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MERRY & BRIGHT

Community EVENTS

ADVERTISED IN THIS WEEKS PAPER

December

31 F&M Bank Closing early at 3:00PM

Journal office closed

January

- F&M Bank Closed 1 Journal office closed
- Tri-State Seniors Dance & Shindig, 1:30-4PM. 310 E. Iowa St., Hiawatha

THESE GREAT **PLACES** ARE HIRING!

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- Sabetha Community Hospital
- HTRS Public School



CONTENTS

From the Journal Files	Page 3
Restaurant/Retail	Page 5
SportsPages	5, 7, 8 & 12
Obituaries	Page 8
Public Notices/Legals	Pages 9-11
Classified Ads	Pages 11

\$1.50



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Wendlandt earns Silver Award while simultaneously brightening people's days

Self-expression through art is essential to Sophia Wendtlandt, a member of Falls City Girl Scout Troop No. 20450 and current freshman at Falls City High School.

The youngster saw a need for art to be available to everyone and spent two months researching, interviewing, planning, fundraising, and painting to complete her Girl Scout Silver Award, the secondhighest award a Girl Scout can earn. The requirements for a Silver Award project include dedicating 50 hours to the project and leaving a lasting impact on the community. Sophia's project, titled

"Art in Dementia," included painting a mural in the memory care unit of Falls City Care Center, located at 2800 Towle Street. Modified and adaptive art equipment was also donated for residents to use for their own art endeavors. Sophia found that both things, combined, can stimulate regions of the brain involved in memory, emotion, and motor skills.

If anyone from the public would like to view the mural, it can be observed at Falls City Care Center, where it has already been providing comfort and plenty of conversation.



Ribbon Cutting, L-R: Landon Scholl, Owen Dean, Gavin Dean, Brooke Frank, Nash Frank, Maelynn Frank, Tyler Frank and Chamber Director Amber Holle

TDF Automotive now open on Harlan Street

By: Amber Holle

TDF Automotive is officially open at 1015 Harlan Street and already building a name rooted in family, integrity, and a passion for quality workmanship. For owner Tyler Frank, opening the shop is far more than starting a business. It's creating a legacy. He hopes that through dedication, hard work, and pride in his craft, his children will see that even dreams that seem out of reach can become possible. One day, he hopes one of them may discover the same love for the trade and carry the business into the next generation.

Tyler's journey into automotive work began early. Growing up in the country meant learning to be resourceful, and with limited access to repair shops, his father spent countless hours teaching him and his brother how to maintain their own vehicles. That hands-on experience sparked a curiosity about how things work. As he learned to understand the way engines and mechanical systems fit together, his interest grew stronger. He later pursued a specialization in diesel mechanics, eventually gaining an appreciation and respect for the complex engines he once found challenging.

Today, he brings that depth of experience to TDF Automotive. Tyler holds an associate's degree in general automotive from Southeast Community College at Milford, graduating with distinction, and is ASE Certified A1–9. At the shop, he offers a wide range of services from routine maintenance and general repairs to advanced electrical diagnostics. While diesel mechanics remains his specialty, he welcomes a challenge and takes pride in problem-solving.

When asked what sets TDF Automotive apart, Tyler is quick to credit the strong automotive professionals already serving the Falls City community. Rather than comparing himself, he focuses on the values he wants his business to reflect honesty, fairness, and work he is proud to put his name on. He applies the "golden rule" he teaches his children, treat others how you want to be treated, directly into his business. For him, it's not about making a quick dollar, but about providing dependable service and building trust. "I refuse to send something out my door if I wouldn't trust it with my own family in it," he shared. "I want my clients to have peace of mind when they're on the road."

One of the most rewarding parts of opening the shop has been the customer connections. After (Please turn to Page 12)

Commissioners approve transfer from the Inheritance Tax Fund to the General Fund

The Richardson County Board of Commissioners convened for an abbreviated meeting on Christmas Eve. Roll call was answered by Commissioners Karas, Campbell and Caverzagie. The meeting opened with an addition to the agenda to consider the resolution for the transfer of funds from the Inheritance Tax Fund to the General Fund.

Highway Superintendent Steve Darveau Jr. updated the Board on work being carried out by the Roads Department across the county. He also inquired about observing the day after Christmas as a holiday. Others in attendance requesting the closure were Assessor Kim Riggs, Deputy Treasurer Rachel Jean, and Clerk of District Court Pam Scott. Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve December 26, 2025, as a holiday for county employees, effectively closing the courthouse offices and the Sheriff's general office, while giving the Road Department the day off. The motion

(Please turn to Page 3)

The Leo Cider and Vinegar Company

A photo appeared in the October 8, 2025, edition of The Falls City Journal. The picture depicted the Leo Cider and Vinegar Company, and we asked whether anyone had any information on the subject. A few days later, reader Dave Lewis stopped by the office to inform us that not only did he know what the photo entailed, but the buildings once stood on property he now owns. The vast structure sat between the current power plant and the grain bins, south of City Park.

The company filed its articles of incorporation on August 31, 1906. The venture was made up of W. Leo, Sr., John A. Leo, and James Coppinger of St. Louis, MO, along with J.B. Varner, E.H. Towle, T.J. Gist, C.H. Heineman, V.G. Lyford and W.A. Greenwald of Falls City. The company boasted a capital stock of \$10,000.

According to a story that appeared in the June 2, 1910, edition of The Falls City Journal, Mr. W. Leo, an experienced vinegar manufacturer, came to the area in 1906 searching for a new location for a cider and vinegar factory. Once he settled on Falls City, Mr. Leo purchased The Old Creamery Co. The business contained an apple press and the power to run it. Leo bought property along the railroad tracks and erected a large plant, covering nearly 38,000 square feet. The article stated that

(Continued on Page 3)





Prairie Doc

A Healthier You in the New Year: Start with the Switch"

By Kory Zimney, PT, DPT, PhD

As the holiday season winds down and the New Year approaches, many of us begin reflecting on the past year and thinking ahead. It's a natural time to set resolutions—those hopeful promises to ourselves to eat better, move more, stress less or simply live healthier. Yet, despite our best intentions, many resolutions fade by February. Why is lasting change so hard? As a physical therapist helping patients make healthy changes for over 30 years, I have found the answer may lie in how we approach change, by using the science of behavior change to our advantage.

Drawing from the work of Chip and Dan Heath in their book Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard, we can rethink our strategy. Their model uses a simple metaphor that I have found helpful: to make meaningful change, we must direct the rider (our rational mind), motivate the elephant (our emotional side), and shape the path (our environment and hab-

1. Direct the Rider: Set Clear, Meaningful Goals

Our rational mind thrives on clarity. Vague resolutions like "get in shape" or "eat healthier" don't provide enough direction. Instead, set specific, achievable goals that matter to you. Maybe it's walking 20 minutes at least five times a week, cooking a healthy dinner at home three nights a week, or scheduling that long-overdue check-up before spring comes. The key is to make goals concrete and personally relevant. When your rider knows where to go, it's easier to stay on course.

2. Motivate the Elephant: Tap Into Emotion

Logic alone won't drive change—your emotional side needs to be on board. If your heart is not in, it doesn't matter what your mind thinks. Ask yourself: Why does this goal matter to me? Maybe you want more energy to play with your kids, to feel confident hiking with friends or to reduce stress to find more joy in life. Connecting your goals to deeper values and emotions gives them staying power. When the elephant is motivated, change becomes less of a chore and more of a meaningful pursuit.

3. Shape the Path: Make Change Easier

Even the best intentions can be derailed by a cluttered environment or lack of support. Set yourself up for success by shaping your surroundings. Lay out your walking shoes the night before. Keep healthy snacks visible. Invite a friend to join you on your health change. Small nudges to your environment can make a big difference. When the path is clear, both rider and elephant can move forward with less resistance.

And remember: progress beats perfection. Life is unpredictable, and goals may need adjusting. That's okay. What matters is staying engaged in the process and being kind to yourself along the way. A missed workout or a skipped healthy meal doesn't mean failure—it's just part of the journey.

This New Year, instead of making a resolution you hope to keep, make a switch—one that aligns your mind, heart and habits. You might be surprised at how far a small, well-directed change can take you.

So, as you gather with loved ones this season and look ahead to the coming year, consider making a healthy switch.

Kory Zimney, PT, DPT, PhD is a professor at the University of South Dakota, School of Health Sciences Physical Therapy Department and director of the PhD in Health Science program. Dr. Zimney is part of the Center for Brain and Behavioral Research at the University of South Dakota and the Therapeutic Neuroscience Research Group, conducting research specifically in the areas of pain science and therapeutic alliance. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

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

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All things Nebraska

Christmas creatures, from sasquatch to Santa-saurus, invade our front yards

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner

When did dinosaurs and aliens become Christmas decorations?

I ask because I'm kind of stunned (my natural condition) at some of the strange, weird and downright odd things you see in people's yards this time of year.

A lime-green Santa-saurus in our neighborhood caught my eye, and somewhere, I've seen a Santa alien wishing "humans" a Merry Christ-

Just today, I drove by a place that featured an inflatable Santa riding a motorboat in the front yard. (Maybe I missed a line in " 'Twas a Night Before Christmas" where Santa has to replace the oil in the lower unit on his boat engine to enable his delivery of gifts?)

It's all part of the evolution of a holiday which used to revolve around gathering with relatives, munching on too many cookies and eating strange foods like oyster stew and lutfisk. Now, it's almost a front-yard decorating contest for some people, and an endless string of meaningless NBA games on TV. Remember Christmas

I used to send out a pile, but that pile's shrunk in recent years, as have the number of Christmas cards arriving in my mail

A poll last year by One-Poll found that six out of 10 adults said they'd received fewer Christmas cards than in the year previous. Three in 10 respondents said they weren't sending any cards.

So I guess I'm not alone. As for front-yard decorations, my stunning display features a "Merry Christmas" neon sign above a 4-foot-high Nativity set that has a dramatic star hovering above the baby Jesus, Mary and a wise man.

When I first got the Nativity set, I'm sure I was the envy of the neighborhood. But as the years have passed, some of the electric lights that illuminated the set have burned out. I've been passed by a herd of guitar-playing Santas and dinosaurs.

I've tried my best to replace the lights in my aging Nativity set, stuffing a string of white lights between the plastic cardboard back and the kindof woven front of the figures. After all, isn't there some prohibition against throwing away a Nativity set? Or some special ceremony requited to dispose of it?

So my Nativity set limps forward, still stunning during the day but more blob-like at night due to my makeshift lighting alterations.

I went to the local hardware super store to seek out a new Nativity set, but got lost in a forest of Santas, penguins and leaping reindeer.

There were row upon row of Christmas lights and outdoor displays, aimed at tapping into the estimated \$6 billion a year Americans spend on yuletide decor. But few signs of a Nativity set.

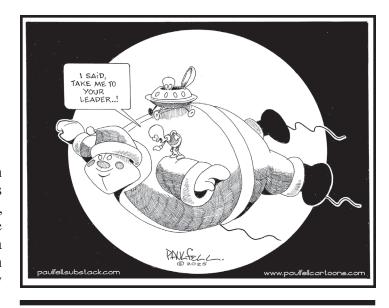
Those inflatable Santas, that loom over a front yard like a red-spangled godzilla, were first sold in 2001, according to The Week magazine.

