

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

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

ADVERTISED IN THIS WEEKS PAPER

January

- 19** Richardson Co. Courthouse Closed
- 23** 37th Annual Midland Empire Farm, Home & Rural Lifestyle Show at St. Joe Civic Arena: 10AM-8PM
- 24** 37th Annual Midland Empire Farm, Home & Rural Lifestyle Show at St. Joe Civic Arena: 9AM-4PM
- 25** Polka Party at ZCBJ CZECH Hall. Potluck at noon. Free dance 1-4PM
- 31** Sacred Heart Bill Simon Memorial Shrimp Feed-6:30 or 8:00PM at Tiehen gym



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- Magnolia Metal
- Nemaha County Hospital
- Jonesbrook Estates LLC
- HTRS Public School
- Sabetha Community Hospital
- BIC - Bruna Implement Co.



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Commissioners agree on pay raises for elected officials

The Richardson County Board of Commissioners met on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, with all Commissioners answering the roll call.

Highway Superintendent Steve Darveau Jr. gave the Board an update on routine maintenance being carried out by the Roads Department.

Darveau and the Board discussed a bad spot in the road near the bridge near the mouth of the Nemaha River. He asked to have an engineer take a core sample to determine if it is a subgrade issue. All agreed that if the issue can be fixed temporarily while the county awaits a response to receiving grant funds, that is the best route to take.

Possibly striping the Rulo bottom road was also discussed. Darveau said that if the grant is not awarded, the issue will be addressed appropriately.

"I don't want to jump the gun and sink \$150,000 into it, and then turn around and get a grant and that gets tore up when the road gets restructured," said Darveau.

The possibility of purchasing a line striper was brought up again. Darveau said the unit would cost roughly \$9,000, but if the county wanted to stripe the blacktop roads, it would pay for itself in no time.

Darveau also asked the Commissioners to consider what repairs they would like to make on the Dustless Blacktop. The Highway Superintendent recommended using a mastic material, a blend of polymer-modified asphalt binder, fine aggregates, and, sometimes, fibers. It is used for repairing large cracks, potholes, and deteriorated asphalt that are too large for crack-sealing repairs.

"I think it's worth a shot," said Darveau. "It's going to save us some money right now."

Darveau went on to state that the road likely needs to be milled and redone, but there are issues associated with that. Issues include cutting down hills, getting rid of the Y's in the road, and bringing them up to standards.

"We're running a touchy line on these right now, period, as far as

(Please turn to Page 3)

CIR continues Richardson County highway wage case to March

Press Release

On Thursday, January 8, 2026, the Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations ("CIR") convened to hear the case filed by the Nebraska Association of Public Employees / AFSCME Local 61 ("Union") to determine wages and terms and conditions of employment of the Richardson County Highway Department ("County") employees represented by the Union.

The Union called as witnesses to testify on its behalf Highway Department employees Brian Dettman, Ronald Ramer, Randy Gilsdorf, Donald Goff, Larry Willman, and Matt Bletscher, who testified as to the work they performed for the County.

The Union then called as its expert witness, Mark Murphy, Associate Director of the Union's Department of Research and Collective Bargaining Services located in Washington, D.C. The Union called Mark Murphy to present expert opinion on wages and fringe benefits in the seven counties selected by the CIR for comparison to the County. The County raised numerous objections to his testimony, causing the Union to request that the hearing be continued in order for it to resolve the County's objections raised at the hearing. The parties agreed to continue the hearing to March 16 and 17, 2026, and the case was ordered continued by the CIR.

Disclaimer: At the time of publication, the Falls City Journal had not received a release from the Nebraska Association of Public Employees / AFSCME Local 61 regarding the hearing.

Falls City Economic Development and Growth Enterprise Inc (Falls City EDGE) receives \$335,495 Affordable Housing Grant for Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation

Falls City Economic Development and Growth Enterprise Inc (Falls City EDGE), was awarded \$335,495 through FHLBank Topeka's 2025 Affordable Housing Program (AHP). This year \$33.9 million in AHP grants were made in partnership with FHLBank Topeka's member financial institutions in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma. The member partnering on this project is F&M Bank. A total of 31 AHP projects will give 1,764 very low-, low- and moderate-income households a place to call home.

This project will provide grants to assist 20 homeowners at or below 80% of the area median income with funds to make improvements to their homes.

"Providing Affordable Housing Program grants through our members each year remains central to our mission," said Jeff Kuzbel, president and CEO of FHLBank Topeka. "The dedication of our members, combined with the creativity of housing experts, is

(Continued on Page 5)

J-Six Enterprises announces development of Fairview Pet Foods in Falls City

J-Six Enterprises of Seneca, Kansas is pleased to announce plans of a construction and renovation project in Falls City, Nebraska, supporting the development of Fairview Petfood, LLC. The project will redevelop an existing industrial facility located along Highway 73 at Falls City's south entrance, transforming the site into a modern processing facility for dry protein feed ingredients. Total project costs are to be determined.

The project involves a 60,000-square-foot renovation, including extensive interior and exterior upgrades. Planned improvements include roof modifications to accommodate automation equipment, interior office and production floor renovations, exterior beautification, utility infrastructure improvements, and secondary entrance from the private access road. The project represents a significant investment in a highly visible industrial corridor and aligns with Falls City's long-term goals to support the agricultural market.

Upon completion, the facility is expected to create 8 to 10 new full-time jobs, with approximately half of the positions on salary, adding quality employment opportunities without placing strain on the local workforce. Operations at the facility are projected to generate approximately 20 truck per day, supporting regional agricultural and manufacturing supply chains while reinforcing Falls City's role as a logistics and processing hub.

To support redevelopment of the site, Fairview Pet Foods has submitted an application for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to assist with eligible redevelopment costs, including demolition, building rehabilitation, infrastructure improvements, and exterior enhancements. These improvements are considered essential to making the project economically feasible and enabling redevelopment of the property.

Construction is expected to begin once approvals are finalized, with project completion targeted for August 2026. J-Six Enterprises employs more than 550 people in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Iowa, bringing extensive experience in agricultural production, manufacturing, storage, transportation, and processing.

Council denies Rural Water Districts' request to waive fees

The Falls City Council met on Monday, January 5, 2026, for the first time in the new year. Councilperson Ruiz was absent from the roll.

In old business, a discussion and action were held on a burn

permit request for 2600 Fulton Street submitted by property owner Dan Simon. The item was on the December 15, 2025, agenda and failed by a 4-3 vote.

Simon addressed the Board, asking for permission to burn

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FALLS CITY JOURNAL FACES OF 2025



1. FALLS CITY CHAMBER & MAIN STREET DIRECTOR AMBER HOLLE

2. FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, MAYOR MARK HARKENDORFF AND CITY CLERK ANTHONY NUSSBAUM

3. RICHARDSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY CLERK MARY EICKHOFF

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 5)



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Prairie Doc

Beyond memory loss:
The human side of dementia

By Ranelle Nissen, Ph.D., OTR/L and Allison Naber, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L

First, you notice the small changes. It may be challenging to find the right word or remember the name of someone you just met. You may forget where you placed your keys when you came home from the grocery store. Overall, you feel healthy, and these instances are easily brushed off as a normal part of aging or the result of poor sleep the night before. However, over time, these instances become more frequent, and you start to miss appointments or struggle to organize your shopping list. If this sounds like you or someone you know, it is time to seek medical help to get screened for dementia.

Dementia is an umbrella term for diseases, such as Alzheimer’s, that cause abnormal brain changes. Over six million adults in the U.S. are living with dementia. There is no clearly identified cause for dementia, but risk factors include age, genetics, family history and lifestyle choices. The cognitive decline associated with dementia may impact a person’s memory, thinking, mood, behavior and functioning. As the disease progresses, the person will need greater assistance with everyday tasks, such as balancing their checkbook, driving, preparing meals and grocery shopping, and eventually with personal care, such as dressing, bathing and toileting. Though new research has identified promising medications to treat the symptoms and slow the disease progression, there is no cure for dementia.

As the disease progresses, its effects reach beyond the individual who has received the diagnosis. The person living with dementia will require increasing levels of support, which is frequently provided by unpaid family members or friends, referred to as care partners or caregivers. These care partners dedicate significant time and financial resources to assist the person with dementia as their needs intensify. Often, they assume responsibilities around the clock and may feel isolated.

If you or someone you love is in this situation, the first step is to seek a diagnosis. Schedule an appointment with your primary care doctor to discuss your concerns. They might refer you to a specialist for further evaluation. Once diagnosed, reach out to the support services available in your community and online. Resources are available through organizations such as the Alzheimer’s Association and the Veterans Affairs, as well as state agencies such as the Department of Human Services. No one needs to face this journey alone. These organizations provide education, respite care, meal preparation, light house-keeping, personal care and support groups. Check with your state to see what resources may be available to you.

In addition to seeking support, it is important to remember that maintaining a sense of purpose and connection can make a meaningful difference for both the person living with dementia and their care partners. Engaging in familiar routines, enjoying favorite activities, and nurturing relationships with family and friends provide comfort and help preserve quality of life. Simple adaptations—like labeling cabinets, organizing daily schedules or using reminder notes—can promote independence and reduce frustration in the early stages. Open communication among loved ones, health professionals and support networks is key to adapting to changing needs. While the journey with dementia brings many challenges, focusing on strengths, celebrating small victories and accessing available resources can help foster resilience and hope for everyone involved.

Ranelle Nissen, Ph.D., OTR/L, serves as an associate dean and associate professor in the School of Health Sciences at the University of South Dakota. Dr. Nissen is a licensed occupational therapist in South Dakota and has helped families and individuals affected by dementia through both her professional work and her volunteer work with the South Dakota Alzheimer’s Association. Allison Naber, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L, is the academic fieldwork coordinator and an associate professor in occupational therapy at the University of South Dakota. Dr. Naber is a licensed occupational therapist in Minnesota and South Dakota. She volunteers for the South Dakota Alzheimer’s Association as a support group facilitator and community educator. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org

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All things Nebraska
State lawmakers have a \$471 million budget shortfall to close, and an expulsion effort to consider

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner

The first time I walked into the State Capitol, I wondered “what is making all these people walk like Olympic racers down these halls?”

I almost got run over by some walkers; the new guy needed to get out of the way.

To be sure, the Capitol hallways extend in a square, making them ideal for a quick walk around the square for exercise or just to clear the brain.

And if you hang around the Capitol long enough, you realize that people who work there – either as staffers or elected officials – need to walk off some steam every once in a while.

You’ll probably see a lot of that during this year’s session of the Nebraska Legislature. There’s plenty on the plate to raise the hackles and blood pressure of the Unicameral’s 49 senators, and it’s an election year, which always raises the temperature of a place known as the “Hall of Hot Winds.”

What’s ahead in the Unicameral’s 60-day session in 2026?

Money, money, money – or the lack of it. The state budget has a \$471 million hole to fill, in large part (in my opinion) because state lawmakers got way too ambitious in cutting state revenue via a gradual, deep reduction in state income taxes adopted in 2023.

Everyone loves a tax cut. But you also have to fund government operations. After digging into the state’s cookie jars (reserve funds) last year to solve a \$415 million budget shortfall, can legislators pull a similar rabbit out of the hat in ‘26? Can more state spending be cut? Or might senators opt to do what’s easiest and makes the most sense, which is to pause the stair-stepped tax cut for a year?

Expel a senator? – Expect a lot of debate over what State Sen. Dan McKeon of Amherst did, allegedly, at a post-2025 session party and whether he should be the first state lawmaker ever to be expelled.

Last month, the Legislature’s Executive Board voted unanimously to recommend expulsion for McKeon, for a “pattern” of conduct that included, allegedly, an inappropriate grab of a female staffer’s bottom, and an off-color sexual joke.

McKeon, who was elected in 2024, has vehemently rejected calls to resign, and insists that his poor attempt at humor was misunderstood.

But such conduct isn’t taken lightly in the Legislature. This debate could get hot.

Economic development – The unexpected closing of the huge meatpacking plant in Lexington – throwing 3,200 people out of work – and calls by the Omaha Chamber of Commerce to improve state tax incentives due to lackluster growth in the state’s biggest cities will get a serious airing.

The University of Ne-

braska estimates that the economic impact of the Tyson plant closing could be \$3.3 billion. Yikes.

