

The FALLS CITY JOURNAL

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 Raehl

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

ADVERTISED IN THIS WEEKS PAPER

January

- 12 Bingo at the American Legion
- 16 Fish Fry at the American Legion
- 26 Bingo at the American Legion



THESE GREAT PLACES

- ARE HIRING!
- Check out the Classified Page!
- Magnolia Metal
  - Nemaha County Hospital
  - Jonesbrook Estates LLC
  - HTRS Public School

PUBLIC NOTICES

BECAUSE YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW.

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\$1.50

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Nebraska Bank Falls City team, L-R: Trent Scheitel; Rachel Rankin; Kristi Schulenberg; and Kevin Malone.

Nebraska Bank expands to Falls City, marking tenth location

New loan production office to serve Falls City, transitioning to full-service bank this spring

Nebraska-based community bank, Nebraska Bank, is excited to announce the opening of its tenth location in Falls City, NE, which opened its doors on December 26, 2025. Initially operating as a Loan Production Office (LPO), this location will transition to a full-service bank in the coming months to serve the needs of the local community. The office is located at 3003 Bill Schock Blvd., open Monday through Friday, 9am to 4pm. Nebraska Bank plans to build a new full-service facility in the North Commercial Corridor in 2026, expecting it

to drive further economic development for the Falls City community. “We are thrilled for the opportunity to expand into Falls City and offer our services to this vibrant community,” said Stephen Stull, CEO of Nebraska Bank. “Our values and commitment to providing responsive, relationship-based banking align with the needs of Nebraskans which we feel will resonate in Falls City. Being a Nebraska-based bank allows us to offer more personalized, flexible service to our customers. We’re also excited to hit the ground running with

a talented team from the area, who are already immersed in the community.” The Falls City team will be led by a group of experienced banking professionals with (Please turn to Page 4)

Richardson Co. Jail employee arrested following internal investigation

The Richardson County Sheriff’s Office announced over the weekend through a press release that a jail employee has been arrested following the conclusion of an internal investigation. The sheriff’s office stated that the investigation revealed the employee was in violation of multiple sheriff’s office policies and procedures as well as several Nebraska state statutes. After the investigation concluded, the findings were referred for criminal review and the appropriate charges were filed. The employee was taken into custody and is no longer performing duties with the Richardson County Sheriff’s Office. The sheriff’s office said no further details will be released because of the ongoing legal process and personnel privacy laws. In an update the following day, the sheriff’s office stated that its initial announcement was released before the investigation concluded because officials believed it was important for the public to receive accurate information directly from the sheriff’s office rather than through media outlets. The sheriff’s of- (Please turn to Page 6)

FC JOURNAL TOP STORIES OF 2025

\*BASED ON WEBSITE VIEWS

1. FCHS PARTS WAYS WITH HEAD FOOTBALL COACH JACK BANGERT
2. COUNCIL VOTE QUESTIONED AMID CONFLICTING EXPLANATIONS
3. COMMISSIONERS SEND SETTLEMENT OFFER TO ROAD DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES/DETAILS MORE THAN \$188K IN UNION RELATED LEGAL FEES SINCE 2022 & DISCUSS POSSIBLE CHANGES TO FLOODWAY/FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE.
4. LARRY THE CABLE GUY GETTING-R-DONE FOR LOCAL THEATRE DEPARTMENTS
5. MASSIVE SNOW STORM HITS RICHARDSON CO.

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 9)

Elected officials’ salary talks ongoing

The Board of Commissioners met on New Year’s Eve at the courthouse for a regularly scheduled meeting. All commissioners answered the roll call. Nemaha County Grant Administrator Linda Volker presented a memorandum of understanding to the Board for consideration. The MOU, involving Pawnee, Johnson, and Nemaha counties, concerns a grant application for community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program Funds. The grant is awarded through the Nebraska Crime Commission. Volker advised the Board that juvenile diversion is about diversion and truancy. She informed the Board that truancy is more common among younger children than among high school students. Volker’s handout stated that diversion allows youth who commit offenses to be redirected away from formal processing in the juvenile justice system while remaining accountable for their actions. “No juvenile is ever turned away from juvenile diversion,” said Volker. (Please turn to Page 3)

Frontier Bank is now Equity Bank

Effective January 1, 2026, Equity Bancshares, Inc., based in Wichita, Kansas, completed its merger with Frontier Holding, LLC. The merger allows Equity Bank to add several locations in Nebraska, renaming seven branches from Frontier Bank to Equity. Equity Bank CEO Rick Sems stated that the bank’s goal is to be in six states, and Falls City falls near the middle in size among the communities Equity Bank currently serves. The bank currently reaches out to roughly 250 miles in all directions from its headquarters. Sems stated that he visits each location annually. “So, that’s a big part of what we do, which is that we’re a community bank,” said Sems. (Continued on Page 5)

HULLMAN'S FORD LINCOLN, INC.

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75 Years Ago, January 7, 1951 to January 13, 1951

A foreign diplomatic official estimated that Russia had 24-30 atomic bombs and hoped to reach 60 by the end of the year.

John S. W. Fargher of Omaha was to take charge of St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church in Falls City, succeeding the Rev. G. L. Claudius.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zentner of 2203 Crook Street celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a buffet dinner and open house. The couple was married on January 10, 1901, at Talmage.

W.H. Heiser, secretary of the local Elks Club, announced that Woodey Herman “and the Herd” would play a dance at Prichard Auditorium on January 24. The band had been recognized as one of the top organizations in the country.

Sgt. Leo Reichert of Falls City, who was with the U. S. occupation forces in Austria, planned to spend Christmas in the hospital recovering from pneumonia.

Bullock’s Market at 13th and Stone Street was open with a complete line of groceries, meats and fresh vegetables.

The Tiger basketball team sent Auburn home with a 50-15 loss in Southeast Conference action at Prichard Auditorium. Approximately 700 fans watched as Frank Falloon scored 18 points and Kenny Kieffer added 10. Ken Clark led the Bulldogs with six points.

Oscar Johnson received clearance from the National Production Authority of the Department of Commerce for the completion of his drive-in theater on Highway 73, south of Falls City.

John Wayne and Maureen O’Hara starred in “Rio Grande” at the Rivoli Theater in Falls City.

Dawson remained undefeated on the hardwood after defeating Bratton Union 62-26. Dale Spaulding led Dawson with 15 points, while teammates Chuck Higgins added 14 and John Schulze had 12. Vernon Sullwold and Don Clark each scored 11 for Bratton Union.

The NCAA was voting on whether to ban live telecasting of football games for one year. A large majority of the members seemed to be on board with the ban. A committee proposed that live television negatively affected gate receipts at contests.

Owners of approximately 2,000 acres of land in the Arago bend bottoms met with M.R. Iakisch of the Agricultural Levee Planning Section of the Army Engineers’ District Office to discuss a possible levee project north of Rulo.

A fourth fireman died as a result of a fire and explosion that destroyed a warehouse in Chicago. The fire caused nearly \$1.5 million in damage.

A second-half rally helped Pawnee City escape with a 51-44 win over Plattsmouth. Chuck Jensen scored 20 points to lead the Indians.

**50 Years Ago, January 7, 1976 to January 13, 1976**

The Nebraska Public Power District’s Cooper Nuclear Power Station was shut down following an explosion in a building just south of the main power plant building. An NPPD spokesman said the plant’s nuclear reactor was not involved, and that no injuries were reported. The building’s north wall and part of the roof were blown out.

Ron Strecker was Falls City’s only individual champion in the Humboldt Reserves Tournament, winning the 105-pound division.

The Twin Rivers Conference was holding the boys and girls tourney at the same site during the same week. Auburn would host the tourney, which featured Auburn, Fairbury, Plattsmouth, Nebraska City, Falls City, Syracuse and Blair.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Lockard were the parents of a son born at Lincoln General Hospital. The baby weighed seven pounds, 4 ½ ounces and was named Matt Daniel.

The boiler at the Falls City Post Office went on the blink, causing temperatures inside the building to hover near 45 degrees by the afternoon. Postal Employees wore their outside coats all day as they worked.

One Stop Café advertised a Friday night special of freshwater catfish for \$2.95 or a hamburger steak for \$1.50.

Marlin Peck, a farmer and county weed control supervisor, was elected president of the Board of Education at a meeting at the Junior High School. Mr. Peck succeeded Jim Sheets.

Pupils at Dawson-Verdon officially moved into the new addition at the school. The addition included new locker rooms, an industrial arts area and a new gymnasium, capable of accommodating 600 patrons. The gym was dedicated when DV hosted Murdock on Friday, January 13, while the Lady Jets defeated Elk Creek 55-26 in the gym’s first competition on Thursday evening.

The Falls City seventh graders defeated Southeast 28-16. Dennis Prichard scored 14 for FC, while Brent Johnson led the Mustangs with six.

