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## You barely paid \$1 for this newspaper. It's not enough.

By Teri Finneman

Remember this number: 15 cents.

It's the number I'm repeating as I work with local newspapers as part of a national experiment to help save local news.

That number, 15 cents, is how much it costs you each day to support this newspaper with a \$55 annual local subscription.

15 cents.

Put another way, that's \$1.05 a week to support local news.

A Twix and a bottle of pop – both machine-produced within seconds – each cost over \$2.69 at a gas station I recently stopped by. Yet this newspaper that took dozens of hours of manual labor to assemble this week is selling for the equivalent of 15 cents a day.

Put another way: In the past 90 years, the cost of this paper has gone up \$1 total. That's about one penny per year in a price increase since 1936.

Imagine if your workplace only charged 15 cents a day for its products and services. Or only increased its price by one penny per year for the next 90 years. You wouldn't be in business much longer. It is literally insane in 2026.

And it's why more than 3,500 U.S. newspapers have closed in the last 20 years, leaving 213 counties as news deserts, according to research by Northwestern's State of Local News project.

What does it mean to lose a newspaper? Researchers know from the communities without one.

It means significant impacts on taxpayers when no one monitors local governments and their spending. It means more corruption. Reduced voter turnout. Loss of knowledge of civic matters.

It means increased polarization – think this country is in this mess by coincidence? The rise of cable news and social media with their nonstop misinformation combined with the decline in local news is directly connected to the current state of this country.

And then there's the social impact. Residents who lost their newspaper told my friend and fellow researcher Nick Mathews that they felt a loss of a sense of community, increased isolation and diminished pride in their

**NEWSPAPER -Page 3**



Teri Finneman



Ben Steffen captured this photograph looking north from the south side of Falls City following the storm.

## Heavy rainfall causes flooding across Richardson County

Heavy rainfall Thursday night into Friday morning, June 4-5, caused widespread flooding, road closures and river warnings across Richardson County.

According to local weather stations, rainfall totals generally ranged from four to five inches across much of the county. Falls City received between four and five inches of rain, with approximately five inches reported just north of the city and more than four inches recorded near the Falls City Country Club.

Additional weather station reports included 4.8 inches near Salem, 4.5 inches near Rulo and approximately three inches near Verdon.

Local residents reported even higher rainfall totals in some locations. A resident eight miles northeast of Falls City on the Dustless Road reported 0.85 inches. Several other unofficial reports included rain gauges topping out at seven inches southwest of Falls City, six inches east of Falls City, 8.3 inches approximately 2.5 miles southeast of Preston, seven inches in Falls City, eight to nine inches south of Rulo, 5.5 inches northwest of Shubert and 3.5 inches approximately six miles south of Dawson near the Nebraska-Kansas state line.

The heavy rainfall caused flooding on roads through-

out Richardson County, leaving numerous routes impassable. Closures reported Friday included portions of Preston Road, Pony Creek Road west of U.S. Highway 73, State Line Road south of Falls City and roads along Muddy Creek north and east of Falls City. Flooding also closed portions of Highway 159 between Falls City and Rulo.

The storm system also prompted flood warnings from the National Weather Service for the Big Nemaha River at Falls City. The river rose above flood stage Friday morning and reached moderate flood levels. The National Weather Service reported the river was forecast to crest near levels comparable to significant flooding events recorded in 1973 and 2019. At flood stages around 30 feet, portions of Highway 73, Preston Road and other primary roads in the area can become inundated.

Regional weather reports identified Richardson County as one of the hardest-hit areas in southeast Nebraska from the June 4-5 storm system.

Motorists are reminded not to drive through flooded roadways and to obey all road closure signs and barricades.

## Hartman and Reed named Grand Marshals for CMC Golf event



The 15th Annual Golf "Fore" Good Health Golf Tournament is quickly approaching. Mark your calendars for Friday, June 19, 2026, at the Falls City Golf Course. As the event enters its 15th year, a pair of Grand Marshals were named. Headlining the 2026 event aren't past Husker greats or even former NFL stars; they are a pair of Falls City Hall-of-Famers, both known for lending a hand to anything that will better the community and the people in it.

Both men are synonymous with the event's success. The 2026



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\$1.50



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## JUNE

- 8-13 **-LEMONADE DAYS IN FALLS CITY**  
Specials at Participating stores see ad inside for details!
- 9 **-LEMONADE DAYS IN FALLS CITY**  
Touch-A-Truck 5-7 FCHS Parking Lot, plus food & face painting
- 10 **-LEMONADE DAYS IN FALLS CITY**  
Foam Party 5-7PM at the North School Playground

- 11 **-LEMONADE DAYS IN FALLS CITY**  
Free Twilight Swim 6-8PM at FC Aquatic Park
- 12 **-LEMONADE DAYS IN FALLS CITY**  
Movie Matinee 2-3:30PM at FC Library & Arts Center
- 13 **-Oregon Trail Day, Oregon, MO**  
7AM-3PM

- 17 **-Join F&M Bank to celebrate Father's Day!**
- CMC Golf Fore Good Health Silent Auction Bidding Opens**  
- See ad
- 18 **-Michelle Henry retirement Open House. 1-4PM 1621 Stone**
- 19 **-CMC Golf Fore Good Health Golf Tournament**

## JUNE

- 20 **-Church of Cash Free Concert, in Table Rock 8PM**

## JULY

- 15 **-Humboldt Lion's Club Peach Sales order deadline**

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**Reflecting on Progress**

By Debra Johnston, MD

It's human nature to tell stories about the past, and doctors aren't immune to that impulse. The second year medical students rotating through my clinic have me reflecting on my own years as a fledgling physician, and the changes I've seen in my decades of practice.

I remember one late evening spent in the PICU watching over a toddler who had meningitis. At one point I turned and bumped into a bedrail, which came crashing down. Both my preceptor and I jumped, and I probably even shrieked. The child, however, didn't even blink. That's when we knew her illness had left her profoundly deaf.

The seasoned pediatrician I was with that month had started practice before the introduction of the Hib vaccine. As we talked about what we could do now for the child in our care, he told me stories from "the old days", when the PICU at Sioux Valley Hospital would perpetually have 2 or 3 children being treated for meningitis. Less than 10 years later, our unimmunized patient was the first case they'd had in months.

Early in my own practice, winter months would see at least a child or two here in Brookings hospitalized with rotavirus on any give day, and the occasional adult. They would be with us for a few days or even a week, getting IV fluids until the diarrhea slowed down. Our first vaccine had rare but serious side effects and was pulled off the market. The vaccine we've been using for nearly 20 years now has turned the illness into something that rarely lands a child in our hospital. To be sure, we still see rotavirus infections. It's just that far fewer patients are so sick that they require IVs.

We've got a new weapon against another common childhood scourge. RSV has been a terror for longer than I've been in practice. It results in the hospitalization of nearly 2% of children before they turn 1. We now have two ways to protect infants. The first is a traditional vaccine given to expectant mothers later in their pregnancy. Mom's immune system responds by developing antibodies, which are transferred to the infant. Since babies' immature immune systems can't respond to the vaccine we have for RSV, we can't give them that vaccine. However, we have an antibody against RSV that can be given directly to newborns. We've had something similar for most of my career, but it was expensive and had to be given monthly, so we only used it in the highest risk children. This new version is much less costly, and requires only one shot.

These strategies don't teach the baby's own immune system to fight the infection. Instead, they provide temporary soldiers to wage the battle. That protection will fade, and the baby's immune system will still have to learn to fight RSV by catching it, but we will have delayed that day until the child is older, and less likely to get terribly sick.

I am optimistic that RSV, too, will become something we still see, but that doesn't cause the suffering it once did. And I wonder, what will my young colleagues someday tell their future students about medicine in "the old days?"

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

**All things Nebraska**  
Getting straight answers — and not half answers — harder and harder

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner

A crusty, old state worker once told me that "the story of government is not what is said is not so, it is what is so is not said."

Wise words that seem to get wiser by the year.

That's because the opportunity to actually interview an elected officer or state agency director, face to face, with no questions off the table, are getting as rare as a snowstorm in June.

Most often — almost always — a request to talk to a governor, director or congressional representative goes unanswered and goes to voicemail. You get an emailed response that says "send some questions and we'll get back to you."

What you get back is typically half answers and political speak like "I remained committed to blah, blah...."

The press/media is partially to blame. We could have refused, long ago, to accept "email interviews" but we haven't.

(I recall when an appointed state senator, facing their first election, asked me to "email some questions" rather than submit to a real interview. I told my editor "screw that," but she said send the questions, because that was the only way we'd get a response. Ugh.)

(A year ago, I wrote about U.S. Sen. Pete Ricketts' purchase of a 3,500-acre ranch in Nebraska's scenic Pine Ridge. I requested a comment, and a PR guy said he'd get back to me.

I figured that I'd get a response like "I love Nebraska and wanted my own piece of it." But no. No response.

There are exceptions. When a senator or governor has a personal initiative, they might prattle on for an eternity about what a great idea it is.

We also have state "sunshine" laws that allow reporters, and the general public, to make formal "public records requests" for specific information.

Back in the day, such a serious request (one that cites state statutes and refers to a company lawyer) used to elicit a serious response. But not so much now.

Instead, you typically get some delaying tactic like "can you clarify your request?" or "we're so busy, this would take us months to get you a response." And then there's the "this will cost us thousands to fulfill, can you send a check?"

I wrote a little story a couple of months ago citing a report, required of the Nebraska Health and Human Services Department, on the number of kids getting necessary vaccinations.

The report included a graph that clearly showed the number of vaccinations decreasing.

What the graphic didn't include were the actual numbers used to compose the graphic, which, to me, seemed quite important for a story.

So I called the DHHS, which, instead of giving me the numbers, told me to submit a formal records request. That, I said, seemed unnecessary since the numbers used to create the graph must be easily accessible. How else could you compose such a graphic?

But noooooo. I had to fill out a formal public records request that elicited this response: due to the

high volume of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, my simple query would not be answered for three months!

That's ridiculous, I thought. That agency created a graphic that required numbers of vaccinations done. But somehow, now, they couldn't put their hands on those figures for several weeks.

As a measles outbreak was capturing headlines across the nation, I quit waiting, and wrote my story about falling vaccination rates — without specific numbers — because it was very newsworthy. I never received the promised response to my FOIA.

And don't get me started about the now-standard practice of elected officials rejecting live debates with campaign opponents. Such debates ought to be required in a democracy, so we can actually hear what a candidate says — unrehearsed, and unfiltered by some campaign consultant.

OK, you say. Aren't politicians busy? Aren't state agencies understaffed and overworked? Do voters even watch debates?

Possibly, but I doubt it. Don't we, via news reports and public debates, deserve straight answers to straight questions?

I think so. We ought to know that "what is said is so."

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: TV DADS

**ACROSS**

1. Calculus, e.g.
5. Emerald \_\_\_\_ borer
8. Web journal
12. Eurozone money
13. Ginger beer cocktail
14. Overabundance, pl.
15. \*Mike Brady's sons in "The Brady Bunch"
16. Taylor Swift's sixth tour, with The
17. Bob Marley, spiritually speaking
18. \*Howard Cunningham's TV show
20. Answer from a tunnel
21. Calms
22. Albanian currency
23. House that's mostly gable
26. Smallest
30. Ante-
31. Magi's gift, pl.
34. Of a particular kind
35. Like Scotch whisky, flavor-wise
37. "\_\_\_\_ the land of the free..."
38. \*Fred MacMurray in "My \_\_\_\_ Sons"
39. Nessie's hangout
40. Passport-giving organization, e.g.
42. A Beatle bride
43. Give right or privilege
45. 3.26 light-years
47. Sun, in Spain
48. The Gem State capital
50. London native, e.g.
52. \*Danny Tanner's show
56. Make awake
57. Popular sandwich cookie
58. Elephant trainer's poker
59. Loathing
60. Hot rum drink
61. Goodness gracious!
62. Yearnings
63. Letters of distress
64. Infamous Roman Emperor

**DOWN**

1. Crystal in the street
2. Atmosphere
3. Acid "journey"
4. Commotion
5. Pertaining to ear
6. Kills a dragon
7. Hitler's deputy
8. \*Dre Johnson's show
9. Verdant
10. "The Simpsons" palindrome
11. General Services Administration
13. Assortment
14. \*Dr. Leonard \_\_\_\_ of "Friends"
19. Delectable
22. Fleur-de-\_\_\_\_
23. Granny Smith, e.g.
24. Banned aerosol propellant
25. Strike back, e.g.
26. Through, for short
27. #12 Across, pl.
28. Part of an act
29. \*Sandy Cohen's show
32. \*Johnny \_\_\_\_ of "Schitt's Creek"
33. High-\_\_\_\_ image
36. \*Jack Pearson's show
38. Spam destination
40. Not in good health
41. Final words
44. Native American emblem
46. Resume business
48. Old West pack animal
49. Bread spreads
50. Foretell
51. Today's Colosseum, e.g.
52. Driving hazard, pl.
53. Desire
54. Fly like an eagle
55. Taro plant
56. \*Logan \_\_\_\_ of "Succession"

**CROSSWORD**

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**STAFF DIRECTORY**  
Brian McKim, Editor, Sports, Publisher  
nikki@fcjournal.net

Nikki McKim, Legals, Obituaries, News  
Ads, Publisher ..... nikki@fcjournal.net

Ron Dodds...Proofing, Backshop Foreman

Alex McKim, Advertising & Photography ..... alex@fcjournal.net

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75 Years Ago, June 10 to June 16, 1951

Burglars broke into a concession firm's office at Comiskey Park, home of the Chicago White Sox, and stole a two-ton safe, which the manager estimated contained \$75,000.

The Falls City American Legion Junior team picked up its first win of the season, a 4-1 triumph over Hamburg. Charlie Kottich led the club with two hits, while Gerald Nolte and Richard Reschke combined to allow just one run in seven innings.

Rulo School patrons voted 38-37 to discontinue the high school. Now, district officials awaited word from the state superintendent of public instruction to know whether the vote was a legal directive ending the operation of the high school or not. There seemed to be some doubt whether a simple majority or 55% majority was needed.

Mayor Paul Zimmer was elected as third vice-president of the Nebraska State Elks Association at the annual convention at Scottsbluff.

Sultry Screen Star Hedy Lamarr married wealthy night club owner Ernest Stauffer in a surprise ceremony that rocked Hollywood. This was the fourth marriage for Lamarr.

C.W. James, a member of the industrial committee of the Falls City Chamber of Commerce, took the board of directors on a tour of the Falls City Creamery Company to inspect the results of a \$50,000 expansion. James, president of the business, said the plant annually processed just over 6,000,000 pounds of butter, eggs and poultry and the addition would bump production to 10,000,000 pounds.

