

THE FALLS CITY JOURNAL



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Journal office closed Friday for family funeral

The Falls City Journal office will be closed Friday, March 20, due to a family funeral.

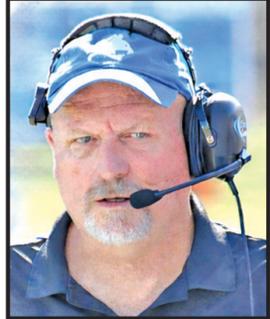
Because of the closure, the in person deadline of noon on Friday will move to Thursday, March 19 at 4 p.m.

The newspaper will still receive ad-

vertisements, legal notices and obituaries submitted by noon on Friday that are left in the vestibule at the Falls City Journal office, 1709 Stone St., or sent by email.

The Falls City Journal staff thanks the community for its understanding.

Coach Darin Fritz returns to lead the Tigers



According to a press release from Falls City Public School, the Tiger football program will once again be led by veteran Coach Darin Fritz. Fritz coached the Tigers from 2012 to 2021.

During that ten-year period, Fritz guided Falls City to a 47-38 record. Falls City last made the postseason in 2015, when Fritz's team finished 7-3, losing to Norfolk Catholic in the first round of the playoffs.

Fritz also coached HTRS for one season in 2011, during which he led the Titans to a 4-4 record. Fritz started his first term at FC in 2012, taking over from Don Hogue, who stepped down after five years as head coach. Fritz

inherited a team that was 0-8 and immediately improved it to a 6-3 record, won a district title, and earned a spot in the NSAA playoffs against Boys Town.

After his departure in 2021, Fritz transitioned to the college level, coaching running backs and the defensive line at Peru St. from 2022 to 2024.

"We are excited to welcome Darin Fritz to lead our football program," said Athletic Director Gale Dunkhas. "Coach Fritz has a strong track record of building competitive teams, developing young athletes into leaders, and a plan to build excitement and grow

COACH FRITZ -Page 3

Board approves salary for EMA Director role

The Board of Commissioners met on Wednesday morning at the Courthouse for their regular scheduled meeting. Commissioners Karas, Caverzagie, and Campbell responded to the roll call.

Emergency Preparedness Offsite Coordinator for Cooper Nuclear in Brownville, Dakota Schulenberg, met with the Board and delivered a quarterly update on activities at the NPPD site in Brownville.

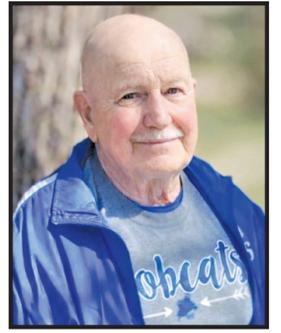
Schulenberg informed the Board that the plant was running at full capacity and facing no issues with production. He mentioned that NPPD was "waiting on IP-AWS to go through."

IPAWS is the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System managed by FEMA. Instead of relying on outdated sirens, IPAWS delivers alerts directly to mobile phones, similar to how Amber Alerts are issued to the public.

He also informed the Board that Cooper Nuclear will undergo an outage starting at the end of September. The outage is scheduled to last 32 days, but it may take a little longer.

EMA Director Brian Kirkendall met with the Board

BOARD -Page 5



Former teacher, coach and renowned runner Louis Fritz passes away

Louis Fritz, 83, of Verdon, NE, passed away March 14, 2026 in Falls City, NE. He was born on

LOUIE FRITZ -Page 9



Water fountain donation at Prichard Auditorium, L-R: Briar Burr, Dina Sells, Jan O'Tool, Cathy Bullock, Deb Harris, Rita Weaver, Susie Jones, Diana Orton, Kim Goff, Sandy Appleoff-Lyons, Sherry Maddox-Kermode, Martha Chapple.

P.E.O. Chapter CY recognizes longtime members, highlights education programs and community donation

Members of P.E.O. Chapter CY in Falls City recently gathered to recognize longtime members while also highlighting the organization's ongoing efforts to support women's education and local community projects.

During a special event, the chapter honored women who have reached milestone years of membership in the organization, including members with more than 30, 40 and 50 years of service.

Recognized for more than 30 years of membership were Jan O'Toole, 32 years; Mary Schimonitz, 38 years; and Rita Weaver, 39 years. Honored for more than 40 years were Amy Cleveland, 41 years; Esther Halbert, 41 years; and Kim Goff, 48 years.

Five members were recognized for more than 50 years of membership in the organization. They included BK Brott, 50 years; Diann Merz, 53 years; Carole

James, 57 years; Mary Jo Tangeman, 64 years; and Mildred Appleoff, 67 years.

Chapter CY President Dina Sells recognized the members' longstanding commitment during the event.

"Our sisters of 50 or more years have helped mold our sisterhood into the success it is today," Sells said.

P.E.O. is an international organization dedicated to helping women pursue educational opportunities through scholarships, grants and loans. Local chapters raise funds and support several international education projects.

According to Sells, the Falls City chapter contributes to five of those programs that assist women pursuing education at various stages of their lives. The chapter donated \$500 each to the Educational Loan Fund, International Peace Scholarship, Program for Continuing Education, P.E.O. Scholar Awards and the STAR

P.E.O. -Page 3



Sunshine Week, a national reminder of the public's right to open government

In Richardson Co., that right is exercised close to home

City council members vote on ordinances and wages. County commissioners adopt resolutions and approve contracts. School boards make staffing and budget decisions. Each of those actions is governed by Nebraska's Open Meetings Act and public records statutes.

Under Nebraska law, public bodies must provide advance notice of meetings and make agendas available to the public. Meetings must be open, except for limited circumstances defined by statute. Closed sessions must state a purpose and reason if not on the agenda, it must in the minutes. Votes must be taken in public. Minutes must reflect official action, anything less is against state statutes and is not transparent.

Public records, including contracts, budgets, payroll information, resolutions and other documents related to public business, are generally subject to inspection. While certain records are exempt under state law, the presumption is that government records are public.

In practical terms, that means residents of Falls City and Richardson County have the right to attend meetings of the Falls City Council and the Richardson County Board of Commissioners. They have the right to review adopted budgets and approved contracts. They have the right to request copies of public records from city and county offices.

The law also establishes a process. A public records request may be made to the appropriate public body. The agency is required to respond within the timeframe set by statute. Fees may be charged as allowed by law, but access cannot be denied without legal justification.

Open government laws serve several purposes.

First, they create a documented record of official action. When a motion is made and seconded in open session and a vote is taken, that action becomes part of the official minutes. That record establishes what was legally adopted.

Second, public records provide documentation behind those actions. Contracts outline terms and obligations. Budgets detail projected revenues and

SUNSHINE -Page



2022 FORD ESCAPE
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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S JOURNAL

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CONTENTS

From the Journal Files Page 3
Restaurant/Retail..... Pages 4 & 5
SportsPages 7, 8
Obituaries Page 9
Notices/Legals Pages 11-12
Classified AdsPages 13

MARCH

20
-Knights of Columbus Annual Fish Fry at Prichard Aud., 5-8PM
21
-FC Slam at Prichard Auditorium Doors open at 5:30 PM
-Stella Fire Dept. Fireman's Fish Fry at Stella Fire Hall, 5-8PM

22

-Polka Party at ZCJ Czech Hall noon potluck, dance 1-4PM
-Vets invited to the Shubert Legion Aux. Celebration at 4PM

24

-Annual Meeting of Verdon Fire Dist. 7:30 PM at Verdon Fire Hall

25

-Blood Drive at Prichard Aud., 10AM-4:30

25

-Poppe Realty & Mgmt Land Auction at Elks Club 10AM

28

-RC Cancer Fund Dinner, Dance and Auction Gala beginning at 5:30 PM at Prichard Auditorium

APRIL

4 -Easter Egg Hunt at FC Nursing and Rehab at 2PM

4

-Heartland Fine Arts Gallery Vendor Pop-up Market 8AM-3PM

8

-FCPS Special Education Coordinator meeting with FCSH Superintendent regarding Special Ed support and to discuss Title 1 support. Sacred Heart 9AM

Meaningful living in rural communities: pathways to productive aging

By: Whitney Lucas Molitor, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L, BCG and Allison Naber, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L

Living in rural communities offers unique opportunities to promote successful aging. Incorporating a purposeful lifestyle, developing social connections and engaging in daily physical activity is essential to achieving positive health outcomes and quality of life.

Finding purpose includes exploring the activities you already engage in and being open to new possibilities. Engaging in motivating activities provides a framework for a purposeful life. The selected activities can promote health, foster a sense of identity and give a sense of purpose in life while aligning with personal values and interests. While some daily activities are performed without much thought, identifying others may require careful exploration.

In rural communities, consideration of the physical context is also essential. The American Occupational Therapy Association provides a framework that incorporates reflection on personal values, interests and prior life experiences. This approach, along with establishing priorities and goals, can be a valuable way to explore daily activities and create new opportunities for engagement that enhance purpose in daily life. To align life purpose with a rural context, it is essential to incorporate outdoor activities, find creative ways to connect with family and friends and explore opportunities with local groups. Activities can be modified to support evolving interests, abilities and desires.

Establishing and maintaining strong social connections is critical to promoting healthy aging in rural communities. Older adults in rural areas may experience social isolation due to limited opportunities for interaction. This can be due to changes in overall health, technology barriers (limited internet access or limited computer or smartphone skills) or physical barriers (limited community mobility or driving restrictions). Social isolation can pose physical, psychological and behavioral health risks. Engaging in meaningful activities with others can help build relationships, find purpose or fulfillment and develop new hobbies or skills. Educational programs or groups are an excellent way to explore new leisure activities or learn strategies to improve health and well-being. Reaching out to family or friends, visiting your local senior center, attending community events, or joining a club can all provide a sense of connection, purpose and well-being.

In addition to staying socially connected, developing a regular physical activity routine is essential for older rural adults. Adults over 65 should set goals to strengthen their muscles and improve their balance by engaging in at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity per week. Moderate physical activity increases breathing and heart rate, but you should still be able to talk while active. Beneficial activities include brisk walking, dancing, riding a stationary bike or NuStep, using weights or resistive exercise bands, gardening or participating in water aerobics. Consider setting a goal to move your body for 30 minutes each day to reduce sedentary time. Sedentary activities include watching TV, reading, sitting or lying down. Prolonged sedentary behavior increases the risk of poorer health outcomes among older adults. Intentionally participating in meaningful activities throughout the day will reduce time spent sedentary. Reduce sedentary behavior by standing during commercial breaks, walking around your home after a meal or stretching after reading the paper or playing cards. Incorporating the strategies mentioned in this article can promote well-being and enhance quality of life.

Whitney Lucas Molitor, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L, BCG, is department chair and associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of South Dakota. Lucas Molitor is a licensed occupational therapist in Iowa and South Dakota. Her research interests include health promotion and productive aging. Allison Naber, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L, is the academic fieldwork coordinator and an associate professor in The Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of South Dakota. Naber is a licensed occupational therapist in Minnesota and South Dakota. Her research interests include occupational performance and life balance, particularly as they relate to healthy aging.

All things Nebraska Simple ways to close the state budget gap dismissed

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner

Way back in the day, when I was in high school, I had a summer job of mopping floors at a local hospital.

Being a janitor was a really satisfying job because when you were done, you could easily see what you had accomplished, unlike a lot of other occupations.

Anyway, one of my compatriots on the broom was a guy named Howard Johnson. Howard was as big as an actual Howard Johnson's and he had an axiom for work: "the simplest way is the best way."

As I recently watched the Nebraska Legislature struggle with closing a multi-million dollar hole in the state budget, I kept thinking of Howard's advice and wondering "why don't they do some simple things" to solve their problem.

Like raising taxes on cigarettes, which would not only encourage more people to quit a bad habit but raise a badly needed \$50 million to close the budget deficit.

Cigarette taxes in Nebraska haven't been raised since 2002 and at 64 cents a pack, our tax ranks as the ninth lowest in the country. But a proposal to raise that tax by \$1 a pack got shot down. We can't raise taxes, it seems, even on cigarettes.

A similarly "simple" way to solve the budget crisis (a deficit which has grown to nearly \$650 million) would be to pause, or at least slow down, the deep state income tax cuts passed in 2023.

Back then, the state was flush with COVID-era funds and legislators figured the state could financially handle, if done incrementally, cutting individual and corporate taxes down to 3.99%. The top rate had been 6.84%, but is scheduled to fall to 4.55% this year and then to 3.99% in 2027.

Well, now the state is short of money, in large part because cutting taxes means millions of dollars less to provide government services. It doesn't make sense to give away state tax revenue when you don't have the money to give away.

The simple solution would be to stretch out the gradual decrease to 3.99% by a couple of years, hitting that mark in say, 2029 instead of 2027. That would provide millions to close the budget hole. That would still be a "tax cut," thus allowing senators and the governor facing re-election this year to say that they still delivered a tax reduction, albeit a smaller one.

Howard, if he was still

with us, would, I'm sure, question why we're parking nearly \$79 million in the bank on the long-shot idea of building the Perkins County Canal out on the Colorado border.

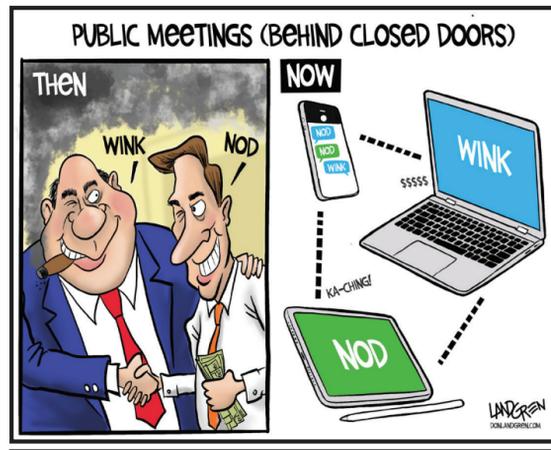
The governor has tapped all kinds of idle funds in state agencies to help close the budget gap with the idea that "if they're not using it, we will use it."

But somehow, we can't tap the canal funds, because, it was said, we need to convince Colorado that we're really serious about building an extensive irrigation canal that was ditched (pardon the pun) decades ago.

If the Perkins County Canal is so important, I'm sure we can find the money down the road, hopefully when the state isn't short on cash. But right now, the state budget needs some love.

Seems pretty simple to me.

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: THE OSCARS

ACROSS

1. Traction aid
6. Freddy's street
9. Reach a high
13. Italian bowling
14. Entrepreneur Gary Vaynerchuk's alias, Gary _____
15. Jolly good one
16. Parallel grooves
17. Many, many moons
18. "Take it back!"
19. "Song Sung Blue" Best Actress nominee
21. *Movie with most 2026 Oscar nominations
23. Make a seam
24. Vampire's tooth
25. Tai's partner
28. South American monkey
30. Naphthenic acid + palmitic acid
35. Pilot's stunt
37. Forbidden, to a baby
39. Vampire of Greek mythology
40. Italian wine region
41. Not AstroTurf
43. Alpine lift
44. Sports figures, e.g.
46. Cantina pot
47. Email folder
48. Not vivid and bright
50. Nessie's abode
52. *Jamie Foxx won for his role in this 2004 biopic
53. Eagle's nest
55. Unreliable newspaper
57. *2026 nominated film with Stone and Plemons
61. *Chloë Zhao's nominee
64. Newton or Stern
65. Romanian money
67. Star-crossed one
69. To the point
70. a.k.a sodium hydroxide
71. Novelist Zola
72. Formerly, formerly
73. Aye-aye
74. "He _____ it like it is"

DOWN

1. Not NBC or ABC
2. Reluctant
3. Pantyhose hue
4. DNA and RNA, e.g.
5. Cups and saucers
6. 20-20, e.g.
7. "One Battle After Another" Best Actor nominee
8. High IQ society
9. *#'s nominated co-star
10. "Anything _____?"
11. Wing-shaped
12. K to Romans, pl.
15. Like athlete's foot
20. Behind on rent, e.g.
22. Night spot
24. At last
25. Necklace fastener
26. Popular garden perennial
27. I to Greeks, pl.
29. *2026 nominated Benicio del Toro
31. Benatar and Morita
32. Fly in _____, or a reminder of the past
33. Tarzan's swing rope
34. *Fictional table tennis champ
36. *Nominated "F1" star
38. Nobel Peace Prize capital
42. Sacrum, pl.
45. Communicating with spirits event
49. Hawaiian flower garland
51. *Inspiration for #61 Across
54. Pep gathering
56. Lawn ornament
57. Angler's hope
58. _____-friendly
59. Needlefish, pl.
60. Brewer's kiln
61. Color wheel elements
62. Like fairytale stepmothers?
63. Be a snitch
66. Payment for an eye
68. Hi-_____ graphics

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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40					41			42		43				
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
57	58	59	60					61				62	63	
64						65	66			67				68
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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

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"SEZ-I" LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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



75 Years Ago, March 18, 1951 to March 24, 1951

A large crowd braved a raw, north wind to attend the formal laying of the cornerstone of the new First Methodist Church.

