

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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COMMUNITY EVENTS

ADVERTISED IN THIS WEEKS PAPER

February

13 FC Chamber Falls City Heart Hunt at participating Stores
14 FC Chamber Falls City Heart Hunt at participating Stores
16 RC Courthouse closed in observance of President's Day
18 Ash Sunday Service, noon at St. Thomas Episcopal Church
22 ZCBJ CZECH Hall Polka Party, Noon Potluck, Dance 1-4PM

March

1 FC FFA Alumni Scholarship Fundraiser Annual Farm Toy Show 9AM-3PM Prichard Auditorium



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Falls City announces new July 4th celebration honoring America's 250th anniversary

The Falls City Chamber & Main Street announces that a hot air balloon festival will not be held this year as the organization shifts focus toward an exciting new summer celebration. Since last fall, the Chamber & Main Street has been actively searching for new attractions to increase attendance and elevate the overall event experience for the community and visitors for the Hot Air Balloon Festival. Plans were underway to add an acrobatic plane performance and air show; however, logistical challenges ultimately prevented that attraction from being finalized in time for a festival this year.

Rather than scale back, The Falls City Chamber & Main Street chose to shift focus and resources towards a new community celebration. Organizers are excited to announce a brand-new 4th of July Celebration in partnership with the Falls City Area Jaycees and American Legion Post 102, commemorating America's 250th Anniversary in 2026. This once-in-a-generation milestone provides the perfect opportunity for Falls City to come together in a meaningful and memorable way.

(Please turn to Page 3)

Commissioners review contract with Marvin Planning Consultants

The Richardson County Board of Commissioners met on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, for a regularly scheduled meeting. All Board members answered the roll call.

Highway Superintendent Steve Darveau Jr. met with the Board and discussed road and bridge maintenance throughout the county. Darveau presented the Commissioners with a list of surplus or obsolete items that will be sold through Big Iron Auctions. The list included several vehicles, a loader, used shop doors, trailers, and more. He also informed the Board that the county did not get approved for the bridge-match program. The program funds counties to repair deficient bridges across the state by supplying 55% of the construction costs, up to \$500,000. The last time Richardson County received funding through the match program was 2022. Before that, Richardson County received funding in 2018 and 2021.

"When this came out, it was intended to help counties take care of smaller projects," said Darveau. "Well, everything we have now is now big."

Darveau also told the Commissioners that the cost to do a mastic overlay of all 10.5 miles of the "Dustless Highway" would be around \$275,000. The project would take between two and three days.

He also presented the Board with the costs of hauling rock, broken down by whether county employees or a contractor hauled it. The Board will review the numbers.

Sheriff Hardesty met with the Board and advised them that the

(Please turn to Page 3)



Jenny Dixon, owner of Close to Home Kennels and Husband, Joe winners of the Small Business of the Year Award.

Falls City Administrator Anthony Nussbaum to step down Feb. 20

Falls City Administrator Anthony Nussbaum has submitted his resignation, effective Feb. 20, citing personal and professional priorities.

In a letter dated Feb. 3 and addressed to Mayor Mark Harkendorff and members of the City Council, Nussbaum wrote, "After thoughtful reflection, I've made the difficult decision to step away from my

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Council approves Kirkendall to Airport Authority

The Falls City Council convened on Monday, February 2, 2026, at City Hall. Council members Leyden and Buckminster were absent from the roll call.

The Southeast Nebraska Land Bank submitted the 2025 update. The Land Bank was formed on August 7, 2023, between the Falls City and Verdon, and has since acquired, cleaned up, and sold properties that had been abandoned by the private market.

The update showed the Land Bank currently owns seven properties, all within Falls City.

The Board voted to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-100, amending the terms of office for the Council President and Acting President. The ordinance states that, in even-numbered years, the council will elect one of its own to serve as President of the Council for two years. The council will also choose one of its members to serve as Acting President for two years, coinciding with the term of the Council's President.

The Board also voted to extend the CDBG Downtown Revitalization Agreement from May 14, 2026, through May 14, 2027. At this time, four businesses have been awarded Community Development Block Grant funds. Of those, two have completed renovations, one has scheduled repairs, and the final is working to complete pre-construction requirements. The sidewalk improvement portion of the project was also noted in the packet, stating the design should be ready for the bidding process by Spring. Initially, engineering costs exceeded estimates, forcing the city to suspend the program. It was announced in late November that Falls City had received approval to amend the budget and scope of the project to permit the remaining Downtown Revitalization Funds to be moved toward sidewalk construction.

The Council voted in favor of approving Jonathan Kirkendall to the Airport Authority with the term ending in 2029.

Councilperson Kenny Killingsworth asked the Board to consider soliciting bids for trash service for city-owned property. After discussion, the Council agreed to bid out the trash service.

With no further items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned.



Joan E. Stice of Brown's Shoe Fit Co., 2025 Customer Service Award Winner.

Chamber Banquet a time to celebrate Falls City

in the right direction.

Executive Director Amber Holle thanked everyone in attendance, saying, "It's truly special to see this room filled with people who care deeply about Falls City—our businesses, our community, and our future."

Holle glowed when she mentioned the "growth." The Executive Director was happy to announce that 10 ribbon cuttings were held throughout 2025, noting that each came with a story of someone taking a chance and investing their time and money in the Falls City

(Please turn to Page 14)



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Falls City Administrator Anthony Nussbaum to step down Feb. 20

(Continued from Page 1)

current role and bring this chapter of my professional career to a close."

Nussbaum wrote that serving in public leadership had been "an honor," but said the demands of the position were no longer compatible with his family and long term goals. He wrote that the decision was made with family wellbeing and long term sustainability in mind.

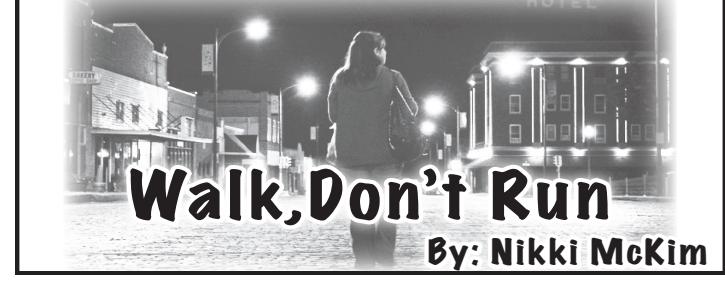
The resignation follows months of City Council discussion regarding proposed wage increases for non union city employees, including the city administrator position. In November, the council considered multiple wage proposals after confusion arose over which plan had been approved at a Nov. 19 special meeting. That issue was formally revisited Dec. 1, when the council voted to rescind the Nov. 19 action and adopt the Nov. 17 wage plan.

Under the Nov. 17 plan, the city administrator's wage schedule reflected lower increases than the proposal discussed earlier in November. The Dec. 1 vote finalized wages for non union employees for fiscal years 2026 through 2028.

In his resignation letter, Nussbaum wrote that he is open to "discussing interim contracted support, if helpful," if the position cannot be filled by his departure date.

Nussbaum was hired in 2022. During his tenure, he oversaw several infrastructure projects, including the wastewater force main replacement and the Downtown Electric Project.

His final day with the city will be Tuesday, Feb. 20.



I have been sick and out of the office for a week, stuck at home for almost 10 days. People online jokingly ask, "how much would it take for you to sit in the house for a week without leaving?" Apparently it would only take me about \$30 worth of NyQuill, Kleenex and Orange Juice.

Those ten days were the kind of stretch where the hours lose their shape and the days blend together. I talked to the dogs more than anyone else and watched far more Orange County Housewives than I care to admit. Shannon Beador haunted my very vivid daily naps.

When I walked into the house it was a cold January afternoon. When I came back out it was a warm February morning.

That sounds small, but it was jarring. I had been sealed off from everything. From meetings, deadlines, ringing phones and the steady routine of the office. Somewhere between my bed and the next episode, this mild winter quietly let go, for now. I realized how much I measure time by work; deadlines and print schedules and what day the paper goes out. When all of that is not my first thought, the world kept moving.

Being forced to slow down was.....uncomfortable.

But, I noticed how quiet a weekday can be. How things keep going. That the balls we juggle don't all come crashing down when we have to lie down for a bit.

Sometimes the biggest shift happens while you are standing still.

Enjoy the weather this week and I will get back to posting old photos on Facebook. Sorry for the hiatus!

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OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

All things Nebraska

What's with our obsession with license plates?

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner

What is it about Nebraskans and the slab of aluminum we bolt onto the back of our cars, the license plate?

For some reason, we Cornhuskers get emotional over the design of the state's plates. There are gripes aplenty.

"It's too boring." "You can't see the graphic." "It doesn't represent our state." "It doesn't inspire people to visit or live there."

Nebraskans' opinions about license plates are almost as strong as those about the second-string quarterback for the Huskers. Why isn't that guy starting?

A couple years back, a columnist with a website called "beautifulpublicdate.com" counted 8,331 different styles of license plates across the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Some commemorate military service, others sports teams or universities, still others special causes, like cancer prevention or wildlife conservation, or occupations, like farmer, nurse and railroader.

Dolly Parton is on a plate in Tennessee, and rocker Alice Cooper appears on an Arizona plate. There are plates that celebrate barbershop quartets and the National Speleological Society, those who study and protect caves. I looked it up.

In Nebraska, I counted 40 different styles of "specialty" or "organizational" plates, which, according to that 2023 column, puts our vertically challenged state among the five states with the fewest license plate styles.

The top place for plates back then was Maryland, with 989 different kinds. The biggest loser in the plates race was Hawaii, with only 14 styles of license plates. They must be too busy surfing out there to get worked up over this issue.

In the past, then State Sen. Ernie Chambers – the self-proclaimed "Defender of the Downtrodden" – would trot all over efforts to add new styles of license plates.

"Why waste our time with this," the well-muscled legislator would roar. "The purpose of these plates is for identification, not for advertising or marketing or awareness." (Some do confuse those video plate readers used on toll roads and by law enforcement.)

But, after a fellow senator, partly in jest, got a bill passed to establish a "mountain lion conservation" plate, Chambers ended up getting one himself. He was a defender of mountain lions, too, and the plates, back in 2019, generated more than \$200,000 for studies of the big cats.

Fast forward to today, and our State Legislature is on the job and seeking to address our poor plate performance.

One recently introduced bill would create a "Space Force" plate, commemorating our newest branch of the military, another would honor female military veterans. One proposal would establish license plates for each of the state's three state museums, while another would create a "Back the Blue" plate to support

law enforcement.

Nebraska already has a "Husker" license plate, but Blair Sen. Ben Hansen's bill would produce a "Big Red" plate, with a scarlet background and cream-colored numbers.

My favorite proposal is from Lincoln Sen. Eliot Bostar which would allow two, new "Iconic Design" plates: one black with white numbers, the other white with black numerals.

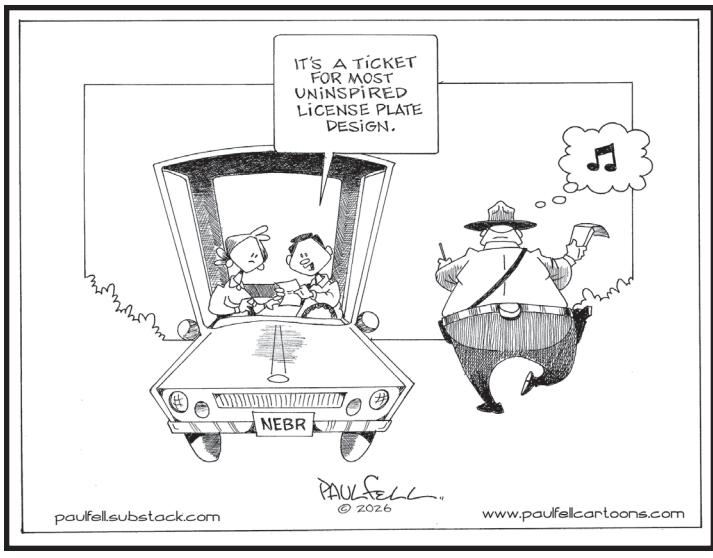
Full disclosure – I'm a purchaser of the mountain lion plate, mainly because it's more attractive than our white-and-blue standard issue plate, where you need a high-powered telescope and bright lights to make out the artistic, State Capitol-inspired background design.

But my favorite among a small license plate collection I have is a black Nebraska plate from 1956 that simply says, "The Beef State."