Since then, they have morphed into many alternatives, such as Santa riding a pink flamingo and a shotgun-toting Santa sitting in a deer stand (really), \$135 at your local box retailer. A Santa Sasquatch can also be purchased for the front yard.

The bad news is that Christmas decorations, due to new tariffs on China (which supplies nearly 90% of all decorations), are more expensive this year.

Well, they won't be getting any of my cash because I still have faith in the Christmas spirit, you know like charity, reaching out to relatives and giving to others. And I have a rockin' - and aging – Nativity set to tend to.

Paul Hammel has covered the Nebraska state government and the state for decades. Prior to his retirement, he was senior contributor with the Nebraska Examiner. He was previously with the Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha Sun. A native of Ralston, Nebraska, he loves traveling and writing about the state.



STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: YEAR-IN-REVIEW

ACROSS 1.W.E.B Du Bois' org.

6. Rascal

13. "Pomp and Circumstance" composer

14. Tropical constrictor

15. Forgo

16. Tequila source

17. + or - atom 18. Reason by deduction 19. *Trade war "weapon," pl.

21. *2025 MLB World Series winners 23. -tzu

24. C&H crop

25. Dunce 28. Western necktie

30. Catch in a snare 35. Ginger cookie

37. Master of his castle

39. Use a razor

40. British slang for donkey 41. Arch and ball locations

43. Winglike

44. March celebrants 46. *Arthur Sze, 2025

47. Dam-like structure

"Cowboy *BeyoncÈ's "2025 Grammy winner

50. King Kong and Curious George, e.g.

52. Like a fox

53. What Pinocchio did 55. *Florida Panthers won this

org.'s '25 championship ... 57. *"Wicked:

61. *Late environmentalist and chimpanzee expert

65. German submarine destroyer 66. *2025 Ryder Cup loser

68. Manuscript sheet 69. Brazilian coins 70. Roll-your-own one, for short

71. To the left, on a boat 72. Orpheus' instrument

73. Geological time period 74. They are cut by Federal Re-

DOWN

1.At room temperature, bar order

2. Algae, sing. 3. Petri dish filler

4. Raise trivial objections

5. Ready to be assembled

6. Avian wader 7. Farm sound

8. China's goodwill "____ diplomacv'

9. Collision, onomatopoeically

speaking 10. *Taylor Swift's "The ____

a Showgirl" 11. Affirm solemnly

12. Third-person possessive pro-

15. Makes broader

20. Why do they fall in love?

22. *Aryna Sabalenka's seed 24. Auto contents

25. Pertaining to osmium 26. *2025 Academy Awards Best

Picture winner

27. Faquir, alt.spelling 29. Pilot's stunt

31. Spring event 32. Pneumonia symptom, pl.

33. Be of use 34. *Blue Origin's 2025 singing

passenger 36. Boll weevil, e.g.

42. Shorthand typist, for short

45. Serfs

49. 2016 Olympics host, for short 51. Ram's horn at a synagogue

54. Draw a conclusion

56. Parkinson's disease drug

57. Roll up 58. Heed

59. Lion sound

60. Dorothy's last name 61.*Lady of "The Mayhem Ball"

62. Tons (2 words) 63. Lira, pl.

64. Land parcels

67. *Gary Oldman received this honorific in 2025

CROSSWORD 14 17 19 20 22 23 24 28 30 26 27 29 32 33 34 35 36 37 40 41 44 45 46 47 48 50 49 51 52 53 54 55 56 58 59 63 64 65 68 69 70 72 73 74



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"SEZ-I" LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We always welcome and encourage letters to the editor "Sez-I's." All letters sent to the Falls City Journal must include the authors full name, address and phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit factual errors or not publish letters we believe to be in poor taste, libelous, advertisements or not deemed fit for publication. Form letters or spam will not be

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



75 Years Ago, December 31, 1950 to January 6, 1951

There were two births to every one death in the county for the previous year. According to the Richardson County Registrar, there were a total of 377 births and 172 deaths. The year before, the county announced 400 births and 150 deaths.

A loan exhibit of paintings from the William Rockhill Nelson Museum at Kansas City went on display in the Bok Music Room at the Lydia Bruun Woods Library.

For the third consecutive year, Falls City escaped without a major fire. The loss of fire in 1950 was estimated to fall between \$7,000 and \$8,000. Local firemen made a total of 58 runs.

Jack Mitchell, Falls City automobile dealer, was selected as president of the Chamber of Commerce, succeeding B.T. Clark.

Four large transport trucks jackknifed between Falls City and the state line, causing traffic to be blocked.

December 1950 was one of the driest months in Falls City's history, with only .15 of an inch of moisture recorded.

The Vogue Shoe Department was having a 2-for-1 shoe sale.

Edwin Mueller of Falls City, operator of the Mueller Candy Company, was injured while unloading from his truck in Beatrice. Mr. Mueller was knocked down when another car hit his truck and struck his right leg.

More than one million dollars in revenue from taxes and other sources were collected by the Richardson County Treasurer's Office in the six-month period ending on December 31.

Mr. and Mrs. O.E. Vinsonhaler received word that their son, Cpl. Virgil Vinsonhaler was successfully evacuated from Hungnam, Korea, with other United Nations troops.

The Stella town basketball team defeated Vigen Chevrolet of Nebraska City 37-33. Jim Johnson of the Stella squad led the way with 11 points.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zentner celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with an open house at their home at 2202 Crook Street.

Harold Lloyd famous comedian, endorsed one of the latest releases of his new screen hit, "Mad Wednesday." The movie was to be shown at Sabetha under the auspices of the Southeast Nebraska Shrine Club. Virgil Falloon, president of the local club, announced he had received a telegram from Lloyd, saying, "I am indeed flattered that you have chosen 'Mad Wednesday' to further your worthy cause, and my only regret is that I cannot be with you in person for the event on January 17."

Byron Cattlett of Barada told Patrolman Otis Potter that he swerved to miss a big, black dog near 21st and Towle Street. When Catlett swerved, he hit the curb, breaking a wheel and severely damaging the front end of the 1939 Chevrolet.

The New York Yankees were set to pay Joe DiMaggio \$100,000 for the third straight season.

50 Years Ago, December 31, 1975 to January 6, 1976

Vern Ketter, who had served as administrator at Northview Care Center for the past three years, was resigning his position effective January 15.

The first Christian Church launched its Centennial celebration. The church was organized in 1876.

County Treasurer Gene Hulbert said that when his office was opened at 8 o'clock, two lines of people had already formed down the hall to purchase their Bicentennial license plates. A man, the day before, stated he waited 2 ½ hours in line for his plates. Hulbert said that 513 pairs of plates were issued on the first day, and that it was believed to be a one-day record.

Cheerleaders for the Falls City Junior High School athletic programs included Teresa O'Grady, Lisa Peck, Lori Vandebreg, Lisa Perry, Lisa Palmer and Elizabeth Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Simon and Annie, Jake and Steve, expected to return to their home in Lee's Summit after visiting her with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Simon.

The Corps of Engineers announced that anyone who planned to install irrigation pumps in the Missouri River above Rulo must first obtain a permit from the Corps' Omaha District.

The Humboldt Cardinals won their own Invitational championship. Dave and Roger Masonbrink and Deryl Hancok won individual titles for Humboldt.

Miss Marilyn Slagle of Council Bluffs, a 1954 Falls City graduate, was named the Teacher of the Year in the Lewis Central School District.

Dana Marie Kottich was pictured on the front page in her mother's arms. Dana, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Kottich, was the first baby born at Community Hospital in 1976.

The Hiawatha girls' basketball team defeated Falls City 44-8. Debbie Reetele had 20 points for Hiawatha, while Diane Kirby scored four for the Tigers.

Mr. and Mrs. Dee Pounds and their children returned home after a two-week trip to Fort Myers, Fla., where they visited relatives and went to Disney World.

Brown's Shoe Fit Company hosted a \$1 Ladies' Shoe Sale. When customers purchased a pair of shoes at the regular price, they could choose a second pair for just \$1.

25 Years Ago, December 31, 2000 to January 6, 2001 At the end of 2000, the donations to the Richardson County Military Historical Mu-

seum totaled \$23,612.78. Brian Young, owner of Falls City Insurance Center, was elected president of the Falls

City Jaycees, succeeding Teresa Chandler. Leland Harmon was named Management Development vice president; Ann Severin was the Community Development vice president, and Krista Anderson was named Membership and Growth vice president.

City Administrator Dick Gist had bad news for the City's natural gas consumers. He reported that he had been in constant contact with the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool about the extremely high cost of natural gas. The price in December closed at \$9.98 per cubic foot, up over \$3 from the first of December. In December of 1999, the city paid \$2.41 per cubic foot.

Five construction projects marked progress in 2000. The list included a \$1.8 million renovation at Prichard Auditorium, a new viaduct at the west edge of Rulo, the \$5.3 million renovation at Falls City High School, the \$1.8 million Water Treatment Plant upgrade and the construction of a new spec building in the City's Industrial Tract.

Richardson County Chief Deputy Steve Goldsberry reported that the county jail booked 340 prisoners in 2000, 50 more than the previous year.

The Journal reported that Falls City graduate Jason Castle had wed Katherine Ford at

a ceremony on October 14, 2000, in Lincoln. Jason was the son of Mike and Jean Castle. The Lady Irish moved to 8-0 after winning the Nemaha Valley Holiday Tournament. The Lady Irish defeated Tecumseh and Elmwood-Murdock to win the title. The Irish boys defeated top-ranked Arapahoe, 71-64. Matt Sells scored 33, and Troy Taft added 14 in the win.

The Falls City Volunteer Ambulance Squad held its annual banquet and announced that it had made 372 runs throughout the year.

Kyle Black, son of Jamie and Tamara Black, was the first baby born in Falls City in 2001. Kyle Lee weighed 9 pounds and two ounces.

Gynae Hall, daughter of Tom and Kathie Hall of Barada, received a Bachelor of Science Degree in nursing from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Jay and Jeanna Slagle of Omaha were the parents of a daughter, Margaret Claire, born at Methodist Hospital in Omaha. Grandparents included Phil and Betty Slagle of Falls

The Falls City Wrestling Club participated in the Rock Port Tournament. Jacob Babb and Jeremy Buttrick earned the quickest pin trophies.



The Leo Cider and Vinegar Company

(Continued from Page 1)

the buildings were well constructed, having used roughly 11 carloads of lum-

The business took off. In 1906, approximately six thousand barrels of cider were produced. By 1908, that number had grown to eight thousand, and by 1910, the business was prepared to handle 1,000,000 barrels of cider.

The plant employed about 15 men during the busy season and had a tank storage capacity of 500,000 gallons. The company shipped vinegar to Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. By 1916, it was said to be paying out as much as \$60,000 per year for cider apples.

Thank you, Dave, for reaching out and identifying the picture.

