

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

THE FALLS CITY JOURNAL

VOLUME 157, No. 52
NEWSPAPER ESTABLISHED JAN. 5, 1867

THE JOURNAL, FALLS CITY, NEBRASKA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025
WWW.FCJOURNAL.NET

WEEKLY - \$1.50
RENAMED IN 1882 AS FALLS CITY JOURNAL



COMMUNITY EVENTS
ADVERTISED IN THIS WEEKS PAPER

December

- 24 Richardson Co. Courthouse Closing early at noon
F&M Bank Closing early at noon
Falls City Journal closed
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Prairie Union Baptist Church 6:30PM
- 25 Richardson Co. Courthouse Closed
F&M Bank Closed
- 26 10:00 AM deadline for New Year's Eve Falls City Journal
- 31 F&M Bank Closing early at 3:00PM

January

- 1 F&M Bank Closed

THESE GREAT PLACES ARE HIRING!

- Magnolia Metal Corp.
- Nemaha County Hospital
- HTRS Public School
- Southeast District Health Dept.

PUBLIC NOTICES BECAUSE YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW.

CONTENTS

From the Journal Files	Page 3
Restaurant/Retail.....	Page 5
Sports	Pages 7 & 14
Obituaries.....	Page 9
Public Notices/Legals.....	Pages 10-12
Classified Ads.....	Pages 13

\$1.50

© 2025 Falls City Journal, LLC
All Rights Reserved



60TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SING: The Clefsmen, directed by June Bowers, kicked off the Annual Christmas Carol Sing at the First United Church on Sunday, December 14, 2025 with a trio of songs. The event featured an array of local talent singing holiday music while also including those in attendance for a few melodies. The one-hour program was sponsored by the Richardson County Arts and Humanities Council.

One- and six-year street improvements discussed during City Council meeting

The City Council met on Monday evening at City Hall, with Councilperson Buckminster absent. Chief Jamie Baker advised the Council that his department had received the new 2026 patrol unit and that it was currently being outfitted. He also stated that the Police Department was in discussions with CHI Health regarding the Comeback ERA program. "It's supposed to help eradicate abuse, substance abuse, and mental health," said Baker. The project is paid for through grants and utilizes plainclothes officers in connection with support specialists to identify those in need of assistance. In routine business, the agenda was approved; however, Coun-

cilperson Fouraker moved to table the approval of the minutes for December 1, the claims for December 16, and the Treasurer's Report for November 2025. Fouraker cited the council's insufficient time to review the documents as the reason for his motion. Councilperson Kaster seconded the motion. "We got a link this afternoon," said Fouraker. The council voted 5-2 to table the actions until the next meeting. Voting in favor were Frank Killingsworth, Kenny Killingsworth, Fouraker, Kaster and Ruiz. Voting against were Leyden and Ferguson.

(Please turn to Page 3)

Letters to Santa

The Journal was able to intercept some letters to the man up north as they made their way out of town. Here are some of our local school children's biggest Christmas wishes this year.

From Mrs. Sue Ebel's First Grade Class at Falls City Sacred Heart

Dear Santa, I'm 7 and I have been very nice this year. For Christmas I would like: legoset, puppy, Elf, Nikes shoes, basketball, Hover board, 4 wheeler, Nintedo switch, dirt bike. Tell Mrs Claus hi. Love, Garrett B

Dear Santa, I'm 7 and I have been very nice this year. For Christmas I would like: RC car, go kart, PS4, Xbox, Hoverboard, Watch, and a Xbox. I'll leave you milk and cookies an hi to you and mis claus. Love Jonathan A

Dear Santa, I'm 7 and I've been very nice this year. For Christmas I would like: Nintendo Switch 2, Iphone10, watch, Lego set, makeup, slime, a new pen, snowglobe, Barbie Christmas naisl, blanket, and volleyball, Hi Mrs Claus, Love Everly S

Dear Santa, I'm 6 and I have been very nice this year. For Christmas I would like 5 tiakets Taylor swift concert, gum my dear, glasses, elf on a shelf, bike, nintendo switch, xbox, (Please turn to Page 8)

football. Hi Mrs Claus. Love, Haleigh J

Dear Santa, I'm 6 and ive been very nice this year. For christmas I would like: Nintendo switch2, dirtbike, shoes, football, Puppy, watch, Thank you santa for the presents. Love Elliot B

Dear Santa, I'm 7 and I've been very nice this year. For christmas I would like: elf, IPaD, Pet, volleyball, xbox, Iphone protector, and Robux. Hi Miss is Claus, Love Krew J

Dear Santa, I'm 7 and I've been very nice this year. For christmas I would like: Legoset, 4Wheeler, pet cat, nike shoes, football. Electric car, bounce house, basketball, nintendo switch2. Ill leave you milk and cookies. Love Dax V

Dear Santa, I'm 7 and I've been very nice this year. For christmas I would like: Elf on the shelf, Basketball hoop, 4wheel



Former Councilman James Wisdom Jr. passes away in Falls City

James Duane Wisdom Jr., 80, of Falls City, Nebraska, passed away on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Falls City Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility in Falls City. He was born on September 13, 1945, in Falls City, Nebraska to James Sr. and Virginia (Vinsonhaler) Wisdom. James married Coradean K. Rowland, who later passed away in 2008. He later married Angie M. Noll, who survives him at home. James worked for Southeast (Continued on Page 9)

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

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



75 Years Ago, December 24, 1950 to December 30, 1950

According to a report out of Washington D.C., nearly half of the nation’s families owned cars and roughly four percent owned more than one.

Bill Dykes of Falls City was involved in the historic evacuation at Hungnam, Korea. He remarked in a letter that he “Haven’t been doing much the past week except laying off in the harbor of Hungnam with about 30 other ships.”

The Rev. Irvin F. Weber, assistant pastor of SS. Peter and Pul’s Catholic Church, escaped injury when his car went out of control near the Country Club and rolled over three times. Father Weber was leaving the 8:00 service in Falls City and heading for the 9:00 service in Salem.

Coach Art Clements and the Dawson Lions were 6-0 and on top of the Big Eight Conference. Verdon, 5-1, was in second place, while Honey Creek was third at 4-2.

County Treasurer V.H. Shier was preparing to turn in his keys after 30 years in the office. Shier recalled there being less than 600 automobiles in the entire county on May 22, 1919, when he began as a bookkeeper for O.O. Marsch, the County Treasurer at the time. That number of automobiles grew to 5,800 by the time he retired.

The New York Film critics named “All about Eve,” as the best American movie of 1950 and Bette Davis as the best actress. The critics also picked Gregory Peck as the top actor and Joseph L. Mankiewicz as the best director. “Sunset Boulevard” and “Asphalt Jungle” took second and third spots in the top movie category.

IGA Food Stores in Falls City advertised six bottles of Copca-Cola or 7-up for 25 cents, plus a deposit.

Last minute auto production made 1950 the best year in the automobile industry with over eight million vehicles in production.

Betty Hutton and Fred Astaire starred in “Let’s Dance” at the Rivoli Theater. Most dealers in the Falls City area went to six cents per bottle of Coke.

Northwest Missouri had its second major fire in recent weeks when a fire destroyed the Merrigan Super Market in Fortescue with an estimated loss of \$75,000.

Bethel I. Richardson of Verdon was fined \$15 and costs when he was ticketed for carrying a 4,300-pound overload of corn.

Sam Snead was named the top golfer of 1950, while Phil Rizutto of the Yankees was chosen as the top baseball player.

In the Business Girls’ Bowling Ligue, Bessie Zinn was the High 10 and High 30, while Bill Hoy rolled the High 10 in the Parish League and Dan Bacocos had the High 30.

Actor Henry Fonda wed Susan Blanchard at the Oacar Hammerstein home.

50 Years Ago, December 24, 1975 to December 30, 1975

Just because you live in a rural area, does not mean that you can subject your neighbors to the offensive odors of a cattle yard without consideration of just how bad the smell and other distractions might be, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday, December 23.

The Irish cheerleaders for the winter were Nancy Sinclair, Beth Huber, Linda Lantzy, Tricia Bangert, Barb Kelly and Jane Metzner.

As recognized by Coach Larry Munn, the Falls City wrestlers of the week included Ed Kirkendall and Tim Wilson.

Old Swiss wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Employees included Nancy Vogt, Nancy Stevens, Pam Weaver, Beverly Carder, Jill Lee, Rita Koch, Roxann Darveaux, Lana Georges, Judy Nissen and Judie Jarros.

According to the Mound City New-Independent, at least 25 cabins at Big Lake had been broken into.

The Associated Press top stories for 1975 included the fall of Vietnam and Cambodia as the top story and the two assassination attempts against President Ford as the second.

Johnny Rodgers, the former Nebraska Heisman Trophy winner, was named to the Canadian Football League All-Star team. Rodgers’ coach Marv Levy threw him into several positions on offense throughout the CFL season. It marked the third consecutive season he received the postseason accolades.

Merz Farm Equipment advertised a Ski Whiz 404 snowmobile on sale for \$1,075, marked down from \$1,375.

Construction work had begun on the Squaw Creek Plaza Truck Stop, which would be located on Interstate 29 in Holt County. The project, carried out by Knapp Bros, carried an approximate \$500,000 price tag.

A sign just north of the Preston corner on Highway 159 informed motorists that they were traveling on the first dustless county highway. The hard-surfaced road stretched five miles north. County commissioner indicated that more county roads would be hard surfaced as Federal Revenue-Sharing money was made available.

Paul Gilkerson was pictured next to a Falls City Fire Department Truck. Gilkerson was retiring after 21 years on the job. Bob Martin succeeded Gilkerson as one of three paid city firemen.

Bill Bruhn became the most prolific scorer in Richardson County history with a 39-point effort against Table Rock. Bruhn’s total of 1,438 passed Charlie Heim who finished his career with 1,416.

A coal pile of more than 760,000 tons was pictured at the Omaha Public Power District Plant in North Omaha. The low sulfur coal was valued at more than \$10 million.

A thunderous explosion from a bomb place in a locker at LaGuardia Airport in New York killed 11 people.

Milt and Dots Café, ½ mile south of the junction of Highways 67 and 73 was opening on January 1.

25 Years Ago, December 24, 2000 to December 30, 2000

The City of Humboldt was seeking to identify owners of vacant and dilapidated properties who were interested in participating in the city’s Community Betterment Cleanup Project. One of the goals was to enhance the neighborhoods of Humboldt, via the clearing of derelict sites.

Dr. Jon Habben of Newman Grove was selected as the new superintendent of the Falls City Public Schools. Habben had served as Superintendent of the Newman Grove Public Schools for five years and Superintendent of the Rising City Public schools for three years. His wife, Kathy, was a District Court reporter.

Anders Erickson, Jake Harkendorff and Shane Vollmer claimed gold medals at the Auburn Invite to close out 2000. Erickson, at 119, improved to 6-2 for the year. Harkendorff moved to 8-1 at 145 and Vollmer was 8-1 in the heavyweight division.

The home of Don Weddle located at 1601 Schoenheit Street was the final winner of the Noel Lights competition.

Brown’s Shoe Fit Co. was having an End of Year Blowout sale with shoes ranging from 10- 40 percent off.

Memory Lane advertised two days of savings that included 10 percent off Yankee Candles, 20 percent off Linens, 30 percent of Wall Décor, 40 percent off Aromatique Holiday Fragrances and 50 percent off Christmas Décor.

Camp Rulo advertised a New Year’s Eve special of \$8.50 for a Prime Rib dinner.

Just Listed, Nemaha Realty, Inc., House and outbuildings on 9.13 acres located 2 miles South and 1 ¼ miles West of Humboldt, house will require personal attention, but this acreage has a lot of potential. Listed at \$32,500.

For Sale: 1986 Mercury Topaz, 4 cyl., auto, good school car, \$500. 2718 Towle Street.

Totino’s Party Pizzas were on sale at SunMart in Falls City for .69 cents, while Ruffles Potato Chips were \$1.77.

One- and six-year street improvements discussed during City Council meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

In regular business, a public hearing was held to consider adopting a long-range plan for the one-year and six-year street improvement program. The hearing opened at 6:03 and, after no public input, closed at 6:04.

A discussion and action for adopting the 2026 One- and Six-Year Street Improvement Plan was held.

Councilperson Frank Killingsworth requested adding an intersection improvement at 21st and Valley, and Morgan Streets be added to the list.

“They don’t drain at all,” stated Killingsworth.

The motion passed 7-0.

Kenny Killingsworth requested moving M-282-71, M-282-72 and M-282-73 from the one-year to the six-year plan.

M-282-71 is a project on Lane Street from 35th Street to 33rd Street. M-282-72 entails Reavis Street from approximately 264 feet south of 7th Street to 6th Street, and M-282-73 is on 6th Street from Reavis Street to east of Reavis Street 400 feet.

The motion carried 7-0.

Frank Killingsworth made a motion to move M-282-86 from the six to the one-year plan. The plan calls for work on 25th Street from Harlan to Barada Street. The motion passed 7-0.

Councilperson Kaster made a motion to add 7th Street, from Harlan to Morton and 6th, 5th and 4th Street, from Morton to Fulton.

“That’s the main residential travel path for your industries, and that street is absolutely shot,” said Kaster.

The motion passed 7-0.

Kaster also made a motion to move M-282-46 from the six to the one-year. M-282-46 includes 14th Street from the existing pavement approx-

imately 270 feet west to City Limits.

“There’s no lights on that (railroad) crossing,” said Kaster. “I feel like that’s probably a safety concern that needs to be addressed.”

The motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made to approve the amended resolution to adopt the 2026 One- and Six-Year Street Improvement Plan. The motion passed 7-0.

The Council heard a presentation on voluntary supplemental insurance options through Globe Life. The presentation was being made to allow the Council to hear information regarding optional employee-paid benefits.

Requests for special designated liquor licenses for January 17, 2026, and April 21, 2026, at the Auditorium passed 7-0. Both requests were made by Alyssa Finck on behalf of the Falls City Area Jaycees.

Falls City Utilities submitted a waiver/consent form to Omaha Public Power District regarding the construction of the new transmission line and delivery point under the Energy Forward Transmission Project. OPPD had requested additional details before starting their review. The previous NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) with OPPD didn’t cover the information requested. The Council approved entering into a new NDA with OPPD by a 7-0 vote.

The Council also approved an interlocal agreement with Richardson County for warning sirens within the county. The county has asked that the insurance coverage of the sirens be paid for by the political subdivisions. The county will continue to maintain the warning sirens.

A resolution authorizing the execution of a Southwest Power Pool

Guarantor Document was approved. The document will provide SPP with financial assurance that the City will meet its obligations under its tariff.

The Board also approved an amended and restated agreement in regards to the SPP market assistance with MEAN. The amended agreement formalizes the energy strategy used by Falls City and MEAN over the past few years and provides a framework for a future transition away from MEAN as the City prepares for energy load growth.

After a discussion, the Council voted against a request for a burn permit at 2600 Fulton Street by Dan Simon. Voting against the measure were Frank Killingsworth, Kaster, Ruiz and Kenny Killingsworth. Simon requested permission to burn two brush piles on his property.

The Council approved moving three meetings during the next year that currently fall on Holidays. The Monday, January 19, 2026, meeting will be moved to January 20, 2026. The February 16, 2026, meeting will be moved to February 17, and the September 7, 2026, meeting will be moved to September 9, 2026.

The Council also approved a permanent easement and right-of-way agreement with the Dorothy J. Towle Revocable Trust, as requested by the CRA and EDGE. The easement is required for the extension of North Lane Street and the location of public utility infrastructure of the North Commercial Corridor development project. The City will pay the trust \$1,500.00 for the easement.

With no further items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY WOULD LIKE TO
THANK OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE OUR
HALLOWEEN PARTY A SUCCESS!**

Robert Aitken	Brown's Shoe Fit
Community Medical Center	A&G Restaurant
Dorr & Clark Funeral	Luella's Cafe
Home	Frosty Queen
Jones Air Conditioning	Wild Bill's Bar & Grill
Armbruster Motor	Would Eye Sports Bar
Company	Chaney's Furniture
Hullman's Ford	Falls City Auto Supply
Miller Monroe Co.	Farm & City
F&M Bank	Dollar Fresh
American National Bank	Animal Health
Frontier Bank	Milam's Greenhouse

Special thanks to Pam Wittwer and Crew, Cheryl Hall, Brittany & Jason Hall & family, Neil & Crystal Scrivens & family, Patty Runyan, Ardis Ramsey & Cliff Phroper



Proudly serving residential, commercial, & industrial clients large & small throughout the area.

- CONCRETE • STEEL BUILDINGS
- NEW CONSTRUCTION

Family owned and operated.

www.mezgerconstruction.com
402-839-6365 • 402-450-1371
Table Rock • Falls City, NE



Santa and Mrs. Claus came to Stella December 6 and greeted a nice crowd of children, parents, grandparents, and a couple of pets. The Village of Stella fire truck escorted them downtown upon their arrival in Stella. Santa’s visit was assisted by the Stella Research Club and the Village.

Falls City Elks continue philanthropy efforts through 2025

The Falls City Elks Lodge No. 963 continued its community service efforts throughout late 2025 with donations and volunteer support focused on youth programs veterans and local organizations.

The lodge provided financial support to area schools by donating \$600 each to the Falls City Middle School and Falls City Senior High School robotics programs. The checks were presented by Exalted Ruler Roger Lampe and Leading Knight Ben Hullman to demonstrate continued backing of the programs.

Lodge members also supported veterans initiatives by donating \$400 to the Ladies Auxiliary VFW for Wreaths Across America. The donation recognized veterans throughout the area and contributed to the placement of wreaths in their honor.

Youth athletics were supported through participation in the Nebraska Soccer Shoot program with Falls City athletes competing at the regional shoot in El Dorado Kansas on Nov. 2. The lodge also promoted its annual Elks Hoop Shoot free throw contest scheduled for January.

In addition the lodge continued its involvement in charitable collection efforts including accepting deer hides for processing with proceeds benefiting charitable programs.

The activities reflect the lodge’s ongoing mission of service to youth veterans and the broader community through financial contributions volunteer involvement and support of local programs.

The Richardson County Courthouse
will be closed on
New Year's Day.
Happy New Year

GREY SNOW
SANITATION
90 Gallon Cans & 2 Yard Dumpsters
Residential Monthly Rate:
\$18/Can or \$55 Dumpster
Business Rates Available Upon Request
Prepay for 1 year, get 1 month free!
(90 Gallon can only!)