Omaha and Lincoln would have generated 68,000 more jobs over the past five years had they kept pace with peer cities, like Sioux Falls, Des Moines and Fayetteville, according to a report done for the Aksarben Foundation. Double yikes.

Haven’t we always been told that income tax cuts generate additional economic activity? Not so much it appears.

Property tax relief – The state’s ag economy, due to low crop prices and high input costs, isn’t exactly running on all cylinders. So some property tax relief would be welcome.

But given the state’s budget problems, will there be any money to increase state tax credits? Might there be a renewed appetite to eliminate more sales tax exemptions to reduce property taxes? It’s an election year, so expect some effort here.

The unexpected – There’s always an issue or two that bubbles up that no one anticipated, which makes the Legislature interesting.

But the “fasten seat belt” light is on. So is the sign that says “walk” around the State Capitol

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: ON THE FARM

- ACROSS**

 - 1.Laura Ingalls’ notebook
 6. Boozier
 9. Biblical pronoun
 13. Sacred text, to some
 14. “Fat chance!”
 15. Afrikaners’ ancestors
 16. Cake spread
 17. Chowd down
 18. Clear the blackboard
 19. *Barn chore
 21. *John Deere, e.g.
 23. Nirvana’s “Come as You ”
 24. Spasm of pain
 25. Broadband access overseer, acr.
 28. Mark for omission
 30. Recessed space
 35. “___ and the Real Girl,” movie
 37. “Shoot!”
 39. E in baseball box score
 40. Oil org.
 41. Intelligent
 43. A mixture or medley
 44. Children’s respiratory disease
 46. Foggy view?
 47. Politicians, for short
 48. In a sympathetic manner
 50. Ski hill ride
 52. Maiden name indicator
 53. Bald eagle’s nest
 55. Repeated Latin dance step
 57. *a.k.a. harvester
 61. *Opposite of pasture
 65. *Common varieties are yellow, red and white
 66. Tall tale
 68. Smooth, in manner
 69. Audience’s approval
 70. “___ at ease”
 71. Stomach sore
 72. Caribou or moose
 73. Soldier’s bed
 74. Harsh
- DOWN**

 1. *Separate cream from milk
 2. Locust, pl.
 3. Seed coat
 4. Form of Japanese poetry
 5. Encircle
 6. Deep pile carpet
 7. *Cereal grass
 8. Sorority letter
 9. Cleopatra’s necklace
 10. Thermostat option
 11. Guesstimate phrase (2 words)
 12. Olympic cast-out, e.g.
 15. Charles Darwin’s vessel
 20. Must-haves
 22. Ribonucleic acid, acr.
 24. Fine
 25. *Group of chickens
 26. Birthplace of Caprese
 27. Oedipus’ successor
 29. *Baby sheep
 31. * ___ rotation
 32. Acrylic fiber
 33. Bridal veil fabric
 34. With a jagged margin
 36. Gulf War missile
 38. *Pasture-raised chicken’s morsel
 42. Vanish without this?
 45. Lamentation
 49. Japanese capital
 51. Rh in Rh disease
 54. Indiana Jones’ find, e.g.
 56. Not a minor
 57. For boys and girls
 58. Popular fairy-tale beginning
 59. Stephen King’s “The Green ___”
 60. *Male pig
 61. Abe Lincoln’s hat material
 62. Tatted cloth
 63. Done
 64. Seaside bird
 67. UN labor grp.

CROSSWORD

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“SEZ-I” LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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



75 Years Ago, January 14, 251 to January 20, 1951

Larry M. Weaver, Verdon area, was re-elected to the Board of Supervisors of the Pioneer Drainage District of Nebraska. The district was created in 1906 to drain large areas of the bottoms and to straighten the winding Nemaha River channel to speed the flow of water to the Missouri River, consequently reducing the number of floods.

Mass Murderer Bill Cook was arrested near Tijuana, Mexico. Cook was responsible for at least eight murders stretching from Illinois to Arkansas, California and ending in Mexico.

Seventeen purebred Holsteins belonging to John Cander of Humboldt set a November record. His dairy herd was the highest producing butterfat herd of Nebraska in the group of herds haying 16 or more cows. His 17 cows produced an average of 57.1 pounds of butterfat and 1,608 pounds of milk for the month.

“All about Eve,” starring Bette Davis, Anne Baxter and George Sanders, showed at the Rivoli Theater.

The Sacred Heart junior high school teams defeated Honey Creek. In the first game, SH won 22-16 with Bob Miller leading the Irish with 14. The Irish won the second contest 36-11. Lamarr Gibson scored 10 for SH, while Larry “MVP” Harmon had seven for Honey Creek.

Ralph Weddle of Falls City became the manager of the James Oil Company at Nebraska City, succeeding Garnet Jackson.

A B-36 Bomber set a record for its type of flying non-stop for 51 hours and 31 minutes. The plane took off and landed at Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, TX.

Smallpox, pneumonia and influenza, which had already killed more than 1,000 people, spread through Britain and Ireland.

Dale Hanika escaped serious injury when the tractor he was operating overturned and pinned him beneath the machine. The accident happened between 12th and 13th on Stone Street.

Don Heinzelman was elected as vice president of the Falls City Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. James Wetmore was installed as worthy matron and James Wetmore as worthy patron in the installation of new officers for the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Greyhound Buses advertised one-way trips to Denver for \$12.10 and to Los Angeles for \$29.70, departing from Baker’s Drive-In Cafe at 1317 Harlan.

According to a news story out of Hollywood, a movie studio was planning a film on the life of the late Vince Foster, a welterweight fighter from Rulo. The fighter was killed in a car accident shortly after losing a fight in 1949.

Falls City won its sixth game of the season by defeating Fairbury 44-35. Frank Falloon had 15 points and 14 rebounds.

Curt Tisdell scored eight, and Charles Herold added seven as the Salem Bobcats defeated Sacred Heart 31-25.

50 Years Ago, January 14, 1976 to January 20, 1976

Rodney P. Vandenberg was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce, succeeding Richard Halbert. Five new directors were also chosen, including Mike Kleineweber, Bill Milam, Mrs. Art Tauchen, Marvin Pethoud and Homer Henke.

“Nashville,” featuring Keigh Carradine, Karen Black and Jeff Goldblum, was shown at the Rivoli Theater.

Car Messner was named the Falls City High School wrestler of the week. Messner pinned Ed McClure of Wymore Southern in 2:52 for the win in the 167-pound division.

The Irish basketball team fell 47-29 to (18-1) Northeast Nodaway in semifinal action of the Fairfax Invitational Tournament. Steve Pokorny led SH with 12 points.

A beefburger basket and a small drink were just 78 cents at the Dairy Dip.

John T. Lyons of Dawson, charged with driving while his operator’s permit was under suspension, was sentenced to one year’s probation in county court.

Miss Cheryl Arnold, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Arnold of Salem, was elected queen of the Falls City Riding Club. Miss Robin Reschke, 16, was chosen as the alternate.

The Tiger freshman basketball squad fell to Auburn 70-43. Knapp had 21 points for Auburn, while Kevin Scheitel (19) and Greg Kratz (10) led FC.

Ed Kirkendall, Falls City wrestler, was ranked third in Class B at 132 pounds.

Tim Hoy, a freshman, placed second in the long jump and third in the triple jump as the Air Force indoor track season got underway.

The Falls City Jaycees were asking for nominations for the D.S.A. Banquet coming up at the Falls City Elks Club. Nominations were sought for the Distinguished Service Award, Outstanding Young Educator and Boss of the Year.

Under the co-sponsorship of The First National Bank and KTNC, Kansas City Royals Player-of-the-Year George Brett and Pitcher-of-the-Year Dennis Leonard would be in FC on Tuesday, January 27, to meet fans and sign autographs.

Gerald Hopp was named the new County Agent, stepping into the position vacated by the retiring Tom Aitken.

John Fisher, Dan Convey, Mike Riley, Mary Jo Hayes, Joni Bucher, and Patti Stevicks were winners in the Falls City Elks Lodge Hoop Shoot competition.

25 Years Ago, January 14, 2001, to January 20, 2001

Ed O’Grady stepped down as chairman of the Nemaha Natural Resources District after three years of leading the Board. Succeeding O’Grady was Gerald Royal from Palmyra.

Jim Sefried was re-appointed chairman of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners.

The Nursery School advertised a Valentine’s special of one dozen red roses for \$36.

The Irish teams swept the MUDECAS basketball tournament in Beatrice. The Lady Irish defeated Daniel Freeman 53-50, and the boys beat Sterling 55-34.

HTRS junior heavyweight Justin Shupp was rated in the top six in Class D and earned a gold medal at the Weeping Water Invite.

The Tigers junior high team defeated Tarkio Academy 60-42. Drew Froeschl and Kory Huppert each scored 13 points for FC.

Twenty-three prospective hunters completed the Hunter Safety Education Course presented at City Hall. The class was taught by instructor Dennis Chandler, with assistance from Steve Jamison and Jerry Clark.

Pillsbury assorted Toaster Strudel was on sale for 99 cents, and Blue Bunny Ice Cream was \$2.99 per half-gallon at SunMart in Falls City.

Sandy Stalder, an American National Bank employee, was named president of the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce.

The Richardson County Commissioners were looking for volunteers to serve on a committee that would investigate the possibility of hard surfacing a portion of the county’s road system. At the time, it was estimated to cost between \$ 70,000 and \$80,000 per mile.

Nic Sikora was included on the Dean’s List for the fall semester at Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph.

Matilda Zimmerman, a resident of Midland Villa, celebrated her 107th birthday.

It was announced that the Tigers would host Auburn at the High School on January 23. The game would be the first played on the new wooden floor that had been installed.

The Lady Irish forced 53 turnovers and got 32 steals in a 76-25 win over Nebraska City Lourdes.

The Southeast Consolidated girls defeated Falls City 55-34 in action at Prichard Auditorium. Tiffany Georges led SE with 18 points.

Hullman’s Ford had three 1997 Ford Expeditions available for \$20,500 each. All were fully loaded, XLT models, V-8s with full power and 4x4.

Jamie and Megumi Baker were the parents of a daughter, Skylar Leslie Aya Baker, born at Community Medical Center.

Commissioners agree on pay raises for elected officials

(Continued from Page 1) what we can do and can’t do at this point in time,” said Darveau.

Darveau said the mastic was worth trying, “I don’t think we had very good coverage on our last chip and seal. I was not impressed.”

When questioned about the life expectancy of the mastic versus the chip-and-seal, Darveau said, “You’re going to get about four to five years out of either one.”

The Board agreed that Darveau should begin the process to obtain bids.

Darveau also told the Board that every semi and truck was being used to haul rock.

Sheriff Rick Hardesty advised the Board that the Law Enforcement Center was housing 17 inmates. He also reported that the “Drive Sober-Get Pulled Over” grant, which ran from December 12, 2025, to January 1, 2026, resulted in 414 calls for service and 76 citations, including 18 arrests and 2 DUIs.

He also presented a report with the 2025 end-of-year numbers. The jail booked 393 persons: 49 from other agencies, 39 out-of-county holds, and 305 from the Sheriff Department. The department executed 21 search warrants. The Sheriff Department responded to 8,688 calls, 3,522 of those being traffic stops. Totals for the City of Humboldt were also provided. The Sheriff Department responded to 1,044 calls, including 135 traffic stops; served six search warrants; and made 25 arrests.

Fees collected in 2025 were \$21,487.73 for paper service and warrant fees and \$51,360.41 for housing prisoners from other agencies.

The Board considered rescheduling the public

hearing regarding a change to the resolution regarding zoning overlay district floodplain management ordinance 60.3(d), effective October 7, 2021. The Board decided to table the matter for now.

The Board also approved an MOU with the Nebraska Supreme Court regarding the placement of security cameras in the courtrooms.

A motion was made by Caverzagie to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-22, setting the mileage reimbursement rate for county employees at 0.725 cents per mile. The motion carried.

Reports showed fees collected in December totaled \$419.46 for the County Clerk, \$19,102 for the Register of Deeds and \$860 for District Court.

