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Equity Bank announces new leadership team in Falls City

Equity Bank is pleased to announce the appointment of Mike Bauer as Market President and Michelle Streck-er as Bank Manager, forming a new leadership team at its Falls City location. Together, Mike and Michelle bring a strong commitment to customer relationships and community banking that reflects Equity Bank's values throughout the re- gion.

Mike Bauer steps into the role of Market President of Falls City, bring- ing 30-plus years of banking experi- ence with him. Mike was most recent- ly working as a Commercial Banker in the bank's Pender location. He's committed to building strong custom- er relationships and providing the financial guidance that individuals and businesses in Falls City rely on.

Michelle Streck-er was promoted to the role of Bank

Manager in Falls City, bringing local banking knowledge and a dedication to customer ser- vice that reflects the values Equity Bank strives to uphold in every community it serves. Previous- ly, Michelle was serving as Personal Banker.

"We are excited to introduce Mike and Michelle as the new leadership team in Falls City," said Doug Ayer, Equity Bank Regional President. "Mike and Michelle share our commitment to this community, and we are confident they will provide the exceptional service and local expertise that Falls City custom- ers have come to expect from Equity Bank."

Equity Bank operates one location on Harlan St. in Falls City and serves Lincoln, Madison, Norfolk, Oma- ha and Pender throughout Nebraska.



LOCAL MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

- SHUBERT AMERICAN LEGION POST #222 WILL BE HONORING VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY AT THE PRAIRIE UNION CEMETERY AT 10:00 A.M., STELLA CEMETERY AT 10:30, CONTINUE TO THE VERDON, WILLIAMSVILLE, AND HARRIS CEMETERIES.
- THERE WILL BE MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAMS AT RULO CEMETERY AT 9:00 AM AND STEELE CEME- TERY AT FALLS CITY AT 11:00 AM
- HUMBOLDT WILL HAVE SERVICES AT THE CITY SQUARE PARK AT 11:00 AM

Malone, Hardesty lead in updated unofficial primary election results

Updated unofficial results from the May 12, 2026 Nebraska Primary Election in Richardson County showed close races in several local contests, including the Falls City mayoral race and the Republican primary for Richardson County sheriff. The updated totals in- clude provisional ballots and remaining early voting and all mail ballots. Results remain unofficial.

In the Republican primary for Richardson County sheriff, Rick Hardesty received 794 votes while Nicho- las C. Aitken received 592 votes. One write in vote was recorded.

The unofficial precinct by precinct totals were as follows: Arago/Barada, Hardesty 50, Aitken 26; FCRu- ral/Ohio, Hardesty 37, Aitken 45; FC Ward 1, Hardesty 84, Aitken 91; FC Ward 2, Hardesty 78, Aitken 104; FC Ward 3, Hardesty 70, Aitken 100; FC Ward 4, Har- desty 46, Aitken 51; Fran/Hrr/Spi, Hardesty 52, Aitken 12; Grant/Nemaha, Hardesty 73, Aitken 23; Humb. I, Hardesty 64, Aitken 12; Humb. II, Hardesty 58, Aitken 11; Jeff/Rulo, Hardesty 29, Aitken 32 with one write in vote; Liberty, Hardesty 30, Aitken 33; East Muddy, Hardesty 25, Aitken 18; WMuddy/Porter, Hardesty 66, Aitken 9; and Salem, Hardesty 32, Aitken 25.

Falls City voters narrowly favored Kevin Malone in the mayoral primary race. Malone received 379 votes while Kenny Killingsworth received 374 votes. Dennis Miller received 150 votes, Mark A. Galaska received 26 votes and one write in vote was recorded.

In the Falls City Council Ward 2 race, Sean Nolte received 105 votes, Robert D. Olberding received 79 votes and Terry Kermaode received 71 votes.

In the Humboldt mayoral race, Kevin Burnison re- ceived 119 votes, Jan Wilhelm received 56 votes, Ted B. Schuler received 25 votes and James Cherry received 12 votes.

Richardson County voters in the Republican primary for U.S. Senate favored Pete Ricketts with 1,046 votes. Todd Knobel received 104 votes, Debb Axtell Schultz received 104 votes, Mac Stevens received 48 votes and Eric Mortimore received 33 votes.

In the Republican gubernatorial primary, Jim Pil-

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(PHOTO BY LORRIE NOVAK)

HTRS Class of 2026 celebrates commencement on May 9

The HTRS Class of 2026 celebrated commence- ment May 9 with an afternoon ceremony filled with hu- mor, reflection and recognition for the accomplishments of the graduating class.

Family members, friends, faculty and community members gathered and prepared to help graduates close one chapter of their lives while looking ahead to careers, college, military service and other future opportunities.

The ceremony included an invocation by Shayfer Cumro, scholarships presented by Brittany Rogers and presentation of diplomas by Kyle Hilgenfeld and Super- intendent Griffith. Principal Kim Caniglia presented the class.

Class addresses were delivered by Lillian Bowen and Jonathan Koch.

Bowen reflected on how quickly the years had passed for the graduating class, many of whom attended school together from preschool through senior year.

"It doesn't seem that long ago that we were walk- ing through the front door, getting dropped off for our first day of preschool," Bowen said. "Today, we walked through those same doors as we prepare for the next chapter of our lives."

She spoke about the friendships formed through the years and how classmates who joined the group later still became an important part of the class's identity.

"Those who joined our journey continued to add to

the memories, friendships, and experiences that shape who we are as a class today," Bowen said. "Our paths may not have started together, but they eventually crossed. And that's what makes our class so special."

Bowen also shared memories from the class's years together, recalling moments classmates will remember long after graduation. She told fellow graduates she would always carry a piece of the class with her and thanked her parents and family for their support through- out her education.

Koch used his address to recognize the many people behind the scenes who contributed to the success of the graduating class.

"As we leave this chapter behind, I would like to thank everybody who helped make today possible," Koch said. "All of our teachers from kindergarten to se- nior year have helped us get to this point."

Koch specifically thanked office staff, custodians, administrators, activities director Mr. Duneckacke and class sponsors Mr. Coffey and Ms. Hilgenfeld for their support over the years. He also thanked parents for the sacrifices and encouragement they provided throughout the graduates' lives.

"This moment is just as special and important to you guys as it is for us," Koch said while addressing parents. "You parents held our hands as you walked us into our first day of kindergarten as we were most likely

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**PRIZE-WINNING
NEWSPAPER
2026**

Nebraska Press Association

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MAY

- 20 -Bloodmobile at Prichard Auditorium, Noon-6:00 PM
- 21 -Noon Deadline for Journal
- Bloodmobile at Prichard Auditorium, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- 25 -FC Journal Office Closed

MAY

- 25 -Courthouse Closed
- Prairie Union Church Memorial Day Dinner, 11AM

JUNE

- 7 -"Community Amplification" 2:00 PM at the Center, 206 E. 20th St.

No checks? No problem!
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PRAIRIE DOC®

Pump Handles and Public Health

By Jill Kruse, DO

Health care is often thought of as something that happens one patient at a time in a clinic or hospital. Public health takes a broader view and is focused on improving the health of entire populations. In 1854, a London physician helped stop a deadly cholera outbreak by removing a simple pump handle. That moment would become one of the earliest and most powerful examples of public health in action. Back then no one understood how cholera spread. Many believed it was caused by “bad air” or mysterious environmental forces. They did not know that it was actually caused by a bacterium that was spread through contaminated water sources.

Dr. John Snow noticed a pattern. In London’s Soho neighborhood, a cluster of cholera cases seemed concentrated around a single public water source, the Broad Street pump. When he mapped where people lived, most of the infections pointed back to that pump. Even those who lived farther away, but became ill reported getting their water from the same source. Meanwhile, workers at a nearby brewery, who drank beer instead of water, were largely spared. The brewing process, alcohol and acidity of the beer made it difficult for the cholera bacteria or other pathogens to survive.

Armed with this evidence, Dr. Snow convinced local officials to remove the pump handle. This cut off public access to the contaminated water. After this happened, the number of new infections quickly declined. That simple act marked the beginning of modern public health; using data, observation, and intervention to stop disease at its source.

Today, public health has evolved from reacting to outbreaks to preventing illness before it starts. Public health professionals work behind the scenes to protect and improve the health of communities. They do this through providing education, guiding policy, and conducting research. They are the unsung heroes of healthcare. When Public Health works well, it can be almost invisible or easy to ignore. However, when there is a breakdown in Public Health services, the results can be devastating to a community and the effects are obvious.

Federal, state and local health departments prepare for emergencies, monitor for disease outbreaks, ensure food safety, and safeguard water quality. They also advocate for health screenings in underserved or high-risk populations. Public health officials work to reduce barriers to care and promote healthier lifestyles for everyone. They may not be removing pump handles anymore, but they are still working every day to protect our water, our food, and our communities. They are helping us all, as we say on the show, to stay healthy out there people.

Dr. Jill Kruse is a hospitalist at the Brookings Health System 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, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

All things Nebraska
Newspaper stories confirm there’s still good people out there

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner

Every so often, you’re reminded that people are generally good.

And, you get some idea how important the media is in helping generate good news.

My latest refresher came via a story I wrote for the Nebraska Examiner, an online news site that used to consume most of my labors.

It involved a woman I met when writing for the Omaha World-Herald about the tiny village of Whiteclay, where four beer stores were selling more than 3 million cans of beer a year to residents of the nearby Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The Pine Ridge is one of the poorest areas in the United States. Alcohol possession and sales are banned there, officially, but alcoholism is rampant. Whiteclay – the closest, legal outlet for alcohol – was the reservation’s liquor store.

Reporters, like me, wrote stories until we were blue in the face about the drunken, street people who urinated and passed out along the highway running through Whiteclay.

It was a pathetic sight, something you’d think you wouldn’t see in our country or state. But little changed in Whiteclay until we wrote stories about Nora Boesem.

Boesem, a former nurse, served as a foster parent for dozens of Native American kids afflicted with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, a set of often profound physical and mental handicaps caused by drinking during pregnancy.

We’re talking about kids who couldn’t walk and couldn’t speak words, who had major deformities, shortened lifespans and had cognitive development of preschoolers.

“Nora’s a saint,” one person told me, for taking in high-need kids that few others would. She ended up adopting several.

Anyway, upon hearing that Boesem was in dire financial straits due to a divorce, a wreck with an uninsured motorists, a cut-back in government aid, and mounting medical bills for her now-14 adoptees, I picked up my reporter notebook and wrote a story.

The reaction blew me away, and reduced Boesem to tears. Within six hours of the story’s posting, \$12,000 had been donated to a GoFundMe account started by a friend of Boesem’s.

As I write this, eight days later after the story ran in other publications, donations are nearing \$29,000.

There are still good people in this world.

That’s the same reaction some of our Nebraska ranchers had this spring when they saw a semi-load of hay bales driving to their ranches, blackened by historic wildfires.

“People were just tearful,” said Jason Christensen of Crusty’s Feed

Store in Arthur, where some donations were received. “They were humble and overtaken with emotion.”

Christensen said his store alone saw 700 semi-loads of hay arrive from as far away as Texas, Tennessee and South Carolina. There were also 10 donated truckloads of protein tubs. It was maybe half or a third of what was donated overall to fire victims in the state, he estimated.

“It’s a ‘thanks is not enough’ kind of deal,” Christensen said.

You often hear the same reaction after countless local chili feed fundraisers for families stressed by the pricey bills of treating a family member’s cancer.

In the news business, we often don’t know what, if any, impact was generated by a story.

But it’s good to know that stories, like the ones about Nora Boesem and others about the state’s fire-ravaged ranches, can still have an impact.

It’s also another reminder of how important a local newspaper, news site or a TV or radio station can be in spreading the word about people in need, people who need some help.

Because there’s still good people out there.

