

THE

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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

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

Catholic Schools Week begins

30 Mark Joy Retirement Open House at State Bank of Table Rock in Humboldt, 8AM-4PM

31 St. Paul's Lutheran Church 20th & Towle, Soup Supper 5-7PM

February

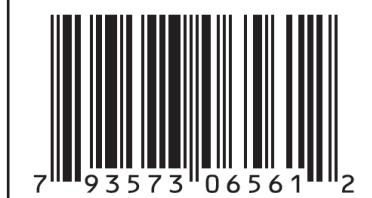
7 Shubert Christian Church Pancake Feed 5:00 PM



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\$1.50



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Investors of the year, Community Kids Center



Wall of Fame inductees, Randy and Lori Gottula

EDGE honors investors, inducts Gottulas into Wall of Fame at banquet

Lucas Froeschl of Falls City (EDGE) Economic Development and Growth Enterprise recognized community investment, economic progress and lifelong service during its 2025 Annual Banquet and Business Meeting held last Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the Falls City Elks Lodge.

The annual banquet gives EDGE an opportunity to report to investors and the public on development activity, infrastructure planning and workforce initiatives underway in Falls City and Richardson County. The evening also recognizes individuals and organizations whose contributions support long-term economic growth.

During the banquet, EDGE named Community Kids Center as its 2025 Investor of the Year and inducted Randy and Lori Gottula into the EDGE Wall of Fame.

Community Kids Center was honored as Investor of the Year for its role in addressing workforce challenges through access to reliable child care. The center is owned by Community Medical Center and managed by Josie Morehead.

(Please turn to Page 3)

Gone, But Not Forgotten... Obituaries of 2025

February

The following is the list of county residents and former county residents whose obituaries appeared in the *Falls City Journal* in 2025:

January

2. Dennis Merz, 84, of Falls City.

5. Velvejane Sopoci, 90, of Falls City.

6. Steven Karst, 53, of Holt, MO; Deborah Holloway, 68 of Falls City.

7. Jackie "Jack" Cummings, 74, of Grand Island, NE.

11. Gary Wittwer, 88, of Salem, NE; Randy Wittwer, 72, of Falls City.

12. Lance Foster, 64, of White Cloud, KS.

13. Jim Davis, 68, White Cloud, KS.

14. Rodney Kuhlmann, 76, formerly of Humboldt.

15. John Price, 85, of Rulo.

16. Claudette Herron, 65, of Temple, TX.

18. Thomas Fisher, 88 of Pawnee City.

19. Colleen Langan, 63, of Falls City.

30. Vernon "Jake" Shafer, 69, of Falls City.

31. Ramona Ebel, 89, of Falls City.

(Continued on Page 9)

1. Samuel J. Liberty 79, of Falls City.

5. Margie Fleskoski, 91, of Falls City.

6. Patrick Schulenberg, 61, of Rulo.

7. Wilbur Duane Last, 90, of Shubert.

10. Michael "Mike" E. Richey, 60, of Sabetha, KS

11. Jerry A. Dean, 70, of Henderson, NE.

17. Rita M. Fischer, 67, of Humboldt; Christopher "Chris" Michael Adams, 56, of Omaha.

20. Lucille A. Yoesel, 98, of Sabetha, KS.

21. Susan Elaine (Ramer) Mc-

Preparation already underway for 2026 Statewide Primary Elections

Preparation is already underway in the Office of the Richardson County Clerk for the Statewide Primary Election which will be held on May 12, 2026. Persons wanting to file as a candidate for an elective office will be allowed to begin filing on Monday, January 5, 2026. Candidates who wish to have their names included on the ballot for an office must file by the following deadlines: Incumbents for all offices to be nominated at the May 12, 2026 election must file by Tuesday, February 17, 2026; nonincumbents must file by Monday, March 2, 2026. It is also important to note that an incumbent is anyone serving an elective office, even if they are filing for an office other than the one in which they are presently serving; they are required to file by 5:00 p.m. on the incumbent deadline.

Village Board of Trustees and members of the ESU#4 filing deadlines are July 15, 2026 for incumbents and August 3, 2026 for non-incumbents.

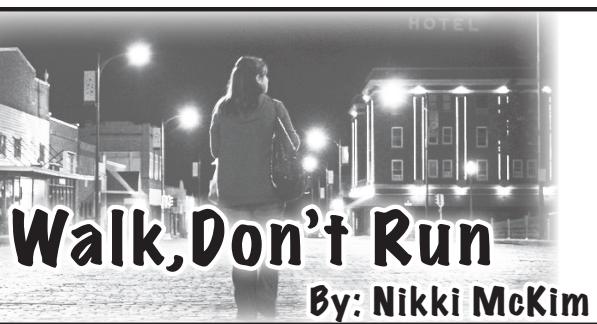
Receipts from the treasurer of the respective political subdivision for the payment of filing fees must accompany the filing form when filed in the office of the Secretary of State or County Clerk before the filing will be accepted. National, State and County offices require that a statement of financial interests, NADC Form C-1 be filed by March 2, 2026 to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission before the candidate's name will appear on the ballot.

For further questions and information regarding the upcoming 2026 Primary Election, please call the Richardson County Clerk's Office at 245-2911, Ext. 3.



**2022 FORD
BRONCO SPORT**
32,000 MILES
\$24,500





A friend of mine drove several hours last fall, not for an event or a family function, but to walk into this office and buy a subscription. It was simple and unannounced. It was also completely on brand for her.

Her name is Becky and she has been showing up like that since we were 12.

I have written about Becky before. Not because she loves the spotlight, but because some people quietly shape who we are in ways that stay true over time. She is one of those people, one of my people.

Over the years, life did what life does. Time passed, people came and went, seasons shifted but Becky remained a constant.

Becky is a writer, an author. Her work she posts on social media centers on love, memories, compassion and motherhood. She writes with an optimism that feels true and never performative. The kind that comes from paying attention. That kind of optimism and compassion is getting harder to find these days, especially online.

The day she walked into the office to subscribe, there was no notice, no explanation. It was just something she did. The drive itself mattered less than the meaning behind it. It was another small entry in a long record of consistency.

I had gone out of town for continued education classes, but she left me a note that I look at every day.

"So proud of you always."

Long friendships are not built on constant contact or dramatic gestures. They are built on trust. On the quiet confidence that someone will still be there even when life gets busy or complicated. On knowing that support does not always arrive loudly.

It made me think about how often we don't understand what lasting friendship looks like. We think it's big moments or what movies show us are grand declarations of love. In reality, it is more often small acts.

If we are lucky most of us will have at least one person like that in our lives. Someone who doesn't ask what you need. Someone who notices and responds. Someone whose presence feels familiar no matter how much time has passed.

Those friendships shape us more than we realize.

Becky has always been that kind of friend. The kind who shows up quietly. The kind who does not need to be asked. The kind who understands that sometimes the most meaningful support is simply being there.

If you are lucky, you have someone like that too. And if you do, you probably do not talk about it much. You just know.

That is how the best friendships tend to work.

Call, text, or send a card to your person and tell them you are proud of them or thank them for being a constant in your life. One simple and unplanned gesture can make all the difference in the world to someone. It's the small acts.

I'm so proud of you, Becky and thank you.

Have a great week everyone. We are working on some new and (hopefully) great things here at the *Journal* office we hope to launch soon. We will keep you posted.

THE FALLS CITY JOURNAL
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www.fcjournal.net

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Monday: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM • Tuesday: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Wednesday: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM • Thursday: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

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

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All things Nebraska

Fraudsters out there, seeking to steal our money

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner

As a reporter, you cover all kinds of stories.

Stories about natural disasters, murders, grandmas who collect cookie jars and good Samaritans.

But it's the stories about fraud that make you scratch your head the most.

What drives people, usually already prosperous people, to steal from their local sports club, collections for a sick person, or the town treasury? And, of course, there's all those scams on the internet.

Often, the stealing is done by someone who appeared trustworthy and honest. But in the end, we conclude, "boy were we fooled" and wonder how it could happen.

That, I gotta think, is what a lot of people concluded about a now-dead Lincoln businessman and his financial advisor.

Aaron Marshbanks came off as a credible businessman, a supporter of charitable causes, and a devout Christian. Jesse Hill, his financial advisor, came off as a successful investment manager and leader in his church, who'd made friends good money and lived at a forested acreage worth more than \$1 million.

But over the past three years, we've learned that the pair were on a spree – to cover some horrible investment losses – to defraud a couple dozen banks around Nebraska and Iowa out of more than \$40 million in loans.

Some of the banks were so taken by the fast-talking pair that they provided loans of \$2 million, more or less, without collateral. Others relied on financial statements provided by Hill that were later deemed to be fake.

Others, though, did require collateral. But some sent them packing, declining loans for them.

The pair roamed the area, asking banks and savings and loans – from Curtis to Wayne, Lincoln and Omaha, and North Platte to Council Bluffs, Iowa – to loan them money. Just recently, we learned that the financial institutions ended up losing more than \$37 million due to the duo's deception.

I've seen this show before. David Hunter was a supposedly prosperous owner of a Lincoln title company who was a friend of governors and mayors. That is, until he shot himself as a multi-million check kiting scheme was becoming known.

Ray Perry was a flamboyant and quick-witted Southerner who ran a low-level radioactive waste compact based in Lincoln. Then, it was discovered that he was skimming funds to buy a fleet of luxury cars.

The common thread was that these were all people who seemed totally legitimate and worthy of trust. And, it was assumed, there was plenty of oversight and due diligence to detect any fraud. Until there wasn't.

From the beginning of time, there's been people whose business was to fool us out of our well-earned money.

Most recently, we've read about fraudulent child-care payments made in Minnesota. So far, more than

\$250 million in fraudulent payments have been found, with more than 90 people charged (the \$9 billion estimate being tossed around hasn't been verified yet, and some officials dispute it).

During the pandemic, checks were flying out of the Small Business Administration to keep small businesses running and employees paid. One estimate is that more than \$200 billion in aid was distributed to fraudulent actors, those who fabricated businesses or the numbers of employees they allegedly had.

I've heard every excuse as to why people steal from their local PTA, a Boy Scout troop, or the local bank or village – "I was underpaid, I deserve it ... I was just borrowing and intended to pay it back ... I was desperate and had nowhere else to turn"

Most often, you hear that a fraudster believed that no one would find out. Until someone did.

I'm not sure how to end this column, or if fraud and cheating will ever end. Human nature has its pimples. Temptation is out there.

But I know this, when people commit fraud, they end up ruining their families, hurting their neighbors, and harming the companies, banks and organizations that they stole from. We gotta be careful.

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.



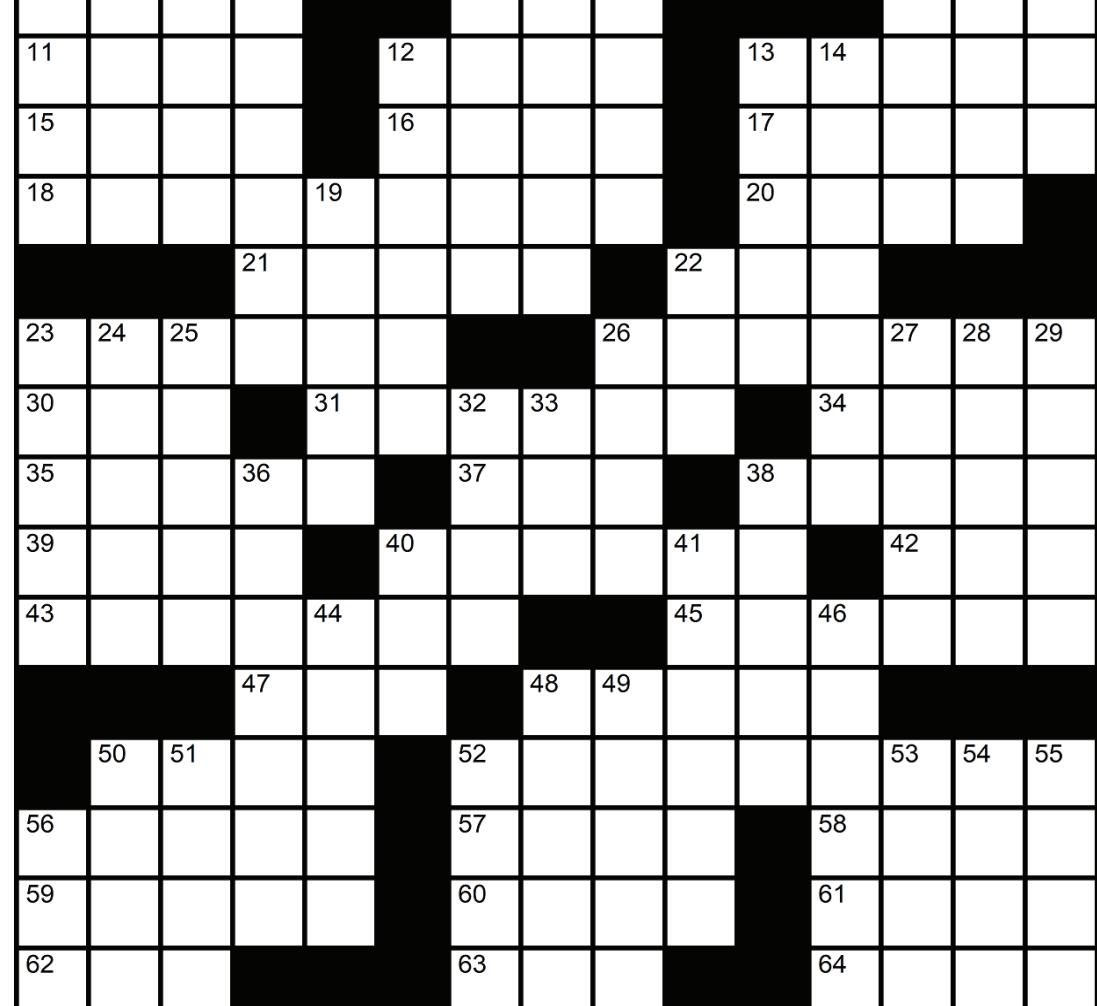
STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: BODY LANGUAGE

ACROSS

- Hot Springs and such
- Bell and Barker
- Wharton degree, acr.
- Artist's inspiration
- *Move head to show attention
- Angry growl
- Shamu, e.g.
- Diva's number
- Put on fancy dress (2 words)
- *Making facial expression showing pain
- Mine passage
- Single-handedly
- Assistance
- Made according to specifications
- Economics
- Biochemistry acr.
- Aerie baby
- Genesis skipper
- Leaves out
- *Some look up and to the right when telling one
- Watcher
- "The Forsyte ____" by John Galsworthy
- Forty winks
- Fraternity letter T
- *Said "easy peasy" with fingers
- Like retina and brain connecting nerve
- Large edible mushroom
- Keen
- Nice place for a rocking chair
- Reuse ideas
- Forearm bones
- Hustle and bustle sound
- Sandwich alternative
- Stay out of its way!
- Place at angle
- Gung-ho about something
- Close by
- Gwyneth, for short
- Opposite of #54 Down

CROSSWORD



From the Journal files

by Brian McKim

75 Years Ago, January 21, 1951 to January 27, 1951

The police department declared war on vandals in town. Seven of the city's stop signs had recently been destroyed, costing taxpayers nine dollars apiece.

A tractor threw Mrs. Claron Vice into a ditch and rolled over her; she escaped with minor injuries.

Armstrong County in South Dakota was the only county in the nation without a single federal employee. The county had only 52 residents, and only 12 were taxpayers.

E.H. Towle was re-elected president of the National Plate Glass Insurance Company of Falls City.

The Perry McGlone Construction Company completed its \$604,645 contract on the Nemaha Valley flood protection system east of Preston.

"To a man in a Korean foxhole, The Falls City Journal is like a little bit of home," wrote Sgt. First Class Eldro Brown, whose home was northeast of Barada. "I enjoy The Journal. It seems to take the place of home in this God-forsaken land," wrote Sgt. Brown.

Approximately 175 people attended the public installation of officers of the local Masonic Lodge.

For Sale—160 acres, unimproved bottom land, no overflow, most all tillable. Buyer receives landlord's share of crop. Has been very good return on investment. Price \$200 per acre. Johnson Realty Company. Phone 135.

Falls City thumped Nebraska City 44-14 in action on the hardwood. The win moved FC to 7-0. Falloon had 12 points, and Nanomantube added 11 for the Tigers. Ryder led Nebraska City with four points.

The Vogue store in Falls City was holding a Pre-Inventory Sale, with winter merchandise reduced by 25% to 50%.

More than 700 people attended the Elks Charity Fund Dance, which featured Woody Herman and his 14-piece band.

Heasty Reesman, Federal Farmer's Home Administration Agent for Richardson and Pawnee counties, moved from his office in the courthouse to quarters in the Post Office. The Chamber of Commerce office also moved from the courthouse to Prichard Auditorium.

The Stella town basketball team defeated the Salem townies 69-48 in a polio benefit contest. Cecil Davis led Stella with 33 points. In the other contest of the night, the Falls City freshmen beat the Salem second-stringers 50-13. Roger Kiekhafer led FC with 10 points, while Jerry Martineau led Salem with five.