The Commissioners held a review of information to establish a resolution setting the salaries of elected officials from January 2027 to January 2031. A discussion ranged from the percentage of raises to the counties they were using as comparables. After a long dialogue, it was agreed to raise the elected officials’ salaries to \$80,000 in 2027, an 8.8 percent increase from the \$73,487.30 they currently earn. Then the official will receive a 3.5 percent raise each year, beginning in 2028 and running through 2030. By the final year, the officials will make \$88,697.43. The Commissioners agreed that the usual 2% raise wouldn’t be enough to keep pace.

The Sheriff’s salary is set at 125 percent of the elected official’s salary, and the county attorney’s salary is set at 160 percent of the elected official’s salary.

In 2027, the salaries will be as follows: County Attorney \$128,000; Sheriff \$104,000; County Commissioner (unchanged) \$36,743.70; Surveyor \$17,282; and Assessor, Clerk, Clerk of District Court, and Treasurer \$80,000.

The Sheriff’s wage could have been set at 140 percent because he also serves as the Jail Administrator. After discussion, the Board agreed to set the Sheriff’s wages at 130 percent, given that he was also the jail administrator. Hardesty said he would continue to run the jail until he could get an administrator properly trained, which could take up to two years.

Commissioner Campbell reiterated that he wanted the Commissioner’s salaries frozen.

Commissioner Caverzagie recommended raising the Election Commission’s wages from \$3,000 to \$4,000, and the Budget Making Authority’s wages from \$2,000 to \$4,000 per year. Currently, Clerk Mary Eickhoff is performing both duties.

Caverzagie stated, “I don’t want to pay a firm, I don’t know how to do a budget.”

The claims were paid, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:22.

"I have a dream..."

"I have a dream..."

**THE OFFICES OF THE
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WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, JANUARY 19
IN OBSERVANCE OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**

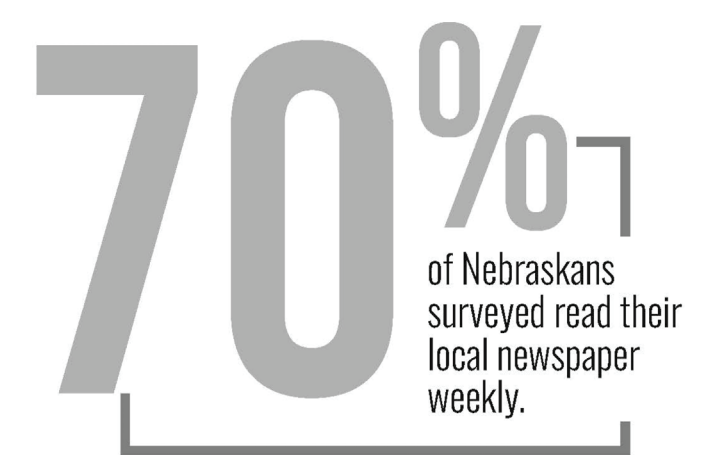
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Source: Nebraska Statewide Study 2025, Coda Ventures

Holiday toy drive provides gifts for 153 Richardson County children

Each November, the gym at the Richardson County Sheriff’s Office becomes a central staging area for the county’s annual holiday toy drive, a community effort that provides Christmas gifts for children across eastern Richardson County.

This year, gifts were provided for 153 children from 65 families, ranging in age from newborn through 18 years old.

Donations come from several coordinated efforts including the Angel Tree program, the Jingle Bell Ride and the Sheriff’s Office Stuff the Cruiser event. Gifts collected through those drives are combined to fill children’s wish lists.

Angel Tree sponsors are matched with specific wish lists and purchase gifts for the child(ren) they adopt. This year, 29 individuals, businesses and organizations participated as Angel Tree sponsors.

Not all wish lists are fully filled by Angel Tree donors. Gifts collected during the Jingle Bell Ride and Stuff the Cruiser events are used to complete remaining requests. Additional community support supplements the three main drives. An anonymous donor provided bicycles for the second consecutive year. Proceeds from

a craft and bake sale at CMC were donated toward the toy drive again this year. Cooper Nuclear employees contributed gift cards. This year, families also received food gift cards.

Businesses and organizations that donated gifts or funds this year include Frontier Bank, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Fast Global, F&M Bank, the Elks, St. Paul’s Church, Prairie Union Baptist Church, Cooper Nuclear, Dorr and Clark Funeral Home, the Cub Scouts and American National Bank.

Planning for the project begins in October when SEN-CA collects wish list applications from families with children in need. Angel Tree sponsors are matched in November. The Jingle Bell Ride is held later that month, followed by the Stuff the Cruiser event in early December with donation sites at Hy-Vee, Farm & City and Dollar General.

The best part of the process is distribution of the gifts in mid-December, as joy is in the giving. This year, we had a significant increase in applicants. We are so grateful for all the donations that pour in from the community during this season of giving so we can fill all these wish lists. The families are grateful!



State Bank of Table Rock
President & CEO, Mark Joy,
announces retirement

Mark Joy, President & CEO of the State Bank of Table Rock, has announced his retirement effective January 30, 2026.

Mark has led the bank as President & CEO for the last eight years. He has been with the State Bank of Table Rock for over 21 years and has over 40 years in his banking career.

Before joining State Bank of Table Rock, Mark taught Vocational Agriculture and was the FFA Advisor at the Lewiston Consolidated Schools and was a loan officer for the Farm Credit Services in the mid 80’s. In 1987, he came to Humboldt and worked at the former Home State Bank & Trust Company and American National Bank. In 2005, he began his career with the State Bank of Table Rock and became the President & CEO in January of 2017.

Mark’s commitment to community service extends beyond banking. He has been active in the Humboldt Community for over 35 years. He’s been the President of the Humboldt Lions Club, Humboldt Shares, Inc. and the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce. He has served on the HTRS School Board, Quad County Golf Association Board, Friends of the Auditorium Board, and the Humboldt Volunteer Fire Department. He currently is a Trustee and Elder of the Christian Church, Disciple of Christ, a Trustee on the Nebraska Bankers Association’s Volunteer Employees Benefit Association and serves on the Midwest Independent Bank Advisory Committee.

Mark is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Susan Joy, in retirement. Together, they plan to travel, spend time with the grandkids, honey do’s, and golf as much as possible.

From the owners, Rick & Bobbie Stillinger Kunze, we wish him the best in his retirement and look forward to his continued contributions as a member of the State Bank of Table Rock’s Board of Directors. The Board of Directors and the employees at the State Bank of Table Rock extend their heartfelt thanks to Mark for his leadership, vision, and commitment to the bank and the communities we serve.

SOCIETY

GFWC/NFWC Stella
Research Club

By Elizabeth Ketner
secretary

The GFWC/NFWC Stella Research Club met at the home of its president, Vicki Beilke, on December 15, 2025. The meeting was called to order and Jan McMullen gave the opening prayer and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Elizabeth Ketner called roll. The seven members present responded by donating food pantry items for SENCA. Mrs. Ketner read the minutes of the November 17, 2025, meeting and they were approved as read.

The treasurer’s report was given by President Beilke. \$ 25.00 had been donated to the firemen for Santa’s transportation.

A bill for \$ 60.00 for candy for Santa’s visit will be given to the Village of Stella to pay.

Correspondence- writing contest forms were sent to 11 area schools. Ten students went to the recent contest in Seward. Samples of the writing from Humboldt students were passed around.

Christmas- Santa visited Stella on December 6th. Seventeen children visited with Santa. It was noted that 20 candy sacks had been made up.

Courtesy- cards will be sent to present and former members Bonnie Mehlin, Jan Mason, Susan Luther,

and Diana Rieschick.

The club is aligned with the Department of Roads again for highway cleaning - sometime in the spring.

The January meeting is scheduled for the 19th. It may need to be changed.

There was a discussion on how to commemorate America’s 250th birthday. The club could have a coffee day.

The Sophomore Pilgrimage will be in early April. The club will check to see what students have ties to club members or former members.

Everyone had received a contribution calendar with suggested ‘fines’ for various items. The club may work on this in the spring.

A thank you letter had been received from last month’s guest speaker, David Reinartz, and Mrs. Ketner read it.

The February meeting will have Dr Carla Ketner, a Seward writer, as its speaker. To make travel easier for her, the meeting may be held at the Lied Center.

Mrs. Ketner gave two Federation minutes, which told of other clubs and their projects.

The meeting was adjourned.

Members participated in a gift exchange while Mrs. McMullen read Clement Clark Moore’s “A Visit from St. Nicholas”. Refreshments were served by Cornette McFadden, with Chris Joy assisting. Jackie Uhri was an absentee hostess.



JANUARY 2026 PROMOTIONS



THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST, 2026
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
SCOOP UP THE RICHES IN THE NEW YEAR!

Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$250 in CASH or free play every ½ hour 12pm-4pm. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$500 in free play every hour 6pm-10pm. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$300 in free play every ½ hour 11pm-12am.

Registration CASH Drawings to win \$500 at 6:30pm, \$750 at 7:30pm, \$1,000 at 8:30pm, \$1,250 at 9:30pm, and \$1,500 at 10:30pm.

RULES FOR REGISTRATION CASH DRAWING
Registration for the CASH drawings will start at 4:30pm. Must be present in Casino to qualify. One registration per person and can only win one cash drawing. (Due to possible inclement weather, this promotion could be rescheduled and/or modified).



FRIDAYS,
JANUARY 2ND, 9TH, 16TH, 23RD, & 30TH
SNOWMAN’S LUCKY LOOT!

Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$250 in free play every ½ hour from 12pm-4pm. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$500 in free play every hour from 6:30pm-12:30am. Registration Drawings to win \$500 in CASH!! Every hour 6pm-1am.

RULES FOR REGISTRATION CASH DRAWING
Registration for the CASH drawings will start at 4pm. Must be present in Casino to qualify. One registration per person and can only win one cash drawing. (Barrel will be dumped after 1am drawing each night) (Due to possible inclement weather, this promotion could be rescheduled and/or modified).

SATURDAYS, JANUARY 3RD, 10TH, 17TH, 24TH, AND 31ST
PLOW YOUR WAY TO RICHES!! SNOW BLOWER GIVEAWAY!

Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$250 in free play every ½ hour from 12pm-4pm. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$500 in free play every ½ hour from 6pm-1:00am. (Excludes the 12am drawing) Registration Ticket Drawing to win a SNOW BLOWER at 12am each Saturday. Registration begins at 6pm.

Snow Blower Giveaway Rules on Saturdays, January 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st:
Starting January 1, 2026, you may register once daily from 6pm - 12am, Sunday – Saturday. You can win extra entries for the drawing by winning a Hot Seat Mondays-Thursdays. Must be present in the Casino to win. You may register once daily. Registering more than once a day is a violation of the rules and could result in being disqualified from the drawing. You must be present the night of the drawing. (Due to possible inclement weather, this promotion could be rescheduled and/or modified).



DAILY DRAWINGS

SUNDAYS

Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$75 in free play every ½ hour from 12pm-4pm. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$100 in free play every ½ hour from 6pm-12am. All Hot Seat winners will get an extra registration in the SNOW BLOWER Giveaway.

MONDAYS

ELECTRIC SHOVEL GIVEAWAY AT 3PM & 9PM!

Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$75 in free play every ½ hour from 12pm-4pm. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$100 in free play every ½ hour from 6pm-12am. All Hot Seat winners will get an extra registration in the SNOW BLOWER Giveaway. Hot Seat Drawing to win an Electric Shovel Giveaway at 3pm and 9pm. Immediately after 3pm and 9pm Hot Seat Drawings for free play, another Hot Seat will be done for the Electric Shovel. You can only qualify for this drawing if you haven't won a Hot Seat for the day.

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

Hot Seat Drawings to win \$50 in Free Play every ½ hour from 12pm-4pm. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$75 in free play every ½ hour from 6pm-12am. All Hot Seat winners will get an extra registration in the SNOW BLOWER Giveaway.

THURSDAYS - ELECTRIC SHOVEL GIVEAWAY AT 3PM & 9PM!
(EXCLUDES THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST)

Hot Seat Drawings to win \$50 in Free Play every ½ hour from 12pm-4pm. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$75 in free play every ½ hour from 6pm-12am. All Hot Seat winners will get an extra registration in the SNOW BLOWER Giveaway.

Hot Seat Drawing to win an Electric Shovel Giveaway at 3pm and 9pm. Immediately after 3pm and 9pm Hot Seat Drawings for free play, another Hot Seat will be done for the Electric Shovel. You can only qualify for this drawing if you haven't won a Hot Seat for the day.