Cpl. Gene Darveau of Rulo wrote home from the Korean War, stating he had moved into Suwon with the air force. Darveau said that there was only one building left standing in Suwon, a church. He also stated the air strip had taken a beating. He saw 10 wrecked planes on the field and four Russian T-34 tanks, which the Communist forces had abandoned.

Eight Richardson County men were inducted into the Army in Omaha. The list included Thomas A. Runyan, Joseph Morehead, Leonard Kopf, George McKinsey, Charles McLaughlin, Victor Lampe, Victor Karst and Wilbur Nitzsche.

The Sacred Heart grade school basketball teams wrapped up a "super-duper" season under Coach John May, defeating Dawson 21-20 and 25-3. Tommy Carey scored 11 for SH in the first game, while David Harrison scored six in the second for the Irish.

Jean Cain narrowly escaped serious injury when his car skidded on the ice near Lincoln and overturned in a ditch. His car struck an icy patch west of Union, hit a tree and rolled onto its top. Mr. Cain escaped without a scratch.

A basket dinner was held to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. George King in Humboldt.

Fifty-nine athletes reported for outdoor track workouts at Falls City High School, according to Coach Jack McIntire.

Songstress Judy Garland divorced her second husband, Movie Director Vincente Minnelli. She claimed that he made her nervous and ill by failing to talk to her.

Former Falls Cityan Gil Dodds left New York by plane on a whirlwind world preaching jaunt. He began the trip in Wales, then London and ended in the Holy Land. Dodds, the winner of the famed 1948 Wannamaker Mile, would make additional stops in Egypt, India, and Japan.

The McCook Elks Lodge donated \$10,000 to the city's civil defense organization to rouse Midwesterners from their general complacency about civil defense preparations.

There was talk of a new guy on the New York Yankees, Mickey Mantle, being tabbed as the next Joe DiMaggio. The rookie was batting .571 in the Grapefruit League.

Mr. and Mrs. John Thiltges of Route 1, Rulo, were the parents of a son born at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hospital. The baby, Frederick John, weighed nine pounds, three ounces.

50 Years Ago, March 18, 1976 to March 24, 1976

For the first time in history, the United States imported more oil than it produced, even as Americans demanded less oil than before the Arab embargo in 1973.

Bill Bruhn and Debbie Bausch were named to the Homesteader All-Conference Basketball teams for Dawson-Verdon. Bob Aitken and Steve Pokorny of SH and Paul Heim of Humboldt were first-teamers in the Galaxy Conference, and Alan Koenig of Falls City was named to the Twin Rivers team.

The Falls City Country Club advertised a "Jam Session" with Pee Wee Erwin on March 19, for members and guests.

A meeting for Cub Scout Pack 392 was held at the First United Methodist Church with 28 in attendance. Cubmaster Melvin Harmon presided at the meeting. Chris Adams won the cookie contest.

A NASA researcher told a gathering of Nebraska utilities officials that large, wind-powered generators could produce electricity at an average cost of 2 or 3 cents per kilowatt-hour, comparable to what consumers were already paying. Dr. Joseph Savino, a mechanical engineer, stated that the wind-producing machines would produce up to 1,500 kilowatts.

Merz Farm Equipment won the team championship of the Falls City Men's Bowling League Tournament. Members of the winning team included Lester Duerfeldt, Gene Fritz, Ken Schawang, Phil Fritz and Dennis Merz.

Princess Margaret, the younger sister of Queen Elizabeth II, and her husband, Lord Snowdon, agreed to separate, but no divorce was planned.

Capt. Chick James, a former Falls Cityan in the College of Dentistry at the University of Nebraska and adjutant of the State Headquarters detachment (National Guard) in Lincoln, was a guest at a breakfast held at the Armory in Falls City.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schawang, Sr., announced the engagement of their daughter, Mary Michelle, to Steven J. Darveau, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Darveau.

A jury did not believe the words of Patricia Hearst, convicting her of bank robbery. The revolutionary "Tania" faced up to 25 years behind bars for her actions. The jury agreed that the kidnapped newspaper heiress willingly embraced the terrorism of her captors. The heiress was also convicted of using a weapon in a felony.

Ju-Ju the Chimp was making an appearance at Gibson's in Falls City. The famous personality had appeared in Las Vegas, in movies and on television.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was showing at the Rivoli Theater.

Kenneth E. Frederick, 20, was one of eight Future Farmers of America named Area Star Farmers of Nebraska. Kenny became the first in this area to receive the Star Agribusinessman Award.

Top Nashville entertainer LeRoy Van Dyke was performing at the City Auditorium in Humboldt.

Safeway in Falls City advertised John's frozen pizza for 59 cents apiece and 1/2 gallons of Snow Star Ice Cream for 99 cents.

25 Years Ago, March 18, 2001 to March 24, 2001

Three Richardson County high school seniors were named winners of 2001 Regent Scholarships to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. The list included Tiffany Clark, Andrew Hopp and Jill Weber.

Two Richardson County towns gained in population according to the 2000 census. Dawson increased from 157 to 209, and Rulo went from 191 to 226.

The Humboldt speech team scored 80 points and placed third in the Class C-2 State High School Speech Championships. Monica Stauffer was second in Humorous Prose, Becky James was fifth in Humorous Prose, Kylei Leech was sixth in Informative Speaking, Ashley Streit was fifth in Poetry, Tala Burnison was third in Persuasive Speaking, and Jessi Bents was fifth in Entertainment Speaking.

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Kottich announced the engagement of their daughter, Dana Marie, to Ryan McCabe.

Members of the 2001 Pioneer All-Conference Basketball teams included Shelby Jordan, Matt Sells and Brent Shubert for the boys and Sally Witt and Katie O'Grady for the girls.

Ken Simpson was honored by Mayor Marshall Maddox for his 20 years of service as a Fire Stompers instructor.

Ryan Bennett of Dawson-Verdon High School earned a gold medal in Entertainment Speaking at the NSAA State Speech Championships in Class D2.

Falls City Sacred Heart sophomores Matt Sells and Shelby Jordan were named to the Rison-Runza All-Star Teams. The team, coached by Clint Hoelscher of Papillion-LaVista, would play at various tournaments over the summer.

Erin Fritz of Dawson-Verdon High School received the 2001-2003 Board of Trustees Scholarship to attend Peru St. College.

For sale, 80 acres more or less, SW of Shubert, \$795 per acre. Duey Ins. And Realty.

P.E.O.

-Continued from Page 1

Scholarship program.

The scholarships and grants support a variety of situations, including international students pursuing graduate degrees, women returning to school later in life and high school students preparing to begin college.

Locally, the STAR Scholarship program recently benefited Falls City student Grace Morris.

Members said the projects highlighted in the story represent work completed by the chapter over the past several months. In addition to supporting the international education programs, the chapter has also contributed to projects within the Falls City community.

Most recently, Chapter CY donated a drinking fountain that has been installed at Prichard Auditorium. Members gathered at the auditorium with Briar Burr following the installation of the fountain. The facility hosts a variety of community activities, including pickleball, cycling classes, yoga, basketball and walking programs.

Chapter CY President Dina Sells said the donation reflects the group's commitment to supporting the community.

"We are quite proud of this local donation for many reasons," Sells wrote in a letter describing the project. "Giving to our local community and seeing that contribution benefit so many brings a sense of pride and joy."

In addition to its charita-

ble and fundraising work, Chapter CY meets regularly throughout the year. The group typically meets on the first Tuesday of each month at a location selected by members, most often at the Grand Weaver Hotel Conference Room. Meetings generally include a meal followed by a program, with proceeds supporting the chapter's fundraising efforts.

The Falls City chapter currently has 59 members.

Sells said the organization's work goes beyond fundraising and scholarship programs.

"P.E.O. is more than the scholarships, it is more than the money raised, it is more than the meetings," Sells said. "It is the sisterhood itself that connects us to one another."

Those interested in learning more about P.E.O. or membership opportunities can visit peointernational.org and select the "Interested in Membership" section or contact a local chapter member. Chapter leaders said they welcome individuals who share the organization's mission of helping women grow through education and inspiration.

COACH FRITZ

-Continued from Page 1

our football program for the future. We believe he is the right person to guide our program into its next chapter."

Coach Fritz will hit the ground running, starting his duties immediately. First, he will focus on solidifying the staff, then meeting with prospective athletes, and preparing the team for the 2026 season.

According to the press release, "I'm honored and excited to join the Tiger family," said Fritz. "This community has had a proud football tradition, and I'm looking forward to working with our student-athletes, staff and supporters to build a program that represents our school with pride, effort and integrity."

Fritz will lead the Tigers in their inaugural season in the 8-man ranks. FC will have new faces on the schedule, including Lourdes Central, Johnson-Brock and Johnson County Central.

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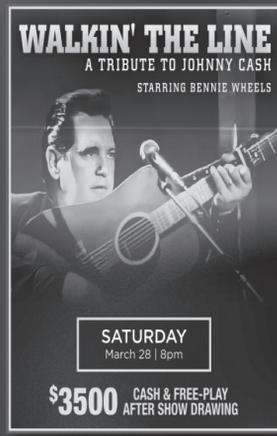


SATURDAY
 March 14 & 21

DRAWINGS AT 9PM

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SATURDAY
 March 28 | 8pm

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

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10 HOT SEAT WINNERS WILL BE RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM 4PM - 9PM

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Visit the Winner's Club for Details. Must be 21 years of age.



Above, L-R. Daniel Goff, Aaron Dorste, Haideen Dorste, Lukas Goff, Gabe Goff, Corbin Lendermon. Right: Ashtyn and Kinze Kirken-dall



Time for updates at the Itha Krumme Memorial Arboretum

Think about making a donation to keep the Arboretum cared for long-term

Submitted

Time for an update on your Itha Krumme Memorial Arboretum, which features plants, bushes and trees native to our area. We are in our 32nd year. A note of gratitude to the original working committee: Thomas Aitken, Sr., Donald Baldwin, Vern Borer, Janis Fischer, Gerald Hopp, Donald Koso, Harold Pritchard, Roger Reichmuth, Francis Seid, Thomas Weinert, Verna Mae White and Kenneth Zoeller. The work continues with the help of the volunteers of the Design Group-Keith Hayes, Melissa Dunbar, Nikki Dunn, Liz Huettner and Mary Martineau. Also helping are the Happy-Go-Lucky and country Clovers 4-H groups.

Our banks, F&M Bank, Equity Bank and first Interstate Bank also lend a hand. We have some great improvements starting with the gazebo, donated by Keith and snooks Hayes. This gives a space for picnics, weddings and photo shoots. The pathway lights have been repaired by El Camino Electric. A new sign at the north entrance has been installed by Haideen Dorste as his Eagle scout project with Boy scout Troop 396. Ashtyn Kirkendall, with Girl scout Troop 20648, painted the playhouse for her Bronze Badge. The chainsaw sculpture has been refurbished and is ready for installation for a more visible, protected site. Casey Martineau with Grimms Gardens, is doing an assessment, trimming and plotting of the site. All this has been done in less than two years several past improvements have been done, including these Eagle scout projects: the original plant markers by Nick Fischer, the concrete pathway by Matt Goff, the marquee by Brady Cromer, the memorial benches by Derek Rowan, the storage shed by Chris Yoesel and the ID plates by

Colton Martin. Lisa Wilke earned her Girl scout Gold Award for the wildflower Garden. The childrens area, with the playhouse, was an idea from Lonnie Goff and built by Roger Druba.

Your arboretum is truly cared for by this community and its loyal donors, thank you so much.

For more information, contact via email to memmartineau@zoho.com. Donations are accepted through the Richardson Foundation, Po Box 161, Falls City NE 68355, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

Students invited to submit calendar contest entries

The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) has sent invitations to schools across the state, seeking students' entries for the 2027 "Nebraska: Don't Waste It!" environmental calendar.

The contest is open to all Nebraska students from grades K through 12, and the submission deadline is May 1, 2026.

DWEE is looking for drawings that demonstrate the importance of good environmental practices and tips on reducing waste, recycling, and protecting Nebraska's air, land, and water.

DWEE will select 13 drawings to be featured in the calendar. In addition to having their art featured, students with winning entries will be invited to a recognition ceremony at the State Capitol in the summer.

Contest winners and their teachers will be notified via mail by June 25, 2026.

The Department has sponsored the contest for the past 21 years and has received thousands of impressive entries from students across the state. DWEE is eager to continue the tradition and see creations from another group of talented young artists.

To view contest guidelines, download the entry forms, and find related information, visit DWEE's calendar contest webpage at <https://dec.nebraska.gov/dwee-nebraska-dont-waste-it-calendar-contest-information>.

If you have additional questions, contact DWEE.moreinfo@nebraska.gov.

NDOT Highway Safety Office accepting grant proposals to address safety on Nebraska

The Nebraska Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office (NDOT HSO) is now accepting proposals for traffic safety grants aimed at reducing fatal and serious crash rates across the state. Proposals must be submitted no later than March 31 for consideration.

Funding will cover projects conducted during Federal Fiscal Year 2027, which runs from Oct. 1, 2026, through Sept. 30, 2027.

The funding, provided through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, supports data-driven initiatives focused on addressing Nebraska's most pressing roadway safety challenges, including impaired driving, distracted driving, occupant protection, youth driver safety, and speeding.

"Highway safety is a shared responsibility, and these grants help empower local agencies and organizations to implement strategies that directly address traffic safety challenges in their communities," said Ryley Egger, NDOT HSO Administrator. "By supporting evidence-based projects, we can work toward reducing serious crashes and saving lives on Nebraska roadways."

NDOT HSO is responsible for the planning, administration, and evaluation of the state's federal highway safety funding that is authorized by congress. Funding is provided to assist states and their counties and communities initiate projects to address traffic safety problems.

Many organizations, including government agencies, political subdivisions, law enforcement agencies, and 501(c)3 non-profit organizations are eligible for funding. NDOT evaluates proposals using data-driven criteria, including whether the proposal serves a high-priority county for safety in FY27, crash trends in the proposal's location, emphasis areas the proposal is helping to solve, and grantee's past performance.

For more information and to apply, visit ndot.info/a8ea9f. For questions, contact NDOT HSO at 402-471-2515.

SOCIETY

FC Does Drove #56

Falls City Does Drove #56, NE met at the Elks Lodge Monday, March 9, 2026.

President Dessie Scholl called the meeting to order. Opening ceremony was performed followed by prayer and flag salute.

Roll called was answered with thirteen present. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

Installation was held for Junior Counselor Betsy Coolidge.

Committee reports were made. Courtesy chair Nancy McKim reported she had sent birthday and get well cards. She also reported for Benevolence.