With the structure approximately a third of the way complete, the members of Christ Lutheran Church laid the cornerstone of their imposing new \$130,000 building at 24th and Towle Streets. A copy of *The Falls City Journal* was placed in the cornerstone for future generations.

Despite adverse weather, work on the city's new swimming pool was progressing. The floor of the pool had already been poured and weather permitting the walls of the eight-sided pool would be completed in the following days. Once finished, the pool would be approximately 100 feet between opposite walls in the octagonal figure.

Tubach Appliance advertised a Father's Day Special. Cameras for \$1.95 to \$67.50, pocket watches for \$2.75 and electric fans from \$9.95 to \$49.95.

The local draft office moved to its new quarters on the third floor of the First National Bank building in the rooms formerly occupied by the late Dr. H.R. Miner.

Three more business giants joined the "billion-dollar club" of American enterprise, boosting the number of members to an all-time high of 58.

50 Years Ago, June 10, 1976 to June 16, 1976

The NSAA announced some changes for the 1976-77 school year, including the addition of a wild card in some team sports. Two wild card teams were added for the eight-team state tournaments in volleyball and basketball for Class A schools. No other high school association allowed such wild cards.

Mark Smith whacked two homers as his Jim Hill's team defeated Rotary 14-3. John Nixon added a long ball for Rotary, while Steve Hoy had a double.

Arizona, Arizona St., Auburn, Clemson, Maine, Eastern Michigan, Oklahoma and Washington made up the 1976 College World Series field.

Falter's took out a full-page ad marking the celebration of its 60th anniversary. Leisure suits, Haggard dress slacks, Palm Beach Suits, Levi Blue Jeans, Arrow Dress shirts and much more were marked down.

Teresa Casey and Bob Aitken returned from Girls and Boys State in Lincoln. The week-long event was sponsored by the Nebraska American Legion and its Auxiliary.

Behind solid pitching from Paul Splittorff and clutch hitting from George Brett, the Kansas City Royals were 33-19 and atop the American League West division.

The Nemaha County Commissioners decided not to allow the Brownville Historical Society to hold its annual Fiddle and Country Music Contest which attracted 30,000 people the year prior. Residents of the area feared the crowd would damage their property, mainly due to too much drinking.

Anthony James Ahern, 24, Shubert and Janet Ann Stanley, 19, Stella, applied in County Court for a marriage license.

Approximately 230 people attended the annual reunion of the Falls City High School. Falls City Alumni Association Officers included Kent Morgan, Mrs. Charles Ruch, Mrs. Ruth Hauck, Doug Merz, Miss Gladys Grush and Earl Tubach.

The Falls City Marching Band returned from their trip to Orlando, Florida. While there the group participated in the Orlando Music Festival and marched in the Bicentennial parade at Walt Disney World.

Bill Dunbar and Bill Simon won the championship of the Tri-States Open best ball golf tournament at the Country Club. The duo fired a one-over-par 71 to tie the team of Dave Besinger and Bob Peterson of Atchison. The Falls City group won the title on the second hole of a sudden death playoff.

The Board of Education voted to comply with the minimum temporary recommendations negotiated with the state fire marshal regarding the Junior High School.

The Falls City Civil Service Commission ordered the reinstatement of Ivan Bieck as Chief of Police, citing his discharge was not made in good faith for cause.

25 Years Ago, June 10, 2001 to June 16, 2001

Darrin and Kim Schawang were the parents of a son. Luke William weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces.

The American Cancer Society was hosting the Relay for Life at Jug Brown Stadium and Bear Scholl was recognized as a survivor. In 1979 the then 32-year-old Scholl was diagnosed with leukemia and given a 30 percent chance of survival. "The treatments were hell," said Scholl. "But the results were worth it."

Richardson County recent high school graduates participating in the Sertoma Eight-Man All-Star football game included Brandon Bonk (SH), Brent Shubert (SE) and John Barnett (HTRS).

Longtime Southeast Consolidated educator Vicki Beilke was recognized for 25 or more years of service at the Nebraska Coaches Association banquet at the Great Hall in the Train Station at Lincoln's Historic Haymarket.

Patty Kiekhaefer and Lynne Davis combined to shoot a 73 and won the 26-team Falls City Country Club Over/Under 50 Golf Scramble.

Lindsey Borg, a senior at Nebraska Wesleyan University, was selected to attend a prestigious acting program held in England. Borg spent a month with The British American Drama Academy's Midsummer in Oxford program and then a weekend with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

City officials and utility department workers believed a faulty mechanism in the filter caused approximately 400,000 gallons of water to drain out of the Falls City Municipal Swimming Pool.

After 40 years in education, Dr. Duane Stehlik retired as Superintendent of the Falls City Public Schools. Stehlik spent his final eight years in the field as the boss of District 56 in Falls City.

David L. Jones was awarded a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at the spring commencement at Creighton University.

Midtown Service Center advertised State-of-the-Art Alignment now done at its location at 1501 Harlan Street.

Neeld Messler and Associates advertised nine houses, a movie theater and many mobile homes for sale.

The yard of Art Dean, 2015 Lane Street, was named the Yard of the Week by the Chamber of Commerce Pride Committee.

## Village of Shubert to lose warning siren provided by Cooper Nuclear

The Richardson County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the courthouse. Commissioner Rick Karas was absent from the meeting.

Highway Superintendent Steve Darveau Jr. was unable to meet with the Board Wednesday morning.

Sheriff Rick Hardesty addressed the Commissioners, reporting that the jail was housing 21 inmates. Hardesty also advised the Board that in May, his department responded to 563 calls for service, including 229 traffic stops. The jail processed 43 bookings: seven from other agencies, five out-of-county holds, and 31 Sheriff's Department arrests.

Hardesty also advised the Board that the Village of Verdon had reached out about the possibility of the Sheriff's Department enforcing ordinances within the village. No action was taken on the matter. The village will need to draft a contract, update its ordinances, and designate a person to contact the Sheriff's Department.

Jon Kirkendall met with the Board to present information on the upcoming Fourth of July fireworks display at the Falls City Area Jaycees Field. Kirkendall will be in charge of the fireworks show, which will be sponsored by the Falls City Area Chamber of Commerce and the Falls City Area Jaycees. Mr. Kirkendall presented a detailed risk assessment and safety briefing to the Board regarding the upcoming show. In his report, Kirkendall included a diagram showing the safety zones and indicated that a section of the 703 Loop would need to be closed during the display, which he anticipated would last 15-20 minutes. Kirkendall noted that the firing site will include a 400x50-foot area, and the spectator seating area will be approximately 460 feet away from the launch site.

The Board expressed its gratitude for the information and for the measures Kirkendall has taken to keep everyone safe.

Next, EMA Director Brian Kirkendall met with the Board. After a brief discussion, the Commissioners adopted the Nemaha NRD All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. Previously, Commissioner Campbell had requested additional time to review the plan before adoption.

The Commissioners also reviewed correspon-

dence from the Clerk/Treasurer of the Village of Barada, Dylan Handley. The correspondence concerned the Village of Barada providing insurance coverage for the outdoor warning siren located within the village's corporate limits. The County had previously requested that the village provide insurance for the siren, while the County would continue to provide maintenance for the unit. At this time, the Village of Barada has declined to carry the insurance. The County doesn't pay for insurance on any city or village warning sirens.

"I don't see where we should pay the insurance on it," said Commissioner Caverzagie. "We pay no one else's."

Another discussion was held to determine next steps regarding an outdoor siren in Shubert. Previously, Cooper Nuclear Station has furnished, insured, and maintained the siren in the village. However, with the implementation of IP-AWS (Integrated Public Awareness Warning System) to notify those within the emergency planning zones if an incident were to occur, Cooper Nuclear Station will dismantle the siren. EMA Director Kirkendall will meet with the Village Board to determine whether Shubert will provide insurance for an outdoor siren, should one be installed by the county. Cooper Nuclear Station anticipates moving to the IPAWS warning system on August 1 of this year. Another option for the Village of Shubert would be for the county to provide weather radios to area residents. Estimates to install a warning siren in Shubert are in the neighborhood of \$35,000.

Fee reports, monthly operating statements, and claims were paid. With nothing further on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

## NEWSPAPER

-Continued from Page 1

town. Without a newspaper anymore and only Facebook to use, one Virginia resident said virtually no one showed up to his event: "It's a shame. It's a sad thing. Things have changed because people aren't getting the information. Then they lose interest in it. I see it. It's not just a theory, it's happening."

The current business model for newspapers began in 1833. That's not a typo. Andrew Jackson was president, that's how long ago this was. That's when the penny press model started that determined news should be dirt cheap. Throughout the 1800s and ever since, newspapers increasingly relied on advertising to stay afloat.

Now, too many advertisers would rather turn to Facebook and line the pockets of billionaire Mark Zuckerberg - while their posts are mostly hidden by a computer bot algorithm that decides the small amount of posts you get to see - than support the newspaper.

As far as readers, a global Reuters Institute study found 57 percent of people didn't think they should have to pay for news at all. Apparently 15 cents a day is too much while they pull up to Starbucks for a \$6 coffee.

Without an immediate change in how newspapers do business, the future is increasingly troubled.

That's why I've selected your newspaper as one of the pilot communities in a national experiment to help save local news.

A lot is riding on what happens here with this experiment. And it's going to take help from all of you to make this a beacon for how to save local news across the country. We hope you'll be part of it in the weeks ahead.

Teri Finneman is a journalism professor at the University of Kansas and co-author of the book *Reviving Rural News*. She is originally from western North Dakota.

Come join us for an  
**Open House**  
celebrating  
**Michelle Henry's**  
retirement.  
Stop to wish her well,  
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**1:00-4:00 P.M.**  
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## Happy Father's Day from F&M Bank

Join us in celebrating Father's Day on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> with Meat Sticks from JP's Butcher Block.





The Falls City Rotary Club is pleased to announce this year's scholarship winners: The Falls City Rotary Club Scholarship for \$1,000.00, was awarded to Ella Glathar. The Louis and Nellie Ebel Scholarship for \$1,200.00, was awarded to Brock Caudle. We had two Wilber Roesch Math Scholarship winners for \$1,000.00, one was awarded to Peyton Brown and the other was awarded to Emmett Daake. The Gale Marsh Memorial Scholarship, for \$2,500.00, was awarded to Brock Niedfeldt.

SOCIETY NEWS

Falls City Drove No. 56 Nebraska Benevolent, Patriotic Order of Does of The United States Of America

On May 11, 2026 Falls City Does Drove #56 Nebraska met at the Elks Lodge. Dessie Scholl, president called the meeting to order. Initiation was held for new members Darlene Merz and Mary B Gibson.

Nancy McKim reported she had sent birthday cards. A thank you was received from the Richardson County House of Hope for the donation the Does had made. Dessie and Betsy Coolidge reported for Ways and Means on the recent Sandwich Salad luncheon. Dessie reported on a new source for nut purchases.

Linda Jilek gave the treasurers report. We will have a bake sale on Friday, May 22 beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Dollar Fresh store.

The summer social was discussed with the possibility of attending Brownville Village Theatre in July. Karen Ramsey is chairman and more information will be shared at the June meeting.

On June 14th the Does will assist the Elks with the annual Flag Day ceremony at 3:00 p.m. Officers will wear white. The next regular meeting is June 8 with Phyllis Kreutzer and Molly Kirkendall hostesses.

Humboldt Chapter 234 Order of The Eastern Star

Humboldt Chapter 234 Order of the Eastern Star met for a stated meeting at the Meeting Place at 2:00 pm on May 7, 2026 in long form. Worthy Matron Phyllis Kreutzer presided in the East

During the Opening Ceremony all sang the

Opening Ode. 'Lord Listen to Your Children Praying' and Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

The regular order of business followed with the reading of the minutes which were approved. The treasurer gave her report on the general fund.

Correspondence: Flyer from the Rawhide Wran-

glers 4-H Club at the Children's Home for 4-H supplies. David Wetrosky motioned to give \$50 to them. Motioned seconded and carried.

A notice regarding Grand Chapter visitation scheduled on September 19, 2026. David Wetrosky informed the chapter to request an alternate date since this conflicts during the Apple Jack Festival.

A notice regarding the Rob Morris Award Program.

OES News highlights were read.

Items discussed were a \$25 memorial donation to the Masonic Home in honor of Ed Bredemeier who died April 27, 2026.

Recipient of the \$600 chapter scholarship is Elizabeth Bstandig of Dawson.

The Chapter will support Bingo at the Colonial Acres Nursing Home on June 15 and Nov. 9 at 2:00 pm. The chapter will need at least three volunteers each time.

Sickness reports: Donna Monnette recovering from surgery, Phyllis Williamson suffering with gout and Alma Mach in Lincoln with pneumonia.

Trudy Fankhauser will not be able to attend Grand Chapter because of another conflict but David Wetrosky will represent Humboldt Chapter. Payment of \$30 will be given to the Pawnee Masonic Lodge for the use of their building for our Supervisor Instruction Day.

A Memorial Service was held for Ed Bredemeier and Past Grand Matron Arleen Kuhl. The charter was draped in their memory.

There being no further business chapter closed in form with the singing of 'God Is So Good.' Refreshments were served by Trudy Fankhauser. Jennifer True--Pro Tem Secretary.

BUILDING PERMITS

Jerry Oliver, 2208 McLean St.; air conditioner unit, \$6,674.00.

Todd Godemann, 2323 Stone St.; demolition of house, \$16,350.00.

Robert Denton, 2013 Towle St.; demolition of garage, \$2,200.00

Dr. J. Travis Kobza, 1901 Chase St.; sterilization room partial remodel, \$5,000.00

Kevin Coonce, 1821 McLean St.; install wall and floor support for bowling wall, \$12,326.88.

Sacred Heart Scholarship Blood Drive hits exact goal

By Falls City Coordinator, Linda Frederick

The Sacred Heart Scholarship Blood Drive was held May 20th and 21st at Prichard Auditorium. We started on time and had great staff both days. It was a very close drive. Our goal for the two day drive was 101 units and 101 units were exactly what was collected.

Our last donor walked in the door at 2:45 and we all held our breath to make sure she could donate. It worked.

Sacred Heart students put up posters, called for appointments, set up and took down tables and chairs under the guidance of Angie Taft and Christina Wertenberger.

The lunch meat was furnished by; Equity Bank and F&M Bank. Cookies by: First Christian Church, cheese and condiments; by Falls City Jaycees, buns by Phil and Laurie Froeschl and Paper products by Falls City Care Center. Sandwiches and canteen were taken care of by Sts Peter and Paul Alter Society. Judy Schlosser was at the registration table.

Thanks to Briar Burr for all the temperature adjustments.

