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VOLUME 158, No. 16

THE JOURNAL, FALLS CITY, NEBRASKA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

WEEKLY - \$1.50

NEWSPAPER ESTABLISHED JAN. 5, 1867

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RENAMED IN 1882 AS FALLS CITY JOURNAL



John Caverzagie, Sherry Huddleston, Bobby Campbell and Rick Karas.

## May declared Community Action Month in Richardson County

The Richardson County Board of Commissioners met on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, for a regularly scheduled meeting at the courthouse. Commissioners Campbell, Caverzagie and Karas all answered the roll call.

The Board met with Highway Superintendent Steve Darveau Jr. to discuss road and bridge maintenance being carried out throughout the county.

Darveau informed the Board that the shed for the new shop in Verdon was delivered to the Falls City yard on Friday.

He also said the department was currently finishing cleaning ditches between Dawson and Humboldt. He said any dirt they clean out of the ditches will be hauled to Verdon and stockpiled for use in leveling the new shop.

He also informed the Board that with a bridge project near Stella, NPPD will need to move power lines. Darveau said the lines are in the way and will inhibit construction.

Darveau said NPPD wants to get compensation for moving the lines.

The Highway Superintendent said that if NPPD refuses to do what they are being asked, the project could be put in jeopardy.

"They (the lines) are within our right-of-way, and we have the right to have them move utilities at our discretion," said Darveau.

Darveau said one solution, a last resort, is to send NPPD a letter stating the Highway Superintendent will not sign future permits for utility work in the county.

The Board also told Mr. Darveau to move forward with installing the GPS and AI-generated cameras in county vehicles. A motion to approve the cameras passed 3-0.

The Board also briefly discussed replacing the shop in Verdon and eliminating the one in Stella. Darveau said the old shop in Stella needed to be replaced, and there have been talks for years about condensing and moving some machines together. He said all the routes will move west, with each expected to cover 16-20 fewer miles of road.

Darveau said the elimination of the Stella shop comes down to cost. The new shop in Verdon will be able to house two graders.

"It comes down to cost," said Darveau. "If I can build one shed and house two units, it's one less utility bill, it's other things that I have, and this way it just makes a better shed."

Darveau continued, saying he is working on hiring a new employee to run the second machine in the Humboldt area.

**MAY -Page 10**

## Journal adjusted deadlines for April

The Falls City Journal will operate under adjusted production deadlines during the middle and end of April.

Due to scheduling changes, deadlines for April editions will move to Thursday at noon for three consecutive weeks. These deadlines apply to all content, including advertisements, legal notices and news items. Obituaries will be excluded.

The adjusted deadlines are: Thursday, April 16 for the April 22 edition.

Thursday, April 23 for the April 29 edition.

Thursday, April 30 for the May 6 edition.

The Journal will return to its regular Friday noon deadline beginning with the May 13 edition.

Those with questions about submissions or deadlines may contact nikki@fcjournal.net or Brian McKim in the office. Early submissions are welcome anytime.

# Council updated on possible power generation facility

The City Council met at City Hall on Monday, April 6, 2026, for a regularly scheduled meeting. Councilpersons Leyden and Ferguson were absent.

The consideration of approving chicken permits for 2203 Crook Street and 2201 Hiland Avenue was approved. During the public hearings, mayoral candidate Mark Galaska addressed the Board, asking the Council to bring him up to speed on the chicken permits. The Council approved drafting an ordinance allowing up to 10 chickens, no roosters, and holding a public hearing for neighbors to address their concerns at the August 5, 2025, meeting. The Board heard the first reading of Ordinance 2025-106 at the August 18, 2025, meeting, prohibiting all fowl except hen chickens and providing for the control of chickens within city limits. The Council voted to suspend the rules and moved to a third and final reading of the ordinance, which passed 5-1. The full ordinance ran in the September 3, 2025, edition of the Falls City Journal.

Galaska asked whether having to apply for a permit should be considered a hardship for taxpayers.

Mayor Mark Harkendorff replied that nobody has complained about the need for the permits.

Galaska thanked the Council for getting him up to speed and for the good comments.

A public hearing was held regarding an application for a Class I Liquor License for The Mane Attraction Salon & Spa at 1801 Chase Street.

Sally Merz, the salon's operator, in-

formed the Board that she was in the process of relocating her business to 1801 Chase Street and hoped to obtain a liquor license to serve alcoholic drinks to her customers.

"It will not be a bar," said Merz. "It will be a very simplistic situation."

The Council voted 6-0 to consider approving the Class 1 Liquor License.

A request for a specially designated liquor license for April 29, 2026, at Nebraska Bank was approved 6-0.

Robert Crofford, 1624 Fulton St., addressed the Council, pleading with them to enforce ordinances at 711 E 17th Street in Falls City.

Crofford told the Board that, before the current occupant moved in, the house was nice. He said the occupant, Mark Galaska, has maintained a "jungle" of a yard, and it is filled with junk. He asked the city to do its job and enforce the ordinances. According to the request to be on the agenda, Crofford said: "Prior attempts from others in my neighborhood seem to have fallen on deaf ears."

Administrator Jorn said the City has spoken with Galaska and has given him two months to get everything cleaned out. If the property is not taken care of, the City will come in and clean the property.

The Council also approved a request from Falls City Chamber Director Amber Holle to close Chase Street, from 20th to 14th Street and provide patrol cars for a parade on July 4, 2026. Holle said that, in conjunction with a celebration at the Falls City Jaycees Field south of town, many community members have expressed

interest in a parade to mark the country's 250th birthday.

"I thought Chase would be a nice option with it being wider," said Holle. "Then the stores uptown could still have sales and things that weekend and wouldn't interfere with their parking spots."

The request passed unanimously.

The Board voted 6-0 in favor of a request by Marcia Harmon to block off Business Parkway Road south of Highway 159 for extrication training on June 27, 2026. The stretch of road will be closed from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

A discussion was also held regarding waiving the rental fees for Prichard Auditorium for the Falls City Fire Department, Falls City Ambulance Squad, the Humane Society, and the Richardson County Cancer Fund, Inc. Councilmember Frank Killingsworth said the groups contribute a lot to the community, and this would be a way to thank them for all they do.

Administrator Jorn said there are many not-for-profit organizations in the area, and tax dollars cannot be used to support them.

"So, this is a way I think he was thinking that we could give back to these organizations that are very important in our public lifesaving," said Jorn.

Councilperson Ruiz asked how the Council would prohibit others from attempting to use the auditorium without paying the rate fee.

Former Councilmember and current Chamber Director Amber Holle addressed the Board.

She said she felt like the Council

**COUNCIL -Page 3**

## A novel got its author run out of Lincoln. Nearly a century later, the city is giving the story a second change. "Capital City" showing at Prichard Auditorium April 16

A new theatrical adaptation of Mari Sandoz's "Capital City" is set to premiere at the Lied Center in Lincoln. Showing at Prichard Auditorium April 16

By Tynan Stewart, Flatwater Free Press

It was the summer of 1940, and Mari Sandoz was done with Lincoln.

The Nebraska-born author, who had lived in the capital off and on since 1919, denied her upcoming move to Denver meant she was "running away," telling the Omaha World-Herald she was relocating to research her next book. But Sandoz also admitted that, yes, she had been getting angry phone calls for months. She had been hissed at and spit on in public. Someone had even slipped a threatening note under her door. She later described the contents to a reporter: "Better lay low. You're the next candidate for a concentration camp."

The harassment started shortly after the publication of Sandoz's second novel, "Capital City," in 1939. The book, which satirized the politics and society of a fictional Midwestern college town that closely resembled

Lincoln, sold poorly but aroused the ire of her neighbors with its scathing depiction of a citizenry sympathetic to fascist movements in Europe.

"Sandoz was essentially run out of town for writing this book," said Karim Muasher, an actor and theater director.

While Sandoz never moved back to Lincoln, her novel will soon have a second shot in the Star City thanks to Muasher and his co-artistic director, Carrie Brown. Their New York-based theater company, Animal Engine, is producing a stage adaptation of "Capital City" that will premiere at the Lied Center on April 9. Muasher and Brown, along with their occasional collaborator Jay Dunn, wrote the script, designed the set and will also star in the production.

The Lied approached Animal Engine a few years ago to commission a Nebraska-focused work. Sandoz, as a historically significant Nebraska author, was a clear choice, and eventually they settled on "Capital City."

"We were just completely taken by how relevant and

**CAPITAL CITY -Page 10**

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### APRIL

- 17**  
-American Legion Post 102, FC Fish Fry
- 21**  
-Miller Monroe/Ranch & Farm, Land Auction 153.3 AC ± 1:30PM Fisher Center-Hiawatha, KS

### APRIL

- 22**  
-High School Open House at Heartland Fine Art Gallery, 1-5:00PM. 4/11 thru 5/1
- 27**  
-American Legion Post 102, FC Bingo

### APRIL FC JOURNAL DEADLINE CHANGES

- 16** THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE for the following week's paper.
- 23** THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE for the following week's paper.
- 30** THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE for the following week's paper. Returning to the normal Friday by noon deadline on May 8.

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**The Bones of the Matter**

By Deb Johnston, MD

When I was in medical school, I learned that a shocking number of people would die or be admitted to a nursing home after a hip fracture.

Even today, a hip fracture can be a devastating event for an older American. Up to 30% will die within the next year. Many more will lose independence and require admission to assisted living or a nursing home. Estimates vary, but it may approach 50%. As hard as it is to believe, these statistics are improved from my long ago medical school days.

As a doctor in training, the solution seemed obvious. If osteoporosis caused hip fractures, and hip fractures caused premature death and disability, then my mission as a primary care physician would be to prevent osteoporosis. I've been nagging my patients about their calcium and vitamin D intake and their weight bearing exercise ever since.

To be fair, the reality is a bit more nuanced. It's true that osteoporosis is a major factor in hip fractures, but it is often accompanied by other issues: poor nutrition, poor balance, low muscle mass, and more obvious serious health conditions like dementia, heart disease, kidney disease, and diabetes.

Similarly, preventing osteoporosis isn't as simple as urging everyone to drink enough milk. Generally we can build stronger bones up until about age 30. After that, the goal is to maintain bone mass. Those critical years are often decades before a person starts thinking about their bones, and sometimes well before they start thinking about their health at all!

Other habits also influence how strong your bones are at their best. Smoking and alcohol reduce bone mass. Weight bearing exercise increases it; while being sedentary has the opposite effect. Your body needs vitamin D to make bone, too, and deficiencies are surprisingly common.

Other health conditions, and their treatments, can have significant influences on your bone health. The list is long: eating disorders, premature menopause, inflammatory bowel disease, seizure disorders, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic kidney disease, thyroid disease, cancer.

While preventing osteoporosis starts in childhood, hope is not lost just because you are well into middle age, or older. Talk with your doctor about what you should be doing to keep your bones healthy. Do you need help getting rid of nicotine, or cutting back on alcohol? Are you having trouble getting enough calcium or vitamin D? Are there medications you are taking that could be changed? Is it time to start screening?

While many people think about osteoporosis as a woman's disease, it affects men too, albeit at lower rates. In fact, men may have a higher risk of death after a hip fracture. We all need to be thinking about our bones. It's never too early. Or too late.

Dr. Debra Johnston is a Family Medicine Physician at Avera Medical Group Brookings in Brookings, SD. She serves as one of the Prairie Doc Volunteer Hosts during its 24th Season providing Health Education Based on Science, Built on Trust. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org).

**All things Nebraska**  
Political craziness now includes supposed 'plants' running for U.S. Senate

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner

Spring is planting time in Nebraska.

But the looming primary election on May 12 for U.S. Senate is also, allegedly, quite a planting session, generating competing claims that candidates are "plants" to help or hurt the two leading candidates.

We're referring to the race between U.S. Sen. Pete Ricketts and Dan Osborn.

Osborn, an independent, is a labor leader and mechanic who ran a surprisingly close race with U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer, a Republican, in 2024.

Ricketts, a Republican, served two terms as governor before being appointed to the U.S. Senate by Gov. Jim Pillen shortly after Ricketts left the governor's residence.

Several people have asked if Osborn has a chance of unseating Ricketts, a wealthy businessman who has a well-financed political machine. His family, which owns the Chicago Cubs, is among the top contributors nationally to Republican political campaigns.

In today's topsy-turvy political world, I'd say that any incumbent is vulnerable. Voters seem to dislike those in office. And Ricketts hasn't stood for election for eight years, which seems like a long time since he's asked Nebraskans for their votes.

Then, as now, Osborn is facing accusations of being a closet Democrat, who, if elected, would caucus with the Democrats.

Osborn rejects that, saying he's a regular guy and registered nonpartisan who will fight for regular folks, claiming that Ricketts hasn't done that.

Ricketts, meanwhile, is running as a tax cutter and one who has supported President Trump's immigration policies. The senator also says he's defended "Nebraska values," a phrase that's sometimes hard to define (Is it that we want the football team to win again, or that we like brown gravy with our roast beef sandwiches?).

What about those "plants"? There's two Democrats, William Forbes, a preacher from Paxton, and Cindy Burbank, as well as a candidate for the Legal Marijuana NOW Party, Mike Marvin.

All three of those candidates have been accused of being unserious, illegitimate and/or "plants."

Follow closely because this gets complicated.

Democrats say that Forbes is a "plant" to help Ricketts (by pulling votes away from Osborn) because it appears that he likes Ricketts, is opposed to abortion rights and has voted for President Trump. And CNN reported that Forbes, despite being a registered Democrat, attended a campaign training camp for conservatives, a camp recommended by the GOP.

Republicans, meanwhile, accused Burbank of not being a "good faith" candidate. Her main goal, they say, is to eventually drop out and throw her support for the third-party candidate, Osborn. Burbank's website touts that she's "not a plant" and that her main goal is to defeat Ricketts.

For a time, she was tossed off the primary ballot by Secretary of State Bob Evnen, but that decision was reversed by the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Then we get to Marvin, a union leader (like Osborn) who once headed the state employees union.

Suspiciously, Burbank, a Democrat, paid the \$1,740 filing fee for Marvin to run. It happened just minutes before the filing deadline. Burbank told the Nebraska Examiner that she paid the fee because a filing fee check sent by Marvin had been rejected and it ticked her off. Republicans, meanwhile, accused Marvin of being a "plant" to help Osborn.

Get all of that? To be sure, if there's a strong Democrat in the Senate race it would pull votes away from Osborn in the general election.

And, if the Democrats don't have a candidate in November – for instance if Burbank won the primary and dropped out – that would create a two-way race with Ricketts.

That's a lot of craziness to digest but that seems par for the course in politics these days.

After all, who could have envisioned a pro rassler becoming governor in Minnesota, or a weightlifter/actor being elected in California or a reality TV star occupying the White House.

The sad part is that all of the negative campaign ads and supposedly "planted" political candidates only serves to turn more and more people off from voting or discourages good people from running for office.

