

THE

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

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Join the Would Eye for wing and beer specials during the Super Sunday game
10 Babies of 2025 Deadline
18 Ash Sunday Service, noon at St. Thomas Episcopal Church

**Prepare for
Valentines Day!**
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**PUBLIC
NOTICES**
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Joan E. Stice

After 75 years, longtime anchor tenant of Stone Street says goodbye to Falls City

The July 26, 1950, *Falls City Journal* reported that work had begun on remodeling a building at 1608 Stone Street. The address would be home to the new Brown's Shoe Fit Company store. The manager of the new establishment, Max Bush, came from Centerville, Iowa, and stated that the new store

would open in roughly a month's time. At the time, Brown's Shoe Fit Co. operated stores in Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Colorado.

July of 2025 marked a significant date for a business that would grace downtown Falls City for the next 75 years.

The history of the Brown's Shoe Fit Company dates to 1911, when Winifred A. Brown began the business with a capital of just over \$1,700. The first store was in Shenandoah, Iowa, but soon satellite shops in Red Oak and Clarinda were added. By the time of Brown's death in 1958, the company had grown to over 30 stores.

Brown's philosophy was to try to get stores into small towns along major highways that were the county seat.

Flash forward three quarters of a century, and the longtime staple of Falls City was counting down its final days, marking the end of an era.

Brown's Shoe has been the place to go for school dress shoes, team sports shoes, and apparel. However, much like many of our tiny town's stores over the years, it was hard for Brown's to compete with the ease and prices of online stores.

The shoe store stayed at its original location at 1608 Stone for 52 years before moving across the street to its current location in the summer of 2002.

According to longtime em-

ployee and store manager Joan E. Stice, the move meant more than just crossing the street. "We were able to carry more products, got more into clothing."

Stice said before the move, the store began offering products such as Dr. Martens jeans, belts and sweatshirts. The store already sold Nike products, but it expanded into Under Armour and offered a wider variety to its patrons.

Stice said the store also sold many duffel bags and purses.

Joan E. began her long journey with Brown's Shoe Fit in 1990 and stayed with the company until 2013. At that point, she moved to Great Western Bank, but by 2014, Brown's came calling.

"The manager was leaving, and they called me and asked me if I wanted to take over," said Stice.

Stice stated that when she began with the company, she was hired at \$3.35 per hour, a far cry from the \$15.00 per hour minimum wage that went into effect at the beginning of the year.

She also said the most significant change over the years was the advent of the computer system.

Stice said that prior to the computer, staff would log handwritten tickets, ensuring the sales matched the ledger each night before they left the store. *(Please turn to Page 3)*

Commissioners vote to send settlement proposal to Road Department Employees

The regular meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was held Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at the Courthouse in Falls City. All Board members responded to the roll call.

Sheriff Rick Hardesty met with the Board and reported that the Law Enforcement Center was housing 15 inmates. He also discussed spouse/family insurance options with the Commissioners. He added that his department had applied for body cameras through the Small, Rural, and Tribal Body-Worn Camera Program. The grant is a 1-for-1 match for the County. Hardesty said that if the department receives the grant for the body cameras, the old cameras will be assigned to the jailers.

He also said the new Sheriff Department truck that was ordered has a build date of February 23 and should be shipped to the dealership by mid-March. He also stated that he has surplus vehicles that will be put up for sale on a Big Iron Auction soon, along with items from the Road Department. A pair of 2020 Ford F150s, a 2013 Dodge, and a 2022 Ford Explorer will be listed for sale.

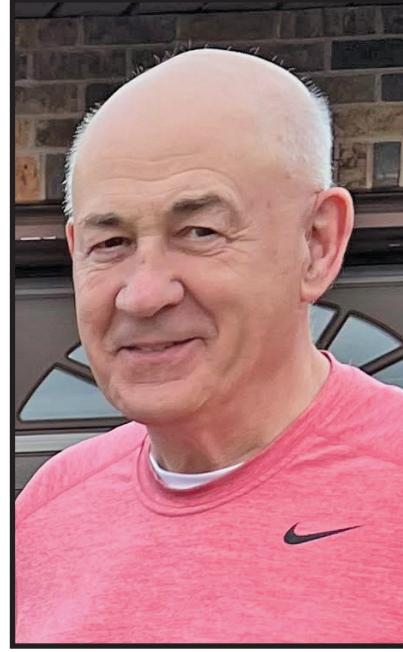
Sherry Huddleston of the Falls City Outreach Office of SENCA presented the Board with an update on services provided by her office. Huddleston reported that from October through December 2025, 462 food pantries were provided to families in the county. Her office served 1,506 clients and 694 households, 262 of which were unduplicated. She noted that SENCA provided 65 Thanksgiving meal kits and 65 \$25 gift cards, which helped feed 87 adults and 67 kids. She reported that the Red Kettle Campaign, which ran from the Saturday after Thanksgiving to December 21, raised \$2,305.21, 90% of which stays in Richardson County. Funds collected via the QR codes have not yet been added to the totals. Sixty-five families received gifts collected from the Jingle Bell Ride and the Stuff the Cruiser event from the Sheriff's Department.

Highway Superintendent Steve Darveau, Jr., met with the Board. Darveau discussed the possibility of stockpiling rock at Dawson and at the Falls City yard.

At 10:00 a.m., Chairman Caverzagie presented the proof of publication and declared the public hearing open for the One- and Six-Year 2026-2031 Highway Improvement Program for the County. One-Year plans include regrading ditches for 1.8 miles on Pony Creek Road, constructing a concrete headwall, rebuilding a road northeast of Barada, and working on 11 miles of overlay on the Dustless Highway. No members of the public appeared at the hearing to speak. The hearing was declared closed at 10:12 a.m.

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve Resolution

(Please turn to Page 3)



James "Jim" D. Gerweck passes away in Falls City

James "Jim" D. Gerweck, 77, of Falls City, passed away Friday, January 23, 2026, at Falls City Nursing & Rehabilitation Facility in Falls City, Nebraska. He was born on January 31, 1948, in Falls City, Nebraska to Vernon and Gladys (Veach) Gerweck. Jim received his schooling in Falls City and graduated from Falls City High School with the class of 1966. He then attended Nebraska Vocational Technical School at Milford, Nebraska and graduated in 1968 with an Associate of Applied Arts Degree in Building Construction Technology.

(Please turn to Page 9)

Reading Receipts: State has poured \$12 million into Husker-tied TeamMates

By Sara Gentzler, *Flatwater Free Press*

A month after taking office, Gov. Jim Pillen stepped to the mic, flanked by lawmakers and leaders from Nebraska nonprofits, and announced an initiative close to his heart: State money to support mentorship programs. Now, three years later, that Pillen-pitched initiative has awarded \$11.6 million in taxpayer dollars — nearly 80% of the total awarded funding — to one nonprofit: TeamMates Mentoring. The remainder has gone to 16 other nonprofits.

State leaders said the grant program, READ Nebraska, aimed to use mentorship to boost lagging reading skills among elementary school students. TeamMates, the nonprofit founded by Pillen's former coach, Husker football legend Tom Osborne, was well-positioned to accomplish that goal.

(Please turn to Page 6)



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SEZ-I

It's been a year since Nikki and Brian assumed ownership of the *Journal*, so I thought it would be a good time to say a few unsolicited words about their anniversary.

First on my list, is to call your attention to something most of us take for granted and that is the quality of the paper. I am a Journalism major, so I feel somewhat qualified on this matter. The *Journal* is not only well written, but it is put together in a very professional manner. Most of you probably assume that this is to be expected. Believe me, there are many weekly small town newspapers that look like they were written on someone's kitchen table.

Have you ever noticed the many state awards that this little paper has received over the years? Including its photography? It is especially impressive when you realize the *Journal* is in competition with a lot of papers, many of which are published in larger towns than Falls City.

Second, I think of the importance of this paper in our everyday lives. We need someone to inform us about what is going on in our local government. It is essential in our democracy, that we keep an eye on those in power, no matter who they may be, or what party they are affiliated with. The *Journal* provides this important service to us.

Brian does an excellent job of covering local, UNL and professional sports. He is very knowledgeable and writes in a conversational style that is both interesting and informative. He is also not afraid to call them on how he sees it. I respect that.

And, of course there are stories about community activities that we, as citizens, need to know about. Think how different it could be to participate and enjoy local events if you didn't know they were even taking place. Not everyone receives a school newsletter. How about the hot air balloons over Falls City! Think about how your life would be affected if you were unaware of the many city activities.

Lastly, there is the intentional value of the *Journal*. There is information about state government that some larger newspapers do not report. There is information about health that can be useful. The *Journal* has all that covered. Brian has a column that reminds people of an event long past that is always fun to recall. For you newcomers, those of you who have only been here twenty years or so, this column can give you a fun insight as to what the town once was and how we have changed over the years.

And, my favorite, Nikki gives us a very entertaining look at her annual adventures in Hollywood. I wish she had the time to write more. Her column always makes my day, as I am sure they do many of you as well.

Somehow I don't feel I am doing justice to how important this paper is to our daily lives. Think how much you would miss it, if it were not available!

In the end, although the *Journal* ties us together as a community, it is after all a business. It needs financial support to continue and these are tough times for newspapers large and small. Even in major cities papers are having a hard go of it. The internet has stolen precious revenue. And did you know that the greatest cost for a newspaper is the cost of newsprint? You are probably not aware that all newsprint comes from Canada and recent tariffs has raised those already sky high costs.

That is just one of many reasons that we should all support the *Journal* with our ongoing subscriptions and with advertisements, including classifieds. Whenever you can please consider the *Journal* before an internet platform.

Supporting the *Journal* is good business, you can reach a lot of potential customers at a fair and economic cost. Hullman's Ford is a good example. They consistently advertise in the *Journal*. Hullman's would not do so unless they were receiving positive results.

Alex is the man to contact. You will be in good hands with him. He has inherited his parents enthusiasm and love of the *Journal*. He can help create your ad to fit your specific needs and place them in a location people are sure to notice.

The *Journal*, under a different banner was first published in 1868. Let's all get together as a community and support the *Journal* for another one-hundred and fifty eight years. Not because it is good for the fold of the *Journal*, but because it is good for us.

Scott Massin, Falls City

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

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OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS*All things Nebraska***Call a 30-second timeout, before changing the criteria for selection to the Nebraska Hall of Fame**

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner

Tom Osborne for the Nebraska Hall of Fame? Sign me up.

But maybe it's worth spending a bit of time considering the rules for induction into the state's most prestigious honor.

They aren't very good.

First off, a person must have been dead for 35 years before they can be considered.

That always made me wonder, will people remember how big a deal night-show host Johnny Carson, of Norfolk, was? He was the undisputed "King of Late Night" who regularly reminded us that he was from Nebraska.

Heck, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (where he graduated, and donated millions) still uses his voice to promote the school.

But Carson, who died in 2005, won't be eligible to be in our state's Hall of Fame until 2040. Who's going to be around then who will even remember his show, the "Carnac the Magnificent," or "Art Fern"?

How about Bob Devaney?

He boosted pride in the state by quintillions (a billion billions) via the success of his football teams.

"Go Big Red" became the state motto. There's Nebraska booster clubs across the country. And wearing Red on Saturdays (also when this Fred Hoiberg team or the volleyball team plays) is basically a Cornhusker requirement.

The eligibility rules have changed more than once for the Nebraska Hall of Fame, which was established in 1961 and now has 27 members. They include Wild West Show figure Buffalo Bill Cody, World War I hero Gen. "Black Jack" Pershing, Native American leader Standing Bear and civil rights figure Malcolm X.

Prior to 1998, a state commission was naming a new inductee every two years. That led to questions about whether every new inductee was really worthy of having their bronze bust displayed in the hallways of the State Capitol.

I mean, I remember going to Gold's department store in Lincoln way back when. But should the founder of that store be in the State Hall of Fame? And Charles Bessey was a famed botanist at UNL who pushed for creation of the nation's largest, hand-planted forest in the Sandhills. But a Hall of Famer?

The changes in 1998 (followed by more changes in 2005) included requiring a person to be dead for 35 years to become eligible for induction.

I remember thinking, "that's way too long" when those rules were adopted. But no one was asking me what I thought.

So here we are today, with Gov. Jim Pillen – a former football player for Osborne at UNL – proposing to carve out an exemption in the Hall of Fame rules to allow a person still living, who served as NU's football coach and athletic director, who graduated from Hastings High School and who served in the U.S. House of Representatives, to be inducted.

Tom Osborne is the only person who fits those qualifications (which makes you wonder if Pillen's bill violates the State Constitution's prohibition on "special legislation" that benefits one

"class" of people or businesses).

Thirty-two state senators signed on to co-sponsor the proposal, introduced by Hastings State Sen. Don Lownowski, so this is a bill that has legs. Many legs.

Tom Osborne is totally deserving, and that's despite the criteria for the Hall of

Fame that gives more credit for accomplishments in public affairs, the arts and science and the professions, than in athletics or entertainment.

He and his wife founded the Teammates mentoring program, which I can personally attest can make a great difference in a kid's life.

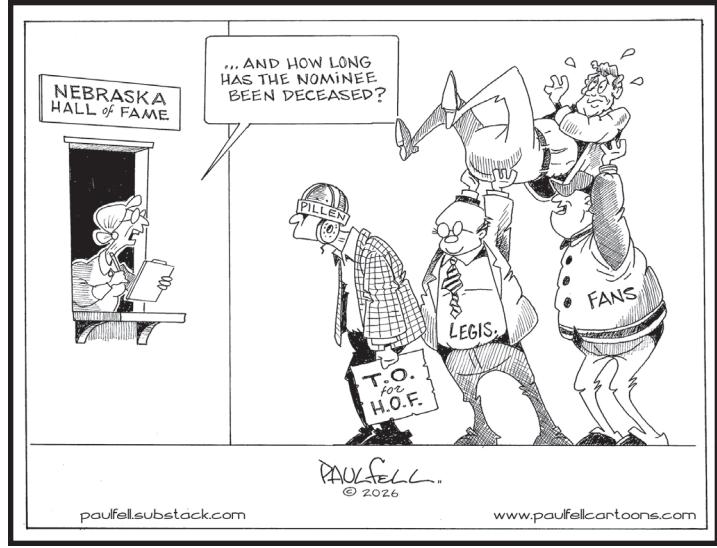
Osborne has also been a consistent, moral compass for our state, lobbying against expanded gambling and legalization of marijuana (though I never thought I'd see beer sold at Memorial Stadium in the old coach's lifetime).

I'd urge senators to stop and think before fiddling, one more time, with the rules for getting into the Nebraska Hall of Fame.

That 35-year wait to get into the Hall is crazy. Make it five or 10 years if changes are necessary. Continue it as a posthumous honor.

Instead, work on cutting property taxes. I wouldn't worry too much about Tom Osborne getting into the state's Hall of Fame. He will.