The following donors who helped the students reach their goal were; Jeff Barker, Mary Barker, Mike Beer, Ryan Bentley, Karen Boatright, June Bowers, Chris Caudle, Audra Cave, Stacey Coupe, Mary Darveau, Gracie Deckinger, Tami DiGiacomo, Danitra Dill, Sarah Diltz, Naomi Dougherty, Karen Dunlap, Barb Ebel Adam Eickhoff, Breean Eickhoff, Eugene Ernst, Abby Fee, Dallas Fletcher, Trisha Fletcher, Lillian Foster, Terra Frank, Kailyn Frederick, Rodney Frederick, Laurie Froeschl, Phil Froeschl, Michael Garriott, Nicole Georges, Doug Goltz, Kurt Grimm, Andrea Groth, Delmer Gruber, Raymond Gruber, Tiffany Gruber, Brenda Guiliams, Ira Hall.

Costas Haralabidis, Lisa Heineman, Marcus Heller, Princess Hesterman, Ashley Hodge, Amber Holle, Jerry Howard, Charles James, Jennifer James, Emil Jilek, Allison Johnson, Caitlyn Jones, Deena Kafer, Joanna Kathol, Ron Kelly, James Keller, Sharon Kerl, Naomi Kirkendall, Malori Kuker, Lonnie Ludwig, Liz Luna, Rhiannon Mackey, Shaylee Mackey, Kristin Maddux, Scott Magdanz, Betty Malcolm, Felicia Martin, Mary Martineau, Ken Miller, Grace Morris, Micheal Nelson, Teresa Olberding.

Judy Parrish, Julie Phroper, Kelsey Prichard, Paul Rieger, Roy Rieger, Pat Rieschick, Mary Rowell, Jina Santo, Luke Santo, Richard Santo, Neal Schatz, Cole Schawang, Dan Schawang, Derek Schawang, Kim Schawang, Judy Schlosser, Alicia Schock, Crystal Scrivens, Christi Sells, Debra Shefford, Verna Shelton, Abby Shubert, Justin Smith, John Steinman, Nick Strauss, Janet Toomsen, Paige Vitosh, Lucas Vollmer, Amanda Vonderschmidt, Holly Westenguard, Alisa Wickham, Malesa Wickham, Daycee Witt, Duana Witt, Allarie Wilson, Diana Yoesel, and Christopher Young.

The next drive will be the Falls City High School scholarship drive on July 16th and 17th. Please Donate to help these students reach their goal. Thank You.

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| <b>TUESDAY 6/9</b>    | <b>TOUCH-A-TRUCK</b><br>5-7PM HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT<br>PLUS FACE PAINTING, HOT DOGS, POPCORN                  |
| <b>WEDNESDAY 6/10</b> | <b>FOAM PARTY</b><br>5-7PM NORTH SCHOOL PLAYGROUND<br>PLUS BUBBLE PLAY  |
| <b>THURSDAY 6/11</b>  | <b>TWILIGHT SWIM</b><br>6-8PM FC AQUATIC PARK<br>FREE ADMISSION   |
| <b>FRIDAY 6/12</b>    | <b>MOVIE MATINEE</b><br>2-3:30PM FC LIBRARY & ARTS CENTER<br>CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS<br>PLUS POPCORN  |

ALSO SHOP SWEET SUMMER DEALS AT LOCAL RETAILERS ALL WEEK LONG!

**The MENU**  
SINCE 2021

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| <p><b>FALLS CITY ELKS CLUB</b><br/>1417 Stone St., Falls City - 402-245-3814<br/>SUNDAY BUFFET: Open To Public 11-1.<br/>Chicken Buffet or Buckets To Go.<br/>TUES., JUNE 16- SPECIAL BURGER NIGHT<br/>Queso Burger<br/>WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 - WING WEDNESDAY<br/>THURSDAY, JUNE 11 - Regular Menu<br/>FRIDAY, JUNE 12 - Shrimp/Chicken Alfredo,<br/>Smoked Brisket, Chimichangas.<br/>SATURDAY, JUNE 13 - Closed</p> | <p><b>GOLD EYE Sports Bar &amp; Grill</b><br/>1821 Stone St. Falls City<br/>402-245-3203</p> <p><b>TO GO ORDERS AVAILABLE</b><br/>ALL COME WITH CHOICE OF SIDE!<br/>Craft Burger,<br/>Smoke-N-Fire Burger,<br/>and Bacon Burger - \$13<br/>Reubens - \$12<br/>Philly, Philly Original,<br/>Prime Rib Sandwich.</p> <p><b>SIDES</b><br/>• Baked Beans<br/>• Salad<br/>• Cottage Cheese<br/>• Fries<br/>• Potato Salad</p> |
| <p><b>SAC &amp; FOX TRAD'N POST</b><br/>3226 US Hwy 73 Reserve, KS- 785-742-2037<br/>DAILY ALL WEEK<br/>10:30AM-9:00PM<br/>CHAMPS Chicken Strips Dippers Bone-In<br/>BLU TACO Tacos, Burritos,<br/>Bowls &amp; More!</p>  | <p>LET LOCAL BUSINESSES KNOW YOU USE THIS MENU.<br/>IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE IN THIS SECTION, CALL 245-2431 OR EMAIL NIKKI@FCJOURNAL.NET</p>  |

## Peru State College announces spring 2026 President's list

Peru State College is proud to announce its President's List for the Spring Term 2026, recognizing outstanding academic achievement. This spring's honorees include students from Nebraska, 21 other U.S. states, Puerto Rico, and Montenegro.

To qualify for the President's List, students must maintain a grade point average of 4.0 for the semester, complete at least 12 graded credit hours, have no incomplete grades, and be degree-seeking.

Those honored for the Spring 2026 semester include:

Connor Michael Kettler, and Micah Andrew Oldham, Hiawatha, KS.  
Avery Jo Baumgart-

ner, Morrill, KS

Bethanie Payten Shrader, Jonathan Allen Ward and Heaven A Weber, Rock Port, MO.

Rylan Tucker Boellstorff, Jessica E Bowman, Kael Jon Clark, Carlee Rae Curtright, Michael Joseph Leininger, Terri Lynn Lindon, Dakota Mae Maher, Sheila Jo Miller, Rachel Anne Romero and Anna M Secord, Auburn.

Jolena Elizabeth Bassett, Kevin Kyle Coonce, Mackenzie Michelle Dougherty, Clayton James Hardenberger, Nevada Marie West and Malesa Dawn Wickham, Falls City.

Ana Karen Orduna Ornelas, Humboldt.

Cole David Anderson, Stella.

## Peru State College celebrates graduating class of 2026

On May 9, 2026, Peru State College celebrated commencement for its graduating class of 2026. A large crowd attended the proceedings in the Al Wheeler Activity Center on the College's campus.

The ceremony was presided over by Dr. Robert Mock, 35th President of Peru State College, who welcomed graduates, family, friends, and distinguished guests to the event. Musical selections of "The National Anthem" and "Irish Blessing" were performed by the Peru State Combined Choirs under the direction of Dr. Jacob Bartlett.

The 2026 Peru State College Distinguished Service Award was awarded to Joyce Douglas of Lincoln. Douglas has previously served on the PSC Foundation Board and on many other banking boards. She and her late husband always felt a strong commitment to the College and have been very philanthropic, providing funds for the Oak Bowl Stadium renovation, the Performing Arts Center, the Campus Entrance project, and, most recently, Project ROAR.

Ms. Cassandra Tangen was presented with the 2026 Peru State College Teaching Excellence Award. Ms. Tangen, a 2014 PSC undergraduate, is a mathematics instructor and the director of the College's honors program. She teaches a wide range of courses and is recognized for her engaging, student-centered approach, which fosters a classroom environment that is both supportive and challenging. As chair of the honors committee, Ms. Tangen has strengthened academic opportunities for high-achieving students.

The 2026 ceremony saw 317 graduates recognized for their academic achievements and dedication to their studies. The College awarded 85 master's degrees, 240 bachelor's degrees, and 47 associate degrees to individuals from 18 states and three countries. After the formal presentation of the graduating class of 2026, Dr. Mock congratulated all graduates on their

success and wished them well as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

After commencement, a large crowd attended a celebration reception on the campus's quad.

The following is a list of local graduates.

Summa Cum Laude 3.90-4.00 GPA.

Magna Cum Laude 3.75-3.89 GPA.

Cum Laude 3.50-3.74 GPA.

In addition, Michael Leininger (Auburn) was recognized as the lone Honors Program graduate for the 2025-26 academic year.

Master's Degree - Curriculum and Instruction  
Barbara J. Spangler, Hiawatha.

Jerica German, Auburn  
Kolby M. Helms, Auburn

Mikala Hinrichs, Falls City.

Kade Bredemeier, Falls City.

Lauren Witt, Falls City

Master's Degree - Strategic Leadership and Communication.

Justin Klumpe, Auburn

Julia Lambert, Auburn

Bachelor of Applied Science.

Tiah Becker, Business Administration - Man-

agement, Auburn, Summa Cum Laude.

Bachelor of Science

Drue Kemerling, Business Administration - Sports and Community Leadership and Operations, Rock Port.

Michael Leininger, Business Administration - Business Finance and Business Administration - Sports and Community Leadership and Operations; Minor: Mathematics, Auburn, Summa Cum Laude; Honors Program Graduate.

Chelsey Rae Ammere Mowen, Business Administration - Marketing; Minor: Organizational Leadership and Management, Auburn.

Emma Smailys, Psychology, Auburn, Cum Laude.

Jonathan C. Craig, Exercise Science, Falls City, Summa Cum Laude.

Emma McKim, Biochemical Science, Falls City.

Aiden Worthey, Criminal Justice - Legal Studies; Minors: Business Finance and Organizational Leadership and Management, Humboldt, Cum Laude.

Laney Craine, Business Administration - Business Finance, Shubert, Summa

Cum Laude.

Associate of General Studies.

Brianna Gutierrez, Rock Port.

Kelsi D. Heard, Auburn.

Markuz Oziminski, Auburn.

Mark Thresher, Auburn.

Wade Witt, Auburn.

Courtney L. DeBuhr, Dawson.

Christa Feighner, Falls City.

### Delaney named to Dean's list

Central College recognizes students each semester who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement by naming them to the Dean's List.

Earning this honor is: Josie Delaney, Hiawatha, in the Class of 2027.

This distinction is reserved for those who have earned a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher while completing a minimum of 12 graded credit hours.

The students exemplify academic excellence and a strong commitment to their education.

## Froeschl earns appointment to prestigious Air Force Academy

Jackson Froeschl, the grandson of Matt and Vicky Froeschl recently received and accepted an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Jackson received letters of nomination from Senators Deb Fischer, Pete Ricketts and Congressman, Mike Flood this past winter.



Jackson was part of the first graduating class of Lincoln Standing Bear High School and graduated with a 4.25/4.0 weighted GPA, Academic All-State, was a three year letterman in baseball and tennis and recognized

for Honorable Mention All State in baseball and tennis by both the *Lincoln Journal Star* and *Omaha World Herald*.

Jackson is the first appointment to a United States Military Academy from Lincoln Standing Bear High School.

Jackson will report to Colorado Springs, Colorado for basic military training on June 24.

Upon completion he will complete his post-secondary education at the academy where he plans to major in Aeronautical Engineering.

## Pressler Bruxellas added to Belmont University's Dean's List

Belmont University released the Dean's List for the spring 2026 semester, with approximately 49% of the University's 6,724 undergraduate students earning the academic recognition. Pressler Bruxellas is among the Dean's List students.

"The Dean's List recognition reflects a commitment to excellence that is both personal and shared across our community," said Dr. David Gregory, provost and executive vice president for academic excellence. "This semester marked meaningful growth across our campus, from breaking ground on new facilities to increasing support for our shared vision. Through their academic pursuits, their emerging impact on industry and their contributions to our campus community, Belmont students are rising to meet the moment. Their drive, focus and achievements - academic, professional and personal - demonstrate what is possible in a community committed to opportunity, innovation and the flourishing of every student."

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum

course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

Belmont University is located near the heart of thriving Nashville, Tenn., Belmont University consists of nearly 9,000 students who come from every state and 33 countries.

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- Sips on Lane:** Different Drink Specials Each Day!
- The Grind:** Any Flavor 32 oz. Lemonade for \$4
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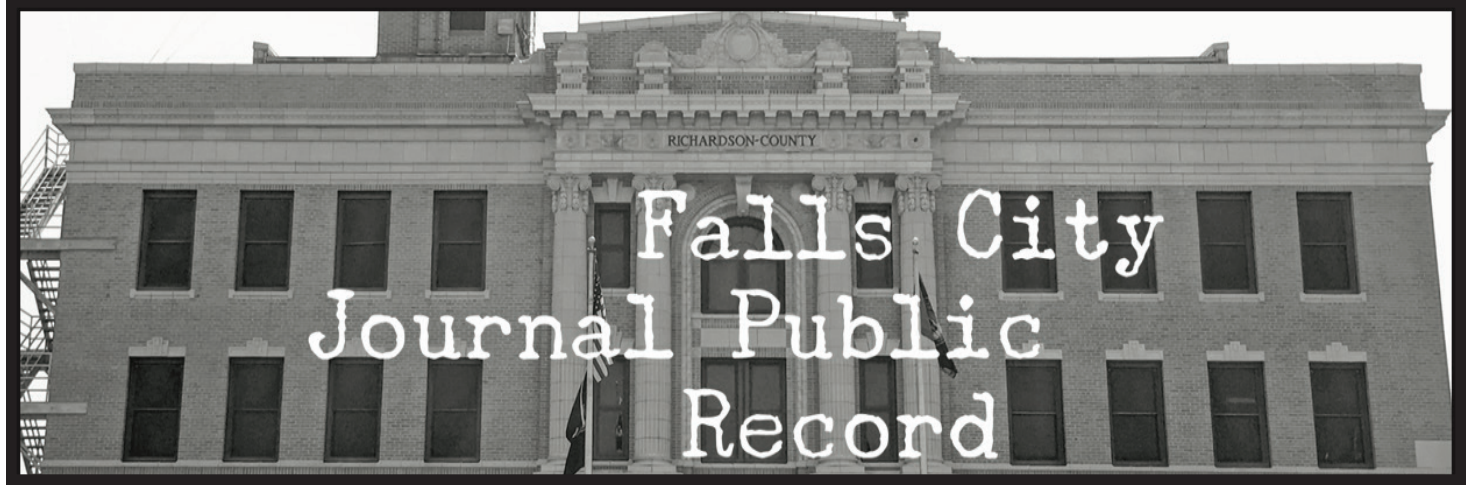
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**COUNTY COURT**

Tyler R. Russell, count one, DUI-.08-1st, pled guilty, found guilty. Sentence includes fine of \$500, jail for term of seven days, credit for two days served, license revoked for term of six months, interlock device.