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.



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**ACROSS**

1. \*Quiz show whistleblower, \_\_\_\_\_ Stempel
5. Time std.
8. "\_\_\_\_ Like it Hot" movie
12. Walkie-talkie word
13. Wild hog
14. Blender setting
15. Coniferous tree
16. Of long ago
17. Gastric problem
18. \*A show that had a Ball
20. Surveyor's map
21. Changes to a manuscript
22. Mai follower
23. Get a move on
26. \*Superman portrayal
29. Knot-tying words
30. Like unskilled work
33. Play with a bow
35. New Mexico's state flower
37. Will Ferrell's Christmas classic
38. On the radio
39. Nobel Peace Prize capital
40. Beat around the bush
42. Toddler
43. SAT administrator
45. Software plug-ins
47. Facebook photo option
48. Indulgence of impulses
50. Brees or Barrymore
52. \*\*"Dragnet" sergeant
56. Old Brazilian coins
57. Pakistan's official language
58. \*\*"Your Show of Shows" comedian Reiner
59. Novelist Zola
60. Not made up
61. \*\*"The \_\_\_\_\_ of Night"
62. Extinct bird
63. Call minus c
64. Gloom's companion

**DOWN**

1. Arizona tribe
2. Bad to the bone
3. Nevada city near Lake Tahoe
4. Warrant for officer promotion with no pay
5. As opposed to stay in
6. Chagall and Anthony
7. 3-pointer in basketball
8. \*\*"Toast of the Town" host
9. Willy of "Free Willy"
10. Track event
11. Always, to a poet
13. Reference to the writer
14. Allergic reaction to bee sting
19. Allergic reaction to bee sting
22. \_\_\_\_\_ Aviv
23. \*Ranger's call to Silver
24. Sunbaked, archaically speaking
25. Wall or pedestal support
26. Kon-Tiki, e.g.
27. One of the Muses
28. Offspring
31. Getting warm
32. Not in good health
34. Tiny leftovers
36. \*Abbott's comedic partner
38. Online purchase
40. \*Marjorie Reynolds in "The Life of Riley"
41. Scolding
44. Schoolmarm's whip
46. Defrosted
48. Popular winter boot brand
49. Put it to the metal
50. Audition tape
51. SWAT attack
52. France/Switzerland border mountain range
53. Carpenter's groove
54. Ben Affleck's 2013 Oscar winner
55. Original matter
56. \*Buttons or Skelton

**CROSSWORD**

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**THE FALLS CITY JOURNAL**  
Falls City Journal, LLC  
[www.fcjournal.net](http://www.fcjournal.net)

U.S.P.S. 184-980  
ISSN 1074-3480  
1709 Stone St., Falls City, Neb. 68355  
Phone (402) 245-2431  
Fax (402) 245-4404

Broadaxe Est. 1857  
Est. as Nemaha Valley Journal 1868  
Combined with the Falls City Daily News  
News Est. Jan. 1, 1875  
Journal Est. Jan. 6, 1867  
Falls City Journal, LLC Est. Sept. 1, 2017

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**75 Years Ago, April 15, 1951 to April 21, 1951**

A Chevrolet sedan, stolen from William Perkins at White Cloud, was found abandoned about a half mile east of Salem, and a 1949 Ford, belonging to Ray Horton, was missing from his home in Salem. A third incident, believed to be related to the car thefts, involved a burglary of a pool hall in White Cloud. Merchandise and a coin machine were stolen from the business.

Senate Republicans agreed unanimously that there should be a full and complete investigation of American foreign and military policy as a result of the dismissal of Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Larry Martin, manager of the local VFW baseball team, put 15-20 athletes through a three-hour practice at City Park, preparing for the upcoming season.

Five Richardson County men left for Omaha for induction into the Army. The list included Richard J. Harmon, Marvin E. Scheitel and Joseph P. Fleskoski, all of Falls City and John A. Kimes of Dawson and Loren E. Michel of Rulo.

Mark Tefft Shoes at 1616 Stone St. was having a three-day shoe sale. Sport Oxfords and Dress Shoes were \$1.00, while children's new patent sandals were \$3.98. For sale—Inspected Senator Dunlap Strawberry plants, \$1.00 per 100.

The City issued a call for bids on a new water well to be drilled on Lock Island, southeast of Rulo on the Missouri River bottom. The engineer's estimate of cost on the new well, to be 18 inches in diameter and 42 feet deep, was \$3,200. The City's consumption of water in the summer was roughly 1,250,000 gallons per day.

The newest layoff of Missouri Pacific shop forces in Falls City brought the total to 62 in the past two weeks. It was announced that the last regularly scheduled road freight steam engine on the Missouri Pacific's Omaha division would run on April 19, 1951. After that, all freight and passenger trains would be diesels. The rapid dieselization of Missouri Pacific was the leading cause for the heavy layoffs in the shops.

Bauer Implement Co. hosted a public demonstration of Case VAC Tractors, featuring the new terracing plow and a full line of latch-on equipment.

More than 300 people gathered at Prichard Auditorium for the annual Grand Council Fire for Camp Fire members. Mrs. Eugene Dowell and Mrs. Sam Philpot were the program directors.

Deputy Sheriff Arch Noll was in Barada investigating a burglary at the Barada Liquor Store that involved the breaking in and stealing of approximately \$35 worth of alcohol. The store belonged to Frank Buchholz and Jake Sailors.

**50 Years Ago, April 15, 1976 to April 21, 1976**

The Annual Falls City Tiger Booster Club Banquet would be at the Elks Club. The event featured guest speaker Monte Kiffin, the University of Nebraska's defensive coordinator and defensive line coach. Kiffin was pictured with Booster Club President Dick Wilson.

Three Falls City High School track records fell at the Syracuse Coed Invitational. Bill Jahn leaped 40-11.75 to set a new triple jump mark. Quinten Sutherland became the first Richardson County athlete to pass 13 feet in the pole vault, setting the new mark of 13-1/2, and Lisa Mann placed fourth in the 880, setting the new mark of 2:29.9.

Trail's End, Northwest Missouri's newest and best restaurant and lounge, was holding a grand opening on Sunday, April 25. Rusty Draper, winner of 7 gold records, performed twice nightly from April 19-24.

According to weather recorder Tony Otto, Falls City received 2.24 inches of rain in the early morning hours.

Col. and Mrs. Dale Shaffer announced the engagement of their daughter, Mary Jane, to Martin R. Gist, son of Mrs. Thomas Gist.

The board of advisors for the Outstanding Young Men of America Awards Program announced that Richard L. Halbert was selected for inclusion in the 1976 edition of "Outstanding Young Men of America."

Officials in Jasper, Tennessee, shut the intake water valves for four cities in southeast Tennessee and northern Alabama after a train derailment that tumbled barrels containing deadly liquid into the Tennessee River.

Colonel Douglas D. Brenner, 45, commander of Thule Air Base in Greenland, a former Falls Cityan, passed away suddenly overnight at the base. Brenner flew combat missions in both the Korean and Vietnamese Wars.

Douglas Merz was appointed the 1976 Law Day Chairman in Richardson, Nemaha and Pawnee Counties. Merz was pictured receiving a certificate from Governor J. James Exon.

The government announced that 36.3 million people receiving Social Security or Supplemental Security Income benefits would receive a 6.4 percent cost-of-living increase beginning in July.

Earl B. Schawang and Ralph M. Clark hit seven-gallon plateaus at the Red Cross Bloodmobile.

A neonatal intensive care unit, also known as an infant warmer, was received by the Community Hospital. The unit kept a newborn's body temperature constant.

For Sale—Mushrooms, \$3 per gallon. Ph 245-3005.

In the Ladies' Bowling League, Mickey Piper had the High 10 with a 206, and Viv Zeigler had the High 30 with a 546.

**25 Years Ago, April 15, 2001 to April 21, 2001**

Two Falls City High School seniors were honored as the 2001 recipients of Centennial Scholarships awarded by Richardson County Bank & Trust Co. The \$1,000 scholarship in the field of business went to Lisa Palmer, while the \$1,000 scholarship in the field of agribusiness went to Andy Dunn.

Rodney Knaup and Brian Daake announced the purchase of the Dorr Funeral Home in Falls City. The pair purchased the business from Donald Dorr and Elaine Dyke, the children of the funeral home's founder and long-time director, Russell Dorr.

Dorr built the current Funeral Home located at 2303 Harlan Street in 1973. Knaup moved to Falls City in 1961, while Daake moved to town in 1994.

Chris Mather, a seventh-grade student at Falls City Middle School, became Falls City's first four-time Huskerland State Wrestling Champion.

Ashley Eickhoff and Andrea Rolfe, both of Troop 511, received the Girl Scout Gold Award at a ceremony at the State Capitol. To be eligible for the award, each girl completed at least 50 hours developing and implementing a project that had a positive, lasting impact on the community.

Falls City postman Jim Titus retired after 30 years on the job.

Cyrus Rowan, an eighth-grade student at Sacred Heart, competed in the 2001 Nebraska Geography Bee in Omaha. Cyrus was one of 99 students out of 11,000 Nebraskans who advanced to state after winning their school bee.

After what was described as an "energetic meeting, road department union employees unanimously rejected Richardson County's final offer on a new contract, according to Don Cassidy, union representative.

The committee of citizens who had been investigating the feasibility of hard surfacing selected county roads hit a roadblock as Highway Supt. Terry Frank told them that Nebraska was different than Kansas when it came to converting gravel roads. In Nebraska, roads must meet minimum design standards when changing from gravel to hard-surfaced roads. That would include engineering studies, minimum widths, cutting down hills and filling in low spots.

**COUNCIL**

*-Continued from Page 1*

would be "opening a can of worms" if they waived the fees for certain organizations.

"I say, you either go all nonprofits are not charged, or you charge all of them a reduced fee, kind of like it is now," said Holle.

Currently, the cost to rent the venue's main level for a full day is \$325. Nonprofits receive the discounted price of \$175.

The vote tied at 3-3 with Mayor Harkendorff casting the deciding nay vote.

The Council approved a request from the Volunteer Fire Department to amend the department's bylaws and attach articles XVIII, XX, and XXI. The articles address social media, language and tobacco use among department members.

The Council also heard a request from the Richardson County Commissioners to move two benches on the west side of the courthouse. The benches have caused issues with snow removal around the courthouse square. After a discussion, the Board decided to move the north bench. The south bench is located off the sidewalk and should pose no issue. A pad of concrete will be poured, and the north bench will be relocated.

The benches were installed as part of a Downtown Revitalization Grant, with the purpose of creating green space and promoting gathering areas to bring people downtown.

The Board also accepted bids and approved one for tree maintenance.

Parks and Recreation Director Briar Burr told the Council that two bids had been received for the project, which will run from April 13 to December 31, 2027.

Burr said the project includes parks, City Hall, Old City Hall, Prichard Auditorium, Steele Cemetery and the downtown area. Stanton Lake was not included in the bids. The bidders provided not-to-exceed amounts for the work. Two options were bid: one in which the contractors handle all debris removal, and another in which city employees handle it.

Falls City received a \$231,275 grant for the project. For every tree removed in the process, one must be planted in its place.

Grimm's Gardens completed work on 58 trees at Stanton Lake under a grant received in 2024. Burr said there are still over 90 trees that need attention at Stanton Lake. Burr said former City Administrator Anthony Nussbaum made a verbal agreement with Grimm's Gardens to continue work at Stanton Lake. Burr said he had only recently learned of the verbal agreement. Grimm's said the work at Stanton Lake would add an additional \$73,000 to the bids.

The two bidders for the new project were Grimm's Gardens and Arbor Masters.

Grimm's bid for Option A was \$307,800, while Arbor Master's bid was \$180,588.07. Grimm's bid for Option B was \$239,800, while Arbor Masters bid was \$159,588.07.

Kenny Killingsworth made a motion to go with the lower Option A bid of \$180,588.07 from Arbor Masters and to allow the city administration to negotiate a price for finishing work at Stanton Lake. The motion passed 6-0.

The Board also approved the Arbor Day Proclamation for April 24, 2026.

The Board approved a bid from Olsson for the raw water and jacket water systems at the Falls City Power Plant, not to exceed \$28,000.

The Board discussed changing the accounting software from Tyler Technologies to Power Manager. Administrator Jorn said he figures the city is currently "about \$260,000 in on the software right now. It's pretty high level for a community our size."

Jorn said Power Manager software's price is just over \$27,000, with support fees of \$6,600 per year. Tyler Tech support fees exceeded \$70,000 per year, according to Jorn. He said hardware updates would run an additional \$25,000. Jorn said the current contract with Tyler Tech runs to March 31, 2027.

Jorn said once a complete package quote is obtained, he will bring it back before the Council for discussion.

EDGE Director Lucas Froeschl updated the Board on the Nebraska Rural Energy Project. Froeschl stated that an NDA (non-disclosure agreement) was signed with Nebraska Rural Generation in February of 2025. He said discussions have gone well over the past four months.

"Site control is secured within the Falls City utility jurisdiction, over 600 acres," said Froeschl.

He said the project is supported at the state and federal level by Adrian Smith, Pete Ricketts, Governor Pillen and the State Economic Development

Office. "They're lending their full support to do whatever it takes to get this done," said Froeschl.

Froeschl made clear he was discussing a power-generating facility, separate from the transmission line project or the substation currently planned for West 14th Street. He also made clear that the 600 acres that are secured for the project are separate from the MidAmerica Rail Campus.

"If we're able to build a generation facility here within our jurisdiction, we can then utilize that transmission line to potentially sell power until it's all consumed on site," said Froeschl.

Froeschl said there is a 5-10-year plan with business investments, "That could create up to 800 full-time careers."

He continued, saying that construction could begin as early as mid-2027.

"The whole reason that this is taking place in Falls City is because we have a dual rail with a ton of unbuilt land around it," said Froeschl. "That is our golden goose."

At that time, a motion was made to enter a closed meeting at 7:13 p.m. for the protection of the public interest.

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**APRIL 17 FISH FRY**

**APRIL 27 Bingo**

**GARAGE SALE**

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**April 17 • 4-7PM & April 18 • 9-12PM**

Small appliances, women's clothing (med-1g), womens shoes (9), lots of misc.

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**High School Student Art Exhibit**

**April 21-May 1 OPEN HOUSE**

**Wednesday, April 22 • 1:00-5:00 PM**

**Heartland Fine Art Gallery**

**1620 Stone St., Falls City**

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# One day blood drive hits goal

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile was a one day drive this time. Held at Prichard Auditorium on March 25th it was a packed drive. Our goal was 46 units and 51 units were collected. After a 20 minute late start, the staff were getting donors through.

Roger and Dixie Lampe hung flyers, the Elks members set up tables and chairs, and several Does worked the canteen along with donating the cookies. A huge Thank You to Tammy Dunn for helping Roger and Dixie make sandwiches.