SH defeated Verdon in junior high action 27-17. Ronald Fritz had nine points for Verdon, while SH was led by Nick Baker with nine points.

It was reported that there were 61 federal workers in Richardson County.

Records from the office of city-clerk treasurer Russell Pollard showed 67 building permits were issued in 1950, of which 31 were for new homes.

The V.F. W. Post No. 1765 and its Auxiliary were to hold the District No. 6 convention in FC, with between 150 and 200 delegates expected.

The Falls City National Guard team fell to Honey Creek 53-51 at the armory. Jim Conn and Bob Eckwert each had 14 points, while Bill Hoy added 13 for the locals. Merle Stalder topped the visitors with 16 points, while Bill Vossen and Earl Simmonds each had 13.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sells of Rulo were the parents of a son, Donald Richard, born at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hospital.

50 Years Ago, January 21, 1976 to January 27, 1976

Jennifer Duerfeldt appeared unimpressed with the "expert" advice offered by her grandpa, Cecil Bennett, as she tried her luck at the fishing pond at the PTA-sponsored carnival at North School. The duo was featured on the front page of The Journal.

A team captained by Bill Jahn won the co-ed volleyball tournament at Falls City High School. Team members included Jim Farmer, Don Ferguson, Jahn, Mark Huppert, Judie Jaros and Beverly Carder.

Falls City High School wrestlers of the week included Marty Meinzer and Dwight Thompson.

The first lawsuit resulting from the explosion and fire that killed 18 people at the Pathfinder Hotel in Fremont was filed in District Court in Fremont. Attorneys for Markus Realty Co., which had an office on the hotel's ground floor, asked for an unspecified amount of damages.

First Lt. Charles M. Rawe of Humboldt and Specialist Fourth Class Earl A. Candler of Falls City joined Company B, 134th Infantry, Falls City's National Guard unit. Three Guardsmen had completed their enlistments and were discharged. The list included S-Sgt. Leon C. Wissmann, S-Sgt. John C. Schroedl and Sp4 Daniel L. Kirkendall.

Don James was elected chairman of the board of directors of the Falls City Federal Savings and Loan Association, and Harold Harround was reelected president of the association.

Officers of the Richardson County Feeders and Breeders Association were chosen at a meeting in the County Commissioners' room at the courthouse. Chosen were Omer Leech (Humboldt), Paul Phillips (Humboldt), Charles Stanley (Stella), Roger Wilhelm (Humboldt) and Charles Malcolm (Rulo).

A Pinewood Derby for Cub Scout Pack 392 was held at the First United Methodist Church. Eleven members participated, with Steve Eickhoff taking first, Russell Volland second, and Todd Noll placed third.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Schwang were the parents of a son born at Community Hospital. Korey Thomas tipped the scales at eight pounds, 10 ounces.

25 Years Ago, January 21, 2001 to January 27, 2001

Rod and Jan Vandenberg pledged to give \$250,000 to the effort to build the new library in Falls City. The announcement brought the building fund to nearly \$600,000. The ultimate goal of the new library was \$3 million.

Falls City heavyweight wrestler Shane Vollmer improved to 20-1 on the season and won the gold medal at the Plattsmouth Invite. The senior won his 16th straight match and was rated fifth in Class B. Also winning gold medals at Plattsmouth were Anders Erickson (119) and Dana Dill (171).

Sacred Heart coach Dennis Prichard moved to 199-69 with a 59-51 win against Pawnee City. The Irish coach had led the program for 11 1/2 years, and his teams were 89-5 for the past three years. Prich was 11-2 at the state tournament and had led SH to three consecutive state titles.

The Falls City Middle School Students of the Month for December were Chelsea Lewis, Jennifer Cochran and Felicia Zeigler.

The Chamber of Commerce "Attie-Dude" award was presented by Chamber manager Angie Beckner to the Falls City Area Jaycees.

The Falls City Head Start Center, located on West 14th Street, was renamed The Betty Lippold Center in recognition of her 31 years of service to children and families.

Daniel James Jones of Lincoln received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska's Commencement exercise.

The Tiger boys' basketball team defeated Auburn 56-52 at Falls City High School. After playing games at Prichard Auditorium for the past 10 years, a new wood floor was installed at the high school for basketball games. A crowd of 700 packed "The Jungle" as FC swept the season series.

Dawson-Verdon senior Brooke Harring was pictured with her parents, Lori and Todd, as she signed her letter of intent to play volleyball for the Benedictine Ravens.

Accidents. Saturday night, January 20, alley, 1900 block of Lane. Drivers: Nikki L. Harmon; Samantha Dallas. Damage: \$150 to Harmon car; none to Dallas pickup. Dallas was driving from an alley driveway when her pickup struck the Harmon car.

EDGE honors investors, inducts Gottulas into Wall of Fame at banquet

(Continued from Page 1)

that? But you are the leaders that help make things happen," Larsen said. "We see that there's a need. We step in and do it. It may not always be the fun thing to do. I'm sure many of you would rather have not been here tonight. But you're here."

Larsen encouraged continued engagement in community progress.

"Feel free to use your knowledge and the trust that others have in you to share and let them know about good things that are happening and to speak up. And if there are people who have ideas, encourage them," Larsen said.

Randy and Lori Gottula were inducted into the EDGE Wall of Fame in recognition of decades of leadership, service and community involvement.

The Gottulas purchased the local grocery store in January 1990 and operated it through transitions to Hinky Dinky and later Sunmart. Under Randy Gottula's leadership, the store became a primary employer for Falls City high school students, often employing between 15 and 20 students at a time. He retired in June 2013.

In 1995, Randy Gottula led a 3,200 square foot expansion of the store that added a bakery, deli, seating area, courtesy booth and movie rental section. Beyond the grocery business, he served with the Lions Club, St. Paul's Lutheran Church and the Richardson Foundation. He also served in the National Guard with Falls City's Company B, Second Battalion, 134th Infantry.

Randy Gottula was named Jaycees Boss of the Year in 2000 and was inducted into the Peru State Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017 for his long career as a sports radio broadcaster.

Lori Gottula served as president of the Falls City Chamber of Commerce, where she launched Lemonade Days. She organized the Cobblestone Parade for 25 years and later became an author, a freelance writer for the *Falls City Journal* for 20 years, a speaker and high school sports photographer. She also served three terms as secretary on the Falls City Country Club Board and received the Jaycees Distinguished Service Award in 2007.

During the banquet, the Gottulas spoke about the couple's long connection to Falls City.

"We come back here and do a lot of things here. We still bank here, I get my hair cut here. So we're still involved in this communi-

ty and we have never lived anywhere as long as we lived here, and we never will," said Lori.

"Falls City will always be a special place in our hearts. Thank you so much," Randy said. "I do want to say, though, that Lori and I will always consider the 25 years of our ownership of store, and the support that we receive from this community among our greatest blessings."

Gottula encouraged continued support of local businesses.

"When we came here, we were scared to death. The community rallied around us. They supported us for 25 years, and we were able to be very successful," he said. "I would encourage you to continue to support the local businesses here. When you click on 'buy now' on the internet, it doesn't do a thing for your community. Shop here in town whenever you can, support your local businesses and the last thing I want to say is it's so exciting to come in here and see all the things that's going on in Falls City."

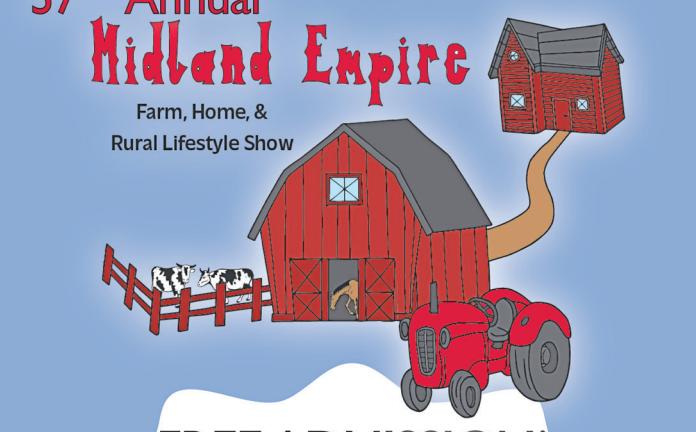
According to EDGE's 2025 annual report, the organization continues to focus on infrastructure readiness, industrial site development, workforce support and housing. Major efforts over the past year included advancing planning for a new electrical transmission line, maintaining development control at the Mid-America Rail Campus and promoting Falls City to national site selection consultants.

EDGE also reported progress on housing initiatives, utilities installation at Champions Crossing and continued advocacy at the state and federal levels to position Falls City for long term industrial and economic growth.

The annual report notes that investor support allows EDGE to pursue large scale projects designed to strengthen the local economy and support job creation.

The banquet included welcoming remarks from EDGE Executive Director Lucas Froeschl, an invocation and dinner led by Lori Gottula and a legislative update from Sen. Bob Hallstrom. A scheduled workforce and economic analytics presentation by Dr. Josie Schafer of the University of Nebraska at Omaha was not delivered due to her absence. The evening concluded with the EDGE annual business meeting.

37th Annual Midland Empire
Farm, Home, & Rural Lifestyle Show



FREE ADMISSION!

- Enter to win a \$250 DeWalt gift card
- One winner each day from Family Center Farm & Home
- Special Show Pricing on Products & Services
- Market Shoppes Area
- Prize Registrations
- MO Child Identification Program
- Saturday Only
- Petting Zoo for the Kids!!
- Sponsored by FCS FINANCIAL

Friday, January 23: 10am- 8pm
Saturday, January 24: 9am- 4pm

St. Joseph Civic Arena



Visit www.stjoemoffarmshow.com or find us on Facebook for more details

Participating Sponsors: **KFEQ**, **CORNER POST**, **News Press NOW**, **Q102.7 FM**, **KQ20 ABC**

Would you like to spend a few hours a week at the hospital helping other people?

COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER

Falls City invites you to join our Volunteer Group.

Qualifications: Happy, friendly, positive-minded, able to assist patients & visitors.

Please contact Linda Santo at CMC, Ph. 402-245-6704 if interested.



Community Medical Center





F&M Bank Falls City announces promotion of Brooke Scheitel to Loan Officer

F&M Bank is pleased to announce the promotion of Brooke Scheitel to Loan Officer. Brooke has been a valued member of the F&M Bank team for over a year, serving as a Loan Administration Assistant and providing outstanding support to both customers and colleagues.

In her new role, Brooke will work directly with clients to deliver personalized lending solutions, helping individuals and businesses achieve their financial goals. Her experience in loan administration and her dedication to customer service make her an excellent fit for this position.

"We are excited to see Brooke take on this new opportunity," said Derrick Leyden - President and CEO. "Her attention to detail, professionalism, and commitment to our customers reflect the core values of F&M Bank."

Brooke looks forward to continuing to serve the Falls City community and assisting clients with their lending needs.

PANCAKE FEED
Shubert Christian Church
Pancakes and Sausage
Located in the basement
Goodwill Offering

5:00PM
Feb. 7
Saturday

GIVEAWAY
2026 POLARIS RANGER 1000 PREMIUM WITH 72" STEEL SNOW BLADE

SATURDAY JANUARY 31 9pm

\$15,000 PLINKO
CASH AND FREE PLAY HOT SEATS

WEDNESDAYS 2pm - 8pm
15 HOT SEAT WINNERS WILL BE RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM 2PM - 8PM

ARISTOCRAT GAMING CLAW MACHINE

FRIDAYS 2pm - 8pm
12 HOT SEAT WINNERS WILL BE RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM 2PM - 8PM

To qualify for the Drawings, You must be playing an ARISTOCRAT SLOT MACHINE

WHIRLWIND MONEY MACHINE

THURSDAYS 4pm - 9pm
January 8, 15, 22, 29
10 HOT SEAT WINNERS WILL BE RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM 4PM - 9PM

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

FC Fire Department gives 2025 end of year report

Submitted by Jon McQueen, public information officer, Falls City Fire Department.

The Falls City Fire Department responded to 33 incidents in 2025, up from 19 calls in 2024. The department's annual average is about 40 calls per year.

Total combined losses in 2025 declined to \$160,000, compared to \$240,000 in reported losses in 2024. Incidents in 2025 included three structure fires, six smoke investigations, two appliance fires, seven electrical incidents, four vehicle fires and 11 brush or trash fires.

The Falls City Fire Department, along with all area first responders, thanks the public for continued support and for allowing emergency vehicles room to maneuver on city streets while responding to incidents.

Annual "Bill Simon Memorial Shrimp Feed" at Tiehen Gym

The annual "Bill Simon Memorial Shrimp Feed" will take place at Tiehen Gym on Saturday, January 31, 2026. Be sure to get your reservations in by this Friday, as there is expected to be another large turnout.

Bring your family and friends for a fun and memorable evening. Tables will be set up for 10 people. If you're reserving a full table of 10 and would like to add extra shrimp, you can request an additional box of shrimp for \$50 to be added to your boil pot. Simply note your request and include the \$50 with your reservation. Don't have a group of 10? No worries, just bring yourself, and you'll be placed at a table with other fun guests.

Please submit your reservation, along with \$40 per meal, to the school office by noon on Friday, January 23, 2026.

If you'd like to contribute a monetary donation to help cover ingredient costs, you can send it to Sacred Heart School.

The event is also in need of a propane turkey fryer with a tank. If you can lend yours or are willing to volunteer, please contact Molly Kirkendall at 402-245-4151 or Adam Santo at 402-245-7748 as soon as possible.

Barada Street transport incident

A vehicle was damaged during transport on Barada Street on January 4, according to Falls City Police reports.

Police reported that a vehicle owned by Justin Baker of Falls City was being towed by Jon Kean of Salem on a flatbed truck along Barada Street when the driver's door of the Baker vehicle swung open. The open door collided with a parked vehicle on the west side of Barada Street owned by Paul Kieckhafer of Falls City.

The parked vehicle sustained \$4,000 in damage. The Baker vehicle sustained \$1,500 in damage.

Dollar General parking lot collision

Two vehicles were involved in a non-injury accident in the Dollar General parking lot on December 11, according to Falls City Police reports.

The accident occurred when both vehicles were parked facing south in front of Dollar General. Police reported that Lexie Buckminster of Falls City backed out of the parking stall. Crystal Thompson of Falls City, was parked in the adjacent stall to the east, also backed out

and struck the front left corner of the Buckminster vehicle. Thompson told police they did not see Buckminster backing out prior to the collision.

Damage was estimated at approximately \$1,500 to the Buckminster vehicle and \$500 to the vehicle driven by Thompson. One vehicle was towed due to disabling damage.

Commission statement on theft case

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) identified and reported suspected fraudulent activity involving an online payment portal in June 2024 and worked promptly with authorities to investigate the matter.

Because this is an active criminal case, the Commission cannot comment further on the details and would refer additional questions to the Nebraska State Patrol.

Since the incident, the PSC has reviewed and updated internal processes and worked with the State of Nebraska's website vendor to enhance payment security measures. There is no indication that the incident affected any regulated entities, ratepayers or the Commission's regulatory functions.

DISTRICT 1 SENATOR BOB HALLSTROM'S NEWSLETTER

The Nebraska Legislature assembled on Wednesday, January 7, for the opening of the Second Session of the 109th Legislature. We are currently entering the "short session" of the biennium. While the first session lasts 90 working days, this second session is limited to 60 working days and will conclude in mid-April.

Our system of government is unique as the only non-partisan Unicameral in the nation, consisting of a single chamber with 49 senators. Each of the senators represent approximately 40,000 constituents. My district is the 1st District, which represents Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties.

The Unicameral is elected on a non-partisan basis, which means that the election ballot for state senators does not reflect party affiliation.

The major issues facing the Legislature in 2026 will include addressing an estimated \$471 million budget shortfall and continuing efforts to bring about meaningful and sustainable property tax relief.

I intend to introduce legislation this year on property tax relief, rural workforce housing, rural health care, child care, emergency protection orders, first-time home buyers' savings accounts, felony motor vehicle homicide/distracted driving and protecting seniors from insurance exploitation.

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

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2026 D.J.'s Hero Awards Scholarships

Select Nebraska high school seniors who have overcome adversity will be chosen to receive the scholarships-named in honor of the late D.J. Sokol-for commitment to others and to their communities. Honorees will be selected by a panel of metro-area civic leaders.

This year, a minimum of 16 scholarships will be awarded.

Each Hero Awards Scholarship winner will receive a \$12,000 scholarship toward their selected college or university. Honorees will

be recognized at the D.J.'s Hero Awards Luncheon in Omaha on April 28.

Among the criteria for selecting honorees are the following: Nebraska residency; High school senior; Having overcome challenges/adversity; Commitment to others and to the community.

Nominators and their nominees must submit scholarship applications (nominations) online at www.djshero.org.

Applications must be submitted by February 25. Please call 402.898.7691 with any questions.

SOUP SUPPER
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
20th & Towle St.
Sat. Jan. 31st 5-7pm
Serving Chili, Vegetable Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Rolls, Relish & Dessert
Free Will Donation
Dine-in, Carry out, Delivery (FC Shut-in's Only)

Funds for Soup Supper to be supplement by Thrivent Action Team

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RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE
After 21 years of dedication and hard work, Mark Joy is ready to trade in the office chair for a comfy recliner! Let's celebrate the end of an era and the beginning of a retirement adventure!