One thousand pounds of beef were among the items taken from the new rural home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Sailors, three miles south of Falls City. Entry to the home was gained by prying open the patio door.

Approximately 80 couples attended the Falls City Town and Country Promenaders’ Winter Square Dance Festival.

Gibson’s Pamida advertised 22 LR shells, three boxes of 50 shells for \$2 and a bottle of 100 Anacin tablets for \$1.

County Agent Tom Aitken was retiring after serving for over 37 years in government service.

The Irish defeated North Nodaway 61-45 in first-round action at the Fairfax Invitational Tournament. Dan Hill scored 20 points and pulled down 18 rebounds. Steve Pokorny added 14, and Bob Aitken had 11.

**25 Years Ago, January 7, 2001 to January 13, 2001**

Clerk-Magistrate Jeanne McGinnis administered the oath of office to Richardson County Commissioners Gayle Swisegood and Bill Ely in the County Courtroom. Swisegood was a veteran board member, while Ely was new on the job.

Sophomore Katie McGinnis averaged 5.4 points and 4.4 rebounds per game for Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Jim Gerweck was honored as a 25-year member of the Falls City Volunteer Ambulance Squad.

Winning the “What It Means to Be Patriotic” Youth Essay Contest, sponsored by the Falls City VFW, were Amanda Weaver, Mark Dunn, Jerlyn Cummings and Melissa Walker.

Nevada Williams of Shubert hosted a family Christmas with turkey and ham. Sixteen guests attended.

Olivia Palmer won a Commemorative 30-30 Winchester rifle in a raffle benefiting the American Legion Club addition. The lottery netted \$2,500 for the endeavor.

Enough money was raised to move the one-room native brick schoolhouse from its location north of Peru along Highway 75 to the Peru State College campus. The cost to move the 1905 structure was estimated at \$50,000.

A stalemate in negotiations between Richardson County and union workers in its roads department showed no signs of a winter thaw. There were 16 union employees working with the roads department; one was laid off. The three supervisors were non-union employees.

VFW Auxiliary Post #1765 met with 11 members present. Community Service chairman Kathleen Williams reported 786 hours were given for December.

Mike and Heather Howell were the parents of a daughter, Kellyn Michaela, born at St. Joseph Health Center in Kansas City, Mo.

Phillip and Laurie Froeschl welcomed their son, Anthony James, born at Community Medical Center in Falls City.

The Oasis Restaurant was now serving a two-meat buffet on Sundays, along with items from the regular menu.

Sacred Heart graduate Julie Froeschl began her college track career when she pole vaulted at the Kansas State Wildcat Indoor Invitational.

The *Falls City Journal* celebrated 134 years in business with a percent-off sale throughout January.

Elected officials’ salary talks ongoing

(Continued from Page 1)

She continued saying that juvenile diversion is not the easy way out.

“Not even close,” said Volker.

Karas made a motion, and Campbell seconded to approve the application.

Commissioner Caverzagie made a motion to approve 2025-2026-21 for Pledge Security Receipt replacement. The motion passed 3-0.

Highway Superintendent Steve Darveau Jr. updated the Board on work across the county.

Darveau advised the Board that his workers had wrapped up hauling scrap iron to Pawnee City.

“I got word that we did get the tire grant again,” said Darveau. “So, we’ll do that sometime this summer.”

A conversation was held regarding stockpiling more rock at Dawson to allow easier access during emergencies.

Darveau asked Karas and Campbell what the goal was they were trying to accomplish by stockpiling more rock.

Darveau preferred to keep the pile for emergencies, saying, “You haul out of it for three or four days, and your pile doesn’t last long.”

The Superintendent said he sees the stockpile as something to use after a significant event, when the crew can’t catch up. Not something to be pulled from daily.

Sheriff Hardesty met with the Board and told the group that the Law Enforcement Center was housing 16 inmates.

The Sheriff advised the Board that the bedliner product used in the jail’s showers is working so far, and he plans to use it in the remaining showers when the jail population allows.

A conversation was held regarding the purchase of a StunTronic Band-It Prisoner Control System. The product is designed to improve control of prisoners in the courtroom and during transports. The system can deliver 50,000 volts of electricity to subdue a subject.

The Sheriff has recently encountered multiple instances in which an inmate has caused issues in the courthouse, and case law prohibits the use of visible restraints on a prisoner during a jury trial.

The Sheriff also talked to the members about Guardian RFID. The system maximizes the ability to track medication, supplies, and dietary meals electronically.

“As far as accountability, the liability, I mean, you scan, I put in your name, then I scan your meds,” said Hardesty. “So that is documented what time you got them.”

Commissioner Karas moved to approve the Guardian RFID Interface at a cost of \$5,842.36. Caverzagie seconded, and the motion passed.

The Board also approved the purchase of the StunTronic Band-It Prisoner Control System for \$1,900, which includes training for two staff members.

Emergency Management Director Brian Kirkendall addressed the Board and reviewed a request

from the Village of Rulo concerning the interlocal agreements for the emergency sirens.

The Village asked the Commissioners to keep them informed of any maintenance performed on the siren, since the Village insures the siren as an asset. The county agreed to send Rulo a copy of the maintenance contract.

Kirkendall also discussed radio inoperability in the county. He said it has been discussed to go through Senator Deb Fischer’s office to apply for grants to purchase radios for fire and EMS on an 80-20 match.

He said the commissioners had to approve the application before it could be sent. The applications will become available in March or April.

According to Kirkendall, the last time radios were purchased for fire and EMS was in 2006.

“For \$1.6 million, this gives them all new radios, portables, mobiles and pagers onto the statewide system,” said Kirkendall. “That’s for all fire and EMS.”

The 20 percent county match would be \$326,460.23.

A new radio system without statewide capabilities would cost \$1.4 million, with a 20 percent match of \$289,391.98.

There is also a monthly cost of \$13 per radio associated with using the statewide system.

The final agenda item was the review of information to establish a resolution on elected officials’ salaries for the term from January 2027 to January 2031.

The recommendation is a 19.8 percent raise. The numbers are based on inflation over the past four

years.

Highway Superintendent Darveau spoke up, saying, “That’s why I’m here. You want to give 19.8% for inflation. Did you offer 19.8% to the Road Department employees? They are saying that, because of inflation, they deserve a 19.8% raise. Did you try to include that with the Road Department at 19.8%? Absolutely not. That’s all I’m going to say. It’s a fact.”

Commissioner Caverzagie advised each elected official that he would be available to speak with them to obtain their thoughts and ideas on the salaries.

Amanda Bartek-Ramsey told the Board that it is difficult when “the deputies of the city, we’ve discussed that make more than I do.”

The wages must be set by January 15, 2026.

The claims were paid.

Commissioner Campbell addressed the incorrect date in the public hearing notice for the Floodway discussion. The notice listed the date as “Tuesday, January 7”; it should have read “Wednesday, January 7, 2026.”

With nothing further on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28.

BUILDING PERMITS

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

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

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

Sue Oberst, 1911 Morton St.; Roof, \$29,039.00.



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**Starting at 2:00pm**



*Thank you*

**A Heartfelt “Thank You” for all those who  
generously supported our Hunters Breakfast  
Fundraiser for our Community Building Fund.  
Thank you! -Salem Village Board**

**JANUARY AT THE AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 102 • FALLS CITY**



**Friday, Jan. 16**  
**FISH  
FRY**



**Monday, Jan. 12**  
**Bingo**

**Monday, Jan. 26**  
**Bingo**



# Nebraska Bank expands to Falls City, marking tenth location

New loan production office to serve Falls City, transitioning to full-service bank this spring

(Continued from Page 1) deep ties to the area:

Trent Scheitel, SVP/Market President  
Kevin Malone, VP/Loan Officer  
Rachel Rankin, AVP/Retail Banking Manager  
Kristi Schulenberg, Assistant Retail Banking Manager

Together, this team brings more than 76 combined years of banking experience to the Falls City location, offering a strong foundation for growth in the

area. “I’m excited to help introduce Nebraska Bank to Falls City,” said Trent Scheitel, SVP/Market President. “As a Nebraska-owned bank with strong local ownership, we’re committed to supporting the needs of our neighbors and keeping investment in our community. Our leadership and values align with the community’s vision, and we look forward to providing trusted products and services while deep-

ening our relationships with local customers.”  
Founded in 1889 in Dodge, Nebraska Bank has grown from its roots in agricultural lending to now serve a wide range of industries across the state. With a history spanning over 136 years, the bank prides itself on providing excellent customer service and a full suite of financial products for individuals, businesses, and communities alike.

For more information

about Nebraska Bank, visit [www.ne.bank](http://www.ne.bank)  
Founded in 1889, Nebraska Bank is a community bank now serving Nebraskans from ten locations across the state. Nebraska Bank specializes in agriculture, commercial, industrial, construction, mortgage and consumer banking.  
Member FDIC. For more information on Nebraska Bank, please email Sarah Sasse-Kildow, at [skildow@ne.bank](mailto:skildow@ne.bank).