Black seems to still be beautiful. When Iowa created a plain-Jane "blackout" plate in 2019, it exploded in popularity. Now, more than 700,000 Iowans have the black plates, according to the Des Moines Register, which is more than 10 times any other specialty plate.

I don't know about you, but Iowa seems to have our number when it comes to football these days. Maybe that's true with license plates, too.

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 THAT

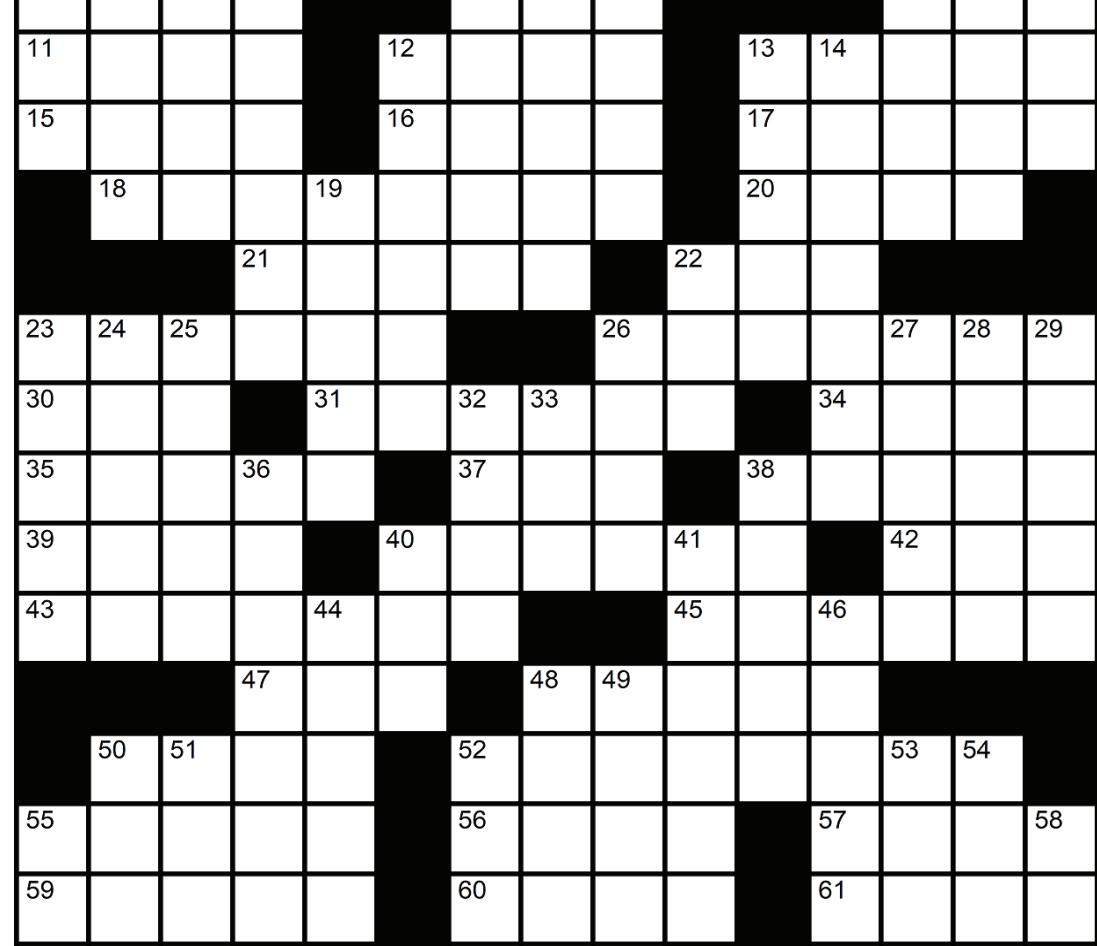
ACROSS

- Bungle
- Cause of a trip?
- Dao, alt. sp.
- Between marquess and viscount
- Super garb?
- Inlet in Norway
- Cogito ____ sum
- Long story
- Deprived of a limb
- *Half-time headliner
- Ice, dark or middle ____
- *Cindy Crawford wore "____ Dukes" in a Super Bowl ad
- Flightless bird
- *Last year's Super Bowl winners
- A cheap, run-down motel
- "____ the fields we go"
- Merry
- Actor's part
- Expensive
- Not him
- Cell phone bill item
- Civil Rights icon
- *David Tyree's ____ Catch
- Letters of distress
- What rule follower does
- Get cozy
- Greed, biblically-speaking
- Grieve for the dead
- Time period
- *Team with most Super Bowl appearances
- 3600 seconds, pl.
- Casino chip
- Salmon's output
- En ____, all together
- Like Piper of Hamelin
- Uber alternative
- ____ Robinson
- "Come Sail Away" band

DOWN

- Service charge
- Songbird
- Craving
- Marion Monroe, e.g.
- lazuli
- Hot
- 52 cards
- Hefty volume
- Greek god of war
1. e.g.
- Cherry red
- Post vitriol
- *Team with no Super Bowl appearances
- Looney Tunes duck
- Architectural add-on
- Meat of coconut
- Roman king of Judea
- Like certain whiskey
- Grow crop
- Brag
- Algorithmic language
- Ganders' companions
- Tom Jones's "____ a Lady"
- Rolodex abbr.
- *Superdome
- Wombs
- Lady lobster
- Hardened
- Follows wash
- Pig sounds
- Bouncing off the walls
- Weasel's aquatic cousin
- Fly like an eagle
- Boot-wearing kitty
- Mama Bear's husband
- To perfection (3 words)
- *Justin Timberlake's "____ Back," sung in Super Bowl show
- Expression of doubt
- *Steelers' number of Super Bowl trophies

CROSSWORD



From the Journal files

by Brian McKim

75 Years Ago, February 11, 1951 to February 17, 1951

Ivan Bieck was added to the Falls City Police Force. Included in his duties were checking the parking meters, which had recently been installed in the business district.

Lost & Found

Lost-Basketball near Sacred Heart playground. Johnnie Majerus. Reward. Phone 857. George Walter Hunker, Jr., Troop 392, Falls City, was awarded the Eagle Scout Award at a ceremony held at the First Christian Church.

Ray Novak, a veteran Falls City automobile dealer, was named to the "Better Dealer Hall of Fame" for outstanding dealer accomplishments by the Pontiac Division of General Motors. Ray had been selling Pontiac vehicles since 1929.

Glenn "Doc" Martin of Salem was in the hospital after suffering injuries he received when his truck skidded from icy pavement near the Howe corner. Martin suffered four broken ribs along with lesser injuries.

Chester Jones and Frank Morrill announced the sale of their controlling interest in the Morrill and James Bank at Hiawatha to O.E. Brown, Ralph Sears and Everett Stokes, all of Commerce, Oklahoma. Frank Morrill remained as chairman of the board of directors, and Jones stayed on as president.

The sale of the Glover Motors Automobile Firm to Tom Stuart Motors, Inc., was announced. Stuart had previously been the manager and chief technician for the Richardson County Dairy Breeders Association until 1949, when he joined Mr. Glover as the firm's sales manager.

Ed Hahn of Tecumseh was named the head of the Eastern Nebraska Public Power District. Eastern Nebraska supplied power to 6,947 farms and other rural establishments in Richardson, Pawnee, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Cass and Saunders counties.

Slightly under a million dollars' worth of oil had been produced in 10 years from a single farm in Barada. The wells, owned by the Rhinehart Herbster family, were reported to have produced over 786,000 barrels of oil during the past decade.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cole of Salem received word that their son, Cpl. Kenneth B. Cole was wounded in action in Korea. Cpl. Cole had been in frontline duty with the 8th Army.

The government in Washington, D.C., banned the manufacturing of whitewall tires to save rubber for defense.

For sale—Lespedeza seed. George Winslow, Rt. 1, Hiawatha, KS.

Honey Creek defeated Shubert 61-15 on the hardwood. Kenny Harmon led the Creekers with 14 points, while teammate Paul Bernhardt added 11.

50 Years Ago, February 11, 1976 to February 17, 1976

Paul Ivey was named the Falls City Wrestler of the Week. Ivey won his match at the Auburn Dual and also picked up a win over the top-rated Class C heavyweight at the Omaha Cathedral Invite.

Bill Bruhn of Dawson-Verdon High School was included in the 1975-76 edition of the Prep All-American Football Program Yearbook. Criteria for selection included athletic ability, stats, sportsmanship, and personal leadership.

It was being discussed that Kansas City could lose the Republican Convention, slated for later in the year, to Miami Beach, apparently due to a dispute over hotel space.

County residents earning a spot on the Peru State College Dean's Honor Roll included Denise Coupe, Michael Hall, Douglas Kirkendall, Trena O'Banion, Janis Fischer and Ed Harris, all of Falls City. Judy Standerford, Angela Stalder and Marlynn Connell from Humboldt and Gail Harmon, Ann Boring and Richard Vonderschmidt, all from Dawson, made the list.

Seven Falls City High School students were chosen for the Wesleyan Honor Choir and Band. The list included Debbie Werner, Scott Bahr, Patty Zinn, Steve Dunn, Tedd Gentry, Tom Miller and Doug Appleoff.

Marine PFC. William M. Keeling, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Keeling, was promoted to his present rank upon graduation from recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego.

A letter was received by Don Vanderheiden, superintendent of schools in Falls City. The letter stated that "Because of the willful disobedience to the orders issued on the Falls City Junior High building by George Chaney, dated 9-24-75 in accordance with State Statute 81-513, you are hereby notified that you have until 3-10-76 to reply or begin to comply with the above-referenced orders or on 3-10-76 this building shall no longer be occupied." Deputy Fire Marshal Dennis C. Hohbein signed it.

Valentine Royalty was crowned at the Eaglet's Nest Day Care Center. Debra Helmick and Roger Helmick were named Queen and King, while Davis Watson was named Prince, and Tiffany Anderson was named Princess.

Bill Bruhn wiped out the Richardson County single-game point record in a 109-49 win for the Jets over Barneston. Bruhn recorded 27 made field goals and scored 61 points, bettering the 52-point effort from Don Sailors, Sr., set while playing for Shubert in 1956-57.

Photographer Charles Smith announced he was opening his "Total Concept Studio" on the second floor of the former Richardson County Bank Building.

Five Tiger wrestlers earned a trip to the state meet. The list included Ed Kirkendall, Tom Burton, Carl Messner, Dwight Thompson, and Paul Ivey.

Lorenzo's Sporting Goods won the championship of the Falls City Women's Bowling Tournament at Center Lanes. Team members included Faye DiLorenzo, Peggy Dopp, Mary Schulenberg, Mary Coonce and Rita Bahr.

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents voted to increase football ticket prices from \$7.25 to \$8.25.

25 Years Ago, February 11, 2001 to February 17, 2001

Falls City High School sent a school-record nine wrestlers to the NSAA State Meet. The list included John Watlington, Ryan Williams, Ryan Eickhoff, Billy Pierce, Andy Dunn, Chris Vollmer, Shane Vollmer, Dana Dill and Jake Hardendorff.

Despite attempts to inform the public, the Falls City Police Department issued what must have been a record number of parking citations. Fifty tickets were issued to owners of parked cars during the recent snowstorms.

Falls City High School senior Lisa Palmer was selected as one of the state's 48 "Believers and Achievers" for 2000-2001.

Lindsey Borg of Falls City had one of the leading roles in Nebraska Wesleyan University's production of "Orpheus Descending."

A&G Restaurant advertised a Valentine's Special for two: 1-6oz and 1-12 oz top sirloin, potato, salad bar, and ice cream for \$16.45.

Journal Athletes of the Week included Erin Fritz and Matt Rumbaugh. Fritz scored a combined 35 points in two contests against Table Rock and Hamburg, while Rumbaugh exploded for 18 of his 20 points in the second half of a come-from-behind win over Nebraska City.

Humboldt-Table Rock junior heavyweight wrestler Justin Shupp placed second at the D-1 District and punched his ticket to the state meet. Shupp took his 24-4 record to Lincoln as the only qualifier for H-TR.

Mitch Sailors scored 17 points, going 3-for-3 from deep in the Tigers' win over Omaha Central Christian, 81-23. The win marked the first time FC had scored over 80 points since a double overtime game against Nebraska City in 1997.

The Southeast Consolidated School Board opted not to vote on the special levy limit override action when they met last. After some discussion, the members decided they didn't have enough information to decide the amount of the levy, the length of time it would be in effect or when to hold the election.