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



STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: GRADUATION

ACROSS

1. “___ Louise”
5. Unsolicited email
9. Parentheses, e.g.
13. Not mainstream, as in art
15. Heap
16. Chesterfield, e.g.
17. Not sharp
18. Katy Perry’s hit
19. Grammy of sports
20. *Bachelor of Arts, e.g.
23. Autumn mo.
24. Opposite of outs
25. Muslim ruler, respectfully
28. Retirement safety net (2 words)
31. Completely isolate (2 words)
33. “That feels good!” exclamation
34. Programmer’s bane
35. Mozart’s ‘L’ ___ del Cairo”
36. *Same as #11 Down
40. #me ___
42. Paleozoic or Victorian, e.g.
43. Yoda: “Do or do not. There is no ___”
44. River port in Belgium
47. Not figurative
51. Wavelike patterned silk
52. “For ___ a jolly...”
53. Bass product
54. *Student speaker at graduation, usually
59. Regrettably, exclamation
61. Immanuel ___, German philosopher
62. Fortune teller’s props
63. Welcome ___, pl.
64. “Cogito ___ sum”
65. Subdivision of an act
66. Olden day “you”
67. Whitetail, e.g.
68. Late actor Kristofferson

DOWN

1. Type of ape
2. Twist together
3. Not products, in chemistry
4. Dietary mineral
5. Spring, ___, sprung
6. Devoutly religious
7. Winglike
8. F te des M res honoree
9. Industrial plastic
10. Luxury furniture wood
11. *Part of graduation regalia
12. Slovenly abode
14. Pilot’s estimate, acr.
21. Fire starter
22. Santa ___ winds
26. Half of NFL
27. *BA alternative
29. Same as Dao
30. “Friends, Romans..., lend me your ___,” sing.
31. *Stand-in teacher
32. Self-centered one
34. Undergarment
36. *What guest graduation speaker is supposed to do
37. Dadaist Jean ___
38. *A in #27 Down
39. Marbled toast
40. #36 Across for PhD recipient
41. Lennon’s widow
45. Fish family
46. Sushi restaurant staple
47. *Professor, technically
48. Faultfinder and scoffer
49. *Former students
50. Part of eyeglasses, pl.
52. Door holder
55. Barely got by
56. Foolhardy challenge
57. Roman goddess of fertility
58. Nordstorm’s outlet
59. Invoice qty.
60. Note that follows soh

CROSSWORD

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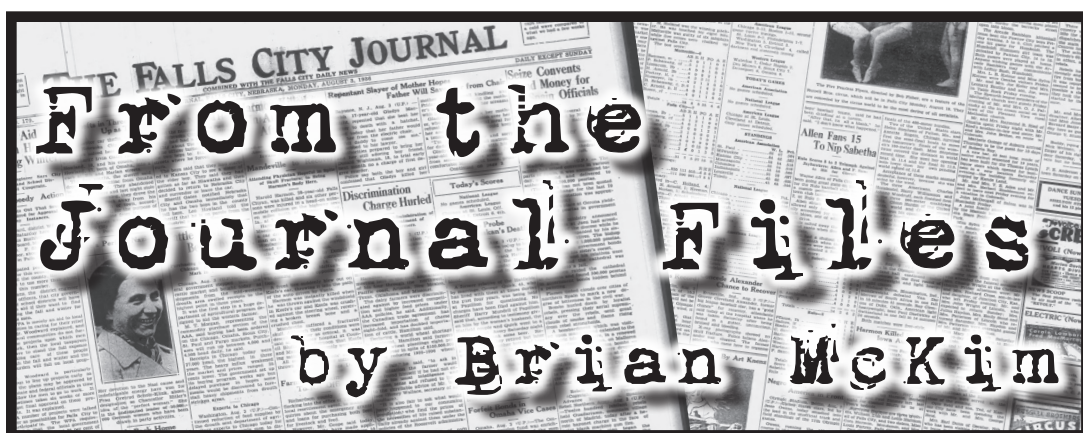
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“SEZ-I” LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We always welcome and encourage letters to the editor “Sez-I’s.” All letters sent to the Falls City Journal must include the authors full name, address and phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit factual errors or not publish letters we believe to be in poor taste, libelous, advertisements or not deemed fit for publication. Form letters or spam will not be published. Letters may be e-mailed to nikki@fcjournal.net or mailed to the Editor at 1709 Stone Street, Falls City, NE 68355.



75 Years Ago, May 20, 1951 to May 26, 1951

Gary Kaveny, a 19-year-old University of California sophomore, won the new record of 54 continuous hours of sawing.

Offutt Air Force Base defeated the Falls City Vets 5-3 in action on the baseball field in Omaha. Jerry Kopf, Don Rea and Doug Schemmel all had two hits for FC. "Lefty" Lee Heineman took the loss for Falls City.

Enough gravel and crushed rock to make up a freight train more than six miles long was used in Richardson County in 1950 to surface roads under the Schroeder Mail Route Improvement Law. According to the County Commissioners, 32,895 tons of gravel were used, the equivalent of 650 rail cars, costing taxpayers \$116,412.25.

Promotion exercises were held for 79 eighth-grade students at Falls City Junior High School. The class was made up of 47 boys and 32 girls. Myrton L. Hall, principal, presented the certificates.

The Al G. Kelly-Miller Bros Circus was moving to town on 65 new all-steel semi-trailer trucks. The main show tent held up to 5,000 patrons. The show featured 450 people, 14 elephants, 16 camels, 100 horses and 36 cages of other animals.

O.C. Johnson said the Breezy Hill Drive-In was progressing rapidly. He expected the 400-car theater to be ready in two weeks. Finishing touches were being put on the 42x32 screen.

The Fairmont Ice Cream Store at 1508 Stone Street was holding a grand opening featuring 16 oz. malted milks for 10 cents.

Mutt & Jeff Drive-In advertised a free root beer float with every sandwich on Sunday, May 27. The menu featured foot-long hot dogs, beefburgers, sundaes, malts, ice cream, root beer and all flavors of pop.

A powerful straight wind, accompanied by hard rain, blew two tents off the grounds at the circus. Damage to the main tent was estimated at \$4,000. E.H. Towle told the Journal that he received \$50 in rent for the use of the grounds but sustained \$500 in damage to the telephone wires when the tents crashed into the phone lines.

Falls City was one of five Nebraska cities in the 5,000 to 10,000 population group to go through 1950 without a traffic fatality.

The United States warned Iran that its oil dispute with Britain threatened to undermine and weaken the entire free world and appealed once more for peaceful negotiations to settle the dispute.

50 Years Ago, May 20, 1976 to May 26, 1976

A federally sponsored study said tens of thousands of giant windmills could supply as much as 18 percent of the nation's energy needs by 1995. Estimates said the spinning blades of the windmills could produce an electrical output equivalent to 2 billion barrels of oil per year.

The Falls City Junior High track team set or tied seven new records during the 1976 season. Posing for a picture with their trophies were Rich Barker, Steve Schulenberg, Rick Feighner, John Keeling, Jim Parrish and Jeff Bek.

Charlie Smith Ford Center advertised an oil-and-filter special for \$7.95 and an engine tune-up special for \$30.35.

David W. Davis was awarded the Honor Scholarship by Midland Lutheran College. The Falls City senior was awarded the scholarship based on high class ranks and ACT scores.

Terry Kermoade, son of Mrs. Clara Kermoade of Falls City, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy and was employed at Sheets Pharmacy in FC.

Tom Zimmerman took over the manager position of the Elks Midget baseball team and named probable starters for the first contest. The list included Dennis Miller, Tom Wilson, Tim Hedrick, Ken Kottich, Max Milam, Dan Hill, Phil Yosel, Tim Pethoud and Bob Ivey.

Cub Scout Pack 392 held a meeting at City Park, with awards given out. Todd Noll was presented a Bear badge, two silver arrows and a golden arrow. Larry Strecker received gold and silver arrows, and Todd Harmon got a Bear badge and gold and silver arrows.

Jaycees Ken Root and Dr. Nick Couse were pictured painting house numbers on curbing.

Keith McKim finished fourth in the Class C high jump at 6-2. The SH two-mile relay team of Sam Cown, John McGuire, Bob Aitken and Phil Foreschl placed fifth in 8:39.30 in Class D at the State Meet, while Quinten Sutherland of FC cleared 12-06 for sixth place in the Class B pole vault. Dan Hill of SH set a school record and placed third in the shot put with a throw of 48-11.

The Falls City High School graduation ceremonies were held at Prichard Auditorium, with 104 students receiving diplomas.

Kim Yoder and Chris Campbell were both awarded \$200 Lion's Club Scholarships. The scholarships went to students for vocational, commercial, trade or nursing training.

Anita Marie Anno was awarded a scholarship to Midland Lutheran College in Fremont. Anita was a graduate of Falls City Sacred Heart.

25 Years Ago, May 20, 2001 to May 26, 2001

A bathroom at Grandview Park had been vandalized over the weekend. Additional lighting was planned for the area, and City Administrator Dick Gilst urged residents to immediately report any unusual activity.

The Sacred Heart Lady Irish won a fourth consecutive Track State Championship, defeating Butte 33-31. It was the 25th state title for Sacred Heart since 1987. The Irish scored 18 points in the pole vault to seal the title. Kelsi Witt placed first (8-10), Katie O'Grady was second (8-10) and Abby Lemerond was fifth (8-06).

Marjean Warner was saluted for 20 years of service with the Falls City Volunteer Ambulance Squad in a ceremony at the Chamber of Commerce coffee held at the Ambulance Squad's Shop.

Teresa Ann Kelz graduated with honors from the Associate Degree of Nursing program at Coastal Carolina Community College. While in the program, Teresa was named to the Dean's list every semester.

Forty-five old-timers showed up for the first annual Falls City American Legion Juniors Old-Timers Baseball Game at Dallas Jones Park. The event was organized by coach Craig Martinosky, and veteran umpire Doug Kottich called the balls and strikes. Charles Ebel, '51 team member, threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Winners at the District 1 Fine Arts Show included Elizabeth Bangert, Mark Dunn, Timothy von Behren, Jason Harmon, Craig West, Ethan Froeschl and Chrissy Hunzeker. Sun Mart advertised 12-packs of Coca-Cola products for \$2.28 (limit four) and 12.25-ounce bags of Lay's Potato Chips for 2 for \$3.00.

The Falls City Police Department was seeking information regarding a break-in at South School and Middle School. Offices were ransacked; windows and doors broken, and magic markers were used on the walls.

Monica Gormley, daughter of Joe and Shirley Gormley, graduated from the College of Saint Mary. Gormley was one of 146 students to receive her degree.

The Southeast Consolidated Alumni Basketball Tournament featured a father and three sons participating: Frank, Chris, Craig and Curtis Aue.

Ryann Schutte was pictured cutting the ribbon at the new location of his Kawres Superstore at 1515 Stone Street.

Randy Gottula was presented the "Performance Driven" Store Manager of the Year Award for the Plains Region at the annual Nash Finch store managers' meetings held in Minneapolis.

HTRS

-Continued from Page 1

crying not wanting you to leave."

During the ceremony, Rogers highlighted the accomplishments of the graduating class and detailed many of the educational and career opportunities students pursued while still in high school.

According to Rogers, four seniors earned CNA licenses, seven students participated in work-based learning programs and 11 students earned college credits before graduation. Rogers also noted all members of the class participated in mock interviews and a college and career fair held earlier this year.

The ceremony recog-

nized exchange students Samir Aliev of Tajikistan and Bennet Adam Arth of Germany for spending the school year at HTRS and sharing their cultures with classmates.

Graduates entering military service included Jonathan Koch, who enlisted in the United States Navy, and Caleb Holley, who is pursuing enlistment in the United States Air Force.

Scholarships awarded during the ceremony totaled more than \$70,000 toward postsecondary education. Rogers said the scholarships reflected the strong support graduates received from local organizations, businesses, colleges and scholarship foundations.

Among the scholarships highlighted were the

Olin Schultz Scholarship, Harold and Anna Marie Marburger Scholarship, Wesley and Elizabeth Stansbury Scholarship and the new Vaughan Smithwick Memorial Scholarship.

The Class of 2026 included Samir Aliev, Bennet Adam Arth, Kirk Sexton Bass, Lillian Jo Bowen, Madison Hailey Bredemeier, Elizabeth Ann Bstendig, Zachary Leinad Burns, Shayfer Danielle Cumro, Jorja Elise DeJonge, Garrett Daniel Duryea, Kendall Danielle Freeman, Emmett John Glathar, Caleb Ryan Holley, Jonathan Edward Koch, Hannah LeeAnn Lindsey, Kenadi DeAnne McClarnen, Shiree Annette Oetjen and Romen Alexander Weesner.

ELECTION

-Continued from Page 1

327 votes in the Democratic state treasurer race. Jocelyn Brasher received 328 votes in the Democratic attorney general race.

In the State Board of Education District 5 race, Angie Eberspacher received 580 votes, Lana Daws received 513 votes and Michaela Conway received 439 votes.

According to updated unofficial totals, 1,939 ballots were cast in Richardson County. Of those, 1,399 were Republican ballots, 377 were Democratic ballots, eight were Libertarian ballots, three were Legal Marijuana NOW ballots and 152 were nonpartisan ballots.

Republican voters favored Adrian Smith for Congressional District 3 with 953 votes over David P. Huebner with 354 votes.

In the Republican secretary of state race, Scott Petersen received 698 votes while Bob Evnen received 529 votes.

Joey Spellerberg received 1,140 votes in the Republican state treasurer race.

Mike Hilgers received 1,153 votes in the Republican attorney general race.

Mike Foley received 1,172 votes in the Republican state auditor race.

On the Democratic ballot, Cindy Burbank received 273 votes in the U.S. Senate race while William J. Forbes received 85 votes.

Becky Kelly Stille received 330 votes in the Democratic Congressional District 3 race.

Lynne Walz received 297 votes in the Democratic gubernatorial race while Larry Marvin received 62 votes.

Sarah J. Slattery received 294 votes in the Democratic secretary of state race while Lee M. Cimfel received 49 votes.

Daniel Ebers received

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Jocelyn Brasher received 328 votes in the Democratic attorney general race.

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In the Republican secretary of state race, Scott Petersen received 698 votes while Bob Evnen received 529 votes.

Joey Spellerberg received 1,140 votes in the Republican state treasurer race.

Mike Hilgers received 1,153 votes in the Republican attorney general race.

Mike Foley received 1,172 votes in the Republican state auditor race.

On the Democratic ballot, Cindy Burbank received 273 votes in the U.S. Senate race while William J. Forbes received 85 votes.

Becky Kelly Stille received 330 votes in the Democratic Congressional District 3 race.

Lynne Walz received 297 votes in the Democratic gubernatorial race while Larry Marvin received 62 votes.

Sarah J. Slattery received 294 votes in the Democratic secretary of state race while Lee M. Cimfel received 49 votes.

Daniel Ebers received

The canvass board met on Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. to finalize the results.

The overall voter turnout for Richardson County was at 37.5 percent. Mary Eickhoff had reported to John Nixon during an interview prior to the Primary Election, a predicted 50 percent turnout in which three precincts did have, Humboldt Ward 2, Grant/Nemaha (Dawson area) and Salem which both are also All-Mail precincts.

She stated that she also predicted that the City of Falls City and Humboldt would have a greater voter turnout with the mayoral races in both cities and the City Council Ward 2 race in Falls City.

Memorial Day changes

Falls City Journal deadline

The Falls City Journal will operate under an adjusted production schedule for the week of Memorial Day.

Due to the holiday, the deadline for the Wednesday, May 27 edition will move to Thursday, May 21 at noon.