## Commissioners ask Planning Commission to create Planning and Zoning documents County Planning Commission to meet

The Richardson County Planning Commission has scheduled a meeting at the request of the Board of Commissioners and will begin a conversation around creating, planning and zoning documents. The meeting is planned for January 15 in the third floor courtroom at the Courthouse in Falls City at 6:00 pm.  
At this initial session attendees will get an overview of planning and zoning as well as the steps ahead. The County Commissioners have retained Keith Marvin of Marvin Planning Consultants to support the work.  
Planning Commission Chairman Ben Steffen noted that the public is invited to attend, learn, listen, and provide input. “It’s really important for our community to have conversations around this project and to participate so that the entire effort is grounded and based on the desires of the residents of Richardson County. Planning and zoning can have a big influence on how our county looks and grows in the future.”

## Minor collision in parking lot

Two vehicles collided in the Dollar Fresh parking lot after one driver backed out of a parking stall and struck another vehicle that was driving through the lot, according to a Falls City police report.  
Police reported that a vehicle driven by Denise Yoisell of Stella was backing out of a parking stall when it struck a vehicle driven by Diane Wing of Falls City. The report states that Wing was driving through the lot looking for a parking space when the crash occurred.  
Damage to Wing’s vehicle was estimated at \$500. Damage to Yoisell’s vehicle was also estimated at \$500. No injuries were reported.

## BUILDING PERMITS

Matthew and Vicky Froeschl, 2615 Hiland Ave.; Kitchen Remodel and flooring, \$50,000.00.	Ron and Madaline Keller, 2618 Harlan St.; Metal Roof \$184,176.00.
Jason and Rebecca Wissman, 903 Stone St.; Deck, \$12,000.00.	Doug Butrick, 2124 Crook St.; Roof, Siding, Doors, windows on garage, \$5,000.00.
Pat Campbell, 1613 Wilson St.; Water Heater, \$1,300.00.	Janyce O’Grady, 701 E 21st St.; Water Heater, \$3,000.00.
Peyton Campbell, 1923 Abbott St.; Fence, \$1,600.00.	Brandon Ambs, 2314 McLean St.; Roof and Gutters, \$23,000.00.
Robert Olberding, 2302 Schoenheit St.; Sewer Repair, \$2,500.00.	



### JANUARY 2026 PROMOTIONS



### HAPPY NEW YEAR

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2026 HAPPY NEW YEAR! SCOOP UP THE RICHES IN THE NEW YEAR!

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

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

##### RULES FOR REGISTRATION CASH DRAWING

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





#### FRIDAYS, JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 9<sup>TH</sup>, 16<sup>TH</sup>, 23<sup>RD</sup>, & 30<sup>TH</sup> SNOWMAN’S LUCKY LOOT!

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

##### RULES FOR REGISTRATION CASH DRAWING

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

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

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

##### Snow Blower Giveaway Rules on Saturdays, January 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st:

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



### DAILY DRAWINGS

#### SUNDAYS

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

#### MONDAYS ELECTRIC SHOVEL GIVEAWAY AT 3PM & 9PM!

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

#### TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

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

#### THURSDAYS - ELECTRIC SHOVEL GIVEAWAY AT 3PM & 9PM! (EXCLUDES THURSDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>)

Hot Seat Drawings to win \$50 in Free Play every ½ hour from 12pm-4pm. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$75 in free play every ½ hour from 6pm-12am. All Hot Seat winners will get an extra registration in the SNOW BLOWER Giveaway. Hot Seat Drawing to win an Electric Shovel Giveaway at 3pm and 9pm. Immediately after 3pm and 9pm Hot Seat Drawings for free play, another Hot Seat will be done for the Electric Shovel. You can only qualify for this drawing if you haven't won a Hot Seat for the day.

### SPECIAL BINGO PROMOS

#### THURS., JANUARY 1, 2026 – NEW YEAR’S DAY SPECIAL

Special drawings during the night Bingo session!

#### SAT., JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> RANDOM CASH DRAWINGS

Random drawings during the night Bingo session! Your buy-in ticket will be your registration into the cash drawing.

#### FRI., JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> IS HALF PRICE NIGHT!! PAPERS ONLY!

Buy a 9-on or 6-on for regular price and get one for half price! (Does not apply to machines or special games) See Bingo Cage for details.

[www.casinowhitecloud.org](http://www.casinowhitecloud.org) • Toll Free 877-652-6115 • [www.facebook.com/casinowhitecloud](http://www.facebook.com/casinowhitecloud)

CWC Text Now Club - Text PLAYERSCLUB to (785) 377-0992 to sign up. Must be 21 years of age or older to participate in Casino White Cloud Promotions. Management reserves the right to cancel, modify or reschedule any promotion at anytime for any reason without notice. Any alteration, reproduction and/or unauthorized use of promotions will be voided. All drawings will be hot seat unless a registration is required for a giveaway. All registration drawings are Casino promotions. You must be present in the Casino to claim your prize and have a valid ID.



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Cool! What's the deadline?

Applications must be postmarked by January 16, 2026

Sweet! How do I apply?

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



## BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

The League of Human Dignity has been helping people with disabilities for more than 50 years, offering services to help people understand and obtain grants, payments, services, or other benefits for which they may be eligible.

We are a partner of Nebraska's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). Call to see how we can help.

Phone 833-800-5643



### LEAGUE OF HUMAN DIGNITY



# Frontier Bank is now Equity Bank

(Continued from Page 1)

“We are much closer to being the smallest bank in the country, like by 100 times, than we are the largest bank in the country,” said Sems. “We’re really very much a community-focused bank; we leave decisions here.” Sems continued, saying that the same people who have made decisions at the bank in the past will continue to be the ones making the decisions moving forward. “What we bring, though, and what they’ll see differences in is an improved digital process,” said Sems. Sems stated that the number of employees at the Falls City branch will increase moving forward. He also mentioned that the company’s architect has visited Falls City and the branch will soon receive an overhaul.

Sems said that with smaller banks, the lending amounts are limited, but with Equity, the numbers will be larger. He advised that, ideally, the bank wants loans under half a million dollars, but they can authorize loans of five, ten, and fifteen million.

“One other thing they’ll see is that 100 percent of our employees own stock in the company,” said Sems. “We really believe in that aspect. We want to help those communities build wealth.”

He continued, saying that the hope is that employees have an ownership mentality that drives them to excel in their positions at the bank.

Equity Bank is publicly traded and has recently been named one of the top five banks in the country over one-year, three-year, five-year, seven-year, and ten-year periods, based

# 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. This photo was labeled “Courthouse Christmas Party December 1981.” If you know who is pictured, please email us at [brian@fcjournal.net](mailto:brian@fcjournal.net) or [nikki@fcjournal.net](mailto: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.*

on compounding tangible book value, which reflects the bank’s value-building. Sems grew up in Ohio, is a CPA, having worked for Price Waterhouse, and earned his MBA from the University of Michigan. He has worked at Equity Bank for the past three years. Sems ended our discussion by saying, “I think you’re going to see us being very involved. I mean, obviously redoing the branch is one of those things, but also from the standpoint of being active with the community. That’s a big deal that I want our team here to make sure they are active in the community.”

## Nebraska awards 1,197 degrees in December ceremonies

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln conferred

1,197 degrees during commencement exercises Dec. 19 and 20 at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

The 1,175 graduates are from 44 countries, 39 U.S. states and 140-plus Nebraska communities.

Chancellor Rodney D. Bennett presided over the ceremonies.

Local graduates included:

Falls City: Lindsey Morrell McNeely, College of Education and

Human Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Education and Human Sciences.

Hiawatha: Tess Julianna Pilcher, Graduate Studies, Master of Applied Science.

## Doane University students make fall Dean’s List

A total of 372 Doane University students made the university’s Fall 2025 Dean’s List. Sixty-three are freshmen; 86 are sophomores; 76 are juniors; 147 are of senior standing (includes graduated seniors)

Local graduates included:

Ashleigh Kirkendall, Jr, Falls City High School.

Gunner Lippold, So, Falls City High School.

To make the Dean’s List, undergraduate students enrolled on the university’s Crete campus must earn a grade point average of 3.70 or higher in at least 12 graded credits during the semester.



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Your support carried us through another year of headlines, hard questions and community milestones. As we look ahead to a new year, we invite you to continue standing with us or to become a subscriber for the first time.

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FALLS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

CALLS AND STATISTICS

**December 21 through December 22, 2025 calls:** one domestic disturbance call, one suspicious person/vehicle call, and one burn permit call. One 911 call total.