Keeling named executive director of Hearts **United for Animals**

Hearts United for Animals (HUA), a nationally recognized no-kill shelter dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of dogs and cats, has named Kelcie Keeling as its new Executive Director.

Keeling brings more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, marketing strategy, community engagement, and donor relations. Most recently, she served as Director of Marketing and Communications at Peru State College, where she led a comprehensive digital marketing transformation that strengthened the college's brand visibility and community presence.

Her professional back-

ground also includes leadership roles with the Southeast District Health Department, where she managed multi-channel public communications during the COVID-19 pandemic, and as Executive Director of the Butler County Chamber of Commerce. During her tenure there, Keeling membership increased by 40 percent and led high-profile community initiatives, including Christmas Comes Early to David City with the Hallmark Channel, as featured on People. com. She has also held positions in publishing, sales, and stakeholder engagement with organizations such as Nebraska Wedding Day Magazine,

Columbus Neighbors Magazine (Best sion Media), the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, and Sandhills Global.

"Kelcie comes to HUA with a vast amount of successful experience in leadership, marketing, finance, and strategic partnerships," said Don Phillips, Board President. "Her passion for animal welfare inspires staff, volunteers, and stakeholders, and the Board is confident she will sustain and grow the organization."

"I am honored to join an organization built on the compassion and vision of Carol and Dennis Wheeler," said Keeling. "I look forward to honoring their legacy while working alongside our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters to build the future of Hearts United for Animals."

As Executive Director, Keeling will oversee shelter operations, donor and volunteer engagement, and strategic initiatives that advance HUA's life-saving mission across Nebraska and beyond.

Commissioners approve transfer from Inheritance Tax Fund to the General Fund

(Continued from Page 1) received a second from Commissioner Karas, and

it carried 3-0.

Commissioner Campbell made a motion for the adoption of Resolution 2025-2026-19 to cancel a check that had been issued in error. The motion was seconded by Karas and passed 3-0.

Sheriff Rick Hardesty presented a report, which was approved for fees collected in November totaling \$8,142.35.

A quote was received from Travis Jorn and approved for the boring of electrical lines under some of the sidewalks around the courthouse. The lines will be used to connect the new light poles to the existing fixtures. The \$3,500.00 quote was approved 3-0.

Chairman Caverzagie made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-20 to move funds from the Inheritance Tax Fund to the General Fund. The transfer amount was \$200,000, and it passed 3-0.

Claims were paid, and with no further action remaining on the agenda, the meeting was closed at 9:45 a.m.



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!



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Eickhoff 2024 County Official of the Year

Richardson County Clerk of County Court Mary Eickhoff was named the 2024 County Official of the Year at the NACO (Nebraska Association of County Officials) meeting. Eickhoff becomes the 46th recipient of the award, dating back to 1979.

Each year, the Nebraska Association of County Officials bestows awards to individuals who have distinguished themselves as public officials. The County Official of the Year Award is the highest honor an elected or appointed county official can receive.

Eickhoff currently serves as President of the Nebraska Association of County Clerks-Register of Deeds-Election Commissioners and previously served on the Board of Directors of the NACREC, representing the Southeast District from 2004 to 2007. She has testified at Nebraska Legislature Committee hearings on many bills that affect county government. Eickhoff has served on the Nebraska State Historical Records Advisory Board and was selected by the Nebraska Secretary of State to serve as a pilot county for the transition to electronic voting equipment in all counties across the state in 2004.

Mary is a longtime member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 269 in Humboldt and a member of the Good News Assembly of God Church.

One letter of recommendation read, "Mary has served as Richardson County Clerk since 1987. She worked for Richardson County in a different office for six years before being elected County Clerk, so it has been a total of 43 years she has given her county!" The letter went on to say that she is involved with various meetings for county officials and participates in NACO meetings, rarely missing a Clerk's workshop. "She knows her job and is outspoken, but always in a polite and amusing way. Mary is very deserving of the award. She has always been the person who is willing to go the extra mile, willing to share her many talents and is one of the officials of Nebraska that epitomizes what an elected official should be."

Eickhoff received a plaque commemorating her achievement from NACO President Marvin Kohout.

The County Official of The Year Award for 2025 went to Frontier County Clerk, Darla Walther.

DISTRICT 1 SENATOR BOB HALLSTROM'S NEWSLETTER

As the year draws to a close, we are busy with holiday preparations. Our children are returning home for Christmas, and LuRae and I just celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary.

The 2026 session of the Legislature will commence on January 7, with the 60-day session scheduled to adjourn in mid-April. Balancing the State's budget will be a major focus of the 2026 Legislative Session. The Economic Forecasting Advisory Board has projected a \$471 million budget shortfall. It is my belief that the vast majority of this deficit will be addressed by cuts in state spending.

Finding ways to provide meaningful and sustainable property tax relief will be a top priority in the upcoming session. I have introduced LB 575 which will, in part, require local political subdivisions to reduce their tax levy commensurate with any increase in property valuations and only increase the levy with a super majority vote of the governing board.

The State continues to fall short in its supply of housing needed to attract workers to our State. I will be introducing legislation to provide a reliable and consistent source of funding for much-needed rural and middle-income workforce housing.

I welcome your input on issues of interest and importance to you. I encourage you to follow along on my Facebook page designated as Senator Bob Hallstrom, for updates on legislation and District 1 activities. Please feel free to contact me directly at Senator Bob Hallstrom, District 1 State Capitol, PO Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509; Telephone (402) 471-2733; or email me at bhallstrom@leg.ne.gov.



SOCIETY NEWS

Shubert American Legion Auxiliary Unit 222

By Tana J Brown Secretary The Shubert American Legion Auxiliary Unit 222 met December 9, 2025 at the home of Vicki Beilke. Co-president Vicki Beilke called the meeting to order and called for a moment of silence. Chaplain Lacee Noa offered the opening prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Patriotic Christmas Song "Merry Christmas from the Red, White, and Blue" was sung and the ALA Preamble was recited.

At this time Chaplain Lacee Noa draped the charter for our deceased member Teresa Olberding.

Roll call was answered by 8 members.

Secretary Tana Brown read the minutes of the November 4, 2025 meeting.

In the absence of treasurer Judy Schlosser copies of the treasurer's report was passed around.

After group discussion a memorial for Teresa Olberding will be given to the VA Center in Lincoln to be used for the Veterans as needed. Teresa made the

busy bags for the children that our Unit delivers there. Christmas gifts and treat

bags will be taken to the Veterans in the nursing homes and Assisted Living in Falls City.

The tour of homes was well attended. The homes were beautiful. \$540 was raised for Richardson County Veterans. These funds will be taken to the Richardson County VA office to be used as needed.

Quilt ticket sales are still going well. The drawing will be in January.

The Veteran's Day program at HTRS on November 11 was well attended. Speaker Lucas Geyer did a great job. The music by HTRS was outstanding this year. Michael Coffey again gave Tana Brown pictures and thank yous the children had made. She handed out some to Veterans and gave the rest to Dona Hall to hand out with Veteran Christmas gifts.

County Government Day went well with Monty Lovelace again being the main speaker about sextortion. He brought some of his team this year and they shared very informative information from their experiences.

Tana assembled and delivered the trays of goodies for Education week. A thank you from the teachers and staff was passed around.

More food items were brought during the tour of homes and to the December meeting to be given to SENCA.

Christmas cards were signed for members in the nursing homes.

The 'Wreaths Across America' ceremony will be this Saturday December 13, at Steel Cemetery. The next meeting will be

held on January 13, 2026 at 6:30 at the home of Elizabeth Ketner.

Chaplain Lacee Noa gave the closing prayer. Co-President Vicki Beil-

ke declared the meeting adjourned.

Schmit named to President's List at Chadron State

Stephanie Schmit of Humboldt, has been named to the Chadron State College President's List for the Fall 2025 semester. To qualify, students must complete at least 12 credit hours, be pursuing their first bachelor's degree, earn a cumulative gradepoint average of 4.0, and have no incomplete grades.

BUILDING PERMITS

Shawn and Tiffany Fouraker, mechanical permit, 1703 Wilson St.; \$3,000.00.

Kent Scheitel, mechanical permit, 2723 Crook St.; \$10,000.00.

Equity Bank, sign permit, 1616 Harlan St.; \$4,000.00.



LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

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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. mygnag.com. Tim Boatright, Pastor – 245-3977

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS (23rd & Barada) Sunday: Divine Service, 9 AM Sunday School and Bible study, 10:15 AM (September-May). Communion every Sunday. 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, 11:00am (Also Broadcast KTNC 1230am / 107.1fm) First Sun. fellowship 10:30; Adult Bible Study: 9:45AM. fumc@sentco.net Pastor Larry Heintz-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

FROM THE HEART

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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.

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 (1/2 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, **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.gbfchurch.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.

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SOCIETY News

PARISH CIRCLE

Parish Circle met on Monday evening, December 15, 2025 at the home of Deb Harris.

Eight members were present.

Ronda Yoesel opened the evening with prayer. Ronda lead the devotions in the absence of Julie Hader. She was assisted by Jan Deckinger. They shared scripture and insights from two books: Fill My Cup Lord, and Trust and Fall. The devotions emphasized that giving to others helps relieve stress and fills our lives with purpose. Also, a reminder that we were all created to display God's glory!

Members revealed their prayer pals for 2025. New pals were chosen for 2026. Deb Rieger created the meetings and information calendar for the new year. These were handed out to all members.

Discussion was held and time was spent dispersing the offerings for the 2025 year.

Fourteen organizations were chosen to receive end of year funds.

Members offered up prayer concerns and joys. A group prayer was lead by Ronda Yoesel.

Following the meeting desert was served by hostesses Deb Harris and Sky-

From the Journal Archives



Who's in this week's photo? We're asking for your help in solving the mystery each week of our thousands of photos. If you know who is pictured, please email us at brian@fcjournal.net or nikki@fcjournal.net and look in an upcoming issue or our Facebook page for answers. We will share answers when everyone in the photo is confidently identified.

lar Baker.

A time of fellowship followed.

The next meeting will be held on January 19, 2026. Ronda Yoesel will lead the lesson from the book Ten Women of the Bible. Deb Stevens will serve as hostess at her home.

Fourth quarter dooms

The HTRS Titans led throughout the contest, holding a 46-35 lead with only eight minutes remaining in the contest. However, the Southern Raiders caught fire, exploding for 23 points, while holding HTRS to six, in the fourth to complete the

shooting Southern 35 percent to 33 percent. HTRS went 20-of-57, while the Raiders

The Titans finished with 39 rebounds, 12 assists and four steals.

Senior Emmett Glathar led the team with 24 points and nine rebounds. Darius Bohling added 11 points, five boards and four assists, while Cole Hunzeker finished with 10 points, 14 rebounds and three assists.

Paxx Adams led Southern with 28 points, 13 rebounds, six assists and six steals.

3, Bohling 11, Dettmann 4, Glathar 24, Hunzeker 10.

Raider Scoring: Whitwer 4, Decker 11, Frerichs 2, Pollman 8, Adams 28, Meece 2, Heard 3.

improved to 3-1.