Lunch meat was provided by F&M Bank and Equity Bank. Buns, cheese, and condiments were furnished by the Falls City Jaycees and paper products were donated by Falls City Care Center. Roger Lampe and Levi Jones put tables and chairs away and Judy Schlosser helped at the registration table.

The donors who helped reach our goal were; Les Baker, June Bowers, Becky Brewer, Maddison Lyons-Brown, Patty

Brown, Chris Caudle, Audra Cave, Monty Coleman, Mary Darveau, Danitra Dill, Gavin Diltz, Sarah Diltz, Breean Eickhoff, Eugene Ernst, Sandra Garcia, Barb Goltz, Delmer Gruber, Raymond Gruber, Ira Hall, Costas Haralabidis, Marcus Keller, Charles James, Jennifer James, Emil Jilek, Deena Kafer, James Keller, Ron Kelley, Roger Lampe, Becky Littrel, Liz Luna, Kristin Maddux, Felecia Martin, Mary Martineau, Nancy McKim, Hannah Milam, Steven Noa, Judy Parrish, Kaydence Rego, Roy Rieger, Mary Rowell, Neal Schatz, Joe Schlosser, Judy Schlosser, Crystal Scrivens, Tami Simpson, Richard Strecker, Gina Steele, Janet Toomsen, Doug Wheeler, Alisa Wickham, Malesa Wickham and Kevin Zimmerman.

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive will be our scholarship drive on May 20th and 21st at Prichard Auditorium. Falls City Sacred Heart will be helping with this drive. Thank you to all who helped and donated.



## Cintroniq and Premier product Marketing, announce 15 year binding off-take agreement for Carbon-negative polypropylene

Cintroniq and Premier Product Marketing, a Vinmar company, announced a 15-year binding off-take agreement for the supply of OrganiqPP® resins, the world's only 100% biogenic, carbon-negative polypropylene.

Cintroniq is a leader in carbon-negative materials, while Premier Product Marketing is a global leader in the marketing and distribution of petrochemicals and plastics. The agreement represents 50% of the planned production capacity of Cintroniq's manufacturing facility in Nebraska, which is expected to begin production in 2029.

Securing an offtake for half of the plant's initial capacity ahead of production highlights strong industry confidence in Cintroniq's platform and signals accelerating market adoption of biogenic and carbon-negative materials on an industrial scale.

Under the agreement, Premier Product Marketing will support the global marketing and distribution of OrganiqPP®, leveraging its extensive international network and expertise in petrochemical logistics and market development.

"I applaud the Citroniq team as they advance this innovative project, and we are honored to be selected as their anchor offtaker. We are well-positioned to bring Citroniq's OrganiqPP® sustainable polypropylene solution to customers around the world." — Vishal Goradia,

CEO, Vinmar Group.

OrganiqPP®, developed by Citroniq, serves as a direct drop-in replacement for conventional fossil-based polypropylene, enabling meaningful carbon reductions without requiring changes to existing manufacturing processes.

"Together, Citroniq and Premier Product Marketing are introducing a transformational solution to the plastics industry at a pivotal time for manufacturers and global supply chains. Combining sustainable materials at scale with a resilient supply chain creates a powerful opportunity to reshape polypropylene sourcing. We are excited to partner with Premier Product Marketing to help make sustainable plastics the new normal." — Kelly Knopp, CEO & Co-Founder, Citroniq

Cintroniq continues to engage with additional partners as adoption of sustainable materials expands across packaging, consumer goods, automotive, and industrial sectors, where polypropylene remains one of the world's most widely used plastics.

Vinmar, located in Houston, Texas, is a global leader in the marketing and distribution of petrochemicals and plastics, serving customers in more than 110 countries with high-quality products and solutions. Since its founding in 1978, Vinmar has grown to more than 1,500 employees across 58 offices, bringing value to the world's leading producers and users of plastics

and chemicals through the supply of best in class products and tailored business solutions.

For more information about Vinmar and its services, visit [www.vinmar.com](http://www.vinmar.com).

Cintroniq is a leader in carbon-negative materials, developing the world's first full-scale platform for producing biogenic polypropylene. Through its proprietary process, Citroniq produces high-performance polypropylene made entirely from renewable feedstocks while delivering meaningful carbon reductions compared to conventional fossil-based plastics. The company is developing its first commercial manufacturing facility in Nebraska, expected to begin production in 2029.

For more information about Citroniq, please visit [www.citroniq.com](http://www.citroniq.com).



Taylor Wenger and Stella Chandler



Parker Chandler and Mallory Wenger

**THE STELLA RESEARCH CLUB AND THE VILLAGE OF STELLA HELD THEIR ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT** at the Stella Park on April 4. Thirty-four kids registered and that number was doubled in attendance with parents and grandparents watching their kids. The individual winners in the age categories were: Ages one to three had 11 kids, with Newt Joy finding the one dollar coin. Ages four to six had nine kids, with Beckett Smith finding the one dollar coin. Ages seven to nine had nine kids, with Laurel Renner finding the one dollar coin. Ages 10 - 12 had four kids, with Brianna Davis the lucky \$ 1.00 finder.

## FC Volunteer Fire Dept. announce scholarship recipients

By Jon McQueen, Public Information Officer F.C.V.F.D.

The Falls City Volunteer Fire Department would like to announce the recipients of their scholarships for 2026. Cole Taft, of Falls City Sacred Heart and Haiden Dorste, of Falls City High School.

Each will be awarded a \$500.00 check

at the next fire meeting.

The Volunteer Fire Department receive donations towards this throughout the year and pass it on to local graduating seniors, with a preference of children and or grandchild of area responders.

The Fire Department appreciates the continued support that you provide to all area first responders.

## BUILDING PERMITS

Vicki Martineau, 801 E . 11th; roofing front porch, \$800.00.

Norma Fritz, 1102 Chase St.; roof replacement, \$16,000.00.

Marc Merz, 1801 Chase St.; light remodeling, \$5,000.00.

Marc Merz, 1801 Chase St.; building walls, rooms and ramp, \$2,000.00.

Mark and Renae May, 825 E 16th; new fence, garage and driveway, \$40,700.00.

**\$12,000 WILD**  
WEDNESDAY'S  
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April 1, 8, 22 & 29  
2pm - 8pm

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**THURSDAYS**  
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**THURSDAY, APRIL 16 - Regular Menu**  
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**State Degrees with Advisors:** Mr. Miller, Ethan Morris, Malori Kuker, Brock Niedfeldt, Bowdy Jones, Miss Johnson.



**Welding:** Wyatt Counce, Elijah Leyden, Dayton Snethen, Bowdy Jones



**Parli Pro Team:** Back row: Brock Niedfeldt, Ethan Morris, Bowdy Jones Front Row: Breean Eickhoff, Dayton Snethen, Malori Kuker.



**State FFA Degrees:** Ethan Morris, Malori Kuker, Brock Niedfeldt, Bowdy Jones.

## FC FFA hosts auction and earn honors at State Convention

By Bowdy Jones

March 8 the Falls City FFA Chapter hosted its annual Labor Auction and Pancake feed. Members arrived at the school at 4:30 to begin cooking. Pancakes, sausage, and drinks were served to all who attended the auction at 5:00.

There was a silent auction open to any buyers. Baked goods such as cupcakes, cakes, and brownies as well as farm fresh eggs were open to buyers. Goods were provided by members Leah Goff, Caroline Powell, Bristol Titus, Addison Daniels, Kaydence Rego, and Taiyah Moore.

At 6:00 the silent auctions closed, and the Labor Auction began. Members Brock Neidfeldt, Ethan Morris, Blakeley Sells, Malori Kuker, Breean Eickhoff, Bowdy Jones, Dayton Snethen, Wyatt Counce, Elijah Leyden, Kamdyn Huppert, Braxtyn Bauman, and Brantly Sells. The chapter advisors Miss Johnson and Mr. Miller were also auctioned off.

The labor auction was a great success overall. Thank you to all who participated and supported our chapter.

March 25, 26 and 27 the Falls City FFA Chapter attended the 98th annual Nebraska State FFA Convention. Wednesday members Brock Neidfeldt, Breean Eickhoff, Malori Kuker, and Kaydence Rego competed in Ag Business Management, and Brock Neidfeldt received a purple ribbon.

Wednesday evening members Brock Neidfeldt, Ethan Morris, Malori Kuker, and Bowdy Jones received their state

degrees. Thursday morning the parliamentary procedure team consisting of Ethan Morris, Brock Neidfeldt, Malori Kuker, Breean Eickhoff, Bowdy Jones, and Dayton Snethen competed.

Following parliamentary procedure, the welding team headed to the state welding competition. Wyatt Counce competed in OA, Bowdy Jones competed in MIG, Dayton Snethen competed in TIG, and Elijah Leyden competed in Stick welding. Wyatt placed seventh overall in OA.

After welding, the Meats Judging team of Brock Neidfeldt, Ethan Morris, Elijah Leyden, and Haiden Dorste competed. After the competitions the members went to watch the Falls City Tiger baseball game at Lincoln Chris-



**Livestock Judging:** Blakely Sells, Malori Kuker, Bowdy Jones, Brock Niedfeldt.



**Ag Bus Mgmt:** Breean Eickhoff, Kaydence Rego, Brock Niedfeldt, Malori Kuker.

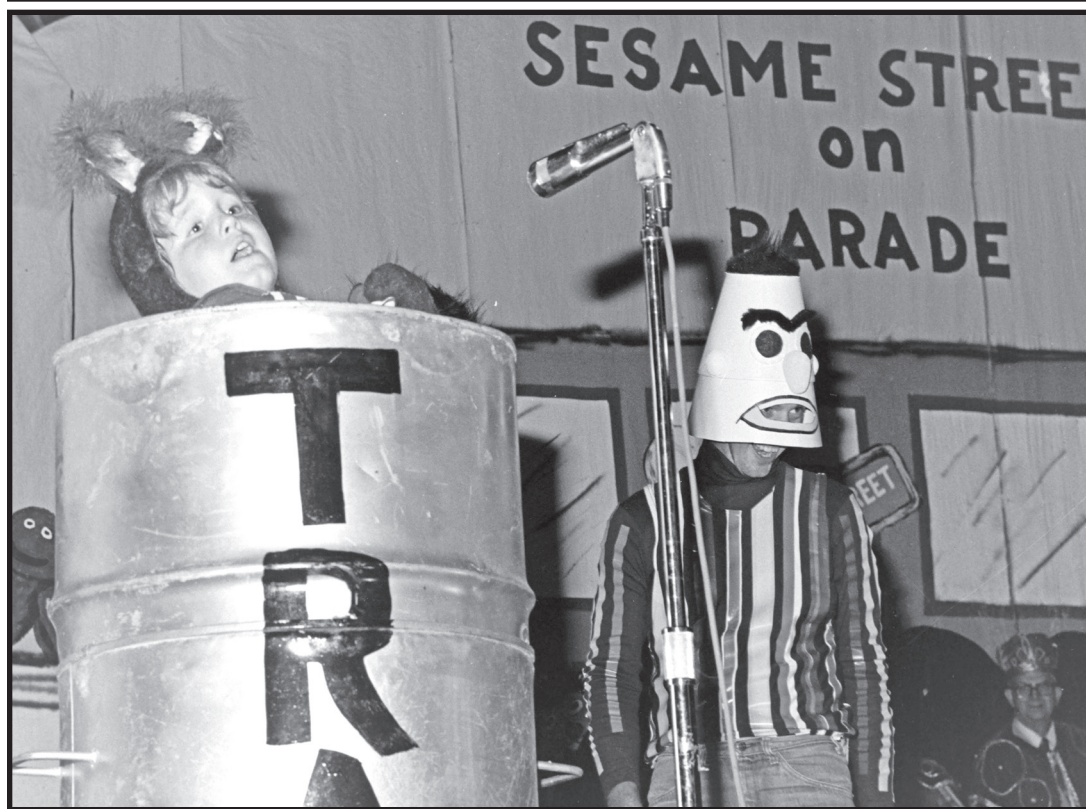


**Meats Judging:** Brock Niedfeldt, Elijah Leyden, Ethan Morris, Haiden Dorste.

tian. After the game, the group went to Texas Roadhouse for a team meal sponsored by the chapter.

The next morning, members Blakely Sells, Brock Neidfeldt, Malori Kuker, and Bowdy Jones competed in livestock judging, and Bowdy earned a blue ribbon. Friday

## FROM THE JOURNAL ARCHIVES



What do you know about this photo? We're asking for your help in solving the mystery each week of our thousands of photos. Please email us at [brian@fcjournal.net](mailto:brian@fcjournal.net) or [nikki@fcjournal.net](mailto:nikki@fcjournal.net).

## Senator Hallstrom Newsletter

We have one working day left in the 2026 Legislative Session with adjournment scheduled for Friday, April 17. On that day we may consider overrides of gubernatorial vetoes, if any, and we will pay tribute to the senators who are departing due to term limits.

Governor Pillen signed both main budget bills, LB 1071 and LB 1072, last week and issued no line-item vetoes. These efforts addressed the \$646 million biennial budget shortfall, and maintain almost \$600 million in the state's cash reserves, or "rainy-day fund."

Last week, LB304 was advanced to Final Reading. This bill seeks to extend the current income eligibility limits for families qualifying for Nebraska's Child Care Subsidy. This long-standing program, primarily funded by the federal government, provides essential assistance to low-income families to afford child care for children aged 12 and younger while parents are working. In 2021, the Legislature increased the eligibility criteria from 130% to 185% of the federal poverty limit. LB304 would maintain this 185% limit, which was otherwise scheduled to revert to 130% on October 1st.

Additionally, the Legislature advanced LB966 to Final Reading. This bill proposes that the state cover the remaining costs for students who qualify for reduced-price meals. While the federal government fully reimburses the cost of free meals and partially reimburses reduced-price meals, LB966 would ensure that students qualifying for either program are not charged.

I also introduced LR 296 earlier this session. Under this Legislative Resolution the Legislature urges the President of the United States and members of Congress to enact permanent changes to the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program to reimburse all participating family day care homes at Tier 1 reimbursement rates for meals and supplements. The resolution passed on a 43-0 vote.

Also, as a reminder, Nebraska's Unclaimed Property Division last year returned nearly \$20 million through 19,952 claims. This "lost money" consisted of items ranging from uncashed payroll checks and insurance benefits to forgotten bank accounts, mutual funds, and more. You can visit the website at [www.NebraskaLostCash.gov](http://www.NebraskaLostCash.gov). The site contains information on submitting a claim, checking the status of a claim, and more. Searching the site is easy, free of charge, and secure.

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](mailto:bhallstrom@leg.ne.gov).