Honoring MARK JOY
State Bank of Table Rock

January 30, 2026
8:00am - 4:00pm
Humboldt Branch
300 Nemaha St.
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Eberspacher files for Nebraska State Board of Education, Dist. 5

Angie Eberspacher officially filed with the Nebraska Secretary of State to run for the Nebraska State Board of Education, representing District 5.

Eberspacher, a lifelong resident of District 5 and an educator, announced her campaign in June of 2025.

"Filing for office is an important step, and I'm thankful for the conversations I've had across District 5," Eberspacher said.

The Nebraska State Board of Education is an elected, constitutional body responsible for setting statewide education policy and ensuring the Nebraska Department of Education operates within the framework established by the Legislature and the Board.

District 5 includes Butler, Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Gage, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lancaster (south of Nebraska Parkway in Lincoln and rural areas of the county), Nuckolls, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Saunders,

Seward, Thayer, Webster, and York counties.

Eberspacher previously served on the Educational Service Unit (ESU) District 6 Board, where she was elected chair. During her service, she emphasized fiscal responsibility and worked to update and review policies and resources.

The Primary Election is May 12, 2026, followed by the General Election on November 3, 2026. Current District 5 State Board of Education member Kirk Penner has announced he will not seek re-election and has endorsed Eberspacher.

"I'm running because Nebraska's students and families deserve a strong future built on responsibility and core academics," Eberspacher added. "It would be an honor to serve District 5 on the Nebraska State Board of Education."



Falls City FFA receives donation from Golden Harvest.

Falls City FFA December news

By Reporter Bowdy Jones

The month of December was a busy one for FFA members. Monday, December 15, the Falls City FFA chapter attended district LDE's at Weeping Water High School. Members Malori Kuker, Breean Eickhoff, Ethan Morris, Brock Niedfeldt, Bowdy Jones, and Dayton Snethen competed in the Parliamentary Procedure competition. They took a written test and gave a demonstration.

Members Knox Davis, Elin Vonderschmidt, Hunter Pingel, and Caroline Powell competed in Creed Speaking. They recited the FFA Creed and answered three questions about the Creed. Member Elijah Leyden competed in Extemporaneous speaking. Where he wrote a 4-6 minute speech in 30 minutes and presented it. After the members were finished with their competitions lunch was provided consisting of pizza, chips, and cookies. The day concluded with awards.

The Parliamentary Procedure team received third place, with a purple ribbon and bronze medals, qualifying for state. In Creed Speaking, Caroline and Elin earned blue ribbons, and Knox earned a purple. In the Extemporaneous di-

sion, Elijah Leyden received a blue ribbon.

Friday, December 19, the Falls City FFA Chapter received a generous donation from Golden Harvest on behalf of representatives Jimmy Jared and Rick Karas.

This donation will be used to support the chapter and members when attending competitions, conferences, and conven-

tions to buy meals or pay for transportation. Thank you to Jimmy Jared, Rick Karas, and Golden Harvest for their generous donation. It is greatly appreciated.

The Chapter is looking forward to the spring semester with finishing state degrees, career development events, FFA week and so much more.

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FROM THE JOURNAL ARCHIVES



Who's in this week's photo? We're asking for your help in solving the mystery each week of our thousands of photos. If you know who is pictured, please email us at brian@fcjournal.net or nikki@fcjournal.net and look in an upcoming issue or our Facebook page for answers. *We will share answers when everyone in the photo is confidently identified. (IDENTIFIED!)* Within an hour of the papers being delivered last week we received our first text identifying the photo printed in the paper. By the end of the week we had received dozens and I mean dozens of emails, calls, visits and texts to identify, Becky Jenkins and her children, Dan and Brett on the left and Shannon and Kara on the right.

Thank you so much to everyone to sent in the names of the Jenkins family. We will get this information placed with the photo. We appreciate it so much.

Ngoc Nguyen of Falls City named to Texas State University's President's List

Texas State University is pleased to announce Ngoc Nguyen of Falls City has been named to its President's List for Fall 2025.

Nguyen is majoring in Health Sciences.

The President's List is made up of of students who earned a grade point average of 4.0 while enrolled in 12 or more GPA hours at Texas State University in the semester.

The MENU

SINCE 2021

FALLS CITY ELKS CLUB
1417 Stone St., Falls City • 402-245-3814
SUNDAY BUFFET: Open To Public 11-1.
Chicken Buffet or Buckets To Go.

TUESDAY, Jan. 27 - Regular Menu
WEDNESDAY, Jan. 21 - WING WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY, Jan. 22 - Regular menu
FRIDAY, Jan. 23 - Garlic Parmesan, Shrimp or Spaghetti and Meatballs
SATURDAY, Jan. 24 : Kitchen Closed-Bar Open

LET LOCAL BUSINESSES KNOW YOU USE THIS MENU.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE IN THIS SECTION, CALL 245-2431 OR EMAIL NIKKI@FCJOURNAL.NET

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Smiley Bee
1715 Stone St.
(402) 245-5171
Breakfast Items available through lunch or later!
Salads, Paninis, House-made Salads & Sandwiches
WEEKLY SOUPS: Chicken Pot Pie & French Onion
WEEKLY HOT AND READY SANDWICH: Taco Burger
ALL AVAILABLE 11 A.M. TO 8 P.M.
NEW TO THE MENU: Chocolate Bark & Tomato Basil Panini
SOFT SERVE: Vanilla, Chocolate, Pistachio & Espresso
ALL ITEMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND AVAILABILITY

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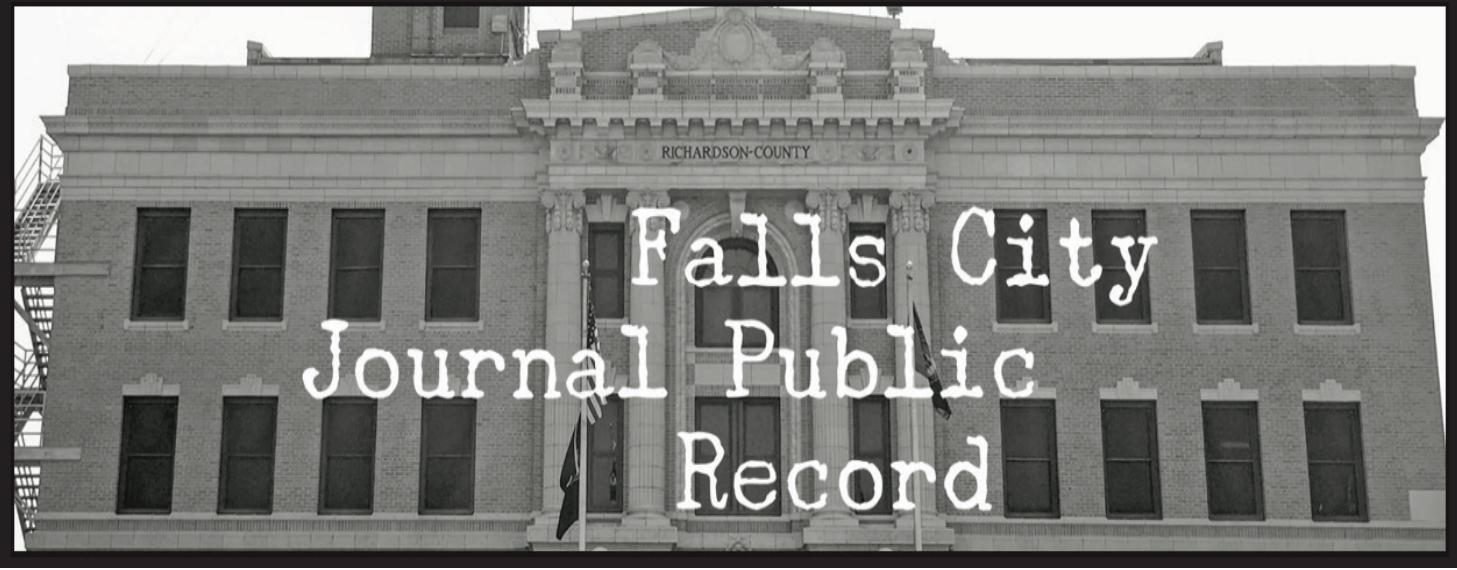
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COUNTY COURT

Joseph A. Gloria, count one, possess marijuana 1 oz or less-1st, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for February 25, 2026.

Lauren C. Ford, count one, no proof of insurance, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for January 28, 2026.

James W. McFadden, count one, false reporting-misdemeanor, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for February 4, 2026.

James W. McFadden, count one, drive without ignition interlock, pled not guilty; count two, no brake lights/turn signals, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for February 4, 2026.

Elijah A. Williams, count one, identity fraud-1st, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$250; count two, speeding 21-35 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$300.

Jerrad A. Jones, count one, DUI-15+, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes fine of \$500, jail for term of seven days, credit for four days served, licensed revoked for term of one year, interlock device; counts 2-5 amended to dropped/dismissed.

Christjan V. Stevens, count one, procure/sell alcohol to minor/incompetent, pled not guilty; count two, contribute to delinquency of child, pled not guilty. Hearing scheduled for February 4, 2026.

Marlanna J. Stalder, count one, assault-cause bodily injury, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$250.

Cole T. Davis, count one, assault-threaten/menacing manner, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for February 4, 2026.

Robert W. Davis, count one, nonresident violate susp/rev order, pled guilty, found guilty. Sentencing scheduled for February 25, 2026.

Kyle A. Hague, count one, criminal trespass-2nd degree/defy orders, pled not guilty. Entry of plea scheduled for February 4, 2026.

Kyle A. Hague, count one, disturbing the peace, pled not guilty. Entry of plea scheduled for February 4, 2026.

Kyle A. Hague, count one, criminal mischief-\$501-1,499, pled not guilty. Entry of plea scheduled for February 4, 2026.

Aaliyah M. Parker, count one, drive during revocation/impound-1st, pled not guilty; count two, no proof of insurance, pled not guilty; count three, speeding 11-15 mph, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for February 25, 2026.

Shawn W. Creamer, count one, procure/sell alcohol to minor/incompetent, amended to possess/consume open alcohol container, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court

found guilty and fined \$50; count two amended to dropped/dismissed.

Malachi J. Gatewood, count one, drive during revocation/impound-1st, plea changed to guilty, found guilty. Sentence includes fine of \$200, license revoked for term of one year.

James W. McFadden, count one, willful reckless driving-1st, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes fine of \$75 and court costs.

Meigui Zeng of East Meadow, NY, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs.

Gilmer Yovani Alvarado Saucedo of Omaha, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75; count two, no operator's license, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs.

Jerry Johnson of El Dorado, KS, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs.

Ivor Abel of Pharr, TX, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs.

Rufat Ali of Brooklyn, NY, count one, pass in same direction, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs.

Bradley K. Oberding, count one, willful reckless driving-1st, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes fine of \$500, probation for term of six months, drug testing fee of \$30, probation admin enrollment fee of \$30, probation fee-regular of \$150.

James W. McFadden, count one, drive without ignition interlock, pled not guilty; count two, no brake lights/turn signals, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for February 4, 2026.

Jacob R. Parker, count one, maintaining a nuisance, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25.

Rufat Ali of Brooklyn, NY, count one, pass in same direction, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs.

Parvinder Dorrough of Dallas, TX, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs.

Joshua Jones of Council Bluffs, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs.

Parvinder Dorrough of Dallas, TX, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs.

Sommer Bullard of Falls City, count one, stop sign violation, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs.

Johannes Du Plessis of Dawson, count one, speeding 21-35 mph, found guilty and fined \$25.

Parvinder Dorrough of Dallas, TX, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs.

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Tigers fall in thriller at Fairfax Tourney

The Falls City Tiger boys opened the 94th edition of the Fairfax Invitational Basketball Tournament on Monday with a 70-38 loss to the Rock Port Blue Jays. The loss was the fifth straight for FC.

The Tigers fell behind early, trailing 21-9 after the first quarter and saw the gap widen to 42-16 at the half. The Blue Jays continued to pull away after the break, outscoring FC 25-16 and securing a 32-point win.

Falls City did many things well Monday night in Fairfax. FC sank 11-of-13 shots from the foul line and turned the ball over only 14 times. However, FC was outshot 48 percent to 26 percent and outrebounded 36-22.

Rock Port moved up and down the court well, finishing the contest with 23 points in transition and 16 points off Tiger turnovers.

Paxton Armbruster did most of the offensive damage for FC, finishing with a team-best 20 points, including a near-perfect 7 for 8 from the free-throw line. Ethan Morris was the top rebounder with seven, while Callen Furnas and Kam Huppert each had two steals.

FC Scoring: Jones 5, Armbruster 20, Morris 4, Bangert 5, Caudle 2, Davis 2.

Rock Port Scoring: Amthor 14, Huntley 6, Ellis 10, Meyerkorth 20, Cook 2, Holmes 14, R. Ellis 2, Millsap 2.

On Thursday night, FC held a 48-47 lead over Mound City with 2:40 remaining, but a corner triple put FC behind by two, 48-50. A pair of free throws by Armbruster on the next possession tied the game at 50-50 with 2:33 left in regulation.

Each team failed to score down the stretch, and the game went to an extra period tied at 50.

In the extra four minutes, the Panthers consumed more than two minutes of game clock before missing a shot, giving FC the ball.

With fifty seconds remaining, Armbruster scored on a drive, putting the Tigers on top 52-50. Seconds later, a three-point play put the Panthers on top 53-52. Armbruster

sank a free throw to tie the game yet again, and a driving bucket with five seconds remaining seemed to give FC the win, 55-53. However, a foul gave the Panthers two free throws with 1.4 seconds remaining, and Mound City sent the game into a second overtime. The Tigers thought they had a foul to give, as the scoreboard showed three team fouls, but the bookkeeper announced it was the fifth infraction, giving Mound City the free throws.

FC needed some magic as they trailed 60-55 with forty-five seconds remaining. Bowdy Jones calmly sank a trey from the corner, cutting the lead to two. A driving bucket by Kacen Davis again tied the game with 11 seconds left.

After two extra periods, the contest went to a third overtime, tied at 60-60. One minute into the period, Armbruster gave FC the lead with a hoop, 62-60. With the game tied again, Morris found a cutting Armbruster to make it 64-62 with 2:20 to go. Mound City then sank 3-of-4 free throws over the next 45 seconds, putting FC behind 67-64 with 47 ticks remaining. With the Tigers trailing 69-65, Armbruster sank a three from the wing with eight seconds left. However, Mound City inbounded the ball and ran out the clock to preserve the thrilling 69-68 win.

FC outshot Mound City 42% to 37%; however, the Panthers hit 15-of-20 from the foul line, while FC was 9-of-19. The Tigers also lost the turnover battle, finishing with 20, while forcing 14.

Armbruster went 9/24 from the field for 24 points, while Leyden added 11 rebounds and Bangert dished out seven assists.

FC Scoring: Jones 10, Furnas 3, Armbruster 24, Leyden 6, Morris 9, Bangert 4, Davis 12.

Mound City Scoring: Roup 28, Peters 6, Smith 2, Gard 5, Derr 22, Tubbs 1, M. Smith 3, Knapp 2.

The 1-12 Tigers hosted the 1-10 Boys Town Cowboys on Tuesday and played at JCC on Saturday, February 24, 2026.

Lady Tigers finding their groove

The Falls City Lady Tigers fell to St. Joseph Christian, 41-31, in first-round action of the Fairfax Basketball Tournament on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

Turnovers loomed large for FC, as 19 miscues led to 20 points for St. Joseph on the other end of the floor.

The Lady Tigers shot the ball well, hitting 39 percent of their attempts. Unfortunately for FC, they managed only 28 attempts in the contest, compared with 48 by their opponent.

A pair of free throws by Bella Johansen early in the game tied the game at 2-2. A three, a turnover, and a bucket at the rim quickly put St. Joseph in front, 7-2. Tessa Gossman scored on an inbounds play to cut the lead to 9-4, and an offensive rebound and putback by Carlea Dunkhas made it 9-6 with just under three minutes remaining in the quarter. A late three by the Lions made it 14-6 at the end of the first. The Tigers played the Lions neck-and-neck in the final three periods but couldn't overcome the early eight-point deficit, falling 41-31.

The Lady Tigers took advantage at the foul line, making 8-of-11 and scoring 18 points in the paint. Dunkhas (11 points, six rebounds) and Johansen (10 points, five rebounds) led the Tiger offense. Gossman recorded a team-best three assists, and Brynna Glathar added three steals.

FC Scoring: Dunkhas 11, Pierce 2, Gossman 2, Johansen 10, Glathar 3, Rhodd 3.

Lion Scoring: Glise 6, Hill 14, Dawson 21.

On Thursday night against the South Holt Knights, FC got off to a good start, leading 8-5 after the first period and 17-10 at the half. The Lady Tigers continued to pull away as the game progressed, leading 31-19 after three and pulling away for the 43-22 win.

FC outshot the Lady Knights 31% to 21%, outrebounded South Holt 36-25, and forced 17 turnovers while committing 12.