Lando A. Rejda, count one, DUI-drug-1st, plea changed to guilty, found guilty. Sentence includes fine of \$500, probation for term of nine months, drug testing fee of \$45, probation admin enrollment fee of \$30, probation fee-regular of \$225, license revoked for term of 60 days, interlock device; count 2-5 amended to dropped/dismissed.

Robert P. Rivet, count one, DUI-.08 breath-1st, pled guilty, found guilty. Sentence includes fine of \$500, probation for term of nine months, offender assessment screening of \$10, drug testing fee of \$45, probation admin enrollment fee of \$30, license revoked for term of 60 days, interlock device; count two, careless driving, pled guilty, found guilty. Sentence includes fine of \$100, probation for term of nine months; count three, muffler required/good working order, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25, probation for term of nine months.

Philip A. Guest, count one, drive during revocation/imppound-1st, pled guilty, found guilty; count two, improper turn, pled guilty, found guilty. Sentencing scheduled for July 15, 2026.

Derek J. Olberding, count one, del/dsp/dst/man/pos contrl subs sch 1, 2,3; Class 2A felony, amended to attempt of a class 4 felony; Class 1 misdemeanor, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes probation for term of 18 months, offender assessment screening of \$10, drug testing fee of \$90, probation admin enrollment fee of \$30, probation fee-regular of \$450.

**DISTRICT COURT**

Joel Orona-Fernandez, count one, amended to dropped/dismissed; count two, possess controlled subs, pled no contest, found guilty; count three, amended to dropped/dismissed; count four, carry concealed weapon where prohibited, pled no contest, found guilty; count five, possess marijuana over 1 oz to 1 pound, pled no contest, found guilty; counts 6-9, amended to dropped/dismissed. Sentencing scheduled for July 21, 2026.

Nicholas R. Barrows, count one, terroristic threats, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes custody of the department of corrections for term of two years, post release supervision for term of 18 months, post release supervision admin enrollment fee of \$30, post release supervision probation fee monthly of \$630, credit for seven days served; counts 2-3 amended to dropped/dismissed; count four, possess controlled subs, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes custody of the department of corrections for term of one year, post release supervision

for term of 12 months, credit for seven days served; count five, DV assault-3rd/cause bodily injury, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes custody of department of corrections for term of nine months; count six, amended to dropped/dismissed.

Lawrence A. Reeder, count one, operate motor vehicle/avoid arrest-fly, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes probation for term of 18 months, probation admin enrollment fee of \$30, drug testing fee of \$90, probation fee-regular of \$450, jail for term of 60 days, license revoked for term of two years, credit for three days served; counts 2-3 amended to dropped/dismissed; count four, willful reckless driving-1st, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes probation for term of 18 months, jail for term of 60 days, license revoked for term of one year, credit for three days served; counts 5-9 amended to dropped/dismissed.

Shayne C. Songer, count one, theft-rcv stolen property \$5,000+, amended to theft-rcv stolen property of \$1,500-4,999, plea changed to guilty, found guilty. Sentence includes probation for term of two years, probation admin enrollment fee of \$30; count two amended to dropped/dismissed.

Blake A. Kaler, count one, assault by confined person-no weapon, amended to assault-cause bodily injury, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentencing scheduled for June 23, 2026.

**CITATIONS**

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

Joshua Anstey of Lincoln, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Quint)

Jillian Slama of Dawson, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Quint)

Kiffen Hunzeker of Humboldt, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Agena)

Michaela Thompson of Auburn, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Holliday)

Brandt Kopf of Rulo, count one, operate truck-weight restricted co/city highway, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$100; count two, overweight gross load more than 10% but not more than 15%, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$200 and court costs. (Shoen)

Arik Hernandez of Falls City, count one, careless driving, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$100 and court costs. (Daniels)

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

Paige Frederick of Falls City, count one, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Agena)

**FALLS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS AND STATISTICS**

**May 16, 2026 through May 17, 2026 calls:** three weather calls, one miscellaneous call, one suspicious person/vehicle call, four referred to other agency calls, two ambulance/EMS calls, two fire calls, one accident, and one 911 hang-up/misdial call. Fifteen total calls. Three 911 calls, fire calls for Falls City Rural Fire and Humboldt Fire, one citation for fictitious display, two citations for fail to use seatbelt, one citation for muffler required, three warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting, and one warning for speeding.

**May 20, 2026 through May 21, 2026 calls:** four ambulance/EMS calls, one vandalism call, two information-only calls, one nuisance call, one motorist assist, one traffic/driving complaint, one miscellaneous call, two records checks, one parking complaint, and one HHS intake/referral. Fifteen total calls. Ten 911 calls, one citation for no motorcycle operator's license, one citation for violate stop/yield sign, one citation for no valid registration, one citation for fail to use seatbelt, one warning for speeding, one warning for fail to signal before 100 feet, one warning for following too closely, two warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting, and one warning for plates not clear/visible.

**May 21, 2026 through May 22, 2026 calls:** four miscellaneous calls, one ambulance/EMS call, one burn permit, two records check, two referred to other agency calls, two investigations, one 911 hang-up/misdial call, and one nuisance call. Thirteen total calls. Seven 911 calls, one citation for improper turn, two citations for drive under revocation, two citations for fail to renew registration, two citations for fail to use seatbelt, one citation for speeding, one warning for fail to renew registration, four warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one warning for nonresident violate 30-day immunity, and one warning for fictitious display of plates.

**May 23, 2026 through May 24, 2026 calls:** three ambulance/EMS calls, one animal call, one miscellaneous call, and one check welfare. Six total calls. Two 911 calls, three warnings for speeding, two warnings for defective vehicle lighting, and one citation for careless driving.

**May 24, 2026 through May 25, 2026 calls:** two ambulance/EMS calls, three burn permits, one referred to other agency call, one 911 hang-up/misdial call, one miscellaneous call, and three traffic/driving complaints. Ten total calls. One 911 call.

**May 25, 2026 through May 26, 2026 calls:** one ambulance/EMS call, one referred to other agency call, one animal call, two traffic/driving complaints, and one missing person or juvenile call. Six total calls. Three 911 calls, one citation for juvenile-uncontrollable, two warnings for improper/defective vehicle lighting, one warning for fail to renew registration, one warning for plates not clear and visible, and one warning for improper turn.

**May 27, 2026 through May 28, 2026 calls:** four animal calls, two information-only calls, one fraud call, two ambulance/EMS calls, one referred to other agency call, one theft call, one parking complaint, and one traffic/driving complaint. Thirteen total calls. Zero 911 calls, eight citations for unlicensed animals, and one citation for nuisance-animals.

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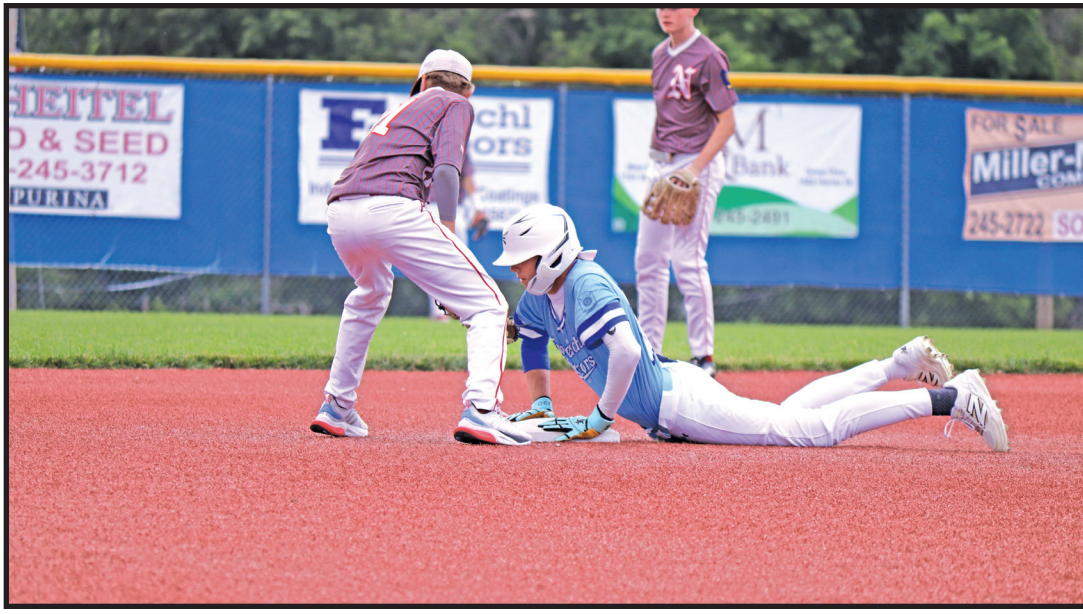
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*THE FALLS CITY JOURNAL*



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Safe. Baker Wissman beats a throw to second base in Post 102s win in the opener against Nehawka.

## Post 102 sweeps Nehawka

The Froeschl Floors Post 102 Juniors moved into the plus side of the win column last week, sweeping both ends of a double header from Nehawka Post 157, 6-4 and then 7-5.

Pitcher Kamdyn Huppert picked up the win in game one, allowing just two hits and four runs (0 earned) in 5 1/3 innings. Paxton Holmes came on in relief, throwing 1 2/3 innings and surrendering no runs, to preserve the win.

Falls City scored in the bottom of the first to take an early 1-0 lead. Huppert reached on a two-out single and scored after Baker Wissman reached on an error.

Nehawka plated two runs in the second, taking advantage of two errors and a pair of walks.

Post 102 took the lead for good in the third. Holmes began the inning with a

four-pitch walk. He went to second on a passed ball and third on a wild pitch. Wissman then reached on another error, allowing Holmes to sprint home to tie the game at 2-2. Gavin Shubert then came up with a big two-out single to drive in two to give FC a 4-2 lead. Pinch runner Gavin Dean scored the final run of the inning after an error by the catcher.

The contest remained 5-2 until the Angels plated two in the sixth to make it a one-run game. However, a single by Holmes and an RBI line drive by Ryder Hullman gave FC the 6-4 win.

It got interesting in the seventh as Nehawka loaded the bases with two outs, but Holmes coaxed a strikeout from the Angel batter to preserve the win.

Hullman went 2- 3 for FC with two driven in, while Shubert was 1-3 with an

**POST 102 -Page 8**

## Hartman and Reed named Grand Marshals for CMC Golf event

*-Continued from Page 1*

Grand Marshals are Coach William Reed and Ed Hartman.

In past years, the event has focused on the Nebraska “Legends” who make the annual trip to Falls City, giving area residents a chance to mingle with some of their sports heroes. This year, the spotlight will shine on two individuals who have long supported the Falls City community. One is a longtime resident; the other is a transplant who has been adopted by the area as one of its own.

Coach William Reed has been a major reason for the event’s success over the past decade and a half. His ties from his coaching days at Omaha Central have enabled him to bring many Husker legends to town for the event. As head coach at Central, he led the team to the Class A football championship in 1984, and the school earned the nickname “I-Back High” for the constant flow of running backs from the school to Coach Osborne’s Huskers.

Coach Reed said the event’s success has been achieved under the watchful eye of Linda Santo. The partnership between the pair has led to an event that has benefited the community and the hospital for 15 years.

However, Reed never envisioned the event lasting as long as it has.

“I thought it could go for like four years,” Reed chuckled.

On one of his early trips to Falls City, Coach Reed persuaded Heisman Trophy winners Eric Crouch and Johnny Rodgers to stop by a local birthday party to surprise the group. He smiled as he recalled the joy in that garage that evening when the two walked in.

That was the moment he realized his connections could benefit Falls City, which eventually led to the golf outing.

“It went places I didn’t think it could possibly go,” Reed said.

It’s safe to say Coach Reed is extremely proud of the event he has helped nurture over the years. “I’ve never been a grand marshal,” Reed said with a grin.

As we wrapped up the interview, I asked Coach what the event means to him. After a long pause, he said, “It means finding out that people are great everywhere. You just need to find a way to dig them out.”

The second Grand Marshal is long-

time resident and philanthropist Ed Hartman. Initially, Hartman was reluctant to take credit for the event’s success, instead heaping praise on Coach Reed and Linda Santo.

“Anything I did, I did for them,” said Hartman.

Hartman’s ties to the outing, much like Coach Reed’s, date back to the first event on June 24, 2011. That first event featured Johnny Rodgers, Travis Morgan and Clester Johnson.

Hartman said he and Reed became good friends shortly after Coach arrived in town, and the two played many rounds of golf together.

“So, when he came up with this, it sounded pretty good to me,” said Hartman.

Over the years, Hartman provided financial support to the cause and donated the use of his house on the west edge of town as a place for “legends” to stay.

“I owe Falls City,” Hartman said. “I grew up here, of course. I left and was gone about 10 or 15 years. I came back and have been here ever since. Falls City has been my home, and I want to support it and make it the best I can. I want something good for everybody, and I thought this was a good deal.”

Hartman said he is proud of helping the hospital, but he also liked the idea of bringing the athletes to town, giving local residents the chance to meet their heroes.

“Letting Falls City people get to know all those athletes, I think, was probably every bit as much of a goal for me,” said Hartman. “I’m mostly satisfied with how the athletes and fans, and all the people, get together and that sort of thing. That was the reason for being involved. If it were nothing but the hospital, I’d give it money. But this was different; it was a way to get the whole community involved.”

The four-person scramble will tee off at 9:00 on Friday, June 19, at the Falls City Golf Course. The silent auction opened on June 5, 2026. If you have any questions or would like to sponsor a team, contact Linda Santo at [foundation@cmfc.org](mailto:foundation@cmfc.org) or 402-245-6704.

*By Brian McKim; photos by Racy Hullman*



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### 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf “FORE” Good Health Golf Tournament

4-Person Scramble

**Friday, June 19, 2026**  
Falls City Golf Course, Falls City Nebraska  
8 a.m. Registration  
8:45 a.m. Welcome  
Tee off at 9 a.m.

#### Tournament Grand Marshals



Coach William Reed



Ed Hartman

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Thank you for your support and donations!




## ARMBRUSTER’S “BACK IN THE DAY”

She was the mistress of ceremonies and presented the welcome and grace at the 1980 Richardson County Home Extension Club Fall Achievement program.

*Last week’s “Back in the Day” was Jennifer Schawang.*



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# POST 102

-Continued from Page 7

RBI.

The nightcap got off to a fast start for both teams, with the score tied at 4-4 after one inning. Starting pitcher Carter Scholl surrendered five hits and four runs, while walking two in one inning of action.

Post 102 struck back in a hurry. Hullman led off with a walk, and Huppert came in as a courtesy runner. Two stolen bases and an error put FC on the board. A walk by Shubert, a stolen base and a passed ball put the runner at third with no outs. Brody Scholl drove a ball to left field to score Shubert and make it 4-2. Carter Scholl was then hit by a pitch, followed by a walk by Dean to load the bases. A ground out by Tatum Ramer scored B. Scholl to cut the Nehawka lead to 4-3. A walk by Reid Kirkendall again loaded the bases, and Callan Furnas was hit by a pitch to

drive in the tying run.