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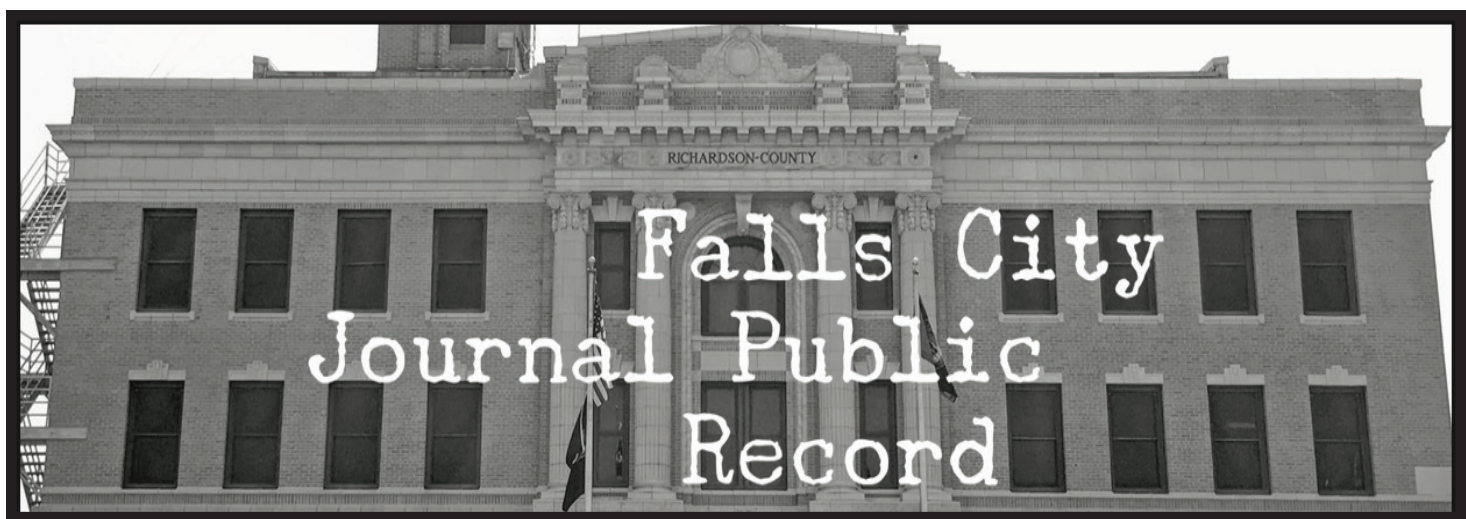
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## COUNTY COURT

Amanda F. Kostecka, count one, DUI-.15+, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes fine of \$500, jail for term of 14 days, credit for 4 days served, license revoked for term on one year, interlock device; count two amended to dropped/dismissed.

Robert D. Johnson, count one, refuse to submit to test-1st, pled not guilty; count two, refuse to submit to pretest, pled not guilty; count three, no operator's license, pled not guilty; count four, possess/consume open alcohol container, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for April 29, 2026.

Jessica A. Richbourg, count one, commit child abuse negligently/no injury, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for April 29, 2026.

Blake C. Rolfe, counts 1-2, amended to dropped/dismissed; count three, procure/sell alcohol to minor/incompetent, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes jail for seven days, credit for time served; count four, procure/sell alcohol to minor/incompetent, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes jail for term of seven days.

David R. Duran Jr., count one, leave accident-fail to furnish info-1st, pled not guilty; count two, willful reckless driving-1st, 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.

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 29, 2026.

Kyle R. White, count one, refuse to submit to test-1st, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for April 29, 2026.

Devon L. Smith, count one, leave accident-fail to furnish info-1st, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for April 29, 2026.

Lisa M. Pinter, count one, theft-shoplifting \$0-500, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$100.

Kyle A. Hague, count one, disturbing the peace, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes jail for term of seven days.

Kyle A. Hague, count one, criminal mischief \$501-1499, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes jail for term of 14 days.

Kyle A. Hague, count one, terroristic threats, amended to disturbing the peace, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes jail for term of 30 days; counts 2-3 amended to dropped/dismissed; count four, commit child abuse negligently/no injury, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes jail for term of 300 days, credit for 96 days served.

Guadalupe A Lujano-Tafoya, count one, no proof of insurance, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$100; count two, drive under susp/before reinstated, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$250 and license revoked for term of one year; count three, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125.

## DISTRICT COURT

Joseph Walter III, count one, tamper with witness/informant/juror, pled not guilty. Jury trial scheduled for May 14, 2026.

Joseph Walter III, count one, theft-unlawful taking \$5,000+, pled not guilty; count two, criminal trespass-1st degree, pled not guilty. Jury trial scheduled for August 13, 2026.

Lawrence A. Reeder, count one, operate motor vehicle/avoid arrest-felony, pled no contest, found guilty; counts 2-3, amended to dropped/dismissed; count four, willful reckless driving-1st, pled no contest, found guilty; counts 5-9 amended to dropped/dismissed. Sentencing scheduled for June 2, 2026.

## CITATIONS

Vincent Bennett of Rulo, count one, speeding 36+, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$400; count two, amended to dropped/dismissed; count three, no valid registration, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and

court costs. (Novak)

James Johnson of Fort Worth, TX, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Geyer)

Joann Davidson of Hiawatha, count one, speeding 21-35 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$300 and court costs. (Cheek)

Jenifer Donaldson of Topeka, KS, count one, unlawful/fict display of plate/renew tab, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$50; count two, no valid registration, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25; count three, improper/defective vehicle lighting, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Holliday)

Jamie Mackey of Falls City, count one, registration/plates, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Cheek)

Joel Rodriguez of Bethany, MO, count one, no valid registration, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Novak)

Chad Keslar of Brownville, NE, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Holliday)

Alexander Foreman of Nebraska City, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Geyer)

Tyler Binder of Table Rock, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs; counts 2-3 dropped/dismissed. (Geyer)

Carlton Clardy of Ponca City, OK, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125; count two, no valid registration, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Agena)

Hunter Pingel of Falls City, count one speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fiend \$125 and court costs. (Daniels)

Jesus Lopez of Blue Mound, TX, count one, speeding 16-20 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$200 and court costs. (Agena)

Justin Parr of Lawrence, KS, count one, no valid registration, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Agena)

**(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

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## FALLS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS AND STATISTICS

**March 25, 2026 through March 26, 2026 calls:** one motorist assist, one miscellaneous call, one HHS intake/referral, one theft, two gun permits, one nuisance, one traffic/driving complaint, three referred other agency calls, one ambulance/EMS call, one law enforcement assist, one 911 hang up/misdial, one check welfare, one suspicious person/vehicle, and one fire call. Four 911 calls. One fire call for Falls City Rural Fire. Two warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting and one warning for fail to maintain lane.

**March 26, 2026 through March 27, 2026 calls:** one law enforcement assist, one vehicle repossession, two HHS intake/referrals, one traffic/driving complaint, one welfare check, one ambulance/EMS call, one miscellaneous call, one fire call, one referred other agency call, and one theft. Eleven total calls. Four 911 calls, one fire call, three citations (speeding, improper/defective vehicle lighting, misuse school permit), and two warnings (drive left of center, plates not clear and visible).

**March 27, 2026 through March 28, 2026 calls:** one referred other agency call, one 911 hang-up/misdial, one ambulance/EMS call, one found or lost property call, three miscellaneous calls, one welfare check, one suspicious person/vehicle call, one traffic/driving complaint, one disturbance, and one animal call. Twelve total calls. Two 911 calls and two citations (unauthorized use of a propelled vehicle and no operator's license).

**March 28, 2026 through March 28, 2026 calls:** four ambulance/EMS calls, two fire calls, two animal calls, one nuisance call, two 911 hang-up/misdials, and one referred other agency call. Twelve total calls. Three 911 calls and two fire calls (Humboldt Fire and Verdon Fire).

**March 29, 2026 through March 30, 2026 calls:** one fire call, four referred other agency calls, one accident, and two miscellaneous calls. Eight total calls. Five 911 calls and one fire call (Falls City Fire).

**March 30, 2026 through March 31, 2026 calls:** two information only calls, one miscellaneous call, two ambulance/EMS calls, three records checks, one motorist assist, one investigation, three referred other agency calls, one fraud call, and one animal call. Fifteen total calls. Two 911 calls, five citations (two speeding, animal at large, operate motor vehicle to avoid arrest, DUI), and three warnings (speeding, drive left of center, disobey traffic control device).

**March 31, 2026 through April 1, 2026 calls:** one accident, one miscellaneous call, one information only call, two ambulance/EMS calls, and one 911 hang-up/misdial. Six total calls. Two 911 calls, two citations (no proof of insurance, unlawful display of plates), and three warnings (muffler violation, follow too closely, improper turn).

**April 1, 2026 through April 2, 2026 calls:** not available.

**April 2 through April 3, 2026 calls:** two gun permits, one alarm, one investigation, two 911 hang-up/misdials, three miscellaneous calls, two burn permits, and one assault. Twelve total calls. Three 911 calls and one warning for speeding.

**April 3 through April 4, 2026 calls:** four Four burn permits, three referred to other agencies, two miscellaneous calls, one accident, two records checks, one weather call, three traffic/driving complaints, and one 911 hang-up/misdial. Seventeen total calls. Five 911 calls. Seven warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting, three warnings for unlawful/fictitious plates, two warnings for speeding, and one warning for invalid registration.

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## Tigers offense struggling to put runs on the board

The Falls City nine hosted the Auburn Bulldogs on Tuesday night at SNC Field. The Bulldogs roughed up starting pitcher Bowdy Jones for three runs in the first inning and never trailed as they secured the 7-2 win in seven innings.

Jones opened the contest with a strikeout, but two walks and a single loaded the bases. Jones then coaxed his second K of the inning, giving his team a chance to escape the inning unscathed. A base hit by Caleb Cover and a two-run single by Ty Dunekacke made it 3-0 before a groundout ended the top of the first.

Auburn added another run in the second. After opening the inning with a ground out, Jones plunked Clayton Brown, walked Gavin Bauer and surrendered a RBI single to Jackson Warner to make it 4-0.

The Tigers got some offensive action working in the bottom of the second. A walk by Jones, followed by a two-out single by Mason Collier, put runners at the corners. Callen Furnas came through with a clutch hit, driving in Jones to make it 4-1. Jaiden Willman worked a walk and loaded the bases, but a strikeout ended the Tiger threat.

Auburn's Dunekacke led off the third with a hard single to center field, but Jones got three straight outs and got out of the jam.

The score remained 4-1 until the bottom of the fifth. With two outs, Jayton Wilkerson singled up the middle. Two stolen bases put Wilkerson on third, and he scored on an RBI single from Brock Niedfeldt, making it 4-2.

Auburn responded with three runs in the top of the sixth. An RBI sac fly by Bauer and an RBI groundout by Griffen Sikora gave the Bulldogs a five-run advantage, securing the 7-2 win.

Senior Mason Collier was recently cleared to play after suffering a knee injury in football this past fall. Collier, batting for the first time this season, went a perfect 3-3 at the plate to lead the Tiger offense. Furnas and Niedfeldt added RBI base hits.

Jones was saddled with the loss, allowing four hits, four runs and three walks in two

**TIGERS OFFENSE -Page 8**



**Friends and neighbors of Richardson County,**

This election is about more than politics, it's about making sure our public safety system is strong, efficient, and built to serve every part of this county.

I've spent my career serving this community in multiple roles—law enforcement, fire, EMS, and dispatch. That experience has given me a full picture of how our system works, and where we have opportunities to improve.

One of the biggest challenges we're facing right now is retention. Over the past year, at least 11 employees have left the Sheriff's Office, including staff from the jail, dispatch, law enforcement division, and leadership roles in those areas. Public safety agencies cannot operate effectively with a revolving door of employees. Experience matters. Relationships matter. When people leave, it impacts response, continuity, personal connections between the community and deputies which is a critical aspect of community policing, and service to the community.

While there are always multiple reasons why someone may leave a job, in conversations I've had, leadership has consistently been brought up as a contributing factor. That's something we cannot ignore. Leadership sets the tone for the entire organization, and it directly impacts morale, retention, and the quality of service provided to the public. Moving forward, we need to build an environment where people feel supported, respected, and want to stay, grow, and serve this community.

If you talk to different people, you'll hear different explanations for why employees have left. That tells me there's a need for more transparency and honest communication about what's really going on. As Sheriff, I will make sure concerns are addressed openly and professionally, and that employees feel supported in the work they do.

We also need to strengthen relationships between agencies. For years, improving cooperation has been talked about, but there are still ongoing challenges. Public safety works best when everyone is on the same team—not operating in silos.

Whatever issues have existed between the Sheriff's Office and the Falls City Police Department, they will not continue under my leadership. From day one, we will move forward with a professional, cooperative working relationship focused on serving the public.

I already have a strong working relationship with current leadership, and I'm committed to building and maintaining that partnership moving forward.

Strong leadership also means working well with others. I have built positive working relationships not only with local agencies, but also with other elected officials across the county. Public safety doesn't operate in a vacuum—it requires coordination, trust, and communication at every level.

Another area where we can improve is dispatch. Right now, our system is split. In some situations, 911 calls must be transferred from the Falls City Police Department to the Sheriff's Office before help is sent, which can delay response. A consolidated dispatch center has been discussed for years, and I believe it's time to move from discussion to action. By bringing both dispatch centers together, we can improve coordination, reduce delays, and get help moving faster when it matters most. I believe that moving in any other direction would be a step in the wrong direction in regards to public safety in Richardson County.

Communication is also critical. Since around September 2025, I've been actively working with local, state, and federal partners to improve our radio systems within Richardson County and ensure reliable, interoperable communication across agencies. This isn't just about technology, it's about safety, coordination, and making sure no call for help falls through the cracks. As Sheriff, I will continue these efforts and lead Richardson County forward with a long-term vision for communication improvements and improvements in other areas, while remaining mindful of the financial impact on the County and its taxpayers.

The drug problem in our county is real, and it deserves serious attention. While there have been efforts to address it, real progress requires consistency and strong teams. Issues our County has faced in the past regarding drugs have improved over the last few years, and those improvements are not something I intend to reverse. Most of the deputies who were on the front lines of those drug enforcement efforts in previous years are no longer with the Sheriff's Office. Sustained progress depends on supporting the people doing that work every day and ensuring those efforts continue long-term.

When it comes to working with the County Board and other officials, honesty and clarity matter. Decisions about staffing, equipment, and resources must be based on accurate information. As Sheriff, I will always be straightforward and transparent so our county leaders can make the best decisions for our community.

I'm not running to make promises that sound good, I'm running to set expectations that should already be met. You should expect fast, professional response. You should expect strong communication between agencies. You should expect accountability, transparency, and leadership that supports its people. Those aren't promises I'm hesitant to make—they are standards I believe every Sheriff should deliver.

I'm not running to criticize. I'm running because I believe we can move forward. We can build stronger teams, stronger partnerships, and a more effective system that serves every part of Richardson County.

On May 12, 2026, I'd be honored to earn your vote, and the privilege of serving as YOUR Richardson County Sheriff.