**WE ARE EXPANDING OUR
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL
SERVICE ROUTES**
Call And Switch Today!
785-595-3258

**GREY SNOW
SANITATION**

3345 B Thrasher Road – White Cloud, KS 66094

We know the holiday season isn't a happy time for everyone. If you or someone you care about are struggling this holiday season, there are people who care and who are ready to help!

If you are feeling depressed, experiencing anxiety, or have thoughts of harming yourself, please call 988 today – because you are enough and you are deserving of love!

4 **COUNTY COLLABORATIVE**

**Families
Communities
ALL to THRIVE!**

Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee & Richardson Counties
TalkHeart2Heart.org

Brought to you by the 4 County Collaborative.

"This project is funded (100% funded by the grant and full amount awarded through grant \$857.24) from the Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (1B08T1088119-01) through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, contracted through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health.

SOCIETY

Humboldt Chapter 234 Order of the Eastern Star

Donna Monnette-Secretary

Eleven members of the Humboldt Chapter #234 Order of the Eastern Star enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Chaotic Coffee before their regular stated meeting on December 4, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.

Thirteen members were present as the business meeting began at 2:00 p.m. at the Meeting Place. Worthy Matron Phyllis Kreutzer presided in the East as the Chapter opened in short form.

The members sang a Christmas song for the Opening Ode and pledged allegiance to the American flag. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The treasurer reported on the balance in the general fund. Bills were presented. Carolyn Brede-meier moved they be approved. Motion seconded and carried.

Since the January stated meeting falls on the 1st, the meeting will change to January 8, 2026 instead. Dues are due on January 1 and notices will be sent out at that time.

Correspondence included a letter from Most Worthy Grand Matron Billie Bradfield and Most Worthy Grand Patron Michael Berry explaining the continuation of the Rob Morris Award Program for the 2024 2027 Triennium. The Jewel is awarded by General Grand Chapter to members who are signers of petitions for membership. A thank you was received from the Masonic Home Foundation for our donation for the Home’s holidays. The Board of Directors of the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children also sent thanks for our Thanksgiving gift to them.

The Nebraska OES News reported on initiations in various chapters and recent visitations to Oklahoma, South Dakota, Missouri, and Iowa Grand Chapter Sessions.

Worthy Patron had some pins available to buy for General Grand Chapter projects.

Annual reports are to be given at the January meeting.

There being no further business Chapter closed with prayer and singing of “Silent Night” Worthy Matron closed with a prayer from WGM Gloria Guern and WGP Dennis Rix.

Refreshments of Christmas cookies were enjoyed by all during the social hour.



Governor Jim Pillen signs Proclamation recognizing December 18 as “NORAD Santa Tracker” Day. Pictured are, from left: Greg McClure, Judy Coe, Governor Jim Pillen, Mickie (Oldfield) Clements, Rick Clements. Not pictured: Legislative Aide Lance Braun

December 18 named “NORAD Santa Tracker Day”

A Christmas Eve tradition followed by millions around the world traces its roots to a Nebraska native, a military command center and an unexpected phone call that reshaped how the holiday is celebrated.

Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen on Tuesday, Dec. 2, signed a proclamation designating Thursday, Dec. 18, as NORAD Santa Tracker Day in Nebraska. The signing ceremony was held in the historic Warner Chamber of the Nebraska State Capitol.

The proclamation formally recognizes the 70th anniversary of the NORAD Santa Tracker program, which began in 1955 and has continued each year as a public service that allows children and families to follow Santa Claus’ journey around the world on Christmas Eve. The document notes the program’s longevity and its role as an annual tradition observed nationally and internationally.

Dec. 18 was selected for the recognition because it is the birthday of Col. Arthur Barney Oldfield, a Nebraska native and United States Air Force officer who played a central role in shaping the public communication that launched the Santa tracking tradition. The proclamation highlights Oldfield’s Nebraska roots and his contribution to the development of the program that later became known as the NORAD Santa Tracker.

The origins of the Santa Tracker date back to November 1955 in Colorado Springs, CO, when a local department store placed advertisements encouraging children to call a phone number to speak with Santa Claus. When the advertisement appeared in a newspaper, the phone number connected callers to the Continental Air Defense Command, known as CONAD, rather than the department store.

Children began calling the military command center asking to speak with Santa Claus.

At the time, CONAD’s phone lines were generally quiet. The calls were answered by Col. Harry Shoup, CONAD’s director of combat operations, who determined the calls

were sincere and learned of the department store advertisement. Rather than dismissing the calls, Shoup directed his staff to provide children with information about Santa’s supposed location.

CONAD maintained an operations board used to track unidentified aircraft, Col. Arthur Barney Oldfield, notified the media that the military command was tracking Santa’s progress on Christmas Eve.

Oldfield was born and raised in Nebraska and had built a career working in journalism, military service and public relations. During World War II, he served in Europe on the staffs of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery and later headed the press camp that followed the U.S. Ninth Army toward Berlin.

After the war, Oldfield worked in public relations at Warner Brothers Studios in California, placing him within the Hollywood studio system during the postwar era. His work focused on communications and media relations rather than film production or acting.

Oldfield returned to military service in 1947 and transferred to the newly formed United States Air Force. He became a pioneer of Allied Command Europe and later served as Eisenhower’s advance representative when Eisenhower returned to Europe in 1951 as Supreme Allied Commander.

He later held senior public affairs positions within the Air Force, including serving as director of public affairs for the Air Defense Command and for the North American Aerospace Defense Command, known as NORAD.

The year following the first Santa tracking announcement, news organizations contacted CONAD to ask whether Santa would again be tracked. Shoup agreed, and the effort became an annual tradition. When NORAD was established in 1958, it assumed responsibility for the program, which continued to expand in scale and reach.

Over time, the Santa Tracker evolved into a

global event. NORAD established dedicated phone lines staffed by volunteers who answer calls from children seeking reassurance that Santa is on his way. Although the program now includes a website that receives millions of visits each year, phone calls remain a central part of the experience. More than 1,000 volunteers typically participate annually, answering tens of thousands of calls.

The Santa Tracker operates through corporate sponsorships, allowing the program to function without taxpayer expense. Volunteers have included military personnel and other participants who donate their time during the holiday season.

Oldfield retired from the Air Force in 1962 and later served as corporate director of international relations for Litton Industries in Beverly Hills, California. He was also an author who documented his experiences in military public affairs and wartime communications. Oldfield was also an active philanthropist, funding some 40 scholarship programs totaling about \$3 million. He was a significant donor to UN Foundation School of Journalism Fund according to Nebraska Authors.org.

While in Hollywood he served as a publicist for Erroll Flynn, Elizabeth Taylor, and former President Ronald Reagan. He also allegedly a counselor and extremely close friend to George Foreman.

Seventy years after an advertising error sent children’s phone calls to a military command center, the legacy of a Nebraska native continues to be recognized through a tradition that combines public service, communication and a Christmas Eve ritual observed around the world.

**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE**

Prairie Union Baptist Church
64571 719 Rd.
Stella, NE

Dec. 24
6:30 pm

FROM THE JOURNAL ARCHIVES



December 8, 1967: The cutline from the photo printed in the *Journal* says, “All Aglow for the Christmas Season. The downtown area again is beautifully decorated for Christmas thanks to the Chamber of Commerce decorations committee headed by Ernie Comfort and the volunteer fire department and city employees putting up the lights and other decorations. This was taken from the 1900 block on Stone, the camera pointed south.” The same *Journal* says the Rivoli was showing “Those Fantastic Flying Fools,” starring Burl Ives and Troy Donahue and on Sunday afternoon, “To Kill A Mocking,” starring Gregory Peck and Robert Duvall.

“Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus”

Editor's Note: In Sept. 1897, an eight-year-old girl in New York City named Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of The New York Sun asking, "Is there a Santa Claus?" An editorial writer of the Sun Staff, wrote a response which has now become a classic, often printed in newspapers across the country this time of year. A few years ago a *Journal* subscriber and close friend, Scott, requested it be printed each year around Christmas. After some research we found that the first time the letter appeared in a Falls City paper was in 1909 and for several years after that it appeared in the pages of many Richardson County papers including the *Journal* each Christmas.

We are happy to share it with you each Holiday season.
DEAR EDITOR:

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in **THE SUN** it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

VIRGINIA O'HANLON.
115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET.

Virginia,
VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that

there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

One hundred years ago-December 1925

The month of December has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in December 1925.

- The Farmer-Labour Party is dissolved just two hours after its formation in Japan on December 1. The dissolution was ordered by the Japanese government, which accused the party of harboring a secret communist agenda.

- The border delineating Northern Ireland and Ireland is established on December 3 when representatives of both countries sign the Northern Irish Border Agreement.

- The Pottsville Maroons defeat the Chicago Cardinals in front of 6,000 fans on December 6 in a game the press depicted as the championship of the National Football League.

- George Bernard Shaw is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature on December 10.

. Mitchell was critical of military leaders for investing in battleships and had argued for greater investment in air-based defenses.

- A Christmas story published in the London newspaper *The Evening News*

on December 24 identifies a children's character as "Winnie-the-Pooh" for the first time. The character had

previously been referred to as “Edward” in a poem published in *Punch* magazine in 1924.

- The first attempt at a global New Year's celebration is made via international radio on December 31.

The MENU

SINCE 2021

<p>FALLS CITY ELKS CLUB 1417 Stone St., Falls City • 402-245-3814 SUNDAY BUFFET: Open To Public 11-1. Chicken Buffet or Buckets To Go. TUESDAY, DEC. 30 - Regular Menu WEDNESDAY, Dec. 24-Closed for Christmas Eve THURSDAY, Dec. 25- Closed for Christmas FRIDAY, Dec. 26- Garlic Parmesan Shrimp, Chicken Fried Steak, Whole Fried Catfish SATURDAY, Dec. 27 : Bar open/Kitchen Closed</p>	<p>W-7 DESIGN CO. 1613 Stone St., Falls City • 402-245-4777 LUNCH \$15 Charcuterie Lunch Boxes Chicken Salad Croissant, Chicken Salad Wrap. MINI SLIDERS: Turkey, Ham, Roast Beef (Can Mix Meats) WRAPS: Turkey, Ham, Roast Beef (Can Mix Meats)</p>
<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: DEC. 24TH-DEC.30TH WED.-Chicken Enchiladas, Mexican Rice, Refried Beans THURSDAY-Closed for Christmas! FRIDAY-Tacos & Nachos MONDAY-Cheesy Chicken Spaghetti & Side Salad TUESDAY-Meatloaf, Potatoes & Vegetable</p>

LET LOCAL BUSINESSES KNOW YOU USE THIS MENU. IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE IN THIS SECTION, CALL 245-2431 OR EMAIL NIKKI@FCJOURNAL.NET

HERITAGE FALLS
PREMIUM SOY CANDLES

45% OFF

Select Ornaments & Picks

*Also Follow Our Facebook
Page For Daily Specials
Heritage Falls Candles*

FLAVORS OF
DECEMBER
*Gingerbread
Mulberry
Country Christmas*



MON-FRI 10AM-5PM • SAT 10AM-1PM (OR LATER)
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY & GIFT WRAP
1614 STONE, FALLS CITY, NE • 402-245-3443

**JONES AIR
CONDITIONING**

120 W. 16th • (402) 245-3526

NEW Lennox 'Merit'
Furnaces and Air Conditioners

Competitively Priced Navien
Tankless Water Heaters.

Trusted Since 1974

WE INSTALL • FREE ESTIMATES

The logo for StateLine Propane Service, Inc. features the word "STATELINE" in a large, bold, italicized sans-serif font with a thick black outline. Below it, "PROPANE SERVICE, INC." is written in a smaller, bold, italicized sans-serif font, also with a thick black outline. Underneath the logo is a black rectangular box containing a list of services in white text. At the bottom of the advertisement is a white rectangular box containing the company's phone numbers and address in black text.

STATELINE
PROPANE SERVICE, INC.

- Locally Owned and Operated
- CETP Trained Employees
- Monthly Routes
- Rental and Portable Tanks
- New Installs

1-800-511-0928
402-855-2355

64016 705 Rd. • Dawson, NE 68337



Meyer
HOME CENTER

1705 Chase St., Falls City, 402-245-4661

Plumbing • Heating • Cooling

- Kitchen Cabinets
- Cambria™ Quartz Counter-tops
- Ceramic Tile Installation
- Custom Showers
- Lawn Irrigation
- Sewer Rooting & Video Inspection

Heating & Air Conditioning
Amana

**SAC & FOX
TRAD'N
POST**



**OPEN 5:00 AM to
10:00 PM**

**CHEAP FUEL • CHEAP
SMOKES GREAT FOOD**

3226 US Hwy 73, Reserve KS 66434
785-742-2037

Thanks for Supporting These Businesses

HOMETOWN FLORAL & GIFTS

1605 Stone St.
Falls City
(402) 245-2200

 **RAM**

EXTERMINATORS

For all your pest control needs. Termites, and Inspections Insects, Rodents, Bed Bugs

JARED CRIDER
OWNER-OPERATOR
402-245-2966 or Toll Free 888-395-3377

Dr. Eric McPeak
Your Hometown Optometrist
Comprehensive Eye Care
Your vision is important to us.

PLEASE CALL FOR YOUR COMPLETE EYE EXAM.

1823 Chase St., Falls City, NE
(402) 245-2017
Falls City
(785) 742-3021
Hiawatha

 **MCPEAK**
OPTOMETRY

FALLS CITY SANITATION SERVICE, Inc.
Always Prompt & Dependable Service
Ph. 245-4545 or 245-4929
MARK AND BILL HARKENDORFF

 **Jim Hill's**

PAINT • GLASS • FLOORING

We Install Original Factory Replacement Glass Only
All Glass in Stock For Immediate Installation

70 Years at
1619 Chase St., Falls City, NE
402-245-4444 or 1-800-232-6558

BOB BACHMAN'S

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

For Your Total Building Needs

SIDING • ROOFING • DECKS
REMODELS • WOOD FLOORING

Installation of Ceramic, Granite, & Marble Floors & Counter tops
66064 703 Trail, Rulo, NE
402-245-4693

FALLS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS AND STATISTICS

December 12 through December 13, 2025 calls: three ambulance/EMS calls, one 911 hang-up/misdial, one house watch, four miscellaneous calls, and one referred-to-other-agency call. Five 911 calls. Six warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one warning for plates not clear and visible, two warnings for speeding, and one warning for invalid registration.

December 13 through December 14, 2025 calls: one 911 hang-up/misdial, three miscellaneous calls, one traffic/driving complaint, one phone/digital/mail scam, one animal call, one accident, one ambulance/EMS call, two noise disturbances, and one law enforcement assist. Three 911 calls. Two citations for animal at large, one citation for invalid registration, and one warning for improper/defective vehicle lighting.

December 14 through December 15, 2025 calls: two referred other agency calls, one disturbance, two miscellaneous calls, two motorist assists, two ambulance/EMS calls, and two fire calls, for a total of eleven calls. One citation was issued for invalid registration. Warnings were issued for a stop sign violation, no license on person, no operator's license, speeding, and improper or defective vehicle lighting.

 **Farmers National Company**

L-2600070



LAND AUCTION

SIMULCAST LIVE AND ONLINE

160± Acres • Gage County, Nebraska

Adams Community Center | 666 Main Street Adams, Nebraska

Friday, January 9, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Bidding starts | January 5, 2026 at 8:00 AM

Bidding closes | January 9, 2026 at close of live event

To register and bid go to: WWW.FNCBID.COM

-- Up & Coming Development Area --

-- Great Location w/ easy Access to Competitive Grain Markets --

For more information on property details, please contact:

 Jacob Meybrunn, Farm Manager/Agent
Phone: (402) 921-9620
JMeybrunn@FarmersNational.com

 Wendi Schutte, Broker
Phone: (402) 518-0115
WSchutte@FarmersNational.com

www.FarmersNational.com/Laurel

 **Nebraska Press Association Foundation**

Hey, know of any scholarships I can apply for?

Yep! We're offering \$2,000 scholarships!

Tell me more...

• Special consideration for students involved in local or school newspapers

• Preference for those studying community journalism or ag comms

• Open to students at Nebraska or out-of-state colleges/universities

Cool! What's the deadline?

Applications must be postmarked by January 16, 2026

Sweet! How do I apply?

Go to www.nebpress.com/scholarships for the form and all the details! Here's a code you can scan, too!



COUNTY COURT

Nicholas A. Kloewer, count one, possess marijuana 1 oz or less-first, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$300; count two, possess or use drug paraphernalia, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$100.

Joshua T. Hall, count one, disturbing the peace, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$150.

Malachi J. Gatewood, count one, drive during revocation/impound-first, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for January 14, 2026.

Forrest D. Rosenberger, count one, criminal mischief-\$501-1499, pled not guilty; count two, no proof of insurance, pled not guilty; count three, reckless driving-first, pled not guilty; count four, nonresident violate susp/rev order, pled not guilty; count five, no valid registration, pled not guilty; count six, refuse to submit to pretest, pled not guilty; count seven, refuse to submit to test-first, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for January 14, 2026.

Jennifer D. Choate, count one, DUI-.08 breath-first, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes fine of \$500, probation for term of nine months, drug testing fee of \$45, probation admin enrollment fee of \$30, probation fee-regular of \$225, license revoked for term of 60 days, interlock device; count two, amended to dropped/dismissed.

Nolan S. Stafford, count one, nonresident violate susp/rev order, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$100; count two, improper/defective vehicle lighting, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25.

Jacob J. Butler, count one, DUI-alcohol-3rd offense, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes fine of \$500, probation for term of 12

months, drug testing fee of \$60, probation admin enrollment fee of \$30, probation fee-regular of \$300, license revoked for term of 60 days, interlock device; count two, speeding 16-20 mph, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$125 and probation for term of 12 months; counts 3-4 amended to dropped/dismissed.

Melinda A. Goll, count one, obstruct government operations, amended to disturbing the peace, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$100; count two, amended to dropped/dismissed.

Kirk B. Satrom, count one, DUI-.15+, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes, fine of \$500, jail for term of two days, credit for one day served, probation for term of 12 months, drug testing fee of \$60, probation admin enrollment fee of \$30, probation fee-regular of \$300, license revoked for term of one year, interlock device.