SPECIAL
BINGO
PROMOS

THURS., JANUARY 1,
2026 - NEW YEAR'S
DAY SPECIAL

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Bingo session!

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RANDOM CASH
DRAWINGS

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FROM THE JOURNAL ARCHIVES

Commissioners were a front page fixture during regular meetings addressing topics such as road and bridge projects, county budgeting, personnel mat-

The front page appearances of the Richardson County Commissioners during 2025 illustrated the increasing attention paid to county government and the lasting impact of its decisions on Richardson County residents.

About FHLBank Topeka: FHLBank Topeka is one of 11 Federal Home Loan Banks that accesses the capital markets to provide liquidity and funding for its members. With nearly \$80 billion in assets and more than \$4 billion in

A black and white photograph of a family of five in a grocery store. A woman in a long coat holds a vintage television set. Four children stand around her. The background features shelves of groceries, a Christmas tree, and a Santa Claus figure. A sign for '7up' is visible on the floor.

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.*

Porter stated, “We are dedicated to helping Nebraska libraries meet Nebraskans’

Public libraries in Nebraska are accredited for a five-year period. To learn more about this process and to see a complete list of all accredited Nebraska public libraries, go to <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>.

The Nebraska Library Commission congratulates the public libraries listed below as they move forward toward the realization of this vision for the future: "All Nebraskans will have improved access to enhanced library and information services, provided and facilitated by qualified library personnel, boards, and supporters with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes necessary to provide excellent library and information

As the state library agency, the Nebraska Library Commission is an advocate for the library and information needs of all Nebraskans. The mission of the Library Commission is statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library and information services, "bringing together people and information."

<h1>The MENU</h1> <p>SINCE 2021</p>	
<p>FALLS CITY ELKS CLUB</p> <p>1417 Stone St., Falls City • 402-245-3814</p> <p>SUNDAY BUFFET: Open To Public 11-1.</p> <p>Chicken Buffet or Buckets To Go.</p> <p>TUESDAY, Jan. 20 - Regular Menu</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, Jan. 15 - WING WEDNESDAY</p> <p>THURSDAY, Jan. 15 - Regular menu</p> <p>FRIDAY, Jan. 16- Whole Fried Catfish & Meatloaf</p> <p>SATURDAY, Jan. 17 : Regular menu</p> 	<p>W-7 DESIGN CO.</p> <p>1615 Stone St., Falls City • 402-245-4777</p> <p>LUNCH \$15</p> <p>Charcuterie Lunch Boxes</p> <p>Chicken Salad Croissant, Chicken Salad Wrap.</p> <p>MINI SLIDERS: Turkey, Ham, Roast Beef (Can Mix Meats)</p> <p>WRAPS: Turkey, Ham, Roast Beef (Can Mix Meats)</p> 
<p>SAC & FOX TRAD'N POST</p> <p>3226 US Hwy 73 Reserve, KS• 785-742-2037</p> <p>DAILY ALL WEEK</p> <p>10:30AM-9:00PM</p> <p>CHAMPS Chicken Strips Dippers Bone-In</p> <p>BLU TACO Tacos, Burritos, Bowls & More!</p> 	<p><i>Smiley Bee</i> Coffee & Sweets Shop</p> <p>1715 Stone St. (402) 245-5171</p> <p>Breakfast Items available through lunch or later!</p> <p>Salads, Paninis, House-Made Salad Sandwiches</p> <p>WEEKLY SOUPS: Creamy Potato & Minestrone</p> <p>WEEKLY HOT AND READY SANDWICH:</p> <p>Chipotle Sloppy Joes</p> <p>ALL AVAILABLE 11 A.M. TO 8 P.M.</p> <p>NEW TO THE MENU: Cinnamon Rolls, Dark Choc Cheesecake</p> <p>SOFT SERVE: vanilla, chocolate, salted caramel, coconut lime</p> <p><i>ALL ITEMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND AVAILABILITY</i></p>  

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FALLS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS AND STATISTICS

December 31, 2025 through January 1, 2026 calls: three miscellaneous calls, one animal call, one gun permit, one investigation, two ambulance/EMS calls, one citation for improper/defective vehicle lighting, once citation for possession of drug paraphernalia, once citation for driving during revocation impound, citation for a nonresident violation, 30 day immunity, once citation for a possession of marijuana, one warning for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one warning for a stop, sign violation, one warning for a muffler violation, and one 911 call.

January 1, 2025 through January 2, 2026 calls: one noise disturbance, one investigation, one law enforcement assist, one ambulance/EMS call, one gun permit, one burn permit, one domestic disturbance, two miscellaneous calls, three traffic/driving complaints, one animal call. One citation for fail to signal before 100’, one citation for no license on person, one citation for DUI-.15+, one citation for unlawful display of renewal tabs, one citation for terroristic threats, one citation for possess deadly weapon while committing a felony, one citation for criminal trespass 2nd degree, one citation for committing child abuse negligently with no injury, one citation for disturbing the peace, one citation for disobeying stoplight, one citation for misuse of school permit, one warning for improper bicycle equipment, two warnings for fail to signal before 100’, one warning for expired operator’s license, one warning for illegal U-turn, one warning for improper/defective vehicle lighting, and four 911 calls.

January 2, 2025 through January 3, 2026 calls: three referred other agency calls, two gun permit calls, two miscellaneous calls, one animal call, one burn permit call, one theft call, one alarm call, one check welfare call, four 911 calls total, and one citation for theft by unlawful taking (\$0–\$500).

January 3, 2025 through January 4, 2026 calls: one investigation, five ambulance/EMS calls, one burn permit, one animal call, one referred other agency call, one found or lost property call, and one law enforcement assist, for a total of eleven calls. There were six 911 calls. One warning was issued for invalid registration and one warning for improper or defective vehicle lighting. Three citations were issued for invalid registration

January 5, 2025 through January 6, 2026 calls: one suspicious person/vehicle call, four miscellaneous calls, five burn permits, one referred other agency call, one accident, two check welfare calls, one alarm, and three ambulance/EMS calls, for a total of eighteen calls. There was one 911 call. One warning was issued for unlawful or fictitious display of plate/renewal tab, and one warning was issued for invalid registration.

January 6, 2025 through January 7, 2026 calls: three miscellaneous calls, four ambulance/EMS calls, one parking complaint, one 911 hang-up/misdial, one animal call, two gun permits, one traffic/driving complaint, one HHS intake/referral, and one fire call. Six 911 calls. One citation for failure to report suspected abuse, one citation for animal running at large, and one citation for speeding. Two warnings for invalid registration, two warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one warning for failure to use turn signal, one warning for speeding, and one warning for unlawful/fictitious display of renewal tabs.

January 7, 2025 through January 8, 2026 calls: two 911 hang-ups/misdials, two ambulance/EMS calls, five nuisance calls, one miscellaneous call, one burn permit, one check welfare, and one motorist assist. Two 911 calls. One warning for invalid registration.

DISTRICT COURT

Donald E. Murphy Jr., count one, fail to report every 3 months/prior, pled not guilty. Hearing scheduled for January 20, 2026.

William Beddow Jr., count one, assault by strangulation or suffocation, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes custody of the Department of Corrections for two years, post release supervision for term of 18 months, post release supervision admin enrollment fee of \$30, post release supervision probation fee (monthly) \$180, credit for 307 days served.

William Beddow Jr., count one, sexual assault-first degree, amended to sexual assault-third degree, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes custody of the Department of Corrections for term of one year, credit for 307 days served.

Kevin W. Osborne, count one, possess controlled subs, amended to attempt of a class 4 felony, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$1,000; count two, identity fraud-first, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes fine of \$1,000 and jail for three days, credit for three days served; counts 3-7 amended to dropped/dismissed.

Aimee L. Vermeer, count one, possess controlled subs, amended to attempt of a class 4 felony, plea changed to guilty, found guilty; counts 2-3 amended to dropped/dismissed. Sentencing scheduled for February 10, 2026.

Richard A. Kirkendall,

count one amended to dropped/dismissed; count two, intimidation-phone call/electronic communication, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$500.

Jamone D. Taylor, counts 1-3, possess controlled subs, pled not guilty; count four, no proof of insurance, pled not guilty; count five, no operator’s license, pled not guilty; count six, unlawful/fict display of plate/renew tab, pled not guilty; count seven, no valid registration, pled not guilty; count eight, possess marijuana 1 oz or less, pled not guilty; count nine, possess or use drug paraphernalia, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for January 27, 2026.

Stephanie Corliss, count one, attempt of a class 2 felony, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for February 3, 2026.

River McNeely, count one, theft-unlawful taking \$5,000+, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for January 27, 2026.

Matthew T. Nix, count one, sexual assault of a child-first degree, pled not guilty; count two, incest-under 18 years of age, pled not guilty; count three, commit child abuse intentionally/no injury, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for February 17, 2026.

Blake A. Kaler, count one, theft-unlawful taking \$5,000+, pled not guilty; counts 2-3, theft-unlawful taking \$1,500-4,999, pled not guilty; count four, contribute to delinquency of child, pled not guilty; counts 5-6, criminal mischief \$501-1,499, pled

not guilty. Entry of plea scheduled for February 3, 2026.

Otis C. Mann, counts 1-3, amended to dropped/dismissed; count four, burglary, pled no contest, found guilty; count five, possess deadly weapon-prohibited person, pled no contest, found guilty; count six, theft-unlawful taking \$1,500-4,999, pled no contest, found guilty; count seven amended to dropped/dismissed. Sentencing scheduled for February 24, 2026.

COUNTY COURT

Bryson Schlicker, count one, nonresident violate susp/rev order, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$100; count two, speeding 16-20 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125.

Blake C. Rolfe, count one sell tobacco/elec nicotine-under 21, pled not guilty; count two, sell tobacco/elec nicotine-under 21, pled not guilty; counts 3-4, procure/sell alcohol to minor/incompetent, pled not guilty.

Felipe D. Acosta Campos, count one, drive under susp/before reinstated, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$100.

Julian M. Cooper, count one, DV assault-3rd/cause bodily injury/sub, amended to DV assault-3rd cause bodily injury, pled no contest, found guilty; counts 2-3 amended to dropped/dismissed. Sentencing scheduled for February 23, 2026.

Ida Rowland, count one, commit child abuse negligently/no injury, amended to disturbing the peace, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$100.

Julian M. Cooper, count one, commit child abuse intentional/no injury; Class 3A felony, amended to commit child abuse negligently/no injury; Class 1 misdemeanor, pled no contest, found guilty; counts 2-6 amended to dropped/dismissed. Sentencing scheduled for February 23, 2026.

CITATIONS

Christopher Whitt of Wichita, KS, count one, no operator’s license, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Anderson)

Navaeh Yale of Shenandoah, IA, count one, speeding 21-35 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$300 and court costs. (Franks)

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

Andrew Washington of Meridian, ID, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Dutcher)

Makenzie Dunkel of Scottsbluff, count one, no valid registration, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Novak)

Unieke Christian of Houston, TX, count one, no valid registration, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs.

(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

Nebraska Republican Party opens delegate registration for county and state conventions

The Nebraska Republican Party (NEGOP) announced today that registration is open for Republicans interested in serving as delegates to their 2026 county conventions and the 2026 Nebraska Republican Party State Convention.

Any registered Republican voter in Nebraska may register to serve as a delegate. Delegate registration is open January 1 through March 1, 2026, with a \$5 filing fee required. Registration must be completed during this period to be eligible to participate as a seated delegate. Registration may be completed through the www.ne.gop website.

County conventions are a cornerstone of the Republican Party’s grassroots process. Held every two years, these local meetings are where county party officers are elected and delegates are selected to represent each county at the state convention, helping guide the party’s direction.

“Serving as a delegate is one of the most direct ways Republicans can make their voices heard,” said Mary Jane Truemper, Chairman of the Nebraska Republican Party. “Our county conventions are where grassroots Republicans come together to shape leadership and priorities, and we encourage anyone who wants to be involved to take part.”

County conventions will be held between March 15 and April 15, 2026, with dates, times, and locations determined by each county party. No prior party experience is required to serve as a delegate.