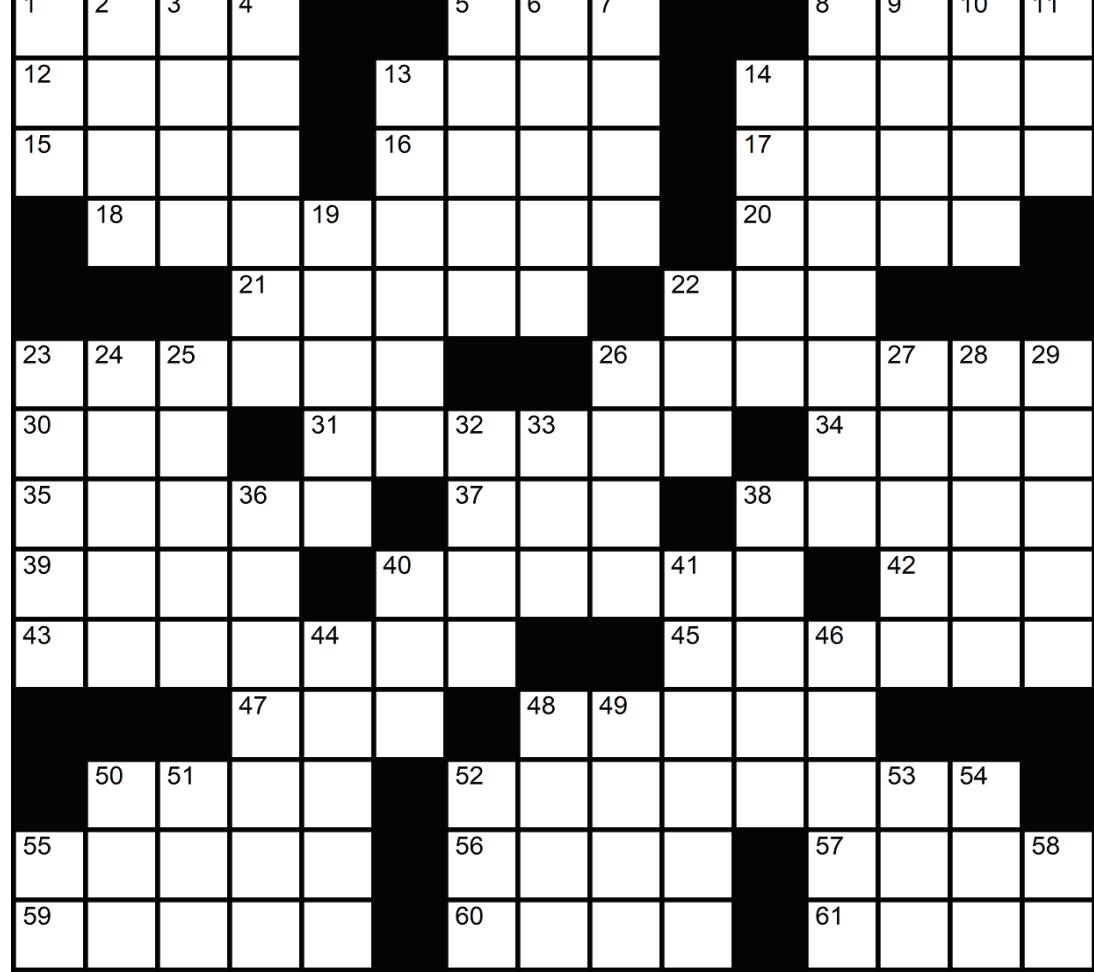
Paul Hammel has covered the Nebraska state government and the state for decades. Prior to his retirement, he was senior contributor with the Nebraska Examiner. He was previously with the Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha Sun. A native of Ralston, Nebraska, he loves traveling and writing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

**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD**
THEME: SUPER BOWL THIS**ACROSS**

1. Pakistani attire
5. Research location
8. Partridge's fruit tree
12. *Grid follower
13. *____ Upshaw, multiple Super Bowl winner
14. Canada's national tree
15. Like Homer Simpson's head
16. Allege
17. Agenda entries
18. *Adding a rushing player
20. Aphrodite's lover
21. Not host
22. Tire meas.
23. Composure under strain
26. More distant
30. Thompson of "Some Kind of Wonderful"
31. Ubiquitous deciduous tree
34. Genealogical plant
35. Poetic feet
37. Dream time, acr.
38. The Romanovs, e.g.
39. Song for solo voice
40. Dishevel, as in hair
42. Clever humor
43. *SoFi ___, Super Bowl LXI venue
45. *Last year's Super Bowl winners
47. Web robot
48. Tesla Roadster with Starman location
50. a.k.a. podagra
52. *The only NFL team with perfect season
55. Plant-based laxative
56. Symphony member
57. "No ___ for you!"
59. No gains without them
60. Retired, abbr.
61. Field worker
62. Bohemian
63. Not Miss or Ms
64. Poker amount

DOWN

1. Bro to bro
2. Speedy steed
3. Chuck Berry's "___ Over Beethoven"
4. Rainbow color
5. *Santa Clara's ___ Stadium, Super Bowl LX venue
6. Beside, archaic
7. Titanic's frozen enemy
8. *Team with most Super Bowl appearances
9. Fencing weapon
10. Charitable contributions
11. Hi-___
13. Garden shelter
14. Unhealthy atmosphere
19. Little hills
22. P in m.p.g.
23. Mark Twain to Samuel Clemens
24. Lively
25. Vampire of Greek mythology
26. *One of two teams to win while hosting Super Bowl
27. Long fishing line
28. Like haunted house
29. What the defense does?
32. High school dressy affair
33. Romanian money
36. *Super Bowl LX halftime show headliner (2 words)
38. Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young: "___ Your Children"
40. Egyptian boy king, for short
41. Long jump
44. I to Greeks, pl.
46. Rob Marshall's 2005 movie "Memoirs of a ___"
48. On the wagon
49. Land parcels
50. *Shoulder pads and cleats
51. "Put a lid ___!"
52. College dwelling
53. High part of day
54. Edible fat
55. Facial site
58. *Charlie Puth and Brandi Carlile, ___ game stars

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"SEZ-I" LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We always welcome and encourage letters to the editor "Sez-I's." All letters sent to the Falls City Journal must include the authors full name, address



75 Years Ago, February 4, 1951 to February 10, 1951

A big "cat" with a body estimated as about three feet long was spotted northeast of Barada. Wayne Ramer, an employee at the James filling station, spotted the animal on his day off. He estimated the cat's tail was as long as its body. Ramer described the animal as cinnamon-brown as it crossed the road in front of him. Wayne's brother, Doyle, had reported seeing the cat months prior.

The National Conference Board stated that unless your salary had more than doubled in the last 10 years, you were better off financially with the salary that was earned in 1940. The Board reported that higher income taxes and higher prices delivered a one-two punch.

Bob "Gunner" Davidson, a 147-pound boxer from Morrill, was fighting in the open classification in the Golden Gloves boxing tourney in Kansas City. Gunner represented St. Joseph after winning the 147-pound division there.

Joe Heineman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Heineman of Verdon, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant at the Far East Air Materiel Command in Japan.

The first annual Big Eight Basketball Tournament was being held at Prichard Auditorium. Stella, 7-5, was playing Bratton Union, 2-11, in the first contest. Next, 8-5 Verdon competed against 6-8 Salem. In the third game, 7-5 Sacred Heart played 12-0 Dawson, and in the final contest of the opening round, 0-12 Shubert took on 10-3 Honey Creek.

Falls City elementary school children consumed 5,758 half-pints of milk under the Nebraska School Lunch Program in January.

Estel Gene Sailors and Cecil E. Faller, both of Falls City, enlisted in the Air Force and were sent to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

The Beatrice City Council passed an ordinance permitting the addition of fluorides to the city's water to strengthen the teeth of Beatrice children. Beatrice became the first city in the state to adopt the plan, which still needed support from the State Board of Health.

Crude oil shipped from Richardson County in January hit an all-time high, totaling approximately \$367,000 for the month.

Sixteen-year-old George Hunker, Jr., earned his Eagle Scout badge at an event held at the First Christian Church.

Don W. Thomas, County Clerk, was appointed as the new manager of the Oil City Theater, succeeding Miss Virginia Hamm.

A fire destroyed the Baptist Church at Hamlin, KS. It was reported to have been one of the oldest church buildings in Brown County. Firefighters from Morrill, Hiawatha and Falls City Rural Fire responded to the call.

Clark Gable and Barbara Stanwyck starred in "To Please a Lady," which was showing at the Rivoli Theater.

Harold Keithley scored 28 points to lead Nemaha to a 47-42 win over Johnson. Kohrs led Johnson with 11 points.

50 Years Ago, February 4, 1976 to February 10, 1976

John Honea, an employee of the City Water and Light Department, donated his 12th gallon of blood when the Red Cross Bloodmobile stopped at Prichard Auditorium.

E.W. Hollens, Jr., was reelected as president of the Sheriff's Posse. Members of the Board of Directors of the group included Mike Chandler, Perry Whilhelm, Elwood Derr, Gene Hanika, Alfred Frey and Charles Stalder.

Neil Liberty was named the Falls City High School Wrestler of the Week. Liberty won an 18-4 decision at 126 pounds over Mike Barrett of Syracuse.

The D-V girls were upset by Diller, 43-31, in Homesteader Conference Tourney action. Debbie Bausch scored 19 points, Joanie Ramsey added six, and Cindy Harmon had four for the Jets.

Falls City High School students Doug Appleoff and Marc Morehead were among 200 students from Nebraska and Iowa who participated in a theater workshop at Dana College in Blair.

Charles Monasee, president of Hinky Dinky in Omaha, informed The Journal that the grocery stores at 1400 Harlan Street would cease operations on February 21. The store had been in operation in Falls City since 1939.

Southside Inn advertised 12-packs of Blatz Beer for \$2.29 and Barbecued Ribs every Saturday beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Jim McFarland of Lincoln, and brother of Mrs. Kenny McKim, was promoted to lieutenant in the Nebraska State Patrol.

The Southeast Consolidated Mustangs defeated Sacred Heart 67-62 in the championship game of the Galaxy Conference Southern Division Tournament. Garland Shafer led Southeast with 25 points, including 11 in the final period. Bob Aitken paced the Irish with 20 points, while Steve Pokorny added 16.

Hotel Stephenson Coffee Shop advertised a Smorgasbord Sunday, offering barbecued ribs, southern-fried chicken, or roast beef dinners for \$2.95.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Gerweck announced the purchase of the Check-In Motel from Mr. and Mrs. Harold Strauss. The Gerwecks would take over the 14-unit motel on February 16. The motel was built in 1961 and 1962 and opened for business on March 11, 1963.

A large and devastating earthquake in Guatemala City left an estimated 15,000 dead, 40,000 injured and 200,000 homeless.

The Seid Implement team won the Jaycees basketball league. Team members included Dennis Bennett, Mike Joy, David Lee, Terry Henrichs, Ed Schlicker, Todd Gilkerson, Dan Convey, Mark Smith and coaches Rick Jorn and Denny Bede.

County Treasurer Gene Hulbert turned over the mortgage for North and South Schools to District 56 School Board President Marlin Peck. The final \$6,000 owed on the two schools was paid out, winding up an installment payment plan that lasted 20 years.

The Indiana Hoosier basketball team was 20-0 and ranked No. 1 in the latest Associated Press poll.

25 Years Ago, February 4, 2001 to February 10, 2001

A lively discussion on goals and policies of a comprehensive plan led off the Richardson County Planning Commission's meeting.

State aid increased for county schools. The Education Department released the numbers going to each school. FC Public was set to receive \$2,748,509.72; Humboldt would get \$836,087.18; Dawson-Verdon would receive \$521,703.34; and Southeast Consolidated would get a \$93k bump to \$211,766.89.

Dani Busboom led Daniel Freeman to a 59-53 win over Sacred Heart in the Pioneer Conference Tournament. The win improved Freeman to 19-1, while the loss dropped SH to 19-1. Ashley Howard led SH with 14 points, while Katie O'Grady added 13 points and eight rebounds.

A total of 111 boys and girls filled the Falls City High School gym for the Falls City Area Jaycees "Super Shooters" competition. Participants qualifying for the state competition included Trevor Harling, Trent Scheitel, Hayley Milam and Lee Hullman.

Falls City High School musicians selected for the 22nd annual UNO Omaha Honor Bands Festival included Tiffany Clark, Crystal Bryan, Andrew Hopp and Andrea Rolfe.

Pam Frost was chosen as the president of the Falls City Area Chamber of Commerce, succeeding Brian Daake.

Nebraska hero Matt Davison appeared at Falls City's Sun Mart to meet fans and sign autographs.

Heavy snow and drifting brought the county to a standstill. Travel was not recommended after the four-state area received upwards of 8 inches of snow.

The Humboldt-Table Rock basketball team defeated the D-V boys, 96-95 in double overtime. John Barnett led Humboldt with 20 points, while Brian Bauman had 29 for the Jets. Kris Glathar poured in 20 points and dished out 17 assists. A three-pointer by Mike Burget with 1.1 seconds remaining sealed the win for the Cardinals.

The Irish Girls' Junior High team defeated Southeast 41-1 in action at Tiehen Gym. Brandy Olberding scored 15, and Megan O'Grady had 11 to pace the Irish.

After 75 years, longtime anchor tenant of Stone Street says goodbye to Falls City

(Continued from Page 1)

Stice reminisced about the days when counter checks were available for customers to fill out to make purchases. "Anybody could walk in and say I want to buy this and fill out the check."

There was also an 800 number to call for approval of any credit card purchase exceeding \$100.

Stice commented that over the course of her years of employment, the most rewarding part of the job was getting to

know people and their issues.

"A lot of times people came in just to visit," said Stice.

She also mentioned that Brown's is still a "sit and fit" store. Meaning they provided personalized fitting, ensuring that customers left with exactly what they needed.

"That set us apart from others," said Stice. "When you're hiring high school kids, the first thing is now, you're going to have to touch people's feet, are you okay with that?"

She laughed, saying there were more than a couple of employees who could not handle it.

There were many tactics that set the store apart from others. She said a rule of thumb used at the business was "four on the floor and one under the seat."

"So, you come in, and you want a pair of tennis shoes," said Stice. "So, you grab four pairs of tennis shoes for them to try on, and then you bring a dress shoe."

When asked about popular items in the store, Stice said that in the past, dress shoes were a top seller, but now casual and athletic shoes have been more in demand.

"It's kind of a different era now," said Stice. "On game days, the kids

dressed up; they couldn't wear tennis shoes, they had to have dress shoes."

She also stated that online businesses offering discounted shoes significantly affected the shoe store.

In October of 2025, Brown's began offering an online store, with all 74 stores participating.

The local store shut its doors forever on Saturday, December 20, 2025, bringing an end to one of the longest tenured businesses on Stone Street.

Stice stated that Brown's has an assistant manager program that allows someone to "learn the ropes" for 3-5 years, proving that they can handle the manager position.

"Nobody wanted to move to Falls City," said Stice, referring to going through the program.

Joan E. and husband Randy won't just sit still. "We have 15 grandkids, two great granddaughters, and we want to spend some time with them, go to ball games," said Joan E.

"I just want to thank everybody for everything," said Stice. "For friendships, their kindness; I'm going to miss the people. The customers have been wonderful, just phenomenal, and I will miss everybody."

CARD SHOWER for Ken Richey

celebrating his 90th birthday

on February 15, 2026

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L-R: Abby Phelps, Cheree Rist, Allie Krusemark, Heather Smith, Tana Brown, Jodie Uhri. Not Pictured: Carolyn Blecha

Joy retires from State Bank of Table Rock leaving strong support to navigate the future

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

Mark has led the bank as President and CEO for the last eight years. He has been with the State Bank of Table Rock for over 21 years and has over 40 years in his banking career. The Board of Directors and the employees at the State Bank of Table Rock extend their heartfelt thanks to Mark for his leadership, vision, and commitment to the bank and the communities we serve.

As Mark steps into re-

tirement, he leaves behind a deeply rooted team ready to continue the branch's tradition of community-first service:

Who's Still Here to Support the Community:

Allison Krusemark - Branch Manager/ Vice President of Lending. Allie has been with The State Bank of Table Rock for 15 years, providing customers with financial analysis and counsel. She does AG, commercial, consumer, and mortgage loans for the branch.

Allie is very active in the community serving as the financial representative on the Humboldt Commu-

nity Foundation. A board member on the Richardson County Ag Society; secretary of Humboldt Shares Inc, and treasurer of the Humboldt Summer Ball Association.

Jodie Uhri - Assistant Vice President of Lending. Jodie recently received her officers license from the Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance. She is currently a loan officer trainee, providing support with loan administrative duties and credit analysis. She is versed in both the lending and deposit side of the bank.

Tana Brown - Vice President of Lending/Operations Manager. Tana has been with the bank for 18 years. She works with both the lending and deposit staff to ensure smooth daily operations as well as document support. Other duties include lending support in the bookkeeping department, oversight of operations procedures, and bank training.

She serves as the Secretary of the Shubert American Legion Auxiliary.

Cheree Rist - Vice President of Operations. Cheree

has been with the Humboldt branch for five years. She works with both the lending and deposit staff to ensure smooth daily operation of the branch. She provides loan and deposit document support and handles IRA accounts for the bank.

She serves as the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce President and Vice President of the Southeast Nebraska Cancer Memorial Garden.

Carolyn Blecha - Personal Banker. Carolyn has been with the bank for 13 years. As our personal banker, Carolyn opens and services accounts for customers. Helping find the right products for all of their financial needs.

Abby Phelps - Customer Service Representative. Abby has been with The State Bank of Table since March 2025. She is our front-line customer service representative. She handles customer transactions, questions, and provides administrative support to the entire team. She maintains the customer relationships and community involvement.

Heather Smith - Customer Service Representative. Heather is the newest employee at our branch, joining us in October 2025. She works primarily on the deposit side of the bank. Handling customer inquiries, providing product and service information and processing customer transactions.