Larry V. Roberts, count one, possess firearm by prohibited person-first, amended to carry concealed weapon where prohibited, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$1000; counts 2-3 amended to dropped/dismissed.

Damian C. Rowland, count one, DUI-.15+, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes fine of \$500, jail for term of nine days, credit for five days served, license revoked for term of one year, interlock device; counts 2-6 amended to dropped/dismissed; count seven, speeding 36+ mph, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$300.

Philip D. Cloud, count one, possess controlled subs, amended to attempt of a class 4 felony, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$1000; counts 2-3 amended to dropped/dismissed; count four, possess or use drug parapher-

nia, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$100.

CITATIONS

Brenna Figueroa of Farmers Branch, TX, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Geyer)

Mario Salamanca of Denver, CO, count one, speeding 21-35 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$300 and court costs. (Dutcher)

Willie Wheeler of Tyler, TX, count one, drive on shoulder of highway, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Bredemeier)

Corbyn W. Kuker of Falls City, count one, improper/defective vehicle lighting, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Cheek)

Michael Floyd of Houston, TX, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Agena)

Brandon Pierce of Falls City, no valid registration, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Keller)

George Sherer of Atchison, KS, count one, improper/defective vehicle lighting, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs; count two, amended to dropped/dismissed. (Agena)

Amanda Lassley of Neodesha, KS, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs (Agena)

Bryson Goodman-Sargent of Omaha, count one, no operator's license, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Novak)

Dustin Brooke, Topeka, KS, count one, speeding 1-5 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$10; count two, fail to use seat belt, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Aitken)

Jeffrey Landon of Hiawatha, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25

and court costs. (Cheek)

Luis Flores-Castillo of McAllen, TX, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Agena)

Nawaz Sharif of Sioux City, IA, count one, speeding 16-20 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$200; count two, violate no passing zone, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Agena)

Virginia Olivares of Sioux City, IA, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Agena)

Tramayne Williams of Oklahoma City, OK, count one, speeding 21-35 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$300 and court costs. (Agena)

Wyett Karpinski of Stella, count one, following too close, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$50; count two, no license on person, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Wason)

(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

Fender bender reported in Sacred Heart High School parking lot

A minor, non-injury accident occurred in the parking lot of Sacred Heart High School in Falls City on Nov. 5, according to an official motor vehicle crash report from the State of Nebraska.

The Falls City Police Department responded to the scene at approximately 4:10 p.m. Officer Mitchell Cheek investigated the incident and filed the report.

According to the report, a 2008 silver Lincoln MKZ driven by Eli Francis Geisendorf of Kansas, was reversing from a parking stall and turning when the front passenger-side bumper struck the rear driver-side fender and bumper of a 2015 red Nissan Sentra owned by Trischa J. Clow and parked in the lot. The Sentra was not occupied at the time.

The crash caused paint exchange and indentation between the vehicles. No injuries were reported.

The report notes that both vehicles sustained minor damage, estimated at about \$500 each, and were not towed.

The accident occurred on private property and was cleared by 4:20 p.m.

S	L	O	B	S		E	R	R		F	L	O	P
L	E	M	A	N		R	U	E		H	E	A	V
O	V	I	N	E		A	M	T		Y	E	M	E
B	I	T	T	E	R	S		C	H	A	S	E	R
			U	Z	I		G	H	E	E			
T	H	O		Y	O	W	L		S	N	O	W	E
W	E	P	T		J	E	A	N		A	C	I	N
I	L	I	A		A	L	D	E	R		A	L	A
S	L	U	R	P		L	E	V	O		S	E	C
T	O	M	T	I	T		Y	E	A	R		S	T
						N	O	T	E		S	U	E
	J	I	G	G	E	R		S	T	I	R	R	E
L	U	C	R	E		U	G	H		N	A	I	V
S	T	O	O	D		C	I	A		E	S	S	E
D	E	N	T			E	N	D		D	E	C	R



Bryann Glathar feeds Bella Johansen in fourth quarter action Tuesday night.



Senior Brock Caudle attempts a bucket in the first half against Elmwood-Murdock.

Lady Tigers fall to Knights

The Falls City Lady Tigers fell to 0-5 on Tuesday night with a 50-9 home loss to the Elmwood-Murdock Knights. The win improved the Lady Knights to 5-1 for the season, with their only loss coming to Lincoln Christian.

The Tigers were blanked in the opening period on Tuesday, trailing 21-0 after the initial eight minutes. The game didn't get any better from that point forward. FC was outscored 13-2 in the second quarter and found themselves behind 34-2 at the half. The Knights outscored Falls City 16-7 in the second half to earn the 41-point win.

Falls City's offense continued to struggle on Tuesday, shooting just 12.5 percent (4/32) from the floor and finishing with 26 turnovers. The Tigers' turnovers led to 29 points for the visitors.

For the season, Falls City has just 21 assists, while turning the ball over 108 times.

Meanwhile, Elmwood-Murdock shot 38 percent from the floor, dished out 15 assists and turned the ball over 14 times.

FC got on the board with 7:23 to play in

the second quarter when Kaytlin Rhodd secured an offensive rebound and got the putback, making it 21-2.

A jumper by Bristol Titus secured Falls City's second basket, making it 41-4 with 3:30 to play in the third. A steal and layup seconds later by Carlea Dunkhas made it 41-6.

In the fourth, Dunkhas hit a runner off the glass to cut the Knights' advantage to 45-8.

The final point of the contest for FC came on a free throw by Rhodd with 4:50 remaining in the contest.

Dunkhas led Falls City with four points and three steals, while Rhodd added three points and a team-high nine rebounds.

FC Scoring: Dunkhas 4, Titus 2, Rhodd 3. Knight Scoring: Zierott 6, Hanes 1, Backenmeyer 10, Mans 2, Dowding 1, Bornemeier 2, Anderson 2, Boudie 3, Fleischman 15, Justus 2, Wall 6.

FC hosted the 2-3 Palmyra Panthers on Friday night. Palmyra's two wins came against Southern and Mead.

Early turnovers and shooting woes doom Tigers

The Falls City Tigers (0-4) hosted Elmwood-Murdock (1-3) on Tuesday night. The Knights led 2-0 within the first minute of action and never trailed as they raced to a 66-28 win. Falls City's first four possessions ended in turnovers as the Knights' pressure gave the Tigers fits.

The Tigers ended the first eight minutes with seven turnovers, were 0-for-8 shooting and trailed 16-0.

FC got a jolt from Bowdy Jones in the second period. Jones scored seven points in the period, including a drive with 7:06 to play in the quarter to get FC on the scoreboard. Two minutes later, he drilled a three from the wing to make it 21-5. Sophomore Elijah Leyden sank two free throws, while Ethan Morris went 1-2, and FC was down 20 at 28-8. Jones hit his final bucket of the period with just under two minutes to play, and Brock Caudle closed out the scoring with a free throw to make it 38-11 at the half.

The Tigers turned the ball over 14 times in the first half and made 3-of-17 shot attempts.

Falls City played a cleaner second half, turning the ball over just four times,

while making 7-of-21 shot attempts.

Morris got FC on the board in the third, hitting a pull-up jumper off the glass to make it 38-14 with 7:45 on the clock. Three minutes later, Morris hit a high-arching three to make it 48-16. A free throw by Kacen Davis as time expired made it 57-17 at the end of the third.

The Tigers' offense began to click in the final eight minutes, scoring 11 points while going 5-of-10 from the field and committing zero turnovers.

Jacoby Bangert hit a runner in the lane to put the score at 61-19 and later completed a three-point play to make it 66-22 with 3:45 to play. Freshman Karson Simpson then secured a steal and layup, followed by a driving bucket to make it 66-26 with 2:40 on the clock. The final score of the game came as Grant Kobza put a bucket through the net as the clock struck zero to make the final 66-28.

FC Scoring: Jones 7, Morris 6, Leyden 2, Caudle 1, Bangert 5, Simpson 4, Kobza 2, Davis 1.

Falls City looked to get into the win column on Friday when they hosted the 1-4 Palmyra Panthers.

Irish earn big road win

The Sacred Heart Irish boys' basketball team looked to rebound after falling in its previous game to EMF when it hit the road for a match-up against the Tri County Trojans. SH fell to the Trojans 61-44 last season in Falls City.

The outcome looked bleak early for the Irish as they spotted the host school a 12-0 lead out of the gate. However, the game isn't over until the clock reads zeroes.

Trailing 12-0 with 2:43 on the clock, Cole Taft sliced and diced his way to the hoop to put the Irish on the scoreboard. By the end of the first period, the contest seemed to be going in Tri County's favor, as they led 19-8. However, Sacred Heart never wavered, continuing to pressure the Trojans and outscoring Tri County 22-7 in the second quarter to take a 30-26 halftime lead. Taft, Bo Fletcher and Brenden Lemerond all sank threes in the second period to lead the Irish comeback. The Irish took their first lead of the game with 1:55 to play in the half when Taft sank a three from the corner, giving the Irish a 28-26 advantage.

Tri County scored the first three points of the second half, but the Irish again settled in, increasing their lead to 50-40 at the end of three. Sacred Heart connected on five triples in the period, two from Lemerond, two from Fletcher and one from Taft.

The Irish sealed the win in the fourth, converting 6-of-8 free throw opportunities down the stretch as they pulled away for the 67-59 win.

The Irish hit 49 percent (20/41) of their shot attempts, including making 9-of-22 from beyond the arc. The Irish also took advantage at the foul line, making 18-of-22 attempts. The two teams each finished with 24 rebounds, and the Irish turned the ball over 10 times, while forcing 11.

The Big Three for the Irish accounted for 55 of the team's 67 points. Lemerond led the attack with 20 points, Taft added 19, while Fletcher pitched in 16. Cooper Knobbe wrestled down seven boards, Fletcher had a team-best four steals, and Taft dished out five assists.

SH Scoring: Taft 19, Fletcher 16, Sipple 2, Lemerond 20, Clow 2, Baxter 2, Knobbe 6.

Tri County Scoring: Drew Siems 27, Kapke 8, Vossler 17, Wehrman 4, T. Kapke 3.

The win improved Sacred Heart to 2-1, while Tri County fell to 4-2. The Irish were in action on Monday, December 22, 2025, when they traveled to Humboldt to take on the Titans.

The teams also participated in a JV contest with SH coming out on top, 32-25, after three quarters. Hayden Clow led SH with 15 points, making 3-of-6 from deep. Noah Howard added seven for the Irish. Brock Huston led Tri County with 11 points on 5-of-5 shooting.

Trojans knock Lady Irish out of undefeated ranks

The Tri County Trojans pulled away late for a 49-36 win against the previously unbeaten Sacred Heart Lady Irish. The Class D-1 Trojans ran out to a 13-8 first-quarter lead on Tuesday night at Tri County High School. Sacred Heart's Avery Santo had four first-period points to keep the Irish in the contest. The second quarter again went the way of the home team as Tri County outscored SH 10-5 to make it 23-13 at the half. Hallie Jones hit a pair of buckets and a free throw in the quarter to account for all of the Lady Irish's points.

After intermission, the long ball began to fall for Sacred Heart. After playing the first 16 minutes without a made three, Sacred Heart sank four deep balls in the third. Santo sank the first three of the period, followed by a deep ball from freshman Bailey Lemerond. Moments later, Santo drilled her second triple of the quarter, followed by another trey from Lemerond. The Lady Irish went from trailing by 10 at the half to cutting the Trojan lead to 27-29 with eight minutes remaining. The fourth quarter was all Trojans as they outscored the Irish 20-9 to earn the

13-point win. Tri County was a perfect 6-of-6 from the charity stripe in the fourth quarter and 13-of-20 overall. Meanwhile, the Irish attempted just one free throw in the final period and went 3-of-6 for the contest.

The full-court pressure administered by Tri County gave the Irish fits for the entirety of the contest. SH ended the game with 24 turnovers, while forcing the Trojans into 11 miscues. Tri County also out-rebounded the Irish 34-23, including a 16-6 edge on the offensive glass.

The Irish finished the game 14-of-41 from the field and just 5-of-18 from beyond the arc, while Tri County went 16-of-55 from the field but, as previously mentioned, took 14 more free throw attempts than the Lady Irish.

Santo led the Irish with 13 points, going 3-of-9 from deep. Jones and Daycee Witt each added six rebounds, while Lemerond supplied a team-high five assists.

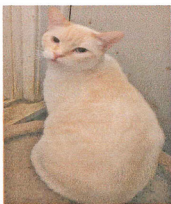
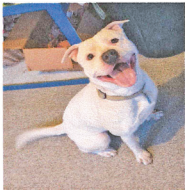
SH Scoring: Santo 13, Crouse 2, Witt 6, Lemerond 6, Jones 9.

Tri County Scoring: Beerenstrauch 6, Peters 19, Gronemeyer 1, Schnuelle 6, Morgan 8, Hoesche 6, M. Gronemeyer 3.

The win improved Tri County to 5-1 for the year, with their only loss to 5-0, Class C2 Sandy Creek. The Irish fell to 3-1 and played Bishop LeBlond on Saturday and at HTRS on Monday, December 22, 2025.

The Irish and Trojans played a two-quarter JV contest with Sacred Heart coming out on top, 26-16. Lemerond led SH with 14 points, while Payten Georges added five.

The Brightest star on our tree is you. These are some the faces that have a chance thanks to you, so from the shelter to your family we thank you for giving us the ability to give them the miracle of Christmas. We wish you the best this Holiday season and throughout the year



WE WISH YOU A Merry Christmas & A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Our Christmas wish is to have a family .

SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

East View Apartments
Pioneer Plaza Apartments
Pawnee Village Apartments

Affordable Rent
Utilities & Trash Included
Prompt Maintenance
Off-Street & Garage Parking
Community & Game Rooms
Daily Living Services Available

Apply Online
www.housingnebraska.org
402-245-4204 (TDD)

Letters to Santa

(Continued from Page 1)

er, volleyball, blanket, and a watch, phone. Tell Mrs Claus hi. Love Mazie F

Dear Santa, I'm 7 and I've been very nice this year. For christmas I would like: Drit bike, X box, football, lego set, puppy, turtle, snow globe, and shoes, Hi santa thank you for all my gifts. Love Maximus H

Dear Santa, I'm 7 and I've been very nice this year. For christmas I would like: XBox, Madden 26, cat, puppy, and a 4 wheeler. This is my favorite holiday! Love Paxton W

Dear Santa, I'm 6 and I've been very nice and naughty this year. For christmas I would like: candy, money, makeup, elf, on the slf, xbox, ipad, dirt bike, switch. Thank you for my gifts. Love Norah R

Dear Santa, I'm 7 and I've been very nice this year. For christmas I would like: lego set, elf on the shelf, volleyball, basket ball, Ip-hone, snow globe, blanket. i cant wait to see you on saturday Love Paisley S

Dear Santa, I'm 6 and I've been very

nice this year. For christmas I would like: Watch, volleyball wut is soft, robux, a new scooter, Hi mrs claus. Love Haisley W

Dear Santa, I'm 7 and I've been very nice this year. For Christmas I would like: bikes, football, elf on the shelf, get puppy nintendo, two basketball hoops, xbox hoverboard dirt bike. See you soon. Love Griffin Seeba

Dear Santa, I'm 7 and I've been very nice this year. For christmas I would like: IPad, little cross, watch, and tractor, dirt bike. Thank you for my gifts. Love Jack N

Dear Santa, I'm 7 and I've been very nice this year. For christmas I would like: Iphone, i pad a x box, slime, and a remote control grain truck with a combine. Tell the elves hi. Love Chase F

Dear Santa, I'm 6 and I have been very nice this year. For Christmas I would like glasses, a trctor Elf on shelf, slime, pet horse, maket snowglobe and a blanket basket ball. Tell Mrs. Claus hi. Love, Kaylie A

Dear Santa, I'm 7 and I have been very nice this year. For Christmas I would like sldeny slides, ipad, pet puppy and a 4 wheeler. thank you for my presents. Love, Walker B.

Falls City Public Kindergarten and First Grade

Dear Santa....

I would like four you to help my Grandma feel better. Love Blair

I would like a headset a watch. Love Jerrick

I would lik a Paw Patrol Choo Choo train. Love Dakota

I would like a drone. Love Rhett

I would like an X-Box. Love Sophie

I would like a phone and a watch. Love Sandra

I would like a new phone. Love Everlee

I would like lego house set and RC car. Love Watson

I would like a plvone. Love Kenzington.

I would like a sonic toy. Love Andy

I would like a puppy and a Magic mixy pixi. Love Amelie

I would live a Nintendo switch and a headset. Love Ryker

I would like a new ipad and new pants. Love Arianna

I would like a cat stuffy. Love Callie

I would like a trampoline and RC car. Love Braxton

I hope your reindeer fly fast. I would like shoes and an American Girl doll. Love Alisza

I would like a beur bag chair. Love Cohen

I hope I get a gmatiks bar. I help miye mom biye halpeeng with dishis. Love Chloe G.

Mence Christmas. I want a dol for Christmas. Love Kennedy H.

I have bin good so I dusrv a present. I want airman mostr trak and sum cowboy boots. Love Patrick S.

I want for Christmas is colone and a ipad and candy. Love Waylon W.

I would like a toi which is Magee the cou. I bin good love Aniyah K.

I want Ded pool acchin figyr for Christmas. Love Blaine Y.

I want pladoe. I want a scwoosh melo. I want a cloud pelo. I want a wodr bodl. Claire V.

My name is Bristol. I want a robot dino that cant go in real water. I like playing with my toys. I have been very good this year. I also want a highlighter. Thank you and merry Christmas. I also love my mom. Love Bristol H.

I want you to geev me a real lizard iguana. Love Bria C.

I wunt for Christmas a veterinarian Barbie and a van. Love Kamdyn K.

I want a artkit for Christmas. I want some legos and a marker kit. Love Ayla C.

I have worked so hard in school. I would like a game, crayons, a puzzle, cards and a Gameboy. Love Fenner K.

I want a fake elf and I want a pet kitten and I want a pet puppy. My name is Tessa H.

All I want for cristmas is a rmote control car. Love Grant G.

For Christmas I want a make up kit and rmote crinchrl car. Love Adilyn B.

Can you giv me evertng on my Christmas list? Its ok if you don't giv me evrthing on my crismas list. Love, Henry R.

I want a robot and 2 baby dogs. Love Bridger T.