For additional information or assistance with registration, individuals are encouraged to contact their county party chairman or the Nebraska Republican Party. County contact information is available at ne.gop/about-your-party/in-your-county.

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Lady Irish looking for consistency heading to MUDECAS

The second-ranked Lady Irish split a pair of contests this past week. The Lady Irish fell to Class C-2 No. 5-ranked Elmwood-Murdock on Tuesday, 28-41, but rebounded to defeat Diller-Odell on Friday, 62-26, improving to 8-3.

Turnovers and poor shooting doomed the Irish on Tuesday night at the RAC. The Lady Irish committed a season-high 26 turnovers and shot just 24 percent from the field in a 13-point loss to the Lady Knights. SH went 6-of-14 from beyond the arc but hit only 1-of-15 two-pointers. Elmwood-Murdock shot 33 percent (14-of-43) and turned the ball over 17 times. Rebounding was also a factor, as SH was outrebounded 30-19. The Knights finished with 11 offensive boards, while SH had four.

Avery Santo led SH with 13 points, sinking 4-of-7 from deep. Santo added a team-best four steals and had a blocked shot. Bailey Lemerond added nine points, sinking 2-of-3 shots from beyond the arc. Hallie Jones added five rebounds, while Dorothy Crouse had two assists.

SH Scoring: Santo 13, Witt 3, Lemerond 9, Jones 3.
E-M Scoring: Zierott 6, Backemeyer 5, Mans 16, Hartel 2, Goudie 8, Fleischman 2, Justus 2.

In three periods of JV action, SH defeated Elmwood-Murdock 22-18. Kinley Lechtenberg scored nine points, while Ryann Westengaard and Brynlie Jones each added five.

The Lady Irish got just the shot in the arm they needed on Friday. SH outscored the Griffins 13-5 in the first period and never looked back. The Irish extended their lead to 17, leading 34-17 at the half. The Irish held Diller-Odell scoreless in the third and led 44-17 with eight minutes remaining. SH outscored the Griffins 18-9 in the fourth to secure the 62-26 win.

Santo stayed hot, leading the Irish with 16 points, including five treys. Santo sank four threes in the second period alone. Jones added a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds. After being held to three points on Tuesday, Daycee Witt scored 14 points, grabbed six rebounds, and dished out five assists.

The Lady Irish shot 21-of-58 from the field (36%), while Diller-Odell shot 23 percent (9-of-39). The Irish forced 25 turnovers and committed 14. SH also outrebounded the Griffins 43-25, including a 19-8 edge on the offensive glass.

SH Scoring: Georges 3, Santo 16, Westengaard 4, Witt 14, Reschke 1, Lemerond 4, Taft 3, Jones 17.

Diller-Odell Scoring
Miller 4, Beekman 10, Rosenbaugh 3, Schwab 2, Engelman 4, Dendinger 1, McKinney 2.

The Irish JV defeated the Griffins 30-19 in three periods. Lechtenberg led SH with eight points, while Macy Taft added six.

The Lady Irish enter this week as the No. 3 seed in the Girls A Division at the MUDECAS basketball tournament in Beatrice. The Lady Irish played Palmyra on Monday at 3:30. With a win, they will take on the winner of Tri County and Southern on Thursday at 3:30.

Irish drop two of three last week

The rough stretch of the season continues for Sacred Heart as the boys fell in their third consecutive contest on Tuesday night against Elmwood-Murdock. The D2 Irish have lost four games this season, three to Class C2 schools and one to a Class C1 team.

The Irish fell behind early, 13-9, after the first period and never caught up, dropping the game 54-41 at the RAC. Sacred Heart was aided in the first period by Brenden Lemerond's seven points. The Irish went into halftime trailing by just four, 27-23. The Irish got hot from behind the arc in the second quarter, with Cole Taft sinking two and Bo Fletcher one, as the Irish tried to keep pace with the Knights.

Elmwood-Murdock pulled away after the break, outscoring SH 27-18 as they improved to 4-5 for the year.

The rims at the Roh Activity Center were unkind to the Irish on Tuesday, as SH connected on just 30 percent (17/57) from the floor, including 6-of-29 from beyond the arc. The Irish also attempted only two free throws in the contest, making one. Meanwhile, the Knights shot 49 percent from the floor and made 9-of-19 from the charity stripe. SH was outrebounded 33-25 but

turned the ball over just 10 times while forcing 17.

Lemerond led the team with 17 points, three steals, and three assists. Taft followed with 11 points, and Fletcher added 10 points, three steals, and three rebounds. Cooper Knobbe led the Irish with five rebounds under the rim.

SH Scoring: Taft 11, Fletcher 10, Lemerond 16, Baxter 2, T. Witt 2,

E-M Scoring: Fletcher 5, Mills 7, Coleman 7, Marsh 10, Towle 17, Lindsey 8.

In three quarters of JV action, SH defeated the Knights 29-18. JJ Lancaster went 4-for-10 from the field for 10 points, while Hayden Clow added seven.

The Irish hit the road Friday night to take on the Diller-Odell Griffins. The home team was hot early, leading 20-18 after the first period. However, SH fought back, tying the game at 35-35 at the half.

The third period belonged to SH, which outscored Diller-Odell 19-9 to take a 54-44 lead into the fourth. The teams were fairly even in the final eight minutes, and SH held on for the nine-point win, 73-64.

The big third quarter was helped by 12 points from Taft, as the Irish gained all the separation they would need.

Taft finished with a game-



Daycee Witt attempts a deep three against the Lady Knights on Tuesday.



Bo Fletcher flies through the air against Elmwood-Murdock on Tuesday evening at the RAC.

high 30 points, going 11-of-17 from the field. Lemerond added 18 points, 10 of which came in the first quarter. Lem added eight rebounds, three steals and 11 assists.

The Irish shot 42 percent from the field, forced 10 turnovers, and recorded 32 rebounds.

SH Scoring : Taft 30, Fletcher 9, Sipple 2, Lemerond 18, Clow 10, Knobbe 4.

D-O Scoring: Behrends 2, Penner 2, Humphreys 10, Phillips 8, Clifford 2,

Heidemann 19, Novotny 2. Saturday, the Irish traveled to St. Joseph to take on LeBlond in the Steve Vertin Classic. The Golden Eagles built a 12-8 lead in the first and extended it to 27-15 at the half, pulling away for a nine-point win, 41-32.

SH went just 6-of-21 from deep and 13-of-43 overall, while LeBlond was 13-of-21 from deep.

After his 30-point effort on Friday, Taft was held to just two points on 1-of-6 shooting. Fletcher, Lemerond and JJ Lancaster

each scored eight points to lead SH.

SH Scoring : Taft 2, Fletcher 8, Lemerond 8, Lancaster 8, Clow 1, Baxter 2, Howard 3.

LeBlond Scoring: Sigrist 9, Meierhoffer 11, Nguyen 3, Dudley 11, Kissel 1, Woolery 6.

Sacred Heart will participate in the MUDECAS Basketball Tournament in Beatrice this week. The Irish are the No. 5 seed and played Tri County on Tuesday at 8:00. With a win, SH will face the winner of Freeman/Diller-Odell on Thursday at 6:30.

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Tiger boys drop third straight, but showing signs of improvement along the way

The Falls City Tigers hosted Class B Nebraska City on Tuesday evening. The Tigers fell behind early and never recovered, losing to the 5-5 Pioneers, 56-27. The Tigers trailed 12-2 after one period and 28-7 at the half. FC played more competitively in the third but were still down 40-18 with eight minutes remaining.

FC fell behind 10-0 until Ethan Morris broke into the scoring column with a bucket in the paint, making it 10-2 with 1:12 on the clock.

FC finished the period with more turnovers (10) than points (2).

Trailing 24-2 in the second period, Karson

Simpson hit a three from the corner to make it 24-5 with 2:05 remaining in the half. With just under fifty seconds left, Morris found a cutting Jacoby Bangert to make it 27-7. Falls City finished the first 16 minutes with 17 turnovers and seven points.

Falls City was outscored 28-20 in the second half, dropping to 1-8 for the season.

The Tigers shot 31 percent from the field, finishing the contest with 12 makes on 39 attempts. The stat that jumps off the page is the 29 turnovers Falls City committed, compared with 13 forced by the Pioneers.

Morris led FC with eight points, nine rebounds and two assists. Bangert went 3-of-7 from the field for seven points and six boards.

FC Scoring: Furnas 3, Armbruster 4, Morris 8, Bangert 7, Simpson 3, Caudle 2.

Pioneer Scoring: Hoy 5, Ferguson 8, Gardner 4, Walker 20, Aldana 2, Klassen 13, Sandoval 2, Gonzalez 2.

The Tigers looked poised for their second win of the season Friday night when they hosted Lourdes Central. The Tigers held quarter leads of 17-13, 24-23, and 36-33. FC was outscored 19-8 in the final quarter, and their lead disappeared.

The score was tied at 43-43 with four minutes remaining. Unfortunately for FC, their offense went cold, and they were outscored 9-1 down the

stretch, falling to 1-9. The win improved Lourdes to 2-8 for the year.

Offensive rebounds were paramount on Friday night as FC had only one, while Lourdes finished with 13, leading to nine second-chance points.

Lourdes also went 11-of-21 from the foul line, while FC attempted just six, making three.

FC won the turnover battle, forcing 15 while committing 13.

Morris led FC with 12 points, making a pair of triples. Morris added a team-best six rebounds. Bangert went 4-of-11 from the field for 10 points, while adding five rebounds.

FC Scoring: Jones 2, Armbruster 8, Leyden 2, Morris 12, Bangert 10, Simpson 6, Caudle 4.

Lourdes Scoring: Poppleton 12, Ebmeier 9, Rutt 7, V. Poppleton 18, Krog 6.

The Tigers made the trip to Mead on Saturday to take on the Class D1 No. 6 Mead Raiders. The Tigers put up a strong effort but ultimately came up short, falling to the Raiders 58-39.

The win improved Mead to 8-2 for the year, while FC falls to 1-9.

Lady Tigers earn second win of season

The Lady Tigers' woes continued Tuesday night, when they fell to the Lady Pioneers of Nebraska City, 44-30.

Falls City, averaging only 3.3 points in the first quarter this season, got off to a better start but still trailed 12-9 after the first eight minutes.

FC's Carlea Dunkhas put FC on the board, making 1-of-2 free throws to make it 3-1 with 4:46 to play in the first. A corner jumper by Bella Johansen cut the Pioneer lead to 7-3 with 2:09 to go. On the next trip down the floor, Brynna Glathar sank a three, making it 7-6. Destiny Pierce then tied the game, converting 1-of-2 free throws. Dunkhas then converted two free throws, making it 10-9, but a driving bucket at the buzzer by NC made it 12-9 at the end of the quarter.

Dunkhas sank a deep three in the second to open the scoring for FC, making it 15-12 with just under five minutes remaining. Dunkhas added another bucket later in the period to keep the Tigers close at 17-14. Nebraska City closed the quarter on an 8-0 run, making it 25-14 at the half.

The Lady Tigers battled in the second half, holding their own, but ultimately fell to Nebraska City by 14, 44-30.

FC struggled to get buckets through the net, shooting 20 percent (10/49) from the floor. FC converted 6-of-17 from the charity stripe and outrebounded Nebraska City 49-42.

Falls City took care of the ball better, finishing with 17 turnovers, but forced only seven from the Pioneers.

Glathar led the offense with nine points, including 3-of-8 from deep. Dunkhas added eight points and 18 rebounds,

while Kaytlin Rhodd added four points and ten boards.

FC Scoring: Dunkhas 8, Pierce 1, Gossman 2, Johansen 3, M. Johansen 3, Glathar 9, Rhodd 4.

NC Scoring: Ferguson 3, Briley 10, Ellis 6, Brown 17, Harrah 1, Marth 7.

The scoring woes continued for FC on Friday night. The Lady Tigers, hosting Lourdes Central, trailed 14-2 after the first quarter and 27-4 at the half. Lourdes continued to pull away in the second half, outscoring FC 22-5 en route to a 49-9 win.

Turnovers and poor shooting doomed Falls City on Friday night. The Tigers committed 36 turnovers and shot just 10 percent from the field. FC went 2-of-13 from two-point range and 0-for-8 from beyond the arc. Meanwhile, Lourdes shot 30 percent from the field and went 13-of-19 from the free-throw line.