Members are reminded to track hours and dollars spent for benevolence. Members are asked to donate items needed for the Dessert Luncheon. Tickets were given to members to sell and will also be available at Runza and Hometown Floral. Members should meet on Sunday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m. at the Elks to make sandwiches.

Nancy reminded members to meet on Monday, March 16th at 1:00 p.m. at the Elks to make the tie quilts for the Grand Lodge project. Also on Wednesday, March 25th we are to have cookies to the Prichard Auditorium for the Blood Mobile. This is a joint project with the Elks.

Hostesses were Gina Scheitel and Linda Santo. St Patty's theme was carried out with decorated cookies and punch.

Door prize winners were Marlene McKim, Linda Jilek, Phyllis Kreutzer and Dessie. Nancy and Marlene McKim will host the next meeting on April 13.

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FRIDAY, March 20- Garlic Parmesan Shrimp, Shrimp Alfredo, Crab Cakes
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BOARD

-Continued from Page 1

and presented the Annual Noxious Weed Control Program evaluation report. A motion was made by Commissioner Karas to authorize Chairman Caverzagie to sign the report and the required summary from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture for 2025. The motion passed 3-0.

The Commissioners also discussed a salary increase for his position with Kirkendall. After a conversation, Commissioner Campbell motioned to give the EMA position a five-percent increase, effective January 1, 2026, and a three-and-a-half percent raise in 2027. The motion passed 3-0. The salary for the EMA position will increase from \$66,894.64 in 2026 to \$70,243.44 in 2025.

Highway Superintendent Steve Darveau Jr. met with the Board to discuss replacing underground fuel tanks at the County Yard. Darveau informed the Commissioners that there have been recent issues with the tanks, and repairs are expected to cost over \$25,000.

Darveau said the current tanks are single-walled and have a 30-year lifespan. The tanks are now 35 years old. Darveau told the Board that the best way to move forward is to replace the tanks and update everything. The Highway Superintendent mentioned that once he receives quotes for the work, he will include it in his future budget.

The Board also briefly discussed plans for a new county garage in Verdon. The new shop will feature two large doors, providing ample room for equipment. The facility will also include a restroom.

The Board approved a subdivision for Michael R. and Sherri L. Hunzeker in S36, T2, R17, and adopted Resolution 2025-2026-31 with a 3-0 vote.

At 9:52, Commissioner Caverzagie moved to adjourn the regular meeting and convene a closed meeting to discuss personnel matters with Highway Superintendent Darveau, Road Foreman Julie Voller, County Attorney Samantha Scheitel, and Clerk Mary Eickhoff. The closed meeting concluded at 10:50, and the meeting resumed its regular agenda.

At 10:51, Caverzagie moved to go into a second closed meeting with Special Legal Counsel Jerry Pigsley, County Attorney Scheitel, and Clerk Eickhoff to discuss pending litigation. The closed meeting ended at 11:21, and the meeting resumed its regular agenda.

A check was received from EMC Insurance for \$16,304.00 for premium dividends on the workers' compensation insurance. Claims were paid, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:52.

The Richardson County Board of Equalization also met Wednesday morning. Caverzagie made a motion to approve 10 tax list corrections resulting from state changes to homestead exemptions for the 2022 tax year and one for 2023. The motion passed 3-0.

SCC reports spring enrollment growth, announces five new programs for fall 2026

Southeast Community College's momentum continues with a spring enrollment of 11,191 students at all three campuses as well as its dual credit and prison education programs. The spring enrollment is up 6% from last spring and reflects SCC's ongoing commitment to meeting the demands of the skilled workforce through transformative educational opportunities.

"Over the last decade, we have really worked on our ability to expand our capacity to produce a skilled workforce," said Dr. Paul Illich, SCC president. "Our enrollment increase is a powerful reminder of the importance of ensuring everyone in our service area has access to the life-changing benefits of higher education."

Of the total spring enrollment, 10,560 of the students are from Nebraska with 82% from SCC's 15-county service area. Lincoln's enrollment is 8,119 followed by Milford with 1,664, Beatrice with 1,246, and 162 students in the Prison Education Program. In addition, there are 4,091 students enrolled in career/technical fields and 3,817 in dual credit.

Building on this growth and in direct response to feedback from industry leaders, SCC will launch five new programs in fall 2026:

- **Utility Line Worker (Associate of Applied Science):** A hands-on program that trains students to install, maintain, and repair electrical power lines and utility infrastructure. This program will be in Beatrice.

- **Hospitality Management (Associate of Applied Science):** Students will learn the business and operational side of the hospitality industry in order to manage hotels, resorts, restaurants, and event venues. This program is in Lincoln.

- **Culinary Communications (Associate of Applied Science):** This program blends culinary arts and media/communications skills, preparing students to create food content for social media, food journalism (blogs), publishing, or broadcasting. This program is in Lincoln.

- **AI in Business (Certifi-**

FROM THE JOURNAL ARCHIVES



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cate): The concepts, tools, applications, and ethics behind Artificial Intelligence will be explored in this program. Students will explore how AI is developed and applied across industries for real-world problem-solving. This program is on all three campuses.

- **English (Certificate):** This program is designed for students looking to strengthen their reading, writing, and communication skills in English, often serving as a foundation for further academic or professional pursuits. All three campuses will carry this program.

- **AVD Low Voltage Tech (Diploma):** Students will be prepared for career installing and maintaining low voltage systems such as security, fire alarm, audio/visual, and dating cabling infrastructure in residential, commercial, or industrial settings. This program is in Lincoln.

"One of the things I get excited about when I think about higher education is the way we are able to build

partnerships with local employers to create a skilled workforce," Illich said. "These partnerships form a mutual commitment to making sure our students have the highest quality education before they enter the workforce. These new programs represent our continued

commitment to listening to what our industry partners need and responding with educational opportunities that strengthen our communities and produce a skilled workforce."

SD State announces summer, fall 2025 graduates

South Dakota State University announces Megan Eickhoff of Falls City, Nebraska, has graduated following the summer and fall 2025 semesters.

Eickhoff graduated with a Master of Science from SDSU's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

Overall, more than 1,000 students from 35 states and 26 nations graduated following the summer and fall 2025 semesters, after completing all requirements for a degree and/or certificate program. Nearly 40 students received two or more degrees or certificates from a college.

Nebraska Press Association Foundation awards 2026 journalism scholarships

The Nebraska Press Association Foundation has announced the recipients of its 2026 scholarships, recognizing Nebraska high school students who plan to pursue careers in community-based journalism or agricultural communications.

Founded in 1991, the Nebraska Press Association Foundation awards annual scholarships each year to students studying journalism or ag communications at Nebraska colleges and universities, supporting the next generation of community storytellers and communicators. Each scholarship is valued at \$2,000. The top-scoring scholarship recipient receives the Allen J. Beermann Scholarship Award, which was established in 2023 in memory of Linda Beermann.

The 2026 scholarship recipients are:

- Paige Nickless, Champion, Neb., Chase County High School (recipient

of the Allen J. Beermann Scholarship Award)

- Karlene Kepler, Mills, Neb., Keya Paha County High School

- Arabella Reed, Heartwell, Neb., Minden High School

- Dallas Grunden, Maxwell, Neb., Maywood High School

The scholarship recipients will be honored during the 2026 NPA Foundation Scholarship Luncheon, scheduled for April 18 at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, Neb.

The Nebraska Press Association Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the future of community journalism in Nebraska. Through scholarships, internships and educational initiatives, the foundation helps cultivate the next generation of journalists and communicators while promoting the importance of a strong, independent local press.

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FALLS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS AND STATISTICS

February 27, 2026 through February 28, 2026 calls: six ambulance/EMS calls, two burn permits, four miscellaneous calls, one HHS intake/referral, two information-only calls, four fire calls, two 911 hang-ups/misdials, four traffic/driving complaints, two referred other agency calls, and one animal call. Twenty-eight total calls. Ten 911 calls, and one citation for speeding.

February 28, 2026 through February 29, 2026 calls: three miscellaneous calls, five fire calls, five ambulance/EMS calls, one information-only call, one disturbance, one missing person or juvenile call, and one animal call. Seventeen total calls. Eleven 911 calls, and one citation for speeding.

March 1, 2026 through March 2, 2026 calls: two 911 hang-ups/misdials, one ambulance/EMS call, two miscellaneous calls, one animal call, one burn permit, and one referred to another agency call. Eight total calls. Three 911 calls.

March 2, 2026 through March 3, 2026 calls: one information-only call, one 911 hang-up/misdial, one referred other agency call, one welfare check, five burn permits, five ambulance/EMS calls, one gun permit, and two miscellaneous calls. Seventeen total calls. Five 911 calls, two warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one warning for invalid registration, one warning for violating load contents requirements, and one warning for speeding.

March 3, 2026 through March 4, 2026 calls: four miscellaneous calls, two ambulance/EMS calls, four burn permits, one motorist assist, one theft, and one HHS intake/referral. Thirteen total calls. Four 911 calls, and one warning for muffler violation.

March 4, 2026 through March 5, 2026 calls: one information-only call, three burn permits, one miscellaneous call, one disturbance, one juvenile issue, two ambulance/EMS calls, and one referred other agency call, for a total of ten calls. There was one 911 call. One citation was issued for commit child abuse negligently/no injury.

March 5, 2026 through March 6, 2026 calls: one alarm call, two animal calls, four ambulance/EMS calls, one traffic/driving complaint, one nuisance call, two burn permits, three miscellaneous calls, one juvenile issue, and one 911 hang up/misdial call, for a total of sixteen calls. There was one 911 call. Two warnings were issued for speeding and improper/defective vehicle lighting.

March 6, 2026 through March 7, 2026 calls: one domestic disturbance, one alarm call, two animal calls, five referred other agency calls, one parking complaint, one investigation, one gun permit, two ambulance/EMS calls, four miscellaneous calls, one weather call, one HHS intake/referral, one fire call, one accident, one theft, one welfare check, one suspicious person/vehicle call, one traffic/driving complaint, and one disturbance, for a total of twenty-seven calls. There were seven 911 calls. Three citations were issued for invalid registration, no proof of insurance, and a chicken violation. Eight warnings were issued for invalid registration, improper/defective vehicle lighting (three), non-resident fail to register within 30 days, and fail to display proper number of plates (two).

March 7, 2026 through March 8, 2026 calls: one welfare check, two referred-other-agency calls, one escort, two found-or-lost-property calls, one 911 hang-up/misdial, one information-only call, one investigation, one ambulance/EMS call, one accident, and one disturbance. Four 911 calls. Three citations for misuse of a school permit, no operator's license, and an ATV/UTV violation, and five warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting (three), failure to display the proper number of plates, and no license on person.



CITATIONS

Rebecca Frear of Hastings, NE, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Holliday)

COUNTY COURT

Christjan V. Stevens, count one, procure/sell alcohol to minor/incompetent, pled no contest, found guilty; count two amended to dropped/dismitted. Sentencing scheduled for May 6, 2026.

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

22, 2026.

James W. McFadden, count one, drive without ignition interlock, pled not guilty; count two, no brake lights/turn signals, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for April 22, 2026.

Jessica E. Collins, count one, nonresident violate rev/impd order-MSD 2, pled not guilty; count two, improper/defective vehicle lighting, pled not guilty. Entry of plea scheduled for April 8, 2026.

David R. Duran Jr., count one, leave accident-fail to furnish info, pled not guilty; count two, willful reckless driving-first, pled not guilty; count three, no operator's license, pled not guilty; count four, possess/consume open alcohol container, pled not guilty; count five, overtaking/passing prohibited, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for April 8, 2026.

Ronald E. Childress, count one, speeding 16-20 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$200; count two, possess/consume open alcohol container, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$50.

Rocky Paxson, count one, unlicensed or inoperable vehicles, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25.

DISTRICT COURT

River J. McNeely, count one, assault by strangulation or suffocation, amended to assault-cause bodily injury, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentencing scheduled for March 17, 2026.

River J. McNeely, count one, tamper with witness/informant/juror, amended to attempt of a class 4 felony, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentencing scheduled for March 17, 2026.

River J. McNeely, count one, theft-unlawful taking \$5,000+, amended to theft-unlawful taking \$1,500-4,999, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentencing scheduled for March 17, 2026.

Corbin A. Stoner, count one, assault-1st degree, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for March 17, 2026.

Stephanie Corliss, count one, attempt of a class 2 felony, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for March 24, 2026.

Lawrence A. Reeder, count one, operate motor vehicle/avoid arrest, pled not guilty; count two, commit child abuse negligently/no injury, pled not guilty; count three, contribute to delinquency of child, pled not guilty; count four, willful reckless driving-1st, pled not guilty; count five, possess marijuana 1 oz or less-1st, pled not guilty; count six, possess or use drug paraphernalia, pled not guilty; count seven, speeding 36+ mph, pled not guilty; count eight, drive on shoulder of highway, pled not guilty; count nine, drive left of center, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for April 7, 2026.

Thomas J. Glavin III, count one, terroristic threats, pled not guilty; count two, intimidation-phone call/electronic comm, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for March 17, 2026.

(Editor's Note - dismissal without prejudice means the government did not waive its right to litigate the matter in a subsequent action).

(Editor's Note - dismissal with prejudice bars the government from prosecuting the accused later on the same charge).

Legend drug means drugs that are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and that are required by federal or state law to be dispensed to the public only on prescription of a licensed physician or other licensed provider.

The *Falls City Journal* publishes the Public Record as part of its obligation to inform readers about the business of public institutions and to serve as a keeper of the local historical record. The information contained in this list is processed from an electronic copy of the official record, which is submitted by the Richardson County Courthouse

RICHARDSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT

February 25 thru March 11, 2026

Total Book Ins- 14

Total Calls For Service- 334

Call Types: One 911 hang up/misdial; one 911 transfer; two accident without injures; one alarm; two ambulance/EMS; six animal calls; three assaults; seven assist outside agency; two assist public; five burn permits; one child abuse/neglect; two civil standby; two complaints; two Cooper Nuclear test's, five fire calls; one fraud; one HHS intakes; one house watch; four Humboldt city ordinance's; four Humboldt patrol; one intoxicated individual; two investigations; one jail; one littering; one mental; two miscellaneous; two missing/found adults; 11 motorist assists; 48 paper service; two parking complaints; one protection order entry; 12 request for a call; one sex offender registry; seven suspicious person/vehicles; two theft; four traffic complains; 172 traffic stops; two transports; one utilities; 14 vin inspections; one warrant arrest; two welfare checks one no call type assigned; 334 total.

February 25, 2026: Ashton Martin 18, of Falls City was arrested by Falls City PD for possession of controlled substance.

February 25, 2026: Gary M. Wendtlandt 38, of Falls City, was arrested for possession of a weapon by a prohibited person, driving under the influence, no valid registration, no proof of insurance, and fictitious plates.

February 26, 2026: Mary Dominguez 42, of Lincoln, was arrested for making a false report.

February 27, 2026: Christian A. Askren 20, was arrested for failure to register as a sex offender.

February 27, 2026: Regena L. Sackrider 52, of Falls City, was arrested for driving under suspension.

March 2, 2026: Guadalupe A Lujano Tofoyo, 27, of Omaha was arrested for driving under suspension.

March 4, 2026: Keith A Mccartney, 39, of Falls City was arrested on a Richardson County warrant for child abuse intentional/no injury and sexual assault without consent.

March 7, 2026: Shayna Jordan, 34, of Falls City was arrested for driving under suspension.

March 10, 2026: Mitchell Funk, 60, of Falls City was arrested for nonresident violate suspension order.

March 10, 2026: Misty Sedersten, 43, of Lincoln was booked into the Richardson County Jail on Nemaha County Charges.

March 11, 2026: Koltan Lare, 26, of Owasso, OK was arrested for driving under suspension.

Accident in Casey's parking-lot

A two-vehicle accident was reported on February 19 in the Casey's General Store parking lot in Falls City.