I hope you had a good year. I want a dragon for Christmas. Levi B.

I'm Patrick, I was nice, I want a monster truck

I'm Opie, I was nice, I want a PS5

I'm Willo, I was nice, I want a PS6

I'm Brinlee, I was nice, I want a cat

Casen, I was nice, I want a jet

Barrett, I was nice, I want a shrt

Bryson, I was nice, I want a Semi

Coral, , I was nice, I want a toy cat

Kara, I was nice, I want a doll

Aubree, I was nice, I want dols

Paisley, I was nice, I want a hat

Hawkins, I was nice, I want momstr trucks

Niklaus,I was nice, I want Legos

Sawyer, I was nice, I want Legos

I want rc car mnster truck. Linkin

I want claets and soccer ball. Love Matthew

I have been ver good this year. I want wheel set and cars. Love Woden

I want a toy race car a toy unicorn and I would also like a slinky. Love Vickie

I have been very good this year I want barbies. Meadow

I want a lot of Barbie clothes and a Barbie camper with a pool and a cotton candy machine from Harlow to Santa.

I want 2 mincraft boxes of bloks and robux for roblox. Love Jayden

I want Robox. That is all. Love Aurora

I want a Barbie airplane plees. Lamborghini and a gum ball machine . cotton candy machine. Love Lydia.

I want a taylor swift toy. I want a dog. I wat a LOL toy. I want a baby toll. I want a Barbie car. I was nice because I don't cry. Love Hadley.

I want a goay doll from rainbow high. I always want a unicorn pillow. Love Joelle

I want cleats and a soccer ball. Money and cotton candy machine. Luv Myles.

I want a Barbie airplane and 4 wheeler. I am good case I help my mom. Parker.

I have been soooooooo good this year. I want robux and gta 6 next year. And I want to cach a randeer. Love Brooks.

I and Dane I want a punching bag.

I am Jayden and I want a red, yellow present.

I am Noln and I want a soccer ball.

I am Trip and I want a Minecraft set. (Pictured)

I am Dawson and I want a pitching machine.

I am peter and I want a lightning sword.

I am Barrett and I want a golden watch.

I am Waylon and I want an el toro loco.

I am Jade and I want a great white shark.

I am Adalynn and I want lipstick.

I am Mattox and I want a black teddy bear.

I am Cooper and I want a pet dog.

I am Avery and I want a pet butterfly. (Pictured)

I am Lincoln and I want Godzilla.

I am Liem and I want a dinosaur.

I am Aria and I want a pretend snow man.

I want a kids snowmobile a new Santa blow up and new snowman blow up. Milo

Make up set, new underwear, socks, love Meredith

A toy tree, love toy. (Myles)

A new bike this year, love Thomas

I want a real kid phone and a chair bed. Love Charlotte.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECEMBER 10, 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, December 10, 2025. Roll call was answered by Karas, Campbell and Caverzagie. The Invocation was given by Chairman Caverzagie and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chairman Karas. Chairman Caverzagie announced that the open meeting laws have been posted at the entrance to the meeting room.

A motion was made by Karas to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2025, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the agenda as posted. Motion seconded by 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 TREASURER

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve a pledge security receipt from F&M Bank, receipt #JC94843F to replace receipt #JC93020C. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

Steve Darveau, Jr., Highway Superintendent updated the Board on the routine road and bridge maintenance being done this week. He reported that the newly hired employees are continuing training to obtain their CDL licenses, that rock hauling is being done to those areas that are needing rock.

A discussion was held regarding the quality of rock that is currently being obtained from the different quarries. Commissioner Campbell provided samples and Mr. Darveau provided a sample of the crusher run from the DuBois quarry. A notice was received from Martin Marietta informing the County that there will be a price increase of 7% at all locations effective January 1, 2026.

The motor grader districts are being changed to allow for better efficiency in getting the roads graded in a more-timely manner.

Mr. Darveau also informed the Board that he is working with a local contractor to assist in making the plans for the Verdon shop replacement. These plans will be available at a later date so that the project can be let out for bids.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center this past week. There are 12 inmates currently being held in the Jail. The Department received notification that the County has been awarded the funds from the grant "Drive Sober-Get Pulled Over" from the NE Dept. of Transportation which will be held December 12 thru January 1.

The Law Enforcement staff have done some repairs to the shower area of a cell to determine if this repair will eliminate a problem with the shower fixtures. It was also reported that the new generator had been installed on Monday and that the new pump for the grease pit is expected to arrive soon and be replaced.

The Sheriff met with the Falls City Chief of Police and a representative from "Comeback Era" a substance abuse and recovery program. This program is a federally funded program to assist persons in recovering from substance abuse and/or from mental health conditions. This program will be reviewed further when more information is received.

BRIAN KIRKENDALL, EMA DIRECTOR

Brian Kirkendall, EMA Director, met with the Board to present the Letter of Agreement with Cooper Nuclear Station to receive funds for maintaining a radiological response plan.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the Letter of Agreement with Nebraska Public Power District, Cooper Nuclear Station for Richardson County to receive funds for maintaining radiological response plan procedures. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, page 81)

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the salary increase effective January 1, 2026, for EMA Specialists I (storm spotters) from \$13.50/hour to \$15.50/hour and for EMA Specialists II (EOC Training/Radiological/storm spotters) from \$14.00 to \$17.00. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Kirkendall also updated the Board on the situation within the City of Humboldt regarding the boil water requirement. The City should be made aware in the next few days whether the water supply is now in the safe mode. Mr. Kirkendall and the County Board of Commissioners also want to publicly thank Clint Sailors, general manager at the Dollar Fresh store in Falls City and Hy-Vee for the cooperation in obtaining and helping with the delivery of the large quantity of bottled water that has been supplied to the residents of the City of Humboldt during this time.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

Monthly Operating Statement

The Board reviewed the November, 2025 monthly operating statement.

SE NE Development District

Motion was made by Campbell to enter into an interlocal agreement with SE NE Development District which will now allow SENDD to acquire and dispose of property. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, page 80)

Sub-Division

Motion by Caverzagie to approve a sub-division for Robert L. Beckett and Sandra K Beckett, Trustees of the Robert L. Beckett and Sandra K. Beckett Trust located in S11, T3N, R14E, .66 acres and to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-18. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 79)

Mid-Continental Restoration Co.

Motion was made by Campbell to approve a quote received from Mid-Continental Restoration Co., Inc. to make repairs to masonry on the 4th floor north elevation area of the Courthouse and removing the bars over the windows and seal all joints for a price of \$42,455.00. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Motion was made by Caverzagie to allow the payment of all claims that were submitted today. Motion seconded by Karas. 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

Ameriflex, fee.....	70.00
Ankrom, Jami, reimb.....	20.88
Culligan of Percival, supp.....	94.80
Falls City Sanitation, serv.....	40.00
First Concord, fees.....	540.00
Farm & City Supply, supp.....	53.96
Kennedy, Kaytlyn, reimb.....	78.19
Midwest Mobile Radio Service, serv.....	30.00
Quill, supp.....	142.50
Region 5 Systems, fees.....	4539.78
RC EMA Petty Cash Acct., reimb.....	100.00
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/tire/etc.....	26519.42
Scholl Lawn & Landscape, serv.....	853.00
SE District Assessor Association, dues.....	75.00
SNC, serv.....	1066.93
Payroll Expense.....	121066.02
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$155,290.48

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Capital Business Systems, serv.....	110.92
East Richardson Rural Water #2, serv.....	46.00
Eggers Bros., supp.....	1878.59
Falls City Sanitation, serv.....	40.00
FC Utility Dept., serv.....	674.09
Jim Hawk Truck Trailers, supp.....	414.53
Jim Hill's, serv.....	60.00
Martin Marietta Materials, rock.....	13077.31
NPPD, serv.....	32.63
NE State Fire Marshal, serv.....	240.00
NMC, serv.....	145.65
Norris Quarries, rock.....	4511.27
Operation & Expense Account, reimb.....	229.42
Salem, Village of, serv.....	22.85
SNC, serv.....	103.38
Truck Center Companies, supp.....	1228.27
Unifirst, supp.....	15.06
Verdon, Village of, serv.....	32.64
Payroll Expense.....	35854.64
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND.....	\$58,717.25

INHERITANCE TAX FUND

Estate of Lanny Burr, reimb.....	20.29
Joseph P. & Margie E. Fleskoski Trust, reimb.....	6995.00
TOTAL INHERITANCE TAX FUND.....	\$7,015.29

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will not meet on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, due to the annual conference of the Nebraska Association of County Officials that will be attended by the commissioners. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. for the next 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



59% Higher Recall.
 9% More Purchase Intent.

Branded content outperforms traditional ads.

Audiences are 61% more likely to buy from brands that tell their story through custom content.

OnePress makes it simple: we build your print, digital, and social assets — and deliver transparent reporting you can count on.



Start your campaign today.

Call 255-351-0702 or visit onepressne.com

YOUR TAX DOLLARS. YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW.

 FIND OUT THREE WAYS

 EMAIL WEBSITE NEWSPAPER
 NEPublicNotices.com

Linda Gerdes

Linda Rae Gerdes, 78, of Humboldt, Nebraska, died on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at Colonial Acres Nursing Home in Humboldt.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Popkess Mortuary in Sabetha, Kansas, is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Condolences can be shared online at www.popkessmortuaries.com.

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

The holiday season is a time for joy with friends and family, goodwill, and the gift of giving. Yet, it’s also a period when cybercriminals exploit the festive spirit to commit fraud. Here are some common holiday scams to look out for this holiday season.

Online Shopping Scams: Criminals create professional-looking websites and ads promoting popular items at steep discounts, but what you receive may be different than advertised—if you receive anything. Be cautious of unusually low prices and avoid clicking on ads in emails, texts, or social media. For safer shopping, go directly to a trusted retailer’s website or app and pay with a credit card for stronger protections.

Delivery Scams: As holiday packages crisscross the country, scammers send out phishing emails and texts that appear to be from UPS, FedEx, or the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), notifying recipients about incoming or missed deliveries. Links lead to fake sign-in pages that request personal information, or to sites that may be infected with malware.

Gift Card Scams: Criminals steal gift cards in bulk from store racks, collect the information from the card, and return them to the rack for unsuspecting buyers. When the gift card is bought, criminals immediately drain the money. It is safer to buy cards that are kept behind the counter, or directly from the retailer’s site.

Preventing Holiday Package Themes: With holiday shopping and shipping comes the risk of package theft. Thieves, often called “Porch Pirates,” steal millions of packages from American doorsteps each year, totaling billions of dollars in merchandise. You can help protect your deliveries with a few simple steps.

Opt into delivery alerts, allowing you to track your package and know exactly when items arrive. If you won’t be home, ask a trusted person to pick it up, or instruct the delivery person to place it out of sight. Consider requesting a signature upon delivery to ensure your package is handed to someone directly. You can also use alternative pickup options, such as ship-to-store or secure locations offered by major retailers and delivery services.

If you’re going out of town, ask USPS, FedEx, or UPS to hold your mail and packages until you return. USPS can hold mail for up to 30 days, and FedEx and UPS offer similar vacation hold options. Stay informed and work with your neighbors. Agree to watch out for each other’s deliveries and offer to take in mail when needed. Community resources like Nextdoor.com, Crime Stoppers, and social media updates from local law enforcement can also alert you to porch piracy in your area.

Airline Call Center Scams: With the holiday travel season fast approaching, scammers are poised to capitalize

Betty Brackhahn

Betty L. Brackhahn, 90 years old, of Falls City, NE, formerly of Beatrice, passed away on December 15, 2025 in Falls City. She was born on February 13, 1935 in Shubert, NE to Frank & Vernell (Neman) Hogue. On June 24, 1956 Betty married Virgil D. Brackhahn in Dawson, NE. They were blessed with two daughters, Susan and Leslie. They established their home in Lincoln for three years, and then moved to Beatrice, McCook, Kansas City, back to Beatrice in 1977, and then moved to Falls City in 2024.

Betty was a teacher of music, English, speech and theater. She retired after 32 years of teaching in high schools in Malcom, Diller, Beatrice and Wymore, and at the South-east Community College.

Betty is survived by her daughter Susan Brackhahn of Lincoln; brother Ed (Donna) Hogue of Upton, Wyoming; niece Kimberly Goff; and nephews Steve Yoder, Mark Hogue, Don Hogue and Ryan Hogue.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Virgil Brackhahn (2024); daughter Leslie Brackhahn (1990); and niece Peggy Hogue.

Funeral services was held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at the Griffiths-Hovendick Chapel, 708 North 6th Street in Beatrice. There was no public viewing or visitation. Interment was in the Evergreen Home Cemetery in Beatrice. A memorial has been established to the family’s choice for future designation with the funeral home in charge.

Those who wish to remember Betty are encouraged to share their memories, upload photos of her to her memorial page, and view the service at www.ghchapel.com. This tribute will serve as a testament to her loving spirit and the impact she had on those around her.

These services have been entrusted to the Griffiths-Hovendick Chapel in Beatrice.

on travelers needing help with last-minute flight changes and cancellations. Don’t let fake customer service derail your trip or drain your wallet. Here’s a few things you should know to stay ahead of airline call center scams.

Just because an airline customer service helpline number appears at the top of internet search results doesn’t mean it’s legitimate. Fraudulent numbers often surface in search results, and scammers constantly find new ways to make their numbers appear first. To avoid this risk, download your airline’s official app. In addition to providing the airline’s verified 800 number, the app delivers real-time flight notifications and other important updates.

Be on the lookout for red flags, such as aggressive tactics pushing you to buy a ticket immediately because “the price will go up.” And if your flight is canceled, you usually do not need to pay to be rebooked. Any “agent” requesting a credit card to do so is likely after your money, not your flight.

Spot Fake Charity Donation Scams: As the year winds down and the season of giving sets in, many people look to support causes they care about but telling a legitimate charity from a fake one can be tough. While reputable organizations make their year-end push for donations, criminals also take advantage of this opportunity to line their own pockets.

Common signs of a charity scam include requests for payment via gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency, as well as high-pressure demands to donate immediately. Legitimate charities may also encourage timely giving, but they will welcome your support at any time.

To help ensure your donation reaches those who truly need it, do your research. Check organizations on sites such as give.org, CharityNavigator.org or CharityWatch.org to confirm legitimacy and find out how much of the funds are used to serve its stated mission versus overhead and fundraising.

Pay close attention to the charity’s name and web address, as criminals often mimic the names of familiar, trusted organizations to deceive donors. Also, be cautious of links in unsolicited emails, texts, or social media messages, which can lead to fake donation websites and expose your device to malware.

When you do donate, use a credit card. It’s easier to track your contribution, and if your card is misused, you may have protection against loss. To avoid feeling pressured by unexpected solicitations, consider having a set list of charities you support. That way, you can give confidently and on your own terms.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with the AARP Fraud Watch NetworkTM. 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.

(Continued from Page 1)

James D. Wisdom Jr.

Nebraska Communications for 40 years. He was an active member of the community, serving on the Falls City School Board, Falls City Volunteer Ambulance Squad, and as a Falls City Council member. He was a beloved friend, father, and grandparent.

James is survived by his loving wife Angie Wisdom of Falls City, children: Allen Wisdom and wife Cindy of Falls City, Rhonda Eagle and husband Steven of Winchester, KS; Chris Wisdom of Falls City, Aaron Wisdom of Falls City, Wade Noll and wife Theresa of Lincoln, grandchildren: Andrea Eagle of Winchester, KS; Matthew Eagle of Atchison, KS; great-grandchildren: Zeke and Teddy Eagle both of Atchison, KS; sisters: Judy Allen of Horton, KS; Cheryl Robbins of Falls City, and Debra White of Lawrence, KS; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, wife Coradean, and brother David Wisdom.

James will be cremated. No services are planned at this time.

Memorial contributions may be given to the family with a later designation.

Condolences can be shared online at www.hallfuneral.net Services entrusted to Hall Funeral Home-2403 Harlan St-Falls City, NE 68376



Memory Lane Decor
Flowers & Gifts

Every Goodbye Deserves Beauty

Our compassionate florists design arrangements to honor every life, from traditional casket sprays to urn tributes & custom standing sprays.

- FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS
- STANDING SPRAYS • URN SURROUNDS • CASKET SPRAYS

(402) 245.5839 • 1617 STONE STREET, FALLS CITY

We are able to handle all funeral services no matter how large or small with dignity & professionalism.



Dorr and Clark
Funeral Home

2303 Harlan St., Falls City, NE • 402-245-2424
Localled Owned & Operated

LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

GENEROUSLY BROUGHT TO YOU EACH WEEK BY THE SPONSORS BELOW

FALLS CITY

First Brethren Church (1902 Lane St.): Worship Service, 9:30am; Sunday School, 10:40am; Fellowship Hour, 6:00pm
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.mynag.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. fallscitylcms.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/fallscitycooperativeministry *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. fallscitylcms.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/fallscitycooperativeministry. *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 9:15AM (1st, 3rd); Worship at Barada Global Methodist (2nd & 4th Sundays); *Check our Facebook page for worship schedule.* 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

River of Hope Fellowship 27765 Hwy 159, PO Box 176, Forest City, MO 64451. Sun. Worship: 10:30AM, Sunday School: 9:30AM. *Will Certain, Pastor. 816-824-8566. Randy Seedorff, Pastor. 816-507-7339*

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
www.amfam.com

Brent Harsin
B. Harsin Agency, Inc.
Toll Free: 800-492-3392
E-mail: bharsin@amfam.com
Falls City, NE 402-245-2605



NOT JUST A NURSING HOME BUT.....WHERE CARING COMES FROM THE HEART

FALLS CITY Nursing & Rehab

1720 BURTON DR., FALLS CITY, NE 402-245-4466

Animal Health Center
Dr. Steve Severin
Dr. Danielle Bauman - Cromer
1505 E. 14th St., Falls City
24 Hrs. Emergency: (402) 245-4438
Fax: 245-3928 • Toll Free: 800-947-2127
e-mail: ahcfc@sentco.net



303 Hwy 73 • PO Box 648
Falls City, NE 68355

CONSOLIDATED GRAIN AND BARGE CO.
1-866-481-4017
Please contact us for all your grain marketing needs



**Wolfes Printing**
1607 STONE STREET
FALLS CITY, NE 68355
PH/FAX: 402-245-4484
E-MAIL: mewp@sentco.net

**frontierbank**

1616 Harlan St., Falls City, NE
402-245-2486

ATM Location: 1616 Harlan St.