The Falls City Journal office will be closed Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

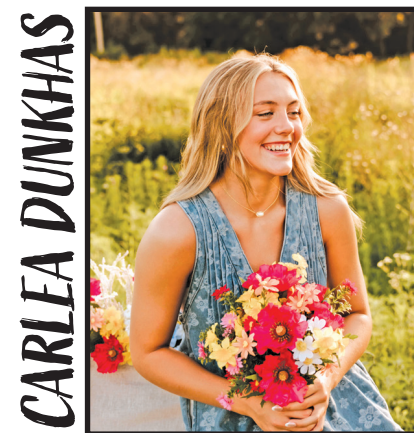
Readers, advertisers and contributors are encouraged to plan ahead, as the Journal will be sent to press early and late submissions cannot be accepted. The adjusted deadline will apply to everything. Thank you for understanding.



Falls City Lions Club Scholarship Winners



AVERY SANTO



CARLEA DUNKHAS

Each year the Falls City Lions Club awards two, \$1,000 scholarships to local graduates. This year's winners are Avery Santo and Carlea Dunkhas.

Avery is the daughter of Luke and Jina Santo. She is a Falls City Sacred Heart graduate. Avery has kept quite busy in her high school years, participating in sports, One-Act, Helping Hands and National Honor Society. She also works as a Certified Nurses Aid. During high school, Avery played on two state championship basketball teams and was recently named to the 2026 class D-2 all state basketball team. Avery plans to attend Southeast Community College in Lincoln to begin her nursing education.

Carlea is the daughter of Gale Dunkhas and Tysha Fangmeier. She graduated from Falls City High School. Carlea participated in volleyball, track and basketball during her high school career, attaining all-state honorable mention in basketball. She also kept active with many school-related groups including FCCLA, National Honor Society and Hope Squad. Carlea assisted as a volunteer for numerous youth-related groups in the area throughout her high school years. Carlea also plans to attend SCC in Lincoln to pursue a degree in nursing.

The Falls City Lions Club congratulates Avery and Carlea and wish them great success as they start their college careers.

Historic Falls City Church re-imagined as



for arts and community serves-maiden event set for June 7, 2026

A historic local landmark is entering a vibrant new chapter. Richard (Rick) Martin, a fifth-generation resident of Falls City, has announced the vision for the Presbyterian Performing Arts and Conference Center, a project born of 159 years of local mission and re-imagined to serve the region's future.

Formed on August 28, 2025, Partners In Community, LLC was created to facilitate the transition of the historic First Presbyterian Church facility into a permanent home for a vital umbrella of community missions. Operating regionally under the name The Center, the independent entity will directly serve the residents of Richardson County, Nebraska, and Brown County, Kansas.

The facility will act as a "forever home" for four distinct pillars of community support and culture:

The Presbyterian Performing Arts & Conference Center, Mission Angel

Food, Seniors at the Center, Respite Commons.

"We retain the 'Presbyterian' name to honor nearly two centuries of service, but we move forward as an independent entity dedicated solely to our neighbors," said Rick Martin, President and Project Manager. "I am honored to introduce this vision not just as a representative of a new organization, but as a neighbor who shares our collective pride in the heritage of Richardson County."

Grand Opening Event: "Community Amplification."

To celebrate this milestone, The Center will host its maiden event kickoff on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at 2:00 PM, officially opening the 2026 Season under the theme of "Community Amplification."

The premier performance will feature:

Brian Hoppe on the historic pipe organ; Michele Gaskill on the Boston-Steinway Piano and

The Clefsmen, celebrating their landmark 60th anniversary this year, directed by June Bower and accompanied by Glenda von Behren.

The event is free and open to the public. Preserving History, Building the Future Since assuming stewardship, leadership has worked tirelessly to revitalize the historic venue. Upgrades include reconfiguring rooms for modern conference use, meticulously maintaining the historic pipe organ and Boston-Steinway piano, and installing state-of-the-art streaming capabilities to broadcast future cultural events globally.

The work is guided by a local Board of Directors and supported by an Advisory Board with local, national, and international networks.

To ensure professional stewardship during this transitional phase, The Center has partnered with the Richardson Foundation while its independent non-profit status is being finalized. All current donations are being directed through the Richardson Foundation (designated for The Center) to ensure donors receive proper tax-deductible credit.

"We thank each and every one of you for standing with us in prayer, emotional support, and financial considerations to make our dream a reality," Martin added. "Please come to your Center a place to gather, grow, and celebrate."



Books presented to schools for the 11th year in honor of former teacher, Diana Kottich

Steve Kottich along with his daughter Erin, Doug, Stella and Sam Waller were able to present books for the 11th year to the kindergarten class to honor the late Diana Kottich who was a former kindergarten teacher at Falls City Public School.

Diana was an avid reader and a passionate educator that impacted many generations of students throughout her career at different grade levels. She loved and understood the importance

of reading and wanted to pass that important message on to children and their families.

The family carries on her legacy still today through this Diana Memorial book donation to all kindergartners at both Falls City Public and Sacred Heart Schools.

Not pictured above with Kottich/Waller family and students: Aliza (Kottich) and Nick Strelau, Harrison, Parker and Sylvie.

NDOT announces grantees for Make It Click campaign ahead of summer travel season

The Nebraska Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office (NDOT HSO) has awarded grant funding to 43 law enforcement agencies across the state for the Make It Click seat belt enforcement campaign, which will run from May 15 through May 31. The campaign uses high-visibility enforcement to increase seat belt use and reduce crashes on Nebraska roadways.

"Seat belts remain one of the most effective tools to reduce the risk of fatal or serious injury in a crash," said Ryley Egger, NDOT HSO Administrator. "As we head into the busy summer travel season, we urge drivers to buckle up before every trip. These grants help local law enforcement strengthen enforcement efforts and reinforce that message across Nebraska."

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data, Nebraska's seat belt usage rate is 80.2%, ranking 46th nationally.

The campaign coincides with graduation and Memorial Day weekend, which some consider the unofficial start of summer. Preliminary data from the NDOT

HSO shows that in 2025, only 59 of Nebraska's 227 fatalities were wearing seat belts. Thus far, in 2026, there have been 69 fatalities across the state. Additionally, national data from NHTSA showed that in 2024, 48% of fatalities in passenger vehicles were not wearing seat belts.

The Make It Click campaign is one of the NHTSA national high-visibility enforcement campaigns, focusing specifically on the consequences of not wearing a seat belt, while urging travelers to always buckle up. Below is a list of some of the grantees from the NDOT HSO.

- Beatrice Police Department
- Nebraska City Police Department
- Nebraska State Patrol
- Omaha Police Department
- Otoe County Sheriff's Office
- Papillion Police Department
- Douglas County Sheriff's Office
- Platte County Sheriff's Office
- Falls City Police Department
- Richardson County Sheriff's Office
- La Vista Police Department
- Lancaster County Sheriff's Office
- Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

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WHIRLWIND MONEY MACHINE

MONDAYS
4pm - 9pm
May 4, 11, 18

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

THURSDAY 40/40 MATCH PLAY

THURSDAYS
8am - 8pm

USA FLAG MEMORIAL DAY GIVEAWAY

MONDAY
Starting at 8am
May 25

\$2000

MEMORIAL DAY CASH GIVEAWAY

MONDAY
4pm - 8pm
May 25

20 HOT SEAT WINNERS WILL BE RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM 4PM - 8PM

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

Railroad crossing repairs on N-105, south of Humboldt

Weather permitting, a railroad crossing repair will begin May 19 Nebraska Highway 105 (N-105), according to the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

Burlington Northern forces will be performing the railroad crossing repairs

at reference post 7.10.

A marked detour will be in place. Motorists should expect to see delays and are reminded to drive cautiously through highway work zones. The work is expected to take two (2) days.

The MENU

SINCE 2021

<p>FALLS CITY ELKS CLUB 1417 Stone St., Falls City • 402-245-3814 SUNDAY BUFFET: Open To Public 11-1. Chicken Buffet or Buckets To Go. TUES., MAY 26 - SPECIAL BURGER NIGHT Mushroom Swiss WEDNESDAY, MAY 20- WING WEDNESDAY THURSDAY, MAY 21 - Regular Menu FRIDAY, MAY 22 Specials: Walleye, Kabobs SATURDAY, MAY 23 : CLOSED</p>	<p>WILD EYE Sports Bar & Grill 1821 Stone St. Falls City 402-245-3203</p> <p>TO GO ORDERS AVAILABLE ALL COME WITH CHOICE OF SIDE!</p> <p>Craft Burger. Smoke-N-Fire Burger, and Bacon Burger - \$13 Reubens - \$12 Philly, Philly Original, Prime Rib Sandwich.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">SIDES • Baked Beans • Salad • Cottage Cheese • Fries • Potato Salad</p>
<p>SAC & FOX TRAD'N POST 3226 US Hwy 73 Reserve, KS • 785-742-2037 DAILY ALL WEEK 10:30AM-9:00PM CHAMPS Chicken Strips Dippers Bone-In BLU TACO Tacos, Burritos, Bowls & More!</p>	<p>Smiley Bee Coffee & Sweets Shop 1715 Stone St. (402) 245-5171 <i>Coffee & Sweets Shop</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CLOSED INDEFINITELY.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We will keep you updated as we can. Thank you for the support.</p>



A new ride begins

After 58 years Mark and Sharon Bright pulled the garage door down for the last time. Mark has retired and joined Sharon in her retirement. For over five decades they have been providing service in their community with integrity and hard work. Mark's Body Shop and Milford Frame Clinic were signs that told the customer that it would get done and done right.

Mark hung out the shingle for Mark's Body Shop in Verdon Nebraska 58 years ago with Sharon by his side they began a journey involving thousands of automobiles, long days, and often longer nights. Mark operated the tools, bent the steel, sanded filler and sprayed the paint. Sharon kept the lights on, the water running, invoices going out and the checks coming in. Throughout the years there were lean times and they both worked away from the business but kept pushing that garage door up to keep building their American Dream. Sharon worked for the US Post Office, did farm labor, and evening factory jobs. Mark worked for other body shops, dealerships, and auto supply businesses. Through all those jobs the air compressor kept cycling and the lights kept coming on.

Mark and Sharon raised two daughters through all those hard days. Daughters Tina and Tamara often found themselves out in the shop or keeping the house moving. While Mark was burning the midnight oil out in the shop and Sharon picked up a night shift to help pay the bills their daughters took the ethics and responsibility instilled by their parents to help out when they could.

In 1990, after becoming empty nesters, they moved to Milford Nebraska for better opportunities. Soon the doors went up on Milford Frame Clinic. In Milford they built a new life and new friends. They expanded by adding Autos to the name and used car sales to supplement the body shop. Adding Alimo Storage and a couple of rentals signaled the race to retirement by adding a more passive income to keep them content in their retirement.

Great Grandparents, Grandparents, Parents, foster parents, neighbors, friends, business owners, taxpayers (so many taxes), employers and employee: all titles Mark and Sharon have held and continue to hold with pride.

Now they begin the job of maintaining and showing off the collection. Mark and Sharon have been in the classic car world their entire lives. From the '56 Hardtop screaming down a quiet blacktop in Verdon or the '56 Convertible taking a role in Homecoming celebrations to the '56 Nomad loaded with grandkids cruising across the long open roads of western Nebraska the rides have been beautiful. They will continue to be seen on the road with the windows down, hair blowing in the wind and smiles from ear to ear.

The body shop has been more than just an income and far more than a repair shop. They have helped people get back on the road after accidents uprooted their lives, they have brought joy to families who have found their dream car and they have sent hundreds back to their childhood by restoring the machine that tied a family together. Mark and Sharon have never met a stranger. They have opened their shop, their home and their hearts to many. Their daughters have given them four grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Now they will find the time to open up the throttle and see those children grow in the car culture that shaped their grandparents.

While the shingle may come down the door will always be open. Stop by, say hi, have a cup of coffee and prepare for the nickel tour. A step back in time with Mark that will light up an afternoon.



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Dollar Fresh to become Hy-Vee

More information announced

Upgrade includes full-service meat counter, bakery, 10,000 new items

The Falls City Hy-Vee will offer customers a new level of convenience and selection. In late May, work will begin on renovating the interior of the store, which will include a full-service meat counter, full-service bakery, Candy Shoppe, rotisserie chickens and the addition of 10,000 new items with the expansion of Hy-Vee's store brand and specialty foods.

Outside the store, the parking lot and sidewalks will be resurfaced to create a smooth welcome into the new Falls City Hy-Vee. Construction is projected to be completed by mid-August.

"Converting this store to a Hy-Vee demonstrates the company's commitment to Falls City," said Clint Sailors, store manager. "Adding these additional services and thousands of new items will help us achieve our mission of making our customers' lives easier, healthier and

happier, and we can't wait for the community to see all the enhancements we have in store."

The renovation will also include an expanded workforce. The Falls City Hy-Vee expects to hire five more full-time employees and around 30 additional part-time employees.

Hastings College honors 140th graduating class that includes Salem graduate

Hastings College held its 140th Commencement on Saturday, May 9, 2026, awarding degrees to 190 undergraduates and seven Master of Arts in Teaching graduates. Graduates represented 21 states and



F&M Bank's Logan Bredemeier serves as the grill specialist during Friday's Customer Appreciation Day held at the location at 1502 Harlan Street.

nine countries.

The student speaker was graduating senior Bri Narick, an English major from Bellevue, Nebraska.

Graduation honors are awarded to those students with outstanding academic records in their undergraduate work.

Local graduates include Dalton William Helmick, Criminology, of Salem, NE.

BUILDING PERMITS

Falls City Monument Co., 1823 Harlan St.; install tube heater, \$4,537.00.