Dunkhas led FC with 18 points, 14 rebounds and four assists.

FC Scoring: Dunkhas 18, Gossman 2, Johansen 5, Glathar 8, Titus 2, M. Johansen 2, Rhodd 6.

The Tigers picked up win number four of the season on Friday night, defeating West Nodaway in a thriller, 39-36. Falls City fell to the Thunder on a last-second three on December 9th, 40-39.

On Friday, FC fell behind 6-4 after the first quarter, but rallied to take a 15-11 lead into the half. The Tigers exploded for 16 points in the third and held on for a 31-26 lead with eight minutes to go. The Thunder fought back in the final period, but FC held on for the three-point win.

FC outshot West Nodaway 47% to 28% and held a 29-24 rebound advantage. The game was marred by turnovers, with FC finishing with 31 and the Thunder with 28.

Gossman led the offense Friday with 13 points, going 5/7 from the field. Rhodd added 12 points, nine rebounds and four steals.

FC Scoring: Dunkhas 1, Gossman 13, Johansen 5, Titus 8, Rhodd 12.

The win improved Falls City to 4-10 on the season. FC hosted 4-6 Boys Town on Tuesday and will play 9-4 JCC on Saturday.

Tiger wrestlers continue to improve as season wages on

The Tiger wrestlers traveled to Sabetha on Thursday for the Tri-State Dual against Sabetha and Maryville. The Tiger boys fell to the home school, 49-30, but defeated Maryville, 66-18. On the girls' side, FC defeated Sabetha, 58-17, and Maryville, 60-12.

In the boys' match against Sabetha, Dayton Snethen earned a win by fall over Bently Pryor in just forty-four seconds. At 150, Orion Cattrell pinned Easton Stahl at 2:30 for the win. Brantly Sells picked up a win, pinning Brendon Bestwick at 2:50 in the 190-pound match, and Chase Simpson won by fall at 285, pinning Brad Hinton at 3:07.

In the next dual versus Maryville, Cade Caudle earned the win by fall over Cole Sherlock at 2:30 at 138 pounds. Cattrell made quick work of his match, pinning Bridger Jenson-Pleasant in thirty seconds. Zane Elms won at 157 pounds, pinning Cole Wiley in 2:54, and Ashton Martin got the win at :57, pinning Moses Myrick. At 190, Sells pinned Gary Kroeze in :43, and Simpson earned the win by fall over Michael Steffen at :57.

For the Lady Tigers against Sabetha, Keylee Olberding pinned Bryn Sinning at :38 for the win at 100 pounds. At 125, Ashlyn Alexander won by fall over Ava Grimm at 2:19, and Peyton Weddle pinned Jessa Kibbe at 3:57 for the win at 130 pounds. At 140, Leah Goff earned a win by fall over Olivia Baumgartner, and Gabi Young won a major decision (23-11) over Naomi Pearson. At 155, Taytum Maddox pinned Emma Wahwasuck at 1:59 for the win, and Emma Gilkerson pinned Lola O'Neil at 3:12 for the win at 170 pounds.

In the dual against Maryville, Olberding pinned Jayden Joe at 4:56 for the win, and Maddox scored a late fall, pinning Avery Berry at 5:42 for the win.

On Saturday, the Lady Tigers wrestled at the Rumble in River Country in Nebraska City. The Tigers scored 84 points and placed sixth. Fort Calhoun won the tourney with 134.5 points, Auburn was second with 123, and Yutan was third with 120.

Gabbi Griffin had the best finish for FC. Griffin went 0-2 but placed second at 235. At 115, Hallie Young finished 4-1 and placed third. In the third-place match,

(Continued on Page 9)

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KITTENS IN THE BASEMENT

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As for Old Dog Towsler, who, according to John Falter's brush, is about to burst into tears, he should cheer up. For that heart of a child is so much bigger than a house that it can easily, warmly shelter ten cats, ten dogs, a garter snake and a Shetland pony. johnphilipfaltermuseum.com

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*Last Week's "Armbrusters Back in the Day" was Molly Matties



Kathy Pokorny



Kathy Pokorny, age 75, passed away peacefully at her home on January 12, 2026, surrounded by her loved ones.

Kathy was born on June 16, 1950, in Pawnee City, Nebraska, to Hollis and Edis (Sheik) Winchell. She was raised in Pawnee City and graduated from Pawnee City High School, where she discovered a lifelong love of golf and was a proud member of the cheer team.

After high school, Kathy attended Kansas State University before moving to Lincoln, Nebraska. It was there that she began her longtime career in banking and met the love of her life. Kathy was united in marriage to Allen Pokorny on August 21, 1971, in Rulo, Nebraska.

Kathy and Allen lived in several communities before settling in Kansas, where they raised their family. Together they welcomed three daughters: Ashley, Kyra, and Kelsey. The family made their home in Axtell, Kansas, where Kathy worked alongside her family at The State Bank of Axtell for 32 years. She retired in

2009 after a fulfilling and dedicated career.

Following retirement, Kathy and Allen moved to Osage Beach, Missouri, fulfilling a long-awaited dream. There, Kathy truly thrived—spending countless hours on the golf course, celebrating her first hole-in-one, and enjoying the close friendships they formed. She loved spending time with family, antiquing, happy hours with friends, weekend golf getaways, reading, traveling, music, boating, and was always up for any adventure. She will be remembered for her kind spirit, gentleness, supportive nature, and the love she shared so freely with family and friends.

Kathy is survived by her husband, Allen Pokorny of Osage Beach, Missouri; her three daughters, Ashley Duncanson of Gardner, Kansas, Kyra (Anthony) Barbosa of Phoenix, and Kelsey (Casey) Kensinger of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; and her seven grandchildren, Trey, Ryder, Bowen, Leo, Luca, Saban, and Elbridge. She is also survived by her sister, Vicki Winchell of San Dimas, California, and her brother, Kim Winchell of Axtell, Kansas, who was preceded in death by his wife, Loretta Winchell, as well as several other family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hollis and Edis Winchell.

Sharon Darveaux



Sharon Darveaux, 81, of Falls City, NE, passed away January 10, 2026 at Falls City. She was born November 1, 1944 at Falls City to Roy and Maxine (Grady) Murphy, Sr.

She married Ron Wissman in April of 1963 at Falls City and they were later divorced. She married Raphael Darveaux in October of 1989 at Falls City.

Sharon was raised in Falls City and attended Falls City High School. She worked as a waitress at Southside Inn and was the manager from 1988 until 1990. She was a devoted caretaker of her mother for many years. She enjoyed singing and spending time with her family and grandchildren. She was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

Sharon is survived by her husband, Raphael of Falls City, children, Lori Hoffmann of Wichita, KS, Ronald Wissman of Falls City, Crystal Tracy and her husband Eric of White Cloud, KS, step-son, Raphael Darveaux II of Bellevue, NE, brother, Donnie Murphy and his wife Pat of Falls City, sisters, Harriett Curtis and her husband Stan of Smithville, MO, Carol Olson of Lincoln, NE, Linda Chavez and her husband Gene of Merriam, KS, Teri McClain and her husband Dave of White Cloud, KS, Vesta Mae Cochran of Falls City, sister-in-law, Patricia Murphy of Falls City, grandchildren, Nicholas Hoffmann, Hailey, Aliza, Emily and Charlotte Tracy, great-grandchildren, Alan and Connor Hoffmann.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, Roy Jr. and Roy Gene, sisters, Barb Liberty and Shirley Brown.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 11:00 AM at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church with Father Louden Redinger as the presiding priest. Interment was in Steele Cemetery.

The family received friends on Thursday, one hour prior to the service at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

A Parish Rosary was recited on Wednesday at 7:00 PM at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home.

DeWayne Arnold

DeWayne Arnold, 60, of Falls City, NE, passed away January 10, 2026 at Omaha, NE. He was born December 16, 1965 at Falls City to George and Bonnie (Foreman) Arnold.

He married Donna Sesna on April 24, 1993 at Falls City and they were later divorced.

DeWayne was raised in Falls City and graduated Falls City High School in 1984. Following graduation he worked for Harmon's Ok Tire. He went on to work for Junior Strasil where he learned to work with metal. He then drove over the road for Keim Trucking. He then started his own welding business, ARW Inc. which he operated for 25 years before returning to driving a truck for J-6 Enterprises. He enjoyed the outdoors, woodworking, smoking meat and feeding his family. He served in the Falls City Volunteer Fire Department for many years.

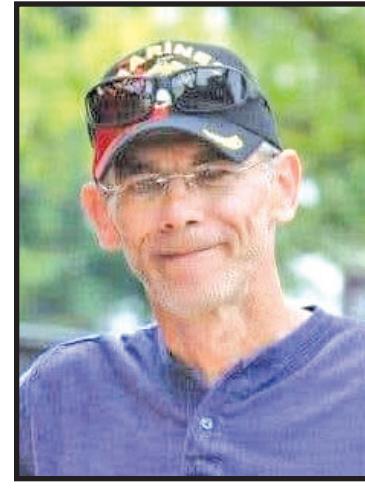
He is survived by his sons, Carl "C.J." Arnold of Falls City, Hunter Arnold and his fiancé Megan Baker of Lincoln, NE, mother, Bonnie Arnold of Falls City, brother, Randy Arnold of Beaver Dam, WI and a niece, Alexa Arnold.

He was preceded in death by his father.

His funeral was held on Friday, January 16, 2026 at 10:30 AM at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home with Grant Anderson officiating. Interment was in Harris Cemetery.

The family received friends on Thursday from 6-8:00 PM at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home.

Daniel Lynn Strecker



Daniel Lynn Strecker was born on September 29, 1957, in Falls City, Nebraska, the oldest of seven sons born to August William and Jeannine Marie (Fryer) Strecker.

Daniel grew up in Falls City and graduated from Falls City High School in 1975. Following graduation, he was inducted into the United States Marine Corps, where he served for four years and traveled all over the world. Daniel was honorably discharged in 1980 with the rank of private.



On March 9, 1979, he married Christina Lee Hall in Craig, Missouri. Born to this union were Tyler Roy, Amber Ramona, Nicole Marie, and Sarah Jean.

Daniel worked for the P.J. Murphy Company in Hiawatha, Kansas, and also worked at a tool manufacturing factory.

Daniel passed away on January 9, 2026, at Community Hospital in Fairfax. He was preceded in death by his mother, Jeannine; brother, Michael; and son-in-law, Michael Lynn Eppens.

Survivors include his father, August; brothers and sisters-in-law, Ron (Cindy), Tom (Vikki), Larry (Michelle), Pat, and Steve (Miranda); 15 grandchildren, Jocelyn, Alexis, Alexis Billington, Lucas, Kori, Colby, Catherine, Aiden, Raelee, Kynna, Violet, Autumn, Evan, Austin, and Amelia; two great-grandchildren, Ian and Peyton; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Daniel loved his family deeply and treasured the time spent with them. He was a devoted and loving grandfather who took great pride in his grandchildren and was known as the best grandpa. He enjoyed sharing his love of nature and the outdoors with them, especially while camping together and creating lasting memories. His favorite place to camp was southern Missouri. Daniel also had a passion for photography and enjoyed capturing the beauty of the world around him. He loved the outdoors, and his favorite hobbies included turkey hunting, fishing, and camping. He also maintained close relationships with his nephews, keeping in regular contact and bonding over their shared love of classic rock music.

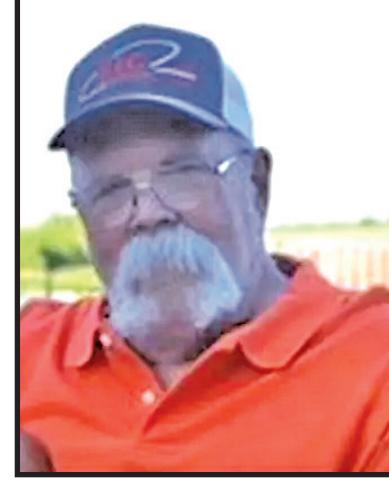
He was a devoted Nebraska Cornhuskers fan and rarely missed an opportunity to follow the team. Cheering for the Huskers was something he truly enjoyed and took pride in throughout his life.

Danny will be deeply missed and always remembered with love.

Family visitation was held Monday, January 12, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at River of Hope Fellowship Church. Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at River of Hope Fellowship Church.

Interment with military honors followed at I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Craig. Lunch followed at River of Hope Fellowship. Memorials may be directed to the Fisher House, Omaha, Nebraska, or to the River of Hope Children's Ministry. Care entrusted to Chamberlain Funeral Home, Mound City, MO. Online condolences may be left at www.chamberlainfuneral.com.

John P. Howe



John Phillip Howe, 78, of rural Humboldt was born on October 11, 1947, in Humboldt, Nebraska to Homer Edward and Bertha Louise (Scholl) Howe. He attended Bratton Union Consolidated Schools north of Humboldt and graduated with the class of 1965. John continued his education attending the University of Nebraska in Lincoln where he received a degree in 1971. He then returned home to farm with his brother Tom while working the night shift at O.A. Cooper Feed Mill in Humboldt.

On April 5, 1975, John was united in marriage to Sherry Volker at Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn, Nebraska. To this union three children, Caleb, Niki,

and Kristal were born. The couple made their home and raised their family near Humboldt, Nebraska. John, or "Howard" as he was known by many, enjoyed tractors, fishing, visiting with friends and neighbors, and most of all, watching his grandchildren play.

John passed away on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at his home in rural Humboldt, Nebraska having reached the earthly age of seventy-eight years, three months, and three days.

He is preceded in death by his parents and parents-in-law.

John is survived by his loving wife Sherry of rural Humboldt, children: Caleb Howe and wife Megan of rural Humboldt, Niki Pecka of Lincoln, Kristal Howe-Brown and wife Liz of Sebastopol, CA; grandchildren: Aly, Clayton, and PJ Howe; Sloan and Logan Pecka and Brody and Elle Brown, his brother Tom Howe of rural Humboldt, brothers-in-law: Lin Volker and wife Sarah of rural Humboldt, Terry Volker and wife Mary of Kearney, NE; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

A Celebration of John's Life will be held at a later date with inurnment at the Pleasant View Cemetery in rural Humboldt, Nebraska.

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

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

Services entrusted to Wherry Mortuary-207 N. Nemaha St-Humboldt, NE 68376 (402) 862-2915.

Larry Kirkendall

Larry Kirkendall, 81, of Falls City, NE, passed away January 16, 2026 at Falls City. He was born February 5, 1944 at Falls City to James and Lois (Lilly) Kirkendall.

Larry was raised on a farm one mile east of Falls City until moving into the family home in 1987. He lived there until becoming a resident of Falls City Care Center in 2014. He was a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church at 20th and Towle St.

Larry is survived by a sister-in-law, Janet Kirkendall of Minnesota and several nieces, nephews and cousins and loved by many.

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Gene, Donald, Milford and Raymond Kirkendall and Lois Peck.

His funeral will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 10:30 AM at St. Paul's Evangelical Church at 20th and Towle St. with Pastor Joanna Kathol officiating. Interment will be in Steele Cemetery.

Viewing and open visitation will begin Tuesday afternoon until 7:00 PM and on Wednesday from 9:00 AM until 7:00 PM at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home.

Gone, But Not Forgotten Obituaries of 2025

(Continued from Page 1)

23. David E. Yocom, 67, of Dawson; Fayrene L. Kuker, 83, of Verdon.

26. James "Jim" Berry Jr., 76 of Osceola, NE.

29. Betty Lou Portrey, 82, of Falls City.

31. Loretta Lee Stevens, 99, of Falls City.

April

2. Paul Bennett Weaver, 80, formerly of Falls City.

3. Davis Louis Rieschick, 77, of Lake Jackson, TX.

4. Barbara Jean (Bratt) Heusman, 75, of Falls City; James Wickham, 85, of Falls City.

10. Lonnie E. Blevins, 55, of Falls City.

15. Dollie Mae (Wisdom) Liebsch, 97, of Rockaway Beach, MO.

16. Larry C. Ebel, 83, of Falls City.

22. Delbert R. Benedict, 93, of Omaha.

25. Imogene Strasil, of Falls City, NE.

29. Barbara Jahn Long, 85 formerly of Falls City.

30. John Edward Campbell, 79, of Hiawatha, KS; Walter "Frank" Palmer, 83, of Falls City.

May

1. Jerrold "Jerry" Jones, 65, of Falls City.

5. Andy Lee Loftus, 47, of Falls City.

7. Lawrence Dewuane Wolfe, 94, of Humboldt.

12. Vernal Gilbert Fall-er, 89, of Omaha.

13. Sebastian "Subby" Lombardo, 96, of Falls City.

15. Michael "Happy" Thomas Gilmore, 70, formerly of Falls City.

19. Eric Daniel Froeschl, 45, of Falls City; Evelyn Suess, 100, of Falls City.

27. Neal Bachman, 89, of Bella Vista, AR.

June

1. Deborah Lynne (Hexum) Hart, 72,

3. Pamela Rue, 75, of Falls City; Connie Eichelberger, 70, of Hiawatha, KS.

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

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Thank you

The family of Hank Schwartz would like to thank everyone who has reached out in sympathy at the passing of our dearly beloved husband, father, and grandfather. In whatever capacity you interacted with him, we know that you brought him great joy in the wonderful and full life he led. Special thanks to the Falls City Care Center staff and the Community Hospital staff for the excellent care they gave him in these last few days and years of his life. God bless you all!