According to a Falls City Police Department accident report, the happened when Levi Campbell of White Cloud, KS, was backing up and collided with a parked vehicle owned by Ian McCarroll of Kansas City, MO. Damage was reported on the driver's side rear taillight area of both vehicles

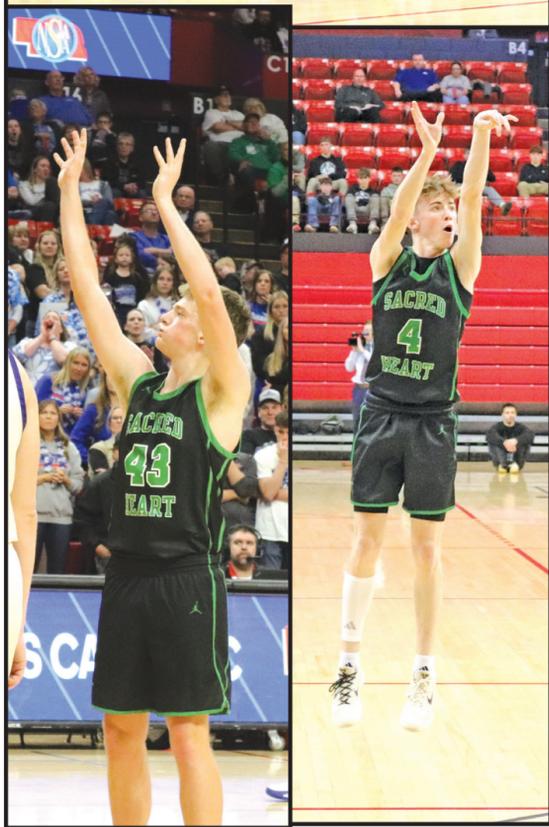
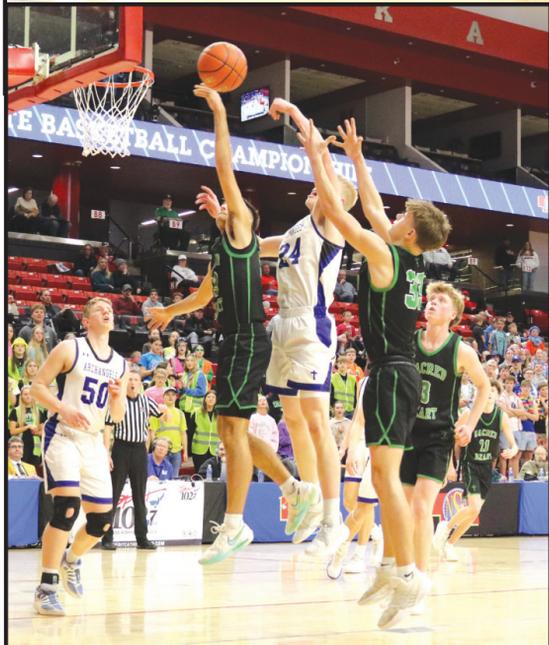
Damage to the Campbell vehicle was estimated at \$1,500, while damage to the McCarroll vehicle was estimated at \$2,500

No injuries were reported.

ANNUAL MEETING OF VERDON FIRE DISTRICT
March 24 at 7:30 PM at the Verdon Fire Hall
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

HOSTED BY HELLER MARTIAL ARTS
Free Leadership Camp
Saturday, March 21, 9AM-Noon
1522 Stone Street
For information or to register:
hellermartialarts.com
FREE Camp for all area youth. Brought to you thanks to the efforts of our Board Break-a-thon. Impact 168 is excited to join us and help students understand that leadership begins with self-leadership. We'll walk away with simple, repeatable tools to set the tone for positive leadership influence.

C	L	E	A	T	E	L	M	P	E	A	K
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Irish struggle against Defenders at Devaney Center

The Sacred Heart Irish ran into a team on a mission Wednesday evening at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in the first round of the NSAA State Basketball Tournament in Lincoln. The Irish were a perfect 3-0 against Archangels (previously Humphrey St. Francis) heading into the opening-round matchup.

The second-seeded Defenders were ranked No. 4 in Class D2 and entered the tourney 24-2. Sacred Heart, seeded seventh, was ranked No. 5 and sported a 17-8 record.

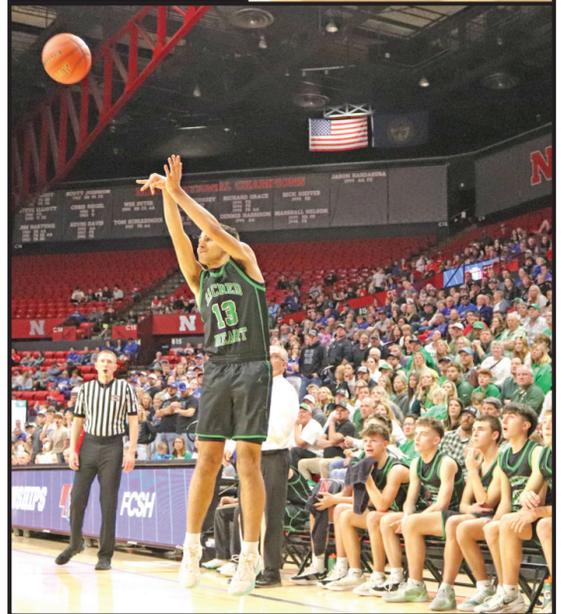
The Defenders came out firing on Wednesday, leading 7-0 with just one minute and fifteen seconds having elapsed from the clock. Finally, at the five-minute mark, senior Brenden Lemerond sank a three-pointer from the top of the key to make it 7-3. JJ Lancaster came off the bench to secure an offensive rebound and a putback to cut the Defender's lead to 9-5. Archangels went on to cut 11-5 after the opening eight minutes of action.

Junior guard Bo Fletcher picked up two quick fouls in the first quarter and sat for the rest of the half.

The Irish offense sprang to life in the second eight minutes of action. Sparked by three triples, Sacred Heart raced back, taking a 22-19 lead at intermission.

Senior Cole Taft sank a three with 7:24 to go in the half to cut the Defender advantage to 13-8. Moments later, Noah Howard drove to the hoop, making it 13-10. The Defenders hit a hoop, pushing the lead back to five, then Lemerond and Taft drained consecutive treys to put SH in the lead for the first time, 16-15, with 4:16 to play in the second. After an Archangel's timeout, Howard sank his second bucket, giving the Irish its largest lead at three points.

With just under two minutes to play in the half, Archangels retook the lead, but it was short-lived. Lancaster spotted up in the corner and sank his first three of the contest, putting the Irish in front 21-19 with 1:13 to go. The final point of the half came **IRISH -Page 8**



Shubert Legion Auxiliary 222
All Richardson County Veterans are invited
 to a 250 Celebration & Legion Birthday Party
SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 4 P.M.
 The Wayside Event Center (64472 718 Road Stella, Ne)
 Soups & Desserts • A Guest Speaker
 Any Richardson County Veteran
 with one guest is welcome!
 RSVP to Linda 402-883-2393

SPACE FOR RENT

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- Retail/Office
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- Retail/Office
 - 1000+ Private Parking Lot



MICHAEL HILLYARD
 ☎ 913-272-8767
 🌐 Hillyard_michael@yahoo.com

F&M Bank Donates \$250.00 to Falls City FFA

In honor of FFA & Ag Week, F&M Bank was proud to present a \$250 donation to the Falls City FFA Chapter in support of their commitment to leadership, service, and agricultural education. FFA has played an important role in the lives of many — including our own President, Derrick Leyden (Norris FFA), and Vice President, Logan Bredemeier (HTRS FFA). We're especially proud to give back to the local Falls City Chapter and support the next generation of leaders. Keep up the great work!
Local Decisions. Local Solutions. Local Focus.

IRISH Young Nebraskans are flipping the script

Continued from -Page 7
from Cooper Knobbe. The senior drained 1-of-2 from the charity stripe to give the Irish the three-point lead, 22-19 at the half.

Just as the Irish seemed to have Archangels figured out, the Defenders came out firing to open the second half. Archangels scored the first eight points of the half, taking a 27-22 lead. With 4:08 on the clock in the third, Taft finally put the Irish on the board, sinking 1-of-2 free throws. One minute later, Lemerond scored on a drive, and SH was battling, down 25-27. It was the last points of the quarter for Sacred Heart, as they trailed 25-35 entering the fourth.

The Irish struggles continued in the fourth as they had trouble getting open shots against the Defender's zone defense. Archangels scored the first seven points of the period, putting the game out of reach. With 3:18 remaining, Howard hit a triple from the top of the key to make it 28-45. It was the only points of the period for SH. The Irish were outscored 30-6 in the second half, falling 49-28.

Sacred Heart suffered one of its worst shooting performances of the season and couldn't recover against the talented Defender team. The Irish made just 10-of-45 attempts, including a 6-for-35 effort from deep. SH was outrebounded 43-28. Meanwhile, Archangels went 19-of-47 from the field and 1-of-8 from deep.

The Irish enjoyed their most success in the second quarter as they went 6-10 from the field and 4-7 from beyond the arc. SH went just 4-35 in the other three periods.

Seniors Brenden Lemerond and Cole Taft led the charge one final time for Coach Goltz. Lemerond scored eight points, had three rebounds and dished out two assists, while Taft had seven points. Bo Fletcher, who entered the tourney averaging 14.5 points per game, was held scoreless by the tough Defenders' defense. The two quick fouls in the first quarter hampered the junior guard throughout the contest.

The loss by Sacred Heart was the first loss of the season to a Class D1 or D2 school.

Archangels Catholic tore through the Class D2 competition in Lincoln. The Defenders defeated top-ranked St. Mary's 57-52 on Friday and then took down the top-seeded Elgin/Pope John 50-30 in the Class D2 championship game on Saturday morning.

By Jeff Yost

"How fast can I leave this place?"

Young people in Nebraska have been asking themselves that question for a long time. Maybe you even asked yourself at one point. I certainly did. For much of the 20th century, that's just the way things were. There was a script: grow up, graduate high school, and depart for greener pastures. Not the most inspiring narrative.

We've learned since then that the questions we ask shape our community stories, and that those stories shape our community's success. For the last 30 years, Nebraska Community Foundation has been working to change the questions we ask about our hometowns. Over the past five years NCF has surveyed over 4,000 high school age students in 43 Greater Nebraska school districts. Here are a few highlights:

Three-fourths reported no negative stigma with returning to or staying in the area they live now

Seventy-six percent feel connected to their hometown

Fifty-nine percent said they are somewhat or extremely likely to live in the area they live now as an adult

When asked to rank qualities of their ideal community to live in, safety, good schools, and proximity to family top the list every year

I don't expect people to believe me right away when I say that one of the most powerful approaches to bringing people to your community is as simple as making space. Some might roll their eyes – surely there are better options? I believe invitation is the right tool for lasting change, and I believe one of the most powerful questions you can ask young people is "how do you want to play a role in our hometown?"

One way to ask that important question is through Hometown Internships. Nebraska Community Foundation launched the program in 2019, hoping to build an experience that brings young adults back home to see their hometown through a different lens. Communities invited them into the room where decisions are made and encouraged them to take an active role. We started with just one intern that first year. Now, we regularly have dozens of interns, with some communities even sponsoring two or three at a time. The NCF network has hosted 113 internships since 2019.

Alongside the increase in participants, NCF has expanded and refined the program's curriculum. Interns now embark on

something we call Operation Discovery. This educational component engages interns to explore innovative strategies grounded in mapping their community's assets and helping lead important conversations, ultimately driving progress towards community aspirations.

By necessity, the places that make up the NCF network don't always have the same approach to community-building. And they shouldn't, because every village, city, or county in our state possesses unique local assets and strengths requiring strategies just as unique. Some towns capitalize on their natural resources, others on a robust entrepreneurial spirit, and others on arts or culture. Most focus on a combination of their strengths. Our Nebraska hometowns have no shortage of assets to strengthen and share with residents, neighbors, and visitors.

The people who are best equipped to recognize and understand these assets are those who live and work in that community. Hometown Internships bring people back by appealing to one heart, one mind at a time. Some interns rediscover why they love their hometowns, and others fall in love with their community for the first time. That's the kind of change that sticks and proves that an invitation and making room for the next generation should be part of any approach to bring more people into Greater Nebraska.

These experiences are having profound impacts

on both the young adults and their local champions. They're initiating all sorts of productive activities to build community, strengthen intergenerational relationships, improve community narrative and self-concept, and provide a strong case statement for investing time, talent, and treasure in their hometown. For the past three years at the end of the summer, we've asked Hometown Interns to write a love letter to their hometown. Listening to these young adults read their inspiring and heart-warming letters is one of my favorite days of the year!

We are learning these young adults are not just discovering their communities, they are discovering something about themselves – how their place shaped them and why they just might want to come home for good someday. Twenty interns have already returned to their hometowns. Some found jobs and joined local organizations. A few have even purchased homes. Even more interns have told us that they now imagine themselves returning to Greater Nebraska someday to build their lives.

They've flipped the script. According to one Hometown Intern's love letter, there's a new question:

"How fast can I return?"

Jeff Yost is President and CEO of Nebraska Community Foundation. For more information about NCF's work, visit NebraskaHometown.org.

Rethinking soybean seed treatment costs

With higher input costs and lower soybean prices, many producers are looking for ways to reduce expenses going into the 2026 growing season. One area that often comes up is soybean seed treatments. Growers are asking whether these treatments always pay for themselves and if there are situations where they can safely cut back.

Let's start with the simple rule: match inputs to risk, not habit. This conversation has become more relevant after Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) was reported in soybean fields across southeast Nebraska in 2025. In affected fields, farmers noticed patches of soybeans that appeared brown, wilted, and declining earlier than expected. Although symptoms often show up in mid- to late-summer, the disease actually begins much earlier in the growing season. When soybeans are planted into cool, wet soils, a soilborne fungus called *Fusarium virguliforme* can infect the roots shortly after plant emergence. The fungus may grow inside the plant for weeks without visible symptoms, which is why SDS often doesn't appear until late July or early August. Weather conditions also influence how severe the disease becomes. Hot, dry weather can slow its development, but if infection occurs early in the season, symptoms may still appear later. Heavy rains around flowering can make the problem worse and often lead to noticeable patches across the field.

Because infection happens early, management decisions also need to happen before or at planting. Fungicide seed treatments can be helpful in certain situations, but they do not always provide a return. Research shows they are most likely to pay when soybeans are planted early, such as in April or early May, into cool, wet soils that slow emergence and favor seedling diseases like *Pythium* and *Phytophthora*. Fields that are poorly drained, have compacted areas, or have a history of seedling disease may also benefit. In contrast, the return on seed treatments tends to drop when soybeans are planted later into warm, well-drained soils, especially in fields without a history of disease or where varieties have good tolerance.

For Sudden Death Syndrome specifically, not every field requires an SDS seed treatment. Fields without a history of SDS and varieties with tolerance often do not need products such as ILeVO or Saltro. These treatments are usually best reserved for fields with a strong history of SDS, particularly where early planting into cool, wet soil is common and soybean cyst nematode is present. Research has shown that the active ingredient fluopyram, used in ILeVO, can reduce SDS and sometimes increase yield when disease pressure is high. Another active ingredient, pydiflumetofen, used in Saltro, has shown similar suppression in research trials. Some biological products, such as Heads Up, have also shown potential in reducing diseases like white mold and SDS in university studies.

Another practical way to reduce seed treatment costs is by lowering soybean seeding rates. Since seed treatments are priced per seed, reducing population can lower both seed and treatment expenses. Research across the Upper Midwest has shown soybeans can still achieve close to maximum yield with relatively modest final stands because plants can compensate by branching. Studies in Wisconsin found economically optimal seeding rates often fell between about 94,000 and 106,000 seeds per acre when using common treatment packages.