Richardson County Arts and Humanities Council begins twenty-first year

The Richardson County Arts and Humanities Council is beginning its twenty-first year furthering its mission to promote, cultivate, and sustain the arts and humanities. The organization is a citizen volunteer organization that supports the cultural arts for the benefit of the citizens of Richardson County communities and surrounding area through art exhibits, youth activities, gallery talks, music concerts, and much more.

The Stalder Gallery, located in the Falls City Library and Arts Center, is the venue for artist exhibits and many of the other programs sponsored by the Council.

The beautiful Stalder Gallery is a highly praised gallery by the pro-

fessional artists who have been featured in exhibits.

Christina Wertenberger is the gallery curator and is very respected for her knowledge of the arts.

The 2026 gallery schedule begins with the Richardson County Schools Student Art Contest and Exhibit. Students' participation is exceptional along with the 600+ artworks that are submitted. The Council feels this student activity expresses the artistic ambitions of inspiring young artists.

The contest runs from February 17 through March 27.

The Arts & Humanities Council's annual membership and patrons support campaign begins in January. According to

Liz Huettner, chairman of the membership committee, memberships are as follows: student, \$5; single, \$15; family, \$25; and business/organization, \$50.00. Patron support donations can be made at levels of: Nichols, \$1-\$49; Warhol, \$50-\$99; Monet, \$100-\$199; O'Keefe, \$200-\$499; Van Gogh, \$500-\$999; Picasso, \$1000-\$2999; Michelangelo, \$3000+. "Every dollar goes to support the arts in Richardson County," Huettner said, "And all donations are tax-deductible." It is our financial supporters who make it possible for the Richardson County Arts and Humanities Council to bring art exhibits to the Stalder Gallery and to promote the cultural arts and humanities through other events and activities.

To remit your membership or Patron donation, mail your donation to the Richardson County Arts and Humanities Council, P.O. Box 37, Falls City, NE 68355.

Membership brochures are included in our annual mailing and also available at the library and Falls City Chamber office.

SEZ-I

"Cemetery on W 14th Street"

I understand the city is going to repurpose the old cemetery on W 14th Street. What are the plans for graves still there? Many were moved after Steele opened in 1878, but an unknown number remain. Among them the daughter of Isaac Hamby whose death led to the cemetery's establishment about 1858, the Bremer children, and Thomas Meek(s) who was killed in the early county seat fight, buried beside his wife.

Also, as related by E. S. Towle in the 1957 Centennial book, there is the mass grave of the victims of the 1889 smallpox epidemic.

These graves are all unmarked, as are many others. When uncovered, where will they be reburied? I hope the council will give this some thought.

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ALL ITEMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND AVAILABILITY

FCHS announces first semester honor roll

First Semester Regular Honor Roll

Ninth grade: Braxtyn Bauman, Elijah Diltz, Grace Gile, Brynna Glathar, Adaesha Hall, Nolan Nicholson, Keylee Olberding, Kehliawnna Savago, Andre Shafer, Abigail Spinner, Peyton Weddle, Sophia Wendlandt.

Tenth grade: Adrian Coetzee, Addison Daniels, Brandon Feighner, Elizabeth Ferebee, Julie Kahbeah, Kaleb Kaiser, Asher Kuker, Rylee Littrel, Caroline Macardican, Bailey McQueen, Olivia Mirelez, Alexis Schwang, Farrah Wissler.

Eleventh grade: Paxton Armbruster, Madison Brown, Tucker Coupe, Jalin DePrey, Madyson Eberle, Alyksander Finner, Hana Irizarry, Aubrey Kapustka, Ty Karpinski, Tripp Lippold, Addison Miller, Kaylin Nelson, Evan Ogden, Bradyn Schulenberg, Jessica Sells, Avery Wendlandt, Gabi Young.

Twelfth grade: Peyton Brown, Brock Caudle, Cade Caudle, Haiden Dorste, Matthew Eaton, Zavier Ebel, Taykia Hayes, Jaxten Jorgen, Vaden Leyden, Ashton Martin, Cooper Nelson, Evie Rue, Blakey Sells.

Orange and Black Honor Roll First Semester

Ninth grade: Ashlyn Alexander, Josslyn Bangert, Livianna Buckminster, Arryn Chandler, Bristol Coupe, Kennalyn Ehrhardt, Leah Goff, Kamdyn Huppert, Martin Irizarry, Ayva Jean, Madison Johansen, Elisa Mount, Kaylin Rhodd, Collin Roberts, Audrey Scrivens, Elin Vonderschmidt, Hallie Young.

Tenth grade: Kenley Alexander, Callen Furnas, Madalynn Hawley, Deacon Jacobs, Camden Jean, Isabella Johansen, Elijah Leyden, Taytum Maddox, Reagan McNeely, Carter Rumbaugh, Bristol Titus.

Eleventh grade: Jacoby Bangert, Bowdy Jones, Grant Kobza, Miyuna Kong, Lathan Richey, Christian Saul, Dayton Snethen, Jazlyn Strecker, Harley Sutton.

Twelfth grade: Emmett Daake, Carlea Dunkhas, Molly Ebel, Breean Eickhoff, Martina Frau, Ella Glathar, Braxton Harmon, Ryker Jones, Malori Kuker, Ethan Morris, Brock Niedfeldt, Addyson Sayer, Elizabeth Vice.

Girl Scouts launches 2026 cookie season with brand-new “Explorers™” cookie

Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska is kicking off the 2026 Girl Scout Cookie season with a bold new flavor and a call to explore! Introducing Explorers™, a rocky road ice cream-inspired cookie layered with flavors of rich chocolate, marshmallow, and toasted almond crème. This new treat invites cookie lovers to discover something deliciously unexpected while supporting the next generation of courageous, confident Girl Scouts.

Online cookie sales open on January 23, 2026, where customers can order online and have cookies shipped straight to their door. In-person sales begin February 6, followed by the launch of cookie booths on February 13. Shoppers can find local cookie booths or place online orders by using the Cookie Finder tool at GirlScoutsNebraska.org. The final day of cookie sales in Nebraska is March 15.

Alongside Explorers™, this year's cookie lineup includes fan favorites: Adventurefuls®, Caramel Chocolate Chip (gluten-free), Caramel deLites®, Lemonades®, Peanut Butter Patties®, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Thin Mints®, and Trefoils®.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world, teaching Girl Scouts essential skills like goal setting, money management, decision making, people skills, and business ethics. Every purchase directly supports Girl Scouts here in Nebraska and funds troop activities, community service projects, camp experiences, leadership programs, and more. Buy cookies for yourself,

stock up at work to treat your employees, or send boxes to loved ones across the country or overseas. You can even donate a box through the Gift of Sharing program, where purchased cookies are given to approved organizations in Nebraska. Every cookie purchase is an investment in local Girl Scouts and the bright futures they're building.

About Girl Scouts and the Spirit of Nebraska Council

Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska is the largest girl-serving organization in the state and is 14,000 members strong. Nationally, there are 2.5 million girl and adult members who believe that girls together can change the world. We are Girl Scouts. We provide the opportunity for every girl to be someone amazing.

Applications are now available for the F&M Bank Scholarship.

F&M Bank is awarding three scholarships this year. One \$1,000.00 scholarship to any graduating senior of the Falls City Community who will be attending a college in the field of Finance/Banking and two \$500.00 scholarships for any graduating senior of the Falls City Community that will be attending a college or trade school in any field.

We offer these scholarships as we value the importance of secondary education and look forward to helping community students as they take the next step in their educational journey.

Application

forms are available through both schools' websites or at the guidance counselor's office at both Falls City High School and Sacred Heart Catholic School.

Tuesday, March 31, 2026, is the deadline for the applications to be returned to the counselor's office.

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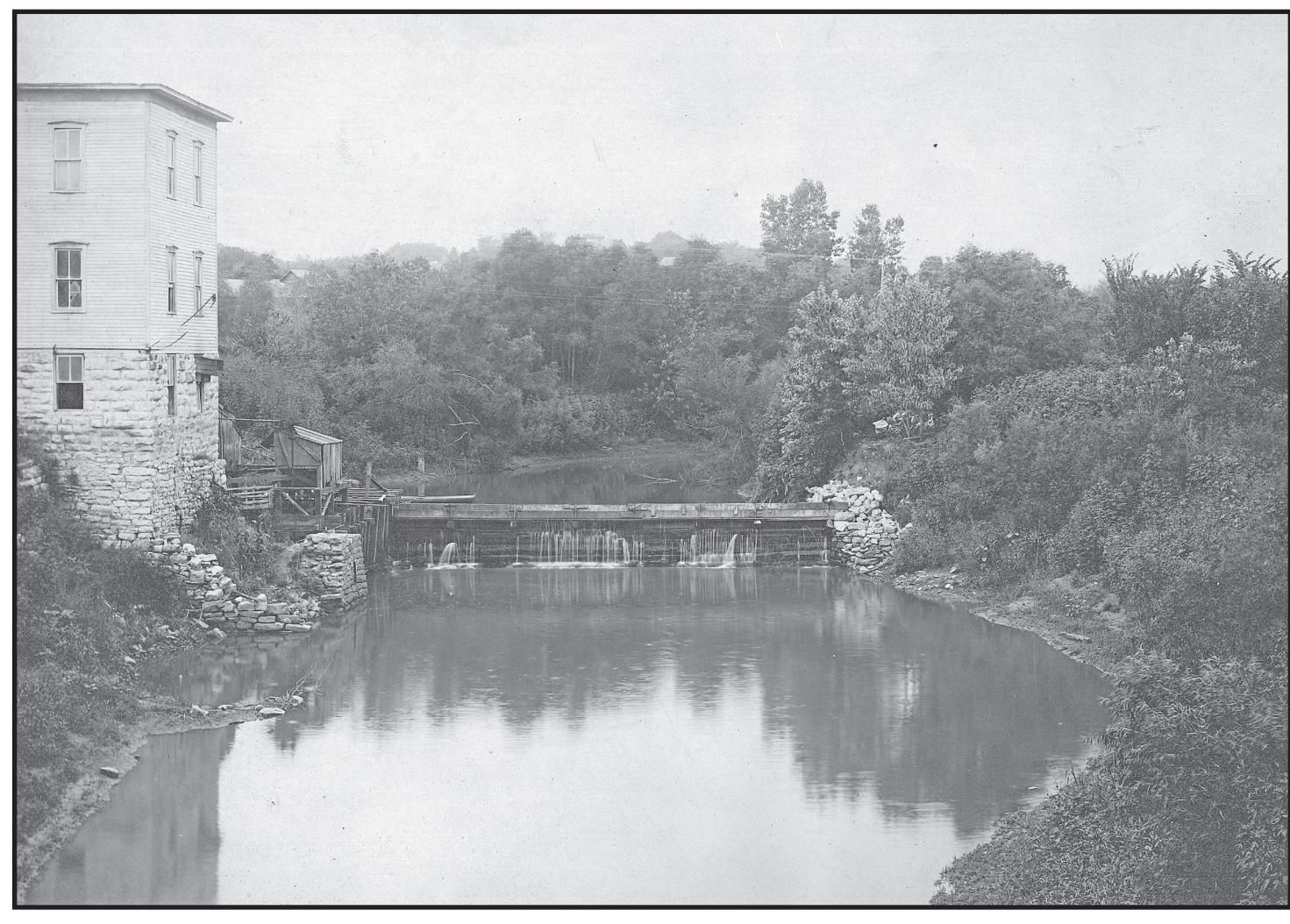
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FROM THE JOURNAL ARCHIVES



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

F&M Bank scholarship applications now available

SOCIETY

Falls City Does Drove #56

Falls City Does Drove #56, NE met at the Elks Lodge Monday, January 19.

The meeting was called to order by President Dessie Scholl. The Opening Ceremony was held followed by the Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken by Secretary-treasurer Linda Frost.

Initiation was held with Alisa Wickham becoming a new member.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

Committee reports were made. For Ways and Means Dessie said that the nut sales went very well at the recent Christmas Craft fair. She thanked Nancy McKim, Betsy Coolidge and Karen Ramsey for their

time there. She also told the drove that the spring Salad Sandwich Luncheon is planned for April 27.

Nancy McKim had sent birthday and anniversary cards. Linda read communications.

Several members volunteered to make quilts for a Grand Lodge project.

Installation of officers was held with Linda serving as Deputy Supreme President, Nancy Deputy Supreme Conductor and Phyllis Kreutzer Deputy Supreme Chaplain.

Brenda Garriott, Linda Williams and Alisa Wickham were installed as Color Bearers. All other officers will remain in their positions for 2026.

The coin march was held and happy birthday was sung to Alisa.

Phyllis Kreutzer was hostess. Door prize winners were Brenda, Dessie and Glenda Bippes. The next meeting will be on

Tuesday, February 10th instead of the regular Monday night meeting due to other Elks activity. Hostesses are Kenna Nixon and Bev Bernhardt. Dues are due at thirty dollars and can be sent to treasurer Linda Frost.

Emporia State University announces honor roll

Emporia State University congratulates the more than 700 undergraduates named to the university honor roll for fall 2025. To qualify for the university honor roll, students earned a minimum 3.80 semester grade point average in at least 12 graded hours.

Students named from this area and their majors include: Graycen Ferris of Hiawatha, Kansas, Elementary Education.

Grace Maze of Hiawatha, Kansas, Elementary Education.

Falls City Journal

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Reading Receipts: State has poured \$12 million into Husker-tied TeamMates

(Continued from Page 1)

"Through READ Nebraska, thousands of mentors are equipping students with reading skills that are foundational to academic and career success," said Maureen Larsen, director of the Department of Economic Development, which distributes the grants. "This investment in our kids, reading and mentoring will make a generational difference."

But the overall picture raises questions about the program and bias, said Gavin Geis, executive director of government watchdog organization Common Cause Nebraska.

Osborne supported Pillen's run for governor. Pillen served on TeamMates board prior to becoming governor. Earlier this month, he called for legislation that would allow Osborne to be inducted into the state Hall of Fame during his lifetime.

Osborne, who said he still mentors through TeamMates, said the organization's school-based model shows great results in outcomes like graduation rates.

"I think Jim saw the results of mentoring ... and I think his assumption was that this would be savings to the state in many ways, and it would be cost effective," Osborne said.

For the average Nebraskan, Geis said, \$12 million is an astronomical sum. Government leaders should slow down, he said, and think about perception.

"They just charge ahead," Geis said. "And this is where we end up."

Coach and player

Osborne and his wife, Nancy Osborne, founded TeamMates in 1991, when the coach recruited 22 of his football players to mentor middle school boys in Lincoln, according to the nonprofit's most recent annual report.

That report now touts that TeamMates is the biggest school-based mentoring program in the country with 186 chapters across six states — 140 of them in Nebraska.

Pillen got involved with the organization 30 years ago, according to his spokesperson.

"Gov. Pillen has had the privilege of knowing Tom Osborne and having him as a mentor from the time the Governor played football for the Huskers, and throughout his time in veterinary school and the Governor's business career," Laura Strimple wrote in an email.

Osborne endorsed Pillen's run for governor in 2022, appeared with him on the campaign trail and contributed at least \$11,500 to his campaign.

Pillen served on TeamMates' boards for "a number of years," according to Strimple. He resigned his position when he became governor, Strimple said, adding that his family continues to support the organization.

Pillen hasn't attended any meetings or been involved in TeamMates' "operational or governance decisions" since taking office in 2023, according to DeMoine Adams, its CEO.

"The organization has always been and still remains fully independent and mission-driven," he wrote in an email.

As part of his first budget proposal after taking office, Pillen included \$5 million for a competitive grant program to encourage mentorship in schools.

Senators obliged, passing a two-year budget that allotted \$9.8 million out of the state's general fund for the program.

Influx of cash

In its first year, the state awarded TeamMates \$4.2 million — nearly 86% of READ Nebraska grant money. The rest was spread across 10 other organizations.

In 2024, the state awarded TeamMates \$3.8 million. Its 2025 award was \$3.7 million.

In its most recent publicly available tax filings, which don't cover the last year and a half, TeamMates reported annual revenues ranging from about \$3.7 million to \$4.4 million.

It's not yet clear whether the organization will be able to use the full sum. The state approves expenses before TeamMates uses the grant money.

The state doesn't always approve. For example, it did not approve a \$1,035 request for an "air cannon to launch swag," according to reimbursement requests obtained by public records request. Those records show DED noted a need for additional documentation or clarification in several cases.