Marcia, Lance, Mary, Debbie, and Lucy Schwartz

5. Richard "Dick" Von-Bergen, 88, of rural Dawson.

8. Richard "John" Lewis Slama, 79, of rural Humboldt.

8. Faye Lorene (Witt) Dappen, 83, of Falls City.

10. Jerry Wayne Anno, 70, of Humboldt.

12. Walter E. "Walt" Scott, 82, of the area.

14. Karen L. Olson, 85, of Reserve, KS.

16. Marjorie Ann (Herbster) Dale, 94, of Omaha.

20. Clarence Cote, 76, of Falls City.

23. Eleanor (Ele) Pearl Richardson Last, 84, of Falls City.

28. Dr. Robert (Gibby) Gibson, 85 of Omaha.

29. Norma Eckwert, 92, of Falls City.

30. Dean Kirkendall, 95 of Falls City.

July

3. Carol Rae Thornton Coffey, 80, of Hastings, NE.

5. Lu Keller, 82, of rural White Cloud, KS; Roger Wilhelm, 84 of Humboldt.

6. Jerry W. Nelson, 75 of Verdon.

9. Ruby Boyd, 91, of Falls City.

16. George Elwonger, 99, of Overland Park, KS.

23. Thomas N. Steinhauser, 72 of Orleans, NE.

24. Susan Kuhlmann, 76 of Omaha; Melissa Rieschick, 48 of Lake Jackson, TX.

August

6. Donald "Shunta" (Wolfe) Robidoux, 81, of Falls City.

8. Barbara S. Pratt, 86 of Hiawatha, KS.

12. Eli Sayer, 12 of Falls City; Clayton Butrick, 65 of Falls City; Steven Holland, 76 of Falls City.

13. Joyce Kentopp Repp, 76 of Syracuse.

16. Bonnie Bachman Bragg, 79 formerly of Falls City.

19. Mildred "Millie" Marrs, 85 of Falls City.

25. Norma "June" Brown, 88 of Shubert.

26. John "Ron" Michals, 82 of Port St. Lucie, FL.

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103. Norma "June" Brown, 88 of Shubert.

104. John "Ron" Michals, 82 of Port St. Lucie, FL.

105. Joyce Kentopp Repp, 76 of Syracuse.

106. Mildred "Millie" Marrs, 85 of Falls City.

107. Norma "June" Brown, 88 of Shubert.

108. John "Ron" Michals, 82 of Port St. Lucie, FL.

109. Joyce Kentopp Repp, 76 of Syracuse.

Lady Irish earn third-place finish at 97th MUDECAS Tourney

The Sacred Heart Lady Irish placed third last week at the 97th edition of the MUDECAS Basketball Tournament in Beatrice. The tourney, held Monday through Saturday, features many of the best small-school sports teams in Southeast Nebraska. Last year, the Lady Irish fell to Johnson-Brock, 42-36, in the tourney's finals. This year, the third-seeded Irish defeated the Eagles for third place in the A Division.

The tourney opened for the Irish on Monday afternoon, as they faced the sixth-seeded Palmyra Panthers. The Irish had little trouble with the Panthers, defeating Palmyra 47-26 to advance to the next round.

SH made seven threes in the contest and converted 10-of-13 free-throw attempts. The Irish also forced 20 Panther turnovers while committing 13.

Avery Santo led the Irish with 16 points, going 3-of-6 from beyond the arc. Daycee Witt was right behind with 13 points. Witt added a team-best nine rebounds and two assists.

SH Scoring: Santo 16, Westengaard 1, Witt 13, Reschke 4, Lemerond 9, Jones 4.

Palmyra Scoring: Green 10, Simmons 5, Peterson 1, C. Badertscher 8, X. Badertscher 2.

The win set up a rematch against Tri County. The Irish and Trojans had split the season series, but Tri County got the best of the Irish on Thursday. SH fell behind early, trailing 14-8 after the first quarter and 31-20 at the half. The Irish mounted a furious comeback in the second half, outscoring Tri County 18-11 in the third to make it 42-38 with eight minutes remaining. SH chipped away but ran out of steam as the Trojans held on for a three-point win, 50-47.

Deep balls brought the Irish back in the second half. Santo hit three in the final 16 minutes, Witt added two, and Bailey Lemerond added one. All told, SH went 10-of-31 from deep. However, Tri County took advantage at the foul line, making 13/23, while the Irish went 7/14. The Irish held a 35-31 rebound edge but forced only six turnovers while committing 11.

Santo again led the Irish. Avery went 6/14 from deep for 20 points, and Witt added 11 points, six rebounds, and three assists. Jones led the team with 13 rebounds and added six points.

The win improved the Trojans to 11-3, while SH fell to 9-4.

SH Scoring : Santo 20, Witt 11, Westengaard 2, Lemerond 8, Jones 6.

Tri County Scoring: Holtmeier 3, Beerenstrauch 6, Peters 10, Scherling 2, Gronemeyer 1, Schnuelle 13, Morgan 6, Hoesche 2, Hohensee 7.

In the third-place contest against Johnson-Brock on Friday, SH bolted to a 15-8 first-quarter lead and held on for the final three periods to earn a 55-49 win. The Irish outshot the Eagles 40% to 25% and outrebounded J-B 30-28. The Irish forced only four turnovers and turned the ball over 11 times against the Eagle defense.

Jones had her coming-out party against the Eagles on Friday at the Beatrice Auditorium. The junior went 8-of-13 from the field for a game-high 21 points. Witt added 13 points, seven rebounds and six assists, and Lemerond went 3-of-6 from deep for 11 points.

SH Scoring: Santo 9, Westengaard 1, Witt 13, Lemerond 11, Jones 21.

Eagles Scoring: Knippelmeyer 18, Pelican 7, Behrends 17, Eggers 2, Vice 5.

The win gave the Irish a third-place finish at the tournament and improved the Lady Irish to 10-4. The Eagles fell to 10-6 on the season.

The Irish set their sights on the Auburn Bulldogs Tuesday night. Auburn entered the contest with a 3-9 record. The Irish will play at Rock Port on Thursday and host Pawnee City on Friday.

Irish fall in first round at MUDECAS

The Sacred Heart boys' up-and-down season continued last week as they entered the 2026 MUDECAS Basketball Tournament in Beatrice as the A Division's fifth seed. In the opening contest on Tuesday, SH played the Tri County Trojans at the City Auditorium. It was the third time the teams had played each other, with each team winning earlier in the season.

Tri County led after the first quarter, 12-9, but Sacred Heart battled back to cut the lead to one at the half, 23-22. The contest remained close in the third quarter as the Trojans outscored the Irish 10-9 to take a 33-31 lead into the final period.

Tri County exploded in the fourth, outscoring SH 23-9 to earn the 56-40 win.

The Irish shot just 26% from the field, making 12-of-47 attempts. SH made just 5-of-24 threes. Meanwhile, Tri County went 17-of-46 from the field, making 7-of-26 from deep. SH struggled under the glass, getting out-

rebounded 37-19, including an 11-3 deficit on the offensive glass.

Cole Taft led the Irish offense with 15 points, going 9-of-10 from the free throw line. Brenden Lemerond added 11 points, going 3-of-7 from beyond the arc. Bo Fletcher added eight points and five rebounds.

The loss dropped SH to 4-6 for the season, while Tri County improved to 10-4.

The Trojans handed Free-man its second loss of the season on Thursday and defeated Johnson-Brock, 53-51, to win the A Division Championship.

SH Scoring: Taft 15, Fletcher 8, Lemerond 11, Clow 4, Baxter 2.

Tri County Scoring: Siems 22, Kapke 4, Dawson Siems 3, Vossler 7, Wehrman 6, Smidt 1, Schnuelle 13.

The Irish played the Diller-Odell Griffins on Saturday in Beatrice. The Irish defeated the Griffins for the second time this season, racing past Diller-Odell 68-47.

The contest was close early,

with each team coming out swinging. SH held an 18-14 lead after the first quarter. A strong second quarter by Sacred Heart gave them all the cushion they would need, as they outscored Diller-Odell 20-5 to make it 38-19 at the half. The second half was evenly played, but the damage was already done, as SH outscored the Griffins 30-28 to secure the 21-point win.

The Irish shot well, hitting 46% of their shot opportunities, including a 13-for-29 effort beyond the arc. The Irish made only five trips to the foul line, converting three, while Diller-Odell went 11-of-17. The swarming Irish defense also troubled Diller-Odell, forcing 23 turnovers while committing 14.

SH also dished out 17 assists in the contest and held their own under the hoop with a 24-23 rebounding edge.

The Irish three-headed beast of Taft, Fletcher and JJ Lancaster provided the bulk of the offense, as the three combined for 44 points, nine steals and seven assists.

Fletcher went 4-of-6 from beyond the arc for 16 points, while Lancaster went 5-of-7 from three-point range for 16 points. Taft finished the game 5/11 from the field for 12 points. Lemerond was held to just three points but added six assists and two steals.

SH Scoring: Taft 12, Fletcher 16, Sipple 2, Lemerond 3, Lancaster 16, Clow 7, Baxter 6, Howard 6.

Diller-Odell Scoring: Behrends 3, Penner 3, Humphreys 5, Day 6, Zabokrsky 3, Phillips 8, Heideman 9, Novotny 6, Lichty 4.

The 5-6 Irish played at 10-1 Auburn on Tuesday, Rock Port on Thursday and host Pawnee City on Friday night at the Roh Activity Center.

Titans continue post-Christmas climb

Coach Jamie Stice and the HTRS Titans improved to 6-6 on the season after defeating Pawnee City, 43-39, in the opening round of the 2026 MUDECAS Basketball Tourney. The Titans entered the tournament as the No. 2 seed in the B Division and faced the No. 7-seeded Indians at Beatrice Middle School on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

The contest was tight throughout, as HTRS held a 6-1 lead after one period and made it 17-13 at the half. The contest was played evenly in the second half, with HTRS taking the third quarter 13-10 and Pawnee City outscoring the Titans 16-13 in the fourth to make the final 43-39.

HTRS was led by Emmett Glathar, who recorded 19 points and 15 rebounds. Darius Bohling led the Titans with five assists.

HTRS Scoring: Hilgenfeld 5, Bohling 5, Dettmann 2, Duryea 6, Glathar 19, Hunzeker 6.

Pawnee City Scoring: Rose 12, Wernimont 13, Fender 2, Frakes 3, Tegtmeier 3, Kling 6.

On Thursday, HTRS dropped a heartbreaker to the Southern Raiders, 45-44 in overtime. The game was tied 8-8 after the first quarter, and the Titans held a slim 14-13 lead at halftime. HTRS outscored the Raiders 14-13 in the third, making it 28-26 with one period remaining. The Raiders outscored HTRS 10-8 in the fourth, sending the contest to an extra four-minute period. The Titans were outscored 9-8 in the extra period, dropping the contest 45-44.

HTRS defeated Parkview Christian on Saturday, 47-43, avenging a two-point loss from ten days prior. HTRS led 39-27 heading into the final period, but the Patriots fought back, outscoring HTRS 16-8 in the final period. However, HTRS did enough to hold on for the four-point win, improving to 7-7 for the season.

The Titans traveled to Pawnee City on Tuesday to take on the Indians for the second time in a week.

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, we thank and honor all in our community who continue to help keep us anchored in faith, service, and love. We appreciate everything you do to keep our school afloat!

Our School Parishes

St. Anne's-Shubert

St. Mary's-Arago

St. Mary's-Dawson

Sts. Peter and Paul-Falls City

Immaculate Conception-Rulo

Sacred Heart CATHOLIC SCHOOL



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2026

Sunday, January 25
Parish Day/
Public Relations Day

Monday, January 26
Celebrating our
Community

Tuesday, January 27
Parents and Staff
Appreciation Day

Wednesday, January 28
Honors Day/
Celebrating our
Nation Day

Thursday, January 29
Celebrating
Vocations Day

Friday, January 30
Student
Appreciation Day

Board of Commissioners Reorganize

(Continued from Page 1)

Hardesty said they have two conditional offers out to deputies, and if accepted into the academy, the Sheriff can make a formal offer.

"Hopefully, they go to class in May and graduate in August," said Hardesty.

A motion was made by Caverzagie to enter a second closed meeting with special counsel Jerry Pigsley to review pending litigation and for the protection of the public interest. The Board entered the closed meeting at 10:00 a.m. and emerged at 10:53.

The Board approved a memorandum of understanding regarding the coordination of delivery, alerts warning and notifications through FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). According to EMA Director/Weed Superintendent Brian Kirkendall, the only changes to the MOU involve removing Johnson and Pawnee County from the ability to send Cooper Nuclear Station-related alerts.

The two counties are still capable of sending other flood, weather, etc., alerts, just not for Cooper Nuclear.

The motion passed 3-0.

The Board also approved the annual Noxious Weed Report to be submitted to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Protection, 2025.

Kirkendall also advised the Commissioners that he had received paperwork regarding changes made to the Floodplain Ordinance.

"I just got it yesterday during our Cooper drill," said Kirkendall. "I haven't

been through it yet."

County Treasurer Amanda Bartek-Ramsey submitted the semi-annual report to the Board. Karas motioned to approve the report, Caverzagie seconded, and it passed 3-0.

Commissioner Caverzagie made a motion to reaffirm Steve Darveau as the Highway Superintendent, and Campbell seconded, and it carried 3-0.

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to reaffirm Brian Kirkendall as Emergency Management Director and Noxious Weed Control Superintendent. Caverzagie seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

Caverzagie motioned to reappoint Odis Fields as Veterans Service Officer. Karas made the second, and the motion passed 3-0.

The Board passed Resolution 2025-2026-23, establishing the salaries of county elected officials for the term 2027-2030. The resolution sets the elected officials' wages at \$80,000.00 in 2027, with a 3.5% raise in 2028, 2029 and 2030. The 2028 wage would be \$82,800.00, 2029 will be \$85,698.00 and 2030 will be \$88,697.43.

The Sheriff's salary will be set at \$104,000.00 in 2027, \$107,640.00 in 2028, \$111,407.40 in 2029 and \$115,306.65 in 2030. The County Attorney's salary will be set at \$128,000.00 in 2027, \$132,480.00 in 2028, \$137,116.80 in 2029 and \$141,915.88 in 2030. The County Surveyor's salary will be established at \$17,282.00 in 2027, \$17,886.87 in 2028, \$18,512.91 in 2029 and \$19,160.86 in 2030.

Finally, the County Commissioner's salary will remain unchanged, staying at \$36,743.70. The Election Commissioner's salary will be set at \$4,000.00 per year, and the Budget-Making Authority will receive \$4,000.00 annually.

In addition, each official shall receive and be a member of the same health, medical and life insurance group plan as offered to all county employees.

The Board also affirmed salary increases for employees as included in the FY25-26 budget, effective January 1, 2026. County Attorney Scheitel requested that the Board approve a wage increase for Heidi Billingsly, raising her from \$22.50 to \$28.00 per hour.

Scheitel compared Billingsly to the Deputy Clerks, stating she felt Billingsly had been underpaid. "I don't think it's fair that she's been way underpaid compared to any other county employee," stated Scheitel.

Scheitel said Billingsly handles all child support work outside the court. After a discussion, the Board voted to raise the

deputy clerk, register of deeds, election commissioner, deputy treasurer, deputy assessor and deputy of district court to \$28.25 per hour. The chief deputy at the Sheriff Department will go from \$33.81 per hour to \$34.49 per hour. The deputy emergency management director will go from \$22.89 per hour to \$23.35 per hour; the extension office clerical will go from \$17.95 per hour to \$18.31 per hour; and building and grounds for the courthouse will increase from \$22.89 per hour to \$22.35 per hour.

Caverzagie made a motion to approve Heidi Billingsly at a rate of \$28.00 per hour. The motion passed 3-0.

Appointments were made to special boards. Dr. Tramp was named to the County Board of Health. Mark Jones, Charles Duryea and Dana Rathje were renamed to the County Planning Commission and Madeline Keller, Kristi Gerweck and Sandra Stalder were renamed to the Visitor's Committee.

Claims were paid, and the meeting was adjourned.

Lady Titans drop both contests at MUDECAS

The HTRS Lady Titans fell in the opening round of the 2026 MUDECAS Basketball Tournament in Beatrice on Monday to the top-seeded Freeman Falcons, 51-35. The win improved Freeman to 9-2 on the season, while HTRS fell to 7-5.

The Lady Titans stayed with the top seed early, trailing by only two, 11-9, after the first quarter. However, Freeman pulled away in the second period, outscoring HTRS 17-11 to take an eight-point lead, 28-20, into the locker room at halftime.

The Lady Titans held Freeman to just five points in the third quarter and cut the lead to 33-27, but the Falcons rebounded to outscore HTRS 18-8 in the final eight minutes, earning the 16-point win.

HTRS outshot Freeman 37 percent to 35 percent. However, the Falcons took 17 more shots than the Titans and made five more three-point attempts than HTRS.