Member FDIC

Equal Housing Lender

Full Service Bank

“A World of Possibilities”

FALLS CITY TRAVEL COMPANY

Kelly Carpenter, Manager
1608 Stone St., PO Box 26,
Falls City, NE 68355-002
Fax & Phone 402-245-3344
fctravel@sentco.net



Doug Waller

 **Steve Simon**

Miller-Monroe Company, Inc.
“Your Full-Service Agency”
Insurance • Real Estate • Investments
1608 Stone St., Falls City
(402) 245-2227

FM & Bank
Member FDIC

1701 Stone St., Falls City, NE
402-245-2491



SONIC DRIVE INN
1305 HARLAN ST., FALLS CITY
402-245-3525

SUBWAY

1423 Harlan St., Falls City
Mon-Fri 7am-10pm
Sat 9am-10pm • Sun 9am-9pm
402-245-3500

Over 100 New and Used Vehicles in Stock

HULLMAN’S FORD LINCOLN
245-4413
www.hullmansford.com

 **Life in the Spirit**

Christian Gift & Bookstore
1208 Stone St. Falls City, NE 68355
402-245-4922

Harmon’s O.K. Tire & Auto, Inc.
“Serving You Since 1939”
Galen Harmon • Complete Tire Service
•Michelin • Uniroyal •BF Goodrich
•Over 5000 Tires on Hand
1903 Harlan St., Falls City, NE
Ph: 402-245-4114 402-245-5114

**CSNC**

Southeast Nebraska COMMUNICATIONS
110 W. 17th
Falls City, NE **402-245-4451**

Chaney Furniture Co.
Since 1921
GRANT SMITH/President
STEVE HUTFLES/Vice President
1523 Stone St., PO Box 267
Falls City, NE 68355
Ph: 402-245-3912 • 877-245-2844
www.chaneyfurniture.com

MEYER HOME CENTER
1705 Chase St., Falls City, NE
Amana 402-245-4661

Plumbing, Heating, Cooling
Kitchen Cabinets,
Bathroom Remodels.
Quartz & Granite Countertops

Dorr and Clark Funeral Home

2303 Harlan St., Falls City, NE
402-245-2424
www.dorrandclark.com
LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Kex Rx Pharmacy & Home Care

120 E. 18th St. • Falls City, NE
402-245-2029 Fax: 402-245-2521
KexRx.com
We take care of you

ACE HARDWARE FARM & CITY

Hardware SUPPLY
2618 Harlan St.
Falls City, NE 68355

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

LEGAL NOTICE-ADULT NAME CHANGE IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Case Number: CI-25-233 IN RE NAME CHANGE OF: Madison Jo Littrel

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of December, 2025, a petition was filed in the District Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is for the change of the petitioner's name Madison Jo Littrel, to Madison Jo McKim. A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable Julie D. Smith, in courtroom no. 302, 1700 Stone St. on the 20th day of January 2026 at 10:45 a.m., or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the petitioner's name will be changed from that of Madison Jo Littrel to Madison Jo McKim.

Madison McKim
1402 Barada Street
Falls City, Nebraska 68355
17-24-31-7
ZNEZ

LEGAL NOTICE-ADULT NAME CHANGE IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Case Number: CI-25-234 IN RE NAME CHANGE OF: Emma Ilene Littrel

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of December, 2025, a petition was filed in the District Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is for the change of the petitioner's name Emma Ilene Littrel, to Emma Ray McKim. A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable Julie D. Smith, in courtroom no. 302, 1700 Stone St. on the 20th day of January 2026 at 10 :45 a.m., or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the petitioner's name will be changed from that of Emma Ilene Littrel to Emma Ray McKim.

Emma Ray McKim
1402 Barada Street
Falls City, Nebraska 68355
17-24-31-7
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF SBL MANAGEMENT & CONSULTING SERVICES, INC., a Nebraska Corporation

Pursuant to the Nebraska Model Business Corporation Act, SBL Management & Consulting Services, Inc., a Nebraska Corporation, does hereby publish notice of its voluntary dissolution effective November 30, 2025, and Lacey S. Karpinski is the person to wind up and liquidate the assets and liabilities of the corporation in her official capacity as President, and at the time of dissolution, said corporation will have no assets to distribute nor any liabilities.

Lacey S. Karpinski, President

WEAVER & MERZ
Douglas E. Merz #12807
1719 Stone Street, P.O. Box 569
Falls City, NE 68355
(402)245 3015

10-17-24
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

Notice is hereby given that TDF AUTOMOTIVE, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the state of Nebraska, with its initial designated office at 1703 McLean Street, Falls City, Nebraska 68355. The initial agent for service of process for the Company is Tyler Frank, 1703 McLean Street, Falls City, Nebraska 68355. This Company is member managed, pursuant to its Operating Agreement. The nature of the Company is to engage in general business and operation, control, and oversight of automotive and diesel maintenance, inspection, diagnostic, repair, customization, restoration, performance upgrades, specialized services, interior and exterior cleaning and detailing, and related services and consulting. The Company commenced existence as of November 24, 2025, the date of filing with the Nebraska Secretary of State.

10-17-24
ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF SHUBERT

Village of Shubert
Regular Monthly Meeting
December 1, 2025
Shubert Library

The Village Board of Shubert, NE held the monthly board meeting on December 1, 2025 in the Shubert Library. Chairman Donna Lockard opened the regular meeting at 7:00 PM with the following board members present: Gary Hays, Tom Borrego, Linda Patchen and Ron Ramer. Clerk was present to record the meeting. Chairman announced the posting of the Open Meetings Law. Chairman asked for any additions or deletions to the agenda, hearing none. No Visitors. Chairman moved on to regular business. There was a motion and second (Hays/Patchen) to approve the November 3, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried. There was a motion and second (Hays/Borrego) to approve the account balance sheets and monthly claims, with the addition of three claims. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried. General: Third and Final Reading (Patchen/Lockard) of Ordinance #5-301 Highway 62 Speed Limit Ordinance. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried. Christmas Lights and items: Light bulbs have been found. Christmas decorations need to be gone through and moved. Possibly sell items that the town doesn't need.

Board reorganization: Motion and Second (Patchen/Hays) for Donna Lockard to remain Chairman. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Lockard abstained from vote. Motion carried. Motion and Second (Lockard/Patchen) for Gary Hays to remain Vice Chairman pro-temp. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Hays abstained from the vote. Motion carried. Motion and Second (Patchen/Hays) to keep the following nominations the same. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried.

Water & Wastewater Operators (Tracy Milke, Aaron Davis) Clerk & Treasurer (Jennifer Buchner) Water & Sewer Contact (Gary Hays) Streets (Tom Borrego) Buildings & Park (Linda Patchen) Wood & Brush Pile (Ron Ramer) Fire Chief (Cody Tasler) Attorney (Mike Dunn) Street Superintendent/ Village Engineer (Evan Wickersham / JEO Consulting Group) Budget Advisor/ Village Accountant (Jamie Aue) Bonded Plumber & Electrician (Davis PHE) Licensed Kennel (Animal Health Center)

Richardson County Sheriff for law enforcement as needed.

Water & Sewer: Board reviewed Tracy's report. Wood & Brush pile: None. Buildings and Park: Community Building: Board discussed plans and current projects. Park: Bathrooms have been closed for the winter. Library is open every other Saturday morning. Check window for hours. Streets: Carport: Motion and Second (Lockard/Borrego) to purchase a 16x24x10 carport to store the tractor or truck, to be placed behind the library. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried. Motion and Second (Ramer/Hays) to hire Neville to even the ground before delivery. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried. Motion and Second (Hays/Lockard) to pass Resolution 2025-11 Year end certification of city street superintendent – Evan Wickersham, JEO. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried.

Snow removal- Board discussed snow removal questions. Motion and Second (Lockard/Ramer) to only remove snow in the alley between the Fire hall and the Christian church. No other alleys will have snow removal. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried. Fire: A fire on Elm Street left a tree partially burnt and unstable. Board will get bids to have the tree removed. Motion and Second (Patchen/Hays) to accept lowest bid and get the tree removed as soon as possible. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried.

The next regular board meeting will be Monday, January 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Shubert Library. With no further business: Motion and Second (Hays/Ramer) to adjourn meeting at 7:55 p.m. Roll call vote was all "Aye," Motion carried.

Jennifer Buchner
Village Clerk

Name Memo Amount

Dearborne Group, Firemans Insurance.....\$75.68
NPPD - Fire Barn, Fire Barn.....\$32.63
Jennifer Buchner, Payroll.....\$676.01
Ace Farm & City Supply Paper towels, trash bags.....\$16.98
Davis PHE, Library Heat, Winterize Park.....\$190.50
International League of Cities, Annual Membership.....\$200.00
Gary Hays, Water Meter Posts-\$48.69
Home Lumber Company, Insulation - Sewer Plant.....\$46.54
Ace Farm & City Supply, Water Meter Posts.....\$37.98
Aue & Company, Mo. Fee.....\$225.00
United States Treasury, Tax Deposit\$238.22
USPS Office, 100 1st class stamps.....\$78.00
NPPD-Community Building, Community Building.....-\$51.13
NPPD - Library, Library.....\$32.63
Falls City Journal, Minutes x3.....-\$74.52
Charlie Mack, Sand.....\$175.00
Bletscher Trucking, Rock 2 Loads.....\$1,727.00
Cody Meyerkorth, Snow Removal.....\$137.50
NPPD - 8th & Elm, 6TH & ELM-\$13.72
NPPD -Streets, Streetlights....-\$310.51
Aaron Davis, Payroll.....\$253.96
Tracy Milke, Payroll.....\$507.92
Tracy Milke, Expenses Nov 2025.....\$97.79
Aaron Davis, Mileage Nov.....\$50.00
Southeast Telephone Company, Well Phone.....\$107.61
Paul Platter, Sludge Haul.....\$200.00
State of Nebraska PHEL Water Testing.....\$207.00
Midwest Labs, Testing.....\$219.07
Village of Shubert - USDA Account, Transfer from W/S/G to USDA Account.....\$906.00

Village of Shubert - Water Tower, Transfer to Water Tower acct.....\$1,000.00
Falls City Sanitation Service, Trash service.....\$1,300.00
NPPD - Sewer, Sewer.....\$272.17
NPPD - Wells, Wells.....\$165.24
Bob Williams, Water meter post labor.....\$100.00
ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF RULO

Village of Rulo
Board Meeting Minutes

Advanced notice of meeting posted by 2PM on Monday, December 8, 2025 at the Rulo Library, Swingin' Doors and Wild Bill's Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 6:00pm in the Rulo Library

Board Chairperson, Rebecca Simmonds, called the meeting to order at 6:01PM. Roll – Present: Rebecca Simmonds, Kraig Coonce, Regina Barber, Mike Keller, Clerk-Rachel Jean, Absent – Todd Thompson

R. Jean announced meetings are held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act which is both posted and available in print upon request.

A motion was made by Coonce and seconded by Keller to approve the November board meeting minutes. Roll – AYE: Coonce, Keller, Barber, Simmonds. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Keller and seconded by Barber to appoint Rebecca Simmonds as Board Chairperson for 2026. Roll – AYE: Keller, Barber, Coonce, Simmonds. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Barber and seconded by Keller to appoint Kraig Coonce as Vice Chairperson for 2026. Roll – AYE: Barber, Keller, Simmonds, Coonce. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Keller and seconded by Coonce to appoint Rachel Jean as Clerk for 2026. Roll – AYE: Keller, Coonce, Barber, Simmonds. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Coonce and seconded by Keller to appoint Doug Merz as City Attorney for 2026. Roll – AYE: Coonce, Keller, Barber, Simmonds. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Keller and seconded by Coonce to appoint Steve Johansen as Water Operator for 2026. Roll – AYE: Keller, Coonce, Barber, Simmonds. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Keller and seconded by Coonce to appoint Julie Vollmer at Street Superintendent for 2026. Roll – AYE: Keller, Coonce, Barber, Simmonds. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Keller and seconded by Coonce to pass Resolution 122025-01 authorizing Board Chairperson, Rebecca Simmonds, to sign the Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent 2025. Roll – AYE: Keller, Coonce, Barber, Simmonds. Resolution passed.

A motion was made by Barber and seconded by Keller to pass Resolution 122025-02 for the Adoption of the Nemaha NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan. Roll call – AYE: Barber, Keller, Simmonds; ABSTAIN – Coonce. Resolution passed.

Board member, Barber, exits the meeting at 6:08pm

The Board reviewed the certification of seats due for re-election in November 2026. No action required.

The Board reviewed the Interlocal Agreement for Richardson County Warning Sirens. A motion was made by Coonce and seconded by Keller to make a request to the County Board to add an addendum that advanced notice is provided for maintenance and repair. Roll – AYE: Coonce, Keller, Simmonds. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Keller and seconded by Coonce to approve a purchase of up to \$1500.00 for the purchase of a snow blade for the dump truck. Roll – AYE: Keller, Coonce, Simmonds. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Coonce and seconded by Keller to allow the Water Operator, Steve Johansen, to collect on past due water payments before disconnection. Roll – AYE: Coonce, Keller, Simmonds. Motion carried.

R. Jean advised that she has a template for a purchasing policy to complete for Board review. Updates to follow as available.

Coonce reported the Pine Grove completed tree trimming and most of stump treatment. Invoice provided states trimming can be made in the Spring as needed under current payment.

Board discussed Evening with Santa and an open invoice with Heiman. Coonce advised he will call and pay invoice with credit card.

A citizen complaint on road conditions was presented by Coonce. After discussion, the Board declined action as adding gravel with current conditions would waste money. Grading and raking may be options instead.

Culvert replacement at 1st and Dupuis still pending availability of tube. Coonce will check with Tim Koelzer on status of tube.

Coonce will check with L. Collins regarding installation of highway light replacement.

R. Jean presented the October Keno report, water delinquency report and Treasurer's Report for review.

A motion was made by Coonce and seconded by Keller to approve claims as presented. Roll – AYE: Coonce, Keller, Simmonds. Motion carried.

GENERAL – Grey Snow Sanitation \$55.00 (svcs), OPPD \$980.27 (utility), SNC \$51.34 (utility), Falls City Journal \$80.87 (publications), Home Lumber \$1021.52 (supplies), payroll \$2981.39
ROADS – Farm & City Supply \$110.92 (supplies), Foley Equipment \$95.08 (parts)

WATER – NE Dept of Revenue \$36.83 (sales tax), NE Public Health Env Lab \$15.00 (svcs), USPS \$234.00 (postage), City of Falls City \$2819.30 (svcs), Wolfe's Printing \$20.77 (supplies), Rachel Jean \$38.69 (reimb. supplies)
FIRE – Richardson County Mutual Aid \$20.00 (dues), Rulo Vol. Fire Dept \$138.10 (fuel), Rulo Vol. Fire Dept \$252.22 (reimb – community outreach)
KENO – Pine Grover \$3750.00 (svcs)

A motion was made by Coonce and seconded Keller to adjourn the meeting at 8:01PM. Roll – AYE: Coonce, Keller, Simmonds. Motion carried.

Next scheduled meeting set for January 13, 2026 at 6:00PM.

ZNEZ

CITY COUNCIL

December 1, 2025

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Falls City, Nebraska, was held in said City on the 1st day of December 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 Mayor, City Administrator, Chief of Police, and the Southeast Nebraska Land Bank were presented. No formal action was required.

AGENDA APPROVAL FOR DECEMBER 1, 2025

A motion was made by Council person Leyden and seconded by Council person K. Killingsworth 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 NOVEMBER 17, 2025

A motion was made by Council person Leyden and seconded by Council person F. Killingsworth to approve the minutes for November 17, 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.

MINUTES APPROVAL FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2025

A motion was made by Council person Leyden and seconded by Council person K. Killingsworth to approve the minutes for November 19, 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.

CLAIMS APPROVAL FOR DECEMBER 2, 2025

A motion was made by Council person Ferguson and seconded by Council person K. Killingsworth to approve the claims for December 2, 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.

CONSIDER REQUESTS TO RESCIND THE RESTRICTED PARKING ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE 900 BLOCK OF MORTON STREET FROM 9TH STREET TO APPROXIMATELY 182.00 FEET NORTH OF 9TH STREET

Carla & Vince Behrens, Aubrey Wright, and Anthony & Kala Moore request the City Council to rescind the restricted parking on the east side of the 900 block of Morton Street. Following discussion, a motion was made by Council person Buckminster and seconded by Council person K. Killingsworth to rescind restrictive parking on the east side of the 900 block of Morton Street. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" F. Killingsworth. Motion carried.

RECONSIDER RESOLUTION-2025-R155 REGARDING NON-UNION WAGE SCALES AND BENEFITS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, 2027, AND 2028 PASSED AT THE NOVEMBER 19TH SPECIAL MEETING AS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL PERSON FERGUSON AND COUNCIL PERSON LEYDEN

City Attorney Dunn provided a legal opinion in regard to the non-union wage resolution passed at the special meeting of the City Council on November 19th, 2025. Upon review, a motion was made by Council person Ferguson and seconded by Council person Leyden to reconsider resolution 2025-R155 regarding non-union wage scales and benefits for fiscal year 2026, 2027, 2028 passed at the November 19th special meeting. 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 CONSIDERING NON-UNION WAGE SCALES AND BENEFITS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, 2027, AND 2028

A resolution for non-union wages scales and benefits as recommended by the Non-Union/Management Negotiation Committee was presented for consideration. Upon review, a

motion was made by Council person Ferguson and seconded by Council person Leyden to rescind Resolution 2025-R155 regarding non-union wage scales and benefits for fiscal year 2026, 2027, 2028 passed at the special meeting of the City Council on November 19, 2025 and that the resolution first presented to the City Council at the November 17, 2025 meeting and contained in the agenda packet emails on November 15th, as recommended by the committee be adopted. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, K. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" F. Killingsworth, Kaster. Motion carried.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH SEL ENGINEERING SERVICES, INC. TOTALING \$174,600.00 FOR ITEMS 4, 5, AND 6 OF THE POWER PLANT SCADA CONTROLS UPGRADE PROJECT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

An agreement for services was provided for consideration. Upon review, a motion was made by Council person F. Killingsworth and seconded by Council person Buckminster to authorize execution of the agreement 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.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REQUISITION REQ01883 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REMOTE METHANE LEAK DETECTOR AS REQUESTED BY THE NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT

Requisition REQ01899 was presented for consideration. Upon review, a motion was made by Council person Kaster and seconded by Council person K. Killingsworth to approve the purchase of Requisition REQ01883. 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.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REQUISITION REQ01899 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2026 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 3500 HD WITH STAHL UTILITY BED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Requisition REQ01899 along with supportive bid information was presented for consideration as recommended by the Board of Public Works. Upon review, a motion was made by Council person Ferguson and seconded by Council person Kaster to approve the purchase of Requisition REQ01899. 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.