**December 22 through December 23, 2025 calls:** six ambulance/EMS calls, three referred other agency calls, three gun permit calls, three miscellaneous calls, one animal call, one found or lost property call, one alarm, one disturbance, and one 911 hang up/misdial. Ten 911 calls total. One citation for juvenile; uncontrollable. One warning for improper or defective vehicle lighting, and one warning for speeding.

**December 23 through December 24, 2025 calls:** one suspicious person/vehicle call, two referred-to-other-agency calls, three miscellaneous calls, one 911 hang-up/misdial, one welfare check, two ambulance/EMS calls, one burn permit, one investigation, one animal call, one assault, and two traffic/driving complaints. Three 911 calls. One citation for traffic control violation, one citation for third-degree sexual assault, and one warning for improper/defective vehicle lighting.

**December 24 through December 25, 2025 calls:** two miscellaneous calls, one referred to another agency call, and one domestic disturbance. One 911 call total. Two warnings for improper or defective vehicle lighting.

**December 25 through December 26, 2025 calls:** one found or lost property call, two ambulance/EMS calls, and one fire call (Verdon Fire). One 911 call.

**December 26 through December 27, 2025 calls:** one miscellaneous call, one referred other agency call, five animal calls, one alarm, one house watch, two burn permits, and one traffic/driving complaint, for a total of twelve calls. There was one 911 call. Two citations were issued for commit child abuse negligently and one citation for sexual assault in the third degree. Five warnings were issued for improper or defective vehicle lighting, one warning for failure to maintain lane, two warnings for plates not clear and visible, and one warning for improper turn.

**December 27 through December 28, 2025 calls:** one fraud call, one check welfare, one referred other agency call, two ambulance/EMS calls, one disturbance, two 911 hang up/misdial calls, one fire call, one burn permit, one investigation, one animal call, and one motorist assist, for a total of thirteen calls. There were two 911 calls. One citation was issued for improper or defective vehicle lighting, one citation for nonresident violation of suspension/revocation order, and one citation for invalid registration. Warnings included one for failure to signal before 100 feet, one for speeding, three for improper or defective vehicle lighting, and one for misuse of a school permit.

**December 28 through December 29, 2025 calls:** two ambulance/EMS calls, one open door call, one motorist assist, three referred other agency calls, and one miscellaneous call, for a total of seven calls. There were two 911 calls. One citation was issued for invalid registration, and one warning was issued for unlawful or fictitious display of plates/renewal tabs.

**December 29 through December 30, 2025 calls:** one 911 hang-up/misdial, five ambulance/EMS calls, two miscellaneous calls, two welfare checks, one house watch, one alarm, and one referred other agency. Two 911 calls. One citation for speeding.

**December 30 through December 31, 2025 calls:** two HHS intake/referral calls, two accidents, two miscellaneous calls, one ambulance/EMS call, one referred other agency, one animal call, one domestic disturbance, and one 911 hang-up/misdial. Three 911 calls.

Richardson County Jail employee arrested following internal investigation

(Continued from Page 1)

fice said that at the time of the initial release, multiple media organizations had already contacted the office requesting information and that releasing a preliminary statement allowed the office to maintain transparency while the investigation was ongoing.

After the investigation concluded, the sheriff's office identified the employee as 32 year old Derek J. Olberding. According to the sheriff's office, Olberding was arrested and charged with delivering or distributing a controlled substance in violation of Nebraska Revised Statute 28-416(2)(B), a Class IIA felony, and possession of a controlled substance in violation of Nebraska Revised Statute 28-416(3), a Class IV felony.

The sheriff's office stated that it holds its employees to the highest professional and ethical standards and that allegations of misconduct are taken seriously and thoroughly investigated. The sheriff's office said it remains committed to accountability, transparency and maintaining public trust.

The case remains active and all suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

This weeks answers

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Good News Assembly of God (600 Reavis St.) Sunday School, 9:30am; Worship, 10:40am. Wednesday: Good News Kids, 6:30pm. www.mynag.com. Tim Boatright, Pastor – 245-3977  
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS (23rd & Barada) Sunday: Divine Service, 9 AM Sunday School and Bible study, 10:15 AM (September-May). Communion every Sunday. fallscitylcms.blogspot.com  
Rev. Ken Humphrey, Pastor- 402-245-3324  
Corner Stone Baptist Church (N. Highway 73 Turn at Blue Valley Behavioral Health) Sunday School Bible Hour, 9:30am; Worship, 10:30am & 6:30pm. Wednesday: Bible Study & Prayer Time, 7pm; Lively Stone Kids Klub K-6. Pastor Mike Dunleavy – 402-245-4245  
Valley Avenue Baptist Church (2023 Valley Ave.) Sunday School, 9:30am; Worship services, 10:30am; Evening, 6:00pm. Wednesday services, 7:00pm. Pastor Chad Berry–245-3890 valleyavenue.org  
Church Of Christ (2701 Barada St.) Worship, 10:30am; Bible Study (All Ages), 9:30am. Wednesday Bible Study, 6:00pm. Josh Maxwell, Preacher – 402-245-7148  
First United Methodist Church (1700 Harlan St.), Worship, 11:00am (Also Broadcast KTNC 1230am / 107.1fm) First Sun. fellowship 10:30; Adult Bible Study: 9:45AM. fumc@sentco.net Pastor Larry Heintz– 402-245-3281  
First Christian Church Disciples Of Christ (1322 Stone St.) Sunday School, 10:45am; Worship, 10:45am Facebook.com/fallscitycooperativeministry Pastor Grant Speece – 402-980-5960  
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church ELCA (20th & Towle St.) Sunday School (Sept-May), 9am; Worship, 10am. Wednesday: Confirmation 6:30pm; Choir 7:30pm. Joanna Kathol, Pastor – 402-245-3828  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church (16th & Harlan) Sunday Worship, 10:30am (Holy Eucharist) https://stthomasepisc.com  
Northridge (1820 Morton St.) Sunday School, 9am; Worship, 10am. www.northridgenetwork.org/Falls-City. 402-245-2167  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMS. (6 Mi. North of Falls City on US 73) Sunday School and Bible study, 9:30 AM (September-May). Divine Service, 10:30 AM. Communion on 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays. fallscitylcms.blogspot.com  
Rev. Ken Humphrey, Pastor - 402-245-4643  
Sts. Peter and Paul (1820 Fulton) Weekend Mass Times: Sat., 5:00PM; Sun., 7AM & 10AM Daily Mass: Mon. thru Fri., 6:45AM Services livestreamed daily on www.facebook.com/sppfc Inquiry classes by appt. Sacrament of Penance: Sat., 3:45-4:45PM, or by appt.  
Fr. Jim Meysenburg, Pastor 402-245-3002.  
Zion United Church of Christ (65763 709 Rd, FC) Sunday: Worship service, 9:00AM; Communion, first Sun. of each month. www.facebook.com/fallscitycooperativeministry. Pastor, Grant Speece 402-980-5960 cell 245-2398 office

RULO

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

BARADA

Barada Global Methodist Church (717 Rd./652 Blvd.) Worship Service 9:15am; Sunday School 10:30am. Services held in Barada On The 2nd & 4th Sun. of the month. Services held at St. Peter's ELCA On The 1st & 3rd Sun. of the month. Pastor Mike Hader. 402-245-4584  
Bethel Global Methodist Church (70656 656 Ave (½ mile N of Preston Corner) Worship, 11:00AM; Sunday School, 10:00AM; Wednesday Choir, 7:30PM. Pastor Mike Hader – 402-245-4584.  
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) Williamsville, 12 miles NE of Falls City) Worship 9:15AM (1st, 3rd); Worship at Barada Global Methodist (2nd & 4th Sundays); Check our Facebook page for worship schedule. Fellowship & Sunday School following worship. Pastor Mike Hader – 402-245-4584  
SHUBERT  
St. Anne's (Shubert) Sun. Mass: 10:30AM; confessions before Mass. Fr. Anthony Bedient, Pastor. 855-3595 or 245-4151  
Shubert Christian Church Worship, 9:30AM; Fellowship, 10:30AM; Sunday School, 10:30AM. Thursday Fellowship, 5:00PM. Pulpit Supply  
Prairie Union Baptist Church (Rural Shubert) Sun: Morning Worship 10:30AM, Sunday School 9:30AM. Communion is served the first Sun. of every month. Bob Heusman, Pastor

VERDON

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

DAWSON

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

ARAGO

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

STELLA

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

HUMBOLDT

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

WHITE CLOUD, KS

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

BIG LAKE, MO

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

FOREST CITY, MO

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

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# Irish boys struggle at Freeman Holiday Tourney

The Sacred Heart Irish dropped both contests at the Freeman Holiday Basketball Tournament and, in the process, fell to 3-3 for the season. The Irish lost to Syracuse 66-49 on Tuesday at Adams, then fell to Tri County 74-51 on Wednesday.