Adams said TeamMates is working with DED to provide eligible expenses, and that they will follow DED's lead if they ultimately can't use it all.

Other organizations received an average of about \$188,000 in READ Nebraska grants in the same timeframe that TeamMates got its \$11.6 million.

According to the Department of Economic Development, awards are determined based on the number of mentors working in the organization. TeamMates reported 6,448 active matches in Nebraska in fall 2023, according to emails obtained via a public records request.

"I think people need to understand this is allocated on a per capita basis," Osborne said. "It wasn't saying, 'Well, we're



COUNTY COURT

River J. McNeely, count one, identity theft-less than \$500/1st, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for February 25, 2026.

Jordan E. Kahbeah, count one, refuse to submit to test-1st offense, pled not guilty; count two, refuse to submit to pretest, pled not guilty; count three, operate motor vehicle/avoid arrest-misd, pled not guilty; count four, nonresident violate susp/rev order, pled not guilty; count five, improper/defective vehicle lighting, pled not guilty; count six, unlawful/fic display of plate/renew tab, pled not guilty; count seven, speeding 1-5 mph, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for February 25, 2026.

Robert E. Marshall, count one, nonresident violate susp/rev order, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes bond forfeiture of \$86.00; count two, possess marijuana 1 oz or less-1st, pled no contest, found guilty.

Terry T. Wilson, count one, no proof of insurance, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$100; count two, no valid registration, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25; count three, unlawful/fic display of plate/renew tab, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$50; count four, nonresident violate susp/rev order, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$100; count five, possess marijuana 1 oz or less-1st, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$300; count six, possess or use drug paraphernalia, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$100.

Trischa J. Clow, count one, refuse to submit to pretest, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$50; count two, DUI-15+ or refusal (1 prior conviction), amended to refuse to submit to test w/one prior conv, amended to careless driving, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$100; count three, false reporting-misdemeanor, amended to attempt of a class 1 misdemeanor, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$500.

Anthony A. Moore, count one, litter, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25; count two, amended to dropped/dismissed; count three, maintaining a nuisance, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25.

Tiannie D. Mackey, count one, burglary, amended to criminal trespass-1st degree, pled no contest, found guilty; count two, amended to dropped/dismissed. Sentencing scheduled for March 23, 2026.

DISTRICT COURT

River J. McNeely, count one, assault by strangulation or suffocation, amended to assault-cause bodily injury, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentencing scheduled for March 10, 2026.

Jamone D. Taylor, count one, possess controlled subs, pled not guilty; count two, possess controlled subs, pled not guilty; count three, possess controlled subs, pled not guilty; count four, no proof of insurance, pled not guilty; count five, no operator's license, pled not guilty; count six, unlawful/fic display of plate/renew tab, pled not guilty; count seven, no valid registration, pled not guilty; count eight, possess marijuana 1 oz or less-first, pled not guilty; count nine, possess or use drug paraphernalia, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for February 10, 2026.

going to give TeamMates way more than anybody else, just because it's TeamMates."

Geis, with Common Cause Nebraska, said the imbalance makes the program appear broken.

"This feels worse than it probably is, in the end," Geis said. "But I think that the perception here is the bigger harm and damage — especially right now, when you look at how people are feeling about governance in general."

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands, which got the second-highest total of about \$851,000 over three years, has used the money to expand and provide specific "literacy support programming," according to CEO Nichole Turgeon.

"TeamMates is a statewide mentoring program; as such, they have more volunteer mentors than the other, more localized agencies funded by the READ Nebraska grant, including Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands," Turgeon said.

How TeamMates has spent the millions

Since the program started, TeamMates has made about 2,400 new mentoring matches in elementary schools, Adams said. The state money has boosted visibility, improved systems and strengthened local chapters. Matches stay together an average of at least three years, he said.

"We are deeply grateful for this investment, which is helping TeamMates build meaningful one-to-one relationships and support students in reaching their full potential through mentoring," Adams said.

According to reimbursement request records, the state has approved a wide array of expenses: More than \$900,000 in staff salaries and benefits from the 2023-24 grant alone. Across the first two grants, more than \$400,000 has gone to book vending machines and books to fill them.

In 2024-25, as of last August it had approved over \$468,000 in sponsorships for events ranging from youth basketball to the State Fair and Creighton University sports. It also deemed as eligible a nearly \$87,000 payment for apparel from Osborne Family Enterprise(s), a company run by Tom and Nancy Osborne's son. The department is still reviewing documentation on that request and hasn't yet approved or denied it, according to DED spokesman Justin Pinkerman.

Lawmakers continued to fund the mentorship program last year, even as they tackled a massive budget shortfall and cut other economic development programs.

The Legislature cut the DED's general fund budget by \$19.3 million, about 43%, between fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

Strimple, the governor's spokesperson, said that "we are right sizing all state and federally funded programs to ensure that tax dollars are leveraged appropriately."

The state's reading scores are declining, Strimple said, citing the national assessment often called The Nation's Report Card.

"That is not just a concern, it is a crisis — one the Governor hopes to reverse course on through programs like this and passing legislation that will require students pass a reading assessment before advancing out of the third grade," she said.

The *Flatwater Free Press* is Nebraska's first independent, nonprofit newsroom focused on investigations and feature stories that matter.

River McNeely, count one, theft-unlawful taking \$5,000+, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for February 24, 2026.

David A. Ward, count one, sexual assault/child-1st degree, pled not guilty; count two, false imprisonment-1st degree, pled not guilty; count three, commit child abuse intentional-ly/no injury, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for February 17, 2026.

Mary V. Clancy, count one, possess controlled subs, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for February 17, 2026.

Charles L. Ochoa, count one, terroristic threats, pled not guilty; count two, attempt of a class 2A felony, pled not guilty. Hearing scheduled for March 24, 2026, status hearing-competency.

Charles L. Ochoa, count one, assault ofcr/hlth care professional-3rd degree, pled not guilty. Hearing scheduled for March 24, 2026, status hearing-competency.

Jennifer N. Anderson, counts 1-3, amended to dropped/dismissed; count four, burglary, pled no contest, found guilty; count five, theft-unlawful taking \$1,500-4,999, pled no contest, found guilty; counts 6-7, amended to dropped/dismissed. Sentencing scheduled for March 24, 2026.

James A. Money, count one, drive while revoked from DUI/refusal-sub, amended to drive during revocation, plea changed to guilty, found guilty; count two, amended to dropped/dismissed; count three, DUI-15+ or refusal (1 prior conviction), amended to DUI-15+, plea changed to guilty; found guilty; counts 4-7, amended to dropped/dismissed. Sentencing scheduled for March 24, 2026.

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Irish trounce Raiders, shock Eagles

The 10th-ranked Sacred Heart Irish whizzed past Southern on Tuesday night in Wymore, doubling up the Raiders, 90-45. The 6-10 Raiders posed no threat to Sacred Heart, as the Irish led 23-11 after one, 47-26 at the half, and 68-37 heading into the fourth quarter.

The Irish were sizzling on the court despite the cold weather outside the arena. Sacred Heart made 19-of-43 three-pointers (44%) and shot 34-of-69 (49%) from the field. Meanwhile, Southern hit just 2-of-17 from beyond the arc but made 19-of-26 from two-point range.

The Irish led in nearly every major category, winning the rebound battle 34-20, finishing with a 25-14 assist advantage, and forcing 15 turnovers while committing only seven.

Four Irish players reached double figures on Tuesday, with Bo Fletcher leading the charge with a game-high 29 points. Fletcher sank six deep balls, added five assists and four steals. Brenden Lemerond added five triples and scored 17 points. Lem added a team-best six assists. Cole Taft was 5-of-9 from deep for 15 points, and JJ Lancaster broke into double figures with 11 points. Hayden Clow dished out five assists, and Cooper Knobbe had a team-best seven rebounds.

SH Scoring: Taft 15, Fletcher 29, Sipple 2, Lemerond 17, Lancaster 11, Clow 4, Baxter 6, Howard 2, Knobbe 4.

Raider Scoring: Whitwer 7, Decker 12, Adams 14, Lundstedt 2, Meece 6, Heard 4.

The win improved the Irish to 7-7 on the season.

In the JV contest, SH won 58-19. The game was tied 9-9 after the first quarter, but SH led 27-11 at halftime. SH pulled away, leading 42-16 after three quarters. JJ Lancaster led the Irish with 14 points, while Noah Howard had 12 and Toby Baxter and Owen Santo each added 10.

The Irish stayed hot on Thursday, shocking Johnson-Brock, the sixth-ranked team in Class C-2, 55-50. The Irish trailed 13-19 after the first quarter but rallied to cut the lead to 24-25 at halftime. Sacred Heart stayed hot after the intermission, outscoring the Eagles 19-13 in the third to take a 43-38 lead into the final



eight minutes. It was the first Irish win over Johnson-Brock since a 61-21 win on February 2, 2023.

JJ Lancaster sank a pair of treys early to keep SH in the contest. Taft hit two from deep in the third, and Lemerond added two triples in the fourth. Lemerond was hot in the second half, going 7-of-10 from the field and scoring 19 of his team-high 24 points after the break. Taft also reached double figures with 12 points, going 2 of 8 from deep. Knobbe led the Irish with eight rebounds. Overall, SH shot 40% from the field and held J-B to 34%.

The Irish were outrebounded 34-22 but forced 14 turnovers while committing just 11.

SH Scoring: Taft 12, Fletcher 5, Lemerond 24,

Lancaster 7, Baxter 2, Howard 3, Knobbe 2.

Eagle Scoring: Meyer 5, Gravatt 7, Bernadt 10, Koehler 15, Behrends 6, G. Behrends 3, Everett 2, R. Gravatt 2.

The No. 10-ranked Irish improved to 8-7 with the win, while Johnson-Brock fell 15-3.

In four quarters of JV action, J-B defeated Sacred Heart 41-32. Lancaster led the Irish with eight points, Noah Howard added seven, and Cash and Treyden Witt each had four. Brogan Bowhay and Coy Behrends each had 11 for the Eagles.

Sacred Heart is the No. 3 seed in the Pioneer Conference Tournament and will play the No. 6-seeded Lewiston Tigers (8-8) on Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. at Lourdes Central.

Daycee Witt dishes the ball to Bailey Lemerond for a last-second three-point attempt in overtime against Johnson-Brock on Thursday night.

Irish fall in OT to Eagles

The Sacred Heart Lady Irish dropped a heartbreaker on Thursday night at the RAC, losing 49-51 to Johnson-Brock in overtime. After winning 27 straight contests against the Eagles from 2007 to 2023, the Irish have now dropped five of their last seven games against Johnson-Brock.

Trailing 39-44 with 3:30 remaining, senior Daycee Witt hit a pull-up from the foul line to cut the lead to three, 41-44. Later in the quarter, Hallie Jones went 2-for-2 from the charity stripe to make it 43-46 with 2:45 to go. Two more free throws by Jones with 2:00 to play cut the lead to one at 45-46. Down by three with twenty seconds remain-

ing, Jones sank 1-of-2 free throws, making it 46-48. The Irish defense gave the Eagles fits, eventually forcing a turnover on the in-bounds pass. A quick timeout by Coach Santo gave the Irish one last chance with just under 10 seconds to go. Alise Reschke found Witt, who had a solid pick set by Jones. Witt drove and pulled up seven feet for the game-tying bucket with four seconds remaining, sending the game into an extra four minutes.

In overtime, Daley Pelican hit a trey from the wing with 1:46 remaining to put the Eagles in front for good. It was the only made field goal in the extra period for either team. Jones again cut into the Eagle lead, making 1-of-2 free throws with 16 seconds remaining. The Irish had a last-second three-pointer blocked, and they fell by two, 49-51.

The Irish got off to a quick start on Thursday, leading 16-9. SH held a 28-26 lead at the half. Johnson-Brock outscored SH 12-6 to take a 38-34 lead into the final period. SH shot 13 of 43 from the field, while Johnson-Brock was 16 of 57. The Irish made 18 of 30 free throws, while the Eagles made 10 of 20.

Jones led the Irish with 16 points, going 12-of-16 from the free-throw line. Jones added 11 rebounds and one block. Witt added 15 points and three assists, while Reschke had nine rebounds, three steals and two assists.

SH Scoring: Santo 15, Witt 9, Lemerond 9, Jones 4.

Raider Scoring: Forney 3, Barnard 6, Eisenhauer 4, Maxson 3, Klover 10, Glynn 5.

In two quarters of JV action, SH defeated Southern 32-9. Westengaard paced the Irish with 11 points, and Georges added eight.

The Irish are the top seed in this week's Pioneer Conference Tournament and played the winner of Diller-Odell and Sterling on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at Lourdes Central.



Toby Baxter (21), JJ Lancaster (13), and Bo Fletcher (4) surround the Eagles' Grady Behrends in Friday night's win at the RAC.

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Lady Tigers crowned ECNC champs

The Falls City Lady Tigers earned a conference title on Tuesday evening in Palmyra. FC scored 138 points to claim the crown. The Auburn Bulldogs were close behind with 124.5 points, and Palmyra scored 100 points to place third. HTRS competed at the invite, scoring 16 points and placing eighth.

The Lady Tigers secured four first-place medals on Tuesday. At 100 pounds, Keylee Olberding went 2-0 to claim gold. She pinned Kirsten Knake of Weeping Water in 1:03 for her first win. In the next match, she pinned Knake again, this time in four minutes, to claim the title.

At 140, Gabi Young went 3-0 and won gold. Young pinned Shawnna Richey of HTRS in 15 seconds to open the night. Next, Young pinned Lyla Brandt of Meridian at 1:15. In the finals, Young pinned Tayla Jones at 5:20 to secure the gold medal.

Taytum Maddox improved to 27-3 on the year, finishing 2-0 on Tuesday. Maddox pinned Skylar Reiman of Auburn at 1:29 in the first match and Shayla Buzby of Palmyra at 2:53 for the title.

The final gold medal was earned by Emma Gilkerson at 190. Gilkerson pinned Lesly Garcia of Auburn at :43 in the first round and again at 1:35 in the second round to claim the gold medal.

Hallie Young went 1-1 on Tuesday at 115 and won silver. Peyton Weddle finished 3-1 and placed second, while Leah Goff went 1-1 and earned silver. At 170, Jalin Duprey went 0-2 and placed second.

Ashlyn Alexander went 0-2 to place third at 125, and Gabbi Griffin went 0-2 to place third at 235.

At 120, Indea Holman went 0-3 and placed fourth. Audrey Scrivens (110) went 0-4 and placed fifth.

For the Lady Titans of HTRS, Ava Grimes went 1-1 and placed second. Grimes defeated Griffin of Falls City by fall at 4:21 and lost to Evelyn Bryan-Aldrich of Palmyra by fall at 2:17.

Shawnna Richey went 0-3 at 140 and placed fourth, while Lorene Pagnano was 0-4 and placed fifth.



The Tigers girls' wrestling team poses with the 2026 ECNC Championship plaque. Photo Credit Misty Olberding

On Friday, the Lady Tigers hit the mats at the Raymond Central Invite. FC finished with 62 points, placing 15th. Millard South won the meet with 234.5 points, Yutan finished second with 147, and Fort Calhoun was third with 146.

At 155 pounds, Taytum Maddox went 3-1 and placed second. In the finals, Maddox lost by fall at 2:32 to Beckah Gossman (34-5) of Fort Calhoun. The loss dropped Maddox to 30-4 on the year. At 105, Audrey Scrivens went 3-3 and placed sixth. In the fifth-place match, Scrivens lost by a 14-0 major decision to Veronica Pritchard of Millard South.

For HTRS, Ava Grimes went 3-1 and placed second at 235. In the championship, Grimes lost by fall at 2:43 to Kendall Holtmeyer of Omaha Bryan.

Lady Tigers drop third straight

The Falls City Tigers' three-game winning streak came to a screeching halt on Tuesday, when they traveled to Auburn to face the Bulldogs.

FC is just 2-17 in the last 19 contests against the Lady Bulldogs.

Auburn banked in a three on the first possession of the game and never trailed, racing to a 20-3 advantage after the first quarter. Trailing 3-0, Bella Johansen netted a bucket from the baseline to cut the lead to 3-2 with 5:29 remaining in the opening quarter. A free throw by Brynna Glathar cut Auburn's lead to 8-3 at the 3:44 mark. The Bulldogs closed the period on a 12-0 run, making it a 17-point game heading into the second quarter.