For complete coverage of Monday night's contest, see Sacred Heart basketball story. HTRS competed in the Weeping Water Holiday Tourney on Monday, December 29 and Tuesday, December 30.

Old Man Basketball set for Wednesday nights at HTRS gym

A weekly recreational basketball opportunity will begin Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026, at the HTRS gym.

Old Man Basketball will be held each Wednesday night from 8 to 9:30 p.m. and will be played on a half court. Organizers said the goal is to provide a chance for adults to stay active through good clean recreation.

Participants may attend as often or as infrequently as they choose. All skill levels are welcome.

Organizers are considering using one half court for older participants and another half court for younger players, depending on attendance.

Those with questions may contact Dwight Elliot of Dawson, Charlie Crook of Humboldt or Sam and Pete Binder of Table Rock.

Lady Titans take down Bobcats

The HTRS Lady Titans defeated Exeter-Milligan/Friend 41-33 on Thursday, December 18, and then fell in a shootout at Wymore, 48-44.

On Thursday, HTRS trailed 11-9 after the first, and cut into the lead by A huge third quarter put the Titans on the way to the win as they outscored EMF 13-0 to take a 34-22 lead with eight minutes to play. The Bobcats battled, outscoring HTRS 11-7 in the fourth, but HTRS did just enough to hang on for the eightpoint win.

HTRS went 14/48 from the floor, including just 3/21 from beyond the arc. Elie Bstandig finished with a double/double with 13 points and 15 rebounds. Lillian Bowen led the team with 18 points and four steals.

HTRS Scoring: Bstandig 13, Bredemeier 4, McClarnen 3, Frey 1, Bowen 18, Howe 2.

EMF Scoring: Filipi 12, Bresson 7, Tuttle 1, R. Tuttle 4, Meints 9.

On Friday, HTRS fell to 3-2 for the year with the four-point loss to Southern. The Lady Titans trailed 7-3 after the first and 19-16 at halftime.

Trailing 22-20 with under five minutes to play in the third, Bowen sank a three from the wing to put HTRS in front 23-22. Moments later, Bowen banked in another triple to make it 26-23.

Southern battled back, taking a late lead, but a bucket in the paint by Bstandig cut the Raider advantage to one at 32-31 heading into the fourth.

The Raiders maintained their lead, but a free throw by Kenadi

McClarnen with 1:31 cut the deficit to one for HTRS, 42-41. Two quick buckets by the Raiders made it 46-41 with :52 remaining, and Southern

held on for the four-point

The Lady Titans hostone, 22-21 at the half. ed the Sacred Heart Irish Monday, December 22, 2025. The Irish led from the start on Monday, holding quarter leads of 21-6, 38-17 and 48-27 before eventually winning 62-33. The loss dropped HTRS to 3-3, while SH improved to

> For complete coverage of the HTRS/SH contest, see the Irish basketball story.

The Lady Titans participated in the 2025 Weeping Water Holiday Tournament on Monday, December 29 and Tuesday, December 30.

Titans at Wymore

comeback win, 58-52. HTRS ended the game out-

made 22-of-67 attempts.

Titan Scoring: Hilgenfeld

In the final action before Christmas break, HTRS fell to Sacred Heart 67-41 on Monday night at Humboldt. The loss dropped the Titans to 1-5, while Sacred Heart



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BOB BACHMAN'S

FALLS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS AND STATISTICS

December 15 through December 16, 2025 calls: one investigation, one found or lost property call, two miscellaneous calls, one nuisance complaint, two burn permits, one fraud report, one animal call, one HHS intake/referral, three information-only calls, three referred other agency calls, one vehicle repossession, and three ambulance/EMS calls, for a total of twenty calls. There were two 911 calls. One warning was issued for ATV/UTV requirements.

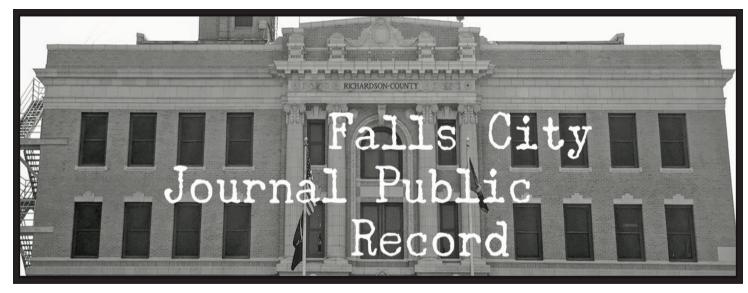
December 16 through December 17, 2025 calls: five miscellaneous calls, one ambulance/EMS call, two information-only calls, one 911 hang up/misdial, one records check, one investigation, one HHS intake/referral, one animal call, two referred other agency calls, and one fire call, for a total of sixteen calls. There were three 911 calls. One fire call was handled by Falls City Rural Fire.

December 17 through December 18, 2025 calls: one miscellaneous call, two ambulance/EMS calls, one warrant arrest, two information-only calls, two traffic/driving complaint calls, one burn permit call, one check welfare call, and one referred to another agency call. Two 911 calls total. One citation for invalid registration and two citations for fugitive from justice. One warning for driving left of center, one warning for an animal running at large, one warning for invalid registration, one warning for improper turn, and one warning for misuse of school permit.

December 19 through December 20, 2025 calls: three ambulance/EMS calls, three miscellaneous calls, one referred other agency call, one 911 hang up/misdial, two nuisance calls, two animal calls, one suspicious person/vehicle call, one gun permit, one burn permit, one house watch, one records check, one information-only call, one vandalism, and one HHS intake/referral, for a total of twenty calls. There were seven 911 calls. One warning was issued for improper or defective vehicle lighting. Three citations were issued: one for litter, one for appliances in yard, and one for maintaining a nuisance.

December 20 through December 21, 2025 calls: one animal call, two ambulance/EMS calls, one information-only call, one 911 hang up/misdial, one HHS intake/referral, one referred other agency call, and one miscellaneous call, for a total of eight calls. There were four 911 calls. One warning was issued for a muffler violation.





CITATIONS

Wyel Halimeh of Wichita, KS, count one, violate no passing zone, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25; count two, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Aitken)

Kathryn Dodson-Lee of Beckville, TX, count one, no operator's license, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Anderson)

Dustin Tidwell of Topeka, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Aitken)

John Sutton of Topeka, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Agena)

Lloyd Miller of Auburn, count one, no valid registration, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Agena)

Makenzie Dunkel of Scottsbluff, NE, count one registration/plates, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Cheek)

Melvin Bartolome of Storm Lake, IA, count one, speeding 16-20 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Shiley)

Lane Moya of De Queen, AR, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs.

Cary Gniffke of Millsap, TX, count one, speeding

Tractor rolls into parked

vehicle at Dollar Fresh

On November 23, 2025, a tractor driven by Timothy

Koelzer of Rulo rolled into a parked Dodge Caravan in

the Dollar Fresh parking lot after the tractor's brakes

According to accident reports stated they exited the

tractor to move a shopping cart when the brakes on the

tractor released, causing the tractor to roll backwards

downhill to the west, striking a black Ford F-150 owned

by Mari Tuhey, parked in the northwest corner of the

Dollar Fresh parking lot. This collision pushed the

parked Ford F-150 Into An adjacent parked red Dodge Caravan (V3), both owned by the same individual. No

damage was observed on the tractor. front end damage

was observed on the F-150, including damage to the

wheel and a broken control arm on the front driver's

side. Cosmetic damage was observed on the front driv-

Damage to the tractor was listed as more than \$1,000.

Damage to the Caravan was listed as less than \$1,000.

er's side of the Dodge Caravan.

No injuries were reported.

released, according to a Falls City police report.

6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Novak) Cody Nightingale of Falls City, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Geyer)

Glanton Jerbal of Clovis, NM, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Agena)

Shelby Kuker of Falls City, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Geyer)

Adam Haeder of Bellevue, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Agena)

Terressia Houck of Wichita Falls, TX, count one, no valid registration, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Agena)

Derek Dubach of Omaha, count one, no operator's license, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Holliday)

Ryan Larsen of Falls City, count one, speeding 16-20 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$200 and court costs. (Franks)

Boladji Djidjoho of La Vista, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Dutcher) Russell McCartney of Falls City, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and

fined \$125; count two, fail to use child passenger restraint, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Franks)

Davis Hanzek of Plattsmouth, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Geyer)

Randy Marquez of Shubert, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Holliday)

Jose Lopez of Omaha, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Gever)

LC Doss of Omaha, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Novak)

Julio Gonzalez Bautusta of Omaha, count one, no operator's license, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Novak)

Sasikaran Selvarathnam of Fort Worth, TX, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Agena)

(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

Vehicle backs into parked car on McLean Street

A Falls City man backed into a parked vehicle on Mc-Lean Street, causing an estimated \$2,000 in damage, according to a Falls City police report.

The report states that a vehicle owned by Nathan O'Grady was parked along the street near a private driveway when a second vehicle driven by Wade Tackett backed into it. The crash occurred near the intersection of McLean Street and East 16th Street.

Damage to O'Grady's vehicle was listed at \$2,000, and damage to Tackett's vehicle was listed at \$500. No injuries were reported.

Two vehicles collide during lane change on Harlan Street

Two vehicles collided on Harlan Street after one driver attempted to change lanes and struck another vehicle in the outside lane, according to a Falls City police report.

Police reported that a vehicle driven by Gabriella Furrow of Falls City was traveling north in the outside lane on Harlan Street near East 15th Street when a second vehicle, also traveling north in the inside lane, attempted to change lanes. The second vehicle struck Furrow's vehicle as it moved into the outside lane. The driver of the second vehicle is identified in the report as a Missouri-licensed driver, but the report does not list the person's name.

Damage to Furrow's vehicle was estimated at \$2,000. Damage to the second vehicle was estimated at \$1,500. Three juvenile passengers were listed in Furrow's vehicle, and no injuries were reported.







Caleb is the son of Dr. Andrew and Beth Offner.

Offner signs to play for University of South Dakota Coyotes football program

Falls City Public Schools is proud to announce that Caleb Offner, senior offensive lineman for the Falls City Tigers, has officially signed his National Letter of Intent to continue his academic and athletic career with the University of South Dakota Coyotes Football Program.

Caleb becomes one of the few student-athletes in school history and the first in more than 30 years to sign at the NCAA Division I level. Standing 6'6" and 300 pounds, Caleb's combination of power, grit, and leadership has made him a standout both on and off the field.

Caleb was joined by family and staff during his signing ceremony at Falls City High School, marking a major milestone in his athletic journey.

USD Head Football Coach Travis Johansen praised Offner's potential, noting, "Caleb has the physical tools and the work ethic we look for in a Coyote. He has the frame and mobility to develop into a foundational piece of our offensive line group. We're excited to welcome him to campus."

"We are incredibly proud of Caleb," said Falls City Activities Director Gale Dunkhas. "We appreciate Caleb's hard work and leadership this season and wish him the best of luck as he continues his career at the next level at South Dakota."