**Nicholas Aitken**

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# TIGERS OFFENSE

-Continued from Page 7

innings of work. Dunekacke led Auburn with two hits and a pair of RBI, while former Tiger Gavin Bauer went 1-1 with a walk and an RBI. Sikora added an RBI for the Bulldogs.

The loss dropped FC to 1-10, while Auburn improved to 7-4.

On Friday, the Tigers traveled to Phil Welch Field in St. Joseph for the WOW Wood Bat Tournament. FC drew Ellinwood in the opening round of the Blue Division on Friday afternoon. The Tigers went in front 1-0 in the bottom of the first frame. Jaiden Willman led off the inning with a five-pitch walk. A stolen base and advancement on a flyout put Willman at third with two down. Willman eventually scored on a passed ball to put the Orange and Black in front 1-0.

The score remained 1-0 until the Eagles plated a run in the third. A walk, a hit by pitch and a sacrifice bunt allowed the score to be knotted up at 1-1.

The Eagles took the lead for good in the fifth. Cohen Gunn led off with a double, followed by an error on a ground ball, leading to a 2-1 lead for Ellinwood. A single and a second FC miscue allowed the Eagles to push their advantage to 3-1.

FC battled in the bottom half of the fifth. Vaden Leyden reached on an error by the shortstop. A sac bunt by Ryder Hullman moved the runner to second base with one out. A groundout and an error allowed Leyden to cross the plate, making it 3-2.

Unfortunately for FC, the Eagles plated an insurance run in the sixth and held on for the 4-2 win.

Falls City was out hit 6-0 and struck out 14 times. Huppert took the loss, surrendering just four hits and three runs (2 earned) in five innings of work. Huppert struck out seven and walked three. Willman, Vonderschmidt, and Niedfeldt all drew walks.

FC was scheduled to return to St. Joseph on Saturday, but the game was canceled due to the weather.

FC played at West Nodaway on Monday, and at Auburn on Thursday, April 16.

# Records continue to fall for Tiger track squads

The Falls City track teams competed at the Panther Invite in Palmyra on Friday, April 10. The meet, originally scheduled for Thursday, was postponed a day due to weather concerns.

The Orange and Black athletes didn't seem to mind the extra day of preparation. Falls City's Caleb Offner set a new school record in the shot put, while the girls' team finished with 10 personal bests on the day, and the boys' finished with nine.

Overall, the Tiger boys scored 52 points and placed third, while the Lady Tigers tallied 40 points and placed fifth.

Boys team scoring: Syracuse 186, Palmyra 150, FC 52, Yutan 45, Mead 35, Elmwood-Murdock 33, Louisville 22.

Girls team scoring: Syracuse 193, Yutan 117, Palmyra 94, Elmwood-Murdock 60, FC 40, Louisville 17, Mead 1.

As previously stated, Falls City's Caleb Offner, who already owns the discus school record, uncorked a throw of 55-05.50 in the shot put to win the event and set a new school mark. Offner took down a long-standing mark on the record board at Falls City. Mark Smith set the record back in 1982 with a toss of 53-9. Offner's throw bettered the old mark by nearly two feet. Offner fell for the first time this season in the discus but still brought home the silver. Hunter Holle of Syracuse won the event at 160-08, while Offner was hot on his heels at 160-01.75.

The other gold medal of the day came courtesy of Tanner Jackson. The sophomore, who is a reigning state meet qualifier, won the event by clearing 13-06.

In the 110h, Elijah Leyden crossed the finish line at 18.37 and placed third. Leyden also medaled in the 300h, placing fourth in 47.46 and setting a personal best. The 4x100 relay team also scored

a third-place finish. The team of Jacoby Bangert, Kacen Davis, Tallan Zimmerman and Tanner Jackson ran a 47.61 for the bronze.

The 4x400 team of Bangert, Lathan Richey, Martin Irizarry and Zimmerman blazed to a 3:59.02 and placed fourth. Senior Ryker McCullough scored points in the high jump, clearing the bar at 5-06 for fifth place. The final points came from Zimmerman in the long jump. The senior went 18-06 and placed fifth.

Freshman Audrey Scrivens continues to light the track on fire for Falls City. Scrivens placed second in the 400m dash on Friday, running a personal best of 1:01.91. The time was good enough to put the freshman eighth on the all-time list at FC. Scrivens also placed fourth in the 100m dash, running a personal record of 13.31. Her day continued with a fourth-place finish in the 200m dash (27.90), and the fab-freshman joined teammates Ashlyn Alexander, Tessa Gossman and Peyton Weddle to place fourth in the 4x100 relay.

Madalynn Hawley ran a personal record of 15:23.34 to place fifth in the 3200m run. The 4x400 team of Weddle, Hallie Young, Gossman and Alexander placed fourth in 4:32.87, while the 4x800 team of Jennifer Sweeney, Hawley, Gabi Young and Hallie Young ran an 11:37.58 and placed third. Liv Buckminster cleared 4-08 in the high jump and brought home a third-place medal, while Weddle went 31-01 in the triple jump and placed fifth.

The Tigers will be in search of more hardware when they compete at Syracuse on Thursday, April 16 and at Louisville High School on Thursday, April 23. FC will host the Falls City Invite on Monday, April 27, at Jug Brown Stadium.

# Canonico runs to a pair of gold medals

The Sacred Heart Irish track teams competed at the Rich Bacon Invite at Johnson County Central High School on Tuesday, April 7.

The Irish boys totaled 77 points and placed third, while the Lady Irish scored 17 points and placed ninth.

Boys' standings: Thayer Central 90, Johnson-Brock 83, SH 77, Freeman 69, JCC 61, HTRS 36, Lourdes 36, Weeping Water 28, Lewiston 28, Elmwood-Murdock 13, Pawnee City 6.

Girls' standings: Johnson-Brock 80.75, JCC 77, Thayer Central 74.75, HTRS 67.75, Freeman 60.75, Lourdes 52,

Weeping Water 44, Elmwood-Murdock 34, SH 17, Pawnee City 15, Lewiston 4.

The Irish boys were led by senior Elijah Canonico. Canonico secured two golds and a silver medal on Tuesday. Elijah won the 300h in 44.11, the 110h in 16.53 and joined teammates Kayden Groth, Kyler Sipple and JJ Lancaster to place second in the 4x100 in 48.15.

Brenden Lemerond had another solid outing. Lem won the pole vault at 10-06, while teammate Owen Santo was third at 9-06. Lemerond joined Bo Fletcher, Santo and Hayden Clow to place third in the 4x800 (9:05.42), placed third in the 800m (2:09.18) and third in the 1600m (5:06.03). Fletcher was close behind Lemerond in the 1600, placing fifth in 5:08.24. Noah Howard scored a point in the 300h, placing sixth in 45.69.

In the high jump, JJ Lancaster cleared 5-06

for sixth, and Groth was fifth in the 100m dash in 12.03. The Irish scored two medals in the 3200m run, with Fletcher placing third (11:01.39) and Clow running an 11:24.89 for fifth.

For the Lady Irish, Hallie Jones scored a pair of medals in the throws. Jones placed second in the discus at 115-05 and was fourth in the shot put at 34-06. The 4x800 relay team of Daycee Witt, Macy Taft, Kinlee Lechtenberg and Bailey Lemerond ran an 11:29.22 and placed sixth. In the 3200m run, freshman Payten Georges ran a 14:18.70 and placed fifth. Freshman Carlee Bailey picked up a medal in the discus, placing fifth at 97-07.

The Irish competed at the Lewiston Invite on Tuesday, April 14, and will host the Robert A. Roh Irish Invitational at Syracuse on Tuesday, April 21.

# Titans compete at JCC

The Lady Titans from HTRS placed fourth at the Rich Bacon Invite on Tuesday, April 7, in Tecumseh. The Lady Titans scored 67.75 points on Tuesday. The boys tallied 36 points and placed sixth.

Girls scoring: Johnson-Brock 80.75, JCC 77, Thayer Central 74.75, HTRS 67.75, Freeman 60.75, Lourdes 52, Weeping Water 44, Elmwood-Murdock 34, SH 17, Pawnee City 15, Lewiston 4.

Boys scoring: Thayer Central 90, Johnson-Brock 83, SH 77, Freeman 69, JCC 61, HTRS 36, Lourdes 36, Weeping Water 28, Lewiston 28, Elmwood-Murdock 13, Pawnee City 6.

The meet started off with Miranda Rist placing in the high jump, clearing 4-04 and tying for fourth place. Freshman Jazi Frey continued her domination in the pole vault, clearing the bar at 9-00 for the gold medal. The 4x800 relay team of Grayson Sherman, Lillian Bowen, Eden Duryea and Makena Dunlap ran an 11:03.33 for the silver. Frey added to her collection in the 100h, crossing the tape in 17.19 for fifth place, while Rist added her second medal, earning third place in the 100m dash (13.57).

Lillian Bowen continues to excel in the middle-distance events, placing third in the 400m dash in 1:04.67, while winning the 800m dash in 2:33.58. Bowen added to her medal haul in the 1600m run, placing third in 6:05.14. Teammate Grayson Sherman was right behind in fourth, running a 6:08.75. Sherman also added a fourth-place medal in the 3200m run (13:48.33). Frey secured the bronze medal in the 300h, crossing the finish line at 52.86. The final points of the meet came in the 4x400 relay. The team of Duryea, Sherman, Frey and Rist ran a 4:37.83 and placed third.

For the boys, Emmett Glathar continues to shine in the throwing events. The senior placed third in the discus with a toss of 159-02 and was fourth in the shot put at 47-04. The 4x800 relay team had another strong showing, placing second in 9:02.74. Team members were Kameon Dettmann, Axton Wamsley, Preston Mezger and Darius Bohling. HTRS scored well in the 800m dash as well. Dettmann cruised to the win in 2:07.10, while teammate Wamsley was close behind in fifth (2:10.08). The final points of the meet for HTRS came in the 4x400. The team of Dettmann, Wamsley, Bohling and Glathar placed third in 3:43.37.

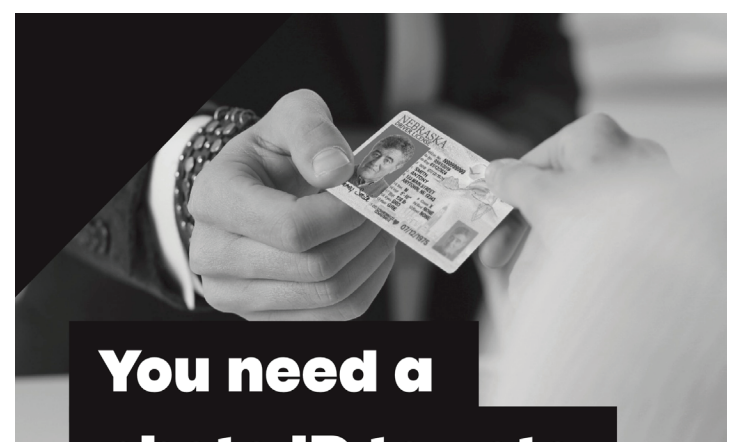
HTRS competed at the Lewiston Invite on Tuesday, April 14 and will compete at the Robert A. Roh Irish Invite at Syracuse on Tuesday, April 21.

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## Sheala Woods

Sheala Woods, 75, of Falls City, NE, passed away April 10, 2026 at Falls City. She was born February 26, 1951 at Green Up, KY to Ira and Cora (Sullivan) Stepp.

She married William "Bill" Woods, Sr. on November 25, 1966 at Wise, VA. He passed away May 28, 2024.

Sheala was raised in Greenup, KY. When married the couple lived in various places due to her husband's military service. She was a homemaker most of her life. The couple first moved to Falls City in 1990 and then to Florida in 1996 and back to Falls City in 2011, where she has lived since. She enjoyed playing bingo at the casino, playing cards with friends, spending time with her family and volunteering at church. She was a member of Valley Avenue Baptist Church.

Sheala is survived by her children, William "Woody" Woods, Jr. and his wife Tina of Escondido, CA, Rana Frenzel and her husband Jeff of Falls City, Delp and her significant other Michael "Rose" Turner of Falls City, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, three brothers and a sister and a grandchild, Kendell Delp.

Her memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026 at 10:30 AM at Valley Avenue Baptist Church with Pastor Chad Berry officiating. Inurnment will be in Steele Cemetery.

Friends may sign the guest registry during regular business hours at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home.

## Marjorie Lyons

Marjorie Lyons, 94, of Falls City, NE, passed away April 11, 2026 at Falls City. She was born the youngest child of Thomas R. and Amanda (Hahn) Bennett on June 14, 1931 at Falls City.

She married John W. "Bill" Lyons on December 19, 1953 at San Diego, CA. He passed away January 14, 1965.

Marj was raised at Falls City and graduated from Sacred Heart High School with the class of 1949. She then went on to attend Saint Mary's College in Leavenworth, KS and Providence Hospital School of Nursing in Kansas City, KS. When married the couple lived in and worked in Omaha before moving to Dawson, NE in 1959 to raise their growing family. Marj was a nurse at the Humboldt Hospital and Falls City Community Hospital for many years.

During her retirement she moved to Casa Granda, AZ and returned to Falls City in 2020 where she has lived since. She was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church and a former long-time member of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Dawson.

Marj is survived by her children, Cindy Taylor and her husband Ron of Kansas City, MO, Jeff and his wife Kathy of Effingham, KS, Steve and his wife Donna of Bennett, CO, Terry and his wife Deb of Falls City, Jim and his wife Mary of Omaha, NE, Bill of Gardner, KS, Joe and his wife Theresa of Ashland, NE, daughter-in-law, Sandy Lyons of Falls City, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, son, Tim, sisters, Sarah Barton and Mary Alice Cooke, brothers, Tom, Ed, Don, Jim and John Bennett.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026 at 2:30 P. M. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Dawson, with Father Jim Meysenburg as the presiding priest. Inurnment will be in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

A Parish Rosary will be recited on Saturday, 2:00 P. M. at St. Mary's Catholic Church prior to the service.

Friends may sign the guest registry at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home during regular business hours.

## Final weeks to apply for AARP's 2026 Purpose Prize® Deadline is May 1

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Purpose is a powerful force for good. This year's Purpose Prize® from AARP is now accepting applications, celebrating extraordinary older Americans who have founded nonprofits and turned their purpose into action. Their work supports AARP's mission, to empower people to choose how they live as they age, by tackling the real-world challenges facing older adults.

Up to five winners will receive \$75,000 and a full year of tailored organizational support from AARP to help expand their nonprofits' impact and strengthen long-term sustainability, enabling their organizations to grow and deepen their reach. This support may include guidance on data and evaluation, governance and succession planning, fundraising strategy, and prospectus development. One of the five winners may also be

selected to receive the inaugural Kevin Donnellan Award for Volunteerism, which includes an additional \$10,000 and recognizes exceptional work with volunteers.