Lourdes owned the glass, finishing with 18 offensive rebounds that led to 22 second-chance points.

Johansen led the Tigers with four points. Dunkhas was held scoreless but contributed a team-best six rebounds.

FC Scoring: Pierce 1, Johansen 4, Glathar 2, Rhodd 2.

Lourdes Scoring: Borer 9, Duval 9, O'Donnell 1, White 2, Haag 2, Oggs 2, Fulton 2, Madison 11, Rutt 11.

The Tigers traveled to Mead on Saturday to face the 1-9 Raiders. The Tigers struggled again out of the gate, falling behind 11-2 after the first period. It was all FC after that, as they outscored Mead 36-11 over the final three periods and earned a 16-point win, 38-22.

With the win, FC improved to 2-9 for the season.



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Lady Titans finding their groove

The Lady Titans of HTRS had no trouble handling Parkview Christian on Tuesday, January 6, 2026. The game was close early, with HTRS leading 12-5 after the first quarter, but a 27-6 second quarter gave HTRS a commanding 39-11 lead at the half. HTRS kept its foot on the gas in the second half, outscoring Parkview 18-8 in the third and 4-0 in the fourth to secure a 61-19 win. The win improved HTRS to 6-4, while the Patriots fell to 1-9.

The one-two punch of Elie Bstandig and Lillian Bowen provided HTRS with all the production it needed for the win. Bstandig tallied 26 points and 19 rebounds, while Bowen added 15 points, three assists and five steals.

The Lady Titans shot 39 percent from the floor, making 26 of 61 shots. HTRS ended the contest with 46 rebounds, 14 assists, and 22 steals, while turning the ball over 15 times.

HTRS Scoring: Schmit 1, Bstandig 26, Bredemeier 2, Kanel 1, McClarnen 8, Frey 2, Bowen 15, Howe 4, Duryea 2.

On Friday night, HTRS hosted Sterling and defeated the Jets 49-19. HTRS sprinted to an early 25-8 lead and extended it to 33-11 at the half. The Lady Titans outscored the Jets 16-8 in the second half, securing the 30-point win.

The Lady Titans improved to 7-4 with the wins.

HTRS entered the 2026 MUDECAS Basketball Tournament in Beatrice this week as the No. 8 seed and faced top-seeded Freeman at 6:30 on Monday. The winner will play the winner of Johnson-Brock/JCC on Thursday at 5:00.

Titan boys head into MUDECAS on upswing

The Titan boys' basketball team saw their three-game winning streak end Tuesday night, falling to Parkview Christian 56-53. The loss dropped HTRS to 4-6 on the year, while Parkview improved to 6-2 with the win.

HTRS took an early 13-9 lead after the first period. The Patriots battled back, and HTRS found themselves down at the half, 23-21.

The Titans continued to fight after the break, but the Patriots extended their lead to four, 41-37, with eight minutes remaining. The Titans chipped away, but it wasn't enough, and they fell by three, 56-53.

HTRS shot 46 percent (21-of-46) from the field, while Parkview hit 48 percent (23-of-48) of their shots.

Big man Emmett Glathar powered the Titans with 24 points and 14 rebounds, while teammate Kameon Dettmann scored 17 points, dished out three assists, and added four steals.

HTRS Scoring: Hilgenfeld 3, Bohling 7, Dettmann 17, Glathar 24, Hunzeker 2.

Patriot Scoring: Scott 16, Back 10, McGinnis 17, Gauksson 9, Kramer 4.

The Titans returned to the win column on Friday night, defeating the Sterling Jets 55-33. The loss dropped Sterling to 1-9, while HTRS improved to 5-6.

HTRS played Pawnee City at 5:30 at the Beatrice Middle School on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, in the B Division of the MUDECAS Basketball Tournament. With a win, HTRS will play the winner of Southern/Meridian on Thursday at 8:15 at the Middle School.



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

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

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

The deadline is Friday, February 10, 2026

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

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

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Mary M. Duncan



Mary M. Duncan, age 83, of Hiawatha, Kansas, passed away peacefully on January 6, 2026, surrounded by her loving family as she entered God’s hands.

Mary was born on March 13, 1942, in Moberly, Missouri, to William and Josephine Sumpter. She was raised on a farm, where she learned the value of hard work, responsibility, and caring for others. Though her dream was to become a schoolteacher, farm life and financial limitations kept her close to home, shaping the strong, capable woman so many came to know and admire.

While still in high school, Mary married the love of her life, Francis Duncan, on February 3, 1961, just before he left to serve in the U.S. Army. Their marriage was a true partnership and remained strong for 64 years. Francis survives and resides at Maple Heights.

Together they had one son, Rick Duncan (Cathy) of Hiawatha, who survives. Mary was a proud grandmother to Lindsey, Levi, Derek, Bailey, and Maggie, and a great-grandmother to one great-grandchild, with another on the way. Her grandchildren were the light of her life, and she could talk about them for hours. Mary also “claimed” many children as her own, always making sure anyone who came through her home was fed and that their parents knew where they were.

Mary worked for several years at Falls City Meat Company before the family moved to Hiawatha. There, she began her long and well-known career at Curve-In-Hill, which later became Hiawatha Farm and Home. Mary and Francis operated and managed the business together for many years, and she became a familiar and trusted face throughout Northeast Kansas.

Anyone who knew Mary knew she was feisty, hard-headed, and set in her ways—but she also had one of the biggest hearts imaginable. She would give the shirt off her back to anyone in need and never hesitated to help others. Mary will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Services are planned for 11 a.m. Friday, January 9, 2026, at Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Hiawatha with Tony French officiating. Private family inurnment will take place at later date at Hiawatha Cemetery. Friends may sign the register book Thursday until 5 p.m. The family will meet with friends one hour prior to services Friday.

Memorial contributions are suggested to a fund yet to be designated in Mary’s memory, sent in care of the funeral home, 124 S 7th St., 66434.

Henry P.L. Schwartz



Henry P.L. Schwartz, 90, of Falls City, Nebraska, passed away on January 6, 2026 in Falls City. He was born November 7, 1935, in Omaha to Henry and Mildred (Faller) Schwartz.

He married Marcia Hinton on May 31, 1959, at Christ Lutheran Church in Falls City.

He spent his elementary years in the Seattle area where his family lived. They moved to Falls City when he was a teenager and he graduated from Falls City High School in 1954. He attended Peru College for one year and played varsity football.

His uncle Merly Faller operated “Merly’s Tune Up” for many years, and while working there, Hank began his long career as an automotive mechanic. He joined the Hiawatha National Guard in 1958 and served proudly for seven years of weekly drills, after six months of boot camp at Fort Leonard Wood.

After boot camp, he was hired as a mechanic at Armbruster Motor Co. and was a dedicated employee there for 47 years, retiring in 2005.

Hank loved sports and was a founder of the Falls City Tiger Booster Club, where he was an enthusiastic creator and promoter of all their activities, urging fans to wear orange clothing to games, this before wearing school colors was all the rage. Among his many ways of support, he handed out apples and watermelon slices to team members. Always there to cheer on the Tigers, he seldom missed a game, home or away. He and his brother Ron coached a Junior Midget baseball team for many years. It was a joy for Hank to work with these young boys.

Always a “wheel man,” he built a go-kart and raced it, souped up cars and raced them. He could man-handle a motorcycle, willing it up Rocky Mountains and leaping gorges. He was all gusto and enthusiasm, strength and muscle. He started a motorcycle parts and service in the basement and garage, and worked many weekends fulfilling that dream.

And all the while, he was active in his church, throwing himself into offices and committees, and faithful service. He rarely ever missed a Sunday in church, even in deference to sports and motorcycling.

Best of all for his wife and two sons, Hank was a devoted family man. Always there for them, at the boys’ games, wrestling with them on the living room floor, fixing their cars, modeling manhood for them, our ever-loving, dependable rock.

Hank was preceded in death by his brother Ron, his mother Mildred, his son Reed, and sister, Helene Lawrence.

He is survived by his wife, Marcia, his son Lance and his wife Mary, his daughter-in-law, Debbie and granddaughter Lucy, all of Lincoln. He was also cherished by many other family members, and so many friends!

His funeral will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 10:30 AM at Christ Lutheran Church with Pastor Ken Humphrey officiating. Interment will be in Steele Cemetery.

The family will receive friends on Monday from 7-8:00 PM at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home.

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Rev. Ken Humphrey, Pastor- 402-245-3324

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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, 10:45am; Worship, 10:45am Facebook.com/fallscitycooperativeministry *Pastor Grant Speece – 402-980-5960*

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

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

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

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

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

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

RULO

Immaculate Conception (Rulo) Sun. Confessions, 8:00AM; Mass, 8:30AM. Daily Mass schedule: Mon.-Fri., 6:30AM. *Fr. Ben Rynearson, Pastor*

Riverside Fellowship 117 S 3rd St., Rulo, NE. Sun. Worship 9AM. Fellowship, Sunday School, & Adult Bible Study 10AM Following Worship. *David Showalter, Pastor*

BARADA

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

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

St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) Williamsville, 12 miles NE of Falls City) Worship 9:15AM (1st, 3rd); Worship at Barada Global Methodist (2nd & 4th Sundays); *Check our Facebook page for worship schedule.* Fellowship & Sunday School following worship. *Pastor Mike Hader – 402-245-4584*

SHUBERT

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

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

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

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Kenneth “Kenny” Kirkendall

Kenneth “Kenny” Wayne Kirkendall, 77, of Falls City, Nebraska, passed away peacefully on January 4, 2026.

Kenny was born in Barada, Nebraska, on April 12, 1948, to George and Nola (Kreutzer) Kirkendall. Kenny attended District 21 School and graduated from Falls City High School in 1966. While in high school, he was a member of the FFA Chapter and was elected vice president his senior year. “I like blabbermouths” was his senior quote, and if you knew him, Kenny always had something to say about anything and everything.

After high school, Kenny enlisted in the Nebraska Army National Guard. He completed basic training on October 18, 1967, at Fort Ord Military Base in California.

On April 11, 1970, Kenny married Dorothy (Sells) Kirkendall. They later divorced.

Kenny put in a lot of time and hard work with the oil-fields. He had multiple stories to tell about his work that took him to many states. Kenny also worked for the Georges family and Haveman Brothers Farm. He created many memories that are sure to give you a good laugh. Kenny retired in 2022 due to his health.

Kenny loved being a grandpa to his grandkids. You could find him cheering them on any chance he was given. He spent multiple Thursdays at 3 State Stockyards watching the cow sale and every once in a while buying a bottle calf. Kenny also enjoyed spending time at the dog food plant in Falls City with many of his friends, young and old.

Kenny was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, and two sisters and daughter-in-law, Belinda.

He is survived by his children Joseph Kirkendall of Marion, IN; Patricia (Erik) Madsen of Hiawatha, KS; Jared (Merci) Kirkendall of Rulo, NE; John (Regina) Kirkendall of Falls City, NE; Victoria (Josh) Luce of Manhattan, KS; 18 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

His memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 11, 2026, at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home with Wayne Shafer officiating. Inurnment will be at Harris Cemetery.

The family will receive friends at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday prior to the service at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home.

Kenny was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, and two sisters and daughter-in-law, Belinda.

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Council denies Rural Water Districts’ request to waive fees

Authorities accused her of abusing a vulnerable Nebraskan. She remained the court-appointed guardian for dozens of others

(Continued from Page 1) two “medium-sized” brush piles. Simon stated the closest structure to the piles would be his house, which is roughly 100 yards away.

Falls City Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Jon McQueen stated to the Board that he had been contacted by “a few citizens” regarding the permit.

McQueen stated that the burn permit ordinance was enacted in 2018, noting that all burn permit requests must be presented to the council for approval.

McQueen said during his pre-inspection that a few materials not allowed to be burned were found in the pile. He also cited the proximity of one of the piles to an existing tree line as a concern.

If approved by the Council, the fire department recommended doing so on a weekend when the wind is out of the south, west, or southwest. He also recommended that the owner have proper materials to control the fire. He said the city fire trucks would not enter the area due to the soft ground, in the event the fire spread to the tree line.

“In summary, I’d say the fire department is not saying we want you to approve this or we want you to deny this,” said McQueen.

Since 2018, McQueen said the only burn permits that have been issued have been for the arboretum, at Stanton’s Lake, at the cemetery and near Southeast Community College.