Caleb will join the Coyotes in Vermillion next fall as part of USD's 2026 recruiting class.

Tiger wrestlers busy before Christmas break

The Lady Tiger grapplers competed at the JCC Invite on Friday and piled up the points. FC scored 202 points to place first. Fillmore Central was second with 130.5, and Logan View was third with 87.5. Six Tigers earned gold medals and another five placed second.

Keylee Olberding went 2-0 and placed first at 100, while Hallie Young received two byes and placed first at 115. At 125, Ashlyn Alexander went 2-0 for first, while Leah Goff went 5-0 for first at 140. Gabi Young ended her day at 2-0 at 145 and won the gold. The final gold medal was earned by Taytum Maddox, who improved to 10-1 with a pair of wins at 155.

Placing second were Peyton Weddle (130), Shia Wisneski (145), Emma Gilkerson (170), Jailin Deprey (190), and Gabbi Griffin (235). Abigail Spinner (120) placed third, while Audrey Scrivens (105) and India Holman (120) were fourth.

The Tigers boys were in action at Platteview High School on Friday. FC scored 51.5 points and placed 12th. Beatrice won the meet with 180.5 points; Waverly was second with 129.5, and Omaha Bryan was third with 127.

Jayden Mirelez had the best finish of the day for FC, finishing 3-1 and placing second. At 113, Dayton Snethen went 2-2 and placed fourth, while Chase Simpson went 3-2 at 285 and also placed fourth.

In JV action Friday, Tanner Jackson was first at 132, ending his day a perfect 5-0. Nolan Nicholson placed second at

215, finishing 3-1. Ryder Hullman (120) and Zane Elms (150) each placed third, while Brandon Collier was fourth at 157. At 165 pounds, Wesley Vitale was fifth, and Brandon Feighner placed sixth at 215.

On Saturday at Platteview, the Lady Tigers scored 104.5 points and placed fifth. Bellevue East won the meet with 178 points; Ralston was second with 114, and Omaha North placed third with 110.

At 155, Taytum Maddox stayed hot, going 2-0 with a bye to earn the gold medal. Maddox needed 2:51 in the finals to pin Nevail Toft of Millard North for the win.

Gabi Young ended her day at 3-1, falling in the championship match to Thiemann of Bellevue East by pin at 1:13.

At 130, Weddle went 2-1 with a bye to place second. Weddle lost by fall to Grace Lindley of Omaha North by fall at 1:17.

Hallie Young finished 3-1 and placed third. In the third-place match, Young pinned Payton Stanley of Millard North at 2:03.

The final medal of the day went to Gabbi Griffin at 235. Griffin went 2-2 for the day, falling by pin in the third-place match to Kendall Holtmeyer of Omaha Bryan.

The boys were back in action on Saturday, competing in the Auburn Invite. FC scored 146.5 points and placed third. Lincoln North Star won the team championship with 218 points, while Millard South JV was second with 168.5.

Tiger wrestlers earned a pair of gold medals on

Saturday. Mirelez stayed hot, going 5-0 and winning the gold medal. In the finals, Mirelez pinned Liam Gallagher of North Star at 1:58 for the win. The other gold medal went to Tristan Randall at 132 pounds. Randall moved to 8-1 on the year by finishing his day 3-0. In the finals, Randall earned a 14-9 decision over Spencer Hospodka of Millard South JV.

At 150, Orion Cattrell went 2-1 with two byes and placed second. Cattrell lost an 18-12 decision in the finals to Ashton Weesner of Lincoln Northwest.

Brantly Sells also placed second, finishing 2-1 at 190. Sells lost by tech fall (17-2) to Marcus Wynne of Lincoln North Star in the championship.

Lady Tigers battle Palmyra

0-6 for the season after a 42-26 loss to the Palmyra Panthers on Friday night in Falls City. The visitors led early, taking a 6-3 lead into the second quarter.

FC got on the board in the second as Bella Johansen hit a hoop in the paint to cut the lead to 10-5 with 5:45 to play in

Two minutes later, Brynna Glathar sank a triple from the right wing to cut the Panther lead to 13-8. Two free throws by Johansen made it a three-point contest, 13-10, with three minutes to go in the first

With just under a minute to go, Carlea Dunkhas scored on an inbounds play to stop a Palmyra 4-0 run and make it 17-12. Bristol Titus closed out the FC scoring by sinking 1-of-2 free throw attempts to make it 19-13 at the half.

The Panthers' full-court press out of the break caused trouble for FC. Palmyra scored the first nine points of the second half and led 28-13 before Kaytlin Rhodd hit a baseline jumper to put FC on the

The Falls City Lady Tigers dropped to board at 28-15. However, the visitors outscored FC down the stretch and took an 18-point lead, 36-18, into the final eight

FC continued to battle into the fourth before eventually falling 42-26.

Falls City shot 35 percent (7/20) from the field, while Palmyra was 14/34. The Lady Tigers turned the ball over 22 times, while forcing the Panthers into 18 miscues. FC ended the contest with eight points in the paint, three assists and 14 rebounds.

Dunkhas led FC with seven points, four rebounds, and two assists. Glathar added seven points, and Johansen and Titus each had two steals.

FC Scoring: Dunkhas 7, Johansen 6, Glathar 7, Titus 1, Rhodd 2.

Palmyra Scoring: Green 4, Simmons 3, Badertscher 9, Peterson 4, X. Badertscher

The Lady Tigers faced 3-3 Southern in the first round of the Weeping Water Holiday Tournament on Tuesday, December

FC can't keep pace with Panthers

The Falls City boys' basketball squad dropped its 31st consecutive contest when they fell to Palmyra 65-27 on Friday night at Falls City High School.

Falls City was up to the challenge in the opening eight minutes as they trailed just 11-9 after the first period.

FC welcomed back Paxton Armbruster, who had been sidelined since an injury that occurred in the season-opener at Syracuse. It didn't take long for FC to appreciate his return. With 5:15 on the clock in the first, Jacoby Bangert dished to an open Armbruster, who calmly sank a three to get FC on the scoreboard at 5-3. A minute later, senior Brock Caudle worked in the paint for a bucket and made it 8-5. A driving bucket by Armbruster with just under three minutes to go made it a one-point game, 8-7. A jumper in the paint by Bangert helped FC keep pace, making it 10-9 with 1:15 to go. A late free throw by the Panthers pushed their lead to 11-9 at the end of the first.

A steal and layup by Armbruster tied the contest at 11, just thirty seconds into the second quarter. The Tiger offense then went cold for over four minutes, getting outscored 11-0 and trailed 22-11 until Bangert canned a trey from the top of the key to make it 22-14 with 3:12 to play in the half. Palmyra ended the half on a 10-4 run to make it 32-17 at the

The second half was all Panthers as they outscored FC 33-10 to pull away for the 38-point win.

FC shot 30 percent (10/33) from the field, while Palmyra shot 38 percent. The Panthers also owned a large advantage from the foul line. Palmyra went 17/20, while FC was 3/7. Turnovers again proved costly as FC finished with 30 miscues, leading to 29 points at the opposite end of the floor.

Armbruster led FC with 11 points and three steals.

Elijah Leyden led the squad with five rebounds, while Bangert finished with eight points and two boards.

FC Scoring: Jones 5, Armbruster 11, Morris 1, Bangert 8, Caudle 2.

Palmyra Scoring: Martin 9, Vasa 2, Petersen 7, Boyte 11, Kassebaum 10, Davis 2, Hippen 7, Mayo 8, Hubbard 8, Ernest 1.

Falls City was back on the hardwood for the Weeping Water Holiday Tournament on December 29 and 30.

Area athletes earn post season accolades

Several county letes have recently been rewarded for their hard work by earning post season recognition by their D2-1 offensive first team conferences or districts.

For Falls City High School, three athletes received nods regarding the 2025 ECNC All-Conference Volleyball team. Junior Gabi Young was named to the second team, while freshmen Liv Buckminster and Tessa Gossman were each awarded honorable mention.

The ECNC Softball All-Conference team was dominated by Auburn and Freeman. Bree Wehenkel, Addison Darnell, Gretchen Paschal and Morgan Stanley made the first team for Auburn. Earning Honorable Mention were

ath- Taytum Maddox, Malori Kuker and Jazzy Strecker of Falls City.

> The 2025 All-District for football included Cole Taft (SH), Alexander Dewberry (HTRS) and Kameon Dettmann (HTRS). The first team defense included Jacob Davis (HTRS), Toby Baxter (SH), Elijah Canonico (SH) and Kayden Groth (SH).

> The second team offense included Brenden Lemerond (SH), Noah Howard (SH) and Jacob Davis (HTRS). The second team defense was comprised of Toby Baxter (SH), Charlie Rottinghaus (SH), Alex Dewberry (HTRS) and Bradyn Bowen (HTRS).

(Continued on Page 8)

Sabetha Community Hospital Outpatient Calendar---January 2026

Botox

Levi Grimm, APRN: January 8, 15, 22, 29

Cardiology

Tonya Stallbaumer, APRN: January 2 Bailey Delong, APRN: January 12 Swapna Mamidipally, MD: January 19

Dermatology

Tiffany Engelken, APRN: January 5, 7, 14, 21, 28

Diabetes Support Group

January 20th @3pm

Dizziness & Balance

Gary McKnight, AuD: January 15

Ear, Nose, & Throat

Jason Lepse, MD: January 9

Endocrinology

Kelli Bradbury, APRN: January 27

Nephrology

Haley Wingerson, APRN: January 19 Lakshmi Duvvur, MD: January 30 Keelyn Ericson, MD: January 12

Neurology

Abra Woolard, APRN: January 15

Nuclear Stress Tests

January 8, 22

OB/GYN

Jamesina Dickson, MD: January 16

Oncology

Robin McKay, APRN: January 16 Manidhar Lekkala, MD: January 26

Orthopedics

Adam Streit, DO: January 9, 15, 29 Maria VanDyke, PA-C: January 20 Michael McCoy, MD: January 8, 22

Pain Management

Karl Haake, MD: January 13, 20

Podiatry

Robert Shemwell, DPM: January 14, 27 Surgery Aaron Brown, MD: January 5, 7, 19, 21

Samuel Bruna, MD: January 12, 14, 26, 28

Urology Kris Carlson, MD: January 13, 20, 27

Wound Clinic

Susie Lueger, APRN: January 5, 12, 19, 26



14TH & OREGON ST. SABETHA, KS 66534 FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 785.284.1552 WWW.SABETHAHOSPITAL.COM

Daniel C. Wamsley



Daniel C. Wamsley, 84, of Holt, MO, passed away December 20, 2025 at Sabetha, KS. He was born July 4, 1941 at Barada, NE to Daniel and Eunice (Quigley) Wamsley

He married Geraldine Higby in January of 1961 at Whiting, KS. They later divorced in 1970.

Daniel was raised mainly in the Barada and Shubert, NE areas and graduating Whiting High School in 1960. He worked at the Topeka grain elevator and various other places until enrolling in diesel mechanics school in Kansas City. He worked for Midway Ford for many years and then became a self-employed dump truck operator and managed a fleet of dump trucks working for, among other, Fordyce. He retired in 2003 and enjoyed tinkering around the home on various projects.