Since 2016, AARP has honored more than one hundred nonprofit founders, cultivating a powerful network of changemakers driven by service and purpose. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2026, at 5 p.m. ET. To learn more about the Purpose Prize, view official rules including eligibility requirements, explore past winners, or to apply, visit [aarp.org/purpose-prize](http://aarp.org/purpose-prize).

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, non-partisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence, To learn more, visit [www.aarp.org/about-aarp](http://www.aarp.org/about-aarp), [www.aarp.org/espanol](http://www.aarp.org/espanol).

## Linda Rae Gerdes

Linda Rae Gerdes, 78, of Humboldt, Nebraska, died on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at Colonial Acres Nursing Home in Humboldt.

Linda was born on October 3, 1947, in Humboldt, Nebraska, the daughter of Ray and Nedra (Bright) Stevicks. She grew up in Dawson, Nebraska, and attended Dawson-Verdon High School, graduating in 1966. After high school, Linda attended Reece and Syvil Cosmetology School in Lincoln, Nebraska. She then attended Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri, and earned a Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Science. On March 5, 1967, she was united in marriage to Gary Gerdes of Humboldt, Nebraska, and three children were born to this union. Gary passed away on April 23, 2020.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Gary; her in-laws, Terry Sailors, Gary Feldmann, Dorothy and Jesse Gerdes, and Loren and Becky Gerdes.

Linda is survived by her three children, Teresa (Jon) McQueen, Tracy (Jennifer) Gerdes, and Tina Gerdes and special friend, Stephen Jasper; her six grandchildren, Jessica (Adam) Gruber, Brett McQueen, Thomas (Shannan) McQueen, Jesse Gerdes and fiancé, Tamara Hall, Alli Gerdes, and Alex Nelsen; her six great-grandchildren, Raelynn Gruber, Aryss Gruber, Paityn Gruber, Kendel McQueen, Harley Nelsen, and Hardin Anderson; her two sisters, Jeanne Feldmann and Jackie (Steve) Lewis; her two brothers, Larry (Glenda) Stevicks and Melvin (Boonta) Stevicks; her in-laws, Donna Donovan, Bill Donovan, and Marilyn (Tom) Glather; and her many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Humboldt Ag Building, 1034 4th Street, in Humboldt, Nebraska. Memorial contributions are suggested to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Arbor Day Foundation, or the Southeast Nebraska Cancer Memorial Garden in Humboldt, Nebraska, and they may be sent in care of Popkess Mortuary, 823 Virginia Street, Sabetha, Kansas 66534. Condolences can be shared online at [www.popkessmortuaries.com](http://www.popkessmortuaries.com).

## Jeraldine "Jerri" McDonald



Jeraldine "Jerri" Mae (Titus) McDonald, 84, of Falls City, NE passed away on Saturday, April 4, 2026, at the Community Medical Center in Falls City. She was born on June 9, 1941, in Humboldt, NE at her grandparents' home. Her parents were Frank and Ruth A. (Niemeyer) Titus, and her grandparents were Howard and Mae Titus and Ernest and Edna Niemeyer all of Falls City. Jerri attended Falls City Public Schools and Falls City High School.

In 1957, Jerri was united in marriage to Bobby Garland and to this union five daughters were born. The couple lived in Oregon and Arizona, visiting Falls City in the summers. They founded a fishing lure business "Garland Lures", making bass and crappie jigs. The couple would later divorce in 1979. Jerri remarried Murphy McDonald and the couple moved back to Falls City where they bought the blue house next to the Water Tower. They enjoyed attending auctions and renovating their house. Jerri had prolific garage sales which turned into her owning a small antique shop.

Jerri is survived by her daughters: Dawn Smith of Falls City, Diana Meyers of Falls City, Danelle Brown and husband George of Falls City, Dorena Spittler and husband Mark of Peoria, AZ; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; her brother James Titus of Falls City, her sister Julie Houser and husband Randy of Florence, AZ; and many other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husbands Bobby Garland and Murphy McDonald, daughter Debra Blair, and sister-in-law Joyce Titus.

A Celebration of Jerri's Life will be held by the family at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be given to the family's choice with a later designation. Condolences can be shared online at [www.hallfuneral.net](http://www.hallfuneral.net)

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

## Rex Dee Usher



Rex Dee Usher, 66, of Wilson, KS, passed away on April 7, 2026, at his home at Wilson Lake. He was born on January 21, 1960, to Gary and Sherryn (Bucher) Usher in Falls City, NE. Rex was married on August 7, 2008, to Katherine Ann (Windle) Usher in Dalhart, TX.

He owned and operated Hell Creek Cabins at Wilson Lake. In his spare time, he enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Rex spent his retirement collecting antique toys.

Rex is survived by his daughters, Jenny (David) Helmick of Salem, NE, Melody Haupt, Broken Bow, NE; sons, Justin (Kristy) Martin of Holyrood, KS, John (Felicia) Martin, Salem, NE, Matt (Makooshla) Usher, Holyrood, KS; mother, Sherryn Rist, Humboldt, NE; mother-in-

law, Norma Alford, Fayetteville, AR; brother, Mark (Connie) Usher of Auburn, NE; sisters, Ronda (Justin) Vaughan of Bennet, NE, Rebecca (Adam) Stanley of Stella, NE; grandchildren, Dalton and Derek Helmick, Karlee and Gracie Haupt, Victoria Reyna and Chandler Martin, Addy, Auroara and Jonnie Martin, Matthew and Patrick Usher, Ronnie Rogers; many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Brynn Martin, brother, Russell Usher, father, Gary Usher and wife, Kathy Usher.

Funeral service was held Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 2 PM, at Plumer-Overlease Funeral Home in Wilson. Burial followed at Wilson City Cemetery. Dinner followed at the American Legion in Dorrance. Visitation was held Friday, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM at the funeral home in Wilson.

Memorials are suggested to Ellsworth County Cancer Fund and may be sent to Plumer-Overlease Funeral Home, 723 N 1st, Stockton, KS 67669. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.plumeroverlease.com](http://www.plumeroverlease.com)

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### Beverly our mom,



We miss you very much; it's hard to believe you've been gone 10 years. We know you're busy doing God's work up in heaven. Can't wait to see you again.

Love you, BethAnne & Paul Yoesel



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## NOTICE

The Verdon Cemetery Board is reaching out to friends and family of the Verdon Cemetery to consider contributing to help offset costs associated with annual maintenance. It costs more than \$5,000 per season to keep the cemetery looking nice.

The board feels that communities are inundated with numerous fundraisers and are asking for monetary donations instead.

If you would like to help the Verdon Cemetery, please consider making any size donation and send it to: Verdon cemetery, P.O. Box 114, Verdon, NE 68457. Thank you in advance for your consideration and help.

# CAPITAL CITY

-Continued from Page 1

modern the book felt,” Muasher said. “It really felt like it was written in the current day.”

After premiering in Lincoln, Animal Engine’s production of “Capital City” will also visit Fremont, Falls City and Auburn as part of the Lied Center’s Arts Across Nebraska program, which aims to increase access to the performing arts in the state’s rural areas. The center is also working with the Lancaster County Youth Services Center to stream a performance for incarcerated kids and to organize an in-person Q&A with the artists.

**April 16 - Prichard Auditorium, Falls City**

**April 17 - Auburn Public Schools Central Office Auditorium, Auburn**

Jane Schiermeyer Hansen, director of education and community engagement at the Lied Center, said the performing arts center tries to prioritize works with a connection to Nebraska whenever it can.

“I think Nebraskans are really interested in Nebraska stories,” she said.

Is ‘Capital City’ really about Lincoln?

Technically, the novel that ruined Sandoz’s reputation in Lincoln isn’t set in Lincoln — or even Nebraska, for that matter.

The story actually takes place in Franklin, a fictional city in the imaginary state of Kanewa, a portmanteau of Kansas-Nebraska-Iowa. Sandoz, who was known for conducting intensive research for her books, studied multiple state capitals in the Midwest, including Des Moines, Topeka and Jefferson City. Her fictional capital also has aspects seemingly borrowed from Omaha, such as an annual coronation of upper-class socialites as “the emperor and empress of the land of Kanewa” — possibly modeled on a similar ceremony organized by the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben.

“She had no one capital city in mind, but wanted to reveal what she saw as a trend in the capital cities of the Middle West, towns that produced little, that had little commerce, but lived off the state capitol and the adjacent

university — parasites, just as Washington, D.C., seemed to her the archparasite,” wrote Helen Winter Stauffer, a longtime University of Nebraska at Kearney professor, in her biography of Sandoz, “Mari Sandoz: Story Catcher of the Plains.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msNHusaDuAE>

Despite Sandoz’s repeated assertions that “Capital City” was allegorical and not modeled on any single location, some Lincolnites didn’t believe her. A 1939 review in the Nebraska State Journal observed that the book contained “many men and women who will be recognized, rightly or wrongly, by many readers.” It also didn’t help that Sandoz borrowed one of Lincoln’s most distinctive landmarks — a capitol building with a “high white tower.”

Brown, who grew up in Lincoln and studied theater at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said she immediately recognized the setting.

“When I read it, there was, like, no doubt in my mind,” Brown said. “This is not an amalgamation. This is just Lincoln.

There’s nothing about the city that isn’t Lincoln.”

“Rhyming with the present day”

Although the backlash to “Capital City” was ugly and excessive, it’s not hard to see why some residents resented Sandoz. It wasn’t just the novel. As she was planning her move to Denver, Sandoz told a reporter: “I don’t like Lincoln, and that is no secret. But I didn’t like it 20 years ago.”

Sandoz was also an unapologetic liberal, sympathetic to the labor movement and the poor, while Lincoln was at the time decidedly conservative. (Lancaster was one of only two counties in Nebraska that voted for Republican Herbert Hoover in the 1932 presidential election.) “Capital City” is a harsh portrayal of both local and state politics and ends with the election of a demagogic far-right governor who declares martial law and deploys the National Guard, though most of the populace is too preoccupied with a college football game to notice or care.

Lincoln’s political leanings have shifted in the decades since, if not its

obsession with football. But many of the novel’s themes still feel timely.

“We were really excited by the historical time period and by the parallels that we can find between the late ‘30s and now,” Muasher said. “They say that history doesn’t repeat itself, but it rhymes, and this book is definitely rhyming with the present day.”

Muasher said the story’s association with Lincoln is ultimately a positive thing for local audiences, and he hopes people who have read “Capital City” will come out to see the play.

“What you’re gonna see on stage is actually inspired in part by the place that you live in,” Muasher said. “The fact that it’s a historical piece I think is gonna dull some of the hurt feelings.”

A return to the Lied Center This won’t be Animal Engine’s first time performing in Lincoln.

In 2023, the theater company brought its original play “Henrietta Solway,” which is based on the fiction of Willa Cather, to the Lied Center, kicking off the relationship that would lead to their current collaboration. Before that, Muasher and Brown visited the city for a high school tour with their show “Petunia and Chick,” another adaptation of Cather’s work.

“I got to go back to Northeast (High School) and perform for my drama teacher, which was really cool,” Brown said.

Performing at the Lied Center is particularly special for Brown. Her family first moved to Lincoln in 1993 when she was 10, and she remembers the performing arts center as a formative part of her childhood. At the time, it was still relatively new, having opened in 1990.

“We had some family friends that lived in Lincoln, and the Lied Center was one of the first places that they pointed out to us,” she said. “In some ways, performing at the Lied Center is just as cool for me as opening up on Broadway.”

Last summer, Animal Engine visited Lincoln for a few weeks to work on the production of “Capital City,” and Brown found herself pointing out familiar places to Muasher and Dunn.

“If I hadn’t grown up in Lincoln, I don’t think I would have seen so much in the book as I did,” Brown said.

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

# MAY

-Continued from Page 1

The condensed routes will allow for the addition of a second blade for Humboldt and the capability to run two machines out of one shed. The operators won’t have to drive as far to begin their routes.

Sheriff Rick Hardesty met with the Commissioners and informed them that the Jail was housing 16 inmates. The Board also discussed plans for updating video camera equipment at the Law Enforcement Center.

Susan Keholm from SENCA and Sherry Huddleston, Falls City Outreach Office, presented an annual report to the Board. It was stated that SENCA would celebrate its 60th anniversary on May 2. Caverzagie made a motion to proclaim May as Community Action Month in Richardson County.

Huddleston reported that from October 2025 to March 2026, 760 food pantries had been provided to families in need in Richardson County. In March, the food pantry numbers remained steady, with the office serving between 40 and 45 families.

CASA Coordinator Debbie Green also provided the Board with updates happening in the program. CASA is a court-appointed special advocate. The individuals are trained volunteers appointed by judges to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected youth in foster care.

At 10:59 a.m., Commissioner Karas moved to enter a closed meeting with special legal counsel Jerry Pigsley, County Attorney Samantha Scheitel and Highway Superintendent Steve Darveau Jr., to discuss litigation and for the protection of the public interest. The closed meeting ended at 11:15 a.m.

Fee reports were approved. Karas made a motion to approve an agreement with Humboldt Shares, Inc., to continue funding from the county. The agreement provides that Humboldt Shares, Inc. will receive \$5,000 per year from August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2028.

The Board also voted to approve the county FSA (flexible spending account) Plan Agreement.

After discussion, the Board approved an extension to use the accumulated vacation earned by Odis Fields at the Veterans Service Office. Fields will have until March 31, 2027, to use his vacation time.

Claims were paid, and a check for \$131,665.50 was received from Big Iron Auctions for the surplus equipment sale on March 18, 2026.

Finally, the Commissioners discussed courthouse and grounds maintenance. A product has been found to treat the sidewalks around the courthouse square. The sidewalks have deteriorated due to ice melt use, and a trial area will be set up to evaluate the product. Commissioner Campbell also has been in touch with Mid-Continental Restoration Co, Inc., regarding repairs to the masonry on the fourth floor of the Courthouse. Campbell also contacted Techtron Environmental Solutions to have air quality testing and analysis conducted on the building.