Elin Vonderschmidt came on in the second and set the side down in order. The Falls City offense was right back on the attack in the second. Shubert reached on an error and scored on a Brody Scholl triple. An RBI single by Carter Scholl pushed the Post 102 lead to 6-4. With two down, Ramer reached on an error, allowing the third run of the inning to score, giving FC a 7-4 advantage.

The Angels plated a final run in the fourth, but Falls City held on to get the 7-5 win and improve to 4-3 for the season.

Brody Scholl went 2-2 with a triple and two RBI to lead the FC offense. Vonderschmidt went three innings on the mound, allowing one run on one hit, while striking out three.

Post 102 hosted Louisville/Weeping Water on Tuesday, June 9, Elmwood-Murdock on Wednesday, June 10 and Hiawatha on Tuesday, June 16.

## Humboldt Chapter #234 Order of the Star Scholarship winner

Elizabeth Bstandig of rural Dawson, Nebraska was chosen to receive a \$600 scholarship from the Humboldt Chapter #234 Order of Eastern Star and the Grand Chapter of Nebraska Order of the Eastern Star. Each year they award scholarships to graduating seniors who best exemplify good citizenship and high moral character as well as scholastic standing and financial need.

Elizabeth is a 2026 graduate of HTRS. Her plan after graduation is to attend Highland Community College in Highland, Kansas to pursue an Associate's Degree in Accounting and then to Emporia State University to pursue her Bachelor's Degree.

While at Highland CC she will also be playing basketball throughout the year for their women's team. Her goal is to graduate top five in her graduating classes at both colleges and to pass her CPA exam easily. She would then like to come back to her hometown and get a job at the local bank.

## Coach Windle joins extraordinary group

Renowned Falls City Tiger wrestling coach Roger Windle will join a class of 14 athletes, coaches and contributors, when he is enshrined in the Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame at the annual banquet on Friday, June 12, 2026, in Grand Island at the Boulder Flatts Event Center.

"Surprised," was the word that came to mind when asked about his recent election to the Hall-of-Fame. "To me as a coach, I didn't look for recognition, to me it was always about the young men," said Windle.

Coach Windle joins the prestigious group, after having spent 21 years as the head coach for Falls City. Coach Windle had at least one state qualifier in each of his 21 seasons in charge of the Tiger program, including state champion Brad Olberding in 1995. Prior to becoming head coach, Windle served five years as an assistant to Larry Munn, and he spent one more season as an assistant in 2014-15 for Coach Nick Kraft.

Coach Windle took over the wrestling program heading into the 1992-93 season, becoming only the third Head Wrestling coach in program history. Windle took the reins from Legendary Coach Larry Munn, who had been head coach for 25 years. Munn took over the program in its second season of existence. Royce Corder was the head coach in 1967-68, the first season wrestling was offered at Falls City.

Windle was quick to reference Coach Munn and all he did for himself and the sport.

"I was underneath the great leadership of coach Larry Munn," said Windle. "Of course, he's also a member of the NSW Hall-of-Fame."

Windle continued about his mentor, "He also made it more about life and not just about wrestling."

As he reminisced, Windle stated that Coach Munn also had a great way of starting practice, something he referred to as "Soup and Nuts," essentially a rap-session with the kids.

"It was always about what was happening with the guys in life," said Windle.

It was a practice Windle continued as he took over, allowing time to talk to wrestlers before practice, just to catch up on what was going on in the young athlete's lives and allow them a chance to get things off their chest.

"I was fortunate to be underneath him for five years," Windle said. "I think

it helped me when I became head coach a bunch."

In his first season, Windle's team qualified three wrestlers for the state tournament. Brad Olberding placed third that season at 103 pounds, while Jeremy Vice (119) and Jarrod Chapple (152) also qualified.

The 1997-98 season was most prolific for Windle as his team earned four medals at the state meet. Dusty Olberding was fourth at 125, Marc Martin (215) and Tom Wissman (Hwt) were fifth and Chad Scholl was sixth at 189.

His 2000-01 squad sent nine wrestlers to state, the most in program history. The list that season included Ryan Williams (112), Billy Pierce (135), Ryan Eickhoff (140), Jake Harkendorff (145), Andy Dunn (152), Chris Vollmer (160), Dana Dill (171), John Watlington (189) and Shane Vollmer (Hwt). Shane Vollmer placed third and Harkendorff was fifth.

"There's always a few regrets," quipped Windle. "I would say sometimes not understanding the team and what they are willing to do for an individual."

As a coach, he noted he wished he had leaned on the team for more help with certain kids. He also mentioned regretting the fact that he didn't pick up the sport himself until his sophomore season.

"I was a freshman in high school and didn't wrestle," said Windle. "I think that's the difference between me placing at state and not placing at state."

Over the course of his two-plus decades in charge of the mats, Windle sent 79 athletes to state, with 24 grapplers earning medals at the big event.

Despite all the big numbers, Coach Windle says he always wanted his athletes to be better people after he was done with them.

"I was hoping I was giving them direction," Windle said. "Not just about wrestling, but about life."

The 2012-13 season was his final at the helm for the Orange and Black, ending a storied career that spanned more than two and a half decades.

"I would tell you today, I would be a much better coach than I was when I started in 1993," remarked Windle.

While coach Windle expressed extreme gratification and delight for his honor, he exclaimed over and over, "It's not why I did it; it's all about the boys."

## Eickhoff advances to final U.S. Open qualifying stage

Photo credit: Jamie Eickhoff

Jake Eickhoff holds his official U.S. Open certificate advancing him to compete in the 2026 Final U.S. Qualifying Stage. Top golfers from these Final Qualifying Stage events will be eligible to compete in the 126th U.S. Open Championship on June 18-21, 2026.

Jake Eickhoff, son of Auburn High School alum Jamie Eickhoff ('91) and his wife, Kari, of Arrington, Tennessee, competed in the 2026 U.S. Open Championship Local Qualifying event on May 7, 2026, at RTJ Golf Trail at Silver Lakes in Glencoe, Alabama.

A total of 108 local qualifying events were held throughout the United States and at several international sites this spring. At Silver Lakes in Glencoe, 84 golfers competed in the 18-hole event, with the top five players advancing to the Final U.S. Open Qualifying Stage.

Eickhoff's score of 69 (-3) placed him in a tie for second, qualifying him to advance to the Final Qualifying Stage for the U.S. Open. Qualifiers from around

the world will compete at a host of U.S. golf courses in a 36-hole, one-day format event this summer. Eickhoff is hoping to be assigned to compete on June 8 near Atlanta, Georgia.

Top golfers from the Final Qualifying Stage will be eligible to compete in the 126th U.S. Open Championship on June 18-21, 2026.

Eickhoff will continue to compete individually in various tournaments this summer and as a member of the Page High School golf team during his senior year. He has committed to join the UNL Golf Team after his high school graduation.

Diana and John Eickhoff of Auburn are Eickhoff's grandparents. He is the nephew of Betsy and Troy Nelson of Falls City, Sarah Eickhoff of Johnson, Michelle and Jeremy Eickhoff of Gretna and Jason Eickhoff of Lincoln.

The final qualifying stage is often referred to as the "Longest Day of Golf" because golfers play 36 holes in one day. According to Jamie Eickhoff, golfers will also walk an estimated six miles or more during the event.





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# Summer CASH GIVEAWAYS

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13<sup>th</sup> - SUMMER CASH PROGRESSIVE GIVEAWAY TO WIN A PIECE OF \$10,000 CASH!**

Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$200 in free play every half hour 12pm-4pm plus win an extra entry into the CASH Drawings starting at 6:30pm. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$250 in free play every hour 6pm-1am. Progressive Registration CASH Drawings to win a piece of \$10,000 in CASH every hour 6:30pm-12:30am. See rules for all the details. The first CASH drawing will start at \$500 progressing up to \$2,500 at 12:30am. (See rules below)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14<sup>th</sup> - FLAG DAY!**

All Military personnel will get \$20 in free play with valid ID & valid Military ID. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$100 in free play every ½ hour 12pm-4pm. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$200 in free play or CASH every ½ hour 6pm-12am.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20<sup>th</sup> - SUMMER CASH PROGRESSIVE GIVEAWAY TO WIN A PIECE OF \$10,000 CASH!**

Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$200 in free play every half hour from 12pm-4pm plus win an extra entry into the CASH Drawings starting at 6:30pm. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$250 in free play every hour 6pm-1am. Progressive Registration CASH Drawings to win a piece of \$10,000 in CASH every hour 6:30pm-12:30am. See rules for all the details. The first CASH Drawing will start at \$500, progressing up to \$2,500 at 12:30am. (See rules below)

**Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> - HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!**

All Fathers on Father's Day will get 10% off lunch or dinner special! Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$200 in free play every hour from 12pm-4pm. Hot Seat Drawings for "Fathers Only" will win up to \$200 in CASH every hour from 12:30pm-3:30pm. A second Hot Seat at 4pm will be drawn for "Fathers Only" for the chance to win an Outdoor Grill plus \$100 in free play. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$200 in free play every hour from 6pm-12am. Hot Seat Drawings for "Fathers Only" will win up to \$200 in CASH every hour from 6:30pm-11:30pm. A second Hot Seat at 11pm will be drawn for "Fathers Only" for the chance to win an Outdoor Grill plus \$100 in free play. (For Father's Day, Fathers are only eligible for a one-time 10% discount for the restaurant's lunch or dinner special.)

**Restaurant Father's Day Special:**  
Baby Back Ribs served with BBQ Baked Beans, Potato Salad and Strawberry Shortcake. \$17 each while supplies last.


**RODEO WEEKEND - "RIDE ON IN EARLY TO A BUCKING GOOD TIME GIVEAWAY!"**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**

Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$100 in free play every ½ hour from 12pm-4pm. Hot Seat Drawings to win up to \$500 in free play every ½ hour from 6pm-12:30am. (Excludes the 8pm, 9pm, 10pm, 11pm & 12am Drawings) Progressive Registration CASH Drawings every hour from 8pm to 1am to win up to \$1,250 in CASH. The first CASH drawing will start at \$200 progressing up to \$1,250 at 1am.

**37<sup>th</sup> Annual Chief White Cloud Rodeo**  
**Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>**  
The Rodeo will start at 7pm at the Iowa Tribe Complex next to the Casino! See Player's Club desk for more information.

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## Council makes quick work of agenda

The Falls City Council met on Monday, June 1, 2026, for a regularly scheduled meeting at City Hall. Councilpersons Kaster and Buckminster were absent from the roll call.

The meeting moved along quickly as there were no Mayors, City Administrator or Chief of Police reports.

With no Old Business on the agenda, the Council moved straight ahead to the regular agenda.

First on the docket was a request for a special designated liquor license for June 5 and 6, 2026, at the Falls City Elks Lodge, located at 1417 Stone Street, for the Smoking on the Bricks Event. The request was submitted by Elks Lodge Secretary Mik Christian. The fundraiser features an annual Kids' Que and an adult cornhole tournament on Friday night, with the competition and award presentation on Saturday evening. The event features a smoked meat competition and a beer garden at the Elks Lodge parking lot.

The request was approved 6-0 with two absent.

The final item on the abbreviated agenda was a request from Liz Kelly for the annual First United Methodist Church ice cream social and fireworks event. Kelly addressed the Board, asking that 17th Street, between Harlan and Lane, be blocked off the evening of Friday, June 26, 2026. Kelly has also spoken to the Falls City Volunteer Fire Department and has requested their presence on the evening in question.

Kelly said the event is typically held on the Friday before the 4th of July; however, due to the larger community fireworks show on July 4th this year, the event was moved up.

The City will provide barricades to block the streets, and volunteers from the event will be responsible for setting up and taking down the barriers.

With no further items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

## Gilbert Thompson

Gilbert Thompson, 83, of Falls City, NE, passed away May 30, 2026 at Falls City. He was born February 8, 1943 at Farago, NE to Everett and Lucille (Scholl) Thompson.

He married Carol Ramsey on January 28, 1965 at Hiawatha, KS. She passed away September 16, 1998.

Gilbert was raised in the Rulo area and following his schooling he worked as a farm hand and then did commercial fishing on the Missouri River. He also worked at Falls City Creamery, Frontier Trailor Factory and Excel Meat Company at Rock Port, MO and Falls City Meat Company. He retired from the White Cloud Casino where he worked in maintenance in 2005.

Gilbert is survived by his children, Shawn and his wife Heather, Rita Cooce and her husband Kevin, Raphael and his wife Anna, all of Falls City, brother, Norman and his wife Pamela of Rulo, fourteen grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Larry, and a sister, Shirlee Fee.

His funeral was held on Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 10:30 AM at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home with Pastor David Showalter officiating. Interment was in Rulo Cemetery.

The family will received friends on Tuesday from 7-8:00 PM at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home.

## Falls City Police Department announces Bulletproof vest partnership

Falls City Police Chief Jamie Baker is pleased to announce that the department has been awarded \$4,614.21 in grant funding to help purchase bulletproof vests for its officers. The Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) is a unique initiative through the U.S. Department of Justice designed to provide this critical resource to state and local law enforcement agencies.

Assist Chief Mike Dougherty, who wrote the grant application for the department, said the funding will help pay for the new bulletproof vests needed because of aging equipment due to the five-year life expectancy of the vests.

"Manufacturers recommend replacing a vest after five years of service, because this piece of equipment is so vitally important to our officers, we make sure they are properly equipped and protected".

"Grant funding is a tremendous benefit to us, the City of Falls City, and our taxpayers and we try to take advantage of every opportunity available when grant funding is concerned."

## How Flag Day got its start

Flag Day is commemorated each year in the United States on June 14. Though Flag Day is not an official federal holiday, the day remains significant and traces its origins back to 1777.

The Second Continental Congress formally adopted the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777. That resolution noted certain characteristics of the new flag, including the alternating red and white stripes that remain part of the flag that is celebrated each June 14.

The flag is flown from all public buildings on Flag Day, which the Farmer's Almanac reports is another rich tradition that dates back 1877 and the centennial of the flag's adoption.

President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential

proclamation on June 14, 1916, that designated the day as Flag Day going forward. Thirty-three years after President Wilson's proclamation, the U.S. Congress officially established June 14 as National Flag Day.

One notable tidbit Americans can consider this Flag Day is the connection between the flag and seamstress Betsy Ross. Many American schoolchildren were taught that Ms. Ross designed and sewed the first American flag, but historians have since discredited that legend. The Farmer's Almanac notes that many historians now believe George Washington already had a design for a flag with 13 red and white alternating stripes and 13 six-pointed stars set in a circle when he visited Ms. Ross in Philadelphia. And while historians do not doubt that Ms. Ross sewed a flag reflecting the design George Washington brought with him when visiting the seamstress, it's hard to confirm if she in fact sewed the first flag.