John Graber, 310 E 9th St.; new deck - 19' x 10' \$27,500.00.

Matilda's Rentals, 2018 Crook St.; replace HVAC, \$9,500.00.

Kayly Leafy, 1301 Chase St.; new fence \$3,600.00.

Falls City Journal

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Delaney presents at Central College Undergrad event

Central College hosted a Celebration of Undergraduate Inquiry to showcase the many research and creative projects by Central students during the 2025-26 academic year. The event included in-person honors and senior presentations, poster sessions, performances and exhibits.

Participating in the CUI Day was: Josephine Delaney of Hiawatha. Presentation title/s: Sweat and Sanity: The Effect of Physical Activity on Mental Wellness.

Central College of Pella, Iowa, is a private college known for its active student body, academic rigor and athletics success.

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CITATIONS

Shauna Allen of Ridgeway, MO, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Holliday)

Rene Perez Dieguez of Tecumseh, count one, no operator's license, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Novak)

Destany Ross of Omaha, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Agena)

Brady Schulerberg of Falls City, count one, careless driving, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$100 and court costs. (Aitken)

Kaytlin Nelson of Falls City, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Aitken)

Alex Promes of Omaha, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Holliday)

Roger Meyers of Sioux Falls, SD, count one, speeding 21-35 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$300 and court costs. (Holliday)

Jacqueline Ware of Burleson, TX, count one, no valid registration, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Novak)

Jose De La Cruz Padilla of Dakota City, NE, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Holliday)

Juan Meza Villanueva of Tecumseh, NE, count one, no operator's license, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Geyer)

Barbara Ruckman of Omaha, count one, speeding 21-35 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$300 and court costs. (Agena)

Toby Baxter of Falls City, count one, speeding 36 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$400 and court costs. (Quint)

Jessica Weaver of Topeka, KS, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Quint)

Michael Snow of Omaha, count one, no valid registration, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Novak)

COUNTY COURT

Harold Dobbie, count one, possess controlled subs, amended to attempt of a Class 4 felony, pled no contest, found guilty; counts 2-4 amended to dropped/dismissed.

May 1, 2026 through May 2, 2026 calls: five ambulance/EMS calls, one fraud call, one alarm, two 911 hang-up/misdial calls, one phone/digital/mail scam, one found or lost property call, one information-only call, two HHS intake/referrals, two fire calls, one burn permit, one traffic/driving complaint, one investigation, and one referred to other agency call. Twenty total calls. Four 911 calls, fire calls for Falls City Rural Fire and Falls City Fire, two citations for invalid registration, one citation for speeding, one citation for no proof of insurance, two citations for misuse school permit, one citation for violation of ignition interlock restriction, five warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one warning for following too closely, and one warning for muffler violation.

May 2, 2026 through May 3, 2026 calls: one missing person/juvenile call, one parking complaint, one ambulance/EMS call, six burn permits, two suspicious person/vehicle calls, two referred to other agency calls, one 911 hang-up/misdial call, one phone/digital/mail scam, one noise disturbance, one miscellaneous call, and one warrant arrest. Eighteen total calls. Four 911 calls, one citation for no proof of insurance, one citation as per warrant, one warning for excess window tint, three warnings for speeding, two warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one warning for nonresident violation 30-day immunity, one warning for fail to signal turn, one warning for fictitious display, one warning for no operator's license, and one warning for invalid registration.

Sentencing scheduled for July 13, 2026.

Amanda N. Kelsay, count one, leave accident-fail to furnish info-1st, pled not guilty; count two, unsafe backing, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for June 10, 2026.

Brok A. Fay, count one, possess firearm by prohibited person-1st, amended to carry concealed weapon-prohibited person-1st, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes jail for term of 9 months, credit for 90 days served; count two, burglary, amended to criminal trespass-1st degree, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes jail for term of 3 months; counts 3-5 amended to dropped/dismissed.

Dennis L. Whalen, count one, DUI-.08 breath-1st, amended to willful reckless driving-1st, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentencing scheduled for June 10, 2026.

Daeshawn L. McQueen, count one, assault-cause bodily injury, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for June 10, 2026.

Cole T. Davis, count one, assault-threaten/menacing manner, amended to disturbing the peace, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$75.

Buddy J. Graves, count one, leave accident-fail to furnish info-1st, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for June 10, 2026.

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, posses/consume open alcohol container, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for June 10, 2026.

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

Martika L. Lundeen, count one, animal running at large, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25.

(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

FALLS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS AND STATISTICS

April 20, 2026 through April 21, 2026 calls: two accidents, one fire call, one ambulance/EMS call, two HHS intake/referrals, one found or lost property call, four records checks, one gun permit, and one animal call. Thirteen total calls. One 911 call, one fire call for Stella Fire, two citations for exhibition driving, and two citations for misuse school permit.

April 21, 2026 through April 22, 2026 calls: two ambulance/EMS calls, one animal call, one information-only call, one nuisance, two referred to another agency, one investigation, one juvenile issue, three miscellaneous calls, one burn permit, one accident, and one fire call. Fifteen total calls. Seven 911 calls, one fire call for Falls City Fire, one citation for animal running at large - 2nd offense, and one warning for unsafe backing.

April 22, 2026 through April 23, 2026 calls: one animal call, four ambulance/EMS calls, one burn permit, one nuisance, one records check, three miscellaneous calls, one gun permit, one found or lost property call, one referred to another agency, and one disturbance. Fifteen total calls. Two 911 calls, one citation for speeding, one warning for speeding, and one warning for improper/defective vehicle lighting.

April 23, 2026 through April 24, 2026 calls: one information-only call, two 911 hang-up/misdial, three animal calls, three HHS intake/referrals, two weather calls, one miscellaneous call, one traffic/driving complaint, one accident, one noise disturbance, one nuisance, one referred to another agency, one disturbance, one investigation, and three ambulance/EMS calls. Twenty-two total calls. Three 911 calls, four warnings for traffic violations, one citation for registration/plates - motor vehicle violation, and one citation for possess marijuana one ounce or less - first offense and possess/use drug paraphernalia.

April 24, 2026 through April 25, 2026 calls: five burn permits, two ambulance/EMS calls, one nuisance, two referred to other agencies, one animal call, one investigation, one check welfare, one 911 hang-up/misdial, two miscellaneous calls, and one traffic/driving complaint. Seventeen total calls. One 911 call and one citation for animal at large.

April 25, 2026 through April 26, 2026 calls: two miscellaneous calls, two referred to other agencies, two burn permits, two animal calls, one ambulance/EMS call, one HHS intake/referral, one traffic/driving complaint, one fire call, and one weather call. Thirteen total calls. Two 911 calls, one fire call for Humboldt Fire, and one warning for speeding.

April 26, 2026 through April 27, 2026 calls: one referred to other agency, two miscellaneous calls, one motorist assist, one burn permit, two ambulance/EMS calls, one check welfare, one truancy call, and one 911 hang-up/misdial. Ten total calls. Two 911 calls, one warning for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one warning for improper turn, and one warning for speeding.

April 27, 2026 through April 28, 2026 calls: three ambulance/EMS calls, two disturbances, two burn permits, one animal call, one information-only call, two nuisance calls, six records checks, one warrant arrest, two HHS intake/referrals, and one miscellaneous call. Twenty-one total calls. Four 911 calls, one citation for fugitive from justice, one citation for possession of a controlled substance, one citation for possession/use of drug paraphernalia, one citation for possession of marijuana under one ounce, two warnings for speeding, one warning for nonresident fail to register, one warning for improper/defective vehicle lighting, and one warning for muffler violation.

April 30, 2026 through May 1, 2026 calls: four miscellaneous calls, one burn permit, three ambulance/EMS calls, one nuisance, three animal calls, one theft, two information-only calls, one fire call, and three HHS intake/referrals. Nineteen total calls. Four 911 calls, one fire call for Verdon Fire, and one warning for no brake lights.

THANK YOU
for all the votes and support during the primary election. Your continued support in the General Election would be greatly appreciated!
A vote for me is a vote for the citizens of Falls City.
-Kenny Killingsworth
Paid for by Kenny Killingsworth, 719 E. 21st, Falls City

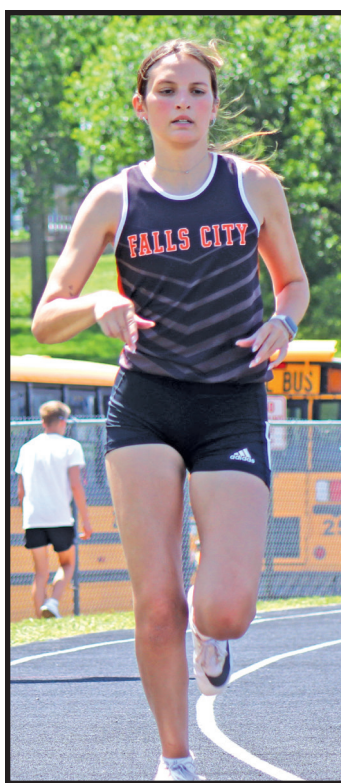
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Elijah Leyden glides over the hurdles in prelims on Thursday in Tecumseh. Senior Ella Glathar competes in the 400m dash at Districts.

The Falls City Four headed to Omaha

Four Tiger tracksters punched their tickets to the State Track Meet taking place at Omaha Burke High School on Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23. The Tigers competed at the Class C-1 District Meet at Johnson County Central High School in Tecumseh on Thursday, May 14.

The four included Jennifer Sweeney, Audrey Scrivens, Caleb Offner and Tanner Jackson.

Sweeney and Scrivens are first-timers, while Offner and Jackson have competed on the big stage in the past.

Offner will compete in two events at Burke High School over the weekend, having won the shot put and discus. His winning throw of 62-3.75 destroyed the school record set earlier this year of 55-5.50. His toss in the discus of 166-04 won the event by nearly three feet.

In the pole vault, Jackson soared above the competition, clearing 14-02 for the gold. His vault was two and a half feet better than second place.

For the girls, Scrivens fought the brisk wind on the backstretch to place second in 1:00.35. Meanwhile,

Sweeney posted a personal record of 5:54.51 in the 1600m run to place second and earn her pass to the state meet.

Boys team scoring: Palmyra 118, Lincoln Lutheran 92, Freeman 70, JCC 59, Johnson-Brock 55, Malcolm 39, Conestoga 38, FC 36, Elmwood-Murdock 20.

Girls team scoring: Malcolm 80.3333, Palmyra 79.3333, JCC 70.8333, Freeman 66, Johnson-Brock 63, Conestoga 35, FC 32, Elmwood-Murdock 25, Southern 15.

In the long jump, senior Tallan Zimmerman just missed out on a second trip to Omaha. Zimmerman placed fourth in the long jump at 19-09.50, .75 of an inch away from qualifying. Ryker McCullough set a PR in the high jump, clearing 5-10 to place fifth.

For the girls, the 4x800 relay team of Sweeney, Madalynn Hawley, Ella Glathar and Hallie Young ran a season best 11:37.48 and placed third. Freshman Liv Buckminster nearly qualified in the high jump. Buckminster cleared 4-11, tying the height of the second-place finisher, but settled for third due to misses at previous heights.

Scrivens scored again in the 200m dash, placing sixth in 27.09. The 4x100 team of Scrivens, Ashlyn Alexander, Tessa Gossman and Peyton Weddle ran a season-fastest 52.85 for fifth, while the 4x400 team of Scrivens, Gossman, Alexander and Hallie Young also ran a season-best of 4:28.86 for sixth.

Offner will compete in the shot put competition on Friday, May 22, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The Tiger will throw first in the third flight as he enters the competition with the Class C state lead of 62-03.75.

Jackson will compete in the vault on Saturday, May 23, beginning at 9:00 a.m. He enters the state event tied for the third-best height cleared at district competitions.

The discus event will also be on Saturday morning, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Offner will throw fourth in the third flight. Noah Rau of Chase County threw 203-07 to lead the pack and has a season-best and state record toss of 219-06 earlier this season.

For the girls, Scrivens will compete in the 400m dash at 4:05 p.m. on Friday, May 22. Scrivens will run in lane 1 of heat two.

Meanwhile, Sweeney runs in the 1600m run on Saturday afternoon at 4:05.

It's early, but the weather forecast shows a high of 74 on Friday and 80 on Saturday.



L-R Kyle Sipple, Kayden Groth and Kameon Dettmann compete in the 400 on Wednesday in Pawnee City. Inset Dorothy Crouse gets out of the blocks in the 400m dash Wednesday at Pawnee City High School.



Irish sending seven to state meet in Omaha

The Sacred Heart Irish track team is sending four boys and three girls to the NSAA Track and Field Championships at Omaha Burke Stadium on Friday, May 22, and Saturday, May 23. Punching tickets on the boy's side were Hayden Clow, Bo Fletcher, Brenden Lemerond and Owen Santo. Earning a chance to compete for the girls were Payten Georges, Hallie Jones and Bailey Lemerond.

Sacred Heart had a near-perfect day to compete at the Class D-1 District Meet, hosted by the Irish, at Pawnee City High School. The temperatures hovered near 80 degrees in the afternoon with a slight breeze.

Boys team scoring: McCool Junction 89, BDS 76, SH 65, HTRS 64, Sterling 58, Lourdes 53, Diller-Odell 44, Lewiston 36, Pawnee City 20, Meridian 20, Dorchester 2.

Girls team scoring: Lourdes 125, HTRS 87.5, McCool Junction 84.5, SH 59, Dorchester 53, Diller-Odell 47, Pawnee City 34, Sterling 17, BDS 13, Lewiston 7.

For the boys, Lemerond placed second and qualified in the 1600m run in 4:53.64, while Fletcher was third in 4:55.50, a personal best, and earned an at-large spot at state.