Falls City finished the first quarter with more turnovers (9) than shot attempts (4).

The Bulldogs continued to pressure FC, pulling away to a 32-7 lead at intermission.

The final 16 minutes went better for the Lady Tigers, but they couldn't chip away enough, as they were outscored 29-16 in the second half and fell 61-23 to the Lady Bulldogs.

FC shot 29% for the game, but attempted only 21 shots. Meanwhile, Auburn shot 43% from the field, making 23-of-54 shots.

The Tigers turned the ball over too many times, 24 to be exact, which led to 23 points for the Bulldogs. Auburn finished the game with 13 turnovers, leading to just eight points. FC was outrebounded 31-15 and outscored in the paint 24-6.

Glathar was FC's leading scorer, finishing with 10 points on 3-of-5 shooting. Carlea Dunkhas made 5-of-6 free throws, finishing with seven points and three steals.

Ella Swanson led the Bulldogs with 17 points and six steals, while Addie Darnell tallied 10 points, five assists, and four steals.

FC Scoring: Dunkhas 7, Johansen 2, Glathar 10, Titus 2, Rhodd 2.

Auburn Scoring: Wehenkel 12, Darnell 10, K. Wehenkel 4, Krause 7, Snodgrass 5, Swanson 17, Stanley 6.

The loss dropped FC to 5-11, while Auburn improved to 5-10.

The first-quarter struggles continued Thursday night when the Tigers played at Pawnee City. The Indians led 8-2 after one period and 20-8 at the half, then held on for a 12-point win, 42-30.

The Tigers shot well at 31% and took more attempts than on Tuesday (35), but turnovers again proved costly. FC turned the ball over 17 times, while Pawnee City finished with nine. The Tigers were also outrebounded 34-24, including surrendering 17 offensive boards to Pawnee City.

Dunkhas led the Tigers with 17 points, including a pair from beyond the arc. The senior also led the squad with six rebounds.

FC Scoring: Dunkhas 17, Gossman 3, Johansen 3, Glathar 3, Rhodd 4.

Pawnee City Scoring: Gyhra 2, Gottula 8, Benson 14, Osborne 4, Plager 2, Rauner 2, Sisco 10.

The win improved Pawnee City's record to 8-9, while FC dropped to 5-12.

Falls City had a quick turnaround, hosting 11-7 Weeping Water on Friday.

The Lady Tigers were ice cold to start, trailing 16-0 at the end of the first quarter. It didn't get much better in the second, as FC entered the locker room trailing 29-3 at intermission.

The Indians pulled away in the third, outscoring FC 7-2 to make it 36-5 with eight minutes remaining. The Lady Tigers had their best offensive output in the fourth, but Weeping Water earned the win, 47-12.

The Tigers shot 10% from the field, making only 3 of 31 attempts. Meanwhile, Weeping Water hit 40% (19/47) of their attempts. The Lady Tigers finished with 31 turnovers, which led directly to 24 points for the Indians on the other end of the court.

Glathar led FC with eight points, going 2/8 from beyond the arc. Dunkhas led the team with five rebounds, and Bella Johansen recorded a team-best five steals. Freshman Ella Huskey led Weeping Water with 22 points, nine rebounds, three assists, and nine steals.

FC Scoring: Dunkhas 2, Johansen 2, Glathar 8.

WW Scoring: Brack 10, Ridge 4, Meyer 3, Huskey 22, Rineer 5, M. Meyer 3.

The Tigers, the No. 8 seed, played top-seeded Elmwood-Murdock (15-2) on Tuesday, February 3, at 6:00 p.m. in Elmwood. The winner will face the winner of Weeping Water and Palmyra on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

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Don Shafer, Moderator - 402-245-5209

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

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

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

Corner Stone Baptist Church (N. Highway 73 Turn at Blue Valley Behavioral Health) Sunday School Bible Hour, 9:30am; Worship, 10:30am & 6:30pm. Wednesday: Bible Study & Prayer Time, 7pm; Lively Stone Kids Club 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@scento.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/fallsicitycooperativevministry 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/spfp. Inquiry classes by appt. Sacrament of Penance: Sat., 3:45-4:45PM, or by appt.

Fr. Jim Meyenburg, 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/fallsicitycooperativevministry. 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 (1/2 mile N of Preston Corner) Worship, 11:00AM; Sunday School, 10:00AM; Wednesday Choir, 7:30PM. Pastor Mike Hader - 402-245-4584.

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

SHUBERT

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

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

Prairie Union Baptist Church (Rural Shubert) Sun: Morning Worship 10:30AM, Sunday School

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

VERDON

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

DAWSON

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

ARAGO

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

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

HUMBOLDT

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

WHITE CLOUD, KS

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

BIG LAKE, MO

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

Dick Lionberger, Interim 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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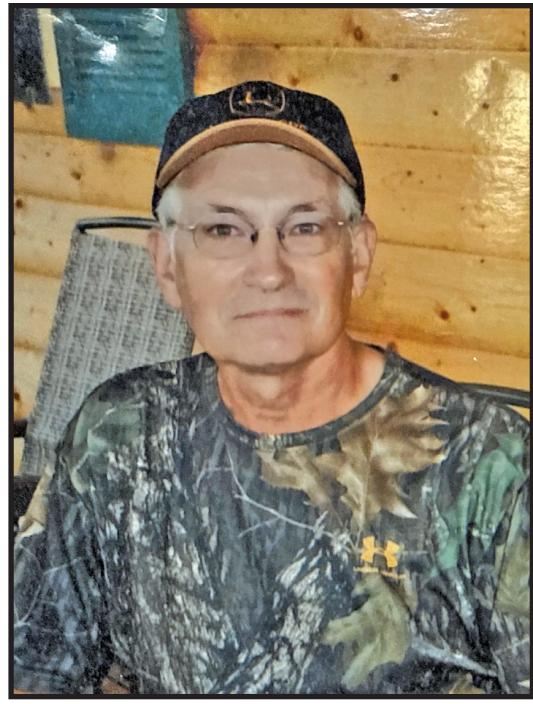
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John Andrew Cander



John Andrew Cander, 82, of rural Humboldt, passed away at Colonial Acres Nursing Home on Thursday, January 8, 2026. He was born in Humboldt, Nebraska on July 26, 1943, to John E. and Berniece (Buman) Cander. John attended Kinter rural school, located just west of the Cander Dairy Farm, for one year before it closed. He completed his education at Humboldt High School graduating with the class of 1961. John attended the University of Nebraska Lincoln Ag College graduating in 1966 with a degree in Dairy Science. It was during those years of commuting to Lincoln that he met fellow commuter Alberta Gerdes, daughter of George and Jean Gerdes, also of Humboldt. Alberta was studying to be a Nurse at Lincoln General. When John proposed to Alberta, he warned her that as a Dairy Farmer's Wife there would be no vacations. Despite that she said "yes" and the couple was married in 1967 at the United Methodist Church in Humboldt. True to his words there were no vacations.

There was a slight glitch in the milking pattern when John had to be at the Humboldt Hospital at 9:30 a.m. on July 20, 1973, for the birth of their daughter Susanne. Thankfully, Cander grandparents saved the day. A son, Thomas John, was born March 15, 1976 at 11:30, a much more convenient time, to complete the family circle.

The Cander Dairy started in 1949 and was one of the first Grade A dairies in Richardson County and received many production awards throughout the years. John's father, John E., started the herd with Holstein cows, and John A. slowly worked Brown Swiss into the herd, disguising them as "4-H projects", which slowly grew to an all-Brown Swiss herd. John retired from the Dairy in 2009 and maintained a small hobby herd. This small herd of Mati and Andy Stalder's 4-H calves somehow became Grandpa John's mature cows. Many people also enjoyed the spoils of this herd as there was milk in jugs for a small donation. John was also known as the pumpkin man. In the mid 1990's John began planting pumpkins for all to enjoy. This increased over the years as one of his retirement hobbies and thoroughly enjoyed people coming to the farm to pick up pumpkins. They were either already washed and ready to pick up, or you could take a ride to one of the many pumpkin patches with him and Abe, the yellow lab. John delivered many pumpkins to Colonial Acres Nursing Home, United Methodist Church, businesses, and people. When asked how much he wanted his words were "however much you think is fair".

John was also a very devoted husband. In 1994, Alberta was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, and John took complete care of her. They could be seen going out for a ride and stopping for cappuccino and ice cream. John was a very very independent individual, and so, took care of Alberta by himself. To further extenuate his dedication, he milked morning and night for 47 years. John was a member of the Humboldt United Methodist Church, Humboldt Rural Fire Board, and a proud member of the Richardson County Ag Society. He took great pride in the building and the grounds. John also spent many years as the official "clean-up" man for 4-H and County Fair. The John Deere 4020 could be seen loading out manure from the fairgrounds. Mati and Andy knew the last Richardson County Fair ride was home on the 4020 with Grandpa on Sunday after the barns were cleaned.

John had a stroke on September 10, 2020, and entered Colonial Acres Nursing Home in Humboldt. There he enjoyed the days with the wonderful staff. John passed away on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at Colonial Acres having reached the earthly age of eighty-two years, five months, and thirty days.

He is preceded in death by his parents, parents-in-law George and Jean Gerdes, wife Alberta Cander, sisters: Betty McKinze, Jeanette (John) Apton, nephew Steven Gerdes, and brothers-in-law: Leland Gerdes, Tony Tesar, and Bill Amos.

John is survived by his daughter Susanne Jean (Cander) Stalder and husband Aaron of Humboldt, son Thomas John and wife Kari of Hickory, NC; grandchildren: Matilyn and Andrew Stalder of Lincoln, grand dogs Rooster and Goose of Hickory, NC; sister Carolyn (Cander) Amos of Odenton; nephew Jeff Amos of Maryland, and niece Kay Amos of Washington D.C., sister-in-law Peggy Tesar of Humboldt, brother-in-law David Whitney of Manhattan, KS; nephews: Terry Whitney of IL; Charles Gerdes and family of Missouri, and niece Julie Gerdes and family of Missouri.

A Celebration of John's Life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at the United Methodist Church in Humboldt, Nebraska with Pastor Lori Stevens officiating. A livestream broadcast of John's services will be available on the Humboldt United Methodist Church Face Book page.

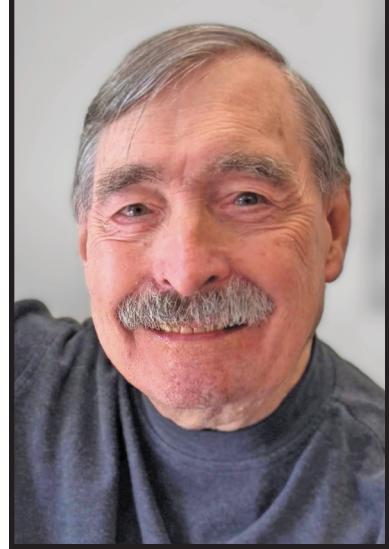
Visitation will be from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 2026, at the Wherry Mortuary, 207 N. Nemaha Street in Humboldt. Family will greet friends from 6-8 p.m. at the mortuary.

Inurnment will be at the Humboldt Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Humboldt Rural Fire Department or Humboldt United Methodist Church.

Condolences can be shared online at www.wherrymortuary.com. Services entrusted to Wherry Mortuary-207 N. Nemaha St-Humboldt, NE 68376 (402) 862-2915

Norman (Norm) D. Catlett



Norman (Norm) D. Catlett entered eternal rest on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at the age of 88.

Norm was born on April 4, 1937, near Barada, Nebraska to Don and Rose Catlett. He was raised in Richardson County, as the third of four brothers. He was an Army veteran and graduate of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a degree in Architecture.

Norm spent his professional career as an architect, where he specialized in hospital and healthcare building design. He worked at HDR in Omaha for over 34 years. Norm loved his home and life in Ralston, surrounded by beautiful Oak trees.

Norm was passionate about watching his kids and grandkids play sports, reading, drawing, fishing, thrifting, and Nebraska Football. Norm especially loved westerns, his family dogs, and a good Bloody Mary.

Norm is survived by his wife, Susan (Fleskoski) Catlett, of 50 years; his daughter, Jenna Thomsen (Eric), his son, James Catlett, and his four grandchildren: Isaiah, Jacoby, Addison, and Alayna. He is also survived by his brothers, Delmar Catlett (Linda), Jim Catlett (Wauneta), sister-in-law, Ruth Catlett, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and older brother, Eldon Catlett.

His family wishes to thank the Brookstone of Papillion staff for their service, care, and compassion over the past two years.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Celebration of Life at Beacon Hills in Aksarben Village on Saturday, February 21st between 2:00-5:00pm. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Falls City Sacred Heart Catholic School or the Little White Dog Rescue in Norm's memory.

Norm's family intends to spread his ashes near Indian Cave State Park, where he was born.

James "Jim" D. Gerweck

(Continued from Page 1)

On June 17, 1978, Jim was united in marriage to Debra Keasling in Harvard, Nebraska. The couple made their home in Falls City where Jim had an electrical contracting business and alarm franchise. In 1980, he purchased Barker Automotive Sales & Service and operated it as, The Automotive and Electric Center. In 1985, Jim was appointed as the Richardson County Civil Defense Director, later changed to Richardson County Emergency Management Agency. He devoted much time to storm watches, floods, and any other emergencies or disasters in the county. Jim coordinated many mock disaster training drills for responders and was the commander of the Southeast Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol and supervised training sessions for CAP members.

Jim contributed 45+ years to the Volunteer Ambulance Squad, was an EMT and a certified CPR instructor, and a member of the Volunteer Ambulance Squad Rescue Team. He served on the Falls City wage board, the board of public works, and the Municipal Energy Association of Nebraska board. Jim was Falls City's representative to the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool and served on the Community Medical Center board, the volunteer ambulance squad board and the Nemaha Natural Resources Board of Directors – Subdistrict 10.

Jim was a licensed Ham Radio Operator and a member of the Amateur Radio Relay League. He was also a member of the Falls City and Hiawatha Amateur Radio Clubs, the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management, and a past member of the Falls City Jaycees, Lions Club and the Elks Club. He received the Chamber/DSA Award, Volunteer of the Year Award, and Robert J. Chab Human Services Award. In 2019, Jim received the Legion Post 102 Emergency Medical Technician Accommodation award. He always had the needs of others in his heart and was always willing to help someone. After Jim retired he and Deb did some traveling. His hobbies were bike riding, jet skiing, and riding around in his red convertible. In his younger days Jim loved to participate in go-kart races with his dad. They won numerous trophies. He had a pilot's license and had part ownership in an airplane which he loved to fly.

Jim is survived by his loving wife Debra Gerweck of Falls City, brother Ron Gerweck and wife Susan of Eugene, OR; sisters: Shirley Travis of Lincoln, NE; Sandy Snider of Lincoln, NE; Karen Musilek of Grand Island, NE; many other nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, relatives, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers-in-law: John Snider, Ron Boehler, and Rick Zuck, and a great-niece Margaret Travis Kluver.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, February 9, 2026, at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Falls City, Nebraska with Father James Meysenburg officiating. A rosary will be recited at 2 p.m. at the church prior to mass.

Inurnment will follow services at the Steele Cemetery in Falls City.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Sacred Heart Catholic School Fund, Falls City Rescue Squad, or to family's choice.

Condolences can be shared online at www.hallfuneral.net

Services entrusted to Hall Funeral Home-2403 Harlan St-Falls City, NE 68355 (402) 245-3131

William "Bill" Lawrence



William "Bill" Lawrence Strecker, a treasured resident of Crook, Colorado, passed peacefully through the gates of Heaven on January 25, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family. He was 71 years old.

Per William "Bill" Lawrence Strecker cremation has taken place and no services will be held.

Bill was a devoted husband, loving father, proud grandfather, caring brother, and loyal friend. On May 19, 1979, he married the love of his life, Diana L. Null, in Sterling, Colorado. Together they shared 44 wonderful years of marriage, building a life rooted in love, hard work, and family.

Bill was born on May 5, 1955, in Falls City, Nebraska, to Lawrence and Betty (Olsen) Strecker. He grew up near the Missouri River, where he developed a lifelong love for fishing, boating, and outdoors often spending time on the water with family and his college friend, Ed Mez.

He attended school in Falls City, Nebraska, going to Catholic school from kindergarten through 11th grade, and graduating from Falls City High School. He later attended college in Milford, Nebraska, where he studied diesel mechanics.