Valentine King and Queen of Hearts for 2001 at Falls City Care Center were Will and Helen Ruth Stockdale. The Runners-up were Matt Sikora and Ruth Lee.

Commissioners review contract with Marvin Planning Consultants

(Continued from Page 1)

Law Enforcement Center had 19 inmates on the books, with 17 of them housed in Falls City.

Hardesty asked the Board about adding the 2013 Dodge Caravan, which isn't used often, to the Big Iron sale. The Board approved the addition.

Hardesty also advised the Board that he had recently interviewed a deputy candidate from Bern, Kansas. If hired, the Board approved the individual to drive the patrol vehicle home. The candidate has recently bought a house in Bern and expressed a wish to remain there.

At 10:00 a.m., Commissioner Karas made a motion to enter into a closed meeting with special legal counsel Jerry Pigsley, County Attorney Samantha Scheitel, and County Clerk Mary Eickhoff to discuss pending litigation and protect the public interest. At 10:43, Karas made a motion to end the closed meeting and return to the regular agenda.

Upon returning to the regular meeting, the Board discussed the contract with Marvin Planning Consultants, regarding a comprehensive plan and zoning. Commissioner Karas advised the room that he had spoken to Keith Marvin of Marvin Planning. The firm will continue updating the county's comprehensive plan. At completion of the comprehensive plan, if the county chooses not to pursue zoning regulations, the contract will be terminated. County Attorney Scheitel advised the Board that her recommendation would be to amend the contract to state that the county may terminate the contract upon completion of the comprehensive plan.

CANDIDATE FILINGS

Several Richardson County residents have filed for local offices in advance of the 2026 primary election, according to records from the Richardson County Clerk's office.

Neal A. Kanel, of Dawson, filed as a nonpartisan candidate for the HTRS School Board in District 70. His filing indicates he is seeking a four-year term. The filing was received by the Richardson County Clerk's office on Jan. 29, 2026.

Robert M. Tichy, of Humboldt, filed as a Republican candidate for Richardson County surveyor. His filing shows he is seeking a four-year term. The filing was received by the Richardson County Clerk's office on Jan. 30, 2026.

Heath R. Finke, of Table Rock, filed as a nonpartisan candidate for the HTRS School Board in District 70. His filing indicates he is seeking a four-year term. The filing was received Jan. 30, 2026.

Cassandra A. Goff, of Salem, filed as a nonpartisan candidate for school board in District 56. Her filing shows she is seeking a four-year term and indicates incumbent status.

(Continued on Page 14)

maintaining offices and service facilities for the NE Department of Health and Human Services, effective June 30, 2028. A letter will be sent to the State, advising them that office space will remain available to rent or lease beginning July 1, 2028. Currently, the county does not require payment for the offices.

Claims were paid, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Falls City announces new July 4th celebration honoring America's 250th anniversary

(Continued from Page 1)

The main event will take place at the Jaycees Community Field south of Falls City and will feature Extreme Bull Riding presented by Double S Bull Company, followed by live music and a community fireworks display presented by the American Legion. Up to 36 bull riders are expected to compete for prize money, bringing high-energy action to the celebration. Family-friendly activities will also be part of the event, including mutton bustin' and other interactive opportunities designed to engage spectators of all ages.

Organizers are committed to making the celebration a true community-wide event and are encouraging local organizations, businesses, and groups to join in by hosting activities, promotions, or special events of their own throughout the day. New ideas and partnerships are welcome, and those interested in participating are encouraged to contact Amber at the Falls City Chamber & Main Street office at 402-245-4228 to discuss opportunities.

Sponsorship opportunities will be available for the event, and the Chamber & Main Street is also accepting private donations to help support the community fireworks display. Tax-deductible donations may be mailed to the Falls City Chamber & Main Street, 1705 Stone Street, Falls City, NE, with checks payable to the Falls City Chamber.

Additional details about the 4th of July Celebration will be announced in the coming weeks as planning continues for what promises to be an unforgettable way to honor America's 250th birthday in Falls City.

Richardson County Courthouse

will be **CLOSED** Mon., February 16 in observance of **President's Day**

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Sixty Million secured by Fischer to improve infrastructure

U.S. Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced she secured over \$60 million in funding to support critical infrastructure projects and firefighting capabilities across Nebraska.

The funding was included in the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Act – passed by Congress – which now heads to the President's desk to be signed into law.

"Making investments in our communities to upgrade our infrastructure is one of my core missions as the U.S. Senator for Nebraska," Fischer said. "And as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I've worked closely with our communities to make sure they get the resources they need. I'm proud to have secured \$60 million in this package – on its way to the President's desk – that will strengthen emergency services, enhance our airports, and improve infrastructure across Nebraska."

Local provisions secured by Fischer: Enhancing Nebraska's Airports: \$3.4 million to complete the parallel taxiway and improve the lighting system at the Nebraska City Airport and \$600,000 to relocate the Midfield Connector Taxiway at Brenner Field Airport in Falls City.

Samaritan's Purse celebrates 12.2 million Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts

Samaritan's Purse is celebrating a successful season after collecting 12.2 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts in 2025, sharing the love of Jesus with children in need around the world.

The milestone reflects the generosity of millions of shoebox packers helping to fill shoebox gifts with toys, school supplies and personal care items. Across the U.S., the project collected 10.9 million shoebox gifts in 2025. Combined with those collected from partnering countries, the ministry is now sending over 12.2 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide, including those whose lives were turned upside down by Hurricane Melissa, a category 5 storm that recently struck Jamaica.

"Each shoebox gift is an opportunity to remind boys and girls around the world that God loves them," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "We are so thankful for the generosity of every person who packed a shoebox. These gifts are bringing joy and the hope of the Gospel to children in need."

For many children, a shoebox gift is the first gift they have ever received. Each one is a tangible expression of God's love, offering hope to children facing war, poverty, disease and disaster. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 244 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

While local drop-off locations are closed until National Collection Week, Nov. 16 – 23, 2026, anyone can participate year-round by packing a shoebox gift online at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline. These shoebox gifts built online go to the hardest-to-reach areas in the world—whether deep jungles, city slums, or steep mountainsides.

Information about ways to get involved year-round can also be found at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

A

Card Shower is being held for Bill Knobbe who is celebrating his 90th birthday on February 19. Well wishes may be sent to: 301 W. 31st St. Falls City, NE 68355

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SOCIETY

DISTRICT 1 SENATOR BOB HALLSTROM'S NEWSLETTER

With just over one-third of the 2026 Legislative Session having been completed, the Appropriations Committee has issued its preliminary budget recommendations. Governor Pillen had previously issued his budget package including spending cuts and many cash fund transfers to balance the budget in light of the projected 471-million-dollar budget shortfall. The Appropriations Committee has "tabled" many of these proposals in its preliminary recommendations drawing down the budget deficit to approximately 344 million dollars. As a result, much work remains to be done during the remainder of the Legislative Session. I am receiving multiple phone calls and emails with concerns regarding various aspects of the Governor's budget proposal and welcome your continued input.

A major focus of my time in the Legislature has been to address the housing shortage which exists throughout the state, particularly in the rural areas of our state. During the past week, two of the bills which I introduced to enhance rural workforce housing and middle-income workforce housing were the subject of public hearings before the Revenue Committee and the Business and Labor Committee. LB1067 would increase the existing documentary stamp tax by \$1.50 to provide approximately 12 million dollars each year in funding for both rural workforce housing and middle-income workforce housing. Existing law requires a local matching contribution and these programs have provided a great return on investment for the state. With our current budget woes, LB1067 is designed to provide a reliable and continuing source of funding for our vital housing needs in the state. The Rural Workforce Housing and Middle-Income Housing programs are scheduled to expire in 2027 and 2029 respectively. LB819 would extend the effectiveness of both programs until 2039.

The Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee also conducted a public hearing on another one of the bills of which I have introduced, LB1138, which would create the Nebraska Protection of Seniors from Insurance Exploitation Act. The legislation would allow insurance companies to place a temporary hold on distributions in cases in which fraud is suspected. While losses related to fraudsters and scammers remains a significant problem, similar state laws relating to banking and securities transactions have served as a significant deterrent to losses which may have otherwise been sustained by senior and vulnerable adults.

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

Nebraska Cattlemen foundation accepting scholarship applications

Applications Due March 1, 2026

The Nebraska Cattlemen Research and Education Foundation (NCF) announced they are now accepting scholarship applications for the 2026-2027 academic year from qualified youth in Nebraska with an interest in the beef industry.

Applications are available on the Nebraska Cattlemen website. Questions can be referred to Ashley McClinton at AMcClinton@necattlemen.org or by calling the NCF office at (402) 475-2333.

All scholarship winners will be announced during the Nebraska Cattlemen Annual Midyear Meeting in June 2026.

The prestigious Nebraska Cattlemen Beef State Scholarship awards a \$10,000 scholarship to an outstanding college junior, senior or graduate-level student. Eligible students must be residents of Nebraska and be enrolled in a Nebraska college or university pursuing a beef industry-related degree. The scholarship will be awarded based on student need, Nebraska beef industry involvement including past achievements and future plans, and academics. Completed applications are due by Sunday, March 1, 2026. Incomplete applications and applications received after the due date will be disqualified. Finalists will be invited to a personal interview with the selection committee.

NCF offers numerous other \$1,000 minimum scholarships, awarded on the basis of academic achievement, beef industry involvement, and goals/quality of application. Completed applications are due by Sunday, March 1, 2026. Incomplete applications and applications received after the due date will be disqualified. Scholarship recipients must be a high school senior or college student, have a "C" or higher grade point average,

Hearts United for Animals supports groundbreaking research to protect shelter dogs

Hearts United for Animals (HUA) welcomed Peru State College (PSC) research student Sierrah Vermeer on Saturday, January 17, to conduct blood testing on shelter dogs as part of a regional canine health research initiative. Supported by Dr. Richard Clopton and Deb Clopton of PSC, along with Dr. Jon Kolman of Tecumseh Animal Clinic and Adams Animal Care, Vermeer collected samples from 35 HUA dogs to test for Trypanosoma cruzi, the parasite responsible for Chagas disease.

The samples will contribute to Vermeer's larger study examining approximately 100 dogs across multiple shelters in Southeast Nebraska. Results are expected to be presented and published beginning later this year and continuing through 2027, helping advance veterinary research and improve disease prevention efforts.

"This partnership allows us to support impactful research while prioritizing the health and well-being of the animals in our care," said Katie Shuster, Operations Manager at HUA. "We are grateful to Sierrah and the entire research team for including HUA in this important study."

"As a former science major, it was incredibly rewarding to contribute to work that connects my education with my current role," said Alissa Reeves, Animal Enrichment Specialist at HUA. "Our animals are our top priority, and this research helps strengthen disease detection and prevention."

HUA thanks Sierrah Vermeer, Dr. Richard Clopton, Deb Clopton, and Dr. Jon Kolman for their collaboration and commitment to advancing animal health through research and education.

For more information about Hearts United for Animals, visit www.hua.org or follow HUA on social media.

Clock ticking on sending in nominations for 2026 D.J.'s Hero Awards Scholarships

Nebraska High School Seniors Have Opportunity to Win \$12,000 College Scholarships.

Nominations are still being accepted for the 2026 D.J.'s Hero Awards Scholarships, but time is of the essence. Select Nebraska high school seniors who have overcome adversity will be chosen to receive the scholarships-named in honor of the late D.J. Sokol-for commitment to others and to their communities. Honorees will be selected by a panel of metro-area civic leaders.

This year, a minimum of 16 scholarships will be awarded. Each Hero Awards Scholarship winner will receive a \$12,000 scholarship toward their selected college or university. Honorees will be recognized at the D.J.'s Hero Awards Luncheon in Omaha on April 28.

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

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

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

Ash Wednesday Service

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Falls City Sacred Heart School first semester honor roll

Falls City Sacred Heart has announced their second quarter Green and White honor roll. Below are the students who have earned a spot on the list. Green (94-100%)

Seventh grade: Ashlyn Ahern, Kyla Bletscher, Marion Bristol, John Casey, Jack Delaney, Ben Geisendorf, Hadlee Georges, Mia Lemerond, Don Martineau, Reid Reschke, Olivia Santo, Gavin Shubert, Bryn Taft, McKenzie Tedman.