He was a member of the teamsters in Kansas City.

Daniel is survived by his sons, David and his wife Christina of White Cloud, KS, Daryl and his wife Ruth of Powhattan, KS, Daniel Thomas Hefty of Kansas City, MO, daughter-in-law, Tammy Wamsley of Wetmore, KS, brothers, Doug and his wife Carol of Gardner, KS, Dennis of Falls City, NE, Donnie and his wife Pat of Nemaha, NE, sister, Diann Stepongzi of Auburn, NE, sister-in-law Charlene Wamsley, eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Dearle and a son, Gary.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at 2:00 PM at Harris Cemetery with Pastor Donald Wamsley officiating.

No viewing or visitation. Friends may sign the guest registry at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home during regular business hours.

Memorials can be made to the Barada Global Methodist Church.

Tamara "Tammy" Ernst



Tamara "Tammy" L. Ernst, 61, of rural Rulo, Nebraska, passed away on Friday, December 19, 2025, at her home near Rulo. She was born on December 17, 1964, in Omaha, Nebraska to Lloyd D. and Marva L. (Lenz) Lewis. Tammy was raised in Omaha where she attended Mount View Elementary School and Monroe Junior High School. Tammy attended Benson High School in Omaha and graduated with the class of 1982. After graduating, she continued her education by attending Metro Community College for two years. While in high school, Tammy worked at AKSARBEN in Omaha.

Tammy had a passion and love for animals, especially dogs. She raised and trained many dogs over the

years, and it was while she was herding trials for livestock where she met the love of her life, Eric. On May 2, 2009, Tammy was united in marriage to Eric Ernst at Zion United Church of Christ in rural Falls City. The couple made their home on a farm near Rulo. Tammy worked for many years as a purchasing agent for Community Medical Center in Falls City.

Tammy is survived by her loving husband Eric Ernst of Rulo, brothers: Daniel Lewis and his wife Carol of Omaha, Tim Lewis and his wife Susanne of Omaha, nephews Ryan and Zachary Lewis both of Omaha, brothers-in-law: Craig Ernst and his wife Cheri of Rulo, Bruce Ernst and his wife Jo of Rulo, and many other nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives, and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her sister Kerri Lynn Lewis, and brother-in-

Tammy's wishes were to be cremated with no services are planned at this time.

Visitation for Tammy will be held from noon-8 p.m. on Saturday, December 2/, 2025, at the Hall Funeral Home, 2403 Harlan Street in Falls City. Family will greet friends from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Richardson County Cancer Fund or to the Richardson County Humane Society.

Condolences can be shared online at www.hallfuneral.net Services entrusted to Hall Funeral Home-2403 Harlan St-Falls City, Nebraska 68355.

SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA ANNUAL HAY AUCTION

Tuesday, January 6, 2026 • 11 a.m. Novak Consignment Lot 2 miles east of Dorchester, NE on Hwy. 33

SELLING BIG & SMALL BALES: Alfalfa • Brome • Prairie • Straw • Etc.

For Hay Consignments, Contact: Col. Troy Novak (402) 641-1526 • Office (402) 826-5302

actors available for unloading 3 days prior to auction 9:30 A.M.-4 P.M.* For more sales & listings, log on to:







of Nebraskans surveyed read their local newspaper weekly.

From Alliance to Falls City, Nebraska trusts its local news.



Your community. Your connection.

Shirley Mae (Cummings) Rattazzi



Shirley Mae (Cummings) Rattazzi, 75, of Falls City, Nebraska, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at her home in Falls City. She was born on April 28, 1950, in Pico Rivera, California to Garland and Ruby Cummings.

Shirley is survived by her loving children: Warren Sudweeks and wife Corrin of Falls City, Russell Sudweeks and wife Julia of California, Jessica Rattazzi of Nevada, and Michelle Rattazzi of Nevada, a sister Kathryn Gill and husband Michael of Texas, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and many other nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives, and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, daughter Christina Grooms, brother Ralph Cummings.

Shirley's wishes were to be cremated with no services planned at this time. Inurnment

will be at the Steele Cemetery in Falls City, Nebraska at a later date. Memorial contributions may be given to the family's choice with a later designation.

Condolences can be shared online at www.hallfuneral.net Services entrusted to Hall Funeral Home-2403 Harlan St-Falls City, Nebraska 68355. (402) 245-3131

Arleta (Durfee) Keeling Falloon

Arleta (Durfee) Keeling Falloon, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother was called home to her Heavenly Father December 22, 2025, at the age of 92. Arleta was born northeast of Falls City, NE on her grandparents' farm (Paul and Lydia Grossoehmig), to her parents, Clarence E. Durfee and Lydia H. (Grossoehmig) Durfee on December 20, 1933. Her family moved to town in 1943. Clarence died October 10, 1948 of a heart-attack at age 46. Lydia remarried LaVerne Schmutzer in 1951.

Arleta worked at the Rivoli Theatre during her high school years, and graduated from Falls City High School in 1952. After graduating, she worked at the County Treasurer's office in Falls City. She was later hired by Ozark Air Lines as a stewardess, but after a few flights decided that flying was not for her.

Arleta moved to California and worked for Land Title Company in Los Angeles. While home visiting family in Falls City, she met Robert Clayton Keeling (Falls City), who was also home visiting family, but lived in Southern California as well. The two were married November 27, 1955 at Christ Lutheran Church in Falls City, and then returned to Palmdale, CA and later moved to Sylmar, CA. After several moves back and forth from CA to NE, the couple settled in Falls City in 1961. They had four children together. Robert (Bob) died of a heart-attack on September 18,1977 at age 45. Arleta worked for Dorr Funeral Home and continued to raise her children in Falls City.

Arleta married Dr. Frank Falloon on September 3, 1982, and moved to Grand Island, Nebraska, and eventually they moved to Fairbury, NE, where she discovered a love for playing golf. Dr. Falloon died October 8th, 2005. Arleta then moved to Lincoln to be with family. She moved to Omaha in July, 2007, again to be near family. Arleta was a member of Beautiful Savior Church, and enjoyed Bible studies, the New Horizons group, and developed close friendships within the church. Her faith and family were always a vital part of her life.

Preceded in death by her parents, brother, Wilber Durfee (Darlene), sister, Twila Fee, (Ronald), husbands, Robert C. Keeling and Dr. Frank Falloon, and step-son Mi-

She is survived by her step-brother Duane Schmutzer (Marcia), Lombard, IL, four children, William M. Keeling (Sonia), Grand Island, NE, Anne L. Fischer (Craig), Papillion, NE, John E. Keeling (Liz), Lincoln, NE, Michael R. Keeling (Ann), Lincoln, step-daughter Teri Falloon - Boeckner (Judd), Fairbury, five grandchildren, Robert C. (Bobby) Fischer (Vicki), (Omaha) Matthew C. Fischer, (Papillion), William C. Keeling (Skylar), Omaha, Kaitlyn M. Keeling-Kittsmiller (Izaac), Grand Island, Daniel M. Keeling (Breana), (Omaha), great grandchildren, Jocelyn and Sophia Fischer, and Ellis Kittsmiller, step-grandchildren, Derek Boeckner, (Kearney), Ross Boeckner (Paige), (Fairbury), step-great-grandchildren, Wynn, Dorothy, June, and Kix Boeck-

ner, (Fairbury). Her funeral was held on Monday, December 29, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home. Interment was in Steele Cemetery.

The family received friends one hour prior to the service at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home.

Judith Ann Lanphier

Judith Ann Lanphier (nee Heineman), died Friday December 19, 2025 in Columbia, Missouri. She was born on February 10, 1942 to Kenneth and Dora (Becker) Heineman at their family home near Verdon, Nebraska. She was "Judi with an 'i" among the various folks named "Judy," "Judi," or "Judie" in her lifelong friend group. As a night owl, she earned the nickname "sleepytime gal". She was a brilliant writer, winning the "Daughters of the American Revolution" writing contest in her early years.

Judi graduated from Falls City High School in 1960. She moved to Omaha, Nebraska, and worked as a telephone operator for Northwestern Bell, and moved to Denver, Colorado, continuing as an operator for the Long-Lines Department for AT&T. While living in Denver she met Robert "Bob" Lanphier, marrying in Lingle, Wyoming.

After that, many who knew Judi did not always know where she lived or what she was doing. In the course of their 49 years together, she and Bob moved 19 times. She helped Bob sustain several businesses, including two motels, a real-estate subdivision, two auto salvage yards, several farms, a trucking business, an equipment trading business, a tire recycling operation, and several investments in distressed properties. Their children (Dawn, Rob, and Dan) were in tow for various portions of their parents' journeys, and family and friends appreciated the variety of vacation destinations when visiting. Shortly after Bob passed away in 2014, Judi entered memory care for the remainder of her life.

Judi had a lifelong passion for books, studying publishing arts at Lewis and Clark State College in Idaho designing and typesetting Wallace Stegner: A Descriptive Bibliography, published in 1991. She also wrote poetry and lighthearted recollections about the people and places she loved. We will miss her intelligence and wise takes on many matters, and most of all, her sense of humor and her laugh.

Judi is survived by her children, Dawn Lanphier Simon, Robert Lanphier II and Daniel Lanphier, their spouses, two grandchildren, and her brother Allen Heineman. In addition to her husband and parents.

Judi is preceded in death by brothers Marvin, Kenneth ("Kenny"), and Lowell ("Spike") Heineman.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at 11:00 AM at St. Mark's Cemetery.

Area athletes earn post season accolades

(Continued from Page 7)

Earning Honorable Mention were Kameon Dettmann (HTRS) and Jack Hilgenfeld (HTRS).

The 2025 Pioneer All-Conference team included Elijah Canonico (SH) as a first-team selection for defense. Making the second team offense were Toby Baxter (SH), Jacob Davis (HTRS) and Cole Taft (SH). Second team defense selections included Baxter (SH), Davis (HTRS), Dewberry (HTRS), and Groth (SH). Honorable mention went to Lemerond (SH), Dettmann (HTRS) and Axton Wamsley (HTRS).

The 2025 Pioneer All-Conference Volleyball team first team included Daycee Witt of Sacred Heart. Earning second-team accolades were Elie Bstandig (HTRS), Lillian Bowen (HTRS) and Dorothy Crouse (SH). Honorable mention went Ryann Westengaard (SH) and Maddie Bredemeier (HTRS).

nature preserves.

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

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,

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 REGULA-TIONS 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 floodprone 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 vulnérable 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

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

SECTION 2.0 GENERAL PROVI-

Title 455, Chapter 1.

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

snown on tr 31147C0050C 31147C0100C 31147C0150C 31147C0200C 31147C0300C 31147C0350C 31147C0380C 31147C0400C 31147C0425C, and 31147CIND0A dated 31147C0450C

October 7, 2021, as Zones A, Al-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 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 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 existent 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

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, Al-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 MAN-AGEMENT 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 résponsibilities 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 ap-

nance have been satisfied. 111. Review applications for pro-

posed 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.