CONSIDER EXECUTION OF A RENEWAL TO THE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT NO. 10 WITH NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NDOT) FOR CY2026

A renewal agreement with NDOT was presented for consideration. Upon review, a motion was made by Council person Leyden and seconded by Council person F. Killingsworth to authorize execution of the renewal 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.

CONSIDER EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH FALLS CITY SPECIAL OLYMPICS FOR UTILIZATION OF PRICHARD AUDITORIUM

An MOU was presented for consideration. Upon review, a motion was made by Council person Ferguson and seconded by Council person Fouraker to authorize execution of the MOU. 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.

CLOSED SESSION – DISCUSSION OF A COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT WITH NEBRASKA RURAL GENERATION AND RELATING TO CONFIDENTIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSIONS FOR THE NRG INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT CONDUCTED UNDER A NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

A resolution and community benefits agreement was presented for

consideration. A motion was made by Council person Leyden and seconded by Council person F. Killingsworth to enter into a closed session at 6:50 pm to protect the public interest by discussing confidential economic development negotiations and proprietary information regarding the NRG Industrial Development Project, which are subject to a non-disclosure agreement and not appropriate for public release at this stage. Attendees for the closed session included the Mayor, City Council Members, City Administration, NRG Representatives, and Falls City EDGE leadership. 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. A motion was made by F. Killingsworth and seconded by Council person Buckminster to end the closed session at 7:24 pm and resume the regular meeting. 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.

Upon entering regular session, a motion was made by Council person Ferguson and seconded by Council person F. Killingsworth to approve 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.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:26 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 December 1, 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.

Anthony Nussbaum, City Clerk
Mark Harkendorff, Mayor
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Falls City, Nebraska, that a public hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 5th, 2026, in the City Hall, 2307 Barada Street, Falls City, Nebraska. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comment prior to consideration of a permit to harbor chickens on the below listed residential properties.

1616 Valley Avenue, Falls City, Nebraska
2212 Stone Street, Falls City, Nebraska
2008 Morton Street, Falls City, Nebraska
710 E 11th Street, Falls City, Nebraska

All interested parties shall be afforded at such public hearing a reasonable opportunity to express their views regarding the issuance of a conditional use permit. A copy of the chicken hen application and supporting information can be viewed at the office of the City Clerk of the City of Falls City. Individuals requiring physical or sensory accommodations including interpreter service, Braille, large print or recorded materials please contact the City Clerk at the City Clerk's office at 402.245.2307.

Anthony Nussbaum, City Clerk
24
ZNEZ

NOTICE TO ALL RICHARDSON COUNTY RESIDENTS

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

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

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Richardson County Board of Commissioners will hold an open and public hearing on Tuesday, January 7, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Room 202 of the Courthouse in Falls City, Richardson County, Nebraska.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments from the public in support of or opposition to the changes to the Resolution of Zoning Overlay District Floodplain Management Ordinance 60.3(d) adopted by the Richardson County Board of Commissioners on September 14, 2021 with an effective date of October 7, 2021.

The proposed changes are indicated by strike out (-----) for language that will be removed and underlined (_____) for language that will be added.

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2025.

John Caverzagie, Chairman
Richardson County Board
of Commissioners

Mary L. Eickhoff
Richardson County Clerk

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION NO.
Zoning Overlay District Floodplain
Management
Ordinance 60.3(d)

AN ORDINANCE INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNING BODY CREATING FLOODWAY AND FLOOD FRINGE DISTRICTS DEFINING THE SAME AND SETTING FORTH REGULATIONS THEREOF.

SECTION 1.0 STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION, FINDINGS OF FACT, AND PURPOSES

1.1 STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION

The Legislature of the State of Nebraska has delegated the responsibility to local governmental units to adopt zoning regulations designed to protect the public health, safety, general welfare, and property of the people of the state. The Legislature, in Nebraska Revised Statutes Sections 31-1001 to 31-1023 (as amended), has further assigned the responsibility to adopt, administer, and enforce floodplain management regulations to the county, city, or village with zoning jurisdiction over the flood-prone area. Therefore the Richardson County Board of Commissioners of Richardson County, Nebraska ordains as follows:

1.2 FINDINGS OF FACT

A. Flood Losses Resulting from Periodic Inundation

The flood hazard areas of Richardson County, Nebraska are subject to inundation that results in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety, and general welfare.

B. General Causes of the Flood Losses

These flood losses are caused by the cumulative effect of obstructions in floodplains causing increases in flood heights and velocities as well as the occupancy of flood hazard areas by uses vulnerable to floods or hazardous to others that are inadequately elevated or otherwise unprotected from flood damages.

1.3 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this ordinance to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare and to minimize those losses described in Section 1.2 by applying the provisions of this ordinance to:

- A. Restrict or prohibit uses that are dangerous to health, safety, or property in times of flooding or cause undue increases in flood heights or velocities.
- B. Require that uses vulnerable to floods, including public facilities that service such uses, be provided with flood protection at the time of initial construction.
- C. Reduce financial burdens from flood damage borne by the community, its governmental units, is residents, and its businesses by preventing excessive and unsafe development in areas subject to flooding.
- D. Assure that eligibility is maintained for property owners in the community to purchase flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program.

1.4 ADHERENCE TO REGULATIONS

The regulations of this ordinance are in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program Regulations as published in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations and the Nebraska Minimum Standards for Floodplain Management Programs as published in the Nebraska Administrative Code Title 455, Chapter 1.

SECTION 2.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS

2.1 LANDS TO WHICH ORDINANCE APPLIES

This ordinance shall apply to all lands within the jurisdictions of Richardson County identified on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels shown on the Index 31147C0025C 31147C0050C, 31147C0075C, 31147C0100C, 31147C0125C, 31147C0150C, 31147C0175C, 31147C0200C, 31147C0225C, 31147C0250C, 31147C0275C, 31147C0300C, 31147C0325C, 31147C0350C, 31147C0375C, 31147C0380C, 31147C0390C, 31147C0400C, 31147C0425C, and 31147C0450C 31147C0480C dated October 7, 2021, as Zones A, AI-30, AE, AO, or AH and within the Zoning Districts FW and FF established in Section 3.0 of this ordinance. In all areas covered by this ordinance, no development shall be allowed except upon the issuance of a floodplain development permit to develop, granted by the floodplain administrator or the

governing body under such safeguards and restrictions as the Richardson County Commissioners or the designated representative may reasonably impose for the promotion and maintenance of the general welfare, health of the inhabitants of the community and where specifically noted in Sections 4.0 and 5.0.

2.2 RULES FOR INTERPRETATION OF DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of the floodway and the flood fringe overlay districts shall be determined by scaling distances on the official zoning map of the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map. Where interpretation is needed to the exact location of the boundaries of the districts as shown on the zoning or other community map, the floodplain administrator shall make the necessary interpretation. In such cases where the interpretation is contested, the Richardson County Board of Commissioners will resolve the dispute. The regulatory flood elevation for the point in question shall be the governing factor in locating the district boundary on the land. The person contesting the location of the district boundary shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present their case to the Richardson County Board of Commissioners and to submit their own technical evidence, if so desired.

2.3 COMPLIANCE

Within identified floodplains of this community, no development shall be located, extended, converted, or structurally altered without full compliance with the terms of this ordinance and other applicable regulations.

2.4 ABROGATION AND GREATER RESTRICTIONS

This ordinance does not intend to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. However, where this ordinance imposes greater restrictions, the provision of this ordinance shall prevail. All other ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of the inconsistency only.

2.5 INTERPRETATION

In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this ordinance shall be held to be minimum requirements and shall be liberally construed in favor of the governing body and shall not be deemed a limitation or repeal of any other powers granted by state statutes.

2.6 WARNING AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

The degree of flood protection required by this ordinance is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on engineering and scientific methods of study. Larger floods may occur or the flood height may be increased by manmade or natural causes, such as ice jams and bridge openings restricted by debris. This ordinance does not imply that areas outside floodway and flood fringe district boundaries or land uses permitted within such districts will be free from flooding or flood damage. This ordinance shall not create liability on the part of Richardson County or any officer or employee thereof for any flood damages that may result from reliance on this ordinance or any administrative decision lawfully made thereunder.

2.7 SEVERABILITY

If any section, clause, provision, or portion of this ordinance is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 3.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF ZONING DISTRICTS

Along watercourses where a floodway has been established, the mapped floodplain areas are hereby divided into the two following districts: a floodway overlay district (FW) and a flood fringe overlay district (FF) as identified in the Flood Insurance Study 31147CV000A dated October 7, 2021 and on accompanying FIRM panels as established in Section 2.1. The flood fringe overlay district shall correspond to flood zones A, AE, AI-30, AH, AO, AR, A99, and floodway areas in Zone AE that are identified on FIRM panels. The floodway overlay district shall correspond to the floodway areas in Zone AE that are identified on the FIRM panels. Within these districts, all uses not meeting the standards of this ordinance and those standards of the underlying zoning district shall be prohibited.

SECTION 4.0 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION

4.1 DESIGNATION OF FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR

The Richardson County Emergency Manager is hereby designated as the community's local floodplain administrator. The floodplain administrator is authorized and directed to administer, implement, and enforce all provisions of this ordinance. If the local floodplain administrator position is unfilled, the community CEO shall assume the duties and responsibilities herein.

4.2 PERMITS REQUIRED

A floodplain development permit shall be required before any development, construction, or substantial improvement is undertaken. No person, firm, corporation, government agency, or other entity shall initiate any floodplain development without first obtaining a floodplain development permit.

4.3 DUTIES OF THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR

- A. Duties of the floodplain administrator shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - 1. Review, approve, or deny all applications for floodplain development permits.
 - 11. Review all development permit applications to assure that sites are reasonably safe from flooding and that the permit requirements of this ordinance have been satisfied.

- 111. Review applications for proposed development to assure that all necessary permits have been obtained from those federal, state, or local government agencies from which prior approval is required.
- 1v. Review all subdivision proposals and other proposed new development, including manufactured home parks or subdivisions, to determine whether such proposals will be reasonably safe from flooding.
- v. Notify adjacent communities and the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment prior to any alteration or relocation of a watercourse and submit evidence of such notification to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- v1. Assure that maintenance is provided within the altered or relocated portion of the watercourse so that the flood carrying capacity is not diminished.

- vII. Verify, record, and maintain record of the actual elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the lowest floor, including basement, of all new or substantially improved structures in the floodplain.
- v111. Verify, record, and maintain record of the actual elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which all new or substantially improved structures have been floodproofed.
- IX. Verify, record, and maintain record of all improved or damaged structures to ensure compliance with standards in applicable sections. Track value of improvements and market value with permits. Also, ensure consistent market value estimations to evaluate against damaged or improved values.
- x. Ensure comprehensive development plan as amended is consistent with this ordinance.
- x1. In the event the floodplain administrator discovers work done that does not comply with applicable laws or ordinances, the floodplain administrator shall revoke the permit and work to correct any possible violation in accordance with this ordinance.

4.4 APPLICATION FOR PERMIT AND DEMONSTRATION OF COMPLIANCE

- A. To obtain a floodplain development permit, the applicant shall first file an application in writing on a form furnished for that purpose. Every such application shall:
 - 1. Identify and describe the proposed development and estimated cost to be covered by the floodplain development permit.
 - ii. Describe the land on which the proposed development is to be done by lot, block, tract, and house and streets address, or similar description that will readily identify and definitely locate the proposed building or development.
 - m. Indicate the use or occupancy for which the proposed development is intended.
- IV. Be accompanied by plans and specifications for proposed construction.
- v. Be signed by the permittee and authorized agent who may be required to submit evidence to indicate such authority.
- B. If any proposed development is located entirely or partially within a floodplain, applicants shall provide all information in sufficient detail and clarity to enable the floodplain administrator to determine that:
 - 1. All such proposals are consistent with the need to minimize flood damage;

4.5 FLOOD DATA REQUIRED

- A. All Zone A areas on the FIRM are subject to inundation of the base flood; however, the base flood elevations are not provided. Zone A areas shall be subject to all development provisions of this ordinance. If Flood Insurance Study data is not available, the community shall utilize any base flood elevation or floodway data currently available from federal, state, or other sources, including from a study commissioned by the applicant pursuant to best technical practices.
- B. Until a floodway has been designated, no development or substantial improvement may be permitted within the floodplain unless the applicant has demonstrated that the proposed development or substantial improvement, when combined with all other existing and reasonably anticipated developments or substantial improvements, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one (1) foot at any location as shown in the Flood Insurance Study or on base flood elevation determinations.

- 1x. The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles;
- x. The expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise, and sediment transport of the floodwaters and the effects of wave action, if applicable, expected at the site; and,
- x1. The costs of providing government services during and after flood conditions including emergency management services and maintenance and repair of public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, water systems, streets, and bridges.

- v111. The relationship of the proposed use to the comprehensive plan and the floodplain management program for that area;
- 1x. The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles;
- x. The expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise, and sediment transport of the floodwaters and the effects of wave action, if applicable, expected at the site; and,
- x1. The costs of providing government services during and after flood conditions including emergency management services and maintenance and repair of public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, water systems, streets, and bridges.

- A. Variances shall only be issued upon a showing of good and sufficient cause and also upon a determination that failure to grant the variance would result in an exceptional hardship to the applicant.
- B. Variances shall only be issued based upon a determination that the granting of a variance will not result in increased flood heights.
- C. Variances shall only be issued based upon a determination that the granting of a variance will not result in additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing local laws or ordinances.
- D. Generally, variances may be issued for new construction and substantial improvements to be erected on a lot of one-half acre or less in size contiguous to and surrounded by lots with existing structures constructed below the base flood level, providing items E-J below have been fully considered. As the lot size increases beyond one-half acre, the technical justification required for issuing the variance increases.

4.7 CONDITIONS FOR VARIANCES

- A. Variances shall only be issued upon a showing of good and sufficient cause and also upon a determination that failure to grant the variance would result in an exceptional hardship to the applicant.
- B. Variances shall only be issued based upon a determination that the granting of a variance will not result in increased flood heights.
- C. Variances shall only be issued based upon a determination that the granting of a variance will not result in additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing local laws or ordinances.
- D. Generally, variances may be issued for new construction and substantial improvements to be erected on a lot of one-half acre or less in size contiguous to and surrounded by lots with existing structures constructed below the base flood level, providing items E-J below have been fully considered. As the lot size increases beyond one-half acre, the technical justification required for issuing the variance increases.
- E. Variances may be issued for the repair or rehabilitation of historic structures upon a determination that the proposed repair or rehabilitation will not preclude the structure's continued designation as an historic structure on the National Register of Historic Places and the variance is the minimum necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the structure.
- F. Variances shall not be issued within any designated floodway if any increase in water surface elevations along the floodway profile during the base flood discharge would result.
- G. Variances shall only be issued upon a determination that the variance is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.
- H. The applicant shall be given a written notice over the signature of a community that the issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the base flood elevation will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 for \$100 of insurance coverage and also that such construction below the base flood elevation increases risks to life and property. Such notification shall be maintained with the record of all variance actions as required by this ordinance.

- I. All requests for variances and associated actions and documents, including justification for their issuance, shall be maintained by the community.
- 11. Standards for the Floodway Overlay District
 - a. New structures for human habitation are prohibited.
 - b. All encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development must be prohibited unless certification by a registered professional engineer or architect is provided demonstrating that the development shall not result in any increase in water surface elevations along the floodway profile during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. These developments are also subject to all the standards of Section 5.
 - c. In Zone A areas, obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any flood elevation and floodway data available through federal, state, or other sources, including studies done under Section 5.3 (H) "Subdivisions", in meeting the standards of this section.

4.8 ENFORCEMENT

A. Violations

Failure to obtain a floodplain development permit or the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the provisions of this ordinance shall constitute a violation. A structure or other development without a floodplain development permit, elevation certificate, certification by a licensed professional engineer of compliance with these regulations, or other evidence of compliance is presumed to be in violation until such time as documentation is provided.

B. Notices

When the floodplain administrator or other authorized community representative determines, based on reasonable grounds, that there has been a violation of the provisions of this ordinance, the floodplain administrator shall give notice of such alleged violation as hereinafter provided. Such notice shall:

- 1. Be in writing;
 - ii. Include an explanation of the alleged violation;
- 11. Allow a reasonable time for the performance of any remedial act required;
- 1v. Be served upon the property owner or their agent as the case may require; and
- v. Contain an outline of remedial actions that, if taken, will bring the development into compliance with the provisions of this ordinance.