Eighth grade: Creighton Crofford, Chase Dishong, Halleigh Fritz, Raelynn Gruber, Peyton Hoffman, Kinlee Jackson, Kendall Johansen, Bernice Karike, Aven Kearney, Aliza Keller, Rhett Kimmi, Addy Kopf, Kaylie Lewis, Treyden Marx, Wyatt Nussbaum, JT Stice, Nataley Witt.

Ninth grade: Carlee Baily, Rachel Bauman, Ava Bletscher, Josie Bletscher, Lena Delaney, Jenna Geisendorf, Payten Georges, Kinley Lechtenberg, Bailey Lemerond, Kemper Sipple, Macy Taft, CeeJay Tisdel, Andrea Vollmer, Stella Waller, Kamrie Wilson, Cash Witt.

Tenth grade: Reid Wustrack.

Eleventh grade: Toby Baxter, Hallie Jones, Alex Nelson, Justice Smith, Emily Tubbs.

Twelfth grade: Elijah Canonicco, Copper Knobbe, Brenden Lemerond.

NDOT Aeronautics Division strengthens drone security through approved drone list

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) Aeronautics Division has published a list of approved drones in compliance with the Secure Drone Purchasing Act (LB660). Under this law, NDOT Aeronautics Division must create and maintain the list in order to meet state and federal cybersecurity standards. The list is published and maintained at dot.nebraska.gov/aeronautics/drones.

Starting Jan. 1, 2027, Nebraska State Agencies are prohibited from purchasing drones that have not been evaluated by the Division and included on the list of approved platforms. Political subdivisions are to comply to the extent practicable. The initial list of approved platforms includes 50 different models from 38 manufacturers. The list will be continuously updated as additional platforms are evaluated at the request of state agencies or political subdivisions. Drones included on the list must meet strict cybersecurity standards, such as data encryption and network security. The Secure Drone Purchasing

Act is part of a broader legislative effort to enhance government procurement processes and ensure the security of the state, its businesses, and its residents.

An unmanned aircraft system (UAS), commonly referred to as a drone, includes the aircraft and all supporting equipment needed for operation. The Nebraska Department of Transportation utilizes drones to improve safety, efficiency and decision-making across the state's transportation system by enabling safer data collection, reducing

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.

Hiawatha Community Theatre holding auditions for original radio play

Hiawatha Community Theatre announces auditions for Postcards from Home, an original one-hour radio play celebrating small-town life through heartfelt, humorous, and reflective storytelling.

Postcards from Home is designed for radio broadcast and digital platforms and will be produced as an audio-only theatrical experience. The production focuses on voice performance, storytelling, and sound design rather than traditional staging.

Auditions are open to all community members, and no prior acting experience is required. The production is seeking a variety of voices, ages, and backgrounds. All roles are open.

Audition Dates:
February 12-13, 500 Miami Street, Hiawatha, Kansas.

For more information or to sign up for auditions, please contact: Hiawatha Community Theatre at 785-288-6464

SCC announces Dean's List

The 2025 Fall Dean's List has been announced at Southeast Community College.

Those included on the list are:

Abby Lynn Dietrich, Dual Credit. Luke P Hunzeker, Welding Technology, of Du Bois.

Evan Dale Bailey, Diesel Ag Equipment Service Tech. Jacoby John K Bangert, Dual Credit. Gavin Mitchell Bauer, Dual Credit. Peyton Thomas Brown, Dual Credit. Chase K Brown, Welding Technology. Brock Patrick Caudle, Dual Credit. Emmett Nolan Daake, Business-General. Haiden Aaron Dorste, Dual Credit. Carlea Kathryn Dunkhas, Dual Credit. Matthew Zack Eaton, Dual Credit. Molly Jo Lynn Ebel, Dual Credit. Adisen Rose Fischer, Ag-

ricultural Teacher Education. Kemper Joshua Foster, John Deere Tech. Ella Ann Glathar, Dual Credit. Caden Rowe Handley, Diesel Ag Equipment Service Tech. Clayton L Keithley, Electrical Technician. Malori Lea Kuker, Dual Credit. Vaden D Leyden, Welding Technology. Ashton John Martin, Welding Technology. Addison May Miller, Dual Credit. Ethan Henry Morris, Dual Credit. Brock Joseph Niedfeldt, Dual Credit. Lathan Reese Richey, Dual Credit. Evie B Rue, Dual Credit. Adyson Dena'e Sayer, Dual Credit. Dayton J Snethen, Dual Credit. Jazlyn Alexandria Strecker, Dual Credit. Kadyn Andrew Strecker, Electrical Technician. Cole David Taft, Dual Credit. Elizabeth Renee Vice, Dual Credit. Jessica Rose Wertenberger, Respiratory Care. Daycee Witt, Dual Credit. Gabi Renee Young, Dual Credit, all of Falls City.

Mason T Goltz, Dual Credit. Aubrey Paige Kappustka, Dual Credit. Grant Michael Kobza, Dual Credit of Rulo.

Colin Jay Menold, Agriculture Management & Production, of Sabetha, KS.

Derek J Helmick, Diesel Ag Equipment Service Tech. Bowdy Lee Jones, Dual Credit, of Salem.

Addison Faye Hestermann, Practical Nursing. Joseph M Tyler, Computer Information Technology-Cybersecurity of Table Rock.

Abby Lynn Fee, Practical Nursing of White Cloud, KS.

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Top-seeded Lady Irish place second at Pioneer Conference Tourney

The Lady Irish cruised in the opening round of the Pioneer Conference Tournament, easily getting past eighth-seeded Diller-Odell, 49-23, on Tuesday at Lourdes Central High School.

The Irish raced to an 11-0 lead on Tuesday before the Griffins broke through with a pair of free throws with 1:16 remaining in the first. A three by Ryann Westengaard closed the scoring and put SH in front 14-2 at the end of the first.

With 6:30 remaining in the half, Westengaard sank her second triple, putting the Irish ahead 17-7. A pair of threes from Bailey Lemerond and one from Daycee Witt sent the Irish into the locker room with a 28-7 lead.

Sacred Heart continued to pull away in the third, going up 39-7 with 3:19 to play in the period. The Irish led 41-14 with eight minutes to go.

SH got 37% from the floor, including a 10-for-32 effort from deep.

Avery Santo led SH with 13 points and two steals, while Lemerond added nine



points and four assists. Hallie Jones led the Irish with eight rebounds.

SH Scoring: Georges 6, Santo 13, Westengaard 8, Witt 8, Lemerond 9, Jones 5.

D-O Scoring: Miller 3, Dendinger 6, McKinney 7, Meyerle 4, Novotny 3.

The win set up a contest against the 9-10 EMF Bobcats. The Irish trailed 8-13 after the first quarter, but back-to-back threes by Lemerond and Santo gave the Irish a 17-16 lead early in the second quarter. The Bobcats responded with two consecutive triples of their own to take a 22-17 lead over the Irish with 5:30 to play in the half. Treys by Witt and Lemerond helped the Irish vault to a 31-26 halftime lead.

EMF scored the first five points of the second half to tie the game at 31. Santo and Witt each drained long-range shots, putting the Irish in front 39-36. However, the Bobcats scored the final five points of the period to

lead 41-39 heading into the fourth.

The Irish got threes from Santo and Lemerond in the fourth and hit 3-of-4 free throws in the final 15 seconds to secure a 54-50 win, sending the Irish to the championship.

EMF outshot SH 39% to 35%, but the Irish forced 12 turnovers while committing only six. Santo again led the way with 20 points, going 6-of-14 from deep. Witt added 10 points and eight assists, while Alise Reschke had seven rebounds, seven assists and two steals.

SH Scoring: Santo 20, Westengaard 6, Witt 10, Lemerond 11, Jones 7.

EMF Scoring: Filipi 4, Bresson 15, Tuttle 16, Johnson 8, R. Tuttle 5, Meints 2.

The Irish faced Johnson-Brock for the second time in a week for the championship on Saturday at Johnson. The Lady Eagles got four threes in the first quarter and needed all of them as they led the Irish 18-13 after one.

Free throws by Jones and an offensive rebound and score by Kemper Sipple cut the Eagle advantage to 17-20. The Irish trailed by six, but a runner by Santo with three seconds remaining made it 21-25 at the half.

The Irish trailed by six with 5:22 left in the third, but a three from the wing by Lemerond made it 28-31. Twice, the Irish got within one point, but each time J-B answered. The Eagles closed out the third quarter with two threes, the last banked in from 25 feet as the clock expired, giving J-B a 41-35 lead.

The Eagles set the tone to open the fourth, hitting their seventh three-pointer to go up 44-35. The Irish closed the gap to four with forty seconds to play after

a steal and layup by Santo. Unfortunately, the Eagles outscored SH 5-1 from that point on, upsetting the Irish 53-45.

The Irish shot 27% from the floor, making 13-of-48. J-B wasn't much better, going 17-of-53 for 32%. The Eagles outrebounded SH 43-27, including a 14-6 edge on the offensive glass. The Irish committed just five turnovers while forcing 10. Thirty-four total fouls were called in the contest, resulting in 42 combined free throws.

Santo, Witt, Lemerond and Jones all scored 10 points. Santo had a team-best six rebounds and four steals.

SH Scoring: Santo 10, Lemerond 10, Witt 10, Jones 10, Westengaard 1, Reschke 2, Sipple 2.

J-B Scoring: Knippelmeyer 11, Stutheit 2, Pelican 4, Gravatt 5, Behrends 14, Vice 17.

The loss dropped Sacred Heart to 14-7, while Johnson-Brock improved to 16-6.

Tigers drop both contests in ECNC Tourney

with a running clock.

The swarming Bulldog defense made it tough for FC to find buckets all night. The first made bucket of the second half for FC came on an offensive rebound and putback by Brock Caudle, making it 58-13 with 2:30 to play in the third. A hoop by Bowdy Jones with two seconds remaining cut the Auburn lead to 62-15 heading into the fourth.

Bangert hit a runner with just under six minutes remaining, and a turnaround jumper by Caudle from the foul line at the 4:30 mark accounted for all the scoring for FC.

It was 13-0 before Jacoby Bangert sank a pair of free throws to put FC on the board with 3:57 to go in the first. Paxton Armbruster ended a 10-0 Bulldog run by making 1-of-2 at the foul line, making it 23-3 with 1:24 to play in the first.

The first made bucket of the game came on a drive by Armbruster with 2:55 to play in the half as Falls City trailed 43-7. One minute later, Armbruster worked his magic in the paint, making it 43-9.

Another acrobatic shot off the glass with 1:20 to play made it six straight for the guard and put the score at 46-11. Auburn scored the final four points of the half and made it 50-11 at the break.

With the Orange and Black trailing by 39 entering the third quarter, the second half was played

The Tigers shot 26% from the field, making 7-27 attempts, while Auburn made 28/53 tries for 53%. As has been the case against the Bulldogs in recent years, FC turned the ball over too many times (26), while forcing just four. The FC turnovers led to 32 points for Auburn.

The high scorer for FC was Armbruster, who finished 3-of-10 for seven points. Bangert finished with five points and four rebounds, while Caudle added five points and two boards. Brayan Palmer finished 7-of-10 from the field for 14 points. The 6'6 sophomore added six rebounds, five steals and three blocked shots. Ryan Guenther added 14 points and four steals.

FC Scoring: Armbruster 7, Bangert 5, Caudle 5, Jones 2.

Bulldog Scoring: Guenther 14, Lavigne 11, Wenzl 10, Rash 8, Halama 4, Palmer 14, Keeling 3, Swanson 6, Hanley 1.

The loss sent FC to Murdock to face Palmyra (5-12) on Thursday. The Panthers fell to Mead, 49-53, in first-round action on Monday at Mead High School.

On Thursday, FC made a late push to end the first quarter to cut the lead Panther lead to 8-5. However, Palmyra scored the final three points of the period to put FC behind 11-5 at the end of one.

The Panthers put a little cushion between themselves and FC in the second, outscoring Falls City 13-10 to make it 24-15 at the half.

Palmyra scored the first eight points of the second half, before Morris drove to the rim for a bucket to make it 32-17 with five minutes to go in the third. Two possessions later, Armbruster dilled a three from the corner, but Palmyra closed the quarter on a 10-0 run and led 46-20 with one period remaining.

The fourth quarter was the most productive for FC offensively, but they couldn't make up enough ground, falling 65-42.

FC shot well, hitting 44% of their shots, but turned the ball over 24 times, leading to 20 points for Palmyra.