VIL 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 COMPLI-

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 construc-

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;

11. All utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, water, electrical, and other systems are located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage;

111. Structures will be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement:

1v. Construction materials are flood resistant:

v. Appropriate practices to minimize flood damage have been utilized; and v1. Electrical, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, and any other service facilities have been designed and located to prevent entry of flood-

waters. C. For all new and substantially improved structures, an elevation certificate based upon the finished construction certifying the elevation of the lowest floor, including basement, and other relevant building components shall be provided to the floodplain administrator and be completed by a licensed surveyor, engineer, or archi-

D. When floodproofing is utilized for an applicable structure, a floodproofing certificate shall be provided to the floodplain administrator and be completed by a licensed professional engi-

neer or architect. E. For all development proposed in the floodway, no-rise certification shall be provided to the floodplain administrator and be completed by a licensed

professional engineer. F. Any other such information as may be reasonably required by the floodplain administrator shall be provided. G. Letters of Map Revision: Federal

regulations in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Part 65.5 and 65.6 allow for changes to the special flood hazard area through a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) or a Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill (LOMR-F), provided the community determines that the land and any existing or proposed structures that would be removed from the floodplain are "reasonably safe from flooding." The community acknowledgement form asserting this is required for LOMR and LOMR-F applications and must be signed by the floodplain administrator. The floodplain administrator shall not sign a community acknowledgement form unless all criteria set forth in the following paragraphs are met:

1. Applicant shall obtain floodplain development permit before applying for a LOMR or LOMR-F.

11. Applicant shall demonstrate that the property and any existing or proposed structures will be "reasonably safe from flooding," according to the minimum design standards in FEMA Technical Bulletin 10-01.

applicant must provide documentation in line with the Engineered Approach outlined in FEMA Technical Bulletin

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.

4.6 VARIANCE AND APPEALS PRO-

A. The Richardson County Board of Commissioners as established by Richardson County shall hear and decide appeals and requests for variances from the requirements of this ordinance.

B. The Richardson County Board of Commissioners shall hear and decide appeals when it is alleged that there is an error in any requirement, decision, or determination made by the floodplain administrator in the enforcement or administration of this ordinance.

C. Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners, or any taxpayer may appeal such decision to the District Court as provided in Nebraska Revised Statutes Section 23-168 (for counties) and Nebraska Revised Statutes Section 19-192 (for municipalities).

D. In evaluating such appeals and requests, the Richardson County Board of Commissioners shall consider technical evaluation, all relevant factors, standards specified in other sections of this ordinance, and:

1. The danger to life and property due to flooding or erosion damage; 11. The danger that materials may be

swept onto other lands to the injury of others; 111. The susceptibility of the proposed facility and its contents to flood damage and the effect of such damage on the individual owner, future owners,

and neighboring properties;
1v. The importance of the services provided by the proposed facility to the community;

v. The necessity of the facility to have a waterfront location, where applicable; v1. The availability of alternative locations that are not subject to flooding or erosion damage for the proposed use; v11. The compatibility of the proposed use with existing and anticipated devel-

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 ofrise, 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.

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-I 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 writ-

ten 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 tained 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.

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 al-

leged violation; 111. 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 pre-

other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

vent the Richardson County or other

appropriate authority from taking such

SECTION 5.0 STANDARDS FOR FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT 5.1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Alteration or Relocation of a Wa-

tercourse 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, Al-30, and Zone AE without a designated floodway that will cause a rise of more than one foot in the base flood eleva-

tion; 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 encroach-

ments; and b. Supply the fully approved package to the floodplain administrator including any required notifications to potentially affected property owners.

C. Floodway Overlay District 1. Within any floodway, any new construction or substantial improvements shall be prohibited.

11. Standards for the Floodway Overlay District a. New structures for human habita-

tion 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

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.

subject to all the standards of 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:

c. Nonresidential uses such as loading areas, parking, and airport landing

d. Public and private recreational uses such as golf courses, archery ranges, picnic grounds, parks, and wildlife and

5.2 ELEVATION AND FLOODPROOF-ING REQUIREMENTS

A. Residential Structures

1. In Zones A, AE, Al-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, Al-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 specifiéd 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 com-

ponents 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 extraterritorial 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 com-

ponents with the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy 3. A registered professional engineer or architect shall certify that the stan-

dards of the subsection are satisfied.

Such certification shall be provided to

the floodplain administrator as set forth

in Section 4. c. If the 0.2% annual chance floodplain is not identified, the facility shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to three (3) feet above the base flood elevation or be floodproofed to three (3) feet above the

base flood elevation with the standards in 5.2 C (i) (b). d. The facility has at least one access road connected to land outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain that is capable of carrying emergency support vehicles and the top of the access road is no lower than the 0.2% annual

D. Space Below Lowest Floor All new construction and substantial improvements shall not have fully enclosed areas below the base flood el-

chance flood elevation.

evation. 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 or 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

(Continued on Page 10)

plications for floodplain development 111. All requirements listed in the premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 for \$100 of a. Agricultural uses such as general Simplified Approach in FEMA Techpermits. insurance coverage and also that such nical Bulletin 10-01 shall be met and 11. Review all development permit farming, pasture, nurseries, and forapplications to assure that sites are documentation from a registered proconstruction below the base flood eleestry b. Residential uses such as lawns, reasonably safe from flooding and that fessional engineer shall be provided. If vation increases risks to life and propfloodwaters. by the floodplain administrator or the the permit requirements of this ordiall of these requirements are not met, erty. Such notification shall be maingardens, parking, and play areas

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

(Continued from Page 9)

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 floodproofed 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.

 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

 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:

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 structure shall not be used for

• 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

 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 floodproofed 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.

F. Manufactured Homes

in any floodplain.

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 with-

Within any floodplain, manufactured homes shall be prohibited. Require that all manufactured homes to be placed or substantially im-

proved 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 manu-

factured 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

— 11. 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 provi-

sions 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

a. Over-the-top ties be provided at each of the four comers 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

b. Frame ties be provided at each comer 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

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 finnly 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 con-

secutive 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

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 dam-

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 haz-

ards; 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

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 ad-

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."

<u>Critical Facility</u> 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

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. <u>Flood insurance Study (FIS)</u> 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.

<u>Floodplain</u> 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

New Construction for floodplain management purposes, "new con-struction" 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

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

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. <u>Start of Construction</u> 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.

<u>Structure</u> 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.

<u>Subdivision</u> 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 devises, transfer of ownership, or building or lot development.

<u>Substantial Damage</u> 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.

<u>Substantial Improvement</u> 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 reguired 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 Caverzagie Richardson County Board of Commissioners Chairperson

Mary Eickhoff, 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, De-

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

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**

Člerk Magistrate

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 Bethany K. Godemann

Člerk 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

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 Madison McKim

1402 Barada Street Falls City, Nebraska 68355

17-24-31-7

LEGAL NOTICE-ADULT NAME CHANGE IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA Case Number: CI-25-234 IN RE NAME CHANGE OF: Emma llene 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

Emma Ray McKim 1402 Barada Street Falls City, Nebraska 68355

17-24-31-7 **ZNEZ**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Richardson County Planning Commission shall hold a meeting on January 15, 2026, at 6:00 pm at the District Courtroom in the Richardson County Courthouse, 1700 Stone Street, Falls City, Nebraska.

The purpose of the meeting will be to kick-off the new Comprehensive Plan

> Mary L. Eickhoff Richardson County Clerk

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 January 20, 2026, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 2307 Barada Street, Falls City, Nebraska. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comment prior to consideration of an amendment to the redevelopment plan of the City of Falls City, which amendment shall include a specific redevelopment project.

The property which is the subject of this Notice and of the public hearing is identified as PIDs 740081233. 740014323, 740123068 and legally described as follows:

Part of the W1/2E1/2SE1/4 of 15-1-16, Falls City Metes and Bounds, Falls City, Richardson County, Nebraska (3.46 Acres) (PID 740081233)

Part of the SE1/4SE1/4 of 15-1-16 (Annexed 8/18/09), Falls City, Richardson County, Nebraska (3.56 Acres) (PID 740123149)

Part of the W1/2SE1/4SE1/4 of 15-1-16 (Annexed 8/18/09) Falls City, Richardson County, Nebraska (4.53 Acres) (PID

Part of the NE1/4SE1/4SE1/4 S of MOPAC RR 15-1-16, Falls City, Richardson County, Nebraska (Annexed 8/18/09) Metes and Bounds (3.04 Acres) (PID 740123068)

All interested parties shall be afforded at such public hearing a reasonable opportunity to express their views regarding the amendments to the redevelopment plan. A map of the redevelopment area and a copy of the cost-benefit analysis for the proposed redevelopment projects shall be maintained at the Office of the City Clerk.

Anthony Nussbaum, City Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given by the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Falls City, Nebraska, that a public hearing will be held at 4:00 p.m. on January 20, 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 an amendment to the redevelopment plan of the City of Falls City, which amendment shall include a specific redevelopment project.

The property which is the subject of this Notice and of the public hearing is identified as PIDs 740081233, 740123149, 740014323 and 740123068 and legally described as

> Part of the W1/2E1/2SE1/4 of 15-1-16, Falls City Metes and Bounds, Falls City, Richardson County, Nebraska (3.46 Acres) (PID 740081233)

> Part of the SE1/4SE1/4 of 15-1-16 (Annexed 8/18/09), Falls City, Richardson County, Nebraska (3.56 Acres) (PID 740123149)

> Part of the W1/2SE1/4SE1/4 of 15-1-16 (Annexed 8/18/09) Falls City, Richardson County, Nebraska (4.53 Acres) (PID 740014323)

Part of the NE1/4SE1/4SE1/4 S of MOPAC RR 15-1-16, Falls City, Richardson County, Nebraska (Annexed 8/18/09) Metes and Bounds (3.04 Acres) (PID 740123068)

All interested parties shall be afforded at such public hearing a reasonable opportunity to express their views regarding the amendments to the redevelopment plan. A map of the redevelopment area and a copy of the cost-benefit analysis shall be maintained at the office of the City Clerk of the City of Falls City.

Anthony Nussbaum, City Clerk 31-7

The Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors will hold their regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, January 8, 2026, at the NRD headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska. Committee meetings, if necessary, begin at 6:00 p.m. An agenda is being kept current at the office, 62161 Hwy 136, Tecumseh, NE 68450.

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

NOTICE **County Court of Richardson** County, Nebraska Estate of Richard L. Corman, No. PR25-64

Notice is hereby given that on December 22, 2025, in the Richardson County Court, the Registrar appointed Douglas Corman whose address is 4006 Regal Drive, Grand Island, NE 68803 as Personal Representative in intestacy of the estate of said Deceased. Creditors of this estate must file their claim with this Court on or before March 3, 2026 or be forever barred.