Tuesday against the Rockets, Sacred Heart fell behind 17-10 after the first period and was unable to recover. Syracuse increased their lead to 35-16 at the half, effectively putting the game out of reach. The Irish did battle in the second half, outscoring the Rockets 17-13 in the third; however, it wasn't enough as the Irish fell by 17, 66-49. The loss dropped SH to 3-2, while the Rockets remained unblemished at 7-0.

Syracuse was just too efficient, shooting 54 percent from the field, while the Irish hit just 35 percent. SH lives or dies by the three-point shot, and on Tuesday, the Irish made just 10 of 35 attempts. The Irish have also had difficulty rebounding this season, and Tuesday was no different. The Irish were outrebounded 37-17. SH did take care of the ball, turning it over just 12 times, while forcing Syracuse into 17 turnovers.

The Rockets held Irish guard Cole Taft to 1-of-11 shooting and two points. Brenden Lemerond led SH with 15 points and four assists, while Bo Fletcher added 13 points and four rebounds. Taft led the team with five rebounds.

SH Scoring: Taft 2, Fletcher 13, Lemerond 15, Clow 7, Baxter 4, Howard 8.

Syracuse Scoring: Janssen 13, Lintz 2, Schroeder 7, J. Janssen 6, Wemhoff 10, Gartner 11, Liesemeyer 4, Parde 13.

Wednesday pitted the Irish against the Tri County Trojans. SH defeated the Trojans 67-59 just two weeks prior. The contest was similar to Tuesday's game in many ways. The Irish were outrebounded 28-to-16 and outshot, 52 percent to 32 percent. The Irish shot better from deep (9/22) but went just 3-of-15 from two-point range. The Irish excelled at the foul line, where they converted 18-of-24 attempts.

Lemerond again had the hot hand for SH, leading the offense with 13 points, three rebounds and four assists. Taft was next with 11 points and four assists.

SH Scoring : Taft 11, Fletcher 9, Sipple 3, Lemerond 13, C. Witt 2, Clow 7, Santo 2, Howard 4.

Trojan Scoring: Siems 15, Kapke 5, Katz 1, D. Siems 2, Vossler 22, Wehrman 14, Smidt 3, Schnuelle 1, T. Kapke 11.

The loss dropped Sacred Heart to .500 at 3-3, while Tri County improved to 6-3 with the win.

Sacred Heart hosted Elmwood-Murdock on Tuesday at the RAC and will play at Diller-Odell on Friday and against Bishop LeBlond at the Steve Vertin Memorial Classic on Saturday in St. Joseph.



Lillian Bowen puts up a shot attempt in the Titan's loss to Johnson County Central on Tuesday afternoon.

## Lady Titans fall to JCC in tourney finale

The HTRS Lady Titans came up short on Tuesday afternoon in the B Division championship at Weeping Water High School. The Lady Titans fell behind 19-9 after the first period and never caught up, dropping the contest 50-28. The T-Birds were able to take Elie Bstandig out of her game, holding her to just one point in the contest. The center is averaging 13 points and 15 rebounds per game.

Senior Lillian Bowen gave HTRS its only lead of the game, sinking a trey from the wing to make it 3-2 in the early going. A bucket later in the period by Kenadi McClarnen cut the JCC lead in half at 10-5, and a three-pointer by Maddie Bredemeier closed out the HTRS scoring for the period.

Bowen got the first hoop of the second period for HTRS, finishing off a steal with a layup. A triple on the next possession by the senior made it 24-14. The scoring for the half ended with no time left on the clock. Bowen was fouled at the buzzer on a three-point attempt. The guard stepped to the foul line and sank

2-of-3 attempts to cut the Thunderbird advantage to 27-17.

A steal and layup by Bowen, a hoop on the block by McClarnen, and free throws by McClarnen and Bredemeier accounted for the Titans' point total in the third.

JCC outscored HTRS 13-5 in the fourth to seal the win. A triple by Bowen and two free throws by Bredemeier were the only points of the period for the Lady Titans.

HTRS Scoring: Bowen 15, McClarnen 5, Bredemeier 6, Bstandig 1, Howe 1.

To get to the finals, HTRS avenged an early-season loss to Weeping Water. The Lady Titans fell 51-32 to the Indians on December 6. On Monday night, HTRS hung on for a 47-46 win.

The Titans got out to an early 12-2 lead after the first. However, Weeping Water chipped away, knotting the game at 35 heading into the fourth.

HTRS outscored Weeping Water 12-11 in the final eight minutes to earn the win. Elie Bstandig had a strong game, scoring 17 points and grabbing 23 rebounds. Bowen added 12 points and four assists.

The Lady Titans shot 41 percent (19-of-46) from the field but made just 5-of-16 from the charity stripe. The Titans outrebounded WW 34-28.

HTRS Scoring: Bstandig 17, Bredemeier 7, McClarnen 6, Bowen 12, Howe 5.

WW Scoring: Brack 9, Ridge 4, Meyer 6, Huskey 27.

# Lady Irish fall in first round of Freeman Holiday Tourney

All good things must come to an end, at least that's what I've been told. The Sacred Heart Lady Irish had been 6-0 against the Syracuse Rockets since the 2018-19 season. On Tuesday, it took overtime, but the Rockets finally got the best of SH, 50-46.

Sacred Heart owned the first and fourth periods, but the middle quarters and overtime cost the Irish the win.

SH quickly led 14-6 after the first period. Hallie Jones and Daycee Witt each scored four points in the first period. The Rockets stormed back in the second on three deep balls and led 22-19 at the half.

Syracuse outscored SH 12-7 in the third, making it 34-26 heading into the

fourth. The Irish mounted a furious comeback, led by eight points from Jones, to tie the game at 39-39 and force overtime. Witt had five points in overtime, but it wasn't enough as the Irish fell by four, 50-46.

Free throws loomed large as SH converted only 8-of-21 attempts in the four-point loss. SH won the rebound battle, 39-37, and turned the ball over just 10 times while forcing 12.

Jones recorded a double-double for SH with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Witt and Bailey Lemerond each added 12 points. Senior sharp-shooter Avery Santo was held in check by the Rockets, finishing 0-8 with no points.

SH Scoring : Crouse 2, Lemerond 12, Witt 12, Sipple

1, Jones 17, Reschke 2.

Rockets Scoring: Parde 6, Johnson 6, Donovan 16, Wemhoff 13, Mohr 3, Stubbendick 4, Vollersten 2.

The Irish defeated Tri County 54-41 on Wednesday, avenging an earlier 13-point loss to the Trojans.

The Irish fell behind early, 11-15, but battled back to make it 25-26 at the half. SH kept the pressure on after the break, outscoring Tri County 14-9 to take a 39-35 lead into the final period. Free throws down the stretch sealed the win for the Irish. SH converted 8-of-10 from the charity stripe in the period to earn the win. For the contest, the Irish sank 16-of-25 free throws.

Santo made up for Tuesday's game by scoring a game-high 18 points. Santo

**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**  
**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

**\$5K**

**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.

## Titans earn B Division title at Weeping Water

The HTRS Titan basketball team picked up its second and third wins of the season by defeating Southern on Monday and Falls City on Tuesday at the Weeping Water Holiday Tournament.

Ten days prior, HTRS watched as a large lead evaporated against Southern; the Titans weren't about to let that happen again. The Titans fell behind 12-11 after the first period and 26-22 at the half. However, HTRS battled, cutting the lead to 40-39 heading into the final period. This time, the final quarter belonged to HTRS as they outscored the Raiders 14-7 and earned the 53-47 come-from-behind win.

HTRS shot 40 percent (21-of-52) from the field, pulled down 24 rebounds and dished out 18 assists in the win.

Senior Emmett Glathar led the charge on Monday with 23 points. Darius Bohling added 15 points and four rebounds, while Kameon Dettmann hit for 11 points and dished out eight assists. HTRS Scoring: Bohling 15, Dettmann 11, Glathar 23, Hunzeker 4.

The win set up a championship final against the Falls City Tigers on Tuesday evening at Weeping Water High School. The game was a battle for 32 minutes, as Falls City led 13-8 after the first period.

Bohling drilled a three-pointer to open the game but Falls City's Jacoby Bangert quickly answered to tie the contest. Later in the period, FC took the lead on a hoop by Brock Caudle, giving the Tigers a 5-4 advantage.

A three-point play, the old-fashioned way, by Ethan Morris propelled FC to an 8-4 lead. A triple by Karson Simpson and a late hoop by Elijah Leyden put

FC in the driver's seat, 13-8 after one.

The second quarter started with a bang for HTRS, as they opened the period with six straight points, taking a 14-13 lead. Another long ball by Simpson put FC back in front, 16-14, with just over four minutes remaining in the half. However, a triple by Dettmann and two straight buckets by Glathar pushed HTRS to its largest lead of the game, 21-16, with 2:30 to go.