After college, Bill moved to Colorado and began a long and dedicated career at Sonnenberg Cattle Company feedlot, where he worked for 27 years as a shop foreman, mechanic, and truck driver. After leaving Sonnenberg, Bill went into business for himself, working independently as a heavy equipment operator, mechanic, welder, electrician, and farmer. There truly wasn't much he couldn't fix.

Bill took great pride in providing for his family and for many years even did his own butchering to help feed them. He was known as a man of many trades, strong work ethic, and unwavering integrity. He was honest, straightforward, and always greeted others with a quick smile and a warm hello.

Above all else, Bill cherished his family. He loved spending time with his grandchildren, who were the light of his life, as well as his children, friends, and extended family. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, scuba diving, and being outdoors whenever he could.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lawrence Strecker; his mother, Betty Strecker; his brother, Allyn Strecker; his sister-in-law, Karen Strecker; and many dear friends and family members.

Bill is survived by his loving sons, William (Lynaia) Strecker and Patrick (Amanda) Strecker; and his grandchildren: Kyle, Shealynn, Kaiden, Andrew, Alyria, Marcus, and Ryan. He is also survived by his brother, Jerry Strecker of Iowa; his sisters, Linda (Harvey) Lile of Lincoln, NE, and Marylynn Burnett of Wichita, KS; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Bill's life, love, and legacy have left an indelible mark on all who knew him. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered. We will carry his memories in our hearts until we meet again.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the care of William (Will) Strecker.

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Armbruster leads Tigers past Weeping Water

It has been a tale of two streaks in the Falls City/Auburn basketball rivalry. The Tigers won 29 straight contests against the Bulldogs, from December 9, 2005, to December 9, 2016. On that night in Auburn, FC fell 65-55. Auburn failed to finish the season with a winning record during that 11-year stretch. The Tigers rebounded after the loss, defeating the Bulldogs on January 10, 2017. However, the streak has since been one-sided, with Falls City falling in 13 consecutive games against their Nemaha County rivals.

That losing streak included a 78-22 setback to the 13-1 Bulldogs. Auburn scored the first basket of the game with only 15 seconds elapsed and never trailed. By the end of the opening period, Auburn had built a 22-point lead, 29-7. The home team continued to pull away as the half progressed, leading 50-12. The overmatched Tigers fought, but were outscored 28-10 in the final two periods, falling by 56 to the Bulldogs.

Auburn was extremely efficient, a hallmark of a Jim Week's-coached team. The Bulldogs shot 63% from the field, going 21/28 from two-point range. Auburn also turned the ball over just three times.

Meanwhile, FC shot 33% from the field, making 8 of 24 attempts. The Tigers turned the ball over 21 times, leading to 41 points for the Bulldogs. Auburn held a 24-11 rebounding edge, made 12 of 14 free throws, and finished with a 20-0 advantage in transition points.

Ethan Morris led the Tigers on Tuesday night with 10 points on 4-of-8 shooting. Paxton Armbruster added six points and two assists. Elijah Leyden led FC with four rebounds. Brayan Palmer led Auburn with 17 points on 8-of-9 shooting. Ryan Guenther added 16 points, five steals, and

three assists.

FC Scoring: Armbruster 6, Morris 10, Bangert 3, Caudle 2, Davis 1.

Auburn Scoring: Guenther 16, Lavigne 9, Wenzl 12, Snyder 3, Moyer 2, Rash 10, Palmer 17, Swanson 4, Hanley 5.

The Tigers looked to get back into the win column on Friday night when they hosted the Weeping Water Indians. Falls City picked up its first win of the year against the Indians on December 29 at the Weeping Water Holiday Tourney, 42-36. Friday night's game proved just as competitive. The Tigers fell behind 5-7 after the first quarter and 13-16 at the half. However, FC battled, tying the game at 26-26 heading into the final period. In the fourth, FC's offense exploded for 17 points, pulling away for the 43-38 win.

The Tigers outshot Weeping Water 37% to 31%. The Tigers struggled from the charity stripe, hitting only 5-of-14, and turned the ball over 20 times, while Weeping Water finished with just nine turnovers and scored 10 points off Tiger miscues. FC owned the glass, finishing with a 35-24 rebound edge.

Paxton Armbruster accounted for more than half of the Tigers' points, finishing 9-of-18 for 26 points. Jacoby Bangert added a team-best nine rebounds and four assists, along with six points.

FC Scoring: Jones 2, Armbruster 26, Leyden 2, Morris 3, Bangert 6, Simpson 2, Caudle 2.

WW Scoring: Wipf-Dieter 13, Nutter 14, Mogensen 3, Seger 3, Tummons 2, Seger 3.

The 2026 ECNC Tourney kicked off Monday, with the No. 7-seeded Tigers taking on the No. 2-seeded Auburn Bulldogs in first-round action at Auburn High School. The winner will face the winner of Mead and Palmyra on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Freshman Randall leads Tiger wrestlers at Raymond Central

The Falls City Tigers scored 83 points and placed seventh Saturday at the Raymond Central Invite. Beatrice won the team title with 218 points; Syracuse was second with 190, and Raymond Central placed third with 138.5 points.

The top finisher for FC was Tristan Randall at 132 pounds. Randall, 28-9, won his first match over Warren of Syracuse by fall at 3:49. In the quarterfinals, Randall pinned Labenz of Minden at 2:45. Next, Randall won a major decision, 22-14, over Hanshaw of Beatrice. In the finals, Randall fell to Ryan Fletcher of Underwood by pin at :33. Jayden Mirelez (32-12) finished the day 4-1 and placed third. Mirelez defeated Gates of Syracuse by fall at 1:20. In round two, Mirelez took down Taylor (Underwood) by fall at 1:48. Mirelez fell in the semifinals to Taylor of Raymond Central by a major decision, 14-1. Mirelez then defeated Gates of

Syracuse by fall at 1:09 and won the third-place match over Graham Hoffart of Omaha Westside by fall at :15.

At 150, Orion Cattrell placed sixth. In the fifth-place match, Cattrell lost to Gable Jernigan of Omaha Westside by medical forfeit.

At 165, Ashton Martin (27-8) went 2-2 and placed fourth. In the third-place match, Martin lost to Holden Durick (Underwood) by a major decision, 13-5.

At 190, Brantly Sells (22-14) placed sixth. In the fifth-place match, Sells lost by fall to Tripp Taylor of Omaha Westside at 1:42.

Chase Simpson (28-15) placed sixth at 285. In the fifth-place match, Simpson lost to Josiah Nsoh of Lincoln Lutheran in a tiebreaker, 8-2, TB-1.

The ECNC Tourney is scheduled for Friday, February 6, 2026, at Palmyra High School.

HTRS hoping to get season back on track

The HTRS Titans fell on hard times last week, falling twice and dropping to 8-9 overall. On Tuesday, HTRS dropped a contest to JCC, 54-26. The Titan offense struggled to put up points in the second half. HTRS kept the contest close through two quarters, falling behind 9-7 after one quarter and 19-15 at the half. The Thunderbirds caught fire after the break, outscoring HTRS 21-7 in the third and 14-4 in the fourth to pull away for the 28-point win.

HTRS finished the game shooting 26% from the field, making 10-of-39 shots. Emmett Glathar did most of the damage for the Titans, finishing with 18 points, eight rebounds and three blocked shots. Wes Swanson led JCC with 15 points, six assists, five rebounds and three blocked shots.

HTRS Scoring: Dettmann 4, Glathar 18, Hunzeker 4.

JCC Scoring: Swanson 15, Kongmanyvong 4, Waring 2,

Case 12, Thies 3, Rautenbach 3, Lubben 2, Bernadt 9, Jones 4.

The win improved the Thunderbirds' record to 11-5 for the year.

On Thursday night, HTRS fell to East Atchison in Fairfax, 58-36.

Elie Bstandig led the Titans with 12 points, 14 rebounds and five steals.

Titan Scoring: Schmit 1, Bstandig 12, Brede meier 3, Bowen 8, Howe 4.

JCC Scoring: Wellensiek 10, Schmid 7, Weber 2, Case 6, Reyes 6, Beethe 8, Lubben 11.

HTRS defeated East Atchison on Thursday, 57-25, in action in Fairfax. The Lady Titans stormed to a 15-4 advantage after the first and expanded their lead to 28-10 by halftime. The Titans proceeded to outscore the Lady Wolves 29-15 in the second half as they picked up the 32-point win. The loss dropped East Atchison to 6-11 for the season.

Lillian Bowen paced HTRS with a game-high 21 points. The senior sank three triples in the second half of action.

The Lady Titans played EMF on Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. at Johnson-Brock High School in the opening round of the Pioneer Conference Tournament.

The Titans enter the tourney as the fourth seed, while the Bobcats are 8-10 and the fifth seed. HTRS defeated EMF 41-33 on December 18, 2025.

HTRS Scoring: Dettmann 4, Glathar 18, Hunzeker 4.

JCC Scoring: Swanson 15, Kongmanyvong 4, Waring 2,

Case 12, Thies 3, Rautenbach 3, Lubben 2, Bernadt 9, Jones 4.

The win improved the Thunderbirds' record to 11-5 for the year.

On Thursday night, HTRS fell to East Atchison in Fairfax, 58-36.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS JANUARY 21, 2026 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, January 21, 2026. 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 January 14, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2026, Board of Equalization meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

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

EDGE

Lucas Froeschl, Executive Director of the Falls City Economic Development & Growth Enterprise offered to the Board a quarterly report of the organization and also the Annual Report of 2025.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

Steve Darveau, Jr., Highway Superintendent updated the Board on the routine road and bridge maintenance being done this week. Crews are working on replacing bridge planks and hauling rock. The department is compiling a list surplus vehicles and items for the County Board to review and approve for sale on the auction site of Big Iron.

He reported that he will be attending a presentation on Tuesday, January 27 at 1 p.m. in Nebraska City with Whet rock Quarries at Weeping Water, NE review the product they have available. Otoe, Johnson, and Nemaha county representatives will also be in attendance for this presentation that will be held at the Courthouse.

Pictures and information regarding a situation that is occurring on county bridges in a few areas of the county with items being attached to county bridge structures, appearing to keep livestock from crossing to other properties under the structure were presented to the Board. Attaching or removing anything from a public road and structure is considered an obstruction or damage to the public road/structure and is generally punishable as a Class V misdemeanor. Mr. Darveau will be issuing a press release regarding this matter.

BRIAN KIRKENDALL, EMA DIRECTOR

Brian Kirkendall, EMA Director reviewed with the Board information the office has received regarding a project to replace a boat ramp that the State of Nebraska Game & Parks has begun at Indian Cave State Park which is located in a floodway.

The Board held a discussion on the National Flood Insurance Program and the possibility of the County withdrawing from the program. County Attorney, Samantha Scheitel was in attendance during this discussion and recommended that the Board schedule a specific date and time to advertise that a hearing will be held to receive comments from the public in support of or opposition to possible withdrawal from the National Flood Insurance Program. A tentative date has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 11.

PROJECT RESPONSE

Jill Garcia of Project Response presented to the Board the 2025 4th quarter report and also provided Richardson County's specific statistics for the end of 2025 sharing services offered to the community. The report indicated the following: assistance with 3 protection orders, safe dates have been held in Falls City, 85 food pantry assists, 12 people were helped with clothing needs, 10 hotline calls were received and no requests for shelter were made. She also reported that February is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

LAWS ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law

Enforcement Center this past week. There are 13 inmates currently being held in the jail. He reported that the City of Falls City will be replacing the water meter at the Law Enforcement Center and that Airstream will be available to make certain that everything is in proper order after the installation.

The problem with the sewage line for the kitchen area has been cleaned out and a new pump has been installed, which was under warranty.

The Sheriff reported that staff are working on the application for the E-Citation grant to receive funds for the purchase of in-car scanners and printers.

The request was made by the Sheriff to discuss with the Board the possibility of providing a contribution towards family, employee/spouse and employee/child health insurance coverage. The Board received from the Sheriff estimated costs that would be incurred for this added benefit which will be reviewed.

DISCUSSION REGARDING ZONING

Commissioner Campbell requested that time be allowed on the agenda for discussion regarding zoning for the County. He commented that in good faith that he just can't support it and he is against putting zoning regulations on any of his constituents in District 2.

The Board held a discussion regarding the current project with developing a new comprehensive plan and the possibility of the development of zoning regulations.

An audience was present for this discussion and the majority present were in opposition to implementing zoning regulations.

The Board will schedule a time on the January 28, 2026, meeting agenda to consider the termination of the contract for the development of a comprehensive plan and zoning regulations with Marvin Planning Consultants, Inc.

County Attorney, Samantha Scheitel was also available during this discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Caverzagie to recess the regular meeting agenda and go into an executive session at 11:22 a.m. with Jerry Pigsley, special legal counsel and County Clerk, Mary L. Eickhoff to discuss pending litigation and for the protection of the public interest. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Karas to close the executive session at 12:51 p.m. and return to the regular meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Dated this 4th day of February, 2026.

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, February 17th, 2026, in the City Hall, 2307 Barada Street, Falls City, Nebraska. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comment prior to consideration of a permit to harbor chickens on the below listed residential properties.

Chicken Permit Applications:
823 McLean Street

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.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 2 RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

To All Participating Members:
Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the participating members of Rural Water District No. 2, Richardson County, Nebraska, will be held at 8:00 o'clock P.M. on February 12, 2026, at F&M Bank, 1701 Stone St., Falls City, Nebraska. At said meeting there will be the Annual Reports of the officers, an election of two (2) board members for the term of three (3) years and election of a voting delegate. A copy of the agenda for said meeting is on file with Secretary, Joseph Fischer 65644 709 Rd., Falls City, Nebraska.

Dated this 4th day of February, 2026.

Rural Water District No. 2
Richardson County, Nebraska
By Joseph Fischer, Secretary
Dylan Handley
Attorney at Law
4
ZNEZ

NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

21-28-4
ZNEZ

Village of Rulo Bids Open 2026 Cemetery Mowing

The Village of Rulo is now accepting bids for their 2026 cemetery mowing season running April 1, 2026 through October 1, 2026.

Bidders must provide their own equipment and will be responsible for all mowing and trimming to include between headstones and around all fences and trees. Mowing must also be done on the north and east sides of the cemetery to their respective roads. The size of the cemetery is 6 acres.

Full bid packets can be requested from any Board Member
or
Clerk – Rachel Jean
Cler

CEMETERY #14 HIAWATHA
CEMETERY DISTRICT
ADVERTISEMENT FOR
CONTRACTSALL CONTRACT BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 6:00 PM
FEBRUARY 28, 2026.

ALL CONTRACT BIDS CAN INCLUDE ONE OR BOTH THE HIAWATHA CEMETERY AND/OR THE MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY.

The cemeteries are: The Mount Hope Cemetery, 603 E Iowa St, Hiawatha, Ks., and The Hiawatha Cemetery, 801 N 1st St, Hiawatha, Ks.

CEMETERY #14 MAINTENANCE
CONTRACT

Included in the contract will be the following:

*Duration of the contract will be from April 1 to March 30 of the following year.

**Mowing must begin by April 1. Mow and trim as needed until April 15 and then mow and trim weekly until July 1. After July 1 mow and trim by-weekly or sooner if needed. Peonies may be trimmed after August 1 or earlier if requested.

**Remove grass clippings, broom or blow clippings from all surfaces.

**Dump trash barrels each time mowing is done.

**All work must be inspected by the contractor to be sure work was completed properly.

**Damage to any property, permanent or temporary, must be reported to the Board when discovered.

**Contractors must take care to avoid equipment contact with permanent or temporary markers.

**Contractor payments will be made at the end of each month.

**The contractor is responsible for any damage incurred.

**The contractor must have Commercial General Liability insurance policy for bodily injury.

Property damage, and premises medical with minimum limits of insurance not less than \$1,000,000 each occurrence for bodily injury and property damage, \$2,000,000 aggregate, \$5,000 medical.

Contractors are reminded that the bids for the April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, season must be received by FEBRUARY 28, 2026.

Contract bids will be opened at the Board meeting on MARCH 5, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

Please email all contract bids to Larry Weast at weast31@gmail.com or mail contract bids to Cemetery #14 Hiawatha Cemetery District, PO Box 86, Hiawatha, Ks 66434.4-11
ZNEZ

Public Hearing Announcement

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

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

1. Definitions – Additions, Deletions & Updates

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21-28-4
ZNEZ

The Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors will hold their regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 12, 2026, at the NRD headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska. Committee meetings, if necessary, begin at 6:00 p.m. An agenda is being kept current at the office, 62161 Hwy 136, Tecumseh, NE 68450. A virtual meeting may replace an in-person meeting in case of inclement weather.