## Susan Kruse



Susan Kruse, age 74, of Auburn, Nebraska, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 29, 2026, at the Good Samaritan Society-Auburn. To know Susan was to know someone who made everything around her more beautiful.

Susan was born November 20, 1951, in Sidney, Nebraska, to Charlyn (Hagemeister) and Bennie Herboldsheimer. She grew up the third of four children on the family's 2,200-acre wheat farm seven miles south of Potter, Nebraska. She enjoyed a childhood rich with wide open skies, road trips, beloved cousins, and more than a few memorable hijinks with her younger brother, Steven. Those early years shaped her into someone who was hardworking, creative, deeply rooted in family, and a bit ornery.

Susan graduated from Potter High

School in 1970, the same year she was crowned Nebraska Wheat Queen — a title that suited her perfectly. She went on to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she joined Gamma Phi Beta sorority and built friendships that would last a lifetime. She graduated in 1973 with a degree in Home Economics Education and Extension.

On January 4, 1974, she married the love of her life, Darrell Kruse. Together they built a beautiful life across southeast Nebraska. The couple resided first in Lincoln, then Humboldt, Falls City, and eventually Auburn, where they put down deep roots in 1989.

Susan stood faithfully by Darrell's side through his health challenges in their later years, never wavering in her devotion to him. They were blessed by 52 years of marriage. In 2024, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their daughters and grandchildren with a memorable vacation in Estes Park, Colorado where they had honeymooned.

Susan had a career as colorful and creative as she was. She served as a Nebraska Extension Home Economist across Richardson, Pawnee, Nemaha, and Johnson counties, and later owned and operated Ultra Stitches, her own custom drapery and home interior business, for more than 20 years. She touched countless homes — and made countless friends — through that work. In her later years, she brought her warmth and playfulness to the children at Trinity Lutheran Preschool, where she was exactly the kind of teacher every child deserves.

But if you asked Susan where she shined brightest, she would have said at home with her girls. She was a mother who never said no to making a mess if it meant making a memory. Cardboard forts, crafts, dress up, paint and more. She poured herself into motherhood without reservation. She never missed a volleyball game, a swim meet, golf match, a school performance, or a speech competition. She was always there.

Her Christmas cookie baking was nothing short of legendary — a multi-day production that she made sure her daughters understood was meant to be shared with neighbors and friends. She created holiday magic like it was her calling, because for her, it was. As long as the girls were willing, she made them matching dresses for holidays like Christmas and Easter.

Susan was an extraordinary artist. Her quilting was known throughout the region, earning her ribbons and awards at county fairs and the Nebraska State Fair, including a first-place finish for her hand-appliqued miniature wall quilt she titled "Puddy's on My Quilt" which was a loving tribute to her cat, Pudd. She blessed many people over the years with handmade table runners and lap quilts made with her own two hands and a whole lot of love.

Susan had a gift of making special celebrations even more special. When Kristin got married, she sewed the bridesmaid dresses. When Sarah graduated college, she made her an incredible quilt of the periodic table in honor of Sarah's chemistry major.

Susan was a woman of deep faith and generous community spirit. She was active in her church throughout her life by singing in the choir, leading Sunday school, participating in women's Bible study, and helping with vacation Bible school and Christmas programs. She was a founding member of the Prayers & Quilts group, a member of the Heritage Needlework Guild, Kiwanis Club, and Toastmasters, and sang with the Sweet Adelines barbershop group in Falls City. She gave of herself freely and without keeping score — to her church, her neighbors, her friends, and most tenderly, to her own mother, Charlyn, whom she cared for in her final years.

Her faith was steadfast, and the greatest comfort to those who are missing her now is knowing she is exactly where she always believed she would be: reunited with God, with Jesus, and with the loved ones who went before her. That faith was one of the greatest gifts she passed on to her daughters and grandchildren, and it will carry forward in all of them.

Susan is survived by her husband, Darrell Kruse of Auburn; her daughters and sons-in-law, Kristin and Casey Tyler of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Sarah and Edward Ibinson Jr. of King George, Virginia; her grandchildren, Henry and Quinn Tyler, and Eleanor and Edward Ibinson III; her sister, Patrice (Mike) Egging of Pratt, Kansas; sister-in-law Lori (Kent) Evers of Beatrice; brothers-in-law Steven (Terri) Kruse and Timothy (Angela) Kruse, both of Beatrice; and many beloved nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Alicia Eagan; her brother, Steven Herboldsheimer; and her niece, Mendi Cotter.

A funeral service was held June 5, 2026, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Auburn, officiated by Rev. Jackie Gfeller. Edith Schlange played accompaniment for congregational hymns led by Ron Heskett. Blaine Eagan, Matt Egging, Patrick Egging, Luke Egging, Lynette Freeman, and Kevin Hamm served as casket bearers. Burial took place in Steele Cemetery at Falls City.

Services were entrusted to Hemmingsen Funeral Home of Auburn.

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# Celebrating 250 years of America and Richardson County James Henry Lane

As the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary in 2026, communities across the nation are reflecting on the people, places and events that shaped their local history.

The articles in this series have been researched and written by members of the Richardson County Historical Society and the Underground Railroad Museum Board, drawing from historical records, local collections and years of preservation work dedicated to protecting our county's heritage.

Join us over the coming weeks as we celebrate 250 years of American history through the unique local stories that helped shape our corner of the nation.

To commemorate America's semiquincentennial, the *Falls City Journal* is proud to present a special five-part series highlighting some of the early founders and influential figures who helped establish Falls City. This is part two.

By Bill Rowan

Falls City founder General James Henry Lane, the "Grim Chieftain," was known for his fanatical oratory opposing slavery in the years preceding the Civil War.

Born in Indiana in 1814, he served as a colonel in the Mexican War and later as Lt. Governor and congressman of Indiana.

His advocacy for the abolition of slavery, being a "Free-Sailer," led to his establishment of what became known as the "Lane Trail," used to smuggle arms into Kansas to fight against the spread of slavery into that territory and also to bring in more anti-slavery settlers. This trail ran from Tabor, Iowa through Nebraska City down to Topeka, Kansas, avoiding the Missouri River because it was controlled by pro-slavery Missouri "border ruffians." While the trail was used for Lane's smuggling operation, it was also used as a convenient route for what became known as the "Underground Railroad" run by fellow anti-slavery fanatic John Brown.

Starting in 1856 Lane and his men would stop in the

new town of Archer, our first county seat, and would pay handsomely for good meals at John Miller's hotel (actually a tavern).

According to Edwards' History of Richardson County, Miller's daughter, Margaret Miller Maddox, in 1917 told of an incident in the summer of 1856:

"Then the Kansas troubles began, and old John Brown and Jim Lane, of later national fame, were continuously passing through to the north and back again, which kept up a constant excitement until late in the fall. With my parents keeping the tavern I often had to go and help mother cook for three or four hundred of these men at a time. They sent a man ahead and when the word came everybody got busy. They killed bees, hogs, chickens, prepared the best vegetables, everything in abundance, for these men wanted the best and were willing to pay for it."

Archer and Falls City became stopping points on the Underground Railroad run by Brown and other "conductors." Miller's hotel also provided meals to Brown's men and the runaway slaves they were smuggling. This was risky as Archer resident Houston Nuckolls ran a general store and his brother Stephen of Nebraska City was one of the largest slave-owners in the Nebraska Territory.

Also in 1856, Lane set up camp on what is now Falls City's courthouse square. From this vantage point General Lane and his "Army of the North" could see the crossing at the Nemaha falls and any pro-slavery force that might be coming up from Kansas. This hilltop site was referred to by his men as "Lanesville."

A year later, fellow Indianian John Burbank and others formed a town company and platted Falls City on that site. Other "Jim Lane towns" started by the general and his men were Lexington, Plymouth, Padonia, and Doniphan where Lane was president of the town company.

These towns were all in Kansas; Falls City being the only "Jim Lane town" in Nebraska. On one trip from Nebraska City in 1857, Lane and his men threatened to lynch a Nebraska City editor who opposed their anti-slavery views.

At Falls City, called by detractors an "abolitionist hole," Lane bought four town lots from now-Mayor Burbank for one dollar. (Four now-downtown lots for

25 cents apiece!) On one of those lots, two now the library parking lot and the other two the location of Miller-Monroe, Lane had a house, not to live in, but most likely used to hide his supply of smuggled guns.

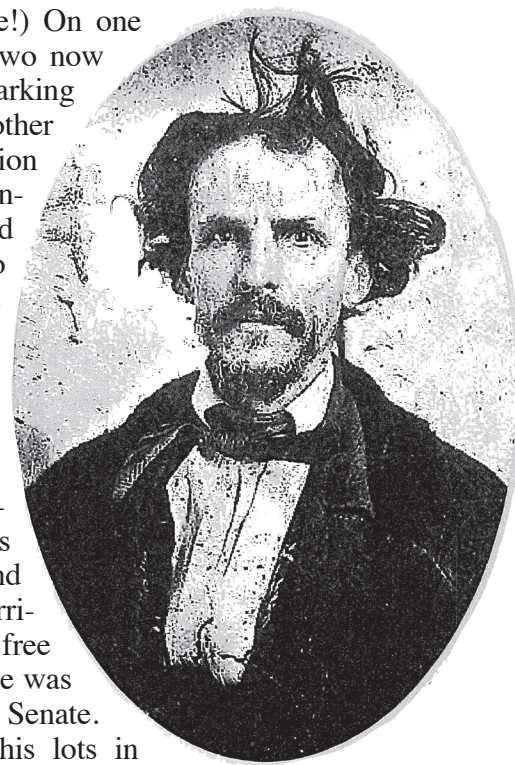
Lane continued his abolitionist activities in Kansas, and when that territory became a free state in 1861, he was elected to the Senate.

(He also lost his lots in Falls City for not paying his taxes, he being too busy in Kansas). General Lane arrived in Washington, D. C. a day after Fort Sumpter and quickly organized a guard to protect the city. He was a senator but still a general.

This caused problems because legally he couldn't be both.

He returned to Kansas in September 1861 and soon plundered the hated Missouri town of Osceola which hurt his career. In August 1863 Lane was at Lawrence, Kansas during the notorious Quantrill's raid. Quantrill hated Lane and "would have burned him at the stake" if he had caught him, but Lane managed to escape.

Lane's career further declined as the Civil War drew to a close, and perhaps feeling he had outlived his time, he died in July 1865 by his own hand. He was laid to rest in Lawrence.



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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.mynag.com. Tim Boatright, Pastor - 245-3977

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

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

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

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

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

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

**First Christian Church Disciples Of Christ (1322 Stone St.)** Sunday School, 10:45am; Worship, 10:45am Facebook.com/fallscooperativeministry Pastor Grant Speece - 402-980-5960

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

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

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

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMS. (6 Mi. North of Falls City on US 73)** Sunday School and Bible study, 9:30 AM (September-May). Divine Service, 10:30 AM. Communion on 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays. fallscitylcms.blogspot.com

Rev. Ken Humphrey, Pastor - 402-245-4643

**Srs. 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 Meyenburg, Pastor 402-245-3002.

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

### RULO

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

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

### BARADA

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

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

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

### SHUBERT

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

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

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

### VERDON

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

### DAWSON

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

### ARAGO

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

### STELLA

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

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

### HUMBOLDT

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

### WHITE CLOUD, KS

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

### BIG LAKE, MO

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

### FOREST CITY, MO

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



## Mark your calendars

Former Falls City residents David von Behren and Lori Gottula are teaming up this summer for a "good old fashioned spiritual revival," here in Falls City. Two sessions of the event will be held on Sunday, July 26th—one at 2:00 p.m., and the other at 7:00 p.m. Both will take place at The Center (the former Presbyterian Church) at 206 E. 20th Street.

"We wanted to offer two sessions so people could either come after lunch, or after spending the day with their families," Gottula said. "We decided to hold the revivals at The Center because we wanted a neutral location so believers of all denominations would feel comfortable, and so the unchurched would feel welcome. We also needed an organ and a piano so David could play. The Center truly is a gift from God because it has everything we need."

David, a 2013 graduate of Falls City High School, currently serves as the organist and assistant choir director at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He will be home at the end of June to conduct three sessions of his annual Little Stars Summer Music program. After the camp ends, he and Gottula will host the revival. He will play the organ and piano for thirty minutes prior to each service, then he will oversee the worship service. The worship time will feature traditional hymns, as well as contemporary Christian music.

"David is one of the best organists in the world," Gottula said. "He is also a virtuoso on the piano and violin. We are so fortunate that he comes back to Nebraska every summer, to give back to this community. He also has an incredible heart for God. He is passionate about sharing his faith through his music."

Von Behren feels the same way about Gottula, his friend of 15 years.

"Lori is truly living out loud for Jesus," David said. "She wrote a book titled Broken and Chained and is working on her second book about her amazing life transformation after giving her life back to Christ. She is also an incredible public speaker. Anyone who has seen her testimony presentation knows that. She is on fire for God, and I can't wait to hear her message at the revival sessions."

Gottula and her husband, Randy, owned the Hinky Dinky/SunMart store in Falls City from 1990-2013. Lori was very involved in the community, and ran the annual Cobblestone parade for 25 years. She and Randy lived in Falls City for thirty years before moving to their family farm in 2020. At the revival, she will preach a message titled, "Behold!"

Details for the revival are still being finalized, but one thing is sure. The hosts want to bring together believers and the unchurched in southeast Nebraska for a revival that will set souls on fire for God. The cost of admission is a free-will love offering. Attendees may wear whatever feels most comfortable, from casual clothing to Sunday best.

"Come as you are," Gottula said. "We just hope you leave with more hope, and a closer relationship with Jesus."

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# Lost in a box of books; rare deed sheds new light on Peru State College's origins

What began as a routine stop at a garage sale has turned into a remarkable discovery that is reshaping the historical narrative of Peru State College. Dennis Meyers, an avid reader, was browsing a box of secondhand books when he uncovered something extraordinary. "I'll often ask what someone wants for a whole box," Meyers said. "My wife and I just enjoy reading. But this—this just blows my mind. You don't expect to find something like this in a box of books." What Meyers found was no ordinary document. Hidden among the books was the original deed to the land on which Peru State College was founded—dating back more than 160 years and tracing ownership through some of the region's most influential early figures. A Frontier Story Revisited The document offers a clearer picture of the people and events that led to the establishment of Nebraska's first institution of higher education, Peru State College. Among them was Thomas J. Majors, an Iowa native who initially set out for Pike's Peak in search of gold. His journey took an unexpected turn in Kearney, where he encountered weary prospectors heading east empty-handed. Abandoning his own quest, Majors returned toward Iowa but stopped in Peru—then a settlement of about 100 people—and noticed a critical absence: no general store. In 1859, Majors returned with goods from his father's store and opened a mercantile business, helping anchor the young community. Another key figure, William Daily, was the son of Samuel Daily, who

moved his family to Peru in 1857 and built a sawmill. Following in his father's footsteps, Daily worked as a sawmill superintendent before aligning with Union efforts during the Civil War. The Reverend Hiram Birch, a Methodist pastor, entered the story in 1865 with plans to construct a new church building. When he approached Daily for support, Daily pledged \$500—but only if the building would serve as a school instead.