In the 3200m run, Clow clocked in at 10:46.53 for second, while Fletcher again earned an at-large spot by placing third in 10:52.31.

The Irish 4x800 team of Fletcher, Lemerond, Clow and Santo placed third in 8:46.25 and earned a trip to Omaha.

For the Lady Irish, Georges placed fourth in the 3200m run, crossing the line in 13:11.08 and earning an at-large spot at the state meet. Georges set a personal best on Wednesday in a stacked field. Six of the eight competitors ran fast enough to make the trip to Omaha.

Junior Hallie Jones tossed the shot 35-03.50 and placed second, earning a repeat trip to Omaha.

The final Irish competitor to make the big dance was freshman Bailey Lemerond. Lemerond vaulted a personal-best of 8-02 to win the silver medal and earn a trip to Burke Stadium.

Other Irish athletes scoring on Wednesday included Kayden Groth (4th, 56.14) and Kyle Sipple (6th, 56.77) in the 400. Santo was sixth in the 800m run (2:19.04), while Noah Howard was fifth (17.73) in the 110 hurdles. Howard also clocked in at 45.26 for third in the 300h. The Irish 4x100 team of Groth, Sipple, Charlie Rottinghaus and JJ Lancaster was third in 47.28, while the 4x400 team of Groth, Sipple, Lemerond and Cooper Knobbe was fifth in 3:50.73. In the discus, Knobbe threw 121-00 for fifth, while Lancaster cleared 5-09 in the high jump for fourth. In the pole vault, Lemerond went 10-06 for fifth, while Santo also cleared 10-06 for sixth.

For the Lady Irish, Macy Taft ran a personal-best of 2:37.03 for fourth in the 800. CeeJay Tisdell ran a 19.59 for fifth in the 100h and ran a PR of 53.08 for fourth in the 300 hurdles.

Lemerond joined Tisdell in the 300h, placing sixth in 57.17. The 4x400 team of Taft, Kinlee Lechtenberg, Tisdell and Dorothy Crouse placed fourth in 4:47.65. Meanwhile, the 4x800 team of Taft, Georges, Witt and Lemerond ran a 10:46.07 for third. Jones just missed a repeat trip in the discus, placing third at 107-06, while Lemerond jumped a personal best 4-07 for third in the high jump. In the pole vault, Kamrie Wilson cleared a personal best 7-02 for fourth, while Lechtenberg was fifth in the triple jump (30-04.75) and Kemper Sipple was fifth at 30-03.00.

The boys' 4x800 team will compete on Friday afternoon at Burke Stadium, beginning at 1:30. The Irish enter the meet with the 12th fastest time.

Clow and Fletcher will run in the 3200 on Friday at 4:45 p.m. Clow is currently 13th in the event, while Fletcher is ranked 16th.

Lemerond and Fletcher will run in the 1600m run on Saturday at 4:05 p.m. Lemerond is ranked 8th, while Fletcher sits 12th.

For the Lady Irish, Lemerond will compete in the pole vault on Friday, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The freshman enters the event ranked 23rd. Georges will run in the 3200m run on Friday afternoon at 4:45. The freshman is ranked 16th in the Class D field. Meanwhile, Hallie Jones will throw the shot at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. Jones will throw eighth in the second flight and is ranked 16th.

Junior Legion team kicking off season

The Junior Legion Post 102 baseball team, sponsored by Froeschl Floors, kicks off the season on the road at Nebraska City on Thursday, May 21, 2026. The squad then plays six consecutive home contests at SNC Field. FC hosts Adams on May 26th, Chick-Fil-A on May 27th, Nehawka on June 2nd, Louisville on June 9th, Elmwood-Murdock on June 10th and Hiawatha on June 16th. Falls City will play at Palmyra on June 17th and in the SENBC Jr. Legion Tournament on June 20th and 21st. FC will host the final home game of the season on June 23rd against Doniphan County, before hitting the road against Plattsmouth

(June 26th), Doniphan County (June 30th) and Hiawatha (July 1st).

The Juniors will be coached by Kory Huppert, Noah Milam, Jake Craig and Brent Shubert.

The roster includes Brody Scholl, Callen Furnas, Noah Howard, Paxton Holmes, Reid Kirkendall, Elin Vonderschmidt, Karson Simpson, Tatum Ramer, Gavin Shubert, Carter Scholl, Gavin Dean, Baker Wissman, Ryder Hullman and Kamdyn Huppert.

The Falls City American Legion asks that the community come out and support the baseball team this summer.

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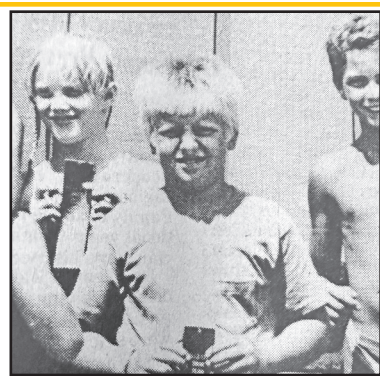
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Last week's "Back in the Day" was Paula Sue Blecha.



Peru State expands opportunities for adult learners through ReEngage Nebraska

Peru State College is creating new pathways for adult learners to return to higher education through its participation in the state-wide ReEngage Nebraska initiative. This program is supported by grant funding and implemented across the Nebraska State College System.

“Across Nebraska, many individuals have earned college credits but have not yet completed a degree,” said Dr. Alaric Williams, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Peru State College. “The ReEngage Nebraska Grant provides a valuable opportunity for those who paused their academic journey to return and finish what they started.”

ReEngage Nebraska focuses on students who

have been away from Peru State for at least one year, offering them a structured and supportive way back to college. By addressing common barriers—such as time constraints, financial pressures, and competing responsibilities—the initiative aims to make degree completion more accessible and achievable.

A key component of the program is the newly available Associate of General Studies (AGS) degree, approved by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. This credential allows eligible students to receive recognition for previously earned academic credits, ensuring their work is not lost. At the same time, it serves as a stepping stone

toward completing a bachelor’s degree.

The program is built around flexibility and personalized support. Participants may benefit from a free course to help them restart their studies, recognition of prior learning and life experience, and access to a dedicated network of advisors and campus resources. Together, these efforts are designed to meet adult learners where they are and help them succeed.

“ReEngage Nebraska acknowledges that adult learners are not starting from scratch; rather, they are returning with valuable life and work experience,” noted Dr. Gina Bittner, Professor in Peru State College’s School of Education. “Our role is to build on that foundation, remove barriers, and provide the structure and support needed to help them successfully complete their degrees.”

Preparation for the initiative has already been underway at Peru State. Faculty and staff have engaged in professional development to better understand the unique needs of

adult learners, while collaborative efforts—including a campus visit with the Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research—have helped shape strategies to support student success.

Behind the scenes, the college has begun identifying eligible students, analyzing data, and awarding AGS degrees. Some of these graduates are expected to participate in commencement ceremonies this May—an exciting milestone that both celebrates their achievements and welcomes them back into the campus community.

Through ReEngage Nebraska, Peru State College is reinforcing its commitment to expanding access to higher education. By recognizing past accomplishments, reducing barriers, and providing clear pathways forward, the college is helping more Nebraskans return to complete their degrees and build brighter futures. More information can be found at www.peru.edu/reengage.

MEN’S GOLF LEAGUE

Early League Results from Tuesday, May 12, 2026. The scores shown are actual scores and handicap totals.

Team 1 (6.00) Kirkendall, Jeremy 38-38; Meysenburg, Fr. Jim 43-32. Team 4 (0.00) Borg, Dave 44-40; Murphy, Jim 52-40.

Team 2 (5.00) Heinzelman, Denny 53-43; Witt, Wade 39-27. Team 3 (1.00) Ebel, Ron 46-43; Severin, Steve 53-33.

Team 5 (4.00) James, Charles 46-42; Rowland, Rod 39-31. Team 9 (2.00) Mullins, Jim 46-41; Kurgeweit, Lee 46-38.

Team 6 (0.00) May, Mark 40-36; Bennett, Chuck 48-40. Team 8 (6.00) Hillyard, Mark 42-34; Foster, Tim 44-34.

Team 7 (3.50) Romine, Alan 53-46; Sailors, Chuck 51-38. Team 10 (2.50) Hankins, Dan 53-45; Kermaode, Terry 48-39.

Late League results from Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

Team 1 (0.50) Dunn, Joe 38-39; Bippes, Drew 50-42; Coonce, Kyle 61-37. Team 16 (7.50) Hill, Dan 43-39; Steele, Brendan 46-37; Bauer, Trevor 46-32.

Team 2 (5.00) Ebel, Ron 41-39; Malone, Kevin 46-39; Sly, Tony 53-35. Team 15 (3.00) Van Dyke, Kyle 42-39; Froeschl, Ethan 45-38; Cole, Gavin 48-40.

Team 3 (8.00) Aitken, Bob 43-40; Craig, Jake 49-40; Scheitel, Logan 58-31. Team 14 (0.00) Gerweck,

Rob 47-43; McNeely, Erik 55-45; Meysenburg, Fr. Jim 46-35.

Team 4 (5.00) Witt, Tom 40-38; Froeschl, Nathan 47-40; Morris, Adam 49-37. Team 13 (3.00) Ferguson, Don 45-42; Schawang, Cody 49-40; White, Christian 59-34.

Team 5 (5.50) Simon, Steve 39-38; Daake, Brian 39-32; Merz, Mitch 66-40. Team 12 (2.50) Hullman, Ben 41-37; Heinzelman, Eric 48-36; Bek, Adam 57-40.

Team 6 (4.50) Bachman, Eli 37-36; Witt, Wade 49-41; Leyden, Derrick 53-39. Team 11 (3.50) Siel, Jake 46-43; Froeschl, Lucas 47-40; Dunkhas, Gale 50-37.

Team 7 (6.00) Scheitel, Trent 40-38; Schawang, Cade 54-46; Bauman, Jackson 51-31. Team 10 (2.00) Gist, Thomas 42-39; Poppe, Brian 44-36; Keller, Bart 62-43.

Team 8 (6.00) Simon, Dan 45-44; Bennett, Chuck 42-34; Harmon, Galen 43-33. Team 9 (2.00) Kirkendall, Jeremy 41-38; Witt, Rich 49-41; Craig, Robbie 49-35.

Team 17 (6.00) Ebel, Bryce 44-40; Godemann, Ted 46-38; Witt, Bailey 51-39. Team 19 (2.00) Davis, Darin 47-42; Gooch, Blake 50-41; Huppert, Drew 54-39.

Team 18 (2.00) May, Mark 44-39; Chesnut, Justin 46-40; Harmon, Jason 53-41. Team 20 (6.00) Anderson, Dusty 46-41; Hecklively, Tim 43-33; Dunn, Mike 51-39.



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Good News Assembly of God (600 Reavis St.) Sunday School, 9:30am; Worship, 10:40am. Wednesday: Good News Kids, 6:30pm. www.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. fallsctylcms.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/fallsctycitycooperativeministry *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. fallsctylcms.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/fallsctycitycooperativeministry. *Pastor, Grant Speece 402-980-5960 cell 245-2398 office*

Prairie Union Baptist Church (Rural Shubert) Sun: Morning Worship 10:30AM, Sunday School 9:30AM. Communion is served the first Sun. of every month. *Bob Heusman, Pastor*

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

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

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

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

HUMBOLDT
The Four Mile Church (South of Humboldt) Sunday: Church services, 9:00AM.
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Dick Lionberger, Intern pastor

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

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Commissioners approve quote for carpet replacement at Courthouse

The Richardson County Board of Commissioners held an abbreviated meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. Commissioners Karas, Campbell, and Caverzagie answered the roll call.

The Board considered two quotes for replacing the carpet in the Accessors' Office in the Courthouse. The first quote, from Jim Hill's, totaled \$3,159, while the second quote, from Chaney Furniture in Falls City, totaled \$4,095.

Commissioner Campbell moved to accept the bid from Jim Hill's for \$3,159. Karas seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

The Board then discussed the claims that were presented. After a discussion, the Board denied a claim regarding cookies that were given to a fifth-grade class during a presentation.

Commissioner Campbell said he

felt it was similar to the Sheriff Department paying for its own candy at parades or the Courthouse offices paying for candy at Halloween. He remarked that it didn't fall under the state statute authorizing it.

Commissioner Caverzagie said they have denied the Treasurer in the past and the Sheriff's Office on two occasions.

"I don't see where we, I don't see where we pay it," said Caverzagie.

The reimbursement request totaled \$34.

A second reimbursement request from Emergency Management was approved. The Commissioners said it fell under the state statute's guidelines because it involved training exercises.

A brief discussion was held about the light bulbs illuminating the entrances on the north and south sides of the Courthouse. Commission-

er Campbell said the bulbs don't match; one is white, while the other is an off-yellow.

The Board said the issue will be resolved.

It was also noted that EMA Director Brian Kirkendall had attended a meeting with the Nebraska Department of Roads to discuss 2027 projects in the area, but the Commissioners were neither informed nor invited to the meeting.

One project is working on the viaduct west of town, while the other involves replacing the bridge in Salem. Because county roads will be used as local detour routes, the Board questioned why they were unaware of the meeting.

The Highway Superintendent was also not invited to the meeting.

With no further items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Dorothy Jones

Dorothy June Jones, 102, of Falls City, NE (formerly of Reserve, KS). She was born October 13, 1923 at Detroit, Michigan to Tom and Goldie (Bloom) Frehse. She passed away May 11, 2026 at Falls City.

She married George Jones, Jr. on December 31, 1941 at Falls City. He passed away August 13, 2007.