4
ZNEZNOTICE OF DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAX SALE
RICHARDSON COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE
FALLS CITY, NEBRASKA

The following is a list of all lands and lots in Richardson County, Nebraska on which taxes are due and unpaid for the tax year 2024 and prior years. This list is published in accordance with State Statute #77-1804. Therefore, notice is given that all delinquent taxes on these following lands and lots will be offered for public sale on Monday, March 2nd, 2026 at the Richardson County Treasurer's Office from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and will continue from day to day until all taxes have been offered for sale according to State Statute #77-1806. PLEASE BE ADVISED OF ALL STIPULATIONS TO PROVIDE NOTICE according to State Statute #77-1818. The following amounts listed for each property represent the delinquent tax, but does not include interest and advertising. We now offer online tax services by going to www.nto.us and clicking on Richardson County. You can look up taxes by owner name, parcel number, or legal. Once you select a parcel you will have access to the payment and tax history, and can also pay the tax online in most cases. PLEASE NOTE - according to Statute 77-1802 the names listed here are the names of the 2025 owner. These are the 2024 taxes we are advertising. TO ATTEND THIS SALE YOU MUST BE PREREGISTERED BY 2-23-26 and have paid the registration fee. ****IMPORTANT NEW FOR 2026 TAX SALE**** According to Statute 77-1818 there will be a \$150 fee added to each parcel sold along with the \$25 certificate fee noted in 77-1823. If paid before tax sale you will avoid those fees.

REAL PROPERTY						Amanda Bartek-Ramsey	Richardson County Treasurer	
County Name	County #	Item #	District2	Parcel	Multivt Name	Property Address	Legal	Total Due
Richardson	74	1	147	740041231	HEINEN, RODNEY R	71285 639 DR DAWSON NE 68337	10-2-14215.33APARCEL1F/K/APTNW1/4&PTSW1/4EXC5.64A	8069.9
Richardson	74	2	80	740009550	DEJONGE, LYNN A	RURAL 33-3-13 160A	33-3-13160ANE1/4	2759.26
Richardson	74	3	80	740170635	DEJONGE, LYNN A	RURAL 28-3-13 115A	28-3-13115ASE1/4SW1/4&W1/2SE1/4EXC5ATRSW/CSE1/4	2382.96
Richardson	74	4	5	741000114	KEARNEY WELDING LLC	14-1-16 INDUSTRIAL PARK	14-1-16SW1/4LOT1 OF REPLAT OF TRACT SEVEN FALLS CITY IND PARK	1871.31
Richardson	74	5	100	740121199	SELLS, THOMAS R	RURAL 7-1-18 43.56A	7-1-1843.56A TRACT1A/K/ASW1/4&W8ASE1/4SW1/4LESS HWY	1722.54
Richardson	74	6	147	740170981	HEINEN, RODNEY R	RURAL 10-2-14 69.4A	10-2-1469.4A PARCEL 2	1594.62
Richardson	74	7	5	740076701	MAKINGS, SHAWN G & DEBORAH L	2306 STONE ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY STEELE BLK22 PTLOTS 14 ALL 15 & 16 (2.31L)	1580.42
Richardson	74	8	5	740075489	VOLLAN, KIRABROOKE	602 E 21ST ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY STEELE BLK11 LOTS 13-16 (4L)	1512.86
Richardson	74	9	10	740083139	THOMPSON, TRICIA G	715 5TH ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT DT BLK9 W69.5' LOT2 (.50L)	1102.92
Richardson	74	10	5	740069314	MEYER, PAUL D	2212 HILAND AVE FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY GILLIGANS BLK1 LOTS 16-19 (4L)	1069.78
Richardson	74	11	5	740062417	STALVEY, RYAN M	920 MCLEAN ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK192 LOTS 21 & 22 (2L)	978.72
Richardson	74	12	10	740087177	COOPER, KENT L & RHONDAL	726 GRAND AVE HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT RIST'S PLAINVIEW BLK56 LOTS 45-46-47 (3L)	962.64
Richardson	74	13	10	740087673	NIMS LIFEEST, MARTHA M	995 EDWARD ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT HOLMAN PARK BLK2 LOTS 1 & N45/2 (13/4L)	962.12
Richardson	74	14	5	740062115	SCHOLL, LANDAN	301 E 10TH ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK189 N10' LOT22 ALL 23 & 24 (2.4L)	950.78
Richardson	74	15	10	740081950	SKYLINE CONSTRUCTION INC	828 3RD ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT DT BLK3 E50' LOT13 ALL 14 (1.53L)	912.78
Richardson	74	16	80	740170466	DEJONGE, LYNN A	RURAL 28-3-13 40A	28-3-1304A NE1/4SW1/4	854.78
Richardson	74	17	10	740082612	BITTNER, JEREMY & GINA	701 4TH ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT DT BLK7 W1/2LOT1 (5L)	815.2
Richardson	74	18	5	740053728	PHROPER, CLIFFORD L & JULIE	2008 CHASE ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK7 N1/2LOT16 ALL 17-21 (5.5L)	752.34
Richardson	74	19	10	740084372	WITTRICK, LISA	848 LONGBRANCH ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT KING'S LISTBLK22S1/2N1/2LOT5 (.25L)	723.66
Richardson	74	20	5	740068253	HUTFLES, SCOTT & REBECCA A	1609 FAIR AVE FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY EVERGREEN HTS BLK5 LOTS 7 & 8 (2L)	716.54
Richardson	74	21	5	740068202	WERNER, DANIEL	1702 VALLEY AVE FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY EVERGREEN HTS BLK4 LOTS 13-16 (4L)	704.82
Richardson	74	22	55	740104659	HITCHCOCK, PHILIP A	107 ASH ST VERDON NE 68457	VERDON FIRST BLK4 LOTS 1-4 (4L)	671.58
Richardson	74	23	5	740070746	WILCOX, MATT & MICHELLE	16 SUNSET DR FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY WEAVER BLK11 LOTS 10-11 & 12 (3L)	666.44
Richardson	74	24	5	740078607	HOLLOWAY, STEVEN C & DEBORAH	821 E 12TH ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK192 LOTS 17 & 18 (2L)	646.92
Richardson	74	25	5	740062395	POKORNÝ, CHRISTYNE A	912 MCLEAN ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK11 LOTS 17 & 18 (2L)	646.73
Richardson	74	26	10	740086723	STUART, SABRINA J	910 GRAND AVE HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT GRAND AVE EXTLBK51 LOTS 6 & 7 (2L)	636.98
Richardson	74	27	10	740087622	NIMS, MARTHA MILLER	926 EDWARD ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT HOLMAN PARK BLK187 N132 LOT12 (1L)	612.24
Richardson	74	28	50	740103342	CHASE, RICHARD K	207 CLARK ST STELLA NE 68442	STELLA SOUTH BLK2 LOTS 11-23 (13L) 6.11	608.44
Richardson	74	29	10	740084186	NABER, GENE L & BACHMAN, CLARE	833 N NEMAHA ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT KINGS1STBLK19E173 S1/2 LOT5	593.78
Richardson	74	30	25	740089889	HADDAD, WAEEL	220 RIDGE ST DAWSON NE 68337	DAWSON OTBLK11 N7' LOTS 1 & 2 (1L)	587.44
Richardson	74	31	35	740092898	KELLER, JORDAN C	306 W STUTSMAN ST RULO NE 68431	RULO OTBLK29 LOTS 7-10 & PTVAC ST & ALLEY	578.02
Richardson	74	32	10	740085899	MCGLING, TYLER & ASHLYNN	858 N NEMAHA ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT METES & BOUNDS 3-13.27A PT SW1/4NE1/4	567.01
Richardson	74	33	5	740061232	NOURIE, KYLEE	1011 LANE ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK165 LOTS 7 & 8 (2L)	557.18
Richardson	74	34	45	740153250	RANEY, RANDY S	201 ASH ST SHUBERT NE 68437	SHUBERT SECOND BLK22 LOTS 7-12 (6L)	552.29
Richardson	74	35	5	740062654	FISCHER, EDWARD & LISA	818 WILSON ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK194 LOTS 21 & 22 (2L)	546.16
Richardson	74	36	10	740083599	BRATROVSKY, MARK	614 CENTRAL AVE HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT TINKER & KING BLK1245' X115' PTLOT1 (1/8L)	532.44
Richardson	74	37	5	740059572	SHAFFER, LYNN M	420 E 12TH ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK1315' LOT10 ALL 11 & 12 (2.4	

(Continued from Page 11)

Richardson	74	113	35	740095145	PASCIUTI REALTY TRUST	317 S MAIN ST RULO NE 68431	RULO BEDARD BLK31 LOTS 1-2 & W 120' LOTS 3-4 & 40X140 CLOSING BEDARD ST (.77A)	79.72
Richardson	74	114	25	740090828	WENDTLANDT, STEPHEN	2ND ST DAWSON NE 68337	DAWSON HEM ALL BLK39 (4L)	77.62
Richardson	74	115	5	740077554	TIMOTHY, MELANIE	403 PACIFIC ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY TOWLE BLK4 LOTS 5-8 (4L)	75.42
Richardson	74	116	40	740095854	ZEIGLER, RUSSELL J & TANYA J	1ST CROMWELL ST SALEM NE 68433	SALEM OTBLK1 LOTS 2-3-4N1/25 ALL 6-7 (5.5L)	74.39
Richardson	74	117	35	740094475	POPEJOY, MISTY	222 S 1ST ST RULO NE 68431	RULO BEDARD BLK4 LOTS 7-10 (4L)	70.86
Richardson	74	118	35	740095730	PECK, DEANNAE	BROADWAY ST RULO NE 68431	RULO BEDARD BLK61 LOTS 1-3 (3L)	69.74
Richardson	74	119	10	740087118	MAYO, JANICE A	7TH ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT HISTIS PLAINVIEW BLK56 LOTS 12-16 (5L)	69.04
Richardson	74	120	40	740097172	MOYER, JANEEN	24 N 2ND ST SALEM NE 68433	SALEM OTBLK66 N1/2 LOTS 3 & 4 (1L)	66.08
Richardson	74	121	5	740060104	FRENZEL, ANGELA M & JEFFREY M	1215 CHASE ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK136 LOTS 5 & 6 (2L)	64.16
Richardson	74	122	35	740095196	PASCIUTI REALTY TRUST	COMMERCIAL ST RULO NE 68431	RULO BEDARD BLK31 LOTS 14-16 & 40X140 CLOSING BEDARD ST (.61A)	62.54
Richardson	74	123	45	740099906	FOSTER, KALLY K	402 OAK ST SHUBERT NE 68437	SHUBERT OTBLK651/2 LOTS 3 & 4 (1.5L)	59.3
Richardson	74	124	35	740093665	SELLS, THOMAS R	7TH BAYLISS ST RULO NE 68431	RULO TALL BLK49 EXC PT LOTS 7 & 8 FORHWY (2.31A)	56.46
Richardson	74	125	5	740062735	BLACK, TAMARAS	8TH MORTON ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK195 LOTS 13-16 (4L)	53.68
Richardson	74	126	5	740055402	STEVENS, JASON	1806 CHASE ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY - OTBLK39 W 32' LOTS 13-16 (1.07L)	52.5
Richardson	74	127	35	740093703	SELLS, THOMAS R	8TH BAYLISS ST RULO NE 68431	RULO OTBLK50 PTLOTS 3-12 & ALL 13-16 EXC HWY (.61A)	47.6
Richardson	74	128	100	740091611 ***	OGDEN, DWAYNE R & ESPERANZA E	2ND ST	PRESTON OTBLK4 W 66' LOTS 98-99 (1L)	47.36
Richardson	74	129	147	741000182	NIM CITY FARMS LLC	RURAL 19-1-14 9.35A	19-1-149.35ATRN1/2NW1/4NW1/4	47.05
Richardson	74	130	35	740094327	PASCIUTI REALTY TRUST	BEDARD MAIN ST RULO NE 68431	RULO BEDARD BLK2 W 110' LOT 12 & 40X110 CLOSING BEDARD ST (.22A)	43.34
Richardson	74	131	25	740090747	WENDTLANDT, STEPHEN	4TH ST DAWSON NE 68337	DAWSON HEM BLK36 S1/2 LOTS 1 & 2 (1.06L)	43.32
Richardson	74	132	5	740053140	PIERCE, BRANDON & NICOLE	2021 MCLEAN ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK2 LOTS 1 & 2 (2L)	42.96
Richardson	74	133	40	740098632	GIFFORD, JESSETTE	MAIN ST SALEM NE 68433	SALEM OTBLK120W 51' LOT 46 (.85L)	42.84
Richardson	74	134	40	740095862	ZEIGLER, RUSSELL JAMES & TANYA	1ST CROMWELL ST SALEM NE 68433	SALEM OTBLK1 S1/2 LOTS 5 (5L)	41.04
Richardson	74	135	10	741000184	CARPENTER, TINA K	PARK AVE HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT METES & BOUNDS 3-2-13 PARCEL 1.14A PTLOTS 5 & 6 SW1/4	38.8
Richardson	74	136	10	740082973	RICHEY, TIMOTHY S & ELECIAM	523 4TH ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT OTBLK8 E1/2 LOTS 1 (.50L)	36.26
Richardson	74	137	25	740090801	WENDTLANDT, STEPHEN	3RD ST DAWSON NE 68337	DAWSON HEM BLK38 S50' LOTS 3 & 4 (3.4L)	35.12
Richardson	74	138	10	740084534	STEPHENSON, LARRY JAMES & AMANDA J	914 MECHANIC ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT & LUTHER NIMS BLK25 N88' LOT 6 (2.3L)	34.84
Richardson	74	139	100	740018620	HART-BARTLETT-STURTEVANT CO	RURAL 17-1-18 1A	17-1-181APTSW1/4SW1/4	32.39
Richardson	74	140	40	740095889	ZEIGLER, RUSSELL J & TANYA J	1ST CROMWELL ST SALEM NE 68433	SALEM OTBLK2 LOTS 1 & N1/2 (7 & 8 (3L)	30.58
Richardson	74	141	10	740084682	NORRUP, CHRISTOPHER	216 NEMAHIA ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT & LUTHER NIMS BLK27 N1/2 LOT 2 & S41.45' (3.125L)	28.64
Richardson	74	142	5	740055496	BLUNT, ZAC	1815 CHASE ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY - OTBLK40 LOTS 5 & 6 (2L)	27.62
Richardson	74	143	45	740100092	MARQUEZ, RANDY E	401 W 4TH ST SHUBERT NE 68437	SHUBERT OTBLK8 LOT 1 (1L)	27.46
Richardson	74	144	35	740095331	COLLINS, LEONARD W & KAREN L	2ND KENCELEUR ST RULO NE 68431	RULO BEDARD BLK36 LOTS 1 & 2 (.34A)	26.43
Richardson	74	145	35	740093673	SELLS, THOMAS R	9TH MARTIN ST RULO NE 68431	RULO OTBLK50 LOTS 1 & 2 (2L)	25.9
Richardson	74	146	5	740055526	BLUNT, ZACHERY	1807 CHASE ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY - OTBLK40 LOT 9 (1L)	13.82
Richardson	74	147	147	740170960	HEINEN, RODNEY R	RURAL 10-2-14 .6A	10-2-14.6A PARCEL 3	7.68
						TOTAL	\$64,675.00	ZNEZ

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

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

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

ZNEZ

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

Notice is hereby given that Rieger Land & Cattle LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the state of Nebraska. The initial Designated Office Address is 65380 707 road, Falls City, NE 68355 and its Registered Agent is Jacob Rieger, 65380 707 road, Falls City, NE 68355.