Simpson hit his third deep ball of the half, and Morris sank a bucket to tie the game at 21 apiece. However, two free throws by Jack Hilgenfeld gave HTRS a two-point lead, 23-21, at the break.

The second half was all HTRS as the FC offense fell silent. Hoops by Paxton Armbruster and Morris kept the scoring close early in the period, but HTRS finished with a flurry, scoring the final six points of the quarter to make it 31-25 heading into the fourth.

Falls City cut the lead to four, 33-29, after back-to-back buckets by Morris and Armbruster. However, HTRS outscored FC 9-2 in the final 4:50 to earn the 42-31 win.

The Titans had a chance to put the game away at the foul line, but went just 8-of-22 from the stripe. Meanwhile, FC made just three trips to the charity stripe, making one attempt.

Glathar led HTRS with 16 points and nine rebounds, while Bohling added nine points and nine boards.

HTRS Scoring: Hilgenfeld 5, Bohling 9, Dettmann 3, Duryea 3, Glathar 16, Hunzeker 6.

FC Scoring: Armbruster 4, Morris 9, Caudle 2, Simpson 11, Leyden 2, Bangert 3.







# Top five stories of 2025 printed in the *Falls City Journal*

*\*According on online views at [www.fcjournal.net](http://www.fcjournal.net)*



## Falls City High School parts ways with head football coach Jack Bangert

**#1 November 19, 2025:** The most read story of 2025 on the *Falls City Journal* website was the announcement that Jack Bangert would no longer serve as head football coach at Falls City High School, effective immediately. The school said the decision was made because the team’s on-field performance had not met expectations and that the change was in the best long-term interest of the program.

“Falls City Public Schools extends its sincere appreciation to Coach Bangert for his time, leadership, and dedication to our student-athletes,” the school said in a statement. Assistant Principal and Activities Director Gale Dunkhas said, “I want to thank him for his hard work and commitment during his time as our head coach.” The district said it would begin the process of selecting a new coach in the coming weeks.

## Commissioners send settlement offer to road department employees and discuss floodplain floodway

**#3 September 24, 2025:** Among the third top stories of 2025 on the *Falls City Journal* website was Richardson County’s work on flood mitigation and labor negotiations.

Emergency Director Brian Kirkendall met with county commissioners to discuss a FEMA and Nebraska Department of Natural Resources buyout program for property owners in the floodway. The grants were designed to reduce flood risk by helping homeowners relocate outside the floodplain, though Kirkendall said there was currently no money available to purchase properties.

Commissioner Rick Karas made a motion to send letters to floodway property owners asking whether they would be interested in selling if funding became available. The county also discussed a revised floodway and flood fringe ordinance approved by FEMA. “We left in the two feet of freeboard,” Kirkendall said.

Later, the board entered closed session with special counsel Jerry Pigsley, County Clerk Mary Eickhoff and County Attorney Samantha Scheitel. Afterward, Karas made a motion to send a settlement offer to NAPE/AFSCME Local 61, which represents the county roads department.

The proposal included eliminating the grievance board, making the county board the final decision-maker on grievances, setting five wage ranges from \$23 to \$25 per hour based on years of service and renaming PTO as sick leave with a cap of 480 hours.

More discussions on road department negotiations and floodway properties continue at this time.

## Massive snowstorm hits Richardson County

**#5 January 8, 2025:** The fifth top story of 2025 was a major blizzard that hit Falls City on January 5, producing whiteout conditions and widespread business closures. Visibility was severely limited by early afternoon and the storm intensified around 9 a.m. Residents reported snowfall totals ranging from 11 to 16 inches, though drifting made measurements difficult.

Meteorologist Joseph Meyer of *KMTV News* in Omaha said the five highest snowfall totals recorded at Brenner Field through 2003 were 17 inches on March 4 to 5, 1915; 15 inches on Dec. 23 to 24, 1935; 14.5 inches on March 5 to 6, 1948; 13 inches on Dec. 24 to 25, 1948; and 12.5 inches on Feb. 13, 1978.

Photos showed deep drifts at the Richardson County Courthouse and large snow piles along Stone Street. Many Falls City businesses were closed the following Monday or opened late.

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

**#2 November 26, 2025:** The second top story of 2025 on the *Falls City Journal* website centered on confusion surrounding a Falls City Council vote on non-union wages. During a special meeting, the council approved a motion that referenced a Nov. 3 wage proposal. Several members later said they believed they had voted on a different Nov. 17 proposal. The motion was made by Don Ferguson, who said, “I would like to make a motion that we go back to what was originally proposed on November 3 with what the committee came out of committee unanimously.”

At the end of the meeting, Ferguson confirmed the council had passed “the resolution that was submitted at the November 3rd meeting,” which City Administrator Anthony Nussbaum also confirmed. The council voted 4-3. The *Falls City Journal* later reviewed the audio recording, which showed the motion referenced the Nov. 3 proposal. Under Nebraska law, the wording of the motion and recorded vote controlled the action, making the episode one of the most closely watched local stories of the year.



## Larry the Cable Guy Getting-R-Done for local theatre departments

**#4 February 9, 2025:** The fourth top story of 2025 on the *Falls City Journal* website was Larry the Cable Guy bringing his “Larry’s Nebraska Road Trip” comedy tour to Prichard Auditorium in Falls City, ending years without a major celebrity event at the venue.

The tour began January 23 in Kearney and was scheduled to conclude March 2 in Chadron. Larry, whose real name is Dan Whitney and who is a Pawnee City native, donated the tour proceeds to local theatre programs. Falls City High School and Sacred Heart High School theatre programs split the funds from the Falls City show.

About 1,600 tickets were sold, with lines forming hours before doors opened. Larry told the audience it was great to give back to the theatre departments and said he was proud to be from southeast Nebraska.

Special guest Nick Hoff opened the show and Larry performed for nearly 90 minutes.





PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Richardson, Nebraska will meet weekly for a regular meeting on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m., Room 202 in the Richardson County Courthouse for the purpose of conducting any and all county business that will come before the board. The agenda for the meetings are kept continuously current and are available for public inspection at the office of the Richardson County Clerk, Courthouse, Room 203, 1700 Stone Street, Falls City, NE during normal working hours. The agenda is closed 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting and is posted on the Commissioner's Meeting Room door, the 1st floor lobby and the lower level lobby of the Courthouse and also on the Richardson County website [www.richardsoncountyne.gov](http://www.richardsoncountyne.gov).

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

ZNEZ

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

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

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

Madison McKim  
1402 Barada Street  
Falls City, Nebraska 68355

17-24-31-7  
ZNEZ

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

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

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

Emma Ray McKim  
1402 Barada Street  
Falls City, Nebraska 68355

17-24-31-7  
ZNEZ

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

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

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

Wolf, McDermott, Dewe, Sabott,  
Butz, Porto & Fopius, LLC Attorneys  
for Applicant

31-7-14  
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 of the pubic, the One and Six Year Highway Improvement Program for Richardson County, Nebraska.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Falls City, Nebraska, that a public hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. on January 20, 2026, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 2307 Barada Street, Falls City, Nebraska. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comment prior to consideration of an amendment to the redevelopment plan of the City of Falls City, which amendment shall include a specific redevelopment project.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Anthony Nussbaum, City Clerk  
31-7  
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given by the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Falls City, Nebraska, that a public hearing will be held at 4:00 p.m. on January 20, 2026, in the City Hall, 2307 Barada Street, Falls City, Nebraska. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comment prior to consideration of an amendment to the redevelopment plan of the City of Falls City, which amendment shall include a specific redevelopment project.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Anthony Nussbaum, City Clerk  
31-7  
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Regular Meeting

Monday, January 12th, at 7:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Board meeting of the Falls City Board of Education for District No. 74 – 0056 will be held on Monday, January 12th, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in the Central Office in Falls City Middle School. This meeting is open to the public.

An Agenda for this meeting is kept continually current and is available for public inspection at the Superintendent's Office during regular District business hours. The agenda sequence is provided as a courtesy. The board reserves the right to consider items in the sequence it deems appropriate and may be modified at said meeting. Therefore, we encourage patrons to attend the meeting from the beginning.

Dr. Andrew Offner  
Superintendent,  
Falls City Public Schools

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 PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Falls City, Nebraska, that a public hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20th, 2026, in the City Hall, 2307 Barada Street, Falls City, Nebraska. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comment prior to consideration of a permit to harbor chickens and/or livestock on the below listed residential properties.