Dorothy was raised in Falls City and she graduated Falls City High School in 1941. She attended Highland College and Peru State College earning a teaching degree. Dorothy taught at the Little Chapel Rural School. She retired from teaching in 1953, becoming a farm wife and homemaker, living on the farm in the Reserve area after her husband returned from the war. They moved into Reserve in 1975. Dorothy lived there until she moved to Falls City Nursing and Rehab in 2018. She enjoyed sewing, knitting, cooking, gardening and bible studies. She was a member of the First Christian Church and the Falls City Music Club.

Dorothy is survived by her son Wayne Jones and his wife Debra of Reserve, seven grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren and eight great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and two great grandchildren, Kyler and Libby.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 10:30 A.M. at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home with Pastor Grant Speece officiating. Interment was at Steele Cemetery.

Family received friends Monday from 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home.

Viewing began Sunday afternoon.

AARP May scam watch

Loyalty points, home repairs, sweepstakes, and gift cards all share a common thread: each has become a convenient entry point for scammers who count on people being busy or distracted. From drained rewards accounts to disappearing contractors, from fake prize notifications to demands for gift card payments, criminals look for everyday moments they can twist into costly traps. Staying alert to warning signs can help protect your money, your information, and your peace of mind.

Your Points Are Worth Money and Scammers Know It: Chances are you've signed up for a loyalty or rewards program at some point, even if you rarely check your account. These are popular targets for this very reason, as loyalty account owners don't tend to monitor their balances the way they might monitor financial accounts. Criminals hack into loyalty and rewards accounts through phishing messages, malware-infected sites that collect your data, and stealing username and password combinations. Once inside, they transfer the points or redeem them.

Protect your rewards by protecting your accounts with strong, unique passwords and turn on multi-factor authentication whenever possible. Sign up for account alerts so you're notified of any changes or suspicious activity. And if something looks off, contact the loyalty program directly through your account or a phone number you know is legitimate.

Shady Contractors Can Hammer Away at Your Wallet: Home repairs are inevitable, whether from everyday wear and tear or unexpected damage. But when you're looking for help, the wrong contractor can make matters worse. Some promise quick, low-cost fixes, then deliver poor work, damage your property, or disappear before the job is done. Be cautious of contractors who show up uninvited and say they can start work right away, pressure you to make quick decisions, or ask for cash up front. After severe weather, shady contractors may also push you to sign over insurance payments or take out loans for payment.

Always take time to review your options before agreeing to any work. Get at least three bids, check references and reviews, and read contracts carefully before signing. Don't agree to pay

the full cost upfront. While a deposit may be required, it should not exceed a third of the total estimate.

A Big Win or a Big Red Flag?: Reports of sweepstakes scams to the AARP Fraud Watch Network™ Helpline are on the rise. The prospect of a big financial windfall or amazing vacation plays on our emotions. Criminals count on our excitement to deceive us into paying a fee or divulging sensitive information. Know that no legitimate sweepstakes or contest requires payment in advance or sharing your Social Security number or bank account details.

If an unexpected message sparks strong emotions and demands urgency, treat it as a potential fraud attempt. Take an "active pause," an intentional step back to consider the scenario and reflect on what you might know about it. That moment could lead you to recognize the scam and protect yourself and your assets.

Gift Cards Are for Gifts: Gift cards are popular and convenient for consumers, as well as for criminals who favor them as easy and hard-to-trace forms of payment.

They may claim the fastest way to fix an urgent financial problem is to go to a store, load a specific amount of money onto one or more gift cards (sometimes called electronic vouchers), and then share the activation numbers from the back of the card. No legitimate government agency or business will ever accept payment this way.

If you or someone you love has experienced this financial crime, turn the card over and call the issuer at the number provided, as they may be able to freeze the card before some or all of the funds are drained. You should also report this crime to law enforcement to document what happened should there be a means of restitution down the road.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with the AARP Fraud Watch Network™. If you suspect a scam, call the free Helpline at 877-908-3360 to speak with a trained fraud specialist about what to do next. To get biweekly Watchdog Alerts with updates on new scams and how to avoid them, text "FWN" to 50757 to sign up.

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age.

Knowing stroke sings can save a life when every minute counts

The American Stroke Association highlights how recognizing B.E. F.A.S.T. warning signs and acting quickly can help people get lifesaving care sooner.

A stroke can change a life in an instant. In the minutes after symptoms begin, quick action can help protect the brain, reduce long-term disability and save a life, according to the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association. In rural communities, where EMS responses can be delayed and minutes matter, it's important to be aware of the signs and symptoms and seek treatment quickly.

On average, nearly two million brain cells die every minute a stroke goes untreated, making early recognition and treatment critical. During May, American Stroke Month, the Stroke Association is highlighting the importance of recognizing stroke warning signs and understanding how early treatment and prevention can make a meaningful difference when it matters most.

Stroke is the fourth-leading cause of death, according to the American Heart Association's 2026 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistical Update[1], and a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States. Each year, approximately 800,000 people in the U.S. experience a stroke. A stroke can happen to anyone, at any age.

Three things you can do to take action against stroke:

Learn B.E. F.A.S.T. to spot a stroke. If you see sudden Balance loss, Eye or vision changes, Face drooping, Arm weakness or Speech difficulty, it's time to call 911. Explore the signs by playing the B.E. F.A.S.T. Experience at Stroke.org/StrokeMonth.

Understand your stroke risk and explore ways to lower it. Identifying personal risk factors, especially high blood pressure, the leading risk factor for stroke can help you have informed conversations with your health care team about stroke prevention and long-term brain health.

Find support after stroke. Recovery is a journey and connection matters. Explore support services for survivors and care partners, including virtual Stroke Meetups, and sign up for the Stroke Connection e-newsletter at Stroke.org/StrokeMonth.

Recognize Stroke Warning Signs: B.E. F.A.S.T.

When a stroke happens, blood flow to the brain is interrupted. The longer treatment is delayed, the greater the risk of lasting damage. Calling 911 is the fastest way to get stroke care. EMS can begin treatment immediately and alert the hospital stroke team before you arrive. Rural hospital staff are trained to provide rapid stroke evaluation and treatment and play a

key role in stabilizing patients for transport to stroke-capable hospitals for surgical treatment options.

B.E. F.A.S.T. is a simple way to remember common stroke warning signs:

Balance Loss: Sudden trouble walking, dizziness or loss of coordination.

Eye (Vision) Changes: Sudden vision loss or trouble seeing in one or both eyes.

Face Drooping: One side of the face droops or feels numb; a smile may look uneven.

Arm Weakness: One arm feels weak or numb or drifts downward when raised.

Speech Difficulty: Slurred speech or trouble speaking.

Time to Call 911: If someone shows any of these signs, even if symptoms go away, calling 911 right away can help get lifesaving care started. Noting when symptoms first appeared can also support treatment decisions.

According to the Heart Association and the Stroke Association, approximately 80% of strokes are preventable. High blood pressure is the leading risk factor for stroke[2], and uncontrolled blood pressure, diabetes and obesity significantly increase risk.

A large majority of strokes can be prevented by taking steps to: Manage blood pressure. Lowering and controlling blood pressure reduces the risk of stroke. Regular check-ups, monitoring at home and following a treatment plan can lower risk and support long-term brain health.

Build healthy habits. Eating well, staying active, not smoking and keeping up with routine health screenings all play an important role in reducing stroke risk. The Heart Association's Life's Essential 8™ outlines key steps for improving and maintaining cardiovascular and brain health.

Reduce the risk of a second stroke. Prevention takes on added importance for people who have had a stroke or a transient ischemic attack (TIA), sometimes called a "warning stroke." Nearly one in four strokes occur in people who have had a previous stroke. Understanding what caused the first stroke and identifying personal risk factors can help guide next steps and reduce the chance of another one.

Stroke recovery looks different for everyone, and support can play an important role along the way. The Stroke Association offers resources designed to help survivors and care partners feel informed, connected and supported, including live, virtual Stroke Meetups where participants can share experiences, ask questions and learn from trusted experts. Stay connected with recovery tools and

support by signing up for the Stroke Connection e-newsletter.

Stroke can happen suddenly. Knowing the signs with B.E. F.A.S.T. can help you respond when minutes matter. This American Stroke Month, explore trusted resources, practical tools and support Stroke.org/StrokeMonth.

The HCA Healthcare Foundation is a national sponsor of the American Stroke Association's Together to End Stroke® initiative and American Stroke Month.

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. Dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities, the organization has been a leading source of health information for more than one hundred years. Supported by more than 35 million volunteers globally, we fund groundbreaking research, advocate for the public's health, and provide critical resources to

save and improve lives affected by cardiovascular disease and stroke. By driving breakthroughs and implementing proven solutions in science, policy, and care, we work tirelessly to advance health and transform lives every day. Connect with us on heart.org, Facebook, X or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.

The American Stroke Association is a relentless force for a world with fewer strokes and longer, healthier lives. We team with millions of volunteers and donors to ensure equitable health and stroke care in all communities. We work to prevent, treat and beat stroke by funding innovative research, fighting for the public's health, and providing lifesaving resources. The Dallas-based association was created in 1998 as a division of the American Heart Association. To learn more or to get involved, call 1-888-4STROKE or visit stroke.org.



Memorial Day Dinner
Monday, May 25, 2026
 Serving begins at 11:00 AM
 Free Will Offering
Prairie Union Church,
Rural Shubert
 Served by:
Prairie Union Cemetery Association



"Public Schools are where the future of Nebraska starts."

Every Child. Every Voice. One Strong Future.

Tell us how your school makes Nebraska stronger at nsea.org/stronger

NEEA
 Nebraska State Education Association

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

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

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

Mary L. Eickhoff
Richardson County Clerk
ZNEZ

NOTICE

In the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska
Estate of Jeraldine M. McDonald, Deceased
Estate Number: PR26-17

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs, and Appointment of Breana Last as Personal Representative has been filed and is set for hearing in the County Court of Richardson County Nebraska, located at 1700 Stone Street, Falls City, Nebraska 68355 on May 27, 2026 at 9:45 a.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard by the Court.

Dorena Spitzer
17872 N 86th St
Peoria, AZ 85382

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

6-13-20
ZNEZ

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

Case Number: CI-26-59
IN RE NAME CHANGE OF:
Donna Marie Sichel OGrady

Notice is hereby given that on the 4 day of May 2026, a petition was filed in the District Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is for the change of the petitioner's name Donna Marie Sichel OGrady, to Donna Marie OGrady. A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable Julie D. Smith, in courtroom no. 302, 1700 Stone St. on the 23rd day of June 2026 at 11:45 a.m., or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the petitioner's name will be changed from that of Donna Marie Sichel OGrady to Donna Marie OGrady.
Donna Marie OGrady
71031 645 Ave
Falls City, Nebraska 68355

13-20-27-3
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

In the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska.
In the Matter of the Estate of David J. McPherson, Deceased.
Case No. PR26-19

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs, and Appointment of Brandi Asher as Personal Representative has been filed herein and is set for hearing in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, 1700 Stone Street, Falls City, Nebraska 68355 on June 8, 2026 at 9:45 A.M.

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

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

13-20-27
ZNEZ

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE:

The Southeast District Health Department Board of Health will hold its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Conference Room at the office of Southeast District Health Department, 2511 Schneider Ave, Auburn, NE. The meeting is open to the public. An agenda is available in the Director's office at the Southeast District Health Department during regular business hours.

ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the organization of a Limited Liability Company under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act. The name of the company is PARADISE PUMPKINS, LLC. The address of the designated office is 65675 711 Rd, Falls City, NE 68355. The name and street and mailing addresses of the initial agent for service of process of the company is DERIK LAPE at 65675 711 Rd, Falls City, NE 68355. The general nature of the business to be transacted is TO ENGAGE IN ANY LAWFUL BUSINESS-ES FOR WHICH A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY MAY BE ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. The Company commenced existence on March 20, 2026. The period of duration of the company is PERPETUAL. Management of the Company is conducted by its MEMBERS.

Paradise Pumpkins, LLC

/s/ Rory J. Roundtree
Rory J. Roundtree, #25198
ROUNDTREE LAW
P.O. Box 577
Ogallala, NE 69153
(308) 284-7065
rjr@roundtreelawoffice.com

20-27-3
ZNEZ

Richardson County Transit Public Hearing Notice

Notice is hereby given that Southeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership, Inc. (SENCA) will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at 802 4th Street, Humboldt, NE. This hearing is for the purpose of receiving public input on proposed changes to the fares for the Richardson County Transit system.

Proposed fare changes for one-way trips include: in-town boardings will increase from \$1.50 to \$2 per boarding; trips to Barada, Preston, Rulo, Salem and Verdon from \$3.50 to \$4; trips to Dawson, Shubert, and Stella from \$4.50 to \$5; trips to Humboldt from \$5.50 to \$6; trips to Lincoln from \$17 to \$18; and trips to Omaha from \$22 to \$23.

This project will continue to take the special needs of the elderly and/or person with disabilities into consideration.

Richardson County Transit is open to the general public. The public hearing is in an accessible meeting space. Appropriate provisions for the hearing and visually challenged or persons with limited English proficiency will be made if SENCA is notified by June 8, 2026.

Written or verbal comments will be accepted from the public prior to the public hearing or 10 days following the hearing date or June 20, 2026. Interested individuals or agencies will be given the opportunity to present their views on the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the proposed fare changes. A copy of the fare adjustments is available for public inspection at the Richardson County Transit office at 221 West 16th Street, Falls City, NE. Written comments or requests should be submitted to: Kay Wissmann, SENCA Transit Manager, PO Box 646, Humboldt, NE 68376, or by email to kwissmann@senca.org, or by phone at 402-862-2411 x 108.