C. Penalties

- 1. Violation of the provisions of this ordinance or failure to comply with any of its requirements (including violations of conditions and safeguards established in connection with grants of variances or special exceptions) shall constitute a misdemeanor. Any person, firm, corporate, or other entity that violates this ordinance or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall upon conviction thereof be fined not more than \$500 and in addition, shall pay all costs and expenses involved in the case. Each day such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense.
- 11. The imposition of such fines or penalties for any violation or non-compliance with this ordinance shall not excuse the violation or non-compliance or allow it to continue. All such violations or non-compliant actions shall be remedied within an established and reasonable time.
- iii. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the Richardson County or other appropriate authority from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

SECTION 5.0 STANDARDS FOR FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT

5.1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. Alteration or Relocation of a Watercourse
 - 1. A watercourse or drainway shall not be altered or relocated in any way that in the event of a base flood or more frequent flood will alter the flood carrying characteristics of the watercourse or drainway to the detriment of upstream, downstream, or adjacent locations.
 - 11. No alteration or relocation shall be made until all adjacent communities that may be affected by such action and the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment have been notified and all applicable permits obtained. Evidence of such notification shall be submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- B. Encroachments
 - 1. When proposing to permit any of the following encroachments, the standards in Section 5.1 (B) (ii) shall apply:
 - a. Any development that will cause a rise in the base flood elevations within the floodway; or
 - b. Any development in Zones A, AI-30, and Zone AE without a designated floodway that will cause a rise of more than one foot in the base flood elevation; or
 - c. Alteration or relocation of a stream; then
- 11. The applicant shall:
 - a. Apply to FEMA for conditional approval of such action via the Conditional Letter of Map Revision process (as per Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Part 65.12) prior to the permit for the encroachments; and
 - b. Supply the fully approved package to the floodplain administrator including any required notifications to potentially affected property owners.
- C. Floodway Overlay District
 - ~~4. Within any floodway, any new construction or substantial improvements shall be prohibited.~~
 - 11. Standards for the Floodway Overlay District
 - a. New structures for human habitation are prohibited.
 - b. All encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development must be prohibited unless certification by a registered professional engineer or architect is provided demonstrating that the development shall not result in any increase in water surface elevations along the floodway profile during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. These developments are also subject to all the standards of Section 5.
 - c. In Zone A areas, obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any flood elevation and floodway data available through federal, state, or other sources, including studies done under Section 5.3 (H) "Subdivisions", in meeting the standards of this section.
- 111. Only uses having a low flood-damage potential and not obstructing flood flows shall be allowed within the Floodway Overlay District to the extent that they are not prohibited by any other ordinance. The following are recommended uses for the Floodway Overlay District:
 - a. Agricultural uses such as general farming, pasture, nurseries, and forestry
 - b. Residential uses such as lawns, gardens, parking, and play areas

- c. Nonresidential uses such as loading areas, parking, and airport landing strips
- d. Public and private recreational uses such as golf courses, archery ranges, picnic grounds, parks, and wildlife and nature preserves.

5.2 ELEVATION AND FLOODPROOFING REQUIREMENTS

A. Residential Structures

- 1. In Zones A, AE, AI-30, and AH, all new construction and substantial improvements shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to or above two (2) feet above the base flood elevation.
- 11. In Zone AO, all new construction and substantial improvements shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as two (2) feet above the depth number specified in feet on the FIRM or, if no depth number is specified on the FIRM, at least as high as four (4) feet ~~three (3) feet~~.

- 111. In the floodway, new structures for human habitation are prohibited.
- B. Nonresidential Structures
 - 1. In Zones A, AE, AI-30, and AH, all new construction and substantial improvements shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to or above two (2) feet above the base flood elevation or, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, floodproofed so that below two (2) foot above the base flood elevation:

- a. The structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and
 - b. The structure has structural components with the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy.
- A registered professional engineer or architect shall certify that the standards of this subsection are satisfied. A floodproofing certificate shall be provided to the floodplain administrator as set forth in Section 4.

- 11. In Zone AO, all new construction and substantial improvements shall have the lowest floor elevated above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as two (2) feet above the depth number specified in feet on the FIRM or, if no depth number is specified on the FIRM, at least as high as four (4) feet ~~three (3) feet~~; or, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, floodproofed so that below two (2) feet ~~one (1) foot~~ above the base flood elevation:

- a. The structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and
 - b. The structure has structural components with the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy.
- A registered professional engineer or architect shall certify that the standards of this subsection are satisfied. A floodproofing certificate shall be provided to the floodplain administrator as set forth in Section 4.

C. Critical Facilities

- 1. New construction or substantial improvement of any critical facility is prohibited in all areas of the floodplain and the 0.2% annual chance floodplain, unless all of the following provisions are met:
 - a. No feasible alternative site exists for the construction of an equivalent facility within the corporate or extrajurisdictional jurisdiction boundaries of Richardson County;
 - b. The facility has the lowest floor, including basement, of all structures elevated to one (1) foot above the 0.2% annual chance flood elevation or, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, floodproofed so that below one (1) foot above the 0.2% annual chance flood elevation:

- 1. The structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and
- 2. The structure has structural components with the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy
- 3. A registered professional engineer or architect shall certify that the standards of the subsection are satisfied. Such certification shall be provided to the floodplain administrator as set forth in Section 4.

D. Space Below Lowest Floor

All new construction and substantial improvements shall not have fully enclosed areas below the base flood elevation.

- 1. Fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor (excluding basements) and below the base flood elevation shall be used solely for the parking of vehicles, building access, or limited storage of readily removable items.
- 11. Fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor (excluding basements) and below the base flood elevation shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. The size of such enclosed areas shall not exceed 299 square feet except for buildings where the minimum clearance height of the enclosed area is less than seven (7) feet. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:
 - a. A minimum of two openings having a net total area of not less than one (1) square inch for every one (1) square foot of enclosed space.
 - b. The bottom of all openings shall not be higher than one (1) foot above grade; and
 - c. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings or devices provided that they allow the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.

(Continued on Page 12) ZNEZ

(Continued from Page 11)

E. Appurtenant Structures

1. Structures accessory to a principal building may have the lowest floor below one foot above base flood elevation provided that the structure complies with the following requirements:
 - a. The structure shall not be used for human habitation.
 - b. The use of the structure must be limited to parking of vehicles or storage of items readily removable in the event of a flood warning.
 - c. The floor area shall not exceed 750 square feet.
 - d. The structure shall have a low damage potential.
 - e. The structure must be adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or other lateral movement.
 - f. The structure shall be designed to automatically provide for the entry and exit of floodwaters for the purpose of equalizing hydrostatic forces. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:
 1. A minimum of two openings having a net area of not less than one (1) square inch for every one (1) square foot of enclosed space;
 2. The bottom of all openings shall not be higher than one (1) foot above grade; and
 3. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings or devices provided that they allow the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.
 - g. No utilities shall be installed in the structure, except electrical fixtures which must be elevated or flood-proofed to one (1) foot above base flood elevation.
 - h. The structure shall be constructed and placed on the building site so as to offer the minimum resistance to the flow of floodwaters.
 - i. If the structure is converted to another use, it must be brought into full compliance with the minimum standards governing such use.

i. Appurtenant Structures

1. Structures accessory to a principal building may have the lowest floor below two (2) feet above base flood elevation provided that the structure complies with the following requirements:
 - The structure shall not be used for human habitation.
 - The use of the structure must be limited to parking of vehicles or storage of items readily removable in the event of a flood warning.
 - The floor area shall not exceed 750 square feet.
 - The structure shall have a low damage potential.
 - The structure must be adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or other lateral movement.
 - The structure shall be designed to automatically provide for the entry and exit of floodwaters for the purpose of equalizing hydrostatic forces. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:
 - A minimum of two openings having a net area of not less than one (1) square inch for every one (1) square foot of enclosed space.
 - The bottom of all openings shall not be higher than one (1) foot above grade; and
 - Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings or devices provided that they allow the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.
 - No utilities shall be installed in the structure, except electrical fixtures which must be elevated or flood-proofed to two (2) feet above base flood elevation.
 - The structure shall be constructed and placed on the building site so as to offer the minimum resistance to the flow of floodwaters.
 - If the structure is converted to another use, it must be brought into full compliance with the minimum standards governing such use.

j:

F. Manufactured Homes

- a) New or substantially improved manufactured or mobile homes shall be prohibited within any floodplain.
- b) The repair or replacement of substantially damaged manufactured or mobile homes shall be prohibited within any floodplain.

Within any floodplain, manufactured homes shall be prohibited.

1. Require that all manufactured homes to be placed or substantially improved within floodplains on sites:
 - a. Outside of a manufactured home park or subdivision;
 - b. In a new manufactured home park or subdivision;
 - c. In an expansion to an existing manufactured home park or subdivision; or
 - d. In an existing manufactured home park or subdivision on which a manufactured home as incurred substantial damage as the result of a flood;

—Be elevated on a permanent foundation such that the lowest floor of the manufactured home is at or above two (2) feet above the base flood elevation and be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation system in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

- 41. —Require that manufactured homes to be placed or substantially improved on sites in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision within special flood hazard areas that are not subject to the provisions of Section 5-2 (D) (b) be elevated so that either:

- a. The lowest floor of the manufactured home is at or above two (2) feet above the base flood elevation; or
- b. The manufactured home chassis is supported by reinforced piers or other foundation elements of at least equivalent strength that are no less than 36 inches in height above grade; and be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation system in accordance with the provisions of Section 5-2 (F) (iv).

- m. New manufactured home parks of five (5) acres or fifty (50) lots, whichever is less, shall follow the standards of Section 5-3 (H) "Subdivisions".
- 1v. All manufactured homes shall be anchored to resist flotation, collapse, or lateral movement. Manufactured homes must be anchored in accordance with local building codes or FEMA guidelines. In the event that over the top ties to ground anchors are used, the following specific requirements (or their equivalent) shall be met:

- a. Over the top ties be provided at each of the four corners of the manufactured home, with two additional ties per side at intermediate locations and manufactured homes less than 50 feet long requiring one additional tie per side;
- b. Frame ties be provided at each corner of the manufactured home with five additional ties per side at intermediate points and manufactured homes less than 50 feet long requiring four additional ties per side;
- c. Any additions to the manufactured home be similarly anchored.

G. Existing Structures

1. The provisions of this ordinance do not require any changes or improvements to be made to lawfully existing structures. However, when an improvement is made to a structure in the floodplain, a floodplain development permit is required and the provisions of 5.2 (G) (ii-iv) shall apply.
 11. Any addition, alteration, reconstruction, or improvement of any kind to an existing structure where the costs of which would equal or exceed fifty (50) percent of the pre-improvement market value shall constitute a substantial improvement and shall fully comply with the provisions of this ordinance.
 111. Any addition, alteration, reconstruction, or improvement of any kind to an existing structure in the floodway shall comply with the provisions of 5.1 (C).
 - 1v. Any addition, alteration, reconstruction, or improvement of any kind to an existing structure that will change the compliance requirements of the building shall require applicable documentation including an elevation certificate, floodproofing certificate, or no rise certification.

5.3 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

A. Anchoring

1. All buildings or structures shall be finny anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy.

B. Building Materials and Utilities

1. All buildings or structures shall be constructed with materials and utility equipment resistant to flood damage. All buildings or structures shall also be constructed by methods and practices that minimize flood and flood-related damages.

11. All buildings or structures shall be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, air conditioning equipment, and other service facilities that are designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.

C. Drainage

1. Within Zones AO and AH, adequate drainage paths around structures on slopes shall be required in order to guide floodwaters around and away from proposed structures.

- D. Water Supply and Sanitary Sewer Systems
 1. All new or replacement water supply and sanitary sewer systems shall be located, designed, and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damages to such systems and the infiltration of floodwaters into the systems.

11. All new or replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate discharge from the system into floodwaters.

111. On-site waste disposal systems shall be located and designed to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during flooding.

E. Other Utilities

1. All other utilities such as gas lines, electrical, telephone, and other utilities shall be located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage to such utilities and facilities.

F. Storage of Materials

1. The storage or processing of materials that are in time of flooding buoyant, flammable, explosive, or could be injurious to human, animal, or plant life is prohibited.

11. The storage of other material or equipment may be allowed if not subject to major damage by floods and firmly anchored to prevent flotation or if readily removable from the area within the time available after flood warning.

G. Recreational Vehicles

Within any floodway, recreational vehicles and recreational vehicle parks shall be prohibited:

1. Recreational vehicles to be placed on sites within the floodplain shall:
 - a. Be on site for fewer than 90 consecutive days; and
 - b. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use, which shall mean it is on its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the site by only quick disconnect type utilities and security devices, and no permanently attached additions; or
 - c. Meet the permit requirements and the elevation and anchoring requirements for manufactured homes of this ordinance.

H. Subdivisions

1. Subdivision proposals and other proposed new development, including manufactured home parks or subdivisions, shall require assurance that:
 - a. All such proposals are consistent with the need to minimize flood damage;
 - b. All public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems are located, elevated, and constructed to minimize or eliminate

flood damage;

- c. Adequate drainage is provided so as to reduce exposure to flood hazards; and

- d. Proposals for development (including proposals for manufactured home parks and subdivisions) of five (5) acres or fifty (50) lots, whichever is less, where base flood elevation data are not available, shall be supported by hydrologic and hydraulic analyses that determine base flood elevations and floodway information. The analyses shall be prepared by a licensed professional engineer in a format required by FEMA for Conditional Letters of Map Revision and a Letters of Map Revision.

SECTION 6.0 NONCONFORMING USE

- A. A structure or use of a structure or premises that was lawful before the passage or amendment of this ordinance, but that is not in conformity with the provisions of this ordinance may be continued subject to the following conditions:
 1. If such use is discontinued for 6 consecutive months, any future use of the building premises shall conform to this ordinance. The Utility Department shall notify the floodplain administrator in writing of instances of nonconforming uses where utility services have been discontinued for a period of 6 months.
 11. Uses or adjuncts thereof that are or become nuisances shall not be entitled to continue as nonconforming uses.

- B. If any nonconforming use or structure is destroyed by any means, including flood, it shall not be reconstructed if the cost is more than 50% of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred except that if it is reconstructed in conformity with the provisions of this ordinance. This limitation does not include the cost of any alteration to comply with existing state or local health, sanitary, or safety code or regulations or the cost of any alteration of a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places, provided that the alteration shall not preclude its continued designation.

SECTION 7.0 AMENDMENTS

- A. The regulations, restrictions, and boundaries set forth in this ordinance may from time to time be amended, supplemented, changed, or appealed to reflect any and all changes in federal, state, or local regulations provided, however, that no such action may be take until after a public hearing in relation thereto, at which citizens and parties in interest shall have an opportunity to be heard. Notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Richardson County. At least 14 days shall elapse between the date of this publication and the public hearing.

- B. A copy of such amendments will be provided to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review and approval before being adopted.

SECTION 8.0 DEFINITIONS

Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in this ordinance shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this ordinance it's most reasonable application:

0.2% Annual Chance Floodplain means the floodplain that would be inundated by the 0.2% annual chance flood and delineated on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps.]

0.2% Annual Chance Flood Elevation means the elevation to which floodwaters are expected to rise during a 0.2% annual chance flood.]

Appurtenant Structure shall mean a structure on the same parcel of property as the principal structure, the use of which is incidental to the use of the principal structure. Also shall be known as "accessory structure."

Area of Shallow Flooding means a designated AO or AH zone on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with a one percent or greater annual chance of flooding to an average depth of one to three feet where a clearly defined channel is unpredictable and where velocity flow may be evident. Such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet flow.

Base Flood means the flood having one (1) percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

Base Flood Elevation means the elevation to which floodwaters are expected to rise during the base flood.

Basement means any area of the building having its floor sub grade (below ground level) on all sides.

Building means "structure." See definition for "structure."

Critical Facility means any property that, if flooded, would result in severe consequences to public health and safety. Critical facilities include, but are not limited to: facilities that produces, use, or store hazardous materials; hospitals, nursing homes, and housing likely to contain vulnerable populations; emergency support function facilities like police stations, fire stations, vehicle and equipment storage facilities, and emergency operations centers; public and private utility facilities vital to maintaining or restoring normal services to flooded areas before, during, and after a flood.

Development means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to the construction, reconstruction, renovation, repair, expansion or alteration of buildings or other structures; the placement of manufactured homes; streets and other paving; utilities; filling, grading, and excavation; mining; dredging;

drilling operations; storage of equipment or materials; or obstructions.

Existing Manufactured Home Park or Subdivision means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including, at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is complete before the effective date of the floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.

Expansion to an Existing Manufactured Home Park or Subdivision means the preparation of additional sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads).

Flood or Flooding means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas.

Flood Fringe is that area of the floodplain, outside of the floodway, that has a one percent chance of flood occurrence in any one year.

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) means an official map of a community, on which the Flood Insurance Study has delineated the special flood hazard area boundaries and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

Flood insurance Study (FIS) is the official report provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The report contains flood profiles, as well as the Flood Insurance Rate Map and the water surface elevation of the base flood.

Floodplain means any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source (see definition of "flooding"). Floodplain includes flood fringe and floodway. Floodplain and special flood hazard area are the same for use by this ordinance.

Flood-proofing means any combination of structural and nonstructural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures that reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, and structures and their contents.

Floodway or Regulatory Floodway means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot.

Freeboard means a factor of safety usually expressed in feet above a flood level for purposes of floodplain management. "Freeboard" tends to compensate for the many unknown factors that could contribute to flood heights greater than the height calculated for a selected size flood and floodway conditions, such as wave action, clogged bridge openings, and the hydrological effect of urbanization of the watershed.

Highest Adjacent Grade means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.

Historic Structure means any structure that is: (a) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register; (b) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district; (c) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or (d) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either: (1) By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or (2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

Lowest Floor means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood-resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage, in an area other than a basement area, is not considered a building's lowest floor, provided that such enclosure is not built or modified so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements of this ordinance.

Manufactured Home means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term "manufactured home" does not include a "recreational vehicle".

Manufactured Home Park or Subdivision means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) off land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

New Construction for floodplain management purposes, "new construction" means structures for which the "start of construction" commenced on or after the effective date of the floodplain management regulation adopted by a community and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures.

New Manufactured Home Park or Subdivision means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured

homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed on or after the effective date of floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.

Obstruction means any wall, wharf, embankment, levee, dike, pile, abutment, projection, excavation (including the alteration or relocation of a watercourse or drainway), channel rectification, bridge, conduit, culvert, building, stored equipment or material, wire, fence, rock, gravel, refuse, fill, or other analogous structure or matter which may impede, retard, or change the direction of the flow of water, either in itself or by catching or collecting debris carried by such water, or that is placed where the natural flow of the water would carry such structure or matter downstream to the damage or detriment of either life or property. Dams designed to store or divert water are not obstructions if permission for the construction thereof is obtained from the Department of Natural Resources pursuant to the Safety of Dams and Reservoirs Act (Nebraska Revised Statutes 46-1601 to 46-1670 as amended).

Overlay District is a district in which additional requirements act in conjunction with the underlying zoning district(s). The original zoning district designation does not change.

Post-FIRM Structure means a building that was constructed or substantially improved after December 31, 1974 or on or after the community's initial Flood Insurance Rate Map dated October 7, 2021, whichever is later.

Pre-FIRM Structure means a building that was constructed or substantially improved on or before December 31, 1974 or before the community's initial Flood Insurance Rate Map dated October 7, 2021, whichever is later.

Principally Above Ground means that at least 51 percent of the actual cash value of the structure is above ground.