Chicken Permit Applications:  
523 Wilson Street, Falls City, Nebraska  
901 E 21st Street, Falls City, Nebraska  
804 E 17th Street, Falls City, Nebraska  
1802 Huber Road, Falls City, Nebraska  
1402 Morton Street, Falls City, Nebraska  
2414 Fulton Street, Falls City, Nebraska  
701 E 14th Street, Falls City, Nebraska

Livestock Permit Application:  
2414 Fulton Street, Falls City, Nebraska

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

Anthony Nussbaum, City Clerk  
7  
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 S 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 Meeting Notice Board of Education District #70

Notice is hereby given that a regular board meeting of the Board of Education of the Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer School District #70 will be held at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 12th, 2026 in the Conference Room. The purpose of such meeting is to do regular business. A current agenda is available at the Superintendent's Office.

Kyle Hilgenfeld  
Board President

ZNEZ

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECEMBER 24, 2025 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Caverzagie at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 24, 2025. Roll call was answered by Karas, Campbell and Caverzagie. The Invocation was given by Chairman Caverzagie and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chairman Karas. Chairman Caverzagie announced that the open meeting laws have been posted at the entrance to the meeting room.

A motion was made by Karas to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the agenda with an addition to consider the resolution for the transfer of funds from Inheritance Tax Fund to General Fund. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The agenda is posted at the Richardson County Courthouse in the First Floor Lobby, the Lower-Level Lobby and on the Commissioner's Meeting Room door on the 2nd Floor and on the Richardson County website [www.richardsoncountyne.gov](http://www.richardsoncountyne.gov).

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

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

Mr. Darveau questioned the possibility of the county observing, Friday, December 26, 2025, as a holiday. Assessor, Kim Riggs; Deputy Treasurer, Rachel Jean and Pam Scott, Clerk of District Court were also in attendance at this time to request the County Board consider closing county departments for this day.

Motion was made by Campbell to approve Friday, December 26, 2025, as a holiday for County employees and that the Courthouse offices, Road Department and the Sheriff's general office will be closed. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

Resolution Cancel Check

Motion was made by Campbell to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-19 to cancel a check issued in error. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 19)

Fee Report

A report for Sheriff Hardesty was approved for fees collected during the month of November, 2025, in the amount of \$8,142.35.

Quote for Electrical

A quote was received from Travis Jorm to bore an electrical line under certain sidewalks at the Courthouse to install a new electrical line to existing lighting fixtures at the Courthouse. Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the quote as presented for \$3,500.00. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Resolution Transfer of Funds

Motion was made by Caverzagie to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-20 to transfer funds from Inheritance Tax Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$200,000.00. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 20)

Motion was made by Campbell to allow the payment of all claims that were submitted today. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

(The claims listed below are available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours.)

GENERAL FUND

Amazon, supp.....25.73  
Ankrom, Jami, reimb.....348.60  
AT&T, serv .....982.51  
Bartek-Ramsey, Amanda, reimb. 73.97  
Britte, serv .....499.00  
Candlewood Suites, fees .....249.90  
Charm-Text, serv .....229.80  
Clerk of District Court, fees.....294.00  
Consolidated Management Company, serv.....10087.00  
Crook, Eric, serv .....975.00  
Culligan of Percival, serv .....60.00  
DAS State Accounting, serv .....493.50  
Eickhoff, Mary, reimb .....765.80  
Electronic Contracting Company, serv .....2495.04  
F&M, fees .....76.00  
Falls City Mercantile, supp .....455.53  
Falls City Sanitation, serv .....40.00  
Farm & City Supply, supp .....184.57  
Farm & Home Publishers, supp622.50  
Fields, Odis, reimb.....291.20  
First Concord, fees .....940.00  
First Wireless Inc, serv .....975.11  
Galls, supp.....136.96  
Government Forms & Supplies, supp.....1615.82  
Great Plains Uniforms, supp...1538.39  
Halbert, Dunn & Burns, serv...9397.00  
CR25-18 H. McDonald, JV24-4  
Handley Law Office, serv.....4026.00  
CR25-80 H. McDonald, CR25-18 H. McDonald  
Hobart Services, serv .....793.66

Keep your home warm and safe during cold fronts

Cold fronts come on fierce and fast. And when they do, having a trusted space heater can keep your living spaces cozy and comfortable, and your energy bills in check. Survive and thrive this winter's polar vortexes, Arctic blasts, cold fronts and blizzards with these electric heater tips:

Prioritize safety: A high-quality space heater will not only deliver reliable, long-lasting performance, it will also be engineered with your well-being in mind. If you've ever hesitated to bring a space heater into your home, keep in mind that many of the latest models have been specially engineered to prioritize safety. Every

Hullman's Ford, serv.....778.00  
Humboldt Standard, ads.....56.00  
Hy-Vee, supp .....107.52  
KexRx, serv .....828.89  
Koch's Auto Service, serv.....3326.51  
Lincoln National Life Ins., ins..1567.65  
Malcolm, Terry DDS, serv.....560.00  
Meyer Laboratory Inc, serv.....143.50  
Midwest Process Services, serv.42.82  
Miller Farrell Insurance, ins ....3517.00  
NACVSO, dues.....50.00  
Nartec, Inc, serv .....189.42  
NE Assoc. of Dist. Crt Clerks, dues.....50.00  
NE Assoc. of Weed Control, reg..150.00  
NE Health & Human Services, serv.....90.00  
Nestor & Mercure, serv.....9166.66  
ODP Business Solutions, serv...319.03  
OPPD, serv.....33.08  
Otoe County Sheriff, serv .....15.00  
Physicians Laboratory, serv.....166.00  
Principal Life Ins., ins.....41.65  
ProServ Business Systems, serv .....177.00  
Quill, supp.....304.21  
Ram Exterminators, serv .....48.00  
Richardson County, reimb .....70.00  
Richardson County Clerk Petty Cash, reimb.....8.85  
Richardson County EMA Petty Cash, reimb.....406.03  
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/re tire/etc.....24899.62  
Riggs, Kim, reimb .....394.94  
Schendel Pest Control, serv.....69.88  
Scott, Pam, reimb .....329.00  
SummerOne, serv .....34.97  
Unifirst, serv.....88.69  
US Signal, serv.....945.00  
Vision Care Direct, ins .....17.90  
Vollmer, Julie, reimb .....200.00  
Weaver & Merz Law Office, reimb.....901.95  
Wolfe, supp.....50.07  
Payroll Expense.....116824.66  
TOTAL GENERAL FUND.....\$205,642.09

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Black Hills Energy, serv .....140.74  
Diesel Laptops, supp .....4675.00  
Falls City Auto Supply, supp.....542.56  
Farm & City Supply, supp .....1527.19  
Koch's Auto Service, serv.....490.90  
Martin Marietta Materials, rock.....24767.70  
NPPD, serv .....159.76  
Norris Quarries, rock .....4530.60  
Operation & Expense Account, reimb.....211.07  
O'Reilly Automotive, supp.....367.78  
PowerPlan, supp .....333.88  
Quill, supp.....73.16  
Safety-Kleen Systems, supp ....428.28  
Sapp Bros., fuel.....6169.77  
Schmidt, Josh, serv .....300.00  
Stateline Propane, propane.....426.00  
TreviPay, supp .....683.87  
Tri State Truck & Tractor, serv 3937.00  
Unifirst, supp.....56.31  
Woods & Aitken LLP, fees ....16624.05  
Payroll Expense .....36140.73  
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND.....\$102,586.35

DRUG COURT FUND

Hawkins, Seth, serv .....1300.00  
Morrissey, Morrissey & Dalluge, serv ..1300.00  
TOTAL DRUG COURT FUND.....\$2,600.00

INHERITANCE TAX FUND

County Treasurer, transfer..200000.00  
TOTAL INHERITANCE TAX FUND.....\$200,000.00

SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUNDS

CPC .....2213.57  
TOTAL SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUNDS.....\$2,213.57

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. for the next regular weekly meeting in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk's Office.

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

heater from Lasko, the number one heater brand in the United States, feature smart safeguards, such as overheat protection, tip-over safety switches, and cool touch housing, for ultimate peace of mind. They're also available at major retailers and online, so you can also find them on demand before the temperatures plunge.

Choose the right model for your needs: Finding the right model for your needs is important. For example, if portability is a priority because you intend to use one space heater in different rooms, consider the Lasko 22" Ceramic Tower Heater (CT22495), available at Home Depot, which has an easy-grip handle and a 6-foot power cord for flexibility, plus optional oscillation for full room coverage. Its child lock, along with its safety rollover design, make it a good option for those with little ones.

To warm up larger living spaces, opt for a model that utilizes widespread oscillation to ensure consistent and comfortable heat distribution throughout the room, such as the Lasko 22" Oscillating Ceramic Tower Space Heater (CT22850), available at Walmart. With four comfort settings, and an adjustable thermostat, it's well-suited for anyone seeking personalized temperature control.

Eco-friendly and cost-effective, both models offer Auto Eco Mode, which will maintain the selected room temperature by automatically adjusting heat output to deliver consistent comfort while reducing energy use.