20-27
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE

To All interested persons:
On May 12, 2026, John Wesley Crow, born June 1967, filed a petition in the District Court of Richardson County, Nebraska to change his name from John Wesley Crow to John Wesley Spurgin. The petition will be heard in the District Court of Richardson County, Richardson County Courthouse, 1700 Stone St., Falls City, Nebraska 68355, on July 7, 2026, at 11:45 o'clock a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard.

John Wesley Crow, Petitioner

Diane L. Merwin, #24172
FANKHAUSER, NELSEN, WERTS, ZISKEY & MERWIN, P.C., L.L.O.
713 4th St., PO Box 126
Humboldt, NE 68376
(402) 862-2321

20-27-3-10
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION T and E Livestock LLC

Notice is hereby given that T and E Livestock LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the state of Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act.
1. The name of this limited liability company is T and E Livestock LLC.
2. The Initial Designated Office Address is 70655 648 Ave, Falls City, NE 68355 and its Registered Agent is Tyler Witt, 70655 648 Ave, Falls City, NE 68355.
3. The limited liability company shall engage in any lawful business for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The period of duration of the Company is perpetual existence from the date the Certificate of Organization was filed with the Secretary of State on May 5, 2026. Affairs are to be managed by the Members authorized by the Certificate of Organization and the Operating Agreement.

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

20-27-3
ZNEZ

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE: HTRS WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING.

The HTRS Wellness Committee will hold a public meeting to solicit input and recommendations as part of the review process to identify achievements and areas in need of improvement for the next Triennial Wellness Policy. The meeting will be held on May 27, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Humboldt Board Conference Room, 810 Central Avenue, Humboldt, Nebraska 68376.

ZNEZ

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE: NON-PUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION. ON TUESDAY, MAY 26TH AT 6:00 P.M., A MEETING CONDUCTED BY HUMBOLDT-TABLE ROCK-STEINAUER

will take place in the Conference Room at HTRS School located at 810 Central Ave. Humboldt NE 68376. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide an opportunity for parents who have parentally placed their child in an approved and/or accredited non-public school or exempt home school and representatives of non-public schools to participate in the development of a plan for providing special education services to children with disabilities who attend an approved and/or accredited non-public schools and exempt home schools which are within the Humboldt-Table Rock-Steinauer district for the 2026-2027 school year. Parents of a home-schooled child or a child attending a non-public school who has been or may be identified with a disability and attend an approved and/or accredited non-public school within the boundaries of Humboldt-Table Rock-Steinauer School District are urged to attend. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact Dr. George Griffith at 402-862-2151.

ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF STELLA

Village of Stella Board of Trustees regular meeting, May 4, 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: Kristy Fischer and Brian Stock

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 Hall and seconded by Gossman to approve the agenda. All voted yea.

Motion Made by Ramer and seconded by Hall to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All voted yea.

Motion made by Ramer and seconded by Hall to approve the claims and payroll. All voted yea.

COMMUNICATIONS: Flags will be put up for Memorial Day.
COMMITTEES: Streets – rock was hauled; Street lights – OK, Park – One of the playground equipment on the small park needs repair; Library – OK,

Water/sewer – written report, a quote will be received for the cleaning of sewer mains and cleaning of tanks, a sewer pipe needs repair; Tree board – tree needs to be removed in the park, bids will be received; Community building – insect control; Planning – OK.

OLD BUSINESS: Cats – Humane Society will be sending a bill for 22 cats, board will table the issue of the cats. The weather siren agreement will be signed and sent to the county.

NEW BUSINESS: Zoning board recommended to amend the Building ordinance at April 27 meeting.

Second 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 permitted use in a Commercial District to the current language of the ordinance was read.

Second reading of Ordinance 2026-07 establishing rates and charges for the use and service of the Municipal Water System to \$30 per household and for metered to \$3.00 per 1,000 over 5,000 gallon was read.

Second 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.

The sewer plant cost of cleaning was discussed.
Delinquent water/sewer/trash bills were signed.
No comments from guests.

Motion made by Donahoe and seconded by Gossman to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Next regular board meeting will be June 1, 2026 at the Stella Community building at 7:00 p.m.

Jana Wheeler, clerk
Claims and Payroll for May 4, 2026

Tracy Milke, water/sewer operator.....	350.00
Tracy Milke, expenses.....	177.99
Aaron Davis, assist water/sewer operator	300.00
Jody Bahr, cleaning community building	25.00
Dennis Bahr, 22.5 hours streets	337.50
Dennis Bahr, spray	40.00
Ira Hal, 10 hours	135.00
Jana Wheeler, clerk	700.00
Farm and City Supply, supplies. 71.97	
NPPD, green house.....	56.25
Street lights.....	525.88
Water	328.06
Sewer	49.00
Comm Bldg	36.84
Siren	36.84
Village barn.....	64.45
American Recycling & Sanitation	1097.32
Huettner Trucking, rock	2402.38
OPPD, water.....	2038.93
Midwest Laboratories, lab.....	731.18
Berwick, diesel	437.55
Joy Repair, repair	10.95
SNC, router	63.75
3JPest Control, spraying	105.50
Stella Ag, fertilizer.....	1368.00
Trojan Technologies, bulbs	28.00
IRS.....	485.05
NE Dept of Revenue, sales tax	381.42
	277.05
Dennis Bahr, mowings.....	277.05
	360.00
	ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF STELLA

Village of Stella Planning And Zoning Board Meeting, April 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stella Community Building

Present: Aaron Davis, Adam Stanley, Marissa Jones, Paulina Gossman, Darren Santana and Heath Stanley as chair of the Village Board
Absent: None
Guests: Kristy Fischer

Meeting was called to order by Planning and Zoning Chair Jones and noted of the posting of the open meeting act.

Motion by A Stanley and second by Jones to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All voted yea.

Motion made by Davis and seconded by A. Stanley to recommend 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.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:07 p.m. by Gossman and seconded by Santana. All voted yea.

Jana Wheeler, village clerk
ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF VERDON

VERDON MINUTES REGULAR MEETING – MAY 6, 2026 – 7:00 P.M. – VILLAGE HALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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: Terry Cummins
MINUTES: Motion by Koso, second by Bahr to approve, all Trustees present voting YEA.

AGENDA: Motion by Koso, second by Bahr to approve, all Trustees present voting YEA.

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

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

All claims were verified and checked over by Chairperson Koso.

COMMUNICATIONS:
1. May 2026 Shut off notices were reviewed – all have been paid.

2. A second dog complaint letter was received from a resident on her neighbors' dog. A second notice will be sent to the dog owner.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
1. COMMITTEE REPORTS: General: Reminder that the Spring Clean-up Day is May 16th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Streets: Armor coating bids have been received. Water: A Chlorine level report from 4-28-26 was received from PeopleService. Sewer: It was reported that the final payment has been received from USDA for the SEARCH Grant. Cemetery: It was reported that the new flag pole has been installed. Parks: It was reported that the water reading puck has been relocated and the gravel has been spread around the new hydrant and bike rack moved at school park.

2. NUISANCE/UNSAFE PROPERTIES: Still in process.

NEW BUSINESS:
1. Building Permit Approval: A motion was made by Koso and seconded by Strecker to approve the building permit application submitted by Terry and Dana Cummins for a new privacy fence and allow it to be up to 8 feet. All Trustees present voting YEA.

2. Weed/Grass Notices: Weed/Grass notices will be sent out.

3. Armor Coating Bids: A motion was made by Fritz and seconded by Bahr to accept the bid submitted by Hein Construction for the 2026 armor coating. All Trustees present voting YEA.

4. Possible Sewer Line Repair: Travis Jom has been contacted and will check to see if there is a sewer line break or some other problem causing the ground depression on the Lot at 3rd and Walnut Street.

ORDINANCE 2026-11 "RECONNECTION FEES FOR REQUESTED WATER SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS" was introduced and read by Cody Bahr. A motion was made by Bahr and seconded by Strecker to

accept the first reading of Ordinance 2026-11. All Trustees present voting YEA.

Motion by Bahr and second by Strecker to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. and all Trustees present voting YEA.

Meeting adjourned.

Dawn Bennett, Verdon Clerk
The next regular meeting of the Verdon Board of Trustees will be held on June 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

VILLAGE OF VERDON APRIL 2026 CLAIMS PAID

EFTPS EX.....	\$302.32
People Service SE	\$1,735.00
Verdon Library EX	\$25.00
Seneca Sanitation Service, Inc. SE	\$1,624.00
S.N.C. SE	\$92.15
JEO Consulting Group SE	\$1,500.00
Richardson Co. Rural Water SU	\$894.48
Petty Cash EX	\$9.70
Midwest Laboratories SE	\$349.14
One Call Concepts SE	\$4.06
3J Pest Control SE	\$1,368.00
Nebraska Department of Revenue EX	\$104.58
Nebraska Department of Revenue EX	\$307.49
NPPD EX	\$1,042.67
OPPD EX	\$134.69
Dawn Bennett RE	\$300.00
Dawn Bennett SA	\$1,212.98
EX=EXENSE, FE=FEE, MI=MILEAGE, RE=REIMBURSEMENT, SA=SALARY, SE=SERVICE, SU=SUPPLIES	
Dawn Bennett, Verdon Clerk	ZNEZ

E.S.U. #4

The Board of Educational Service Unit 4 held its regular meeting on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. in the Carson Board Room at ESU 4 in Auburn, Nebraska. The following claims were paid for the month of May:

General Fund -- \$70,428.56
Payroll -- \$485,042.57
NCECBVI -- \$34,078.53
Federal Programs -- \$16,660.51

The Board of Educational Service Unit 4 will hold its Regular Meeting at 12:00 pm on Monday, June 8, 2026, in the Carson Board Room at ESU 4, 2301 Dahlke Avenue, Auburn, Nebraska. The agenda for this meeting is kept current and readily available for public inspection at the office of the Administrator during normal business hours.

Notice is hereby given that a vacancy exists on the Educational Service Unit 4 Board for District 1. This vacancy is for an unexpired term ending 12/31/26. Pursuant to Nebraska Statute, the remaining members of the Board intend to fill this vacancy by appointment. The appointed member shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term, until a successor is elected and qualified. Qualified registered voters interested in being considered for this appointment should submit a letter of interest and resume to the Administrator at 2301 Dahlke Ave., Auburn, NE 68305.

Dated this 12th day of May 2026

www.esu4.org
ZNEZ

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NEPublicNotices.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC REMOVAL OF MEMORIAL DAY DECORATIONS

The Steele Cemetery welcomes flowers and decorations in honor of individuals for Memorial Day. Memorial decorations on graves are allowed one week prior to, and two weeks after Memorial Day, from May 18 to June 8.

1. One (1) shepherd hook 1/2" in diameter is allowed per gravesite and must be next to the grave marker and pointed in toward the grave. No Multi-hook or shepherd hooks that are not 1/2" in diameter.

2. Banners are not an allowed decoration at Steele Cemetery. The Sexton will remove all banners.

3. Decorations which are in permanent urn planters will not be removed.

4. During the Memorial holiday, for your convenience there will be a dumpster at the maintenance shed for boxes, packages, old decorations, and trash.

After the Memorial Day events are concluded, Cemetery maintenance must be continued and therefore, the Cemetery Sexton will be removing the flowers and decorations as follows:

1. June 2, 2026 - All fresh cut flowers, plants, and the unapproved containers (cans, glass, plastic, tin, and cardboard cartons) shall be removed.

2. June 9, 2026 - All other decorations, flowers, plants, wreaths & solar lights that are not in approved containers, will be removed.

Steele Cemetery Board, Gary Jom, City Administrator

FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING NOTICE

WHEN: Falls City Utility staff will flush fire hydrants starting May 18th, from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm, weather permitting. The flushing of 214 fire hydrants can take a few weeks to complete.

WHERE: Flushing begins west of Harlan St, moves north of the water tower, starting at 26th Street, and then continues south of 26th Street and west of Harlan St. After the west side of Harlan St, flushing proceeds from 35th Street, working south on the east side of Harlan St.

WHY: Fire hydrant flushing is preventive maintenance that identifies issues, assesses flow, removes sediment, and maintains water quality in our water system.

WHAT: During flushing, avoid using water briefly to prevent discolored water from entering your service piping. Temporary brownish-red discoloration may occur, but it's not harmful. After flushing, run cold water for a few minutes to clear any discoloration. Avoid washing white clothes during this time.

We apologize for any inconvenience. Your patience is appreciated.

Trevor Campbell, Public Works Director

20-21
ZNEZ

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAY 6, 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, May 6, 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 April 29, 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.

COUNTY TREASURER

Amanda Bartek-Ramsey, County Treasurer presented to the Board the listing of remaining unsold taxes to be moved to County Tax Sale.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to accept and approve the listing of those parcels of remaining unsold real estate taxes to be moved to County Tax Sale. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center and Jail this past week. He reported that there are 14 inmates being held in the jail at this time. The Department is working to make application for the USDA grant of approximately \$50,000.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the re-hire of Clinton Stonebarger to serve as a deputy and to approve the use of a patrol vehicle to be used by the sheriff deputy to travel outside of the county to his residence which is no more than 10 miles. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A quote was received and approved for repairs to be done to the garage doors on the Sally port entrance at the law enforcement center totaling \$2,000.

WASHINGTON NAT'L INSURANCE COMPANY

Aaron Brinkerhoff, Agent for Washington Nat'l Insurance Company requested to meet with the Board to present supplemental insurance products the insurance agency has available to offer to employees as a payroll deduction. The Board will review the information received and additional information that will be sent as requested and respond back to Mr. Brinkerhoff.

SE NE COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP, INC.

