comfort. Stores will stay open late and people will linger as they talk, browse and support one another.

On Saturday the season keeps moving with Shop Small Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shoppers will step into decorated storefronts that have stood for generations. Bells will tap on glass doors as people greet business owners by name. We know that not all shopping can be done locally, but choosing to support the businesses here at home adds something special to the season. It feels good to help the community thrive. Every sale keeps a dream alive. Every visit shows someone they matter. And maybe each Christmas Stone Street grows a little brighter with more lights, more children and more spirit. There is nothing that brings more joy than knowing you are supporting your neighbors and friends in their work and livelihood.

These events do more than fill a weekend. They build the kind of Christmas people hope for all year. They offer a place where community pride grows stronger with every shared experience and every small choice to shop close to home. Falls City gives people something rare and precious. It gives them a holiday season that feels lifted right out of a storybook. I know I will look back on these days too. I will remember the lights, the sleigh rides and the way Falls City gathers together. Someday I will yearn for this season in the same way I yearn for Dawson. That is the gift a community gives when it keeps its traditions alive. Falls City gives people the feeling they search for. It gives them a Christmas remembered and a Christmas renewed. We are lucky to have people like Amber Holle who keep these traditions going. Every citizen who decorates their business, has Christmas specials and passes on those sales to us, greets us with a warm smile or greeting, who puts the snowflakes up on Harlan, who petitions the Commissioners to put lights up on the Courthouse, who participates in the parade, who lines the streets to celebrate spirit of the holiday, who donates to help a local family, who shops local, all of you make this town and this holiday season special. Thank you for building memories for all of us, our kids and making our little town a place that others call "a cute little Hallmark town."

May we never forget how fortunate we are to live in a place where Christmas still feels like home.



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 TO PREPARE FOR THE SALE.

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