Position electric heaters properly: Keep electric heaters away from areas where they can be harmed by water or dampness, or, use heaters specially designed for rooms like bathrooms and laundry rooms, which feature safeguards for moist spaces. You should also place typical space heaters a foot or two from the wall. For tighter spaces, consider a model with intake and exhaust vents on the front of the unit so it can be placed at the wall. No matter what, position your electric heater away from flammable materials, and establish a three-foot buffer zone between the heater and foot traffic.

As you face cold fronts this winter, don't settle for anything less than ultimate comfort. A great space heater is ideal for warming up your home safely and reliably.

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Offers of employment are contingent upon a satisfactory background check and drug screening. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a desire to work with the elderly and provide exceptional customer care.

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2-3

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

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2-5

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Seth Dexter



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Cosby, Whitney & Justin Barlow.  
Great-Grandparents: Meredith  
& Seth Barlow, Heather &  
Captain Gay, Angie & Shaun,  
Katsa, Brownwyn Knewport.

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DEADLINE

FEBRUARY

10, 2026

IT'S TIME FOR BABIES OF 2025!

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

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

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

The deadline is Friday, February 10, 2026

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

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

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

Child's first & middle name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight at birth: \_\_\_\_\_

City & State of residence (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Parents names: \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

Living Great-Grandparents (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number for questions (not for print): \_\_\_\_\_

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Bobbi Elizabeth



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CLEAR LAKE, IA  
Grandparents: Mari & Bob  
Cosby, Whitney & Justin Barlow.  
Great-Grandparents: Meredith  
& Seth Barlow, Heather &  
Captain Gay, Angie & Shaun,  
Katsa, Brownwyn Knewport.

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TO 1709 STONE ST., FC





Ethan Morris fires a three in Falls City’s loss to HTRS on Tuesday evening in Weeping Water.

## Tigers snap 31-game skid

The Falls City boys’ basketball team earned its first win of the season, and in doing so, gave Head Coach Jaxson Balm his first win. The Tiger program has had its struggles recently, with its last winning season coming in 2017-18. However, now Coach Balm and the Tigers can cross a win off the list and move on to the rest of the 2025-26 season.

The win came on Monday, December 29, 2025, in the opening round of the Weeping Water Holiday Tournament. FC, playing in the B Division, defeated the host school, 42-36.

Bowdy Jones found Brock Caudle on the baseline for the first bucket of the contest, putting FC ahead 2-0. However, Weeping Water went on a six-point run, putting FC behind 6-2 at the end of the first period.

Falls City’s Paxton Armbruster sank 1-of-2 free throws to make it 10-10 at the half.

A triple by Armbruster to open the third quarter gave FC its largest lead of the contest at 13-10. Armbruster scored the first nine points of the period for FC as they took a 21-17 lead into the final eight

minutes.

The Tigers never trailed again, building a 13-point lead midway through the fourth. Leading 36-25, FC surrendered four straight points to make it 36-29, but Ethan Morris hit 3-of-4 free throws to push the Tigers’ lead back to 10 at 39-29. The Tigers hit free throws down the stretch to hold on for the six-point win.

Falls City capitalized at the foul line, hitting 12-of-17, while Weeping Water went just 3-of-9.

FC also forced 27 turnovers, while committing only 17.

Armbruster was the top scorer for FC, ending the game with 20 points, while Morris also hit double figures with 11 points and seven boards.

FC Scoring: Armbruster 20, Leyden 1, Morris 11, Bangert 5, Caudle 5.

WW Scoring: Wipf-Dieter 13, Nutter 2, Mogensen 3, Tummons 6, Seger 12.

The win propelled FC into the finals on Tuesday against HTRS. See Titan’s story for game recap.

Falls City, 1-7, hosted Nebraska City on Tuesday, January 6 and Lourdes Central on Friday, January 9, 2026.

## Lady Tiger wrestlers compete at Conestoga

The Falls City Lady Tiger wrestling team hit the mats on Tuesday, December 30, at Conestoga High School. Falls City scored 122.5 points and placed sixth. Adams Central won the team championship with 183 points, Auburn was second with 159.5, and Blair placed third with 157.5.

The top finish of the day went to Hallie Young at 115 pounds. Young ended the day at 3-1 and placed second. In the finals, Young fell to Khloe Wiseman of Adams Central by fall at 1:35.

Four FC wrestlers finished fourth on Tuesday. At 100, Keylee Olberding went 2-2, at 105, Audrey Scrivens finished 1-2, Peyton Weddle finished 2-2 at 130, and

Gabi Young finished 2-2 at 145.

At 170 pounds, Emma Gilkerson went 4-2 and placed fifth, winning by medical forfeit in her last match.

Taytum Maddox dropped to 13-3 for the season, ending her day with one win and three losses. She fell by medical forfeit in the consolation semifinals and by forfeit in the fifth-place match.

Gabbi Griffin went 1-2 and placed seventh at 235, while Leah Goff was 3-2 and placed at 140. Goff pinned Adilyn Deibert of Central City at :51 for seventh place.

At 170 pounds, Jalin Deprey went 2-3 and placed eighth.

## Lady Tigers get in win column at Weeping Water Tourney

The Lady Tigers dropped to 0-7 for the year when they fell to Southern, 37-15, in first-round action in the B Division of the Weeping Water Holiday Tournament on Monday, December 29, 2025.

FC has struggled all season in the first period, and Monday was no different as the Raiders raced to a 16-1 lead after the first quarter. The Lady Tigers have scored just 16 total points in the first quarter across the first seven contests. After the initial eight minutes, FC settled in and played much better. The Tigers were outscored 8-4 in the second and trailed 24-5 at intermission.

The second half was played much closer, as FC was outscored 13-10 and ultimately lost 37-15. The win improved Southern to 4-4, while FC remained winless this season.

Falls City shot 23 percent from the field on Monday, making 6-of-26 shots. The Lady Tigers finished with 29 turnovers, which led to 28 points for the Raiders on the other end of the floor.

Bella Johansen was FC’s top offensive player with five points. Carlea Dunkhas added four points and nine rebounds, while Tessa Gossman added four points, three steals, and two assists.

FC Scoring: Dunkhas 4, Gossman 4, Johansen 5, M. Johansen 2.

The Tigers bounced back on Tuesday, securing the first win of the season with a 44-25 victory over Parkview Christian. The contest was tight early, as FC clung to a 5-3 lead after the first period.

Falls City began to separate from the Patriots in the second stanza, outscoring Parkview 10-6 and leading 15-9 at the half.

The defense continued to pressure, and the offense picked up the pace as Falls City padded its lead, outpacing Parkview 15-4 and taking a 30-13 lead into the final eight minutes. The Lady Tigers kept pace with a 14-point fourth quarter to earn the 19-point win, 44-25.

The win snapped an 11-game losing streak dating back to last season. FC’s previous win was a 45-21 victory over Mead on February 6, 2025.

FC shot 34 percent in the contest, making 18-of-53 shots. The Lady Tigers went 6-of-17 from the foul line, grabbed 43 rebounds, and dished out 11 assists.

Seven Tigers got in on the scoring, with Bristol Titus leading the charge with nine points and six rebounds. Dunkhas added eight points and seven boards, while Kaytlin Rhodd had six points and eight rebounds.

FC Scoring : Dunkhas 8, Gossman 2, Johansen 6, Glathar 7, Titus 9, M. Johansen 6, Rhodd 6.

The 1-7 Tigers hosted the 2-6 Nebraska City Pioneers on Tuesday and Lourdes Central (4-4) on Friday. The Tigers will play at 1-6 Mead on Saturday, January 10. The Raiders’ only win of the season came against Parkview Christian, 46-25, on December 22.

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## JAMMING WITH DAD

DECEMBER 1, 1956 - ADOPTED BY SUZANNE FALTER

Mr. Tinkelpaugh has suffered a relapse into the jazzmania of his youth, and the young folks hope he will recover rapidly and return to his chimney corner. No doubt he was quite an operator with the Dixieland rhythm of the era of The Collegiate 7, but that was circa 1928, and now there's a new circa; from a new generation the pent-up sound effects of the progressive beat yearn to find expression against ceiling beams. Let The Rumpus Room 4 remember this, in case one of them feels like rendering an outmoded parental recital around 1980. Those superb jazzmasters on the wall are Armstrong, Sullivan, Russell; below, Condon, Wetling, Teagarden, Erwin, and some unidentified pates. John Falter once played the sax, but he decided he could make sweeter music with a brush. [johnphilipfaltermuseum.com](http://johnphilipfaltermuseum.com)

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### ARMBRUSTER'S "BACK IN THE DAY"

This 6'0 sophomore, #32, scored 16 points and grabbed seven rebounds as the Irish defeated Humboldt 96-41 at Prichard Auditorium. The sophomore sensation was averaging nearly 15 points through the first five contests of the season for Coach Doug Goltz.