With nothing further on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

## LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

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**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.mygnag.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/fallscitycooperativeministry **Pastor Grant Speece - 402-980-5960**

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church ELCA (20th & Towle St.)** Sunday School (Sept-May), 9am; Worship, 10am. Wednesday: Confirmation 6:30pm; Choir 7:30pm. **Joanna Kathol, Pastor - 402-245-3828**

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church (16th & Harlan)** Sunday Worship, 10:30am (Holy Eucharist) <https://stthomasepisc.com>

**Northridge (1820 Morton St.)** Sunday School, 9am; Worship, 10am. www.northridgenetwork.org/Falls-City. 402-245-2167

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMS. (6 Mi. North of Falls City on US 73)** Sunday School

and Bible study, 9:30 AM (September-May). Divine Service, 10:30 AM. Communion on 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays. fallscitylcms.blogspot.com **Rev. Ken Humphrey, Pastor - 402-245-4643**

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

**Fr. Jim Meysenburg, Pastor 402-245-3002.**  
**Zion United Church of Christ (65763 709 Rd, FC)** Sunday: Worship service, 9:00AM; Communion, first Sun. of each month. www.facebook.com/fallscitycooperativeministry. **Pastor, Grant Speece 402-980-5960 cell 245-2398 office**

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

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

**Bethel Global Methodist Church (70656 656 Ave (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](mailto:verdonchristianchurch@gmail.com). **Rev. Daniel Spencer. Call or text: 402-801-0374.**

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

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

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

**Grace Bible Fellowship (Highway 62, east of Stella)** Sunday School, 9AM; Church Service, 10:15AM. Website: www.gbfchurch.com. **Dave Lockard, Pastor. Office: 402-883-2110**

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

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

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

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

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VILLAGE OF STELLA

Village of Stella Board of Trustees regular meeting, April 6, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stella Community Building

Present: Ira Hall, Jim Donahoe, Rick Ramer, Kyle Gossman, Heath Stanley
Absent: None
Guests: Denise Yoessel
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Stanley and roll call was taken. Chair Stanley noted the posting of the open meeting act and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Motion made by Ramer and seconded by Gossman to approve the agenda with the addition of outdoor warning siren insurance. All voted ye.

Motion made by Ramer and seconded by Hall to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. All voted ye.

Motion made by Hall and seconded by Gossman to approve the treasurer's report. All voted ye.

Motion made by Gossman and seconded by Hall to approve the claims and payroll with the addition of a bill from Davis PHE. All voted ye.

COMMUNICATIONS: none to discuss
COMMITTEES: Streets - rock was purchased; Street lights - ok, Park - ok, Water/sewer - written report, village will continue to use Tri-State for sludge hauling, modem at the water tower will be replaced, Planning/zoning committee - met March 30 and will meet on April 27, one building permit submitted, tree board - ok, community building - ok.

OLD BUSINESS: Stray cats - no report. Wet wipes have continued to cause sewer blockages. Stella Clean Up days will be April 18-19. Rock was purchased for the streets. Motion made by Hall and seconded by Donahoe to purchase insurance for the outdoor warning siren at \$298 per year. All voted ye.

NEW BUSINESS: The planning and zoning committee met March 30. Officers were elected. Next meeting will be April 27.

First reading of An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the Village of Stella, Nebraska, 152.081, General Commercial District: Permitted Principal Uses and Structures, to add "Single-family dwellings: as a permitted use in a Commercial District to the current language of the ordinance was read.

First reading of Ordinance 2026-06 establishing rates and charges for the use and service of the Municipal Sanitary Sewer System to \$26.07 per household per month was read.

First reading of Ordinance 2026-07 establishing rates and charges for the use and service of the Municipal Water System to \$30.00 per household and for metered to \$3.00 per 1,000 over 5,000 gallons per month was read.

A motion to accept a proposal from 3J Pest Control for mosquito spraying was made by Ramer and seconded by Gossman. All voted ye.

A motion to retain Dennis Bahr for \$180 per mowing was made by Donahoe and seconded by Hall. All voted ye.

Denise Yoessel inquired about hauling item on clean up day and also requested a building permit.

Motion made by Ramer and seconded by Gossman to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. All voted ye.

Next regular board meeting will be May 4, 2026 at the Stella Community building at 7:00 p.m.

Jana Wheeler, clerk

Claims and Payroll for April 6, 2026 Village of Stella

Table listing claims and payroll for April 6, 2026, including items like Tracy Milke, water/sewer operator, Dennis Bahr, 18 hrs maintenance, Ira Hall, 8 hrs librarian, etc.

CITY OF FALLS CITY CLAIMS

CLAIMS REPORT - 4.07.2026 CITY OF FALLS CITY, NE BY FUND PAYMENT DATES 3/18/2026 - 4/7/2026 Vendor Name Description (Item) Amount

Table listing claims for Fund 100 - GENERAL, Fund 110 - POLICE, Fund 115 - ANIMAL CONTROL, Fund 120 - FIRE, Fund 150 - PARKS, Fund 151 - AUDITORIUM, Fund 152 - AQUATIC CENTER, Fund 170 - LIBRARY, Fund 180 - CEMETERY, Fund 190 - STREETS, Fund 195 - MECHANIC SHOP.

Table listing claims for Fund 100 - GENERAL, Fund 110 - POLICE, Fund 115 - ANIMAL CONTROL, Fund 120 - FIRE, Fund 150 - PARKS, Fund 151 - AUDITORIUM, Fund 152 - AQUATIC CENTER, Fund 170 - LIBRARY, Fund 180 - CEMETERY, Fund 190 - STREETS, Fund 195 - MECHANIC SHOP.

Table listing claims for Fund 205 - DISPATCHING, Fund 600 - ELECTRIC, Fund 610 - WATER, Fund 630 - WASTEWATER, Fund 660 - WASTE.

Table listing claims for Fund 205 - DISPATCHING, Fund 600 - ELECTRIC, Fund 610 - WATER, Fund 630 - WASTEWATER, Fund 660 - WASTE.

Table listing claims for Fund 205 - DISPATCHING, Fund 600 - ELECTRIC, Fund 610 - WATER, Fund 630 - WASTEWATER, Fund 660 - WASTE.

Table listing claims for Fund 205 - DISPATCHING, Fund 600 - ELECTRIC, Fund 610 - WATER, Fund 630 - WASTEWATER, Fund 660 - WASTE.

Table listing claims for Fund 620 - GAS, Fund 630 - WASTEWATER, Fund 660 - WASTE.

Table listing claims for Fund 620 - GAS, Fund 630 - WASTEWATER, Fund 660 - WASTE.

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
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Case No. CI 25-123

CONTINENTAL RESOURCES,

Plaintiff,

vs.

KATHERINE E. OLSON; JOHN DOE; MARY DOE; and all other persons or entities UNKNOWN claiming any right, title, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

Defendant(s).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that by virtue of an Order of Sale issued by the Clerk of the District Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, in the above-entitled action, I will, on the 17th day of April, 2026, at 10:00 A.M., at the Richardson County Courthouse, 1st Floor Corridor, in Falls City, Richardson County, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate, to-wit:

A TRACT OF LAND IN HUMBOLDT, RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF EDWARD STREET EXTENDED, SAID POINT BEING THE CENTER OF 10TH STREET; THENCE WEST ALONG THE CENTER OF SAID 10TH STREET A DISTANCE OF 64.5 FEET; THENCE NORTH 155.55 FEET; THENCE EAST PARALLEL TO AND 155.55 FEET FROM THE SAID CENTERLINE OF 10TH STREET A DISTANCE OF 84.5 FEET; THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL TO AND 20 FEET FROM THE WEST LINE OF EDWARD STREET EXTENDED A DISTANCE OF 155.55 FEET TO THE CENTER LINE OF 10TH STREET; THENCE WEST ALONG SAID CENTER LINE OF 10TH STREET 20 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, BEING IN THE EAST HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 13 EAST OF THE 6TH P.M., RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

(Commonly known as: 723 10th Street)

Given under my hand this 19th day of March, 2026.

RICK HARDESTY, JR.
Sheriff of Richardson County, Nebraska

25-18-15
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION RIVER COUNTRY HOME & GOODS, LLC

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §21-193 notice is given that River Country Home & Goods, LLC, a limited liability company, was organized on March 23, 2026 by filing a Certificate of Organization with the Nebraska Secretary of State setting forth the following:

- 1. The name of the company is River Country Home & Goods, LLC.
2. The period of duration of the company is perpetual.
3. The address of the initial designated office of the company in Nebraska is: 6062 703 Trail, Rulo, Nebraska, 68431, and the company's initial agent for service of process in Nebraska is Gracie Mae Kirkendall, 6062 703 Trail, Rulo, Nebraska, 68431.
4. The general nature of its business is to do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska.

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

1-8-15
ZNEZ

NOTICE

In the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska. In the Matter of the Estate of Robert W. Harlow, Deceased. Case No. PR26-12

Notice is hereby given that on March 25, 2026 in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Sally W. Harlow, whose address is 10661 Killdeer St. NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before June 1, 2026 or be forever barred.

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

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

1-8-15
ZNEZ

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 May 28, 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 Branson W. Dougherty and Patricia R. Dougherty, husband and wife, as Trustors, in favor of West Gate Bank as Beneficiary, and West Gate Bank as Trustee. The Trust Deed was filed for record on July 27, 2017, as Instrument No. 2017 00965, in Book 271, at Page 33. The trust property affected is legally described as follows. Lots 1 and 2, Block 1 of Novak-Zusman Addition to the City of Falls City, Nebraska; AND: Beginning 360 feet North of the Northwest corner of Block 4 in Crook and Towle's Addition to the City of Falls City, Nebraska; thence North 50 feet; thence East 126.7 feet, more or less, to West line of a tract of land conveyed to May C. Butler and Asa E. Butler by Warranty Deed recorded in Book 115, Page 176, Deed of records of Richardson County, Nebraska; thence South 50 feet; thence West 126.7 feet, more or less, to place of beginning, being in the NW1/4 of Section 10, Township 1 North, Range 16 East of the 6th P.M., Richardson County, Nebraska. TAX # 740075128. Purportedly known as 2522 Schoenheit St, Falls City, NE 68355 (the undersigned disclaims liability for any error in the address). West Gate Bank is the current Beneficiary of the Trust Deed. Record owners of the property as of the recording of the Notice of Default is reported to be Branson W. Dougherty and Patricia R. Dougherty. 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. Important Notice to Potential Bidders: Federal law administered by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN"), a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, requires certain residential real estate transactions to be reported to the federal government. If you are the winning bidder at auction, you may be required to provide identifying information about yourself and, if applicable, any entity or trust purchasing the property. This information is required by federal law and must be provided to complete the sale. Failure to provide required information after the sale may delay or prevent issuance of the foreclosure deed. Dated this 31 day of March, 2026.

/s/ Eric H. Lindquist, Successor Trustee
10050 Regency Circle
Suite 505
Omaha, NE 68114
Telephone: 801-355-2886
File No. NE21824

8-15-22-29-6
ZNEZ

LEGAL NOTICE

John D. Klaasmeyer
Attorney at Law
Box 597
Fremont, NE 68026

TO THE DEFENDANT (s), SHIANNE MACKEY

You are hereby notified that Credit Bureau services, Inc., a corporation, filed its complaint in the County Court of RICHARDSON County, Nebraska on 12/16/2025 on Case Number C125-332, the object and prayer of which is to recover the sum of \$175.00, plus interest, attorney fees and court costs. You are required to answer the complaint of the Plaintiff on or before 05/14/2026 or the allegations in said complaint will be taken as true and judgment entered accordingly.

CREDIT BUREAU SERVICES, INC., A CORPORATION, Plaintiff

BY: John D. Klaasmeyer, #21961
Its Attorney
525 N. "D" St.
Fremont, NE 68026
402-721-1850

1-8-15
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MEETING

VILLAGE OF STELLA, NEBRASKA

Notice is hereby given that a PLANNING and ZONING board meeting of the Village of Stella, Nebraska will be held at 7:00 P.M. on April 27, 2026 at the Stella Community Building, which meeting will be open to the public. An ordinance to amend the code of the Village of Stella, Nebraska, 152.081, General Commercial District; Permitted Principal Uses and Structures, to add "Single-family dwellings" as a permitted use in a Commercial District to the current language of the ordinance will be on the agenda.

Jana Wheeler, Clerk
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ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION JUSTIN LECHTENBERG HOLDINGS, LLC

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §21-193 notice is given that Justin Lechtenberg Holdings, LLC, a limited liability company, was organized on April 7, 2026 by filing a Certificate of Organization with the Nebraska Secretary of State setting forth the following:

- 1. The name of the company is Justin Lechtenberg Holdings, LLC.
2. The period of duration of the company is perpetual.
3. The address of the initial designated office of the company in Nebraska is: 65192 713 Rd., Falls City, Nebraska, 68355, and the company's initial agent for service of process in Nebraska is Justin J. Lechtenberg.
4. The general nature of its business is to do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska.

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

15-22-29
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

Notice is hereby given that ROOT CAUSE AG LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska.

The name of the company is ROOT CAUSE AG. The street and mailing address of the designated office of the company is 1803 Lane, Falls City, NE 68355. The name and street and mailing address of the initial registered agent of the company is Ashley Keithley, 1803 Lane St., Falls City, NE 68355.

The limited liability company is organized to engage in any lawful business activity for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska.

The company commenced its existence on the filing of its Certificate of Organization with the Nebraska Secretary of State.

Organizer: Danielle Ollendorf
8-15-22
ZNEZ

Planning Commission Public Hearing

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Falls City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 27, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. at the City Hall Building located at 2307 Barada Street, Falls City, NE for the purpose of hearing testimony concerning the Fairview Replat Lots 1, 2 and 3 of Tracts 1,2,3,3A and 3B Metes and Bounds. A copy of said replat is available for public inspection in the City Office.

15
ZNEZ

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APRIL 1, 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, April 1, 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 March 25, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the agenda as posted. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The agenda is posted at the Richardson County Courthouse in the First Floor Lobby, the Lower-Level Lobby and on the Commissioner's Meeting Room door on the 2nd Floor and on the Richardson County website www.richardsoncounty.ne.gov.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center. He reported that currently 14 inmates are being held in the Jail. He reported that the new patrol unit will not be delivered until late May.

TED GODEMANN AND STEVE FREDERICK

Workplace safety and biohazard

Ted Godemann and Steve Frederick requested to meet with the Board to review workplace safety and biohazard. Mr. Godemann referred to the information regarding workplace safety available through the NE Department Labor and recommended the County Safety Committee review this. They also presented information on a mold analysis report for tests that were done by an employee of the Courthouse. The Board will be contacting contractors to possibly have a review of the Courthouse done.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

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

Motion was made by Karas to award the bid for the Dawson Northwest project No. C74(2023-05) to Van Dorn Valley, LLC of Denton, NE in the amount of \$40,720.78. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Discussion was held to consider implementing a comprehensive GPS and an AI-integrated camera system designed to enhance safety and mitigate liability through Verizon. This system will allow the road department to maintain accurate grading records, placement of rock on the roads, etc. The Board will be reviewing this information and consider further at next week's meeting.

OPEN SEALED BIDS

2026 Scrub Mastic Project No. C-74(2026-02)

At 10:00 a.m. Chairman Caverzagie presented the proof of publication for the opening of sealed bids for the 2026 Scrub Mastic Project No. C-74(2026-02) Dustless Highway. One bid was received from Hall Brothers, Inc. from Marysville, KS for \$271,043.52 with a projected start date of July 6 and completion on July 16, 2026.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to accept the bid for project C-74(2026-02) for the Scrub Mastic on the dustless highway that was received from Hall

Brothers, Inc. for \$271,043.52. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

QUARTERLY JAIL INSPECTION

The Board traveled to the Law Enforcement Center and conducted the quarterly jail inspection and found the facility to be in good order.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

Monthly Operating Statement
The Board reviewed the March, 2026, monthly operating statement.