That condition would prove pivotal.

Building a College on the Bluff: The town, first called Mount Vernon and renamed Peru in 1857, was growing fast. In 1861, a former saloon became Mount Vernon Academy, a small Methodist school—a sign that the town cared about education and its future.

By 1866, the community dreamed bigger. Neighbors pooled \$8,000 to build Mount Vernon Hall, a three-story college perched on a hill overlooking the Missouri River. While the building went up, classes continued in the old saloon, showing the town's determination to keep learning alive. The school went through a few names—Peru Academy, and Peru Seminary—before settling on Mount Vernon College. Classes began on August 30, 1866, with three 13-week terms, and the building was ready in time for official recognition the following year.

On June 20, 1867, Nebraska formally recognized the college, making it the state's first institution of higher education. Today, the site of Mount Vernon Hall lies beneath what is now Peru's Student Center, a quiet reminder of the town's bold vision 160 years ago.

The Deed That Connects It All: The newly discovered deed helps tie

together the legal and financial threads behind the college's founding.

According to the document, the land was originally granted by President Abraham Lincoln to David G. Roberson on April 1, 1861, under the authority of the federal Bounty Land Act of 1855. That act awarded 160 acres of land to qualifying veterans or their heirs.

The property changed hands several times in the following years:

- In 1857, Roberson leased the land to Stephen Nuckolls for \$200.

- On November 28, 1860, ownership transferred to Samuel Gordon Daily—father of William Daily—for \$2,000.

- Following Samuel Daily's death in 1865, William Daily helped administer the estate and ultimately became central to the land's future.

On August 10, 1867, William Daily and the original group of trustees, confirmed by the Auburn Courthouse, formally granted the land to the State of Nebraska. Notably, the transfer listed no monetary value, instead citing legislative action and trustee resolution—underscoring the civic commitment behind the college's creation.

The deed also tracks later transactions involving the Majors' family, illustrating how portions of the land continued to circulate among key figures in the region through the late 1800's an early 1900's.

A Community Investment: The document reinforces what many historians have long suspected: Peru State College was not the result of a single founder, but rather a collective effort.

The discovery also raises lingering questions about land ownership and early transactions, suggesting that not all parcels were formally recorded at the time.

A Rare Glimpse Into the Past: Spanning records from the 1860s through 1929, the deed includes original signatures, trustee listings, and the Auburn courthouse's original seal. Historians say such intact documentation is extraordinarily rare.

For Peru State College, the find is more than a historical curiosity—it's a tangible link to the people and decisions that shaped the institution.

College officials are unsure whether any Peru State College president had ever seen the original deed before its rediscovery. "This is amazing—to be able to put your hands on a document like this. It's clearly an amazing piece of history," said Dr. Mock, president of Peru State College. He also praised the finder, Mr. Meyers, calling it an honor that he chose to share the discovery and noting his deep care for both Peru State College and the city of Peru.

Preserving the Legacy: Today, Peru State College sits on a 104-acre campus in Nemaha County, its hills and ravines overlooking the Missouri River much as they did more than a century ago.



Good Samaritan Society Home Care: Back row L to R: Jodi Kinchen-Patient Access Specialist, Sarah Racek OTR/L, OTD, Jayna Scholl OTR/L, Jennifer Conrad SLP, Tina Hain RN-Case Manager, Lynn Meyer PT, DPT, Eli Whitaker PT, DPT, Brett Smith PT, DPT, Amber Ryan-Senior Administrative Assistant, Kristine Swanson RN, BSN-Case Manager, Kelly Glathar RN-Case Manager, Jennifer Sherman RN, Case Manager. Front

row L to R: Stephanie Consbruck CNA-Aide, Ally Worthey CNA-Aide, Alexis Moggenson PTA, Tristin Miller PTA-Director of Rehab, Pamette Grable-Lead Administrative Assistant, Jessica Gerdes RN, BSN-Administrator, Abby Stukenholtz RN, BSN-Clinical Manager, Tracie Beethe RN, MSN-Case Manager, Bailey Aufenkamp RN, BSN-Case Manager, Kristi Lindblad PTA, Kristin Woerlen RN, MSN-RN Patient Educator.

## Home Care of SE NE earns Hall of Excellence recognition

Good Samaritan Society Home Care of Southeast Nebraska in Auburn has been named to the Ever Forward 2026 Hall of Excellence, a distinction recognizing top performing agencies across the organization. The agency was one of only two home health agencies selected for the honor in 2026 and also received the recognition in 2025.

According to Good Samaritan, agencies considered for the Hall of Excellence must demonstrate high performance in mission driven areas including employee retention, employee engagement, census or caseload, financial stewardship and

clinical quality standards. Locations are evaluated using data from the previous year.

The organization stated that the award recognizes top performing agencies, their leaders and teams for advancing the Good Samaritan mission and serving as examples of quality care and service.

Additionally, Home Care Administrator Jessica Gerdes previously received the Regional Ever Forward Administrator Champion Award.

Good Samaritan Home Care of Southeast Nebraska serves Nemaha, Otoe, Johnson, Richardson, Pawnee, Gage, Saline and Jefferson counties.

# YOUR TAX DOLLARS. YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW.



FIND OUT THREE WAYS  
EMAIL WEBSITE NEWSPAPER

NEPublicNotices.com

Thanks to a chance find in a box of books, a clearer picture of how that land came to be—and who made it possible—is finally coming into focus.

This discovery is a reminder that history can turn up in the most unexpected places.

### Walnut Antique Show

WALNUT, IOWA

**JUNE 19th-21st 2026**

Father's Day Weekend

- ✦ Antiques
- ✦ Collectibles
- ✦ Refurbished
- ✦ Repurposed
- ✦ Vintage

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GIVEAWAY

2026

POLARIS SPORTSMAN 570 TRAIL SUNSET RED 4-WHEELER

SATURDAYS

JUNE 13 + JUNE 20

9pm

Guests may exchange \$50 in Comp Points for 1 Drawing Entry, with a cap of 2,500 drawing entries per promotional week.

RONSTADT REVIVAL

TRIBUTE TO A LEGEND

SATURDAY

June 27 | 8pm

\$3500

CASH & FREE-PLAY AFTER SHOW DRAWING

\$2000

FATHERS DAY CASH GIVEAWAY

SUNDAY

4pm - 8pm

June 21

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

FRIDAYS

EARN & GET A

GIFT CARD

EARN 200 SLOT POINTS & RECEIVE A

\$20 VISA GIFT CARD

While Supplies Last Up to 60 Gift Cards Each Day.

FRIDAYS

8am - 8pm

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

**NOTICE**

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

Notice is hereby given that on May 27, 2026 in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, Dorena Spittler, whose address is 17872 N 86th Ln, Peoria, AZ 85382, was appointed by the Court as Personal Representative of the Estate.

Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before August 3, 2026 or be forever barred.

Bethany K. Godemann, Registrar

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 Personal Representative

3-10-17  
ZNEZ

**NOTICE**

In the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska  
Estate of Jason Last, Deceased  
Estate Number: PR26-22

Notice is hereby given that on May 21, 2026 in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, Breana Last, whose address is 14701 Rottardam Ave, Parker, CO 80134, was appointed by the Court as Personal Representative of the Estate.

Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before August 3, 2026 or be forever barred.

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

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 Personal Representative

3-10-17  
ZNEZ

**NOTICE**

In the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska  
Estate of Max W. Shafer III, Deceased  
Estate Number: PR26-21

Notice is hereby given that on May 20, 2026 in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, Brenda Tompkins, whose address is 3620 Ida St, Omaha, NE 68112-2946, was appointed by the Court as Personal Representative of the Estate.

Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before July 27, 2026 or be forever barred.

/s/ Bethany K. Godemann  
Bethany K. Godemann, Registrar

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 Personal Representative

27-3-10  
ZNEZ

**NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Estate of Claude Erisman, Jr., Deceased  
Case Number PR26-25

Notice is hereby given that on the 28th day of May, 2026, in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of the said Decedent and that Pamela R. Stanley, whose address is 72041 643 Avenue, Stella, Nebraska 68442, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of this Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before the 10th day of August, 2026, or be forever barred.

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

Louie M. Ligouri (16708)  
Ligouri Law Office  
1118 15th. Street  
P.O. Box 99  
Auburn, Nebraska 68305  
Telephone (402) 274-5484  
Attorneys for Personal Representative

10-17-24  
ZNEZ

**NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION**

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

The name of the company is Definitely Bronze LLC. The business address of the company is 2516 Barada Street, Falls City, NE 68355. The name and street and mailing address of the initial registered agent of the company is Kimberly Koelzer, 2516 Barada Street, Falls City, NE 68355.

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

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

Organizer: Kimberly Koelzer  
3-10-17  
ZNEZ

**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

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

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RICHARDSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Case No. CI 26-12

To: Heartland Tower, Inc. and Robert Nail

You are hereby notified that Shawn D. Kyker has filed a civil action against you in the District Court of Richardson County, Nebraska, Case No. CI 26-12, entitled Shawn Kyker v. Heartland Tower, Inc. and Robert Nail.

The action seeks recovery of Plaintiff's personal property and a 2024 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD, VIN 2GC4YME76R1203516, and alleges wrongful taking, possession, and detention of that property. Plaintiff seeks replevin, conversion, declaratory judgment, injunctive relief, return of the property, damages, costs, and such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

You are required to answer the First Amended Complaint within 30 days after completion of service by publication, or judgment may be entered against you.

This notice shall be published once each week for three successive weeks.

Dated: June 2, 2026

SHAWN D. KYKER, Plaintiff  
10-17-24  
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

**VILLAGE OF RULO**

Village of Rulo  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at Rulo Library at 6:00 PM

Advanced notice of meeting posted by 1:00pm on Monday, May 11, 2026 at Wild Bill's, Swingin' Doors and the Rulo Library

Board Chairperson, Rebecca Simmonds, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Roll call – Present: Rebecca Simmonds, Kraig Counce, Todd Thompson, Mike Keller, Clerk: Rachel Jean – Absent: Regina Barber

R. Jean provided the Open Meetings Act announcement.

Keller made a motion that was seconded by Thompson to approve the April regular meeting and April special meeting minutes. Roll call AYE: Keller, Thompson, Counce, Simmonds. Motion carried.

Shawn Thompson appeared to discuss a request for and outdoor flag and décor for the Campground. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Keller to approve the request. Roll call – AYE: Thompson, Keller, Counce, Simmonds. Motion carried.

Counce informed that hot patch is \$55/ton and that price does not include the haul fee. No action taken.

Thompson moved to pass Resolution 052026-01 Nemaha NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion seconded by Counce. Roll call – AYE: Thompson, Counce, Keller, Simmonds. Resolution passed.

Counce moved to pass Resolution 052026-02 Transfer of Funds for Payroll. Motion seconded by Thompson. Roll call – AYE: Counce, Thompson, Keller, Simmonds. Resolution passed.

Counce advised that no quotes were available for review on firehouse roof. Motion made by Thompson to run ad in Falls City Journal that was seconded by Keller. Roll call – AYE: Thompson, Keller, Counce, Simmonds  
Counce advised no quote available for purchase of backup meters, however, replacements have been received that were backordered. No other action.

No road or culvert replacement updates.

R. Jean presented the March Keno report which totaled \$4559.86 and the water delinquency report which stated 12 accounts are due to receive disconnection notices.

Thompson made a motion to approve the May clerk warrant as presented for all claims and payroll. Motion seconded by Counce. Roll call – AYE: Thompson, Counce, Keller, Simmonds. Motion carried.

GENERAL – Grey Snow \$55.00 (svcs), OPPD \$1058.60 (utilities), SNC \$51.20 (svcs), Home Lumber Co \$155.00 (supplies), FC Journal \$75.83 (publications), 159 Lumber \$83.90 (supplies), Shawn Thompson \$60.00 (svcs), payroll \$2749.46

ROADS – Falls City Auto Supply \$33.25 (parts/supplies), Grandview Oil \$300.00 (fuel), True Ag & Turf \$216.10 (parts), Rachel Jean \$337.03 (parts reimbursement), Rulo Transportation \$1847.51 (svcs), Iowa Tribe of KS & NE \$1250.25 (svcs)

WATER – NE Dept of Revenue \$46.38 (sales tax), City of Falls City \$3241.73 (svcs)

FIRE – Heiman Fire Equipment \$359.85 (equipment), Harmon's OK Tire \$1182.00 (truck maintenance)  
CEMETERY – 4B Lawncare LLC \$650.00 (svcs)

Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Counce to adjourn the meeting at 6:54PM. Roll

ZNEZ

**VILLAGE OF STELLA**

Village of Stella Board of Trustees regular meeting, June 1, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stella Community Building

Present: Ira, Hall, Kyle Gossman, Heath Stanley  
Absent: Jim Donahoe, Rick Ramer  
Guests: Brian Stock, Aaron Meyer, Jan McMullen

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 with the addition of bid for tree removal. All voted yea.

Motion made by Stanley and seconded by Gossman to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All voted yea.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Regular publications

COMMITTEES: Streets – OK, Street lights – OK, Park – trees and limbs need to be removed; Water and sewer – written report, sewer main was plugged; Library – OK, Maintenance – vehicles blocking driveway was addressed, Planning Committee – one building permit submitted. Motion made by Gossman and seconded by Hall to approve a building permit for J. Owings for a utility building. All voted yea. Community Building – there is a honey bee nest possibility between the ceiling and roof, will contact someone to remove the queen and her nest.

OLD BUSINESS: Sewer plant needs attention

NEW BUSINESS: Motion made by Hall to accept a bid of \$1700 from R3 for removal of a tree and trim trees at the main park with a second by Gossman. All voted yea.

NEW BUSINESS: Additional new flags will be purchased for main street.

3rd reading of Ordinance 2026-07 establishing rates and charges for the use and service of the Municipal Water System. Motion by Gossman and seconded by Hall to pass the ordinance. All voted yea.

3rd reading of Ordinance 2026-06 establishing rates and charges for the use and service of the Municipal Sanitary System. Motion by Hall and seconded by Gossman to pass the ordinance. All voted yea.

3rd reading of the Ordinance to Amend the Code of the Village of Stella, Nebraska, 152.971, General Commercial District to add "Single family dwellings" as permitted use. Motion made by Gossman and seconded by Hall to pass the ordinance. All voted yea.