Elie Bstandig finished the contest with 13 points and nine rebounds, while PJ Howe added 10 points and five boards.

HTRS Scoring: Bstandig 13, Bredemeier 3, Bowen 7, Howe 10, Duryea 2.

Freeman Scoring: Veerhusen 5, Johansen 8, Wallman 9, Schaaf 6, Borrenpohl 2, Mahler 21.

With the loss, HTRS faced JCC on Friday in Beatrice. HTRS battled, taking the game to overtime, but was outscored 10-3 in the extra period, falling to the T-Birds 49-42.

The Titans led 6-5 after the first quarter but fell behind 23-14 at halftime. HTRS clawed back, outscoring JCC 6-2 in the third and cutting the deficit to 25-20 heading into the fourth. The Titans' offense exploded for 19 fourth-quarter points, tying the game at 39-39 at the end of regulation.

The 7-6 Titans played at Pawnee City on Tuesday.

LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

GENEROUSLY BROUGHT TO YOU EACH WEEK BY THE SPONSORS BELOW

FALLS CITY

First Brethren Church (1902 Lane St.): Worship Service, 9:30am; Sunday School, 10:40am; Fellowship Hour, 6:00pm

Don Shafer, Moderator - 402-245-5209

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

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

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

Corner Stone Baptist Church (N. Highway 73 Turn at Blue Valley Behavioral Health)

Sunday School Bible Hour: 9:30am; Worship, 10:30am & 6:30pm. Wednesday: Bible Study & Prayer Time, 7pm; Lively Stone Kids Klub K-6. Pastor Mike Duleavy - 402-245-4245

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

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

Riverside Fellowship 117 S 3rd St., Rulo, NE

Sun. Worship 9AM. Fellowship, Sunday School, & Adult Bible Study 10:00AM Following Worship. David Showalter, Pastor

RULO

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

Riverside Fellowship 117 S 3rd St., Rulo, NE

Sun. Worship 9AM. Fellowship, Sunday School, & Adult Bible Study 10:00AM 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, 6:30PM. 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

WHITE CLOUD, KS

9:30AM. Communion is served the first Sun. of every month. Bob Heusman, Pastor

VERDON

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

DAWSON

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

ARAGO

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

STELLA

Stella Community Church Sun: Church service, with children's Sunday School, 9:30AM; adults Sunday School, 10:30AM. John States, Pastor

Grace Bible Fellowship (Highway 62, east of Stella) Sunday School, 9AM; Church Service, 10:15AM. Website: www.gbfchurc.com.

Dave Lockard, Pastor. Office: 402-883-2110

HUMBOLDT

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

WHITE CLOUD, KS

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

BIG LAKE, MO

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

Dick Lionberger, Intern pastor

FOREST CITY, MO

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

SULLY

CHURCH

WELLS

CITY OF FALLS CITY CLAIMS

CITY OF FALLS CITY, NE
PAYMENT DATES
12/3/2025 - 12/16/2025
VENDOR NAME
DESCRIPTION (ITEM)
AMOUNT

FUND: 100 - GENERAL

American National Bank, HSA \$120.00
 Gilmore & Bell PC, Annual Report Yr

End 2024.09.30 \$1,500.00

TASC, 3Q 2025 Matrix Quarterly

Trustee Fee \$62.50

Amazon Capital Services, Desktop

Name Plate Holder 2" x 8" \$10.39

Amazon Capital Services, 32GB USB

Flash Drives 10pk \$15.67

Amazon Capital Services, Pentel

Energel Deluxe Retractable Pens

12ct \$8.05

Amazon Capital Services, Pentel Refill

for Energel Liquid Gel Pen \$6.97

Amazon Capital Services, Lysol

Disinfecting Wipes, 6pk \$17.24

Amazon Capital Services, Bostitch 3 in

1 Stapler \$15.74

Amazon Capital Services, Spiral

Passport Book \$6.46

Amazon Capital Services, Sharpie Gel

Pens-Black \$8.99

Amazon Capital Services, Standing

Flip Desk Calendar \$11.99

Amazon Capital Services, Desktop Mat

Calendar \$26.99

Halbert, Dunn & Burns, LLC, Legal

Services 9-02-2025 through 10-31-

2025 \$3,942.00

FC Mercantile, Hawthorn Foaming

Soap \$158.78

US Signal Company LLC, Microsoft

CSP NCE Licensing \$81.00

Verizon, Service Nov 2025 \$47.92

Pro Serv, SAV/P 311M MICR \$55.00

FC Journal, Publications 10.29.2025

through 11.24.2025 \$958.23

Pest Control Services of SE NE,

Pest Control Service: Prichard, City

Hall \$75.00

Ameritas Billing, 457 After Tax %70.09

Ameritas Billing, 457 Pre Tax

Percentage \$194.06

Aflac, AFLAC \$269.69

CWA Dues, CWA Union Dues \$77.72

Medica Insurance, Group

Health \$16,724.66

IBEW Local Union #1536, IBEW Union

Dues \$114.28

International Union of Operating

Engineers, IUEO Union Dues \$197.52

Dearborn Life Insurance Company, Life

Insurance \$228.97

Nebraska Dept of Revenue,

Garnishment \$250.00

Ameritas, Pension 457 Pre-Tax \$95.00

Ameritas, Retirement 501a, \$12,861.82

Nebraska Dept of Revenue, State W/H

Tax \$4,133.16

Department of the Treasury, Federal

W/H \$10,182.15

Department of the Treasury, Medicare

Tax \$3,070.20

Department of the Treasury, Social

Security Tax \$13,127.78

Richardson Co Treasurer, 2025

Drainage Dist 7 \$757.62

Fund 100 - General Total: \$69,481.84

FUND: 110 - POLICE

Armbruster Motor Co, Wrecker

Service \$129.00

UCI Testing, Non DOT Pre-

Employment Test \$80.00

Das State Accounting - Central

Finance, Network Serv. Charges

11/2025 \$612.50

Halbert, Dunn & Burns, LLC, Legal

Services 9-02-2025 through

10-31-2025 \$4,404.50

US Signal Company LLC, Microsoft

CSP NCE Licensing \$112.50

Verizon, Service Nov. 2025 \$599.45

Bosselman Pump & Pantry Inc, Fuel

Expense Nov 2025 \$1,136.48

FC Journal, Publications 10.29.2025

through 11.24.2025 \$12.67

Police Dept Petty Cash, Car Wash

11.23.2025 \$20.00

Police Department Petty Cash, Car

Wash 11.16.2025 \$4.00

Police Department Petty Cash, Car

Wash 11.02.2025 \$8.00

Police Department Petty Cash, Car

Wash 11.16.2025 \$8.00

Police Department Petty Cash, Car

Postage 11.03.2025 \$10.48

Harmon's OK Tire, Flat Repair \$25.00

League Association of Risk

Management, Auto Liability- 2026

Durango \$161.81

League Association of Risk

Management, Auto Physical

Damage- 2026 Durango \$354.53

Armbruster Motor Co, 2026 Dodge

Durango \$39,700.00

Fund 110 - Police Total: \$47,378.92

FUND: 115 - ANIMAL CONTROL

Halbert, Dunn & Burns, LLC, Legal

Services 9-02-2025 through 10-31-

2025 \$200.00

US Signal Company LLC, Microsoft

CSP NCE Licensing \$12.50

Verizon, Service Nov. 2025 \$39.94

Fund 130 - Building Inspections &

Code Enforcement Total: \$52.44

FUND: 150 - PARKS

Amazon Capital Services, Pentair

Floor Inlet Fitting 1-1/2in slip

brushing \$11.26

Heritage Landscape Supply Group,

Fuel Charge \$13.78

Heritage Landscape Supply Group,

NDS STD Valve Box w/ Cover Grn/

Grn Box & Cover \$127.20

Farm & City Supply, LED Flashlight

BLK 100LM \$13.99

US Signal Company LLC, Microsoft

CSP NCE Licensing \$37.50

Utility Department, Morehead Field/

Irrigation \$279.77

Utility Department, Snackshack -

Irrigation \$47.39

FUND: 120 - FIRE

FC Volunteer Fire Dept, Fire

Prevention \$550.00

Falls City Volunteer Fire Dept,

Chrmas Decorations installed on

Lane St \$500.00

Falls City Volunteer Fire Dept,

Secretary Dues \$150.00

FC Volunteer Fire Dept, Treasurer

Dues \$100.00

US Signal Company LLC, Microsoft

CSP NCE Licensing \$12.50

Fund 120 - Fire Total: \$1,312.50

FUND: 130 - BUILDING INSPECTIONS & CODE ENFORCEMENT

US Signal Company LLC, Microsoft

CSP NCE Licensing \$12.50

Verizon, Service Nov 2025 \$39.94

Fund 130 - Building Inspections &

Code Enforcement Total: \$52.44

FUND: 150 - PARKS

Amazon Capital Services, Pentair

Floor Inlet Fitting 1-1/2in slip

brushing \$11.26

Heritage Landscape Supply Group,

Fuel Charge \$13.78

Heritage Landscape Supply Group,

NDS STD Valve Box w/ Cover Grn/

Grn Box & Cover \$127.20

Farm & City Supply, LED Flashlight

BLK 100LM \$13.99

US Signal Company LLC, Microsoft

CSP NCE Licensing \$37.50

Utility Department, Morehead Field/

Irrigation \$279.77

Utility Department, Snackshack -

Irrigation \$47.39

FUND: 150 - PARKS

CITY OF FALLS CITY CLAIMS

(Continued from Page 12)

Total Systems and Controls, N-200 solenoid valve Part #44-0003.....	\$590.00
Farm & City Supply, Bushing Hex 3/8 x 1/4 Blk.....	\$3.00
True Ag & Turf, LLC, Freight.....	\$49.07
Halbert, Dunn & Burns, LLC, Legal Services 9.02.2025 through 10.31.2025.....	\$24.00
US Signal Company LLC, Microsoft CSP NCE Licensing.....	\$62.50
Blackburn Manufacturing Company, paint - yellow inverted solvent based (G4558).....	\$216.98
Verizon, Service Nov. 2025.....	\$17.97
Falls City Sanitation Service, Service October 2025.....	\$65.00
Falls City Sanitation Service, Service November 2025.....	\$65.00
One Call Concepts, Inc.	
Locate Fees-Gas.....	\$39.86
Bosselman Pump & Pantry Inc, Fuel Expense November 2025.....	\$666.55
Amazon Capital Services, goggles DeWalt Concealer NS #28978 (G4817).....	\$20.88
Falls City Journal, Publications 10.29.2025 through 11.24.2025.....	\$10.11
Farm & City Supply, Milkhouse Heater 1500W.....	\$38.69
Clayton Energy Corp, November 2025 Commodity.....	\$58,005.32
Fund 620 - Gas Total:.....	\$60,829.15
FUND: 630 - WASTEWATER	
Farm & City Supply, Filter Air Pleat 20x251.....	\$20.97
TASC, 3Q 2025 Matrix Quarterly Trustee Fee.....	\$5.00
Amazon Capital Services, 32GB USB Flash Drives 10pk.....	\$1.25
Amazon Capital Services, 2 Drawer File Cabinet w/ lock.....	\$5.44
Amazon Capital Services, VECLEO Tall End Side Table.....	\$6.84
USA Bluebook, Hach Nitrogen-Ammonia Test 'N' Tube Set, 50 tests.....	\$204.95
USA Bluebook, Hach Nitrogen Ammonia LR TNT Reagent Set, \$197.00	
Vrba Constructors Inc, Furnish & Apply Seeding.....	\$5,402.37
Vrba Constructors Inc, Staking.....	\$147.36
Vrba Constructors Inc, F&I Fittings a. 8' 45 Degree Bend.....	\$178.06
Vrba Constructors Inc, Remove & Salvage 8' 45 Degree Bend \$372.37	
Vrba Constructors Inc, Abandon Existing Piping.....	\$377.37
Vrba Constructors Inc, 12" VCP Gravity Sewer Connection..	\$408.86
Vrba Constructors Inc, Connect to Existing Piping a. 8" FM Connection.....	\$561.56
Vrba Constructors Inc, Mobilization ..	
.....	\$10,987.36
Vrba Constructors Inc, Force Main Cleanout Assembly.....	\$14,904.40
Vrba Constructors Inc, Furnish & Apply Gravel Surfacing.....	\$37,133.36
Vrba Constructors Inc, F&I 8" C900 PVC Force Main w/ Tracer Wire.....	
.....	\$80,843.31
Vrba Constructors Inc, 48" Flat Top M. H.....	\$1,707.16
Vrba Constructors Inc, F&I Silt Fence.....	\$2,109.86
Vrba Constructors Inc, Maintain & Administer SWPPP	\$2,287.37
Vrba Constructors Inc, Remove & Dispose of Manhole.....	\$2,487.37
Vrba Constructors Inc, Air Release Assembly	\$3,641.05
Vrba Constructors Inc, Furnish/install & maint. detour signage/traf ctrlr.....	
.....	\$4,373.61
NDWEE - Fiscal Services, Clean Water State Revolving Fund-Interest.....	
.....	\$368.81
NDWEE - Fiscal Services, Clean Water State Revolving Fund-Principal.....	
.....	\$11,178.84
NDWEE - Fiscal Services, Clean Water State Revolving Fund-Admin Fee.....	
.....	\$368.81
NDWEE - Fiscal Services, Clean Water State Revolving Fund- Principal	
.....	\$20,304.72
Amazon Capital Services, Lysol Disinfecting Wipes 6pk	\$1.38
Amazon Capital Services, Pentel Energel Deluxe Retractable Pens	\$0.64
Amazon Capital Services, Pentel Refill Ink.....	\$0.56
Brad Griffin Consulting, Epson High Speed Duplex Scanner.....	\$34.32
Brad Griffin Consulting, Wireless Keyboard - Edjo Ergonomic key board	\$5.68
Brad Griffin Consulting, Power Strip - Metal HD.....	\$2.40
Brad Griffin Consulting, UPS Desktop	\$6.40
Brad Griffin Consulting, Wired Keyboard - Logitech 6120 keyboard mouse set.....	\$2.00
Miller & Associates, Northeast Lift Station Foremain Replacement.....	
.....	\$15,300.40
Amazon Capital Services, Neoprene Rubber Sheet, Rolls, Strips 3/16"	\$53.90
True Ag & Turf, LLC, Freight.....	\$44.33
JASON HARTLEY, Mileage	\$310.80
JASON HARTLEY, Meals.....	\$238.00
Farm & City Supply, Screws	\$0.87
Farm & City Supply, Towels Shop Blue 2pk.....	\$6.99
Brown Co Transfer, Service	\$225.00
Halbert, Dunn & Burns, LLC, Legal Services 9.02.2025 through 10.31.2025.....	\$8.00
Farm & City Supply, Hook Rope Bnd .327" x4.25.....	\$5.18
Farm & City Supply, Chain Double Loop 2/3zn275.....	\$5.37
Farm & City Supply, First Aid Kit 137PC Auto	\$179.99
Farm & City Supply, Spring Snap ZNC 0.44" 200#	\$5.98
US Signal Company LLC, Microsoft CSP NCE Licensing	\$50.00
Verizon, Service November 2025.....	
.....	\$217.88
Falls City Sanitation Service, Service October 2025.....	\$90.00
Falls City Sanitation Service, Service November 2025.....	\$90.00
One Call Concepts, Inc, Locate Fees-WW.....	\$8.47
Bosselman Pump & Pantry Inc, Fuel Expense November 2025.....	\$176.99
Falls City Journal, Publications 10.29.2025 through 11.24.2025	\$3.37
Grainger, LCD Hour Meter, SAE Round Flush, 8-Digit	\$116.04
Midwest Laboratories, Inc, Shipping 2025.11.10.....	\$18.28
Midwest Laboratories, Inc, Shipping for Midwest Laboratories, Inc, Supply Order 2025.11.03.....	\$11.02
Midwest Laboratories, Inc, Monthly WW - Oct to Apr.....	\$103.07
Fund 630 - Wastewater Total:.....	\$217,764.84
FUND: 810 - COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	
Dorothy J. Towle Revocable Trust, Towle Realty Easement	\$1,500.00
Richardson County Treasurer, 2025 Taxes	\$1,167.66
Fund 810 - Community Redevelopment Authority Total:.....	\$2,667.66
FUND: 998 - UTILITIES - POOLED CASH	
CASH ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES November 2025 Purchase Card Statement	\$4,842.33
Payroll Utility Fund, Payroll 12.12.2025.....	\$72,982.88
Fund 998 - Utilities - Pooled Cash Total:.....	\$77,825.21
FUND: 999 - GENERAL GOVERNMENT - POOLED CASH	
Payroll- General Fund, Payroll 12.12.2025.....	\$75,984.91
Visa, November 2025 Statement	\$360.22
Fund 999 - General Government - Pooled Cash Total:.....	\$76,345.13
ZNEZ	

2025.11.11.....	\$15.00
Midwest Laboratories, Inc, Supply Order 2025.11.03.....	\$11.02
Midwest Laboratories, Inc, Monthly WW - Oct to Apr.....	\$103.07
Fund 630 - Wastewater Total:.....	\$217,764.84
FUND: 810 - COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	
Dorothy J. Towle Revocable Trust, Towle Realty Easement	\$1,500.00
Richardson County Treasurer, 2025 Taxes	\$1,167.66
Fund 810 - Community Redevelopment Authority Total:.....	\$2,667.66
FUND: 998 - UTILITIES - POOLED CASH	
CASH ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES November 2025 Purchase Card Statement	\$4,842.33
Payroll Utility Fund, Payroll 12.12.2025.....	\$72,982.88
Fund 998 - Utilities - Pooled Cash Total:.....	\$77,825.21
FUND: 999 - GENERAL GOVERNMENT - POOLED CASH	
Payroll- General Fund, Payroll 12.12.2025.....	\$75,984.91
Visa, November 2025 Statement	\$360.22
Fund 999 - General Government - Pooled Cash Total:.....	\$76,345.13
ZNEZ	

DISTRICT #56 CLAIMS

FALLS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - NOVEMBER 2025 CLAIMS

DISTRICT #56 CLAIMS

FALLS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - JANUARY 2026 CLAIMS

DISTRICT #56 CLAIMS

ent voting YEA.