Stan Coupe addressed the Council, stating he owns the timber south of the area in question and agreed that the ground is much too soft for fire trucks.

“I walked it yesterday, you’ll sink to your ankle walking on the ground around there,” said Coupe.

The action died for lack of a motion from the Council.

In regular business, a public hearing was held to consider approving chicken permit applications for 1616 Valley Avenue, 2212 Stone Street, 2008 Morton Street, and 710 East 11th Street. There was no public comment on any of the applications.

Next, the Council approved the permits previously listed on 7-0 votes.

The Board then considered a request from the Richardson County Rural Water District No. 2

for the City to waive the water infrastructure fee charged to the District until October 2026.

The district stated that in September, they were advised that the increase would apply only to the water rate and meter charge, not the infrastructure fee. Waiving the fee for RWD #2 would reduce the projected revenue from approximately \$14,323 to \$4,727, resulting in a loss of \$9,596.

Rodney Joy, representing RWD #2, addressed the Council, stating he had been at the city office on two occasions to obtain clarification on the rate increases.

Joy stated that the first trip yielded no information, while on the second trip, he was allegedly told the rate would be the water rate and the meter charge, with no infrastructure fee.

“When we got our bill, our bill was four percent higher than what we had been told our rates were going to be,” said Joy. “We did not adjust our rates accordingly because we’re trying to be economical for our customers.”

Joy said he had never spoken directly to City Administrator Anthony Nussbaum about the subject. “She (Sondra Ferris) went back into the offices twice to get clarification,” said Joy.

To which Nussbaum stated, “That’s not the case at all.”

Nussbaum continued saying that the staff is not capable of interpreting all the components in the rate study.

Joy replied that after his first visit, he made an appointment to speak directly with Nussbaum, but it never happened.

Council member Leyden said that in the future, Rural Water and the City Utility Department need to have meetings to avoid these issues.

Giving RWD #2 a discount was discussed, but ultimately, the difference would need to be made up by the rest of the residential customers.

Nussbaum said that to give any discount or change the rate, the ordinance would need to be amended. He stated, “I just looked through the dollars associated, we’re talking 9,600 bucks. My recommendation, they should be able to carry that out,” said Nussbaum.

Nussbaum said that moving forward, he would ask the RWD #2 to

submit any specific questions on RWD #2 official letterhead, so they could be formally responded to.

“In the past, when you had rate increases, we’d go in, request to speak to the administrator, and they’d come out and talk to us and give us the rate,” said Joy.

Board of Public Works Director Trevor Campbell acknowledged that having the RWD #2 meet with the Board of Public Works would be advisable.

“You can’t overcommunicate, that’s for sure,” said Campbell. “I was unaware of this situation until the request.”

The request died for a lack of a motion.

In other action, the Council approved requisition REQ01980 for legal services from Baird Holm LLP in relation to the NRG Project and approved the renewal of a Master Service Agreement with RS Utility Services as recommended by the Board of Public Works.

Baird Holm LLP will provide specialized legal services in dealing with the Nebraska Power Review Board approval process and the development and service agreement with major energy projects. According to a report in the Council meeting packet, legal support is required for the Energy Forward Transmission Project once it advances to the NPRB process. The agreement authorizes up to \$200,000 for the legal services for the two projects.

The final item up for discussion was the authorization of a Letter of Intent and grant application for the 2026 Civic and Community Center Financing Fund. The purpose of the grant is to fund a proposed Amphitheater Park, located across the street to the North of the Falls City Library and Arts Center. The city applied for the CCCFF grant in 2025 but was denied. The \$875,000 project requires a \$375,000 cash match. To date, \$265,000 of that total has been generated, including a \$200,000 commitment from the Stalder Foundation. The remaining amount would be raised by the Falls City Creative District. The project will not pursue any City cash funds. After a discussion, the Council authorized the submission of the grant application.

With no further items remaining on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

By Andrew Wegley
Flatwater Free Press

Becky Stamp had already been ordered to repay clients for inflated fees that she took from their accounts when a judge signed a warrant for her arrest in early November.

A court-appointed guardian who managed the lives and finances of dozens of vulnerable Nebraskans across 18 counties, Stamp allegedly racked up more than \$21,000 in charges at shops across York using an account belonging to a man deemed incapable of making his own financial decisions, according to court documents. She was arrested and charged with three felonies, including abuse of a vulnerable adult.

Some judges — who appoint and oversee guardians in Nebraska — moved quickly to suspend or revoke Stamp’s powers. Others ordered reviews of Stamp’s financial filings.

But more than a month after her arrest, Stamp remained the guardian for at least 25 vulnerable Nebraskans, maintaining her authority over their living arrangements, medical care and, in most cases, finances, according to a Flatwater Free Press review of court filings in 42 cases in which Stamp had been appointed.

Advocates say the case is further evidence of “a systemic failure” to protect the 10,000-plus Nebraskans who, often due to old age, disabilities or injuries, are deemed by judges to be unable to care for themselves and placed in guardianships or conservatorships.

“I think that Nebraska is in desperate need of a safety net of more oversight for guardians,” said Amy Miller, a staff attorney at the nonprofit advocacy group Disability Rights Nebraska, which first publicized Stamp’s alleged theft in December.

The full extent of Stamp’s alleged thefts remains unclear. A state official told the Supreme Court Commission on Guardianships and Conservatorships in November that when she was arrested, Stamp served as the guardian and/or Social Security payee — a separate federal designation giving Stamp access to her clients’ government benefits — in approximately 77 cases, according to meeting minutes provided by the judicial branch.

In a search warrant filed in York County, a State Patrol investigator accused Stamp of moving money from the bank accounts of four more Nebraskans. A spokesman for the patrol said the agency is looking for additional victims.

In at least one case, Stamp’s alleged financial abuse did not end when she was charged, according to court filings.

In Merrick County, a judge waived required credit and criminal history checks in October to appoint Stamp as the guardian for a 46-year-old man diagnosed with borderline personality disorder. Then, in December, Stamp wrote an \$810 check to her-

self from the man’s account, an attorney alleged in a court filing.

The 46-year-old told his attorney that Stamp cashed the check and kept \$400 for herself Dec. 5 — nearly a month after her arrest and at least three weeks after courts had been notified of the charges against her, according to the filing and other public records.

“I suppose the reality is that it would be foolish for anyone in the position of facing a criminal charge to continue to act in a wrongful way,” Miller said. “But technically, she does still have the power of guardianship until that has been revoked by a judge.”

Through her attorney, Stamp declined to comment.

Individual judges deferred to Corey Steel, the state court administrator. Steel said the judicial branch has “informal mechanisms” in place to immediately alert judges to potential issues “so the judge can determine what the next steps are.”

Steel declined to detail how the judiciary responded to Stamp’s case specifically, citing the state’s Code of Judicial Conduct. There is nothing in state law that requires a guardian’s removal in any case.

“A lot of it is judicial discretion on those individual cases, because each case and each example is vastly different,” Steel said. “And so it’s the judges that need to make the determination if they’re fit to be a guardian or not based on whatever allegations are being brought forward.”

“I thought we had it tamed” After a 2013 state audit revealed that a Bayard woman who had been assigned more than 600 guardianship cases had stolen thousands from her unknowing clients, Nebraska lawmakers overhauled the state’s guardianship system.

They established the Office of Public Guardian, meant to serve as a last resort for vulnerable Nebraskans who have no family able or willing to fill the role. The law’s passage made Nebraska the last state in the country to create a central office for guardianship.

The law barred public guardians within the office from taking on more than 20 cases at a time and required them to visit their clients once a month. But the law placed no such restrictions on private, for-profit guardians like Stamp.

“It’s very sad,” said State Auditor Mike Foley, whose 2013 probe prompted the policy change. “I really thought that we had made great progress 10, 12 years ago — whenever it was when we addressed this problem. Because it was the Wild West back then. I thought we had it tamed. But obviously we didn’t.”

State law already mandated guardians undergo background checks and required regular reports on the well-being and finances of the vulnerable adults in their care. But those reports sometimes went unfilled, Foley noted back in 2013.

In 2024, Disability Rights Nebraska raised similar concerns, warning in a report that county court staff lacked the resources to ensure guardians filed the required annual reports, much less review the documents for red flags.

The nonprofit furnished the report to the Supreme Court Commission on Guardianships and Conservatorships. Minutes from a November 2024 commission meeting said the report “highlights what this commission is working on to improve” and that the judicial branch is “really drilling down on some areas of the report that are internal system issues.”

Steel, the court administrator, said the commission proactively sought a change to state law the Legislature made last year authorizing

the State Patrol to run national criminal history checks, rather than state-level checks, on those applying to serve as guardians in Nebraska.

“There is continued improvement that we need to do, and we take it serious,” he said.

State Sen. Wendy DeBoer of Bennington, who sponsored the 2025 law that nationalized criminal history checks, said she was looking into introducing legislation this year to limit caseloads for private guardians. But she cautioned that any attempts to fix the system’s shortcomings must weigh the risk of losing would-be guardians to overly burdensome paperwork requirements.

Ninety-five percent of guardians serving in Nebraska are unpaid and are often relatives or friends of the wards they are assigned to.

“I hope we do not have the kind of reaction we did the last time something really bad happened within this system, where then we have to sort of course correct over time,” she said.

Still, DeBoer acknowledged, the system “certainly didn’t work here.”

Stamp and her guardianship business — Stamped With Love LLC — now exist as Exhibit A for advocates and leaders arguing for further reform of the system.

Stamp was appointed the guardian in at least 14 new cases in 2025 — even as she was removed from others for failing to file financial reports or neglecting the Nebraskans she had been appointed to care for, according to court filings. She also faced lawsuits over unpaid debts.

Creditors sued Stamp and her husband three times in 2024. In April of that year, a debt collector filed suit in Lancaster County seeking \$10,529 from the couple, who quickly repaid what they owed, according to court filings. Stamp’s alleged theft from the York man that led to her criminal charges began the same month.

In October 2024, a Red Willow County judge revoked Stamp’s guardianship in one case after the ward’s mother told the judge in a handwritten filing that Stamp had “almost zero communication” with her son in four months as his guardian.

In July 2025, judges in three counties terminated Stamp’s authority in a two-day span for failing to file annual financial reports or failing to appear at court hearings over the missing documents. Such reports are the only ones guardians in Nebraska are required to submit to state judges each year to account for their work.

But in most cases, Stamp held onto her post.

One judge left Stamp’s guardianship in place until mid-December despite an annual financial report being 20 months overdue.

Another kept her authority intact after the 22-year-old she was appointed to care for penned a letter asking the judge for a new guardian.

“My current guardian doesn’t check up on me or talk to me,” the woman wrote. “She also doesn’t help me with anything.”

In another case, Stamp remained the guardian for a 55-year-old woman even after a judge ordered her to reimburse the woman \$473 for fees and mileage she had overpaid to herself from the woman’s account.

The judge issued the order after auditing the annual form that required Stamp to detail a year’s worth of expenditures and explain why she should remain the woman’s guardian.

“So she gets the best care & nobody take advantage of her,” she wrote.

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FC PUBLIC SCHOOL

FALLS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Minutes of the November 10, 2025
School Board Meeting

The Falls City Board of Education met at 7:00 PM on November 10, 2025 in the Central Office at the Falls City Middle School.

1. Business Items:
1.1. Roll Call, Open Meetings Act Notice, and Pledge of Allegiance
President Goff announced that the open meetings act notice is posted on the wall of this meeting room.
1.2. Approval of Absences
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
1.3. Approval of Agenda
It was moved by Kevin Scheitel and seconded by Teresa Olberding to approve the agenda.
Motion Passed

Anthony Johansen: yes, Cassandra Goff: yes, Gabe Ramsey: yes, Kevin Scheitel: yes, Roger Windle: yes, Teresa Olberding: yes.
yes: 6, no: 0

- 1.4. Approval of Previous Minutes
It was moved by Teresa Olberding and seconded by Kevin Scheitel to approve the previous minutes as printed.
Motion Passed

Anthony Johansen: yes, Cassandra Goff: yes, Gabe Ramsey: yes, Kevin Scheitel: yes, Roger Windle: yes, Teresa Olberding: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

- 1.5. Public Comment
Mr. Jack Bangert spoke on behalf of coaches on the future of Falls City Public Schools Football.