Armbruster shot 7-of-12 from the field for a team-best 19 points. Morris went 3-of-7 for six points and added four rebounds and two assists. Leyden led the team with six rebounds, and Jones and Caudle each had two steals.

FC Scoring: Armbruster 19, Leyden 4, Morris 6, Bangert 2, Simpson 2, Caudle 2, Davis 7.

Panther Scoring: Martin 4, Vasa 2, Boyte 3, Kassebaum 12, Hippen 20, Mayo 9, Hubbard 12, Dvorak 3.

FC (3-15) played at Diller-Odell (8-9) on Tuesday and will host HTRS (9-10) on Thursday.

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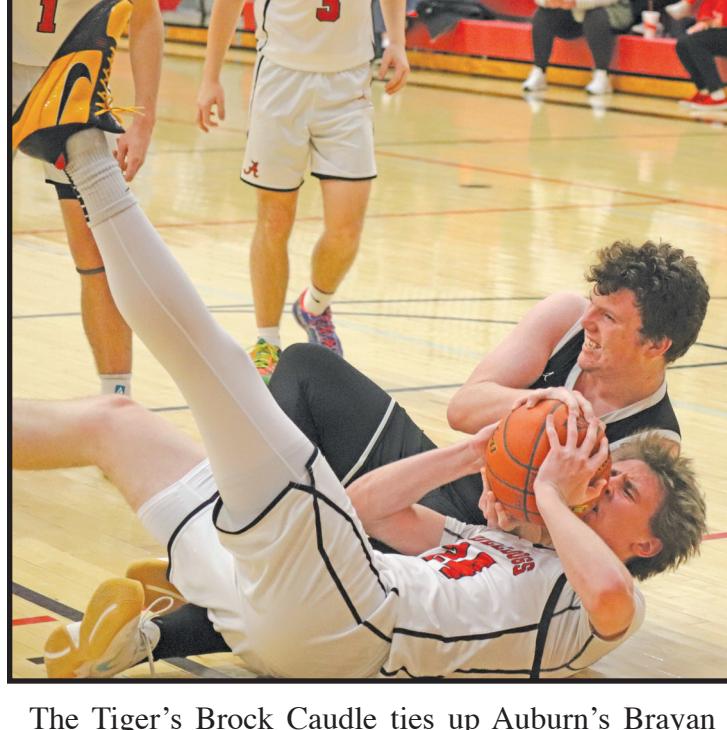
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The Tiger's Brock Caudle ties up Auburn's Brayan Palmer in the first half of action on Monday in Auburn.

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Goltz hits 1,000th career game coached as Irish place third at Pioneer Conference

The first round of the Pioneer Conference Basketball Tourney looked more like Pinnacle Bank Arena than Lourdes Central High School. The third-seeded Irish easily defeated the sixth-seeded Lewiston Tigers, 70-28, on Tuesday afternoon. The Irish offense clicked early, drawing comparisons to the Big Red given the number of three-pointers attempted and made. The Irish shot 15 from beyond the arc in the opening eight minutes, sinking six.

Bo Fletcher opened the scoring with a corner triple to put SH in front for good, 3-0. Thirty seconds later, Fletcher sank a three from the opposite corner, and the Irish led 6-2 with just one minute elapsed. Cole Taft had a pair from deep and Brenden Lemerond and JJ Lancaster each sank one as the Irish raced to a 23-13 lead after one quarter.

Sacred Heart, the seventh-ranked team in Class D-2, delivered the knockout blow in the second quarter, outscoring Lewiston 17-0 to make it 40-13 at intermission.

The Irish continued to dominate as the game progressed, outscoring the Tigers 30-15 in the second half, rolling to the 42-point win.

The Irish offense shot 44% from the field, including 13-for-31 from beyond the arc. Meanwhile, the Tigers went just 10-of-39 from the field (26%), including 3-of-14 from beyond the arc.

The Irish held a 35-24 rebounding edge and forced 19 turnovers while committing only six. Taft and Lemerond each hit four threes and scored 16 points, while Fletcher added 17 points on 7-of-11 shooting. Noah Howard had a team-best nine rebounds, followed by Taft with seven.



Fletcher added two blocked shots and five assists, while Lem contributed four steals.

SH Scoring: Taft 16, Fletcher 17, Sipple 4, Lemerond 16, Lancaster 3, Baxter 4, T. Witt 2, Howard 6, Knobbe 2.

Lewiston Scoring: Weyers 4, Rule 1, Heideman 4, Jonssen 16, Wagner 3.

The win set up a rematch against the Johnson-Brock Eagles. One week earlier, the Irish upset the Eagles 54-50 in Falls City. Thursday's contest in Johnson didn't go as well. The Eagles opened with an 18-0 run, effectively sealing the win. Sacred Heart's first and only points of the first quarter came on a deep three from Lemerond with 26 seconds to play. The Irish struggled again in the second quarter to get good looks against the swarming Eagle defense, as they were outscored 19-5 and trailed 37-8 at the

half. Lemerond had three first-half points, and Taft added five to account for all the Irish scoring. The Irish offense found life in the second half, outscoring J-B 25-24, but the damage had already been done as SH fell 61-33.

The win improved Johnson-Brock to 17-3, while SH fell to 9-8.

Saturday marked a milestone for Coach Doug Goltz as the Irish played Lourdes Central for third place in the Pioneer Conference. The contest was Goltz's 1,000th career basketball game, and it was only fitting to earn the win against an old foe. The Knights battled, but Sacred Heart proved too much, and the Irish moved to 10-8 with a 59-49 win.

The Irish led 32-30 at the half, but Lourdes scored nine straight to open the third quarter. After an Irish timeout, SH scored 11 straight to end the quarter, taking a 43-39 lead.

SH took its biggest lead of the half when Lemerond sank a pull-up jumper with 6:30 to play, giving SH a 45-39 lead. Later in the period, freshman Noah Howard hit a big jumper, followed by six straight from Fletcher to seal the Irish win. The Irish outscored Lourdes 27-10 in the final 12:22 of action.

Taft led the Irish with 16 points and nine rebounds, while Lemerond added 14 points, ten steals, and two assists. SH forced 23 turnovers while committing only seven.

SH Scoring: Taft 16, Fletcher 10, Sipple 4, Lemerond 14, Lancaster 3, Clow 4, Howard 6.

Lourdes Scoring: Poppleton 1, Ebmeier 13, V. Poppleton 7, Bennett 5, Krog 16, Kreifels 7.

With the win, Goltz now has an impressive 773 wins against just 227 losses. The 10-8 Irish played 3-13 Pawnee City on Monday, will be at Weeping Water (1-18) on Thursday, and will host Lewiston (8-10) on Friday.

Tigers pin down fifth conference title

The Falls City boys' wrestlers won an unprecedented fifth consecutive ECNC wrestling title on Friday at Palmyra High School. The Orange and Black went 6-0 in duals to wrap up the title. Along the way, senior 150-pound grappler Orion Cattrell went 6-0 and secured his 100th career win.

The Tigers received a first-round bye, then defeated JCC 49-22, Cedar Bluffs 66-6, Palmyra 65-12, Auburn 42-30, Weeping Water 42-38, and Freeman 59-12.

Against JCC, Cade Caudle won by fall over Kaster at 1:35. At 150, Cattrell pinned Burki late (5:53) for the win. Zane Elms won an MD (16-4) over Toohey, and Ashton Martin pinned Pardo at 1:19 at 165. At 190, Brantly Sells earned a 9-6 decision over Nichols, and Jayden Mirelez pinned Klein at :55.

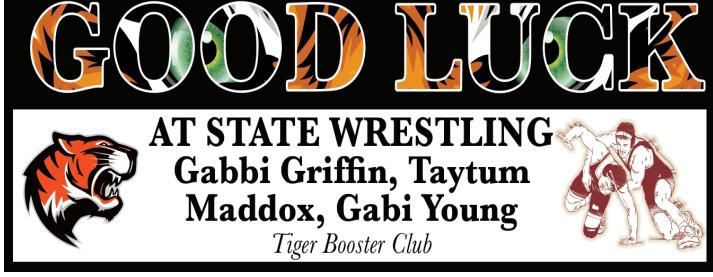
In round three against Cedar Bluffs, Caudle pinned Popken at 1:46 to win the 138 division. Cattrell wasted no time in his match, pinning Sawyer Marshall in 44 seconds for win number 100 of his career. Chase Simpson won by fall over Johnstone at 3:13 at 285.

In the fourth round against Palmyra, Caden Collier pinned Johnson for the win in just 42 seconds. Martin earned a quick win, pinning Lefgren in 20 seconds. Sells won a TF (19-4) over Smith, and Mirelez pinned Dowding in 28 seconds. Simpson pinned Johnson to earn the win in 3:31.

Against the Bulldogs, all of FC's wins came by forfeit.

In round six against Weeping Water, Cattrell won by fall over McGill at 3:28. At 175, Martin pinned Flanagan at 1:23, and Sells earned a quick win, pinning Willys at :37. At 215, Mirelez pinned Gerloff at 1:04, and Simpson made quick work of Bergmann, getting the fall at :35. At 106, Dayton Snethen pinned Bradbury in just forty seconds for the win, and Tristan Randall had a quick match at 132, pinning Roy in 21 seconds.

In the final round against Freeman, Martin earned a win by fall over Behrens at 3:56. Sells pinned Garton at :33, and Simpson earned a 44-second win over Fricke. At 132, Randall scored a TF (15-0) over Lempka.



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FALLS CITY

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

Don Shafer, Moderator - 402-245-5209

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

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

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

Corner Stone Baptist Church (N. Highway 73 Turn at Blue Valley Behavioral Health) Sunday School Bible Hour, 9:30am; Worship, 10:30am & 6:30pm, Wednesday: Bible Study & Prayer Time, 7pm; Lively Stone Kids Klub K-6. Pastor Mike Dunleavy - 402-245-4245

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

Church Of Christ (2701 Barada St.) Worship, 10:30am; Bible Study (All Ages), 9:30am. Wednesday Bible Study, 6:00pm. Josh Maxwell, Preacher - 402-245-7148

First United Methodist Church (1700 Harlan St.), Worship, 11:00am (Also Broadcast KTNC 1230am / 107.1fm) First Sun. fellowship 10:30; Adult Bible Study: 9:45AM. fumc@scentco.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/fallsicitycooperativeministry 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/spfpc 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/fallsicitycooperativeministry. Pastor, Grant Speece 402-980-5960 cell 245-2398 office

RULO

Immaculate Conception (Rulo) Sun. Confessions, 8:00AM; Mass, 8:30AM. Daily Mass scheduled: 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) Williamsburg, 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



Lady Tigers sending three to state meet

The Falls City Lady Tiger wrestling team competed at the Class B-2 District Meet at Columbus Lakeview on Friday, February 6, and Saturday, February 7, 2026.

The Lady Tigers had a successful two-day event, scoring 94 points and finishing fourth among 37 teams. Battle Creek won the district title with 163 points, Lakeview was second with 142, and Ord placed third with 114.

Two Tigers will make a return trip to the show in Omaha, along with one first-time qualifier.

Taytum Maddox will make a return trip to Omaha at 155. Maddox ended her two days with a 4-0 record and a district title. Also qualifying was Gabi Young at 140. Young finished her tourney at 3-2 and placed fourth. The final qualifier was Gabbi Griffin, who ended her two days at 3-1 and placed third at 235.

In the first round at 155, Maddox dominated Reiman of Auburn, earning the pin just forty-five seconds into the match. Maddox continued her dominance in round two, earning the win by fall at 1:28 over Godoy of Overton. In the semifinals, Maddox earned a 12-5 decision over Koehler of Battle Creek, advancing to the championship. Maddox earned her gold medal with a pin of Ellie Scoville of Sumner-Eddyville-Miller at 4:22.

At 235, Griffin defeated Bartling of Summerland by fall at :58. In the next round, Griffin lost to Boettcher of Ord by fall at 1:04. Griffin then battled back to defeat Meckel of Central City by fall at :48. In the third-place match, Griffin defeated Bartling for a second time, this time by fall at :47, to win the bronze.

Gabi Young defeated Arroyo of Summerland in the first round by fall at 1:19. Young moved to 2-0 on Friday with a 10-4 decision over Tayla Jones of Auburn. In the semifinals, Young dropped her match to Hinz of Superior by fall at 3:55. With the loss, Young had to battle back in the consolation semifinals. Young scored three points for a takedown in the first period and three more for a takedown in the second period, then held on for the 6-4 decision over Carstensen of Aurora. Gabi ran into a tough opponent in the third-place match, falling to Recino of Lakeview by fall at :29.