Kay Wissmann of SENCA presented to the Board information regarding a proposed increase for the Richardson County Transit. The proposed rate increase would generate \$2,500 in additional revenue for the program which is needed to meet the increased costs of insurance and fuel. Mrs. Wissmann also reported that it has been 17 years since a rate increase has been implemented. The rate increase would be .50 cents, from \$1.50 to \$2.00.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the recommendation from SENCA to increase the rate for the Richardson County Transit by .50 cents. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER Monthly Operating Statement

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

Fee Reports

Reports were approved for the following officials for fees collected during the month of April, 2026:
Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk \$200.58
Mary L. Eickhoff, Register of Deeds \$10,737.36
Pam Scott, Clerk of Dist Court \$ 754.00

Subdivisions

Resolution 2025-2026-36

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve a subdivision for Lori J and Byron L Whitney located in S10, T3, R16 and to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-36. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Camp-

bell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 106)

Resolution 2025-2026-37

Motion was made by Karas to approve a subdivision for Chad W and Janelle P Scholl located in S34, T2, R16 and to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-37. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 107)

Resolution 2025-2026-38

Motion was made Karas to approve a subdivision for Chad R and Callie E. Mullins located in S9, T1, R17 and to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-38. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 108)

Report from City of Falls City

A report from the City of Falls City for Tax Increment Financing for 2025 was reviewed.

Other

Information was received from the county's health insurance agency, Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. who service the Medica insurance coverage with the rate increase of 7% that will take effect on July 1, 2026.

CLAIMS

Motion was made by Caverzagie to hold for further review 2 claims which will be held for further review 1) Bethany Godemann for \$33.98 and 2) EMA Petty Cash for \$61.20 and to allow the payment of the remaining claims that were submitted today. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

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

GENERAL FUND

Amazon, supp	108.86
BuckIT, serv	7186.14
Charm-Tex, supp	272.90
Clerk of District Court, fees	402.00
CMC, serv	5000.00
Consolidated Management, serv	10328.50
East Richardson Rural Water #2, serv	273.24
ES&S, supp	8228.16
Falls City Journal, adv	1583.24
Falls City Utility Dept., serv	5946.68
Fankhauser, Nelsen, Werts, Ziskey & Merwin, serv	1131.00
JV25-45 J. Cooper, JV25-46 J. Cooper, JV25-47 J. Cooper, JV25-26 J. Lewis, JV23-20 K. Morris, JV25-42 S. Rose Farm & City Supply, supp	221.97
JT Farm Service, supp	813.75
Karas, Rick, reimb	338.72
KexRx, supp	1075.58
Marving Planning Consultants, serv	775.00
Maximus US Services, serv	2700.00
Midwest Mobile Radio Service, serv	30.00
MIPS, serv	3933.71
MIS, serv	110.00
ProServ Business Systems, serv	177.00
Quill, supp	1744.40
Richardson County Court, fees	642.00
Richardson County Sheriff Petty Cash, reimb	2.26
Road & Bridge Fund, tax	576671.99
Scott, Pam, reimb	77.60
Sherman's Station, fuel	325.50
SNC, serv	1913.06
SumnerOne, serv	119.00
Unifirst, serv	96.05
US Postal Service, supp	2882.05
US Signal, serv	1046.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$636,156.36

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Bahr Welding, serv	1100.00
Culligan, serv	34.64
East Richardson Rural Water #2, serv	46.00
Harmon's, supp	230.00
Martin Marietta Materials, rock	63930.25
Sapp Bros., fuel	33585.10
SNC, serv	110.91
Unifirst, supp	43.40
Woods & Aitken, serv	21067.35
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$120,147.65

REG OF DEEDS P&M FUND

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

DRUG COURT FUND

Dairy Queen, supp	100.00
Reece, Chris, reimb	100.00
Tacos Johns, supp	100.00
TOTAL DRUG COURT FUND	\$300.00

SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUND

SNC, serv	172.00
TOTAL SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUND	\$172.00

HIGHWAY BOND REPAY FUND

BOK Financial Corp., pmt	106443.75
TOTAL HIGHWAY BOND REPAY FUND	\$106,443.75

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, May 13, 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

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The League of Human Dignity is here to provide the information you need about public and private long-term care programs, including services, providers, and resources. We are a partner agency with Nebraska's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). Call on us to see how we can help.

LEAGUE OF HUMAN DIGNITY



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Sell statewide advertising across Nebraska's newspaper network. Simple product. Strong earning potential.

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

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19-22

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19-22

HTRS Public Schools is seeking qualified applicants for a 6-Man Head Football Coach

Duties include overseeing all aspects of the 6-man football program, including practice planning, game strategy, and supervision of coaches and athletes; managing equipment and facilities; and promoting sportsmanship, leadership, and academic accountability in compliance with district policies and Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) guidelines. Additional responsibilities include coordinating offseason training and strength programs, organizing team activities, and maintaining communication with players, parents, and administration.

Applications are available at the HTRS office, 810 Central Ave., Humboldt, NE 68376, or online at <https://www.htrstitans.com/page/employment>. Submit a completed application or a letter of interest, and resume to Dr. George Griffith, HTRS Public Schools, at the above address or via email at georgegriffith@htrstitans.org

21-23

HTRS Public Schools is seeking qualified applicants for a Full-time Custodian

(Applicant with a CDL has or willing to obtain a Nebraska school bus driver endorsement a plus). Full-time classified staff receive a district paid individual Employee Health and Dental insurance. Supplemental Vision insurance is available for purchase. Applications are available in the office at 810 Central Ave., Humboldt, NE 68376 or online at: <https://www.htrstitans.com/page/employment> and mailed to Dr. George Griffith, HTRS Public School 810 Central Ave., Humboldt, NE 68376 or emailed to georgegriffith@htrstitans.org.

HTRS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND VETERANS' PREFERENCE.

21-23

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

MISCELLANEOUS

PREGNANT—Give life a chance. We care for you and your unborn child. Women's Care Center-Lincoln, 1-877-908-2341.

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FOR RENT

Wanted Gehling Brewing Co. trays, signs glasses, etc. Call/text 308-379-9320

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

49-TF

20-23P



Preston Mezger looks smooth as he runs the 3200m at the D-1 District Meet. PJ Howe prepares for a toss in the discus competition on Wednesday afternoon.

Titans continue to raise the mark; next stop Burke

The HTRS Titan track team has had a historic season, setting several school records along the way. However, they aren't done quite yet. On Wednesday, the teams competed in the Class D-1 District Meet at Pawnee City. Three more school records came crashing down as the boys set new marks in the 4x400 and 4x800, while the girls' 4x800 also set a new record.

The 4x400 team of Kameon Dettmann, Emmett Glathar, Darius Bohling and Axton Wamsley placed second, set a school record and earned an at-large berth at state. The team's time of 3:37.95 bettered the mark of 3:38.10 set in 2010 and 2011. Glathar also bettered his mark in the discus, winning with a throw of 161-03, bettering his toss of 161-01 at the MUDECAS Meet earlier this season.

The 4x800 team also etched its name on the charts, placing second in 8:40.02 and earning a spot in Omaha. The time narrowly broke the old mark of 8:40.10 set in 2007. Team members include Wamsley, Bohling, Ewan Guenther and Dettmann.

The final record was set by the girls' 4x800 team. Team members Grayson Sherman, Eden Duryea,

Lillian Bowen and Makena Dunlap ran a 10:09.29 and placed second, earning a spot in Omaha. The time bettered the old school record of 10:15.56 set just last spring.

Other state qualifiers include Dettmann in the 400 and 800, Wamsley in the 800 and Glathar in the shot and discus.

Glathar won the discus (161-03) and placed second in the shot put (49-03). Dettmann ran a 2:03.92 to win the 800 and placed second in the 400 in 52.41. Wamsley ran a PR of 2:06.39 in the 800 for third and earned an additional qualifier spot.

For the girls, Lillian Bowen will be making her fourth and final appearance at the NSAA Championships. For the fourth straight season, the senior will compete in the 800-meter run. Bowen won the event on Wednesday in 2:23.47. She also blazed to the gold in the 400, winning in 1:01.82. In the 1600m run, Sherman ran a personal-best 5:52.14 and placed third, earning an additional qualifier spot.

Freshman Jazi Frey had a solid day. Frey punched her ticket in the 100h, placing second in 17.33 and winning the gold in the pole vault at 9-02.

Also scoring points

for HTRS on Wednesday was Preston Mezger in the 3200m run. The freshman ran a personal-best 11:19.00 to finish fifth. In the long jump, Bradyn Bowen jumped a personal-best 19-09.50 for fourth place.

For the Lady Titans, Miranda Rist was third in the 100m dash (13.46), while Grayson Sherman was seventh in the 3200m run (13:31.92). Dunlap placed fourth in the 100m hurdles, running an 18.83, while Frey was fifth in the 300h (55.99). The 4x400 team of Duryea, Dunlap, Bowen and Sherman just missed a school record, placing second in 4:24.21. In the shot, Ava Grimes placed fifth at 30-06, while PJ Howe was fourth in the discus with a PR of 104-07. Dunlap placed sixth in the pole vault, clearing 7-02, while Duryea was third in the long jump at 15-01.

Girls team scoring: Lourdes 125, HTRS 87.50, McCool Junction 84.50, SH 59, Dorchester 53, Diller-Odell 47, Pawnee City 34, Sterling 17, BDS 13, Lewiston 7.

Boys team scoring: McCool Junction 89, BDS 76, SH 65, HTRS 64, Sterling 58, Lourdes 53, Diller-Odell 44, Lewiston 36, Pawnee City 20, Meridian 20, Dorchester 2.

Glathar will compete on Friday in the shot put beginning at 11:30 a.m. Glathar will throw first in the second flight. The 4x800 team will run at 1:30 on Friday afternoon. HTRS is ranked sixth heading into the NSAA Championships. Dettmann will compete in the 400 at 4:05 on Friday afternoon. He will run in the lane seven of heat two. On Saturday, Glathar will throw in the discus event at 12:00. Glathar is ranked third and will be throwing in the third flight. Dettmann and Wamsley will run in the 800m on Saturday afternoon at 1:30. Dettmann has the third fastest time in Class D, while Wamsley is



Thea's Gift & Thrift's annual \$500 community donation was presented to members of Falls City Special Olympics. Thea's is an outreach of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church with proceeds directed for the support of Sacred Heart School and Sts. Peter & Paul Parish. Donations of gently used household goods are accepted 4pm - 6pm on Thursdays.

12th. The 4x400 team will compete at 5:55 on Saturday.

For the Lady Titans, Frey will compete in the pole vault beginning at 9:00 on Friday morning. The freshman is 13th, entering the event. The 4x800 team will run at 1:30 on Friday afternoon. They are currently the second-fastest in Class D. Frey will compete in the 100h on Friday at 2:25. Jazi will run in lane 7 of heat 3. Bowen will run the 400 on Friday afternoon at 4:05. Lillian will run in lane six of heat two.

On Saturday, Bowen will run the 800 at 1:30 p.m. Bowen enters the event with the second-fastest time. Sherman will compete in the 1600m run at 4:05 on Saturday. Grayson is ranked 13th in the field.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE CENTER!

"Community Amplification"

Sunday, June 7 at 2:00 PM

The Center
(Historic First Presbyterian Church Facility)
206 East 20th Street, Falls City, Nebraska

Join us as we open our 2026 season with a free afternoon of world-class music celebrating local heritage, featuring:

The Clefsmen (60th Anniversary Performance!)
Brian Hoppe (Organ) & Michele Gaskill (Piano)

ADMISSION IS FREE!

The Center is a newly formed independent entity dedicated to the residents of Richardson and Brown Counties. Learn more about our missions or how to support us through the Richardson Foundation by joining us on June 7th.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Presenting the 2026 Easton J Vonderschmidt Memorial Scholarship Winners.



Kyler Sipple
Falls City Sacred Heart



Addison Sayer
Falls City High School

SHAKING HANDS AFTER THE FIGHT

MAY 5, 1951 - ADOPTED BY BETH & RANDY SICKEL



Boys will be human beings and have differences of opinion. What a pity it is that all human differences, including international, can't be settled as illustrated--by a couple of stronger parties, who prefer peace to war, striding out of their living rooms in great annoyance and thundering, "You two fellows stop this nonsense and shake hands, or we'll tan both of you!"

John Falter's battle scene raises a nice question: if the lad in the red shirt started the fight by loyally proclaiming, "My pop can lick your pop," and if his father has just licked him with that switch, is this justice or rank ingratitude? That canine moaning in the background is evidently dismayed at the spectacle of human beings fighting like cats and dogs.
johnphilipfaltermuseum.com

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* Bloom Bonus Offers are available for a limited time and may be canceled without notice. Promotion is available from April 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026. One Bloom offer permitted per household, available for new Equity Bank households only, and subject to review and approval. A new Equity Bank household for the Bloom Bonus Offer is defined as applicant(s) not linked as an owner to an open Equity Bank consumer checking, savings or Money Market account within the past 180 days. The incentive may be paid for opening both a new checking and savings account during the promotion period. Incentive amount will be directly deposited into the customer's qualifying checking account after approximately 45 days of checking account opening, assuming all qualifications are met. To qualify for offer, customer must (1) open and fund both a new checking and savings account within 45 days of each other and no later than June 30, 2026, (2) maintain Equity Bank accounts in active and good standing at time of incentive payment, (3) receive a minimum of \$1000 in combined qualifying direct deposits into the new checking account within 45 days of account opening, (4) activate and use Equity Bank debit card within 45 days of account opening; and (5) When opening accounts online, enter "Bloom" under "Enter Promotional Code." If customer opens the accounts at an Equity Bank location, mention "Bloom" offer at time of opening. Promotion not available to current employees and employee household members of Equity Bancshares, Inc. or its subsidiaries. Customer will be issued a 1099-INT form for tax value of the incentive amount. Minimum \$100 deposits may be required to open Equity Bank checking account. Member FDIC.