Other

Jones Air Conditioning of Falls City submitted to the Board a quote for the replacement of a heating/cooling unit in the County Assessor's Office at a cost of \$2,542.00. Motion was made by Campbell to approve the quote and the purchase of a cabinet floor flat top fan coil chilled/hot water unit \$2,542.00. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A memo will be sent to all County departments requesting that any purchases of items be delayed through the month of April, 2026, to assist with the current cash flow.

CLAIMS

Motion was made by Karas to allow the payment of all claims that were submitted today. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. 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

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes Amazon, sup... 56.99; Culligan, serv... 130.00; East Richardson Rural Water District #2, serv... 351.90; Falls City Utility Dept., serv... 7163.10; Farm & City Supply, supp... 27.17; Handley Law, serv... 1430.00; MIPS, serv... 3933.71; NACO, fee... 175.00; Pitney Bowes, serv... 299.41; Richardson County Clerk Petty Cash, reimb... 10.77; Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc... 25354.08; Road & Bridge fund, tax... 107942.92; Sapp Bros., fuel... 180.20; SumnerOne, serv... 49.64; TK Elevator, serv... 441.77; Verizon, serv... 3349.90; Wolfe's, supp... 77.16; Payroll Expense... 117951.98; TOTAL GENERAL FUND \$269,450.70

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes Armbruster Motor Co., serv... 1455.67; East Richardson Rural Water District #2, serv... 46.00; Falls City Journal, adv... 30.89; Harmon's, supp... 2123.56; Koch's Auto Service, supp... 19800.00; Martin Marietta Materials, rock... 34761.43; Murphy Tractor, grader... 368500.00; OPDD, serv... 137.16; Operation & Expense Account, reimb... 254.67; Quill, supp... 302.74; Trevi-Pay, supp... 284.96; Turbo Technologies, supp... 151.70; Payroll Expense... 36053.29; TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND... \$463,902.07

REG OF DEEDS P&M FUND

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes MIPS, serv... 324.92; TOTAL REG OF DEEDS P&M FUND... \$324.92

DRUG COURT FUND

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes Morrissey, Morrissey & Dalluge, reimb... 178.12; TOTAL DRUG COURT FUND \$178.12

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 a.m. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, April 8, 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

VILLAGE OF VERDON

VERDON MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING - APRIL 1, 2026 - 7:00 P.M. - VILLAGE HALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 Pagnano
MINUTES: Motion by Koso, second by Bahr to approve, all Trustees present voting YEA.

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

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

All claims were verified and checked over by Chairperson Koso.

COMMUNICATIONS:
1. April 2026 Shut off notices were reviewed - all have been paid.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Streets: It was reported that armor coating bids are due by May 1, 2026. Sewer: It was reported that the wastewater system's Preapplication seeking financial assistance from USDA Rural Development has been submitted.

2. NUISANCE/UNSAFE PROPERTIES: It was reported that four property owners were sent certified mail notices concerning their nuisance properties.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Miller-Monroe - Insurance renewal: Steve Simon presented and discussed the insurance renewal for the Village and changes that could be made to decrease the premium.

2. Spring Clean-Up Day: Set for Saturday, May 16th from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

3. 3J Pest Control: A motion was made by Bahr and second by Strecker to accept the quote from 3J Pest Control for the 2026 mosquito spraying. Voting "YEA" Bahr, Strecker, Fritz, Miller. "NAY" Koso. Motion Carried.

4. Summer Help: A motion was made by Bahr and second by Fritz to hire Kim Liberty as summer maintenance help. All Trustees present voting YEA.

5. Building Permit Approval: A motion was made by Bahr and second by Fritz to approve the building permit application submitted by the Richardson County Highway Department for a new maintenance shop. All Trustees present voting YEA.

Motion by Bahr and second by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. and all Trustees present voting YEA.

Dawn Bennett, Verdon Clerk
The next regular meeting of the Verdon Board of Trustees will be held on May 6, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

VILLAGE OF VERDON MARCH 2026 CLAIMS PAID

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes EFTPS EX... \$302.32; People Service SE... \$2,421.11; Verdon Library EX... \$25.00; Seneca Sanitation Service, Inc. SE... \$1,624.00; S.N.C. SE... \$94.07; Nebraska Public Health Lab SE... \$15.00; Richardson Co. Rural Water SE... \$1,835.77; Falls City Journal EX... \$113.11; Midwest Laboratories SU... \$48.10; Verdon Community Workers EX... \$100.00; Linda Cochran RE... \$25.00; Kerry Fritz RE... \$50.00; Kawres EX... \$22.91; Julie Vollmer SE... \$550.00; Petty Cash EX... \$24.70; Schendel Pest Control SE... \$150.00; NPPD EX... \$1,063.09; OPDD EX... \$124.06; Dawn Bennett RE... \$477.78; Dawn Bennett SA... \$1,212.98; EX=EXPENSE, FE=FEE, MI=MILEAGE, RE=REIMBURSEMENT, SA=SALARY, SE=SERVICE, SU=SUPPLIES; Dawn Bennett, Verdon Clerk ZNEZ

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, In 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbo Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

WHEREAS, trees reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

WHEREAS, trees wherever they are planted are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and

WHEREAS, Falls City has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree-planting practices

NOW, THEREFORE, I MARK HARKENDORFF, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FALLS CITY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 24, 2026 AS ARBOR DAY IN THE CITY OF FALLS CITY, AND URGE ALL CITIZENS TO CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY AND TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO PROTECT OUR TREES AND WOODLANDS, AND

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Dated this 6TH DAY OF APRIL, 2026.

MAYOR

Mark Harkendorff



**FALLS CITY CITY COUNCIL**

**MARCH 16, 2026**

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Falls City, Nebraska, was held in said City on the 16th day of March 2026, at 6:00 o'clock P.M. Council met in regular session. Mayor Harkendorff called the meeting to order, and Clerk Jorn recorded the minutes of the meeting. On roll call the following Council persons were present: Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, F. Killingsworth, K. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. Absent: None. 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 Mayor and all persons of the Council 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 Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. Mayor Harkendorff 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.

**STANDING REPORTS**

Standing reports from the City Administrator and Chief of Police were presented. No formal action was required.

**AGENDA APPROVAL FOR MARCH 16, 2026**

A motion was made by Council person Leyden and seconded by Council person Fouraker to approve the agenda as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, F. Killingsworth, K. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. "Absent" None. Motion carried.

**MINUTES APPROVAL FOR MARCH 2, 2026**

A motion was made by Council person Leyden and seconded by Council person K. Killingsworth to approve the minutes as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, F. Killingsworth, K. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. "Absent" None. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS APPROVAL FOR MARCH 17, 2026**

A motion was made by Council person Fouraker and seconded by Council person K. Killingsworth to approve the claims as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, F. Killingsworth, K. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. "Absent" None. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026**

A motion was made by Council person F. Killingsworth and seconded by Council person Buckminster to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, F. Killingsworth, K. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. "Absent" None. Motion carried.

**CONSIDER REQUEST TO CLOSE THE BLOCK NORTH OF PRICHARD AUDITORIUM AND HAVE THE STREET SWEEPER CLEAN THE STREET TO PRESSURE TEST FIRE HOSES TO DETERMINE PASS/FAIL | JON MCQUEEN - FALLS CITY FIRE DEPT.**

Jon McQueen spoke on the matter. Following discussion, a motion was made by Council person Leyden and seconded by Council person Kaster to amend the request and approve the use of the Prichard Auditorium parking lot, barricades, and have the street sweeper clean the parking lot to allow for pressure testing. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, F. Killingsworth, K. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. "Absent" None. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2026-R109 TO REPEAL MANAGEMENT PENSION PLAN BENEFIT**

A motion was made by Council person Ferguson and seconded by Council person Fouraker to approve the resolution as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, F. Killingsworth, K. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. "Absent" None. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF 2026 HOUSING STUDY BY MARVIN PLANNING | LUCAS FROESCHL - FALLS CITY EDGE**

A motion was made by Council person Leyden and seconded by Council person Ferguson to approve the study as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, F. Killingsworth, K. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. "Absent" None. Motion carried.

**APPROVE CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK/TREASURER AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER TO THE SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA LAND BANK**

A motion was made by Council person Ferguson and seconded by Council person Fouraker to approve the appointment as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, F. Killingsworth, K. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. "Absent" None. Motion carried.

**APPROVE AND SIGN THE RESOLUTION 2026-R110 AND CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR THE GAS SUPPLY AGREEMENT FOR THE PEFA PROGRAM WITH CLAYTON ENERGY AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

A motion was made by Council person Kaster and seconded by Council person F. Killingsworth to approve the resolution and contract amendment as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, F. Killingsworth, K. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. "Absent" None. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND TENASKA | LUCAS FROESCHL - FALLS CITY EDGE**

A motion was made by Council person F. Killingsworth and seconded by Council person Kaster to approve the confidentiality agreement as presented. Roll was called on this motion and the Council persons voted as follows: "YEA" Buckminster, Ferguson, Fouraker, Kaster, F. Killingsworth, K. Killingsworth, Leyden, Ruiz. "NAY" None. "Absent" None. Motion carried.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:53 P.M.**

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 Council on March 16, 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 three copies of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by persons 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 persons of the public, posted during such meeting in the room in which such meeting was held.

ZNEZ

**VILLAGE OF STELLA**

**Village of Stella Planning And Zoning Board Meeting, March 30, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stella Community Building**

Present: Aaron Davis, Adam Stanley, Marissa Jones Paulina Gossman  
Absent: Darrin Santana  
Meeting was called to order and noted of the posting of the open meeting act.

Nomination of officers was held. Marissa Jones was nominated as chairperson by A. Stanley and seconded by Davis. All voted yea.

Jones nominated Gossman as vice chair with a second by Davis. All voted yea.  
Discussion on an ordinance to amend the code of the Village of Stella, Nebraska, 152.081, General Commercial District; Permitted Principal Uses and Structures, to add "Single-family dwellings" as a permitted use in a Commercial District to the current language of the ordinance.

The board planned on further discussion at the next planning and Zoning board meeting on April 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stella Community Building.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.  
Heath Stanley, Village chairperson and absentia clerk for J. Wheeler

ZNEZ

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## Southeast Nebraska Tourism Council meets in Brownville to strengthen regional promotion efforts

The Southeast Nebraska Tourism Council (SENTC) gathered today in Brownville for its quarterly meeting, bringing together regional partners focused on advancing tourism across the southeast corner of the state.

Hosted at the historic Antiquarium, the meeting provided members an opportunity to collaborate on marketing strategies, share upcoming events and initiatives, and explore new ways to attract visitors to the region. Attendees also toured the Antiquarium and participated in a guided exploration of Brownville, highlighting the community's unique charm and tourism potential.

"This is exactly what these meetings are meant to do — bring people together to share ideas, build connections, and collectively elevate Southeast Nebraska as a destination," said Rachel Hrabik, President of the Southeast Nebraska Tourism Council.

A central focus of the discussion was SENTC's efforts to ramp up their commitment to regional marketing. Approximately 95% of the organization's budget is dedicated to promoting Southeast Nebraska and driving visitor traffic. Through a combination of digital, print, and in-person outreach efforts, the council continues to expand its reach and visibility.

One of the organization's cornerstone initiatives is its annual Visitors Guide, with 35,000 printed copies distributed along major travel corridors including Interstate 80 in Nebraska, Interstate 29 near St. Joseph, Missouri, and Interstate 70 in Kansas. The guide serves as a key tool in capturing the attention of travelers already passing through the broader region.

SENTC has also established a strong digital presence. Its website consistently ranks at the top of Google search results for "Southeast Nebraska," offering high-quality exposure for member businesses, attractions, and events. This online visibility ensures that potential visitors can easily discover what

the region has to offer.

Beyond marketing, the council emphasized the importance of relationship-building and collaboration. Through trade show participation, SENTC representatives engage directly with potential visitors, while also promoting the region to a wider audience. Meanwhile, networking opportunities among members foster partnerships that help cross-promote

attractions and strengthen the overall tourism ecosystem.

Membership in SENTC provides businesses and communities with access to a wide range of promotional tools, including website listings, referrals, and inclusion in regional campaigns. More importantly, members contribute to a unified effort to support economic development through tourism.

## Hit-and-run accident reported

A hit-and-run accident was reported at 9:33 a.m. March 17, 2026, in the Farm and City Supply parking lot in Falls City, according to Falls City police accident reports

Falls City Police Officer Mitchell Cheek was dispatched to the scene and made contact with Racy Hullman, who reported her vehicle had been struck while she was inside the store. Hullman showed damage to the driver's side fender and wheel, and the report states the damage caused the driver's side door to become stuck when opening.

According to the report, surveillance video showed a white Ford F350 pull into a parking stall. Hullman then parked next to the pickup. The video showed a male enter the F350, turn the wheels sharply and attempt to reverse out of the stall, at which time Hullman's vehicle moved. The driver exited the pickup, checked the area of the collision and then left the parking lot.

An employee of Farm and City Supply, told police the driver was part of a crew working at Indian Cave State Park. The park was contacted. They relayed a message to the crew to contact the Falls City Police Department.

At about 10:15 a.m., the PD spoke by phone with Owen Blumenstock, who identified himself as the driver of the pickup. Blumenstock told police he was driving a company Ford F350 with Nebraska license plate "GTRES" and had "rubbed tires" with a parked vehicle. He also stated he contacted Hullman and exchanged information for insurance purposes.

Police advised Blumenstock he would need to report to the Falls City Police Department before 6 p.m. to be issued a citation.



Peyton Brown, Ethan Morris, Chase Simpson, Kole Schawang, Nolan Nicholson and Knox Davis.

## Tiger golfers finished second at Hiawatha

The Falls City golf team competed in the Hiawatha Invite on Friday, April 10, at the Hiawatha Country Club. The Tigers finished second out of eight teams on Friday afternoon.

Team scores: Atchison 160, Falls City 188, Oskaloosa 189, Horton 189, Hiawatha 211, ACCHS 212 and Maur Hill 219.

The Tigers had a strong showing on Friday, with Ethan Morris shooting a 40 for fifth place, while Nolan Nicholson and Kole Schawang each fired 47s and tied for 10th.

C. Jones of Atchison had the low score

of the day with a 36.

For FC, Morris had a 40 over nine holes; Nicholson and Schawang each shot 47; Knox Davis shot a 54; Chase Simpson had a 59; and Peyton Brown finished with a 63.

The FC JV competed at Hiawatha on Monday, April 13, while the varsity competed at Kirkman's Cove Golf Course on Tuesday, April 14. The JV will host an invite at the Falls City Country Club on Monday, April 20, and the varsity will play at Crooked Creek Golf Course for the ECNC Invite on Tuesday, April 21.

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