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

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

JANUARY 2026 CLAIMS: Motion by Miller, second by Strecker to approve, all Trustees present voting YEA.

All claims were verified and checked over by Chairperson Koso.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. January 2026 Shut-Off Notices were reviewed. All have been paid.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS: General:

N/A Streets: N/A Water: N/A Sewer: It

was reported that a TEAMS meeting was held with JEO Consulting Group on December 22, 2025 for the wastewater system evaluation and review of report. Dawn, Denise and Mike Adair with PeopleService were part of the meeting.

2) It was reported that new rock was delivered for the lagoon road.

Cemetery: It was reported that the new entrance sign has been installed.

Parks: 1) It was reported that the new swing set has been delivered and set up on December 29th & 30th. 2) The basketball court solar lights still need installed.

2. NUISANCE/UNSAFE PROPERTIES:

Discussion was held on four (4) nuisance properties and that the process should be started on sending property owners the nuisance notices.

3. PEOPLESERVICE: Discussion held on the services provided by PeopleService during the recent pump problems at the lagoons. Denise will contact Mike Adair and discuss the concerns.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS MAINTENANCE AND INSURANCE COVERAGE EXPENSES BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF RICHARDSON, NEBRASKA AND THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTY OF RICHARDSON, NEBRASKA, was read, approved and signed for the Village of Verdon. A motion was made by Bahr and seconded by Koso to approve the Agreement. All Trustees present voting YEA.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

1. ORDINANCE 2026-100 - Second Reading - "ADOPTING THE NEBRASKA BASIC CODE OF ORDINANCES"

was read by Bahr. A motion was made by Bahr and second by Miller to approve the Second Reading. All Trustees present voting YEA.

Motion by Bahr and second by Strecker to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. and all Trustees present voting YEA.

Meeting adjourned.

Dawn Bennett, Verdon Clerk

The One & Six Year Street Improvement Plan Hearing followed by the next regular meeting of the Verdon Board of Trustees will be on February 4, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

VILLAGE OF VERDON DECEMBER 2025 CLAIMS PAID

EFTPS EX

\$312.32

People Service SE

\$1,747.77

Verdon Library EX

\$25.00

Seneca Sanitation Service, Inc. SE

\$1,624.00

S.N.C. SE

\$92.25

Nebraska Public Health Lab SE

\$335.00

J.T. Farm Service SU

\$71.25

Richardson Co. Rural Water SE

\$1,710.82

Farm & City Supply SU

\$26.36

Dawn Bennett RE

\$669.70

Denise Koso RE

\$25.70

American Legal Publishing SU

\$695.00

ABK Fire & Safety, LLC SE

\$125.00

JEO Consulting Group SE

\$4,500.00

NPPD EX

\$879.88

OPPD EX

\$110.85

Nebr. Municipal Clerk's Assoc. EX

\$50.00

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from Page 13)

retire/etc.....64513.59
Scholl Lawn & Landscape, serv/315.00
SNC, serv.....1898.96
Spartan Nash, supp.....64.45
SummerOne, serv.....292.85
TK Elevator, serv.....416.76
VDO Communications, serv.....577.97
W&D Auto Care, serv.....69.88
Wolfe's Printing, supp.....135.00
Payroll Expense.....140127.94
TOTAL GENERAL FUND \$356,542.93

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Colligan, serv.....22.40
Diversified Drug Testing, serv/129.00
Falls City Utility Dept., serv.....998.39
Inland Truck Parts, supp.....3128.14
Jim Hawk Truck Trailers, supp.....571.14
Martin Marietta Materials, rock.....25309.31
Metal Culverts, supp.....11308.80
NE Dept. of Revenue, fees.....1370.45
NPPD, serv.....32.63
Norris Quarries, rock.....391.16
Operation & Expense Account, serv.....69.95
Quill, supp.....51.94
East Richardson Rural Water Dist. #2, serv.....46.00
Sapp Bros., fuel.....4254.85
Stateline Propane, serv.....852.00
Truck Center Companies, supp.....2845.43
Unifirst, serv.....15.06
Payroll Expense.....35827.06
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND.....\$87,223.71

**REGISTER OF DEEDS
PRESERVATION FUND**

MIPS, Inc., serv.....324.92
TOTAL REG OF DEEDS PRESERVE FUND.....\$324.92
SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUNDS
Southeast Nebraska Communications, serv.....167.00
TOTAL SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUNDS.....\$167.00
JAIL BOND REPAYMENT FUND
BOK Financial Corp., pmt.....7271.25
TOTAL JAIL BOND REPAYMENT FUND.....\$7,271.25

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. for the next regular weekly meeting in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk's Office.

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

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
Rieger Land & Cattle LLC
65380 707 road
Falls City, NE 68355

Notice is hereby given that Rieger Land & Cattle LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the state of Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act.

1. The name of this limited liability company is Rieger Land & Cattle LLC.

2. The Initial Designated Office Address is 65380 707 road, Falls City, NE 68355 and its Registered Agent is Jacob Rieger, 65380 707 road, Falls City, NE 68355.

3. The limited liability company shall engage in any lawful business for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The period of duration of the Company is perpetual existence from the date the Certificate of Organization was filed with the Secretary of State on January 14, 2026. Affairs are to be managed by the Members authorized by the Certificate of Organization and the Operating Agreement.

Handley Law Office
Dylan L. Handley (24152)
217 E. 18th Street
Falls City, Nebraska 68355
Telephone: (402) 245-3088
Fax: (402) 245-2664
Email: dylanhandley@hotmail.com

21-28-4
ZNEZ

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Richardson, Nebraska will meet weekly for a regular meeting on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m., Room 202 in the Richardson County Courthouse for the purpose of conducting any and all county business that will come before the board. The agenda for the meetings are kept continuously current and are available for public inspection at the office of the Richardson County Clerk, Courthouse, Room 203, 1700 Stone Street, Falls City, NE during normal working hours.

The agenda for the meetings is closed 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting and is posted on the Commissioner's Meeting Room door, the 1st floor lobby and the lower level lobby of the Courthouse and also on the Richardson County website www.richardsoncounty.gov.

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

ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
BACHMAN CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §21-193 notice is given that Bachman Construction, LLC, a limited liability company, was organized on December 29, 2025 by filing a Certificate of Organization with the Nebraska Secretary of State setting forth the following:

1. The name of the company is Bachman Construction, LLC.

2. The period of duration of the company is perpetual.

3. The address of the initial designated office of the company in Nebraska is: 66064 703 Trail, Rulo, NE 68431, and the company's initial agent for service of process in Nebraska is Robert D. Bachman, 66064 703 Trail, Rulo, NE 68431.

4. The general nature of its business is to do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska.

Its Attorney:
Michael R. Dunn, #16825
Halbert, Dunn & Burns, LLC
111 East 17th Street
Post Office Box 447
Falls City, Nebraska 68355-0447
Phone: (402) 245-4486

7-14-21
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF
ATE FARMS LLC

Notice is hereby given that ATE Farms LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska with its registered office located at 1719 Stone Street, Falls City, Nebraska. The Limited Liability Company is organized to engage in and to do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of Nebraska. Said Limited Liability Company was organized on October 24, 2025 and shall have perpetual existence. The affairs of the Limited Liability Company are to be conducted by one or more managers as provided in the Operating Agreement and the initial managers are Todd Wright, Adam Wright, and Eric Wright.

Todd Wright, Co-Manager
Adam Wright, Co-Manager
Eric Wright, Co-Manager

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

14-21-28
ZNEZ

NOTICE

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF
RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA
Estate of MILDRED ANN LIBERTY,
Deceased.
No. PR 25-65

Notice is hereby given that on December 31, 2025 in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Christine D. Horn; whose address is 501 is Pine Street, Verdon, NE 68457 and Gregory A. Liberty, whose address is 3000 Cable Avenue, Lincoln, NE 68502, were informally appointed by the Registrar as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before March 9, 2026 or forever be barred.

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

Bruce Dalluge #17278
Attorney for Applicant
MORRISSEY, MORRISSEY &
DALLUGE
177 South Third, P. O. Box 597
Tecumseh, Nebraska 68450

7-14-21
ZNEZ

Public Hearing Announcement

The Nemaha Natural Resources District (NRD) will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 12th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the District office (62161 US Highway 136, Tecumseh, NE 68450) to receive written and oral testimony concerning the changes to the District's Groundwater Quantity Management Area (GWQMA) Rules and Regulations.

The changes to the GWQMA Rules and Regulations will apply geographically to include all lands and water bodies within the boundaries of the Nemaha NRD. Also, the proposed changes will apply stratigraphically to all groundwater located within the District. Upon NRD Board of Directors approval of the proposed changes to the GWQMA, the following changes will be enacted:

1. Definitions – Additions, Deletions & Updates

2. Well Spacing – Any well requiring a well permit to pump greater than 50 gallons per minute shall be constructed at least 1,000 feet from any domestic, livestock or "other" type well.

3. Irrigation – Only one irrigation well will be permitted to supply groundwater through one delivery system and will be allowed to irrigate up to 25% of the number of acres within the section the well is to be located.

4. Transfers – The transfer of groundwater will only be allowed for domestic, municipal and remediation purposes.

5. Well Permit Ranking System – The well permit ranking system's well density equations have been updated. Also, the minimum score required for well permit approval will vary depending upon the aquifer region underlying the well permit location.

6. Aquifer Regions – The paleovalley alluvial aquifer has been subdivided into West, East & South regions.

These actions are a general description of the changes to the GWQMA Rules and Regulations. A complete copy of the document may be obtained from the District office or the District's website: www.nemaha.nr.gov.

Those who are unable to appear at the public hearing or with lengthy testimony may wish to submit in writing. For testimony to be considered by the NRD Board of Directors for the purpose of this hearing, such written testimony must be submitted and received by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 11th, 2026, at the District office. The NRD Board of Directors will consider all testimony provided and consider whether to adopt or rescind any of the proposed changes to the GWQMA Rules and Regulations at the regularly scheduled Board meeting to be held on Thursday, February 12th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

21-28-4
ZNEZ

Notice is hereby given that the Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging is developing our FY2027 Area Plan to provide services to 60+ population of S.E. Nebraska. A public hearing for public input will be held January 26 from 10:00 am – 10:30 am. at our Administrative Building in Beatrice, 103 Eastside Blvd, Beatrice, NE for the FY2027 Agency Area Plan that is due May 1, 2026 to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services State Unit on Aging. All public input, comments, and suggestions will be received for 30 days after January 26, 2026, kept on file and considered by the Administration of the Area Agency on Aging for future planning. A current Area Plan is available for public inspection at 103 Eastside Blvd. M-F 8:4-30. An agenda for Governing Board meetings and Advisory Council meetings is kept continuously current and is available to the public at Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging at 103 Eastside Blvd. or on our website www.braaa.org. Applicant's Authorized Representative: Carla Frase, Executive Director.

ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
Simon CRE LLC
2416 Lane St
Falls City, NE 68355

Notice is hereby given that Simon CRE LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the state of Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act.

1. The name of this limited liability company is Simon CRE LLC.

2. The Initial Designated Office Address is 2416 Lane St, Falls City, NE 68355 and its Registered Agent is Steve Simon, 2416 Lane St, Falls City, NE 68355.

3. The limited liability company shall engage in any lawful business for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The period of duration of the Company is perpetual existence from the date the Certificate of Organization was filed with the Secretary of State on January 6, 2026. Affairs are to be managed by the Members authorized by the Certificate of Organization and the Operating Agreement.

Handley Law Office
Dylan L. Handley (24152)
217 E. 18th Street
Falls City, Nebraska 68355
Telephone: (402) 245-3088
Fax: (402) 245-2664
Email: dylanhandley@hotmail.com

21-28-4
ZNEZ

NOTICE
In the County Court of Richardson
County, Nebraska Estate of
Charles Bauman, Deceased
Estate Number: PR26-2

Notice is hereby given that on January 16, 2026, in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, Tonya Griepenstroh was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the Estate.

Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before the 23rd day of March 2026 or be forever barred.

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

Handley Law Office
Dylan L. Handley (24152)
217 E. 18th Street
Falls City, Nebraska 68355
Telephone: (402) 245-3088
Fax: (402) 245-2664
Email: dylanhandley@hotmail.com

21-28-4
ZNEZ

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE:

The Southeast District Health Department Board of Health will hold its regular meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Conference Room at the office of Southeast District Health Department, 2511 Schneider Ave, Auburn, NE. The meeting is open to the public. An agenda is available in the Director's office at the Southeast District Health Department during regular business hours.

21
ZNEZ

**Village of Verdon
Notice of One & Six Year Street
Improvement Plan Hearing**

Public notice is hereby given in compliance with the revised statutes of Nebraska that the Village Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Day of February 2026 at the Village Hall in Verdon for the purpose of hearing comment relating to the proposed One and Six Year Street Improvement Program for 2026.

Julie Vollmer
City Street Superintendent
14-21-28
ZNEZ

**RICHARDSON COUNTY
NOTICE OF ONE AND SIX YEAR
ROAD PROGRAM PLAN HEARING**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Nebraska § 39-1503, a public hearing will be held in the office of the Richardson County Commissioners, Room 202, Courthouse, 1700 Stone Street, Falls City, Nebraska on the 28th day of January 2026, at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of presenting the public, the One and Six Year Highway Improvement Program for Richardson County, Nebraska.

Steven J. Darveau, Jr.
Richardson County Highway
Superintendent
7-14-21
ZNEZ

**LOCAL
LOVE**

**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.

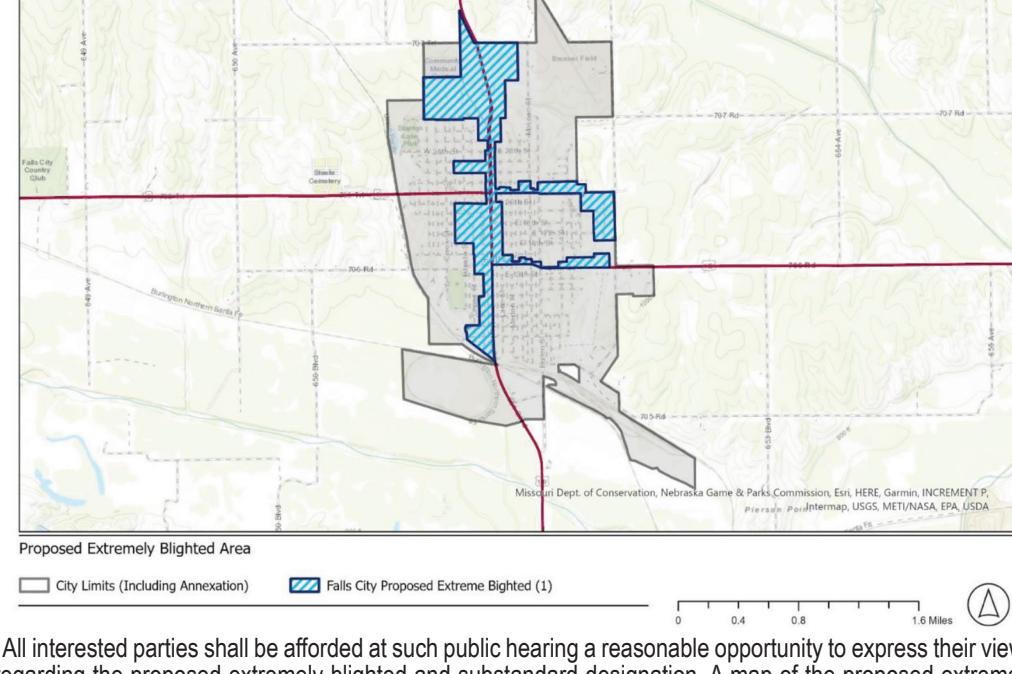
PCMH is an EOE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given by the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Falls City, Nebraska, that a public hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. on February 11, 2026, in the City Hall, 2307 Barada Street, Falls City, Nebraska. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comment prior to consideration of the declaration of the following area of the City as extremely blighted and substandard and in need of redevelopment pursuant to the Nebraska Community Development Law.