This doesn't mean the same rate fits every field. Seeding rates should still account for expected emergence, row spacing, and field productivity. However, in many cases, reducing overly high seeding rates can help trim costs without sacrificing yield. As growers plan for the coming season, the key message is that seed treatments should be used strategically rather than automatically. Evaluating field history, planting conditions, and variety tolerance can help determine where treatments are most likely to pay and where they may not be necessary; let the environment and field history decide the spend!

DWEE opens application period for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program

The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE) has announced the application period for counties, cities, and villages to apply for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG).

The application period is open through April 15, 2026. Decisions on awarded projects will be made by April 30, 2026, and be awarded by May 31, 2026.

In 2024, DWEE was awarded \$1.779 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to support local communities in implementing high-impact, self-sustaining energy efficiency projects through a competitive subaward grant process.

DWEE funded 14 projects, totaling \$1.1 million, in 2024. Those projects are now underway or completed. The Department is opening this supplemental funding opportunity to award additional projects.

Applications are open to Nebraska counties and local communities who were not eligible for a federal EECBG allocation. Eligible projects include upgrades to improve performance of building envelope for government structures, heating, air and ventilation upgrades, replacement of existing lighting to more energy efficient lighting equipment, and energy efficiency workforce development and training.

Projects for these competitive grants should improve the community by providing long-lasting benefits such as increasing energy efficiency, decreasing the community's energy burden, and promoting workforce development in energy efficiency.

EECBG applications, instructions, and other supporting documents can be found on DWEE's website:

<https://dee.nebraska.gov/forms/publications-grants-forms/24-007>. More information about the EECBG program can also be found on DWEE's website: <https://dee.nebraska.gov/aid/energy-loans-grants-rebates/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grant-program>.

Falls City Journal will be closed on Friday, March 20. The in office deadline will be Thursday, March 19, email or drop-off in our entryway deadline will remain Friday, March 20 by Noon.

FALLS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1415 MORTON STREET- FALLS CITY, NE 68355

Please be advised that the Falls City Public Schools Special Education Coordinator will be meeting with the Superintendent of Falls City Sacred Heart to consult on services regarding special education support. We will also be meeting to discuss Title I support as part of ESSA requirements.

THIS MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE

AT SACRED HEART ON

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 AT 9:00 AM

THIS IS AN ANNUAL MEETING AND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ATTENDANCE AND INPUT.

THE HUNT IS ON!
Please join us for an
Easter Egg Hunt
Hosted by the FC Nursing & Rehab
1720 Burton Drive, Falls City
Sat., April 4th @ 2pm

AGE GROUPS:
0-3 Yrs 4-6 Yrs 7-10 Yrs



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**Out of network ATM fees may apply.



Gayle Barnett



Gayle Barnett, 73, of Falls City, NE, passed away March 13, 2026 at Falls City. She was born April 3, 1952 at Princeton, MO to Robert and Sylvia (Alexander) Holtman.

She married Wesley Leroy Barnett on May 7, 1994 at Des Moines, IA. He passed away November 6, 2023.

Gayle moved to Des Moines as a young teenager and attended North High School. She worked at a speakeasy for over 20 years as a bartender until she met her future husband, Wesley. When married they moved to St. Joseph where she became a homemaker before moving to Falls City in 2018 where she continued to live. She enjoyed shopping, bingo, slot machines and always bragging on her grandchildren who, in her words, were her "Pride and Joy!"

Gayle is survived by her brother, Darryl Holtman of Falls City, sister, Mary Pine and her husband John of Port St. Lucie, FL, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, her dog, Sassy and cat, Sophie. She was preceded in death by her parents, daughters, Pennie Scates and Shawna Geniuk, brothers, Richard and Doug Holtman and a sister, Chris Bagby.

Gayle has been cremated and the family will have a celebration of life at a later date.

Larry Dale Harmon



Larry Dale Harmon, 86, of Dawson, passed away Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at Nemaha County Hospital in Auburn, one day short of his 87th birthday.

Larry was born on March 11, 1939, in the Nim City area, to William "Bill" Harmon and Pearl Elizabeth Harmon. He was baptized at Prairie Union Baptist Church. Though he was born and remained deeply rooted in the Southeast Nebraska ground he loved all his life, Larry was never a man who sat still. He lived just a mile from where he was born, but his near 87 years took him far beyond home through work and travel that stretched across the country.

Larry attended Honey Creek school, where he played basketball and ran track. As a young man, he helped his father farm until the family sold the farm in 1960. Self-taught, Larry knew how to fix and figure things out. He took this skill as a mechanic to Morehead Chevrolet dealership in Falls City. He later worked at the Dawson Co-op Elevator. In 1966, he began the work that would become an important part of his life when he joined John Deere Implement. Over the years, he worked his way up from mechanic to service manager to sales manager, building a reputation for taking care of people.

On May 25, 1958, Larry married Judy Marsh, whom he had known since childhood. Together, they had two sons, Lyle and Matthew, building a family that remained the core of his life. He was a no-nonsense father who taught right from wrong and believed in letting his sons make their own mistakes, while always being there with advice when it mattered. He taught his family to always take pride in their name. Those lessons stayed with his children and grandchildren long after they left home.

In the 1980s, Larry and his wife Judy owned the Dawson Café for a time and later bought the gas station in Peru in 1983. He eventually returned to his work with John Deere, where he worked from 1984 until his retirement in 2001. Even in retirement, Larry didn't slow down. He continued working on tractors with his good friend Lynn Whitten.

Adventure was always a part of Larry's life. As a teenager, he and a friend headed west to Oregon, taking jobs along the way and working wherever they could, including on a golf course, in peach orchards, in canneries and in fish markets, before returning to Nebraska in time to help with harvest. Later in life, he put nearly 50,000 miles on his motorcycle with his wife and spent part of his life in West Texas, proving that while home was always important to him, he was never afraid to see more of the world.

He was a talented mechanic from the start. He learned by tinkering on the farm, working on tractors and figuring out how things went together. That mechanical mind stayed with him all his life. It showed up not only in his work but also in his passion for tractor pulling, one of the things he loved most. Larry became involved in the sport and helped found the Texas Tractor Pulling Association after moving to West Texas. He was known for both his ingenuity and his showmanship. He specially built a John Deere-pulling tractor, drawing the attention of John Deere engineers, who came to see for themselves what he had accomplished.

Larry immersed himself fully in whatever he loved and never did anything halfway. He liked to laugh, have fun, and share a good story after a hard day's work.

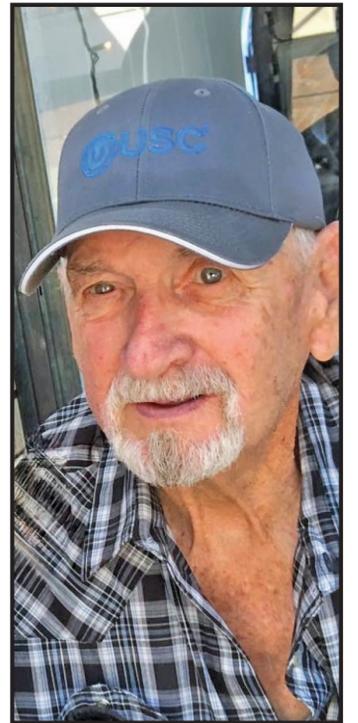
Larry was also a loving grandfather and great-grandfather, even if he was not always the kind to say everything out loud. He took pride in his grandchildren, in the lives they built and in the people they chose to marry.

Survivors include his wife, Judy of Dawson; sons and daughters-in-law, Lyle and Rhonda of Dawson and Matt and Amy of Dawson; grandchildren, Nikki and Brian McKim of Falls City, Cori and Heath Christiansen of Auburn, Hannah and Andrew Asbury of Parkville, Missouri, and Rex Harmon and Gracie Hansen of Vermillion, South Dakota; great-grandchildren, Alex McKim, Lucy, Olive and Henry Christiansen and Dani Asbury; sister, Peggy Harmon of Falls City; along with other relatives and many, many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William "Bill" Harmon and Pearl Elizabeth Harmon, and his siblings, Bill Harmon, Helen Iliff, Clara Hollister, Bob Harmon, Kenny Harmon and Donna Harmon.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 20, 2026, at Hemmingsen Funeral Home in Auburn. The family will greet friends one hour prior to the service. The burial of ashes will take place at a later date in Nemaha Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to the American Diabetes Association.



James Harold "Dinger" Reynolds



James Harold "Dinger" Reynolds, passed away peacefully March 11, 2026, at Mosaic Life Care in St. Joseph, MO. He was 54.

Dinger, as he was known by family and friends, was born to James Donald and Cynthia Ann Weaver Reynolds, September 15, 1971, at Waukegan, Illinois. The family moved to Hiawatha, Kansas when he was a toddler. He grew up attending schools, graduating from Hiawatha High School with the class of 1989.

He developed a strong work ethic, with his 'true love' being military...A MARINE! He enlisted May 1, 1990 being discharged September 10, 1991 as a Lance Corporal. He returned to Brown County for

another love of his life, his future wife. He married Cynthia Annette Chandler, September 15, 1995, at Hiawatha. They made Hiawatha and later Falls City their home where they raised their family.

Another love he developed (from his mother) was law enforcement. He started as a Reserve Officer prior to working as a jailer for the Brown County Sheriff Department for a number of years. He later worked at Wal-Mart for 10 years, Store Kraft wood products, Wal-Mart in store planning for five years. He returned to law enforcement where he worked in maintenance for Casino White Cloud and later security for Highland Community College.

Dinger enjoyed fishing, hunting, woodworking, crafting and talking to the grandchildren. AND watching Raider Football.

Survivors include his wife Cindy of the home, their children: Samantha (JT) Tisdell, David J. Reynolds, Dillon Shafer; three grandchildren: Cassidy Tisdell, Charlotte Tisdell, and Damon Tisdell.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister Sheila Reynolds.

The family will meet with friends at Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, Hiawatha, from 2-4 p.m. Thursday, March 26, 2026, with military honors. Friends are encouraged to wear Raider gear (ugh).

Friends may sign the register book March 23 or 24 during office hours.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the James Reynolds Memorial Fund sent in care of the funeral home, 124 S 7th St., 66434. www.chapeloaksfuneralhome.com

-Continued from Page 1

Louis Fritz

February 21, 1943 at Verdon to Edward and Esther (Biermann) Fritz.

He married Judy Lanning on March 1, 1964 at Seneca, KS.

Louis was raised at Verdon and graduated Dawson-Verdon High School in 1961. He earned a degree in education at Peru State Teachers College where he excelled at cross country and track as a distance runner. Following his graduation, he taught physical education and health at Dawson-Verdon High School for three years before teaching at Falls City High School. He taught for twenty-nine years at Falls City, retiring in 1998. He spent his retirement raising various livestock and continued running, he ran 72 marathons over his lifetime and was a three-time participant in the Bike Ride Across Nebraska. He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 6 miles north of Falls City and the Peru State College Hall of Fame.

Louis is survived by his wife, Judy of Verdon, children, Darin and his wife Kerry and Jason and his special friend Stephanie Portman both of Verdon, Mara Dungan and her husband Craig of Falls City, brother, Phil and his wife Cindy of Verdon, sisters, Martha Owens of Elwood, NE, and Pamela Fritz of Sterlington, LA, nine grandchildren, Levi and Emily Campbell, Abby Fritz, Cody Bahr, Jordan Schwarzer, Brittany Graves, Cedree, Eddie and Gretchen Fritz and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, son, Edward, daughter, Melissa Stevenson, brothers, Eugene and Lyle, sisters, Elaine Browne and Marie Parsons.

His funeral will be held Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 10:30 AM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 6 miles north of Falls City with Reverend Ken Humphrey officiating. Interment will be St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Wednesday from 6-8:00 PM at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home.

Viewing will begin on Tuesday afternoon.

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of Table Rock

*Annual Percentage Yield is accurate as of 3/5/2026. Minimum opening deposit of \$500 required to obtain the state APY. An early withdrawal penalty may apply which would reduce earnings on the account. Limited time offer, subject to change.

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St. Thomas Episcopal Church

1602 Harlan Street, Falls City, NE
(Across the street from the post office)

5:00-5:30 PM

Tuesdays: Feb. 24; March 3; March 10, March 17; March 24 and March 31

Before you can celebrate Easter, you must understand Jesus' suffering.

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62728 706 Road
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POLKA PARTY
Sunday Afternoon
March 22, 2026

GREG BLECHA & His Goodtime Polka Band

Potluck at Noon
Free dance 1-4

Dedicated to

Norman & Mary Barker, Betty Hatch Ingwerson, Hank & Barbara Buessing, Rudy & Dorothy Fritch, Sutton & Rily Eggers, Dale & Jean James, Lloyd & Betty Vrtiska, & the valued customers of the State Bank of Table Rock—Du Bois Branch

Nebraska has a child care crisis. Looming Medicaid cuts will worsen it

By Destiny Herbers, Flatwater Free Press

Malissie Plugge felt blessed to find the perfect child care setup for her daughters Margo and Violet, a warm, sweet in-home day care not too far from their home in Omaha.

Over the past year and a half, the woman who ran the day care became like family. Plugge planned to keep sending her girls, ages 5 and 2, until they both started school.

But in January, the provider learned her mother's home health nurse would no longer be covered by Medicaid due to state funding cuts. The day care had to close so she could take care of her mom.

"It's so hard to find a good day care that you feel super safe and comfortable with ... we've all just been really sad," Plugge said. "The kids have cried about it. I've cried about it. She's cried about it."

The Plugge family won't be the only one in this situation soon. An estimated 1 in 8 child care workers in Nebraska are using Medicaid, according to a Flatwater Free Press analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample.

It's an essential support for an industry where workers tend to be underpaid and lack benefits, experts said. That support is slated to be slashed under President Donald Trump's 2025 tax and spending bill, often called "the One Big Beautiful Bill."

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that almost 5.2 million adults will lose Medicaid coverage and be uninsured by 2034 as a result of those cuts, which will hit states at the beginning of 2027. Nationally, about 40 million adults are enrolled in Medicaid, which means about 13% are expected to lose their health insurance coverage.

About 228 Nebraska child care providers could lose coverage, according to a Flatwater analysis based on federal estimates and the number of Nebraska child care workers enrolled in Medicaid.

Nebraska already has a critical shortage of child care workers. Since 2019, the state has lost almost 30% of those workers, according to American Community Survey data.

And that impacts families. The Buffett Early Childhood Institute estimates that around 16,310 children in Nebraska currently need care, but their families cannot reasonably access that care within driving distance.

Anything that makes it more difficult for a person to work in child care, like losing insurance, will make that coverage gap worse, said Walter Gilliam, execu-

tive director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute.

"It's a rough cycle to be able to extricate ourselves from," Gilliam said, "and the only way we can try to do that is to think about how better to support child care in the state ... But the very first step in that is to do everything that we can to do no further harm."

The domino effect

Plugge and her husband both work as teachers, and their family has health insurance. She didn't foresee any way that her own life could be directly affected by people losing coverage.

"As someone who's not on Medicaid, I'm like 'Gosh, I hate everything that's going on,' but I didn't expect to be personally impacted by it," Plugge said.

Each state runs its own Medicaid program that is jointly funded by the state and the federal government. The mega bill, which Trump signed into law in July, will cut federal Medicaid spending by nearly \$1 trillion over the next 10 years. Among other changes, the bill will also impose work requirements for enrollees and end eligibility for some immigrants, including refugees.

Nebraska will see \$4 billion less in federal Medicaid funding over the decade, said Sarah Maresh, health care access program director at Nebraska Appleseed. Tens of thousands of Nebraskans are expected to lose their health care coverage, Maresh said, which will be a hard hit to the state's health system.

"Not only is it going to hurt the individuals and the families who are not going to be able to access care ..." Maresh said. "We're really concerned about the downstream effects as well."