At 100 pounds, Keylee Olberding ended her season 2-2. Audrey Scrivens went 1-2 at 105, Hallie Young finished 2-2 at 115, and Indea Holman was 0-2 at 120. Ashlyn Alexander finished 3-2 at 125 over two days, while Peyton Weddle also went 3-2 at 130. At 135, Leah Goff finished 2-2, and Emma Gilkerson finished 2-2 at 190 pounds.

The 2026 NSAA State Wrestling Championships will be held Tuesday, February 17, and Wednesday, February 18, at CHI Health Center Arena in Omaha.

Lady Tigers struggle to find points during ECNC

First-quarter woes continued for the Lady Tigers on Tuesday night in the opening round of the ECNC Basketball Tournament against the Class C-2 seventh-ranked Elmwood-Murdock Lady Knights. The 53-22 win improved Elmwood-Murdock to 16-2, while the Tigers fell to 5-14.

The Tigers have struggled out of the gate often this season, and on Tuesday, the eighth-seeded Tigers were outscored by the top-seeded Knights, 23-0 in the first quarter.

Trailing 28-0 with five and a half minutes left in the second quarter, Falls City's Tessa Gossman drilled a three from the wing to get the Tigers on the scoreboard. With forty seconds remaining, Carlea Dunkhas found Kaylin Rhodd on the block for a bucket, making it 35-5. As time expired in the half, Rhodd found an open Bristol Titus, making the score 37-7 at intermission.

The Lady Knights outscored FC 13-4 in the third, making it 50-11 heading into the final period. FC didn't cash in; they battled, outscoring E-M 11-3 in the final eight minutes to make the final score 53-22.

FC ended the game shooting 8/31, while Elmwood-Murdock hit 23/57. The Tigers turned the ball over 20 times, leading to 25 points for the Knights. FC was also outscored 34-6 in the paint.

Bryonna Glathar led FC with seven points on 2-of-7 shooting. Gossman went 2-of-4 from the field for six points, and Titus scored four points and grabbed five rebounds.

FC Scoring: Dunkhas 1, Pierce 2, Gossman 6, Glathar 7, Titus 4, Rhodd 2.

Knights Scoring: Zierott 3, Backenmeyer 17, Mans 5, Bornemeier 3, Haertel 10, Goudie 10, Fleischman 5.

On Friday at Palmyra in the ECNC consolation round, FC fell on hard times, narrowly avoiding a shutout in a 58-3 loss to the Panthers.

FC struggled early, getting outscored 11-0 in the first quarter. With 2:13 remaining in the half and trailing 24-0, Bryonna Glathar drove to the hoop and hit the bucket, giving the Tigers their only points of the half. Palmyra went scoreless the rest of the way but led 24-2 at the break.

Palmyra scored the first 14 points of the second half, but Kaylin Rhodd ended the run with a free throw at the 4:20 mark, making it 38-3. The free throw proved to be the final points of the game for FC, as they were outscored 20-0 in the final quarter and half.

The loss dropped FC to 5-15, while Palmyra improved to 9-9.

FC shot just 7% from the field, making 1 of 15 shot attempts. The Tigers turned the ball over 41 times, leading to 48 Panther points.

Glathar went 1-of-6 from the floor for two points, while Rhodd was 1-of-2 at the foul line for one point. Johansen, Rhodd and Glathar each had four rebounds, and Dunkhas

Three ways to take charge of your health this Heart Month

American Heart Association's Nation of Lifesavers initiative calls on individuals: "You are the first responder until help arrives"

More than 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States each year¹. This February, during American Heart Month, the American Heart Association is calling on everyday citizens to be agents of change by stepping in as the first responder until professional help arrives.

Nine out of every 10 people who experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital die, in part because they do not receive immediate CPR more than half of the time². In rural areas, where EMS response times can be longer, having individuals respond quickly with CPR and using an AED if one is available is key to improving outcomes from cardiac arrest. The American Heart Association, devoted to changing the future to a world of healthier lives for all, envisions communities where people don't wait for help— they become it.

The Association's Nation of Lifesavers initiative offers suggestions on how to take charge of your personal health and inspire a Nation of Lifesavers this American Heart Month:

1. Learn CPR and join the Nation of LifesaversTM. In Nebraska, individuals and families can take an online or in-person CPR course, watch a 90-second video to learn Hands-Only CPR for adults or watch this video to learn how to save an infant or child using CPR with breaths. To learn more about CPR, including new CPR guidelines published in Circulation this fall, visit heart.org/nation.

2. Make a plan. During a cardiac emergency, a well-de-

veloped plan could make all the difference. Don't wait for help, become it. Remember, you are the first responder until professional help arrives. A cardiac emergency response plan or (CERP) establishes specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest in any setting – be it a school, community organization, workplace or sports facility. Learn more about CERPs and find free resources at heart.org/cerp.

3. Get Local. Join a local Heart Walk. Strong communities are built by preparedness. So check in. Lace up. Whether it's joining a Heart Walk team, taking a CPR class or making sure your office, school or church has a plan, now is the time to take charge of your own health and the health of your community.

Cardiac arrest can affect anyone, anywhere - at the gym, in the grocery store, or during a child's soccer game. However, bystanders only intervene less than half of the time, often due to uncertainty or lack of training. Yet CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple a person's chance of surviving sudden cardiac arrest.³

"In an emergency, bystanders don't need medical training to save a life. All you need is knowledge, courage, and the willingness to act," said Chris Shives, Executive Director, American Heart Association – Nebraska. "I've learned through the American Heart Association that cardiac arrest can happen to anyone. But it's also true that anyone can step up and save a life, whether it's a stranger or someone they love, by learning CPR and taking action in an emergency."

The goal of the Association's Nation of Lifesavers initiative is to turn bystanders into lifesavers, so that in the face of a cardiac emergency anyone, anywhere is prepared and empowered to become a vital link in the chain of survival and provide CPR.

"I see it all the time. In a real emergency, the actual first responder often isn't someone in uniform, it's often a coworker or a family member," said Shives. "Learning CPR is really a civic duty. Ordinary people have the extraordinary power to make a difference in someone's life. Being prepared can turn the chaos into calm and give that person the best chance of survival."

The Association leads global efforts in public awareness, education and policy change, while also serving as the scientific authority that develops the official CPR and emergency cardiovascular care guidelines used by other CPR and first aid training providers in the U.S. and in over 90 countries worldwide.

To join the Nation of Lifesavers and continue to raise awareness during American Heart Month, visit heart.org/nation. Nation of Lifesavers is nationally sponsored by Walgreens.

CPR Guide

CPR Guide

HANDS-ONLY CPR VS. CPR WITH BREATHS

HANDS-ONLY CPR

CALL 911

PUSH HARD AND FAST IN THE CENTER OF THE CHEST

Public awareness campaign to get more people to act when they encounter a cardiac arrest. Starting point to get more people to learn CPR.

Will not meet requirements if you need CPR for your job.

CPR TRAINING

COMPRESSIONS + BREATHS

Offered through online or in-person classes. Provides more in-depth training with an instructor, including CPR with breaths and choking relief.

Often necessary for people who need CPR training for work.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Chest compressions are good for the first few minutes someone is in cardiac arrest pushing remaining oxygen through body to keep vital organs alive. Buys time until someone with more skills can provide help.

CPR with breaths combines chest compressions and breaths, providing additional oxygen to circulate throughout the body.

WHO CAN I USE IT ON?

Adult and teens.

Anyone who is in cardiac arrest, including: adults and teens, infants and children, pregnant women and any victims of drowning, drug overdose, collapse due to breathing problems or prolonged cardiac arrest.

HOW DO I LEARN?

Go to heart.org/handsonlycpr to learn the steps of Hands-Only CPR.

Go to heart.org/cpr and click on FIND A COURSE to find a class online or near you.

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Expressions of gratitude

The family of Ed O'Grady would like to thank our community, family, and friends for the many cards, memorials, delicious food, beautiful flowers and generous donations given in Ed's honor. Your kindness, prayers and support during this difficult time have meant more to us than words can express. We offer a special thanks to Fr. Meyenburg and Fr. Redinger for their many visits and for the compassion and personal care they shared with Ed and our family, as well as Dorr & Clark. A sincere thank you to the wonderful ladies of the Sunshine Club, they are so appreciated.

added three steals.

FC Scoring: Glathar 2, Rhodd 1.

Palmyra Scoring: Dorn 2, Green 13, Badertscher 5, Peterson 10, Green 3, Hillman 2, X. Badertscher 13, Schroeder 2, Johnson 8.

The Tigers played at 8-10 Diller-Odell on Tuesday, will host HTRS on Thursday, and will play at JCC for the regular-season finale on Friday, February 13, 2026.

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Plains to Mountains: Ex-Husker, 2-time Olympic medalist pushing for USA bobsledding glory in Italy

By Greg Echlin
Flatwater Free Press

Shelby native Curt Tomasevicz fulfilled his dream of playing football for the Nebraska Cornhuskers, where he was a scrappy special teamer. But since then, his life and career have taken a circuitous route — a twisting, turning path kind of like a bobsled course.

Tomasevicz, who grew up in a 700-person town hundreds of miles from the nearest mountain, is now on the USA Bobsledding leadership team as director of sport performance. And he's currently at the Winter Olympics in Italy.

The 45-year-old has the credentials of an Olympics legend. Tomasevicz is a two-time Olympic medalist in bobsledding, including a gold medal he won in 2010 — the first gold for the USA in the sport since 1948 — and a nine-time medalist on the USA bobsledding team in world championship competition. Last year, he was inducted into the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Hall of Fame.

When he's home in Lincoln, Tomasevicz is a performance research analyst for the Husker athletic department and an assistant engineering professor. There, through his second job with USA Bobsledding, he's constantly on the lookout for the next athlete who may be suited to adapt to bobsledding.

Tomasevicz said he gets the question all the time: How did a former Husker football player become a three-time Olympian in bobsledding?

"It's kind of funny. People say, 'I remember when you played at Nebraska.' I'm like, 'I don't think you do,'" Tomasevicz says, laughing.

Tomasevicz played his first two seasons as a running back, then moved to linebacker. Most of his time was spent on special teams play.

During his career, he carried the ball once for two yards and registered five tackles.

"The NFL wasn't exactly knocking on my door," Tomasevicz said.

He didn't know it then, but those years building his body and staying in football shape actually functioned as bobsledding training, too.

"I was able to apply my athleticism better to being a bobsled athlete than I guess I was as a football athlete," he said.

Power to the people

Tomasevicz stands 6-foot-1 and competed as a bobsledder at around 230 pounds. Size does matter for bobsledding. And he fit the mold.

"If you get a 6-5, 280 (pound) guy, he doesn't fit in the sled," he said. "Most of the time, we're all about 6-foot, 6-1, 220 pounds. A stereotypical bobsledder in that way."

Most important, though, is the power factor. Beyond an athlete's size, Toma-

sevicz looks for someone with enough power to push a bobsled for the all-important start.

"They're all fast and strong, but we want to try to classify them. 'Are you more of a power athlete? Or are you a speed athlete?'"

Take Herschel Walker, the 1982 Heisman Trophy winner and a legendary NFL running back who became the most high-profile football player to make the switch to bobsledding when he competed in the 1992 Winter Olympics.

"It's the 220 or 230 pounds," Tomasevicz said of Walker's frame. "Power, speed. That's exactly what we're looking for."

Tomasevicz made the smooth transition from football to bobsledding when he started competing for the national team just one year removed from his Husker football career.

The reason, according to Boyd Epley, the former director of athletic performance at Nebraska, was the power Tomasevicz displayed — even in college.

"Curt had natural power, explosive power that not everyone has," Epley said. "In fact, he set the record for fullbacks in the vertical jump."

Tomasevicz actually was briefly a two-sport athlete after graduation, because he dabbled in another sport that relies on power: NASCAR racing, as a pit crew member.

But the overlapping schedules proved to be too much. Tomasevicz ultimately committed to bobsledding, making the Olympics in 2006, 2010 and 2014..

Gridiron on ice

Now, as director of performance for Team USA, Tomasevicz is the one who must tell a player, as he did last month in Germany, that he or she didn't make the team.