- 1.6. Approval of Treasurer's Report
It was moved by Roger Windle and seconded by Anthony Johansen to approve the treasurer's report. Motion Passed

Anthony Johansen: yes, Cassandra Goff: yes, Gabe Ramsey: yes, Kevin Scheitel: yes, Roger Windle: yes, Teresa Olberding: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

- 1.7. Approval of Claims
It was moved by Teresa Olberding and seconded by Gabe Ramsey approve the claims as presented. Motion Passed

Anthony Johansen: yes, Cassandra Goff: yes, Gabe Ramsey: yes, Kevin Scheitel: yes, Roger Windle: yes, Teresa Olberding: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

2. Informational Items/Reports:
2.1. Staff/Student/Organization Report: Julie Bauman CPA, P.C.
Julie Bauman gave a presentation on the 2024-2025 Audit.

- 2.2. Principal's Reports:
2.2.a. Mrs. Leyden - North Elementary School Principal
2.2.b. Mr. Gibson - South Elementary School Principal
2.2.c. Mrs. Robeson - Middle School Principal
2.2.d. Mr. Sullivan - High School Principal

- 2.3. Board President's Report:
2.4. Superintendent's Report:
2.4.a. Dr. Offner - Superintendent
Negotiations meeting dates have been set. Roofing projects have been completed. Spots that needed to be addressed have been taken care of. Track resurfacing has been completed and will be painted in the next week or so. If the temperature stays up, painting will be done. If not, it will be completed in the spring. We will have a federal grant desk review coming up. This is for all federal grants through NDE. The bus SOP's I have gotten feed back from the bus drivers. The code of conduct. We will be forming a committee to review this. The 5-year review was really great and good job to Ms Robeson. Staff celebrations will be on November 22nd. The State Conference is coming up the week of November 19-21. Fall sports and coaches reviews have been completed.

- 2.5. Board Committee/Member Reports:
3. Old/New Action Items:
3.1. Final Reading on Policy Reviews and Revisions - on hold
3.2. Discuss and take action on purchasing a new van from Armbruster Motor Company for \$44,750. Conversion to rear-wheelchair access will cost around \$23,000.
3.3. Discussion on FCPS external 5-year visit, and I would like to thank everyone for all their hard work.
3.4. Discussion on facility priorities and take action on moving forward with the BVH facility study for a cost of \$45,000.
3.5. Discussion and take action to set a date for our strategic planning meeting on _____.

It was moved by Teresa Olberding and seconded by Roger Windle to set December 17, 2025 5-8 p.m. Motion Passed

Anthony Johansen: yes, Cassandra Goff: yes, Gabe Ramsey: yes, Kevin Scheitel: yes, Roger Windle: yes, Teresa Olberding: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

- 3.6. Discuss and take action on going 11 man or 8 man for football for the next two-year cycle.
It was moved by Kevin Scheitel and seconded by Anthony Johansen After discussion was had and the decision was made, after seeking public input, to have a special board meeting on November 24, 2025 at 5 P.M. Motion Passed

Anthony Johansen: yes, Cassandra Goff: yes, Gabe Ramsey: yes, Kevin Scheitel: yes, Roger Windle: yes, Teresa Olberding: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

- 3.7. Discussion about putting a tri-fold brochure report to go out to all patrons in our districts.
3.8. Discussion on Dr. Andrew Offner's first semester evaluation and the tool to use
It was moved by Kevin Scheitel and seconded by Anthony Johansen It was discussed that board President Goff will be sending out an email with papers on the new evaluation tool. Motion Passed

Anthony Johansen: yes, Cassandra Goff: yes, Gabe Ramsey: yes, Kevin Scheitel: yes, Roger Windle: yes, Teresa Olberding: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

4. Executive Session: Requested by member, approved by majority, as per statute

It was moved by Kevin Scheitel and seconded by Anthony Johansen to go into executive session

at 9:04 P.M. Motion Passed
Anthony Johansen: yes, Cassandra Goff: yes, Gabe Ramsey: yes, Kevin Scheitel: yes, Roger Windle: yes, Teresa Olberding: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

5. Adjournment and Next Meetings:
The next regular monthly Board of Education meeting is scheduled for December 8th, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. in the Central Office at Falls City Middle School. Regular and special meeting agendas are kept in the Office of the Superintendent. Board Committee meetings TBD.

It was moved by Kevin Scheitel and seconded by Anthony Johansen to adjourn at 10:17p.m.
Motion Passed

Anthony Johansen: yes, Cassandra Goff: yes, Gabe Ramsey: yes, Kevin Scheitel: yes, Roger Windle: yes, Teresa Olberding: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

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

A motion was made by Council person Kaster and seconded by Council person K. Killingsworth to move project number M-282-46 from the six-year plan to the one-year plan due to a potential safety concern. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. "Absent" Buckminster. Motion carried.

Upon review, a motion was made by Council person F. Killingsworth and seconded by Council person Ruiz to adopt Resolution No. 2025-R159 as amended to incorporate to preceding actions. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. "Absent" Buckminster. Motion carried.

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16, 2026, to Tuesday, February 17, 2026; Monday, September 7, 2026, to Wednesday, September 9, 2026. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. "Absent" Buckminster. Motion carried.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PERMANENT EASEMENT AND RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENT WITH THE DOROTHY J. TOWLE REVOCABLE TRUST AS REQUESTED BY CRA & EDGE
A motion was made by Council person Ferguson and seconded by Council person Kaster to authorize execution of the easement and agreement as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, K. Killingsworth, F. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. "Absent" Buckminster. Motion carried.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:50 P.M.
I, the undersigned, City Clerk for the City of Falls City, Nebraska, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings had and done by Council on December 15, 2025; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk; that such agenda items were sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that at least three copies of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by persons of the public; that the said minutes from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting; and that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available and accessible to persons of the public, posted during such meeting in the room in which such meeting was held.

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funds for the year 2026: State Bank of Table Rock, F&M Bank, American National Bank, Nebraska Federal Investment Trust—Union Bank & Trust and Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust—NPAIT. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.
Steve Darveau, Jr., Highway Superintendent updated the Board on the routine road and

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PREPARE FOR power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-402-899-2584 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

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

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POSITION OPENINGS

Pawnee County Memorial Hospital is seeking

- » **REGISTERED NURSE**
- » **LPN-C**
- » **RADIOLOGY TECH**
- » **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

Our small-town atmosphere offers a professional environment in a critical access facility with a competitive salary and benefit package

For a full description of this position and to apply, visit our website at www.pawneehospital.com to complete an application.

PCMH is an EOE



POSITION OPENINGS

Pawnee County Memorial Hospital is seeking

- » **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**
- » **NURSE PRACTITIONER**

Our small-town atmosphere offers a professional environment in a critical access facility with a competitive salary and benefit package

For a full description of this position and to apply, visit our website at www.pawneehospital.com to complete an application.

PCMH is an EOE



HELP WANTED

IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING

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.

NIGHT NURSING ASSISTANT: Full-Time hours working 5-5 with every 3rd weekend required. C.N.A. helpful but not required. Responsible for assisting patients with activities of daily living and providing personal care under the direct supervision of the charge nurse. Night Shift differential \$3.00/hr and Weekend differential \$1.50/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 including an On-Call rotation. 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.



is looking to fill two positions:

Service/Warranty Writer

Bookkeeper

at the Humboldt location

These are both full-time positions with full benefits. If interested contact:

Brady Bruna at 402-862-3251

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Tiger wrestlers busy taking down opponents on the mats

Falls City wrestling hosted a triangular on Tuesday evening at Prichard Auditorium. The Tiger boys defeated Auburn 60-24 and Platteview 59-23, while the Lady Tigers beat Platteview 65-0 and tied Auburn 42-42.

For the boys against Platteview, Tristan Randall (132) earned a win by fall over Dominic Hoke at 3:39. Cade Caudle (138) pinned Graison Bullers at 1:40, and at 144, Caden Collier won by fall over Austin Gryczanowski at 1:27. At 150, Orion Cattrell won by tech fall (16-1) over Gabe Bruno. Brantly Sells picked up a pin against Jayden Bowen at 3:18, and Chase Simpson defeated Jordan Marteson at 2:55 in the 285-pound division.

In a JV match at 132, Tanner Jackson earned the win by fall at 3:41 over Hunter Anderson.

In the final dual of the night, FC's Ryder Hullman pinned Nash Gerdes at 3:57 to win at 120 pounds. Sells earned his second win of the night, pinning Riley Tanner at 3:38, and Simpson pinned Austin Schneider at 1:01 to win at 285 pounds.

The Lady Tigers opened the night against Platteview. Peyton Weddle earned a tech fall over Madeline Stapp at 135 (16-0) at 2:54. FC won the remaining matches by forfeit.

Against the Bulldogs, Emma Gilkerson pinned Skylar Reiman at 3:01 in the 170-pound division to secure the win. Jalin Duprey, wrestling at 190, pinned Lesly Garcia at 1:43 to earn the win. FC won five matches by forfeit.

The teams traveled to Nebraska City on Thursday evening for a dual against the Pioneers. The home team defeated the Tiger boys 49-27, while



Falls City's Gabi Young grapples with Auburn's Lucia Campbell in action at Prichard Auditorium on Tuesday.

the Lady Tigers fell 48-36.

For the boys, Tristan Randall earned a win by major decision (12-3) at 132 pounds. Cade Caudle pinned Trey Lyons at 5:11 to win at 138. At 215, Jayden Mirelez won by fall over Damien Sandoval at 1:02, and at 285, Chase Simpson pinned Kaedyn Summers at 3:48.

Tanner Jackson picked up a win by fall over Isaiah Vesely at 1:46.

For the Lady Tigers, Keylee Olberding earned a win at 100, pinning Jerzi Schalk at 2:29. Peyton Weddle made quick work of her opponent, pinning Estrella Ramirez in just seventeen seconds. FC won four matches by forfeit.

The Lady Tigers competed at Beatrice on Friday, scoring 158 points and finishing third among 20 teams. Kearney won the meet with 315 points.

Taytum Maddox won the only gold medal of the day for FC, finishing 3-0. Maddox won an 8-5 decision over Quinn Madill of Elkhorn in the finals. Hallie Young went 3-1, falling in the finals by pin at 1:13 to Carsyn McBride of Kearney.

Peyton Weddle, Ashlyn Alexander, and Emma Gilkerson all placed third. Alexander went 3-1, including a 9-2 decision over Keirsten Heinrichs

of Thayer Central in the third-place match.

Emma Gilkerson went 3-1, earning an 11-8 decision over Maura Vrbka of Fillmore Central in the third-place match.

Gabi Young went 2-2 and placed fourth, while Shia Wisneski went 3-2 and placed fifth.

The Tiger boys competed at the Tri County Duals on Friday and Saturday. FC finished the meet with a 4-5 record. FC fell to Lakeview 48-33, defeated Pawnee City 75-6, fell to Tri County 46-36, fell to Lincoln Christian 49-30, defeated Fillmore Central 54-39, fell to Adams Central 46-36, defeated O'Neill 41-40, beat Republic County 46-36, and fell to Shelby Rising City 50-29.

Against Lakeview, Cade Caudle, Zane Elms, and Jayden Mirelez picked up wins. In the dual against Pawnee City, Ryder Hullman, Mirelez, and Nolan Nicholson (JV) picked up wins. Against Tri County, Tristan Randall, Caudle, Ashton Martin, Mirelez, and Nicholson (JV) picked up wins. Against Lincoln Christian, Elms, Martin, Brantly Sells, Mirelez, and Chase Simpson picked up wins. In the Fillmore Central match, Randall, Nicholson (JV), and Tanner Jackson (JV) picked up wins.

Against Adams Central, Cattrell, Martin, and Simpson all won. In the dual against O'Neill, Cattrell, Elms, Martin, Sells, Caudle, Randall, and Nicholson (JV) all won. In the win over Republic County, Cattrell, Martin, Mirelez, Hullman, and Caudle all won.

In the final dual against Shelby Rising City, Elms, Martin, Nicholson (JV), and Cattrell all won.



Orion Cattrell has the upper hand in Tuesday match against Gabe Bruno of Platteview.

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**Last week's answer Brandon Sells*