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

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

21-28-4

ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PERMIT ISSUANCE
The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) proposes to reissue, with change, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Village of Stella Wastewater Treatment Facility, PO Box 105, Stella, NE (NPDES# NE0045314; SIC 4952). The publicly owned treatment works receives and treats domestic wastewater which discharges from a mechanical treatment system through Outfall 001 to Muddy Creek, Segment NE2-10800, to the Big Nemaha River in the Nemaha River Basin. The permit would be issued for a period of up to five years and would restrict pollutant discharges to comply with the requirements of Department regulations. The draft permit, fact sheet, and other public information are available for review and copying at DWEE's Lincoln Office, 245 Fallbrook Boulevard, Suite 100, Lincoln, Nebraska 68521 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (CT), weekdays, excluding holidays. To request copies of the draft permit and other information, call 402-471-3557. Individuals requiring special accommodations or alternate formats of materials should notify the Department by calling 402-471-2186. TDD users should call 800-833-7352 and ask the relay operator to call the Department at 402-471-2186. Written comments, objections, and/or hearing requests concerning permit issuance may be submitted to NPDES and State Permits Section, Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment, 245 Fallbrook Boulevard, Suite 100, Lincoln, Nebraska 68521 before the comment period ending date of March 6, 2026. A determination to hold a hearing will be based upon factual environmental or regulatory consideration. The Nebraska DWEE does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, or sex in administration of its programs or activities, and DWEE does not intimidate or retaliate against any individual or group because they have exercised their rights to participate in or oppose actions protected/prohibited by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, or for the purpose of interfering with such rights.

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

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

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

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Fax: (402) 245-2664
Email: dylanhandley@hotmail.com

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

Notice is hereby given that Nebraska Bank, a Nebraska banking corporation with its principal office in Dodge, Nebraska, has made application to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for consent to establish a full-service branch office at 3003 Bill Shock Boulevard, Falls City, Nebraska 68355. If the application is approved, Nebraska Bank would temporarily operate a full-service branch office at 3003 Bill Shock Boulevard, Falls City, Nebraska 68355 until a permanent facility is constructed at the corner of Highway 73 and 33rd Street, Falls City, Nebraska 68355.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the Regional Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its regional office located at 1100 Walnut Street, Suite 2100, Kansas City, MO 64106. Comments by interested parties must be received by the Regional Director within 15 days following the date of publication of this notice. The nonconfidential portions of the application are on file in the regional office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the nonconfidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.

This Notice is published pursuant to Section 303.7 of the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Nebraska Bank
Dodge, Nebraska

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ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF RULO
NOTICE OF ONE AND SIX YEAR
STREET IMPROVEMENT PLAN
HEARING

Public notice is hereby given in compliance with the revised statutes of Nebraska, that the Village Board will meet at 6:00 p.m. on the 10th Day of February 2026 at the Village Hall, for the purpose of hearing comment relating to the proposed One and Six Year Street Improvement Program for 2026.

Julie Vollmer
City Street Superintendent

21-28-4

ZNEZ

4

**IN THE COUNTY COURT OF
RICHARDSON COUNTY,
NEBRASKA**
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
of: JACQUELINE E. FINDLEY,
Deceased.Case No. PR 25-16
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a final account and report of administration and a Petition for Complete Settlement and proposed Schedule of Distribution have been filed and are set for hearing in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, located in Falls City, Nebraska on the 23rd day of March, 2026 at or after 9:00 a.m.

Catherine Dehart
308 Center St.
Berwyn, NE 68814

28-4-11

WANTED BIDS FOR CUSTOM MOW, RAKE, BALING OF HAY.

The Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska is requesting quotes for custom mow, rake, baling (large round, wrapped) for cash payment: 4 Tracts in Brown County, KS = Tract 1), of approximately 18 acres of hay adjacent to Padonia; Tract 2) approximately 45 acres in 3 parcels in Section 2 at 340th & Night Hawk Road; Tract 3) adjacent to the casino/along US 75 in Brown County; Tract 4) adjacent to Red Earth Housing (south side of State Line road) in Brown County. And 1 Tract in Richardson County, NE. Tract 5) approx. 26 acres adjacent to Noharts Creek near our buffalo farm on 340th Street (state line) and 659th Avenue (Richardson County, Nebraska). These 5 tracts have averaged 240 total bales. For more information contact tammy.apple@sacandfoxks.com or phone 785-742-7471 Ext 2500. Submit written quote via email tammy.apple@sacandfoxks.com or mail to Sac and Fox Tribal Administrative Office, 305 N. Main Street, Reserve, KS 66434 no later than 2 PM Thursday, March 5, 2026. Native American preference applies. Will accept bids for all 5 tracts or for 1 or more tracts.

28-4
ZNEZSERVICES
WANTED

The Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas & Nebraska requests proposals for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Services for a Remodeling project to be located at 1305 340th Street = at the SE corner of Mallard Rd & 340th Street, Lots 1 and Lot 2., Hiawatha, KS (Carpentry, Demolition, Insulation, Drywall, Flooring, Doors, Paint, Windows, Porch w/ Steps & Ramp & Deck, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, spotting & skirting a 8' 3" X 48' mobile home to be used as an adjacent office, etc.) Proposals shall be addressed "Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas & Nebraska - CMAR Services for Remodeling project" and received by Executive Director, Admin Office, 305 North Main, Reserve, KS 66434, no later than 2 PM Thursday 3-5-2026. The proposals submitted will be given first review at the Tribal Council meeting of 3-10-2026. The Request for Proposal packet for CMAR services for this Remodeling project is available at the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri Admin Office, 305 North Main, Reserve, KS 66434. Or can be requested by calling (785) 742-7471 or by emailing kevin.burnison@sacandfoxks.com or call Cell 785-288-0191.

6-7

Professional
Services

We sell & repair
RED WING SHOES
Marburger Shoe Store
320 East Square,
Humboldt, NE 68376

2-OP

HELP
WANTED

VILLAGE OF RULO

Village of Rulo
Board Meeting Minutes

Advanced notice of meeting posted by 2PM on Monday, January 12, 2026 at Rulo Library, Swingin' Doors and Wild Bill's, Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:00pm in the Rulo Library.

Board Chair, Rebecca Simmonds, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Roll call - Present: Rebecca Simmonds, Kraig Coone, Regina Barber, Mike Keller - Absent: Todd Thompson R. Jean announced meetings are held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act which is posted and available in print upon request.

A motion was made by Keller and seconded by Barber to approve the December regular meeting minutes and the December special meeting minutes. Roll call - AYE: Keller, Barber, Coone, Simmonds. Motion carried.

Shawn Thompson discussed mowing the Campground for 2026 and offered suggestions on policy and payment options. He will provide a quote later for mowing. R. Jean will make additions to current rental agreement for Board approval.

Board reviewed quote from Iowa Tribe for hauling rock at \$18/ton. Quote will be filed with no action taken.

Barber made a motion seconded by Coone to designate the Auditorium as the polling place for the 2026 primary and general elections. Roll call - AYE: Barber, Coone, Keller, Simmonds. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Barber and seconded by Keller to enter into the Interlocal Agreement with Richardson County for warning sirens. Roll call - AYE: Barber, Keller, Simmonds - NAY: Coone. Motion carried.

R. Jean advised Board that Purchasing Card policy will be ready soon for review and approval.

Board discussed options for new city work truck. No action taken.

Coone advised that no snow blade quotes for dump truck were available to review.

R. Jean still working on floodway confirmation for playground equipment at campground

Board reviewed two quotes for snow removal. One from Hollens Enterprises and one from Pine Grove. Barber made a motion seconded by Keller to approve the quote from Pine Grove. Roll call - AYE: Barber, Keller, Coone, Simmonds. Motion carried.

R. Jean reported electronic time tracking has been implemented with R. Popejoy for part time work, November Keno totaled \$5428.32 and reviewed delinquent water accounts with the Board.

A motion was made by Coone and seconded by Keller to approve claims as presented. Roll call - AYE: Coone, Keller, Barber, Simmonds. Motion carried.

GENERAL - Grey Snow \$50.00 (svcs), OPPD \$1194.83 (electricity), SNC \$51.28 (internet), Falls City Journal \$86.40 (publications), F&M Bank \$15.00 (safety deposit box rent), Robert W. Aitken, CPA \$2100.00 (svcs), Farm & City Supply \$52.12 (supplies), Wolfe's Printing \$5.34 (supplies), US Treasury \$2274.60 (Q4 2025 payroll taxes), NE Dept of Revenue \$246.03 (Q4 2025 state payroll taxes), payroll \$2740.54

ROADS - Farm & City Supply \$119.31 (parts), Grandview Oil \$405.64 (fuel), Miller Monroe \$479.00 (insurance)

WATER - NE Dept of Revenue \$42.67 (sales tax), NE Dept of Public Health \$15.00 (svcs), City of Falls City \$2881.07 (svcs), Steve Johansen \$340.65 (reimb. postage)

KENO - NE Dept of Charitable Gaming \$6698.00 (Q4 2025 Keno tax)

FIRE - Midwest Mobil Radio Service Inc \$17.54 (parts)

A motion was made by Keller and seconded by Coone to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm. Roll call - AYE: Keller, Coone, Barber, Simmonds. Motion carried.

Next regular meeting scheduled for February 10, 2026, immediately following the One & Six Road plan meeting at 6:00pm.

4
ZNEZSERVICES
WANTED

The Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas & Nebraska requests proposals for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Services for a Remodeling project to be located at 1305 340th Street = at the SE corner of Mallard Rd & 340th Street, Lots 1 and Lot 2., Hiawatha, KS (Carpentry, Demolition, Insulation, Drywall, Flooring, Doors, Paint, Windows, Porch w/ Steps & Ramp & Deck, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, spotting & skirting a 8' 3" X 48' mobile home to be used as an adjacent office, etc.) Proposals shall be addressed "Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas & Nebraska - CMAR Services for Remodeling project" and received by Executive Director, Admin Office, 305 North Main, Reserve, KS 66434, no later than 2 PM Thursday 3-5-2026. The proposals submitted will be given first review at the Tribal Council meeting of 3-10-2026. The Request for Proposal packet for CMAR services for this Remodeling project is available at the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri Admin Office, 305 North Main, Reserve, KS 66434. Or can be requested by calling (785) 742-7471 or by emailing kevin.burnison@sacandfoxks.com or call Cell 785-288-0191.

6-7

The Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas & Nebraska requests proposals for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Services for the Site Development component of the DV Shelter project to be located at 1305 340th Street = at the SE corner of Mallard Rd & 340th Street, Lots 1 and Lot 2., Hiawatha, KS (Dirt Work: entry drive, parking, septic, waterline, sidewalk & concrete for garage floor, fence). Proposals shall be addressed "Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas & Nebraska - CMAR Services for DV Shelter Site Development" and received by Executive Director, Admin Office, 305 North Main, Reserve, KS 66434, no later than 2 PM Thursday 3-5-2026. The proposals submitted will be given first review at the Tribal Council meeting of 3-10-2026. The Request for Proposal packet for CMAR services for this Site Development component is available at the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri Admin Office, 305 North Main, Reserve, KS 66434. Or can be requested by calling (785) 742-7471 or by emailing kevin.burnison@sacandfoxks.com or call Cell 785-288-0191.

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Valentine's Day Deals

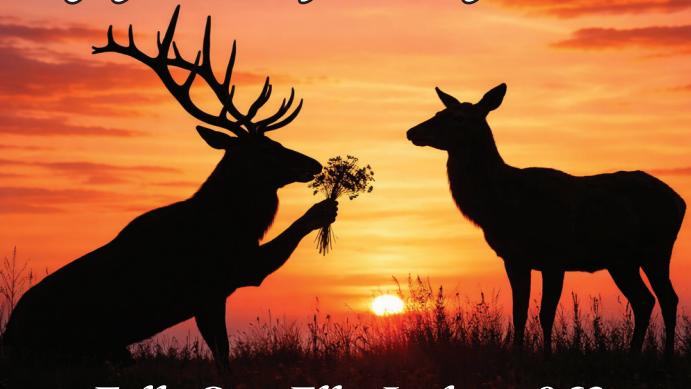
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From Casablanca to When Harry Met Sally timeless movie romances

Romance on film has taken many shapes over the decades. Some of the most enduring love stories are the ones that show you love is not always easy, neat or permanent. Sometimes it's unforgettable.

Here are a few film suggestions this Valentine's Day.

Few modern films are quoted as often or remembered as fondly as *When Harry Met Sally*. At its core it's a conversation about friendship, and whether love can grow quietly while two people insist it can't.

Casablanca is often labeled a romance, but it is really a story about sacrifice. Love exists in the spaces between what is said and what must be done. That same restraint gives *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir* its enduring power, a love story built on companionship and imagi-

nation rather than physical presence.

Some romances lean into emotional devastation. *The Bridges of Madison County* is not about a future together but about a brief moment that reshapes two lives. *Random Harvest* explores love interrupted by trauma, asking whether love can survive when one person forgets the other entirely.

The Clock unfolds over just two days during World War II, making every moment feel borrowed.

It Happened One Night set the template for romantic comedies with sharp dialogue and reluctant attraction. *Pillow Talk* and *Barefoot in the Park* show how romance can be playful.

Some films carry romance on an epic scale. *Doctor Zhivago* places love against revolution and war, while

Roman Holiday and *Sunday in New York* proves that even a single perfect day can change everything. *An Affair to Remember* remains one of the genre's most influential films, shaping countless love stories that followed.

Later films brought a more reflective tone. *The Goodbye Girl* balances humor with emotional honesty, while *The Way We Were* confronts the idea that love alone does not always overcome differences. *Butterflies Are Free* offers a gentler, often forgotten look at independence and vulnerability.

Together, these films remind us that romance is not one thing. It can be fleeting or lifelong, joyful or painful, quiet or overwhelming. The best love stories don't promise perfection. This Valentine's Day, that may be the most romantic thing of all.

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Reservations required by Feb. 11
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DJ & Dancing after 9:00PM





Garrett Haring & Logan Bredemeier

F&M Bank Falls City celebrates two leadership promotions

F&M Bank Falls City is pleased to announce two promotions that reflect the bank's commitment to leadership development, customer service excellence, and long-term community investment.

Garrett Haring has been promoted from Loan Officer to Assistant Vice President / Loan Officer. In his expanded role, Haring will continue to provide lending services to customers while taking on additional leadership responsibilities. Since joining F&M Bank, Haring has been recognized for his strong work

ethic, customer-focused approach, and dedication to helping individuals and businesses achieve their financial goals.

"Garrett has consistently demonstrated professionalism, integrity, and a deep understanding of our customers' needs," said Derrick Leyden, President. "His promotion to Assistant Vice President is well earned and reflects his growing impact on our lending team and the Falls City community."

In addition, Logan Bredemeier has been promoted from Assistant Vice

President to Vice President. Bredemeier has played a key role in the bank's continued success through his leadership, industry knowledge, and commitment to both customers and colleagues.

As Vice President, he will continue to provide strategic guidance and support the bank's overall growth and mission.

"Logan's leadership and dedication to F&M Bank have made a lasting impression," said Derrick Leyden, President. "His promotion to Vice President recognizes the trust he has earned and the value he brings to our organization and customers every day."

F&M Bank Falls City congratulates both Garrett Haring and Logan Bredemeier on their promotions and looks forward to their continued contributions to the bank and the communities it serves.

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*Gold Bonus Offers are available for a limited time and may be canceled without notice. Promotion is available from January 1, 2026, to March 31, 2026. One Gold offer permitted per household, available for new Frontier Bank and Equity Bank households only, and subject to review and approval. A new Frontier Bank and Equity Bank household for the Gold Bonus Offer is defined as applicant(s) not linked as an owner to an open Frontier Bank or Equity Bank consumer checking, savings or Money Market account within the past 180 days. The incentive may be paid for opening both a new checking and savings account during the promotion period. Incentive amount will be directly deposited into the customer's qualifying checking account after approximately 45 days of account opening, assuming all qualifications are met. To qualify for offer, customer must (1) open and fund both a new checking and savings account no later than March 31, 2026, (2) maintain Frontier Bank or Equity Bank accounts in active and good standing at time of incentive payment, (3) receive a minimum of \$1000 in combined qualifying direct deposits into the new checking account within 45 days of account opening; (4) activate and use Frontier Bank or Equity Bank debit card within 45 days of account opening; and (5) When opening accounts online, enter "Gold" under "Enter Promotional Code." If customer opens account in-person, bring this offer to Equity Bank in Falls City, NE and mention code "Gold" offer at time of opening. Promotion not available to current employees and employee household members of Equity Bancshares, Inc. or its subsidiaries. Customer will be issued a 1099-INT form for tax value of the incentive amount. Minimum \$100 deposits may be required to open Frontier Bank and Equity Bank checking account. Member FDIC.

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This Irish sophomore guard hit double figures, had two steals and two rebounds in Sacred Heart's 69-48 win over D-V on December 15, 1995. Last Week: Brian Wardlow.