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

Wolf, McDermott, Depue, Sabott, Butz, Porto & Fowles, LLC Attorneys for Applicant

ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF DAWSON

VILLAGE OF DAWSON MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD DECEMBER 18TH, 2025 7:00 P.M. DAWSON VILLAGE HALL

A Special Meeting was held Thursday, December 18th, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. at the Dawson Village Hall. Roll call was answered by Tom Burns, Brian Burns, Larry Koch, and Chairper-

son Bill Koch. Clerk was present to record minutes. Absent: Stephanie Ingraham Guests: Chad Buhl along with two others with Georgia Poultry Equipment

Chairperson Bill Koch called the Special Meeting to order at 6:59 P.M.

Chairperson Bill Koch noted the posting of the Open Meeting Act posted on the Village Hall west wall Agenda: Georgia Poultry Equipment Co. chicken barns west of Dawson

Chad presented several documents to the Board to review for the proposed site of the chicken barns. The barns would reside on the former Quinlan property west of Dawson. The proposed site would consist of sixteen (16) barns. Approximately 5 flocks per year; estimating 2 million gallons of water usage a year.

The route of the trucks would run from the site on 638 road north to 712 road and out east to Highway 75. The trucks would not run through the Village.

The Board's main concern of the barns is water consumption and if there would be any impact to the Village water, particularly the levels of the Village's wells. Nemaha Natural Resources District would have to confirm if there would be an impact and if the proposed site would be outside of the Village's well head protection area. Chad and his team are aware they will need to also drill test holes for water

activity.

Another concern: odor – Chad stated chicken barns are at least 1/3 less smell than cattle and hogs. The primary time of odor would be when they are removing manure in between flocks and spreading out on the fields, it would produce more of an odor depending on wind direction and moisture. The manure could be sourced by local farmers

The proposed site appears to be outside of the Village's extraterritorial jurisdiction from the map that was provided. Projected operational date is August/ September 2026. Dirt work would start now if all loose ends were tied up. There would be three employees residing at the barn's location to care for the flock.

The December special meeting was adjourned at 7:54 with a motion by Chairperson Bill Koch and seconded by Tom Burns.

Tiffany Jorn, Village Clerk

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HELP WANTED

TITANS

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.

HTRS TITANS

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. $_{50-1}$

WHITES // HTRS Public School has an immediate opening for a HEAD COOK / FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR

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

DUTIES: Include, but are not 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.

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

HELP WANTED

PEDIATRIC SPEECH THERAPIST: Part-Time hours working 24 hours a week. Current KS Speech Therapist License required. Responsible for performing speech therapy evaluations, assessments, treatments and discharges to pediatric population. Collaboration with Physical & Occupational Therapy required to provide a well-rounded a Pediatric Therapy Program.

NURSE-DAY OR NIGHT SHIFT: Full-Time or Part-Time hours working 5-5 with every 3rd weekend required. Current KS RN or LPN licensure required. Responsible for total patient care within assigned nursing unit. Night Shift differential RN \$8.00/hr, LPN \$5.00/hr. and Weekend differential \$3.00/hr.

HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE NURSE: Part-Time or PRN hours available with some On-Call required. Current KS RN licensure required. Responsible for providing nursing care to individuals who qualify for home care. Along with coordination of services among various disciplines.

SURGERY NURSE: Full-Time position working 4 days a week with 6-8 nights On-Call per month. Current KS LPN or RN license is required. Responsible for scrub, pre- and post-op (and circulating if RN) duties.

RADIOLOGY TECHNOLOGIST: Full-Time or Part-Time hours with approximately 6 nights On-Call per month. Responsible for performing radiology exams as directed by practitioners to provide data for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. Must have a Kansas LRT.

SOCIAL WORKER: Part-Time position working 2 or 3 days per week. Must be a LBSW licensed in the State of Kansas. Responsible for providing individuals and families with psychosocial support needed to cope with a variety of health conditions. This would include discharge planning, assisting with financial assistance forms, transportation and coordination with outside entities. May be required to travel to patients homes periodically.

PHLEBOTOMIST - PHYSICIAN CLINIC: Full-Time position working 830-500 M-F. Primary duties will be phlebotomy and various diagnostic testing. Will be cross trained, so must be flexible and willing to assist clinical staff and business office personnel as needed to ensure smooth day-to-day operations.

An excellent base salary is offered for these positions, which includes PTO and pension plan. If interested in these opportunities visit the hospital's website at www.sabethahospital.com or call Julie Holthaus, Human Resource Director at 785-284-1584.

3-10-17-24-31

Lady Irish looking for consistency

The Lady Irish traveled to St. Joe last Saturday to take on the Bishop LeBlond Lady Eagles. SH came out flat on Saturday, falling behind 12-3 at the end of the first quarter. The Irish scraped and fought to get within three points, 19-16, at the half. Avery Santo led the charge back in the second with five points.

The scoring for both teams picked up the pace in the third. Freshman Bailey Lemerond went crazy in the period, sinking three from deep to keep the Irish close. However, SH still trailed heading into the final period, 38-31. The Irish offense in the fourth kept pace, while the defense flexed its muscles, outscoring LeBlond 14-4. The threes kept falling for Sacred Heart as Daycee Witt sank two and Santo added one more. By the time the final buzzer had sounded, Sacred Heart had pulled off another come-from-behind win, 45-42, and improved to 4-1.

Sacred Heart finished the game shooting 35 percent (14/40) from the floor, including 7-of-21 from deep. Meanwhile, LeBlond hit 34 percent (13-of-38) from the field. The Irish also had success at the foul line, making 10-of-15 attempts. Three Irish players reached double figures with Lemerond leading the way with 12 points, five rebounds and three assists. Santo added 10 points and four boards, while Witt added 10 points and seven rebounds.

SH Scoring: Georges 2, Santo 10, Crouse 3, Witt 10, Lemerond 12, Jones 8.

LeBlond Scoring: Wolf 4, Giles 2, Sego 5, Cohard 7, Frazee 16, Cathcart 8.

In two periods of JV action, SH held on for a 14-13 win. Georges, Lemerond and Jones all had four points.

The Irish got off to a much better start on Monday night when they traveled to Humboldt to take on the HTRS Lady Titans. The Irish were hitting on all cylinders Monday, outscoring HTRS 21-6 in the first quarter, effectively putting the game out of reach. The Irish continued to pressure the Titans and led 38-17 as the teams exited the court for halftime. The second half was played evenly as the Irish rolled to the 29-point win, 62-33.

Avery Santo was on fire in the first period on Monday, sinking four triples as SH raced to a quick 15-point lead. PJ Howe had the only field goal of the first quarter for HTRS, while Elie Bstandig and Maddie Bredemeier added free throws.

The Irish didn't let up in the second. Lemerond had 10 points in the quarter, including two from beyond the arc. After halftime, SH continued to pull away for the win. Santo, Witt (2), and Alise Reschke all hit threes in the second half as the Irish earned the win.

Santo led Sacred Heart with 17 points, finished 5-of-8 from deep. Witt added a double/double, finishing with 11 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists. Also hitting for double digits were Reschke and Lemerond.

The Irish shot 40 percent (21/52) from the floor, while HTRS hit 25 percent (12/49) of their attempts. SH held a slight 39-31 rebounding edge, and SH finished with ten turnovers, while HTRS had 13.

The Lady Titans had two players reach double figures. Bstandig and Bredemeier each finished with 11 points.

SH Scoring: Georges 3, Santo 17, Crouse 3, Witt 11, Reschke 10, Lemerond 10, Bauman 1, Jones 1, H. Jones 6. HTRS Scoring: Bstandig 11, Bredemeier 11, Stewart 3, McClarnen 2, Howe 6.

In three periods of JV action, SH defeated HTRS 29-17. Rachel Bauman had 11 points, and Kinley Lechtenberg added six.

The Lady Irish played in the Freeman Holiday Tourney on Tuesday, December 30 and will play Wednesday, December 31. SH will played Syracuse at 3:30 on Tuesday.



Reed Shupp (32) and Emmett Glathar battle for the rebound in the Titan's loss to Sacred Heart on Monday evening in Humboldt.

Irish survive slow start, race past Titans

The Sacred Heart Irish boys' basketball team made went 7-of-12 from the foul line. The Titans finished with the short drive to Humboldt on Monday, December 22, 2025, to play the HTRS Titans. The Irish struggled to make shots out of the gate, but the Titans were unable to capitalize, and the two teams were tied 8-8 at the end of the first period.

Sacred Heart caught fire and effectively put the game on ice in the second period, outscoring the Titans 25-4 to take a 33-12 halftime lead.

Sacred Heart didn't slow down after the half, outscoring HTRS 18-10 in the third to make it 51-22 with eight minutes remaining.

The Titans outpaced the Irish in the final stanza, 19-16, but the Irish earned the win, 67-41.

The Irish shot 45 percent from the floor, including an 11-for-26 effort from beyond the arc. SH also had a 32-24 rebound and had a 19-to-8 assist advantage.

HTRS made 15-of-46 field goal attempts (33%) and

24 rebounds, 10 assists and five steals.

Senior Emmett Glathar had a game on Monday, leading HTRS with 26 points (17 in the fourth quarter), six rebounds and two blocked shots. Kameon Dettmann also reached double figures with 10 points, while securing five rebounds and five assists.

Cole Taft had the hot hand for Sacred Heart, shooting 7-of-14 from the field for 20 points. Bo Fletcher finished 7-of-13 for 17 points. Brenden Lemerond led SH with six rebounds and six assists. Taft, Hayden Clow and Toby Baxter all added three assists.

SH Scoring: Taft 20, Fletcher 17, Sipple 4, Lemerond 8, Lancaster 5, Clow 7, Howard 4, Knobbe 2.

HTRS Scoring: Dettmann 10, Glathar 26, Hunzeker 5. The Irish played Syracuse in the opening round of the 2025 Freeman Holiday Tourney on Tuesday at 2:00.

TDF Automotive now open on Harlan Street

(Continued from Page 1)

years working on the dealership side, Tyler didn't always have the chance to interact with vehicle owners. Now, he takes time to explain what's happening under the hood, how repairs will be made, and how to keep vehicles running safely. Seeing customers leave with gratitude and confidence has been a highlight of this new chapter.

As he looks toward the first year of business, Tyler's goals remain grounded and sincere. He wants to stand by

his morals, deliver a standard of service he can be proud of, and continue learning every day. Success, he believes, comes from putting your heart into the work and not being afraid to take big steps into the unknown. He hopes to inspire the next generation, his own children and others, to follow their interests and chase their dreams.

Above all, Tyler hopes TDF Automotive becomes known for two things: the quality of work put into every vehicle and the welcoming atmosphere that greets every customer. His goal is to create a space where people feel comfortable asking questions, where they are treated like family, and where they can trust that their safety is always

TDF Automotive is now open and welcoming new customers. To schedule an appointment or learn more about services offered, call (402) 335-7573 or stop by the shop at 1015 Harlan Street.



The Titans' PJ Howe and Elie Bstandig tie up Sacred Heart's Alise Reschke on Monday night.



TRI-STATE SENIORS DANCE & SHINDIG Live Music by Virgil & Cathy - Free Admission THURSDAY, JANUARY 8 ● 1:30-4:00 PM **Bruning Barn (Brown Co. Historical Society**