Recreational Vehicle means a vehicle which is (i) built on a single chassis; (ii) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projections; (iii) designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and (iv) designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

Regulatory Flood Elevation means the base flood elevation (BFE) plus a free-board factor as specified in this ordinance.

Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) is the land in the floodplain within a community subject to one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

Start of Construction means the date the floodplain development permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement, or other improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. "Start of construction" also includes substantial improvement, and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement, or other improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. The actual start means the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for a basement, footings, piers, or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure. For a substantial improvement, the actual start of construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of a building, whether or not the alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

Structure means a walled and roofed building that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home and a gas or liquid storage tank that is principally above ground.

Subdivision means the division or re-division of a lot, tract, or parcel of land by any means into two or more lots, tracts, parcels, or other divisions of land including changes in existing lot lines for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of-lease, partition by the court for distribution to heirs or devisees, transfer of ownership, or building or lot development.

Substantial Damage means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damage condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

Substantial Improvement means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before "start of construction" of the improvement. This includes structures which have incurred "substantial damage," regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either (1) any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions, or (2) any alteration of a "historic structure,"

provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a "historic structure."

Variance is a grant of relief to an applicant from the requirements of this ordinance that allows construction in a manner otherwise prohibited by this ordinance where specific enforcement would result in unnecessary hardship.

Violation means a failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's floodplain management regulations. A structure or other development without the Elevation Certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in this ordinance is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.

Watercourse means any depression two feet or more below the surrounding land that serves to give direction to a current of water at least nine months of the year and that has a bed and well defined banks.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Governing Body of Richardson County This 17th day of December, 2025
 John Caverzage Richardson County Board of Commissioners Chairperson

Mary Eichhoff, Richardson County Clerk

24-31
 ZNEZ

NOTICE OF INFORMAL ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SHAWN MICHAEL MCSWAIN, Deceased

Estate No. PR25-58

Notice is hereby given that on December 10, 2025 in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, Ryan Lewis McSwain, whose address is 205 Teakwood Lane, Springboro, Ohio 45066, has been appointed as Personal Representative of this Estate.

Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before February 17, 2026, or be forever barred.

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

Douglas Merz, # 12807
 Samantha Scheitel, # 26389
 Alexandra Fleming, # 26943
 Weaver & Merz Law Office
 1719 Stone Street
 PO Box 569
 Falls City, Nebraska 68355
 Tel: 402-245-3015

17-24-31
 ZNEZ

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Estate of Lori A. Hall, Deceased
 Estate No. PR25-60

Notice is hereby given that on December 8, 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 Nancy J. Campbell, whose address is 1221 Chase St., Falls City, Nebraska 68355, has been appointed Personal Representative of this estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before February 17, 2026, or be forever barred.

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

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

17-24-31
 ZNEZ

NOTICE

In the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska
 In the Matter of the Estate of Jeffery L. Hoppe, Deceased
 Estate Number: PR25-59

Notice is hereby given that on December 8, 2025 in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, Ashley Minard whose address is 1310 Central Avenue, Horton, KS 66439, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the above entitled intestate Estate.

Creditors of this Estate musts file their claims with this Court on or before February 17, 2026, or be forever barred.

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

WEAVER & MERZ
 Douglas E. Merz #12807
 Samantha K. Merz, No. 26389
 1719 Stone Street, P.O. Box 569
 Falls City, NE 68355
 (402)245 3015

17-24-31
 ZNEZ

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FALLS CITY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
December 4th, 2025
2307 Barada Street
Falls City, Nebraska

A regular meeting of the Board of Public Works of the City of Falls City, Nebraska, was held at the City Hall, 2307 Barada Street in said City on the 4th day of December 2025 at 5:30 o'clock P.M. Present were: Board Members: Froeschl, Joy, Rieger. Absent: Johansen, Koopman. Trevor Campbell recorded the minutes of the meeting. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in three public places, a designated method for giving notice as shown by the Certificate of Posting Notice attached to these minutes. Notice of this meeting was given to the Board Vice Chairperson and all members of the Board and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Vice Chairperson and Board of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. The Vice Chairperson publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted in the room where the meeting was being held.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Trevor Campbell gave the Public Works Report. No action was required.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Froeschl and seconded by Rieger to approve the consent agenda as follows: WHEREAS, certain business of the Board of Public Works of the City of Falls City (City) transpires on a regular and routine basis or is not of controversial nature; and WHEREAS, roll call votes on each individual issue greatly extend the meeting time. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY the Board of Public Works that in the interest of economizing time, yet complying with the Public Meeting Laws of the State of Nebraska, which require roll call voting, the following issues are hereby consolidated in this Consent Resolution: 1. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Board of Public Works that the minutes from the November 20th, 2025, meeting is hereby approved. 2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Board of Public Works that the agenda for December 4th, 2025, is hereby approved. 3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Board of Public Works that the Consent Agenda for December 4th, 2025, is hereby approved. Roll was called on this motion and the members voted as follows: "YEA" Froeschl, Joy, Rieger. "NAY" None. "ABSENT": Johansen, Koopman. Motion carried.

CONSIDER TO ADOPT AN INCREMENTAL WEATHER POLICY FOR FALLS CITY UTILITY CUSTOMERS

A discussion took place on the possibility of a November through March cold weather extension for Falls City Utility customers, which would be an update of the existing extension policy. This update would also clean up the rest of the existing policy including the procedures for doctor's notes. No action was taken at this time.

RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL TO EXECUTE THE AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT REGARDING SPP MARKET ASSISTANCE WITH MEAN

A motion was made by Froeschl and seconded by Joy to recommend to City Council to execute the Amended and Restated Agreement regarding SPP Market Assistance with MEAN. Roll was called on this motion and the members voted as follows: "YEA" Froeschl, Joy, Rieger. "NAY" None. "ABSENT": Johansen, Koopman. Motion carried.

REQUEST APPROVAL TO PURCHASE NEW FLATBED BODY FOR THE 2021 F350 PICKUP USED BY THE UTILITY CREW WITH REMAINING BUDGETED FUNDS FROM THE PURCHASE OF THE NEW ELECTRIC DEPT SERVICE PICKUP

A motion was made by Froeschl and seconded by Rieger to use up to \$16,000 to purchase a new flat bed body for the 2021 F350 pickup using the remaining budgeted funds for the new Electric Dept. service pickup. Roll was called on this motion and the members voted as follows: "YEA" Froeschl, Joy, Rieger. "NAY" None. "ABSENT": Johansen, Koopman. Motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:54 PM

I, the undersigned, City Clerk for the City of Falls City, Nebraska, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings had and done by the Vice Chairperson and Board on December 4th, 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 one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were 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 members of the public, posted during such meeting in the room in which such meeting was held.

CITY CLERK
SECRETARY
CHAIRPERSON
ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF RULO

Village of Rulo

Board Special Meeting Agenda

Advanced notice of meeting posted by 6 PM on Sunday, November 30, 2025 at Rulo Library, Swingin' Doors and Wild Bill's
Monday, December 1, 2025 at 6:00pm in the Rulo Library

Board Chairperson, Rebecca Simmonds, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Roll call – Present: Rebecca Simmonds, Kraig Coonce, Mike Keller, Todd Thompson – Absent: Regina Barber, Rachel Jean

A motion was made by Coonce and seconded by Thompson so purchase a 1999 GMC dump truck for \$1000.00. Roll call – AYE: Coonce, Thompson, Keller, Simmonds. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Coonce and seconded by Thompson to certify the Clerk for all things necessary for purchase and registration of the previously mentioned 1999 GMC. Roll call – AYE: Coonce, Thompson, Keller, Simmonds. Motion carried.

ROADS – City of Falls City \$1000.00 (dump truck), Richardson County Treasurer \$10.00 (title/registration fees)

Keller made a motion that was seconded by Coonce to adjourn the meeting at 6:20pm. Roll call – AYE: Coonce, Keller, Simmonds. Motion carried and meeting adjourned.

ZNEZ

NEBRASKA PRESS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENT

ADVERTISE STATEWIDE for \$225/25 word classified ad. Over 140 newspapers with circulation of more than 237,000. Contact your local newspaper or call 1-800-369-2850.

HELLO NEBRASKA! Introducing www.nepublicnotices.com, a new public notice website presented as a public service by all Nebraska newspapers. Free access, fully searchable – because democracy depends upon open government and your right to know.

BANKRUPTCY RELIEF! Help stop Creditor Harassment, Collection Calls, Repossession and Legal Actions! Speak to a Professional Attorney and Get the Help You NEED! Call NOW 844-215-3629

AFFORDABLE PRESS Release service. Send your message to 155 newspapers across Nebraska for one low price! Call 1-800-369-2850 or www.nebpress.com for more details.

FOR SALE – CELL PHONE SWITCH AND save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-877-768-5892

FOR SALE - MEDICAL PORTABLE OXYGEN Concentrator? May be covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-385-3580.

HOME SERVICES

PREPARE FOR power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-402-899-2584 today to schedule

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

HELP WANTED



HTRS Public School has an opening for a K-12 LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR.

The Candidates should have or be eligible for a Nebraska Teacher Certification with the appropriate endorsement. The district is willing to work with an individual student teaching or someone who qualifies for transition to teaching.

Email your cover letter, resume, copy of your transcripts (certified transcripts needed upon employment) and three letters of reference to georgegriffith@htrstitans.org or mail to: HTRS Public School District, ATTN : Dr. George Griffith 810 Central Ave. Humboldt, NE 68376. If you have any questions please call Dr. Griffith at 402-862-2151.

HTRS is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Veterans' Preference.

50-1



HTRS Public School has an opening for ELEMENTARY TEACHER OPENINGS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR.

The Candidates should have or be eligible for a NE Teacher Certification with the appropriate endorsement. The district is willing to work with an individual student teaching or someone who qualifies for transition to teaching. Email your cover letter, resume, copy of your transcripts (certified transcripts needed upon employment) and three letters of reference to georgegriffith@htrstitans.org or mail to: HTRS Public School District, ATTN: Dr. George Griffith 810 Central Ave. Humboldt, NE 68376. If you have any questions please call Dr. Griffith at 402-862-2151.

HTRS is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Veterans' Preference.

50-1

WANTED

WANTED: Gehling Brewing Co. or Otoe/Mattes Brewing Co signs, trays, glasses, etc...call or text 308-379-9320. 52-4P

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

a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

DOES YOUR basement or crawl space need some attention? Call Thrasher Foundation Repair! A permanent solution for waterproofing, failing foundations, sinking concrete and nasty crawl spaces. FREE Inspection & Same Day Estimate. \$250 off ANY project with code GET250. Call 1-844-958-3431

REPLACE YOUR roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-888-316-7713

THE BATHROOM of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-855-451-2244

WANTED TO BUY

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

HELP WANTED



NEMAHA COUNTY HOSPITAL
Quality Care...Every Time.

Job Opportunities

Join our team and make a difference.



See what openings are available now.



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

402.274.4366 | NemahaCountyHospital.com | f

49-52

Magnolia Metal Corp.

Currently accepting applications for:

→ Foundry Manager

This position requires management of overall foundry operations with responsibility for safety, quality and production. Experience in casting processes, metallurgy or relevant foundry technologies preferred but not necessary. We are willing to train an individual that can manage people and has a good work record. Salary and possible relocation allowance negotiable.

→ Manual Lathe Operator Day Shift

→ Foundry Laborer

Excellent opportunity for individuals who take pride in their work and are willing to accept responsibility. No experience necessary, we are willing to train individuals with a good work record. We offer competitive wages, excellent fringe benefits including group health & life insurance, monthly bonus, 401k and deferred profit sharing.

\$23.31 / HOUR MINIMUM STARTING RATE
Apply in person at Magnolia Metal Corp.
63859 730 Road ~ Auburn, NE 68305
Or
www.magnoliabronze.com and click on careers

49-52

HELP WANTED

Southeast District Health Department is taking applications for below a full-time position. For more information or to apply go to https://www.sedhd.org/about-us/careers.html

Program Coordinator – pay scale: \$22.05 - \$25.44

(Nebraska City Location Only)



Southeast District Health Department

49-52



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.

50-1

THE FALLS CITY JOURNAL ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, EARN AT HOME, RENTAL, SALE OR OTHER SIMILAR ADVERTISEMENTS WHICH ARE PLACED IN OUR PAPER. THIS NEWSPAPER HAS NEITHER THE RESOURCES NOR THE TIME TO INVESTIGATE THE RELIABILITY OF SUCH OFFERS OR SALES.

If you want it, you'll find it in the

Classifieds.

FOR RENT

Pack Rat Storage, Units Available. 402-245-7236. 49-TF

51



HOLIDAY HOURS

Christmas Eve
Closing @ 12 PM

Christmas Day
CLOSED

New Year's Eve
Closing @ 3 PM

New Year's Day
CLOSED



FM & Bank

Member FDIC

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

CANADIAN GEESE have converged on the partially frozen Stanton's Lake with some braving the icy cold water. Actually, the geese stay plenty warm by using a combination of insulating down feather, waterproof outer feathers treated with oil and a clever circulatory system in their legs that prevent heat loss.

The waterfowl will actually swim in circles and splash about in an effort to break up thin ice and keep ponds and lakes from freezing.

AD DRIVE LEADS TO COMMUNITY DONATIONS, THANKS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES: This holiday season, the *Falls City Journal* was able to use proceeds from its Dec. 10 holiday advertising page to donate nonperishable food items, toiletries, feminine products, gift cards to local businesses and Chamber Bucks to SENCA, along with an additional donation to the local Humane Society.

An additional contribution from Dollar Fresh Market in Falls City pushed the total value of donations over \$1,000.

The *Journal* sincerely thanks the Falls City businesses whose participation in the holiday advertising section to help make the holiday donations possible: Dollar Fresh Market, Farm and City Supply/Ace Hardware, W&D's Auto Care, Community Medical Center, Brillows Nutrition, After Hours, Falls City Mercantile, Scheitel Feed and Seed, Consolidated Grain and Barge Co. Julie Bauman, CPA, PC, Falls City Realty PC, W7 Design Co., Falls City Public Schools, Dorr and Clark Funeral Home, Chaney Furniture, Corner Liquor, Falls City Sacred Heart, Subway, Harmon's OK Tire, Sonic Drive-In and The Den. (Pictured above with the non-perishable donations: *Journal* Advertising director, Alex McKim and Dollar Fresh Market Store Manager, Clint Sailors)

POST OFFICE SORTING ROOM

DECEMBER 8, 1945 -ADOPTED BY SCOTT & JOAN MAGDANZ

When Artist John Falter set out to paint a picture of the Christmas-mail rush, he made his sketches in the busiest post office in the world, the one properly known as the New York, New York, Post Office, at 33rd Street and 8th Avenue. In spite of all the urging to mail early--did you?--the rush never gets fully underway until about this date. Then it's a torrent. In the first nineteen days of last December, this post office handled more than 12,000,000 parcels. The biggest day for mailing is December nineteenth, ordinarily, but the mailman's worst day, for deliveries, is December twenty-third. That is the day he staggers around under a sack of gifts that would discourage Santa Claus himself. Postmaster Albert Goldman and his brother postmasters would appreciate it if you would mail early this year--but they don't expect it.



johnphilipfaltermuseum.com

Medical event leads to single vehicle accident

A Falls City man was involved in a single vehicle accident December 13 along Highway 73 near the Vision Inn Motel.

According to a Falls City Police Department accident report, a vehicle driven by John. Steinman of Falls City left the roadway after the Steinman reported not feeling well.

The report states Steinman stopped along Highway 73 near the motel entrance and then passed out, causing the vehicle to drive over a curb and strike a sign in front of the American Family Insurance building.

Damage to the vehicle was estimated at \$10,000. Damage to the sign owned by B. Harsin of Falls City was estimated at \$300.

The report indicates no other vehicles were involved and no injuries were reported.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



LOVE, MOM

Welcome TO THE WORLD

Seth Dexter



MAY, 1 • 7 LBS. 4 OZ.
LESA & JON BARLOW
CLEAR LAKE, IA
Grandparents: Mari & Bob Cosby, Whitney & Justin Barlow.
Great-Grandparents: Meredith & Seth Barlow, Heather & Captain Gay, Angie & Shaun, Katsa, Brownwyn Knewport.

1X4 - \$45

DEADLINE

FEBRUARY

10, 2026

IT'S TIME FOR BABIES OF 2025!

Whether you live near or far, The Falls City Journal would like to show off your pride and joy **born in 2025**, in a special section in the February 18, 2026 edition of the Journal.

The baby doesn't have to be a resident or have to have been born in Falls City.

Send or bring in a photo of the baby (A digital (computer) file is preferred) or mail C/O Nikki McKim, 1709 Stone St., Falls City, NE 68355 or email them to nikki@fcjournal.net.

The deadline is Friday, February 10, 2026

If the provided information does not fit the required space, (example: twins, extra grandparents, etc.) an additional charge will be required.

All ads must be paid for before the run. If you placed a baby announcement in the Journal in 2025 you will receive a \$5 discount. Just let us know when you placed the announcement to receive your discount.

We can send you an invoice to pay online via credit or debit card, or by check. We cannot accept cards over the phone.

Child's first & middle name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Weight at birth: _____

City & State of residence (Optional): _____

Parents names: _____

Grandparents: _____

Living Great-Grandparents (Optional): _____

Phone number for questions (not for print): _____

Welcome TO THE WORLD

Babbi Elizabeth



MAY, 1 • 7 LBS. 4 OZ.
LESA & JON BARLOW
CLEAR LAKE, IA
Grandparents: Mari & Bob Cosby, Whitney & Justin Barlow.
Great-Grandparents: Meredith & Seth Barlow, Heather & Captain Gay, Angie & Shaun, Katsa, Brownwyn Knewport.

SEND PHOTO & INFORMATION TO

[NIKKI@FCJOURNAL.NET](mailto:nikki@fcjournal.net)

PAY BY INVOICE

online OR MAIL CHECK

TO 1709 STONE ST., FC

ADOPT Me



PLEASE CALL THE HUMANE SOCIETY 402 245-2779

THE HUMANE SOCIETY

ARMBRUSTER Motor Company

Family Owned Since 1951

402.245.2471

www.armbrustermotor.com

ARMBRUSTER'S ALL-STAR PERFORMANCE

NJHS members brought in food and stocked the little pantry as a service project.

Thank you for helping out our community.