"When it's good news, I love seeing their reaction. Even when they more or less expected it, it's still pretty fun," he said. "On the opposite side, I'm very cognizant of how tough that news can be to an athlete when they don't hear their name called."

Tomasevicz returned to Lincoln from Germany after the selection process, only to have some who didn't make the USA team on his same flight. "That's a long plane ride," he said.

After the Olympics conclude Feb. 22, there's no offseason for Tomasevicz. Like football, it's time to go recruiting, and Tomasevicz knows the criteria he's looking for.

"If I look at a football roster, and I see a vertical jump and a 40-yard dash time, can I get that data and say 'Yes, they have the potential to be a bobsledder?'"

Why a vertical jump?

"That's actually related to my Ph.D. dissertation. ... In a vertical jump ... we can measure your power, and

that's the kind of metric we can follow," Tomasevicz said.

Tomasevicz exceeded the Husker standard in his day for running backs and linebackers with his 39.5-inch vertical jump.

"In 2001, that (vertical jump) was the Nebraska school record that during my career stood the test of time," said Epley, who retired from a 50-year strength and conditioning career in 2019.

But there's something else that successful bobsledders rely on that's similar to football: Blending together like an offensive line, where you want five guys, healthy and consistent, who work well together.

On a four-man bobsled team, you often want a powerful guy in the back and speedier guys on the side, Tomasevicz said. But it also matters "how we fit in the sled."

"My big goal is to see if we can try to use that to make the best team possible and then help us recruit a little more efficiently."

Sports in the classroom

Since he's absent for a sizable chunk of the winter and spring, Tomasevicz relies more on online teaching for around 180 students who take his courses during the spring semester.

In the fall, he loads up his in-classroom academic schedule since he doesn't travel as much.

Last fall, he taught an honors seminar class for freshmen. But it wasn't about engineering. The topic: sports and the ethics surrounding them. "That was pretty fun. It's basically getting a discussion in, 'Is it ethical to frame a pitch in baseball?'" because you're lying to the umpire."

Gamership is a much-discussed term. So is the subject of performance-enhancing drugs.

The professor knows something about this: In the 2014 Olympics in Russia, he was awarded a bronze medal. Five years later, it got upgraded to a silver because the International Olympic Committee stripped the Russians of the gold due to a doping scheme.

The U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee held a ceremony a couple months after he received his silver medal.

Between understanding his role on the Husker football team and lending the football team engineering knowledge as a result of his studies, Tomasevicz got a firsthand taste of the importance of team chemistry.

It was also evident last year, when not just the Husker-turned-bobsledder but the entire 2010 four-man bobsled team was honored for its 2010 gold medal accomplishment at the Winter Olympics.

Why a vertical jump?

"That was an incredible honor (being) inducted into the ... Olympic Hall of Fame," Tomasevicz said. "As a team, too, that was pretty special."

Now, as part of the USA Bobsledding leadership, he would like nothing more than to see another group of USA athletes enjoy the same experience.

"I loved the equipment and engineering side of athletics and pulled them together to be competitive," he said. "That's ultimately what led me to having this role now."

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

Grimes denied return trip to state

Titan wrestler Ava Grimes competed at the NSAA Girls Class B-3 District at Weeping Water on Friday and Saturday. Grimes, a 2025 state meet qualifier at 235, won her first-round match over Raina Zurcher by fall at 1:19. In the second round, Grimes was upset by Carleigh Jackson of West Holt. Jackson scored a takedown and followed it with a pin, sending Grimes to the consolation bracket. Grimes wasted no time in the

next round, earning the win by fall over Tripe of Sandy Creek in just 37 seconds. Unfortunately, Grimes ran out of steam, dropping a 7-1 decision to Navaeh Bryant of Wood River.

At 140, Shawnna Richey ended her meet 0-2. Richey fell to Alyssa Thomas in the first round by pin at :27 and then lost to Emily Wiehn of Shelton by fall at 1:41.

Titans lacking consistency as season winds down

The HTRS Titans entered the Pioneer Conference Tourney as the No. 8 seed and faced the 9th-seeded Pawnee City Indians on Monday, February 2, 2026, at Sterling High School. It was the third meeting between the schools, with HTRS winning the previous two.

HTRS led 13-11 after the first quarter, but the Indians stormed back in the second to take a 28-21 lead into halftime. The Titans chipped away in the third, cutting the Indian lead to 31-29, and out-scored Pawnee City 12-7 in the fourth to earn a 41-38 win. The win improved HTRS to 9-9 for the year, while Pawnee City fell to 3-12.

HTRS shot 36% from the field, making 16-of-45 attempts. Meanwhile, Pawnee City hit 15-of-45 shots for 33%. HTRS held a slim 30-25 rebounding advantage and forced 16 turnovers while committing 10.

Emmett Glathar finished with a double-double, scoring 24 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Kameon Dettmann added 10 points and five assists.

Lady Titans end Pioneer Conference Tourney with win

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» NURSE PRACTITIONER

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

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

Mary L. Eickhoff

Richardson County Clerk

ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Heartlands Trimlight LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska.

The street and mailing address of the initial designated office is: 2616 Chase Street, Falls City, NE 68355

The name and street and mailing address of the initial agent for service of process is: Jonathan Kirkendall, at 2616 Chase Street, Falls City, NE 68355.

The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful business for which limited liability companies may be organized under Nebraska law.

The company commenced business on January 22, 2026.

11-18-25

ZNEZ

NOTICE OF INFORMAL ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN FINCK,

Deceased

Estate No. PR26-3

Notice is hereby given that on February 3, 2026, in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, Janet M. Malone, whose address is 2605 Hiland Avenue, Falls City, Nebraska 68355, has been appointed as Personal Representative of this Estate.

Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before April 13, 2026, or be forever barred.

Bethany K. Godemann

Clerk Magistrate

County Court of Richardson County
1700 Stone Street, Room 205
Falls City, NE 68355

Douglas Merz, # 12007
Samantha Scheitel, # 26389
Alexandra Fleming, # 26943
Weaver & Merz Law Office
1719 Stone Street, PO Box 569
Falls City, NE 68355
402-245-3015

11-18-25

ZNEZ

NOTICE OF LEASE SOLICITATION PARKS & RECREATION CONCESSION STANDS

The City of Falls City, NE is accepting sealed bids for the lease and operations of the North and/or South Concession Stands located at Fiedler Family Ball Complex at Dallas Jones Memorial Park for the 2026 baseball and softball season.

The lease term will run from March 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026, with possibility of renewal options as outlined in the lease documents.

All bids must be submitted on the official bid application form. Bid forms and lease documents are available at the City Clerk's Office, 2307 Barada Street, Falls City, Nebraska, and online at www.fallscitynebraska.org/bid-positions.

Sealed bids must be received by 4:00 PM on February 27, 2026. Bids will be evaluated based on bid amount, experience, food safety compliance, staffing and hours of operation, and proposed menu and pricing. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to award the lease in the best interest of the City.

If additional information is needed or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the City Clerk.

Anthony Nussbaum, City Clerk

11-18

ZNEZ

NOTICE 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	740000950	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	74012129	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 BLK22PTLOTS14 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 BLK11LOTS13-16 (4L)	1512.86
Richardson	74	9	10	740083139	THOMPSON, TRICIA G	715 5TH ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT DT BLK9W16.5' LOT2 (.50L)	1102.92
Richardson	74	10	5	740069314	MEYER, PAUL D	2212 HILAND AVE FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY GILLIGANS BLK1 LOTS16-19 (4L)	1069.78
Richardson	74	11	5	740062417	STALVEY, RYAN M	920 MCLEAN ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK192 LOTS21 & 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, MARTHAM	995 EDWARD ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT HOLMAN PARK BLK2 LOTS1 & N45/2 (13/4L)	962.12
Richardson	74	14	5	740062115	SCHOLL, LANDAN	301 E 10TH ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK189N10' LOT22 ALL 23 & 24 (2.4L)	950.78
Richardson	74	15	10	740081950	SKYLINE CONSTRUCTION INC	828 3RD ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT DT BLK3E50' LOT13 ALL 14 (1.53L)	912.78
Richardson	74	16	80	740170466	DEJONGE, LYNN A	RURAL 28-3-13 40A	28-3-13104NE1/4	854.78
Richardson	74	17	10	740082612	BITTNER, JEREMY & GINA	701 4TH ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT DT BLK7W1/2LOT1 (5L)	815.2
Richardson	74	18	5	740053728	PHROPER, CLIFFORD L & JULIE	2008 CHASE ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK7N12/2LOT16 ALL 17-21 (5.5L)	752.34
Richardson	74	19	10	740084372	WITTRICK, LISA	848 LONGBRANCH ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT KING'S LISTBLK22S1/2LOT1 (25L)	723.66
Richardson	74	20	5	740068253	HUTFLES, SCOTT C & REBECCA	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 LOTS1-4 (4L)	671.58
Richardson	74	23	5	740070746	WILCOX, MATT & MICHELLE	16 SUNSET DR FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY HILLSIDE ACRES LOT17 (1L)	666.44
Richardson	74	24	5	740078607	HOLLOWAY, STEVEN C & DEBORAH	821 E 12TH ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY WEAVER BLK11 LOTS10-11 & 12 (3L)	646.92
Richardson	74	25	5	740062395	POKORNÝ, CHRISTYNE A	912 MCLEAN ST FALLS CITY NE 68355	FALLS CITY OTBLK192 LOTS17 & 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 LOTS11-23 (13L) 6.11	608.44
Richardson	74	29	10	740084186	NABER, GENE L & BACHMAN, CLARE	833 N NEMAHA ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT KING'S 1STBLK19E17/3 S1/2 LOT5	593.78
Richardson	74	30	25	740089889	HADDAD, WAEEL	220 RIDGE ST DAWSON NE 68337	DAWSON OTBLK11N7' LOTS 1 & 2 (1L)	587.44
Richardson	74	31	35	740092898	KELLER, JORDAN C	306 W STUTSMAN ST RULO NE 68431	RULO OTBLK29 LOTS7-10 & 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 LOTS7 & 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 LOTS21 & 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 (2.4L)	479.06
Richardson	74	38</td						

(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, DEANNE	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 HISTSPLAINVIEW 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, ANGELAM J & 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 ALL 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 & 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 EXCHWY (.61A)	47.6
Richardson	74	128	100	740091611 ***	ODGEN, 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' LOT12 & 40X110 CLOSING BEDARD ST (.22A)	43.34
Richardson	74	131	25	740090747	WENDTLANDT, STEPHEN	4TH ST DAWSON NE 68337	DAWSON HEM BLK3657 1' 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' LOT46 (.85L)	42.84
Richardson	74	134	40	740095862	ZEIGLER, RUSSELL JAMES & TANYA J	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	HUMBOLDTMETES & 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 7 (.50L)	36.26
Richardson	74	137	25	740090801	WENDTLANDT, STEPHEN	3RD ST DAWSON NE 68337	DAWSON HEM BLK38S50' LOTS 3 & 4 (3/4L)	35.12
Richardson	74	138	10	740084534	STEPHENSON, LARRY JAMES & AMANDA J	914 MECHANIC ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT & LUTHERNIMS BLK25 N88' LOT6 (2/3L)	34.84
Richardson	74	139	100	740018620	HART-BARTLETT-STURTEVANT CO	RURAL 17-1-18 1A	17-1-181A PTSW1/4SW1/4	32.39
Richardson	74	140	40	740095889	ZEIGLER, RUSSELL J & TANYA J	1ST CROMWELL ST SALEM NE 68433	SALEM OTBLK2 LOTS 1-2 & N1/27 & 8 (3L)	30.58
Richardson	74	141	10	740084682	NORRUP, CHRISTOPHER	216 NEMAH ST HUMBOLDT NE 68376	HUMBOLDT & LUTHERNIMS BLK27 N1/2 LOT2 & S41.45' (1.25L)	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 LOTS 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 LOTS 9 (1L)	13.82
Richardson	74	147	147	740107960	HEINEN, RODNEY R	RURAL 10-2-14 .6A	10-2-14 .6A PARCEL 3	7.68
						TOTAL	\$64,675.00	ZNEZ

CEMETERY #14 HIAWATHA CEMETERY DISTRICT ADVERTISEMENT FOR CONTRACTS

ALL CONTRACT BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 6:00 PM FEBRUARY 28, 2026.