The property which is the subject of this Notice and of the public hearing is located within the area of the City that has already been declared blighted and substandard and is further identified on the following map:

Proposed Extremely Blighted Area (1)



**DISTRICT #70
HTRS**

Board Organization Meeting

Monday, January 12, 2026 7:00 PM

Past Meetings

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER-

OPEN MEETING NOTICE - ROLL

CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE*

2. ORGANIZE BOARD OF EDUCATION

2.1. Elect Board President

Motion to elect Kyle Hilgenfeld as Board President passed with a motion by Mike Kanel and a second by Dave Mezger. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

2.2. Elect Board Vice President

Motion to elect Scott Ogle as Board Vice President failed with a motion by Kyle Hilgenfeld and a second by Neal Kanel. Yea: 2, Nay: 4

Motion to elect Mike Kanel as Board Vice President passed with a motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Quentin Bowen. Yea: 5, Nay: 1

3. Board President Appointments

Motion passed with a motion by Neal Kanel and Second by Dave Mezger to keep appointments to 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 the same as the prior year. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

3.1. Appoint Board Secretary - Dr. George Griffith

3.2. Appoint Board Treasurer - Quentin Bowen

3.3. Appoint Board Recorder - Dr. George Griffith

3.4. Appoint Standing Committee's Members

Motion passed to approve committee appointments as modified with a motion by Neal Kanel and a second by Scott Ogle. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

4. WELCOME PATRONS AND GUESTS - PATRON COMMENT

Mark Novak addressed the Board regarding an open position on the Humboldt Community Foundation Board for a member of the school board. President Kyle Hilgenfeld appointed Quentin Bowen to represent the board on the Humboldt Community Foundation Board.

5. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion passed with a motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Neal Kanel to approve the consent agenda. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

5.1. Regular Meeting Minutes

5.2. Approve bills for payment

5.3. Review Treasurer's report

6. REPORTS

6.1. 7-12 Principal Caniglia discussed high school counselors report, upcoming activities for basketball, wrestling, FFA, Speech and our PRIDE group.

6.2. PK - 6 Principal Standerford discussed upcoming school conferences, training and PBIS.

6.3. SPED Director Kroll

6.4. NASB - Neal Kanel

7. ACTION ITEMS

7.1. If Needed - Approve Board Member Absence

7.2. Appoint Official Bank Depositories

Motion by Dave Mezger and a second by Mike Kanel passed to designate American National Bank and The State Bank of Table Rock as the Depository Banks. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.3. Appoint Official Newspapers

Motion by Neal Kanel and a second by Mike Kanel passed to approve Humboldt Standard, Pawnee Republican and Falls City Journal as newspapers of record. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.4. Appoint Legal Counsel

Motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Mike Kanel passed to approve KSB as Legal Counsel and Fankhauser, Nelsen, Werts & Zsky as needed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.5. Approve Review of Policies 5030 (Dating Violence) and 5054 (Bullying)

Motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Neal Kanel passed to approve the review of policies 5030 and 5054. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.6. Review Policies 2005 and 2012 (No Action Needed)

No Action, information only.

7.7. Approve Participation in Federal Programs: Title I, Special Education and Hot Lunch

Motion by Neal Kanel and a second by Scott Ogle passed to approve participation in Federal Programs: Title I, Special Education and Hot Lunch. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.8. Appoint Coordinators for Federal Programs

District Title IX Coordinator (Brittany Rogers)

Title IX Decision Maker (Kim Caniglia)

Title IX Investigator (Kim Standerford)

All other Federal Programs (Superintendent)

Motion to appoint the listed individuals to the specified programs passed with a motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Mike Kanel. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.9. Personnel

7.9.1. Jenna Burger K-8 Teacher

Approve for 26-27 passed with a motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Mike Kanel. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.10. Negotiations

7.10.1. 2026-2027 Negotiated Agreement

Motion to approve the Negotiated Agreement for 2026-2027 passed with a motion by Neal Kanel and a second by Mike Kanel. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.10.2. Classified Staff Pay

Motion to approve proposed \$15.50 base plus movement passed with a motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Mike Kanel. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.10.3. Principal Salaries — Contract

Extension

Executive session passed with a motion by Mike Kanel and a second by Dave Mezger. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Neal made the motion to come out of Executive session at 8:15 pm.

Motion to add \$1,500 to the base salary of the principals passed with a motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Mike Kanel. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.10.4. SPED Director Salary - Contract Extension

Add \$1,500 to the base pay of the SPED Director passed with a motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Neal Kanel. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.10.5. Superintendent Salary/ Additional year to Contract

Motion to increase the Superintendent's base pay by \$1,500 and add 1 year to the contract passed with a motion by Neal Kanel and a second by Mike Kanel. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

8. SUPERINTENDENT GRIFFITH'S REPORT

9. BOARD CONCERNS/COMMENTS

10. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn meeting passed with a motion by Scott Ogle and a second by Neal Kanel.

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Chantel Farwell

3-4

HELP WANTED

BIC
Bruna Implement Company
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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1st-eo-3rd-tf

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Currently accepting applications for:

→ Foundry Manager

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

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

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Apply in person at Magnolia Metal Corp. 63859 730 Road ~ Auburn, NE 68305
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www.magnoliabronze.com and click on careers

2-5

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2-5

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

2-5

NOW HIRING

SERVICE OPERATIONS' MANAGER
Hiawatha Implement Company is seeking a Service Operations' Manager for our Mound City, MO, location.

This position supports the day-to-day operations of the Service Department, working closely with the Service Manager to ensure efficient execution of service activities. Responsibilities include managing customer inquiries; supporting service technicians; and assisting with the opening, execution, and closing of Repair Orders using John Deere computer systems.

Ideal candidates will be:

- Persuasive, self-confident, and professional communicators
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- Skilled at accomplishing goals through collaboration

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derrchad@hiawathajd.com


Hiawatha IMPLIMENT
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4-5

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» REGISTERED NURSE**» RADILOGY TECH**

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www.pawneehospital.com to complete an application.

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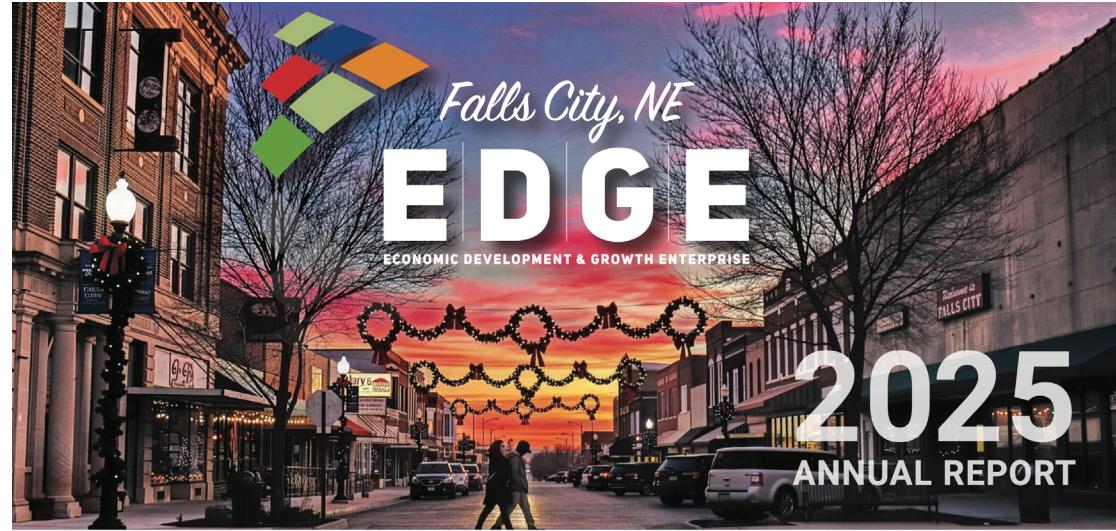


One Team - One Mission

Pawnee County Memorial Hospital

Pawnee County Memorial Hospital

Pawnee County Memorial Hospital



Nebraska Rural Generation Explores Opportunities in Falls City



On December 1st, City Council approved a Development Agreement (DA) with Nebraska Rural Generation, LLC to ensure

reimbursement of costs associated with exploring the feasibility of a new power generation facility in Falls City. The plant's size, total investment, and final site location within Falls City's electrical jurisdiction remain to be determined. Falls City's dual rail infrastructure was noted as an ideal location to explore next-generation technologies. City Council also approved a Community Benefits Agreement outlining a set of measurable commitments ensuring that any future development, construction, or operation of a power generation or industrial facility delivers meaningful long-term benefits to Falls City and Richardson County. The City of Falls City and Nebraska Rural Generation will now proceed with detailed feasibility studies, engineering reviews, legal and regulatory assessments, and continued community engagement as they evaluate advancing the project to development. ◇

Citroniq Announces Partnership with ABB



As Citroniq leads the transformation of the plastics industry with its carbon negative polypropylene, they have recently entered into a supply agreement with ABB to provide advanced automation, electrification, and digitalization solutions for their 100% biogenic polypropylene facility in Falls City—aiming to be the world's first full commercial-scale facility of its kind. The facility is scheduled to start operating in 2029 and will produce fully certified biogenic polypropylene from the established corn-based ethanol industry in the Midwest. Citroniq's strategy is to create a more sustainable plastics manufacturing platform in the US and reduce emissions in the hard-to-abate plastics sector. ◇



Mid-America Rail Campus

A land option agreement at the Mid-America Rail Campus was renewed for three years in May. EDGE is owner of this agreement that extends control of the development site through May of 2028. ◇

Tax Credits for Renewable Chemical Production Extended

EDGE Director, Lucas Froeschl, testified in favor of extending Renewable Chemical Production tax credits to the Revenue Committee on March 19th, noting these programs play a key role in landing historical project investments that improve conditions for our corn and soybean producers and lead to revenue generation for the State of Nebraska. ◇



New Electrical Transmission Line Project Underway

In Q1, The Board of Public Works passed a resolution authorizing the pursuit of Network Integrated Transmission Service (NITS) customer status and utilization of \$15 million in grant funds to enhance electrical system capabilities, redundancy, and resilience.

After over three years of groundwork to secure state funding, a language revision to legislation, and evaluating best options for Falls City Utilities and its rate payers, the Falls City Council unanimously approved the final reading of a \$20 million bond resolution. Those funds match a \$15 million state grant allocated through LB977 in 2022 to expand electrical system capabilities by enhancing redundancy and resilience. Olsson will oversee the first few phases of engineering and the project is expected to take around five years for completion. ◇

NDOT Outlines Richardson County Projects



Hwy 8 Bridge Replacements: At Salem and West 21st Street

Hwy Reconstruction: South Harlan and East 14th Street

NDOT and local officials recently discussed a few construction projects planned in Falls City and Salem. NDOT officials acknowledged it may be beneficial to move one of the highway projects to the next season to avoid simultaneous closure of the Hwy 159/East 14th Street project and South Harlan/Hwy 73 project.

- CN 13306, Salem & Falls City Bridges: Anticipated Letting Dec 2026
 - Replace Salem Bridge on Highway 8 by BNSF Railroad Crossing
 - Replace and Widen West 21st Street Bridge in Falls City by Richardson County Law Enforcement Center
- CN 13475, In Falls City: Anticipated Letting Aug 2028
 - Remove and Reconstruct Harlan Street Pavement on Hwy 73 from 20th Street south to 7th Street.
- CN 13466, Falls City to Rulo, Anticipated Letting Aug 2028
 - Mill and Resurface Roadway, Widen to 28'; Culvert and Bridge Repair from mile marker 4.84 to mile marker 13.31.

National Consultants Receptive to Falls City Projects

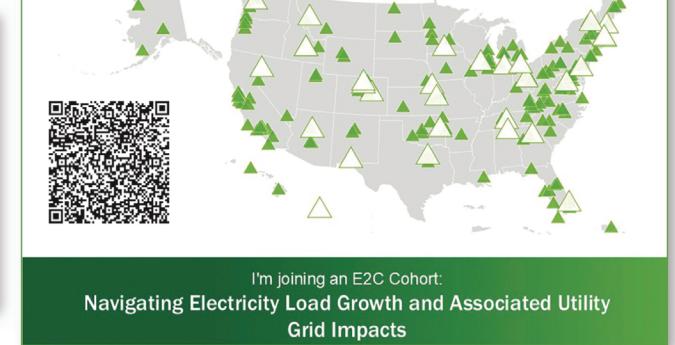
To elevate awareness of development opportunities in Falls City, EDGE Executive Director Lucas Froeschl conducted targeted outreach in Omaha, Indianapolis, Nashville, and Fort Lauderdale, meeting with leading experts in the site-selection industry. By showcasing the community's dual-rail infrastructure, the ongoing construction of a new electrical transmission line, and the secured land option agreements at the Mid-America Rail Campus, Falls City has positioned itself prominently on the radar of developers seeking high-quality industrial sites for their clients. ◇

Meetings Held with Nebraska Delegation in Washington, D.C.



EDGE accompanied Columbus and Hastings community leaders on a Washington, DC advocacy trip at the end of March to promote development projects in Falls City. Meetings were scheduled with the Dept of Energy, Senators Ricketts and Fischer, and Congressmen Smith, Bacon, and Flood. The group also attended the weekly Nebraska Breakfast attended by all five delegates. ◇

EDGE Participates in Department of Energy Load Growth Cohort



The DOE's Navigating Electricity Load Growth and Associated Utility Grid Impacts grant program connects energy experts and community developers once per month for six months. Strategies to prepare for and respond to increasing electricity demand driven by emerging industries were discussed and network relationships will assist local preparation.

Prior to award of this federal networking opportunity, city leadership met with the Southeast Power Pool (SPP) officials in Little Rock on January 28th to discuss best options for Falls City Utilities and future development projects. It is these relationship-building activities that will assist Falls City in maximizing its economic potential. ◇

Building the Foundation for Growth

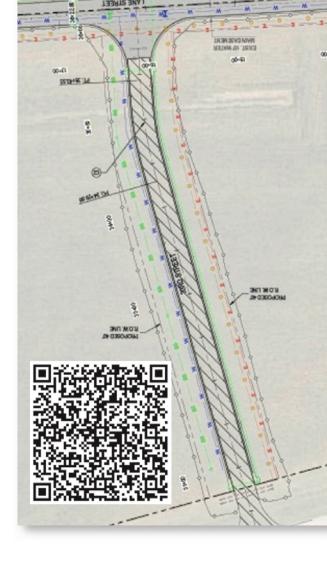
This year has been one of incredible progress, momentum, and collaboration where a long-term vision began taking shape in ways that will define our community's economic future for decades to come. None of this would be possible without investors, partners, and citizens who believe in Falls City's potential and share in a commitment to growth. Securing \$15 million from the State of Nebraska for a new electrical transmission line is a testament to strong partnerships and strategic value of local infrastructure investments. Every milestone achieved this year reflects the commitment of investors and local leadership who believe in this community and its future. Financial support and advocacy empower EDGE to take on ambitious projects that promise to strengthen our economy, create high-quality careers, and improve the quality of life for everyone who calls Falls City home. Thank you for your support. ◇

Investor of the Year: Hullman's Ford Lincoln



30% Engineering Complete at North Commercial Corridor

Midwest Engineering, Inc., owned in-part by former Falls Cityan Josh Keithley, completed utility and street plan concepts for the North Hwy 73 property. Municipal infrastructure locations for electrical, water, gas, and wastewater have been identified with installation costs estimated. Public utility easements along the future Lane Street right-of-way, partially defined in a property dedication dated July 11, 1986, are also included. This 30% engineering study is considered a sales tool to attract developers and businesses interested in Falls City. Installation of this infrastructure is not planned until a development partnership is established. The business district is zoned C-3 Highway Commercial. ◇



Director Completes Rural Community Catalyst Program



The Nebraska Community Catalyst Program, funded by The Sherwood Foundation, is an 18-month initiative to empower and support driven individuals (Catalysts) in rural Nebraska, helping them develop community-driven solutions for local challenges in areas like arts, education, and economic vitality, transforming community potential into real local impact. ◇

Land Bank Partners with Local Developer

The Southeast Nebraska Land Bank has entered into an agreement with BB Brothers Contractors to renovate houses at 1515 Lane and 813 Harlan. The houses were sold to the developer with the agreement that the properties are brought back to productive use by the Spring of 2026. If conditions are not met, the Land Bank has the opportunity to buy the properties back from the developer. ◇

Utilities Installed and Lots Sold at Champions Crossing

Four of six lots on Morehead Court have been sold and utility infrastructure is installed. City Council recently approved construction of a 3-bedroom, 2-bath house with 3-car garage on lot #5 of Morehead Court for the Rural Workforce Housing Fund project #2. The house will have an unfinished walkout basement with plumbing roughed in for a third bathroom and two egress windows installed to accommodate a 4th and 5th bedroom. Construction is expected to begin in the Spring of 2026. ◇



Director Presents at High School Career Days

EDGE is proactive educating Richardson County students of career options, updates on national trends, and informing students on local projects. In April, Humboldt Table Rock Steinhauer hosted their Postsecondary Prep program for high school students and Falls City High School hosted their College and Career Access Day in November. ◇