All five members of Nebraska's congressional delegation voted for the bill. Rep. Don Bacon, a Republican representing Omaha, did not respond to a request for comment. Bacon had repeatedly expressed concerns about the steep cuts to Medicaid, but justified his vote in a statement at the time calling the tax provisions, which made permanent the tax cuts passed during Trump's first term, "critical."

Rep. Mike Flood, a Republican representing much of eastern Nebraska, declined to comment, but a spokesperson pointed to a column Flood wrote in 2025 pitching the reform as necessary to ensure Medicaid's long-term viability.

"These reforms are designed to restore fiscal discipline, promote work, and empower states ... They are not designed to affect our most vulnerable Americans who rely on Medicaid," he wrote in the column.

New work requirements for Medicaid eligibility, which Nebraska will be the first state to implement, will also impact people working in child care, Maresh said.

"I'm thinking about child care providers, where a lot of those folks are self-employed, and how difficult it will be for them ... to verify that they're meeting those hours to make sure they can get their health care coverage," Maresh said.

Implementing federal work requirements will be a herculean effort for states, Maresh said, and she fears that many Nebraskans, including child care providers, will fall through the cracks and lose coverage in "mass numbers."

Around 13% of child care workers in Nebraska reported that they use Medicaid in 2023, the most recent year data is available. That number was up from 11% in 2019.

And the portion of child care workers who reported using Medicaid is consistently higher than the general rate of all adults enrolled in Medicaid in Nebraska, which was 10% in 2023, according to Flatwater's analysis of Census Bureau data.

Researchers at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health's Center for Health Policy estimated that more than 57,000 adult Nebraskans — or roughly 37% of adult Nebraskans enrolled in Medicaid in 2023 — would lose coverage.

If that estimate becomes reality, more than 650 child care workers may lose coverage.

Other child care providers will not directly lose their Medicaid coverage but may still be driven to leave the industry because a loved one has lost coverage.

The Plugges' day care provider — who declined to be interviewed for this story — is part of what researchers call the "sandwich generation," adults who have both children and elderly or disabled adults depending on them for care.

At least 1 in every 4 adults are part of that group, and that number will grow as the Baby Boomer generation continues aging, said Julie Kashen, director for women's economic justice at the Century Foundation, a progressive think tank. Without Medicaid support paying for long-term care, people with adult dependents may also need to leave their jobs.

UNMC estimated that 1 in every 5 seniors could lose nursing home care due to both loss of coverage and anticipated nursing home closures.

And, as was the case with the Plugges' provider, it can create a domino effect, Kashen said:

- * Pulling home health care support from one woman led the day care to close;

- * Multiple families are now losing child care;

- * A parent from some of those families may have to drop out of the workforce if no alternative can be found.

"These Medicaid cuts, maybe they don't affect you directly, they are going to affect you in some way," Kashen said.

Many of the biggest impacts of the cuts are still unknown, as states will need to budget to handle the loss of those federal funds. The Plugge family's situation is

a hint of what's to come, Kashen said.

Adults won't be the only ones impacted. About half of all Nebraskans enrolled in Medicaid are children — approximately 180,000 — according to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

"There are policy choices we can make that make children healthy and safe and nurtured. That's a choice we could be making," Kashen said. "Instead, we are saying, 'Let's make it harder. Let's make people less healthy.' ... All of these barriers are being put up when they should be being knocked down."

A fragile system

The number of child care workers in Nebraska has been steadily decreasing. In 2019, the Census Bureau estimated that about 18,600 Nebraskans were working in child care. By 2023, that number dropped to about 13,300.

And as that number dropped, the proportion of those workers who are enrolled in Medicaid increased.

It's already difficult for families in Nebraska to access child care, Gilliam said, and the main reason is that shrinking number of staff, often because they're paid "so terribly."

Child care has always been an underpaid profession, but the COVID-19 pandemic led to many other underpaid professions becoming better paying. Now, there's not enough child care staff because they can find better wages doing "just about anything else," Gilliam said.

The Buffett Early Childhood Institute estimates that nearly 4,500 children in the Omaha metro area alone need care that their families can't access. That Omaha child care coverage gap equates to as much as \$335 million in economic losses over 10 years, according to the Buffett report.

Gilliam knows a child care provider in central Nebraska who runs an in-home day care that cares for the children of teachers at the local public school.

She's the teacher who makes seven other teachers possible, Gilliam said. There isn't another child care provider in town, so some of those teachers wouldn't be able to work without her.

She runs the day care at a loss, Gilliam says, because those teachers can afford to pay only so much.

"What she was describing to me was clearly an infrastructure role that she played for the public schools and ... she's doing it as a failing business model that is subsidized on the goodwill and the fortunate existence of a husband who makes a decent living," Gilliam said.

Places in Nebraska where child care providers and families are living at or near poverty will be hit hardest by the Medicaid cuts, Gilliam said, both because they are more likely to be enrolled in Medicaid and because there aren't enough providers to meet demand.

"This is not a robust system," Gilliam said. "This is an incredibly fragile system that's already under a massive amount of strain. And this is yet another straw on a camel's back that's already breaking with the strain."

Losing the place and the people that her children loved was a major blow for the Plugges, not just emotionally, but financially.

She found a new day care for the girls, and negotiated the monthly rate down a few hundred dollars, but it still will cost the family \$500 more every month. Finding that money in their already tight teachers' budget is going to hurt.

"We don't eat out and we don't do a lot of shopping and all of those things, so it's like, what's left to cut?" Plugge said.

Plugge is relying on help from her mother-in-law to fill in the gaps and is counting down the days until summer break. Then Margo will start kindergarten in the fall, and they will only need to pay for Violet.

"Otherwise, I mean, I can't even conceptualize what I would do," Plugge said.

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

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MARCH 4, 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, March 4, 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 February 25, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the quarterly safety committee meeting.

Motion seconded by Karas. Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

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

BRIAN KIRKENDALL, EMA DIRECTOR

Brian Kirkendall, EMA Director reported to the Board that the 2027 application for Community Project Funding through a request form with Congressman Adrian Smith has been submitted for the purchase of statewide radio capable radios. Chairman Caverzagie signed the application form earlier this week so that it would be submitted before the deadline.

A brief discussion was held regarding the annual salary increase for the position of EMA Director which has not yet been determined. The Board will consider a salary increase again at next week's meeting.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

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

A pickup that was available at the Federal Surplus Property has been purchased for the purchase price of \$31,000. Improvements will be made to this truck by adding a dump box/flat bed for \$3,555.03 purchased from Pierce Arrow, Inc. dba Pierce Sales of Henrietta, TX.

Bid specifications have been completed for the Dawson Northwest Project #C-74(2023-05) and a notice for sealed bids has been released and advertised to be received by 10:00 a.m. on March 25, 2026. The specifications for this project can be found on the county's website, www.richardsoncounty.ne.gov.

Bid specifications have been completed for Project #C-74(2026-02) Dustless Highway resurfacing with scrub mastic and a notice for sealed bids has been released and advertised to be received by 10:00 a.m. on April 1, 2026. The specifications for this project can be found on the county's website, www.richardsoncounty.ne.gov.

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of a paint stripping machine to be used on the county's hard surfaced roads and it was decided that this will be included in the next fiscal year budget.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center. He reported there are 14 inmates currently being held in the Jail. There were also 660 total calls for service in February, 2026, in which 317 were traffic stops; 26 persons booked into Jail (6 from other agencies, 1 out-of-county hold and 20 arrests made by Richardson County Sheriff).

A brief discussion was held on improving the outside building to be utilized for additional storage for the Law

Enforcement Center. RICHARDSON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Members of the Richardson County Planning Commission requested to be on today's agenda, however, due to scheduling conflicts they requested to postpone this session until March 11th at 10:00 a.m.

ALVIN SIMON

Alvin Simon requested to meet with the Board regarding zoning.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER Fee Reports

Reports were approved for the following officials for fees collected during the month of February, 2026: Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk \$864.60, Mary L. Eickhoff, Register of Deeds, \$12,942.52; Pam Scott, Clerk of District Court, \$191.98.

Monthly Operating Statement

The Board reviewed the monthly operating statement for February, 2026.

Applications for County Depository

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve applications from Nebraska Bank and Equity Bank to serve as a County Depository for 2026 and to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-31. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 99)

The Equity Bank was the former Frontier Bank and the Nebraska Bank is an additional bank added to those that were approved on December 31, 2025, with Resolution 2025-2026-21.

Surplus Office Equipment/Furniture

Motion was made by Karas to approve the sale of surplus office equipment, furniture and/or supplies at a consignment auction to be held on March 28, 2026, at LG Auction in Hiawatha, KS. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Poll Worker Pay for 2026 Election

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the pay for election board workers at \$15.50/hour effective January 1, 2026. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Other

County Treasurer, Amanda Bar-

tek-Ramsey submitted to the County Clerk the certified return of the sale of real property from the March 2, 2026, public tax sale.

CLAIMS

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

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

GENERAL FUND

Ankrom, Jami, reimb..... 716.30
Culligan, serv..... 11.20
Davis PHE, serv..... 404.31
East Richardson Rural Water Dist. #2, serv..... 255.76
Falls City Mercantile, supp..... 213.34
Farm & City Supply, supp..... 86.90
Generators for Sale, serv..... 484.25
Jim Hill's, serv..... 725.00
Karas, Rick, reimb..... 338.72
Kawre's, supp..... 75.00
Lincoln National, ins..... 1515.98
Mid-States Organized Crime Info, dues..... 100.00
MIPS, serv..... 3933.71
MIS, serv..... 110.00
Morehead, Amanda, reimb..... 44.88
NACO, reg..... 200.00
NE State Fire Marshal, fee..... 72.00
Nemaha County Sheriff, serv..... 60.00
ODP Business Solutions, supp. 360.14
Pitney Bowes, supp..... 1017.00
ProServ Business Systems, serv..... 177.00
Psychological Resources, serv. 300.00
Richardson County Clerk Petty Cash, reimb..... 22.00
Richardson County Court, fee..... 423.06
Richardson County EMA Petty Cash, reimb..... 300.00
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc..... 25697.41
Shawnee County Sheriff, serv..... 50.00
SummerOne, serv..... 168.64
Tichy, Rob, reimb..... 626.11
US Signal, serv..... 1016.40
Ventura County Sheriff, serv..... 100.00
Verizon, serv..... 243.17
Wolfe's, supp..... 653.68
Payroll Expense..... 122962.57
TOTAL GENERAL FUND \$163,462.53

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Culligan, serv..... 73.60

East Richardson Rural Water Dist. #2, serv..... 46.00
Falls City Journal, adv..... 22.06
Martin Marietta Materials, rock..... 24626.28
Myers Tire Supply, supp..... 377.51
NE Dept. of Correctional Services, truck..... 31000.00
Norris Quarries, rock..... 17690.03
Operation & Expense Account, reimb..... 555.89
OPPD, serv..... 142.26
Rulo, Village of, serv..... 30.00
Sign Solutions USA, supp..... 1432.96
Stalene Propane, serv..... 276.90
Payroll Expense..... 35919.57
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND..... \$112,193.26

REG OF DEEDS P&M FUND

MIPS, serv..... 324.92
TOTAL REG OF DEEDS P&M FUND..... \$324.92

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 a.m. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. for the next regular weekly meeting in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk's Office.

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

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FALLS CITY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

February 19th, 2026
2307 Barada Street
Falls City, Nebraska

A regular meeting of the Board of Public Works of the City of Falls City, Nebraska, was held at the City Hall, 2307 Barada Street in said City on the 19th day of February 2026 at 5:30 o'clock P.M. Present were: Board Members: Froeschl, Rieger, Joy, and Koopman. Absent: Johansen. Trevor Campbell recorded the minutes of the meeting. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in three public places, a designated method for giving notice as shown by the Certificate of Posting Notice attached to these minutes. Notice of this meeting was given to the Board Chairperson and all members of the Board and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Chairperson and Board of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. The Chairperson publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted in the room where the meeting was being held.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Trevor Campbell gave the Public Works Report. No action was required.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Joy and seconded by Rieger to approve the consent agenda as follows: WHEREAS, certain business of the Board of Public Works of the City of Falls City (City) transpires on a regular and routine basis or is not of controversial nature; and WHEREAS, roll call votes on each individual issue greatly extend the meeting time. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY the Board of Public Works that in the interest of economizing time, yet complying with the Public Meeting Laws of the State of Nebraska, which require roll call voting, the following issues are hereby consolidated in this Consent Resolution: 1. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Board of Public Works that the minutes from the February 5th, 2026, meeting is hereby approved. 2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Board of Public Works that the agenda for February 19th, 2026, is hereby approved. 3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Board of Public Works that the Consent Agenda for February 19th, 2026, is hereby approved. Roll was called on this motion and the members voted as follows: "YEA" Froeschl, Rieger, Joy, Koopman. "NAY" None. "ABSENT": Johansen. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OLSSON WORK ORDER AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,800.00 TO USE GROUND PENETRATING RADAR (GPR) TO LOCATE EXISTING GRVES OR OTHER FOREIGN MATERIALS IN THE FORMER FALLS CITY CEMETERY

Following discussion and review of the agreement, a motion was made by Froeschl and seconded by Rieger to approve the work order agreement in the amount of \$9,800.00 to use GPR to locate existing graves or other foreign materials in the former Falls City cemetery as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the members voted as follows: "YEA" Froeschl, Rieger, Joy, Koopman. "NAY" None. "ABSENT": Johansen. Motion carried.

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Koopman. "NAY" None. "ABSENT": Johansen. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC SERVICE AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00 TO PROVIDE FOR GIS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH DEVELOPING THE CITY'S WATER SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

Following discussion and review of the agreement, a motion was made by Koopman and seconded by Joy to approve the JEO Consulting Group Inc. service agreement in the amount of \$10,000.00 to provide for GIS Professional Services associated with developing the City's Water Service Line Inventory. Roll was called on this motion and the members voted as follows: "YEA" Froeschl, Rieger, Joy, Koopman. "NAY" None. "ABSENT": Johansen. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO APPROVE AMENDMENT #2 TO THE AGREEMENT WITH MILLER & ASSOCIATES FOR PROJECT NO. 495-D1-006 TO PREPARE BIDDING DOCUMENTS AND ASSIST WITH EPA COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING REQUIREMENT FOR PLUG VALVE INSTALLATION ON GRAVITY SEWER MAIN NEAR THE NORTHEAST LIFT STATION WITH COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.00

Following discussion and review of the proposed amendment, a motion was made by Joy and seconded by Koopman to approve Amendment #2 to the agreement with Miller & Associates for Project No. 495-D1-006. Roll was called on this motion and the members voted as follows: "YEA" Froeschl, Rieger, Joy, Koopman. "NAY" None. "ABSENT": Johansen. Motion carried.

CONSIDER CANCELLATION OR RESCHEDULING OF THE MARCH 5, 2026 MEETING

Following discussion, a motion was made by Koopman and seconded by Joy to reschedule the March 5, 2026 meeting for March 12, 2026, and to cancel the meeting on March 19, 2026. Roll was called on this motion and the members voted as follows: "YEA" Froeschl, Rieger, Joy, Koopman. "NAY" None. "ABSENT": Johansen. Motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:49 PM

I, the undersigned, City Clerk for the City of Falls City, Nebraska, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings had and done by the Chairperson and Board on February 19th, 2026, that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk; that such agenda items were sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting; and that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available and accessible to members of the public, posted during such meeting in the room in which such meeting was held.