ALL CONTRACT BIDS CAN INCLUDE ONE OR BOTH THE HI-AWATHA 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 West at west31@gmail.com or mail contract bids to Cemetery #14 Hiawatha Cemetery District, PO Box 86, Hiawatha, Ks 66434.

4-11

ZNEZ

NOTICE OF LEASE SOLICITATION FALLS CITY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

The Falls City Airport Authority is accepting sealed bids for the lease of approximately 92 acres of agricultural ground located at the Falls City Municipal Airport.

The lease term will run from March 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, subject to airport operational restrictions and renewal options as outlined in the lease documents.

All bids must be submitted on the official bid form provided by the Airport Authority. Bid forms and lease documents are available at the City Clerk's Office, 2307 Barada Street, Falls City, Nebraska, and online at www.fallscitynebraska.org/bid-postings.

Sealed bids must be received by 2:00 PM on March 2, 2026. Bids will be reviewed and considered for award at the regular meeting of the Falls City Airport Authority on March 4, 2026. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

If additional information is needed or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the City Clerk.

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.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH A BANK BRANCH

Notice is hereby given that Nebraska Bank, Dodge, Nebraska, in accordance with the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 8-157 of the Nebraska Banking Act, filed an application with the Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance to establish a full-service branch facility to be located at the corner of Highway 73 and 33rd Street, Falls City, Nebraska, and to temporarily establish and operate a full-service branch facility at 3003 Bill Shock Boulevard, Falls City, Nebraska until the permanent facility is established at the corner of Highway 73 and 33rd Street.

Objections to the application must be filed with the Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance, 1526 K Street, Suite 300, PO Box 95006, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68509, within fifteen days after the date of publication scheduled for February 11, 2026. If substantive objections to the application are filed, the application will be scheduled for hearing.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****JANUARY 28, 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 28, 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 21, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the agenda 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.richardsoncounty.gov.**LAWFENRECEMENT CENTER**

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center this past week.

There are 15 inmates currently being held in the Jail. The department has applied for grant funds to obtain body cameras. A listing of vehicles that have been declared to be surplus will be included with the items from the Road Department and will be submitted to the Board for consideration to be offered for sale and included on an auction with Big Iron in the near future.

SENCA

Sherry Huddleston from the Falls City Outreach Office of SENCA offered to the Board an update on the activity and services being offered through this office.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

NEBRASKA PRESS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENT

ADVERTISE STATEWIDE for \$225/25 word classified ad. Over 120 newspapers with circulation of more than 237,000. Contact your local newspaper or call 1-800-369-2850.

HELLO NEBRASKA! Introducing www.nepublicnotices.com, a new public notice website presented as a public service by all Nebraska newspapers. Free access, fully searchable – because democracy depends upon open government and your right to know.

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

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The results are in ...

**Public notices
belong in newspapers.**



86% of Nebraskans read public notices in their newspaper or newspaper website



84% of Nebraskans believe public notices should be required by law to appear in newspapers

Survey data from 2025 CODA Ventures study

Print | Online | Email

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

HELP WANTED

Magnolia Metal Corp.

Currently accepting applications for:

- **Manual Lathe Operator Day Shift**
- **Shipping & Receiving Clerk**

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

\$22.94 / HOUR MINIMUM STARTING RATE

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

6-9

CITY OF MORRILL, KANSAS

City is seeking applications for the job of

CITY MAINTENANCE WORKER

- Competitive pay- paid vacation time - insurance stipend
- Paid holiday -retirement plan
- For a complete list of job qualifications & for an application please reach out to the city office during business hours M-Th 9am-3pm or call 785-459-2231

7-8

CITY OF MORRILL, KANSAS

City is seeking applications for the job of

CITY CLERK

- Competitive pay- paid vacation time - insurance stipend
- Paid holiday -retirement plan
- For a complete list of job qualifications & for an application please reach out to the city office during business hours M-Th 9am-3pm or call 785-459-2231

7-8

WANTED

SERVICES 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

WANTED

AMERICAN WALNUT. Buying standing walnut timber, 25 or more. Call 816-232-6781 in St. Joseph for details.

47-TF

Services

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

Pack Rat Storage, Units Available. 402-245-7236.

49-TF

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you'll find it in the
Classifieds.

2-9P

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402.274.4366 | NemahaCountyHospital.com | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NemahaCountyHospital)

6-9

SABETHA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

HELP WANTED

IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING

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

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

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

SURGERY DIRECTOR: Full-Time position working 36-40 hours per week plus On-Call hours. Current KS RN license and experience working in a Surgery Department is required. Responsible for overall assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of patient care in the surgery department.

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

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

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

MEDICAL ASSISTANT- PHYSICIAN CLINIC: Full-Time position working 830-500 M-F and every 4th Saturday morning. Primary duties will be phlebotomy and various diagnostic testing. Will be cross trained, so must be flexible and willing to assist clinical staff and business office personnel as needed to ensure smooth day-to-day operations.

DIETARY/EVS DIRECTOR: Part-time position working 32 hours a week. Responsible for overseeing the Dietary, Housekeeping and Laundry daily operations. This would include supervising employees, ensuring compliance with regulations and policies, maintaining sanitary standards and quality control, along with understanding each position and the ability to assist workers when necessary.

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

MIDWEST READY MIX & BUILDING SUPPLIES, INC.

FULL OR PART TIME DRIVER

If you are looking for an exciting career, Midwest Ready-Mix is looking for ready mix drivers. Midwest Ready-Mix is a locally owned company, with plants located in Sabetha and Hiawatha.

A CDL-Class B license is required, which we can assist in obtaining, must be 18 years of age. We offer Health Insurance, 401k, Paid Vacation and Paid Holidays.

If you are interested in joining our Team and helping build our communities for the future, please contact Dennis at 785-284-2911, Gary at 785-742-3678 or stop in at either location.

10 EAST MAIN ST., SABETHA / 1456 230TH ST., HIAWATHA

7-11

Chamber Banquet a time to celebrate Falls City

(Continued from Page 1)

community. She continued, saying, "What's especially exciting is that many of these new businesses are being led by young entrepreneurs, people who chose Falls City as the place to take a leap of faith into business ownership."

Holle continued, saying 2025 was especially special for her because the Chamber welcomed at least one new member every month, a first since she took over as Executive Director.

Not all was sunshine and lollipops. The downtown area said goodbye to a few longtime businesses, some of which had graced the downtown façade for decades.

Holle reported a 5% increase in sales tax collections compared with the prior year, indicating that citizens are shopping and investing locally.

The Executive Director highlighted events such as the Glow-in-the-Dark Golf Tournament and the Lighted Christmas Parade, which helped Falls City shine. She also mentioned installing the Stone Street banners, featuring artwork by local artist Patricia Steinman. Holle said, "These banners honor legendary Falls City businesses and landmarks and remind us daily of the strong foundation that supports our future."

Holle was also part of Leadership Nebraska, a nine-month program through the Nebraska Chamber that introduced her to 35 other selected individuals from business and communities across the state. Holle said the experience has given her renewed energy and perspective on the work to be done in Falls City. She also served as the 2025 President of the Nebraska Chamber Association, a group of chamber directors from across the state.

Holle outlined goals for 2026, including continued sidewalk improvements

in the downtown district and the development of a downtown amphitheater.

"This space, we believe, will encourage visitors to stay longer, the community to gather together and further energize our downtown," said Holle.

Before announcing this year's award winners, Holle emphasized the importance of "celebrating and supporting the small-business owners of Falls City, ensuring they have the resources, visibility, and encouragement to succeed for many years to come."

She also tipped her hat to the Chamber Board members, saying, "Their continued commitment speaks volumes about their dedication to Falls City, and we are incredibly grateful for their service."

The banquet proceeded with the presentation of awards. Joan E. Stice was named the 2025 Frontline Employee of the Year, recognized for her 34 years of serving customers at Brown's Shoe Fit Company.

"For years, this individual went out of her way to make sure every customer was truly served," said Holle. "Not just helped but cared for. She ordered shoes that weren't in stock. She tracked down the right fit, and sometimes, she even recommended the perfect shoe, knowing it meant the customer might have to purchase it somewhere else. That is the very definition of putting people before profit. That is true community service."

Holle continued, "Her dedication to service built something rare. Customers traveled from miles away, not just to shop at Brown's, but to see her. They trusted her knowledge, her honesty and her commitment to finding the perfect shoe for every need."

Next, the Small Business of the Year Award winner was announced. Holle said the honored

business "quietly and consistently goes above and beyond, often without recognition, and makes an everyday difference in people's lives."

The award went to Jenny Dixon, owner of Close to Home Kennels.

Close to Home Kennels opened in 2022, filling a need in the Falls City community. Jenny provides dog daycare for area employees who are away all day and unable to care for their furry friends. "That peace of mind is priceless," said Holle.

Dixon begins her day long before the sun rises and often continues after it has set. However, every customer knows their "best friends" are well cared for.

"To her, your pup is her pup," said Holle.

"The ripple effect of her kindness reaches far beyond her facility," said Holle. "She gives people peace of mind when they need it most. She allows families to focus on work, healing or grieving, knowing their beloved pets are safe and loved."

Holle concluded the evening by thanking everyone for taking the time to celebrate Falls City, its businesses, and the people who make the community so special.

"Your support, involvement and pride in our town are what keep this momentum going," shared Holle.

CANDIDATE FILINGS

(Continued from Page 3)

The filing was received Feb. 6, 2026.

David A. Mezger, of Table Rock, filed as a nonpartisan candidate for the HTRS School Board in District 70. His filing shows he is seeking a four-year term. The filing was received Feb. 3, 2026.

Samantha K. Scheitel, of Falls City, filed as a Republican candidate for Richardson County attorney. Her filing indicates she is seeking a four-year term and lists incumbent status. The filing was received Feb. 6, 2026.

Kenneth E. Killingsworth, of Falls City, filed as a nonpartisan candidate for mayor of Falls City. His filing indicates he is seeking a four-year term. The filing was received Feb. 6, 2026.

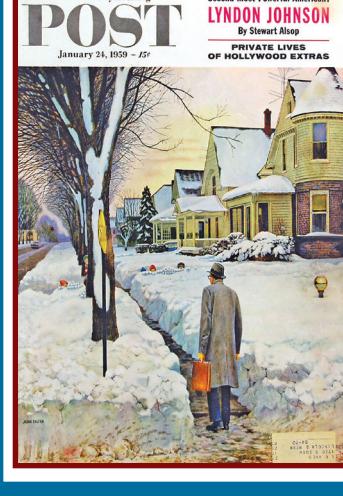
Nicholas C. Aitken, of Falls City, filed as a Republican candidate for Richardson County sheriff. His filing indicates he is seeking a four-year term and lists incumbent status. The filing was received Feb. 6, 2026.



PRESS RELEASE: On February 3, 2026, Falls City Police Officers executed a search warrant at apartment #29 at Eastview Apartments, 800 East 21st Street in Falls City, Nebraska. During the search, Falls City Police Officers seized over 17 grams of methamphetamine, a large sum of money, a scale typically used in drug sales, and numerous other items of drug paraphernalia. Falls City Police Officers arrested Edward James Perman at the scene. He was booked into the Richardson County Jail on the following: Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Distribute; Possession of Methamphetamine, 10-27 grams; No Drug Tax Stamp; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; and numerous other charges. Mr. Perman is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The investigation remains ongoing.

SNOWY AMBUSH

JANUARY 24, 1959 - ADOPTED BY JOHN HUBER FAMILY



Mr. Hesitant is reflecting, I work hard for a living. I am now all beat up from a grisly day at the office. Couldn't life have spared me this and just let me stagger home in peace? His home is blocks away, and not even one of the entrenched troops is thinking of him as a beloved daddy. Moreover, if that ammunition was molded out of freezing slush, it is now hard, something like cannon balls. So Mr. H's tactical problem is whether to cross the street in a flanking movement, or charge the foe like a a man and take what is coming to him, which is plenty. What would artist John Falter himself do? He says, "This scene (except for that ornamental ball, which I contributed) is a pleasant, typical Midwestern town I recently visited, named Bad Axe, Michigan." He says, "I would charge the foe. I think." johnphilipfaltermuseum.com

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Falls City

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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.

Falls City Heart Hunt

FEBRUARY 13TH & 14TH

Find the hearts.
Discover the deals.
Love local.

FIND THE HIDDEN HEARTS AT THESE STORES TO REVEAL A DISCOUNT TO BE USED THERE.

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