CITY CLERK
SECRETARY
CHAIRPERSON
18
ZNEZ

E.S.U. #4

The Board of Educational Service Unit 4 held its regular meeting on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI) in Nebraska City, Nebraska. The following claims were paid for the month of March:

General Fund -- \$183,588.00
Payroll -- \$482,774.39
NCECBVI -- \$35,111.17
Federal Programs -- \$10,687.73

The Board of Educational Service Unit 4 will hold its Regular Meeting at 5:15 pm on Monday, April 13, 2026, in the Carson Board Room at ESU 4, 2301 Dahlke Avenue, Auburn, Nebraska. The Region 4 Preschool Planning Team will hold their annual meeting at 9:00 am on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, in the ESU 4 Conference Center, 2301 Dahlke Avenue, Auburn, Nebraska. The agendas for both meetings are kept current and readily available for public inspection at the office of the Administrator during normal business hours.

www.esu4.org
ZNEZ

LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

GENEROUSLY BROUGHT TO YOU EACH WEEK BY THE SPONSORS BELOW

FALLS CITY

First Brethren Church (1902 Lane St.): Worship Service, 9:30am; Sunday School, 10:40am; Fellowship Hour, 6:00pm
Don Shafer, Moderator - 402-245-5209

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

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

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

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

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

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

First United Methodist Church (1700 Harlan St.) Worship, 11:00am (Also Broadcast KTNC 1230am / 107.1fm) First Sun. fellowship 10:30; Adult Bible Study: 9:45AM. fumc@sentco.net Pastor Larry Heintz - 402-245-3281

First Christian Church Disciples Of Christ (1322 Stone St.) Sunday School, 10:45am; Worship, 10:45am Facebook.com/fallscooperativeministry 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. fallscitylms.blogspot.com Rev. Ken Humphrey, Pastor - 402-245-4643

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

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

RULO

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

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

BARADA

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

Bethel Global Methodist Church (70656 656 Ave (1/2 mile N of Preston Corner)) Worship, 11:00AM; Sunday School, 10:00AM; Wednesday Choir, 7:30PM. Pastor Mike Hader - 402-245-4584.

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

SHUBERT

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

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

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

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

VERDON

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

DAWSON

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

ARAGO

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

STELLA

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

HUMBOLDT

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

WHITE CLOUD, KS

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

BIG LAKE, MO

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

FOREST CITY, MO

River of Hope Fellowship 2765 Hwy 159, PO Box 176, Forest City, MO 64451. Sun. Worship: 10:30AM,

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 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.

Mary L. Eickhoff
Richardson County Clerk

NOTICE OF SURRENDER OF TRUST CHARTER AND NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR CLAIMS

Notice is hereby given that F&M Bank, 1701 Stone Street, Falls City, Nebraska, desires to surrender its trust charter. In accordance with the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 8-215 (Re-issue 2022), any trust company doing business in Nebraska that desires to surrender its trust charter may have its pledged securities released upon satisfying the Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance ("Department") that the trust company has been lawfully relieved of all of its duties and obligations as assignee, receiver, or trustee, either by appointment of court or under will, and for depository of money in court.

Anyone having a claim against the trust company, F&M Bank, whether such claim is absolute or contingent, must file said claim with the Department by April 24th, 2026. Claims shall be filed in writing with Director Kelly Lammers, Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance, 1526 K Street, Suite 300, P.O. Box 95006, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509.

DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND FINANCE
Lincoln, Nebraska

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, clearing marked "SEALED-DAWSON NORTHWEST, C-74(2023-05)" will be received at the office of Richardson County Clerk, Courthouse 1700 Stone St., Room 203, Falls City NE 68355, until 10:00 a.m. on March 25, 2026 and at that time publicly opened and read.

The selected bidder shall furnish all necessary equipment, transportation, labor, and incidentals required to construct the project per the Contract Documents. Removal and reset of a 132" x 72" corrugated metal pipe and construction of a concrete headwall on the inlet. Work includes site preparation, removal and installation of 132" CMP with 24" new inlet section, earthwork, and other incidental work. New Pipe section for the project will be furnished by the Owner.

Bid Bond required. Bid documents and specifications may be obtained at the following locations: Midwest Engineering, Inc. office, QuestCDN Project No. 10090212 or www.midweste.com>Lettings>QuestCDN.

Richardson County is an equal opportunity employer. Questions, Josh Keithley-Midwest Engineering, Inc. 402-786-2203.

Steven J. Darveau, Jr.
Richardson County Highway Superintendent

NOTICE OF SOLICITATION

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION, SPECIAL WASTE DISPOSAL, AND COMMUNITY CLEAN UP SERVICES

The City of Falls City, NE is accepting sealed proposals for Municipal Solid Waste Collection, Special Waste Disposal, and Community Clean up Services.

All proposals must be submitted in accordance with the Invitation for Bid (IFB). IFB documents are available at the City Clerk's Office, 2307 Barada Street, Falls City, Nebraska, and online at www.fallscitynebraska.org/bid-postings

Sealed proposals must be received by 2:00 PM on April 6, 2026. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to award the contract in the best interest of the City.

If additional information is needed or if you have any questions, please contact:

Gary Jorn, City Administrator
2307 Barada Street
Falls City, NE 68355
g.jorn@fallscityne.us

LEGAL NOTICE-ADULT NAME CHANGE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Case Number: CI-26-18
IN RE NAME CHANGE OF: Allison Michele Sanders

Notice is hereby given that on the 26 day of February, 2026, a petition was filed in the District Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is for the change of the petitioner's name Allison Michele Sanders, to Allison Michele Campbell. A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable Julie D. Smith, in courtroom no. 302, 1700 Stone St. on the 7th day of April at 11:45 a.m., or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the petitioner's name will be changed from that of Allison Michele Sanders to Allison Michele Campbell.

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION T&S Pumping LLC

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

1. The name of this limited liability company is T&S Pumping LLC.
2. The Initial Designated Office Address is 71927 649 ave, Shubert, NE 68355 and its Registered Agent is Paul D. Platter, 71927 649 ave, Shubert, NE 68355.

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

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

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

You are hereby notified that the following property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder without warranty, by Eric H. Lindquist, Successor Trustee, on April 22, 2026 on the first floor, lobby area of the Richardson County Courthouse, 1700 Stone Street, in the City of Falls City, NE 68355, at 10:00 AM for the purpose of foreclosing a Trust Deed executed by Taylor Clark, a single man, as Trustor, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Beneficiary, as nominee for Neighbors Bank, its successors and assigns as Beneficiary, and Old Republic National Title Insurance Company as Trustee. The Trust Deed was filed for record on October 9, 2024, as Instrument No. 2024-01146-15, in Book 302, at Page 137. The trust property affected is legally described as follows. Lots 15 and 16, Block 2, Original Town of Falls City, Richardson County, Nebraska. TAX # 740053221. Purportedly known as 2006 Wilson Street, Falls City, NE 68355 (the undersigned disclaims liability for any error in the address). Data Mortgage Inc., DBA Essex Mortgage is the current Beneficiary of the Trust Deed. Record owner of the property as of the recording of the Notice of Default is reported to be Taylor Clark. The highest bidder will deposit with the Trustee, or the attorney for the Trustee, a \$5,000.00 deposit in the form of a bank or credit union cashier's check or a bank official check, payable to Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. The successful bidder must tender the deposit at the sale and the balance of the purchase price by 12:00 noon the following business day. The balance must be in the form of a wire transfer, bank or credit union's cashier's check, or bank official check payable to Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. A bank or credit union cashier's check must be pre-printed and clearly state that it is a cashier's check. A bank official check must be pre-printed and clearly state that it is an official check. Any party who wants to bid at the Trustee's Sale must display the check described above prior to submitting a bid. The requirement is waived when the Beneficiary is the highest bidder. Successor Trustee disclaims liability for any error in the street address shown herein. Successor Trustee may void sale due to any unknown facts at time of sale that would cause the cancellation of the sale. If sale is voided, Successor Trustee shall return funds to bidder, and the Successor Trustee and Beneficiary shall not be liable to bidder for any damages. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Beneficiary, Trustor, Successor Trustee, or the Successor Trustee's attorney. This is an attempt to foreclose a security instrument and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Dated this 18 day of February, 2026.

Eric H. Lindquist, Successor Trustee
10050 Regency Circle
Suite 505
Omaha, NE 68114
Telephone: 801-355-2886
File No. NE22939

Steven J. Darveau, Jr.
Richardson County Highway Superintendent

INVITATION TO BID - MOWING & TRIMMING CEMETERY

The City of Humboldt, Nebraska, will accept SEALED BIDS for mowing and trimming of the Cemetery until Friday, April 3rd, 2026, by 1:00 pm. Bids are to be priced per each occurrence of mowing and trimming. Must carry General Liability Insurance and provide the City Hall with the Certificate of Insurance. Maps of the property are available by request at City Hall, and tours can be scheduled by contacting the City Hall. Sealed bids must be sent or delivered to the office of the City Clerk, located at 330 E Square, P.O. Box 156, Humboldt, NE 68376, by Friday, April 3rd, 2026, by 1:00pm. All sealed bids must be marked on the outside of the envelope: "Sealed Bid for Mowing & Trimming Cemetery." Bids will be reviewed on Friday, April 3rd, 2026, at 4 pm. The City of Humboldt reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids which, in their opinion serves the best interest of the City of Humboldt, Nebraska.

NOTICE OF RENEWAL OF RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 53-135.01, a liquor license may be automatically renewed for one year from May 1, 2026, for the following retail liquor licensee, to wit:

CROMES SMOKE BBQ & CATERING, LLC
CROMES SMOKE BBQ AND CATERING
65627 713 RD, SUITE 1
FALLS CITY, NE 68355

Notice is hereby given that written protests to the issuance of automatic renewal of license may be filed by any resident of Richardson County on or before April 1, 2026, in the office of the Richardson County Clerk; that in the event protests are filed by three or more such persons, hearing will be had to determine whether continuation of said license should be allowed.

NOTICE OF SOLICITATION

PARKS & RECREATION - TREE REMOVAL, PRUNING, STUMP REMOVAL & TREE PLANTING

The City of Falls City, NE is accepting sealed proposals for tree removal, tree pruning, stump removal, and tree planting on public properties and rights-of-way throughout the City as part of the 2026-2027 Community Forest Improvement Project.

The project includes maintenance and removal of designated park and street trees, stump grinding, and the planting of approximately twenty-two (22) replacement trees at various municipal locations. The contract term is anticipated to run from April 13, 2026, through December 31, 2027, contingent upon grant funding.

All proposals must be submitted in accordance with the official Request for Proposals (RFP) documents. RFP documents are available at the City Clerk's Office, 2307 Barada Street, Falls City, Nebraska, and online at www.fallscitynebraska.org/bid-postings

Sealed proposals must be received by 10:00 AM on April 3, 2026. Proposals will be evaluated based on experience and qualifications, project arborist credentials, project approach and methodology, schedule and capacity, and cost proposal. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to award the contract in the best interest of the City.

If additional information is needed or if you have any questions, please contact:

Briar Burr, Parks & Recreation Director
2307 Barada Street
Falls City, NE 68355
b.burr@fallscityne.us

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, clearing marked "SEALED-2026 Scrub Mastic, C-74(2026-02)" will be received at the office of Richardson County Clerk, Courthouse 1700 Stone St., Room 203, Falls City NE 68355, until 10:00 a.m. on April 1, 2026 and at that time publicly opened and read.

The selected bidder shall furnish all necessary equipment, transportation, labor, materials, and incidentals required to construct approximately 10.6 miles of scrub mastic surface seal per the Contract Documents.

Bid Bond required. Bid documents and specifications may be obtained at the following locations: Midwest Engineering, Inc. office, QuestCDN Project No. 10090208 or www.midweste.com>Lettings>Plan Room. Richardson County is an equal opportunity employer. Questions, Josh Keithley-Midwest Engineering, Inc. 402-786-2203.

Steven J. Darveau, Jr.
Richardson County Highway Superintendent

NOTICE OF RICHARDSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

The Nebraska Democratic Party and the Richardson County Democratic Party hereby give notice that the County Convention will be held at Falls City Library and Art Center, 1400 Stone Street, Falls City, on Monday, April 13, at 5:00 PM. All of the rules and forms governing the county convention process, including registration forms, are listed on the NDP website at nebraskademocrats.org/conventions.

At the county convention, we elect local officers and delegates to the state convention, where party leaders are then elected.

Richardson County Chair Vicki Bangert and State Party Chair Jane Kleeb look forward to your help in building the party at the local level.

Questions? Please call 402-434-2180 or email info@nebraskademocrats.org. Paid for by the Nebraska Democratic Party, 3701 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68510.

INVITATION FOR BIDS - Air Release Valve Replacement Project. The Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska seeking bids for the replacement of 4 Air Release Valves located on the water line on the south side of 340th Road/State Line/Red Earth Housing in Brown County, KS. This project will comply with Davis Bacon Wage Determination #KS20260037 Published Date: Jan 2, 2026 - Heavy which includes Water Construction. Bids will be accepted via email kevin.burnison@sacandfoxks.com or mail or delivered to Admin Office, 305 North Main, Reserve, KS 66434, ATTN: Executive Director, Kevin Burnison until 2 P.M. C.D.T., Thursday, March 19, 2026. The Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas & Nebraska reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive technicalities, and make award(s) as deemed to be in the best interest of the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas & Nebraska. Questions can be directed to (785) 742-7471 Ext 2500 during office hours M-Thursday, or after hours via Cell 785-288-0191.

NOTICE OF RENEWAL OF RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 53-135.01, a liquor license may be automatically renewed for one year from May 1, 2026, for the following retail liquor licensee, to wit:

CROMES SMOKE BBQ & CATERING, LLC
CROMES SMOKE BBQ AND CATERING
65627 713 RD, SUITE 1
FALLS CITY, NE 68355

Notice is hereby given that written protests to the issuance of automatic renewal of license may be filed by any resident of Richardson County on or before April 1, 2026, in the office of the Richardson County Clerk; that in the event protests are filed by three or more such persons, hearing will be had to determine whether continuation of said license should be allowed.

Mary L. Eickhoff
Richardson County Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-100

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND § 1-104 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF FALLS CITY, NEBRASKA; AMEND TITLE TO SAID SECTION; AMEND THE TERMS OF OFFICE; AMEND THE DUTIES AND PROCEDURES IN THE ABSENCE OF THE MAYOR; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FALLS CITY, NEBRASKA:

Section 1. That Section 1-104 of the Municipal Code of the City of Falls City, Nebraska be amended to read as follows:

§1-104 CITY COUNCIL: PRESIDENT AND ACTING PRESIDENT.

The City Council shall elect one (1) of its own body in each even-numbered year who shall be styled the President of the Council. The President of the Council shall serve a term of two (2) years.

At the same time the President of the Council is elected, the City Council shall elect one (1) of its own members to serve as Acting President of the Council, and shall serve a term of two (2) years, coinciding with the term of the President of the Council.

In the absence of the Mayor, the President of the Council shall preside and exercise the duties of the Mayor. In the absence of the Mayor and the President of the Council, the Acting President of the Council shall preside and exercise the duties of the Mayor.

In the event the Mayor, the President of the Council, and the Acting President of the Council are all absent, the City Council may elect one (1) of its own members to preside for that meeting only.

Both the President of the Council and the Acting President of the Council, when occupying the position of the Mayor, shall have the same privileges as the other members of the City Council, and all acts of the President of the Council, or Acting President of the Council, while so acting, shall be as binding upon the City Council, and upon the Municipality as if done by the elected Mayor. (Ref. 17-148 RS Neb.) (Ord. 2026-___)

Section 2. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances passed and approved prior to the passage and approval of this ordinance and in conflict thereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage, approval and publication or posting as required by law.

Passed and approved this 2 day of March, 2026.

MAYOR Mark Harkendorff
CITY CLERK Gary Jorn

HTRS DIST. #70

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, March 9, 2026 7:00 PM

Humboldt Board Conference Room
Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM. Quentin Bowen: Present, Kyle Hilgenfeld: Present, Mike Kanel: Present, Neal Kanel: Present, Dave Mezger: Present, Scott Ogle: Present.

1. OPEN MEETING NOTICE - CALL MEETING TO ORDER- ROLL CALL -PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE*

2. WELCOME PATRONS & GUEST: PATRON COMMENT

3. CORRESPONDENCE

3.1. Advocacy Letter of Appreciation

3.2. NJUMP 2026 Membership Letter

4. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve. This motion, made by Scott Ogle and seconded by Neal Kanel, passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

4.1. Meeting Minutes

4.2. Bills for Payment

4.3. Review Treasurer's Report

5. REPORTS

5.1. Principal Caniglia

5.2. Principal Standerford

5.3. SPED Director Kroll

5.4. NASB Report - Neal Kanel

6. AGENDA

6.1. Board Member's Leave of Absence if Needed

6.2. Approve Review of Policy 3051-4030

Motion to approve Policies 3051-4030. This motion, made by Neal Kanel and seconded by Scott Ogle, passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6.3. Cross Country 2026-2027

Motion to approve. This motion, made by Dave Mezger and seconded by Neal Kanel, passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6.4. Spanish Course

Motion to approve. This motion, made by Scott Ogle and seconded by Mike Kanel, passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6.5. Lebra Evaluation Tool

Motion to table. This motion, made by Scott Ogle and seconded by Neal Kanel, passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6.6. K- 5th Grade ELA Textbooks

Motion to approve moving forward with the 1 year quote. This motion, made by Mike Kanel and seconded by Scott Ogle, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 1

6.7. English Language Arts 6-12 Adoption

Motion to approve. This motion, made by Scott Ogle and seconded by Neal Kanel, passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6.8. Read Flex 160 For Grades 6-12

This will be covered by our Reading Grant

Motion to approve. This motion, made by Neal Kanel and seconded by Dave Mezger, passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6.9. Personnel

6.9.1. Resignations

Megan Vrbka

Taylor Schafer

Motion to accept the resignations of Megan Vrbka and Taylor Schafer. This motion, made by Scott Ogle and seconded by Neal Kanel, passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6.9.2. Hires

Move Koalition Taiclet to Head Custodian Trainee

Hire Kelly Ramer as Kitchen Manager

Motion to approve Koalition to Head Custodian Trainee & Kellie Ramer to Kitchen Manager. This motion, made by Scott Ogle and seconded by Dave Mezger, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 1

7. Superintendent Griffith's Report

8. BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

9. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Mike Kanel and seconded by Dave Mezger, passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Chantel Farwell

Vendor Name Description Invoice Amount

Amazon Capital Services, Po 8748, 8751 Sixpence.....489.08
Avive, Realconnect Aed Contract.....373.44
Blecha's General Store, Keys.....27.00
Boomgarn, Renee , Vehicle Parts375.29
Brux Group, LLC, The,Po 8732 Pbis, Po 8753 Sixpence.....142.89
Cardmember Service, Credit Card Charges-Gen Fund.....7,629.51
Chadwell, Mindy, LMHP Training JT.....291.00
Chaotic Coffee, Meals.....250.00
City Of Humboldt Utilities-Water/Sewer.....1,204.57
Cleaning Cousins, LLC, Nider's Grocery.....473.95
Closegap, Po 8758 Couns Data Col...1,710.00
Cridical Response Group, Inc., Po 8760.....1,120.00
Das State Accounting - Central Finance, Tech / Ocio.....317.87
Dsk Phillips, Inc, Refrigerant ...310.00
Eakes Office Solutions, Po 8754 Maint Supplies Egoldfax.....5,070.29
Ebsco Subscription ServPo 8713/8638298.00
Egan Supply CoPo 8682 + 8741 Maint993.07
Electronic Contracting Co., Alarm Monitoring Services.....176.40
Essential ScreensEmplmt Background Screenings.....40.45
Esu #4 Workshops, Tech Hosting Serv.....8,299.46
Falls City Journal, Advertising.....47.44
FC Sanitation, Trash-Utilities770.00
Fankhauser, Nelsen, Werts & Ziskey, PC, Semi-Annual Contract400.00
Fiber Platform, LLC, Distance Learning429.21
Hometown Leasing, Staple Copier Lease.....1,377.80
Htrs Payroll Acct, Payroll Expenses604,196.08
Humboldt Standard, Ads.....1,836.94
Jeanne's Distribution . Po 8742 - Bulbs800.00
Koch Auto Service, Repairs...1,018.50
Kroll, Amy Ncsa/Naes Mileage Reumb358.15
Ksb School Law, Legal Services 417.50
Kurita America Inc Water Soft Contract484.00
Lewandowski, Dallas, Cip Ext Team Reimbursements421.94
Malcolm, Mary, Occ Therapy - Sped Services.....2,117.75
Mary's Appliance, Po 8757 Foundation4,349.00
Matheson Tri-Gas Inc, Cte - Po 8756, 8755.....4,325.43
Mcelhose, Mary, Cip Ext Team Reimbursements171.51
Metal Doors & Hardware Co Us15 Ab5 Core.....170.00

Mid-American Research, Po 8744 Maintenance.....404.49
NASB Nebraska Assn Of School Boards, Mk State Conf Hotel Room190.24
National Therapeutic Associates, Inc, Physical Therapy - Sped Services.....138.63
Nebraska Transition CollegeWinter Quarter Kf.....2,412.00
Nifco Mechanical Systems, Sprinkler Inspection660.00
Nppd, Elec-Utilities5,084.10
NRCSA..2026 Legislative Registration Dg.....100.00
Pawnee Republican, Ads.....234.25
Price, Anessa , Cip Ext Team Reimbursements130.66
Sapp Bros., Fuel.....30.01
Schendel Pest Control, Pest Control-Spraying.....75.00
Schmitt Music, Music Dept.....30.59
Security Serv, Fire Alarm Maintenance1,292.70
Sherman's Station Lic, Fuel...2,418.55
Station Service Center Inc., The, Fuel/Sped Fuel.....1,176.50
T-Mobile Usa Inc, Geo Tab Monthly Charges.....583.80
Time Management Systems, Monthly Contract Or Service.....1,805.88
Tk Elevator Corporation, Elevator Maintenance.....595.72
Truck Center Companies Vehicle Parts258.11
University Of Nebraska - Kearney, Dp Course500.00
Us Cellular, Cell Phone - Principal/Sixpence.....218.78
Vandentop-Caniglia, Kimberly Mileage Reimbursement.....113.83
Verizon Business, Long Distance73.58
Vlasnik, Amber , Cip Ext Team Reimbursements121.73
Wilcock, Joy , Occ Therapy - Sped Services.....3,305.00
Woodriver Energy LLC, Fuel-Utilities...9,721.51
.....686,207.18
ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF VERDON

VERDON MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING - MARCH 4, 2026 - 7:00 P.M. - VILLAGE HALL. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson Denise Koso. She called attention to the Open Meetings Act posted on the wall.

ROLL CALL: Present: Cody Bahr, Kerry Fritz, Denise Koso, Lois Miller, and Richard Strecker Jr. Absent: None. Clerk Dawn Bennett was also present.

GUESTS: Vinnie & Terra Pagnano MINUTES: Motion by Koso, second by Strecker to approve, all Trustees present voting YEA.

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

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

All claims were verified and checked over by Chairperson Koso.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. March 2026 Shut off notices - none UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS: General: It was reported that Schendel Pest Control completed the initial setup for pest control at the Community Center. Sewer: the final preliminary engineering report from JEO has been received for the wastewater system and was presented to the Board for their review.

2. WATER HOOK UP AT COCHRAN PROPERTY: Reported that it should be done by Spring.

3. NUISANCE/UNSAFE PROPERTIES: It was reported the three (3) of the four (4) property owners were sent certified mail notices concerning their nuisance properties.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Armor Coating - Discussion was held on armor coating for 2026 and will advertise for bids.

MISCELLANEOUS: QUESTIONS & CONCERNS OF THE PUBLIC

1. At this time, resident, Vinnie Pagnano spoke and presented pictures with concerns that he had on his property on the 1st & Elm St. ditch that was filled in and the drain pipe at Pine & Elm St. that is rotting out and causing street erosion on Pine St. The Board informed him that these problems are on his property and would be his responsibility to repair and not the Village. He will come into the Hall and check on ordinances that could pertain to these situations.

Motion by Miller and second by Fritz to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. and all Trustees present voting YEA.

Meeting adjourned.

Dawn Bennett, Verdon Clerk

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ANGUS Building Better Beef **MARCH 24, 2026**
 90 top quality registered Black Angus bulls selling including 27 two-year-olds! Come by anytime to view the bulls.

Sire groups selling at our 36th Annual Sale the 4th Tuesday in March include Ferguson Outpace, Basin Jameson, RSA Ball of Fire, Connealy Craftsman, Williams Jonesboro, Basin Keystone, Yon Saluda, Ingalls Kahuna EZAR Step Up, Yon Discipline and Ferguson Trailblazer!

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 Humboldt, NE 68376

10-18P

MISCELLANEOUS

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Pawnee County Memorial Hospital
 One Team - One Mission

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Pawnee County Memorial Hospital is seeking

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- » RADIOLOGY TECH
- » LPN-C
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SUNSHINE

Continued from -Page 1 expenditures. Payroll records show compensation approved by governing bodies. Reviewing those documents provides context and clarity.

Third, transparency reduces speculation. In a smaller community, information can travel quickly by word of mouth. Public records and open meetings requirements provide a reference point grounded in documentation rather than rumor.

For this newspaper, Sunshine Week reflects work that occurs year round.

Reporting on local government requires reviewing agendas before meetings, attending sessions where votes are taken and, examining minutes after they are approved. When necessary, it involves requesting copies of contracts, resolutions and other records to ensure that reporting reflects what was formally adopted.

That process benefits readers. It ensures that stories are based on official documents and recorded votes rather than informal accounts. It also benefits public officials by creating a clear, accessible record of their actions.

Transparency does not guarantee agreement. Residents may differ on policy decisions or budget priorities. What open government does guarantee is access to the facts underlying those decisions.

Sunshine Week serves as a reminder that these rights exist at every level of government, including here in Richardson County. The ability to attend a meeting, read a legal notice, review a contract or request a public record is not symbolic. It is a legal protection designed to keep government accountable to the people it serves.

In a rural county, where local decisions have immediate and personal impact, that protection is not distant or theoretical. It is part of daily civic life.

Village, Public School, Commissioner and City claims and minutes are published weekly here in the Falls City Journal and online at www.fcjournal.net. Every citizen has the right to know what is going on in our county and that information is readily available each week here and online.



Senior athlete Elie Bstandig signed her letter-of-intent to continue her basketball career for Highland Community College on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at HTRS High School. Bstandig, pictured with her parents, Sean and Sara Ramsey, and Highland coaches, led the Lady Titans to a 12-11 record. Bstandig averaged 12.5 points per game (274 for the year), grabbed 279 rebounds and had 46 blocked shots.



Vonderschmidt paces Bobcats to winning season

The Peru St. Lady Bobcats recently wrapped up the 2025-26 basketball season, finishing with 15 wins and 13 losses.

Sacred Heart alum and junior forward Erison Vonderschmidt had a breakout season for the Bobcats.

Vonderschmidt started 25 games this past season, finishing with 481 points. The junior shot 54% percent from the field and made an impressive 96-of-114 free throw opportunities. Overall, the former Irish phenom averaged 18.5 points per game and 6.9 rebounds.

For her efforts in two Heart of America Conference games towards the end of February, Vonderschmidt was named the Heart Offensive Player of the Week. Erison scored 58 points in the two contests, including a 34-point effort in a win over Central Methodist University.

Vonderschmidt was also named to the Heart of America Conference Second-Team All-Conference team.

Only once did Vonderschmidt fail to reach double figures in scoring. The former Irish All-Stater twice scored more than 30 points and 12 times scored at least 20.

The junior saved her best for last as she scored a season high 34 points on 11-of-16 shooting against Central Methodist on February 21, 2026. She was a perfect 10-for-10 from the foul line that game as well.

For her two-year career, Vonderschmidt has scored 708 points and has started 41 contests. She had made 52.5% of her shots, including 25-of-73 from beyond the arc. Erison has also made 143 of 179 free throw attempts.

Senator Bob Hallstrom Weekly Newsletter

We have now completed two-thirds of the 2026 Legislative Session. We are hard at work on the budget, and will continue to work on budget bills until Day 50 on the Legislative calendar, which falls on Wednesday, March 25. We have scheduled late night debate beginning on Wednesday, March 18, as committee and senator priority bills come to the floor for the Legislature's consideration.

FLOOR ACTION: LB838, sponsored by Senator Mike Jacobson, would strengthen banking protections for vulnerable consumers. The bill was amended to become an omnibus proposal for the Banking Committee, with two of my bills being incorporated into this proposal:

-LB875, which would prohibit suppliers from including clauses in contracts that waive compliance with the Equipment Business Regulation Act or mandate that legal disputes be resolved in out-of-state forums or by other state laws, and removes the current waiver provision in the surplus ports return statute;

-LB1160, which would modernize Nebraska's estate and trust laws and streamline the process for claiming the homestead exemption.

LB 838, as amended, advanced from General File on a 35-0 vote.

LB768, introduced by Senator Robert Dover, would make several changes to the powers of the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act (RWH) and the Middle-Income Workforce Housing Investment Act (MIWH). It is intended to enhance the

efficiency and effectiveness of the state's efforts to increase affordable housing.

A bill I introduced, LB819, was added as an amendment to LB768. LB819 would extend the RWH and the MIWH, currently scheduled to expire on July 1, 2027 and July 1, 2029, respectively, to a sunset date of July 1, 2032. The amendment also would increase the construction cap on owner-occupied housing units under the RWH from no more than \$325,000 to \$375,000 and on rental units from no more than \$250,000 to \$300,000.

LB768, as amended, advanced from General File on a 40-0 vote.

Workforce housing was also the subject of my bill LB1067, which was debated on General File last week. LB 1067 would increase the documentary stamp tax rate on real estate transfers, by \$1.00 per \$1,000 of purchase price, redirecting the additional revenue equally to the Rural Workforce Housing Program and the Middle-Income Workforce Housing Program to support workforce housing development. It also protects the Affordable Housing Trust Fund by removing legislative authority to transfer funds out of it and ensures documentary stamp tax revenues are used only for their intended purposes in the future, and not subject to being swept and used for General Fund purposes. LB1067 advanced from General File on a 32-8 vote.

LB1058, a bill I introduced to add a new grant program under the Nebraska Tourism Commission, was amended into LB 1071, one of the main budget bills.

This aims to support organizations providing visitor services through exhibits and trails, and may ultimately help bridge a funding gap for places like the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center, which lost a portion of its funding from federal sources in 2025. Funding for the grant program will be derived from the State Visitors Promotion Cash Fund and will have no General Fund impact.

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.



Town Square, New Castle, Delaware

MARCH 17, 1962 - Adopted By Donna Campbell & Lee Frantz



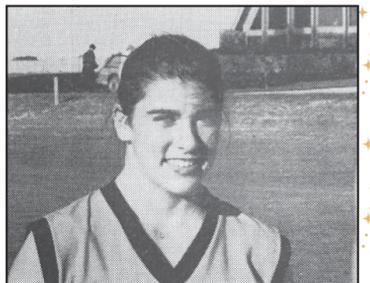
New Castle, Del., (pop. 4469), on the busy Delaware River, is six miles south of the state's largest city, Wilmington, and two miles off the main highway. Once it was Delaware's capital. Founded in 1651, it was William Penn's landing place when he came to America in 1682. Penn is thought to have spent a night in the house at the extreme right of our cover. The spire atop the Court house (left foreground) was used as the center of a twelve-mile radius in part of the 1763-67 survey-to settle a boundary dispute--that resulted in the Mason-Dixon Line, which later played a key part in United States history.

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