Water shut offs were signed. Questions from the audience: Jan McMullen expressed concern about unsightly properties.

Motion made by Hall and seconded by Gossman to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. All voted yea.

The next meeting will be held July 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stella Community Building.

Jana Wheeler, clerk

**Claims and Payroll for June 1, 2026**

Tracy Milke, water/sewer operator..... 350.00  
Tracy Milke, expenses..... 280.71  
Aaron Davis, assist water/sewer operator ..... 300.00  
Jody Bahr, 2 cleanings com bldg. .... 50.00  
Dennis Bahr, 5 hours – streets ..... 75.00  
Dennis Bahr, 3 mowings ..... 540.00  
Ira Hall, 8 hours library ..... 108.00  
Jana Wheeler, clerk ..... 700.00  
Jana Wheeler, com bldg. supplies, trash bags..... 88.17  
OPPD, water..... 594.21  
Koch's Auto service, move tank..... 300.00  
Noha Vice, snow removal – January ..... 560.00  
Farm and City Supply, supplies ..... 113.95  
Board of Public Works, sewer...463.93  
Hydro Optimization, water ... 2975.10  
NE Public Health Environmental Lab ..... 30.00  
Falls City Journal, publications. 52.76  
SENC, May's bill ..... 231.59  
IRS..... 413.77  
ZNEZ

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MAY 27, 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 27, 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 Campbell to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-abstain, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the minutes of the Quarterly Safety Committee meeting held on May 20, 2026, as presented. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-abstain, 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.

**ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.**

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

**LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER Executive Session**

Motion was made by Caverzagie to recess the regular meeting agenda and go into an executive session at 9:32 a.m. to discuss personnel matters and for the protection of the reputation of an individual(s) with County Attorney, Samantha Scheitel and Deputy Sheriff, Clinton Stonebarger. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Karas to close the executive session at 9:50 a.m. and return to the regular meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

**COUNTY ASSESSOR, KIM RIGGS**

Kim Riggs, County Assessor reviewed with the Board the recent notice that was received from the NE Tax Equalization and Review Commission regarding the findings and order of the value of real property within Richardson County for the Tax Year 2026. The findings stated that within Richardson County the residential class of real property at 95% of actual or fair market value, commercial class of real property at 100% of actual or fair market value, and agricultural and horticultural land class of real property is 70% of actual or fair market value. (2025 was residential—93%; commercial—95%; ag and horticulture at 75%) Assessor Riggs offered an explanation of how these percentages are determined.

**CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER Designate the Budget-Making Authority**

Motion was made by Caverzagie to appoint County Clerk, Mary L. Eickhoff as the budget-making authority for the FY 2026-2027. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

**Joint Public Hearing Postcard Printing**

Motion was made by Karas to designate NACO to facilitate the printing and mailing of the postcard notices for the Joint Public Hearing if needed in September. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

**Microsoft and Meraki Licensing**

Motion was made by Campbell to approve the following quotes from OneNeck: 1) Quote #204535-1 for the licensing of Microsoft programs for 3 years the county's computer systems totaling \$10,140.00 and 2) Quote #204727-1 for the licensing of the Meraki security license and support for 3 years and for replacement parts and switches for the county's computer systems for \$8,795.66. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

**Review of claim withheld to gWorks**

The Board reviewed a claim and payment that was withheld from the May 14 meeting to gWorks for \$21,224.50 and reviewed at the May 20 meeting. County Attorney, Samantha Scheitel and Assessor Riggs were also available for the discussion. The claim is for an early termination fee for EM Tab, Assessor's Tab and for Annual Support.

Motion was made by Campbell to deny payment of the claim to gWorks for \$21,224.50. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS**

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the payment of all claims that were submitted today. Motion sec-

onded 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**

Anderson, Dustin, reimb ..... 75.00  
Blue Valley Door Co., supp..... 417.50  
Centec Cast Metal Products, supp ..... 2655.02  
Charm-Tex, supp ..... 508.20  
Clerk of District Court, fees..... 402.00  
CMC, serv..... 241.90  
Culligan, supp ..... 141.70  
Dept. Of Correctional Services, serv ..... 3249.86  
East Richardson Rural Water #2, serv ..... 290.72  
Falls City Mercantile, supp ..... 270.67  
Falls City Sanitation, serv ..... 60.00  
Farm & City Supply, supp ..... 554.52  
First Concord, fees ..... 555.00  
Frederick, Keia, reimb ..... 31.03  
Hillyard, supp ..... 196.16  
Kollasch Law Office, serv ..... 2219.50  
CR25-212 B. Kaler, CR26-17 B. Kaler, CR25-112 M. Monroe Lexipol, serv ..... 615.54  
Lincoln National Life Ins., life ins ..... 1548.57  
Medica, ins ..... 58787.23  
Nestor & Mercure, serv..... 10000.01  
Nine-1-1 Custom, supp ..... 1453.04  
Pitney Bowes, serv ..... 3057.00  
Quill, supp..... 339.65  
Ram Exterminators, serv ..... 52.00  
Richardson County Clerk Petty Cash, reimb..... 11.87  
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc..... 24724.56  
Sapp Bros., fuel ..... 3983.09  
ServPro of St. Joseph, serv ..... 7353.97  
Sherman's Station, serv ..... 67.14  
SumnerOne, serv ..... 84.00  
Visual Edge IT, serv ..... 235.90  
Payroll Expense..... 118612.86  
TOTAL GENERAL FUND \$242,805.21

**ROAD & BRIDGE FUND**

Falls City Sanitation, serv ..... 60.00  
Jim Hill's, serv ..... 425.00  
Martin-Marietta Materials, rock ..... 12192.96  
Metal Culverts, supp ..... 3986.66  
NPPD, serv ..... 84.44  
Operation & Expense Account, reimb ..... 246.42  
RDO Truck Centers, supp ..... 850.56  
Rulo, Village of, serv ..... 30.00  
Sapp Bros., fuel ..... 40546.33  
Woods & Aitken LLP, fees .... 10997.55  
Payroll Expense ..... 35911.43  
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND ..... \$105,331.35

**VISITOR'S PROMOTION FUND**

Richardson County, rent ..... 25.00  
Collection Museum, funding ... 2000.00  
RC Arts & Humanities Council, funding ..... 250.00  
Richardson Foundation, funding ..... 500.00  
TOTAL VISITOR'S PROMOTION FUND ..... 2,775.00

**COUNTY VISITOR'S IMPROVE FUND**

Richardson Foundation, funding ..... 6000.00  
Village of Verdon, funding ..... 1700.00  
TOTAL COUNTY VISITOR'S IMPROVE FUND ..... \$7,700.00

**DRUG COURT FUND**

Hawkins, Seth, serv ..... 1300.00  
Morrissey, Morrissey & Dalluge, serv ..... 1300.00  
TOTAL DRUG COURT FUND ..... \$2,600.00

**SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUND**

CPC, serv ..... 1057.55  
TOTAL SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUND ..... \$1,057.55

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, June 3, 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

**SATURDAY NIGHT**  
**JUNE 20** 8 PM  
**CHURCH OF CASH**  
A FABULOUS JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE BAND  
TABLE ROCK, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SQUARE  
**FREE CONCERT** VENDORS AT 7 PM  
INCLEMENT WEATHER: TABLE ROCK THEATER SE CORNER OF THE SQUARE • ENTER AT SENIOR CENTER

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**MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE RESULTS**

Men's golf league results from Tuesday, June 2, 2026. The results are actual scores and handicap totals.

**Early league results.**

Team 1 (4.50) Kirken-dall, Jeremy 37-35; Witt, Wade 47-38. Team 7 (1.50) Romine, Alan 51-41; Sailors, Chuck 51-36.

Team 2 (4.00) Hays, Gary 46-41; Ebel, Bryce 40-34. Team 6 (2.00) May, Mark 44-38; Bennett, Chuck 48-38.

Team 3 (4.00) Ebel, Ron 45-40; Severin, Steve 55-34. Team 5 (2.00) James, Charles 44-37; Rowland, Rod 47-38.

Team 4 (6.00) Malcolm, Terry 46-35; Murphy, Jim 49-34. Team 10 (0.00) Hankins, Dan 59-49; Ker-moade, Terry 49-37.

Team 8 (0.00) Dunn, Joe 39-37; Foster, Tim 49-37. Team 9 (6.00) Mullins, Jim 44-35; Kurpgeweit, Lee 43-34.

**Late league results.**

Team 1 (2.00) Dunn, Joe 35-34; Bippes, Drew 42-32; Coonce, Kyle 66-39. Team 19 (6.00) Dav-is, Darin 39-32; Gooch, Blake 45-35; Scheitel, Lane 50-36.

Team 2 (8.00) Mont-gomery, Carter 37-35; Malone, Kevin 44-35; Sly, Tony 55-35. Team 18 (0.00) Chesnut, Justin 46-39; May, Mark 46-39; Harmon, Jason (F).

Team 3 (0.00) Ait-ken, Bob 45-40; Craig, Jake (F); Scheitel, Logan 65-38. Team 17 (8.00) Froeschl, Joe 47-37; Go-demann, Ted 50-39; Witt, Bailey 42-28.

Team 4 (1.00) Witt, Tom 42-38; Froeschl, Na-than 46-38; Morris, Adam 54-31. Team 16 (7.00) Hill, Dan 42-36; Steele, Brendan 45-35; Jorden-ing, Ron 56-41.

Team 5 (2.50) Simon, Steve (F); Daake, Bri-an 43-36; Merz, Mitch 67-40. Team 15 (5.50) Van Dyke, Kyle 46-42; Froeschl, Ethan 51-43; Cole, Gavin 48-38.

Team 6 (6.00) Bach-man, Eli 40-37; Witt, Wade 42-31; Leyden, Derrick 55-40. Team 14 (2.00) Gerweck, Rob 43-38; McNeely, Erik 55-42; DeWitt, Tim 64-37.

Team 7 (0.00) Bennett, Chuck 50-40; Schawang, Cade (F); Bauman, Jack-son 50-33. Team 13 (8.00) Ferguson, Don 42-37; Schawang, Cody 47-37; White, Christian 52-28.

Team 8 (1.50) Simon, Dan 42-39; Harmon, Ga-len 54-43; Waller, Doug 58-38. Team 12 (6.50) Ebel, Ron 42-39; Mc-Neely, John 46-37; Bek, Adam 51-32.

Team 9 (4.00) Kirken-dall, Jeremy 45-40; Witt, Rich 51-40; Craig, Robbie 50-33. Team 11 (4.00) Siel, Jake 43-38; Froeschl, Lucas 47-38; Dunkhas, Gale 53-38.

Team 10 (2.50) Poppe, Brian 46-36; Heinzel-man, Eric 51-38; Keller, Bart (F). Team 20 (5.50) Anderson, Dusty 49-41; Heckenlively, Tim 49-39; Dunn, Mike 54-39.

**County Board members attend Nebraska Association of County Officials' workshop**

This week, county board members from across Nebraska attended the 2026 Nebraska Association of County Officials' (NACO) County Board Workshop, where they participated in educational sessions, connected with their peers, and networked with associations and businesses.

On Wednesday, June 3rd, NACO hosted a Land Use Permit Forum that highlighted the work of the LB663/Land Use Committee in developing accessible data tools and best practices to support Nebraska counties in making informed permitting decisions. Experts led discussions on livestock, energy, and broadband infrastructure, and attendees gave feedback that informed the continued development of the toolkit. Nebraska State Senators Stan Clouse and Tanya Storer gave overviews of current legislative interest in county land use, local control, development pressures, and state policy considerations.

The workshop's other educational sessions addressed recent challenges faced by counties, including a wildfire response and recovery discussion that explored key take-aways from this spring's historic Nebraska wildfires. Participants heard about what worked well, where significant challenges arose, and the role of communication systems during disaster response. Board members also attended a session on navigating labor and HR issues, a Nebraska EMS Task Force update, and a fireside chat between NACO Executive Director Jon Cannon and Nebraska State Senator Paul Strommen.

On Wednesday evening, NACO recognized 21 county board members for earning their County Board Member Certification, which requires 30 credit hours of educational workshops and training sessions over a two-year period. Board members can upgrade to the next certification level every two years.

NACO is pleased to announce that Holt County Supervisor Bill Tielke won the 2026 County Board Member of the Year Award after being nominated and selected by fellow county officials. Joined by his family, Supervisor Tielke was presented with the award at Wednesday night's banquet.

County board members' attendance at the workshop demonstrates their commitment to making the most effective and informed local governance decisions for all Nebraskans. NACO is proud to offer this important educational programming and applauds their continued dedication to serving their communities.

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# Falls City firefighters respond to two structure fires within 72 hours

Falls City and Falls City Rural firefighters responded to two separate structure fires within a 72-hour period, including an apartment fire that displaced residents and a trailer house fire Sunday evening.

The first fire was reported shortly before 11 p.m. Thursday, May 28, at an apartment building at 2121 Harlan St. According to Falls City Fire Department Public Information Officer Jon McQueen, a second-floor apartment was reported to be fully involved before firefighters arrived.

McQueen said a Richardson County Sheriff's deputy driving by observed the flames, stopped and assisted residents in evacuating the building's five apartments. Falls City Police officers also responded and provided information on a nearby hydrant for firefighting operations.

Falls City and Falls City Rural firefighters made a quick interior attack to knock down the fire. A thermal imaging camera and exhaust fan were later used to remove heat and smoke from the upper level of the building. Firefighters also monitored the exterior of the structure for fire extension and electrical power was disconnected to the affected apartment.

A total of 19 firefight-

ers responded with four units. The Falls City Ambulance Squad also assisted at the scene. Harlan Street was temporarily closed during firefighting operations.

One resident was transported by private vehicle to Community Medical Center for unknown causes. One firefighter was treated at the scene for possible smoke inhalation.

McQueen reported that misuse of smoking materials appeared to be a possible cause of the fire. The building is owned by Eddie and Debra Harris. Estimated damage was reported at up to \$50,000.

Residents were able to make arrangements for overnight accommodations, although assistance from the American Red Cross was available if needed. Fire officials consulted with the Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office and determined a state investigator was not needed following discussions with the owner and residents. Firefighters remained on scene for approximately three hours.

The second fire occurred shortly after 8 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at a trailer house located at 1102 Wilson St.

According to McQueen, the trailer was owned and occupied by Donald Murphy. Murphy was on the front porch



Looking southeast, Preston road under water in two stretches south of the Preston corner. Photo by Ben Steffen.

when a neighbor noticed the back porch steps on the north side of the residence were on fire and alerted him while also calling emergency responders.

An automatic mutual aid response brought four fire trucks and 16 firefighters to the scene. The Falls City Ambulance Squad, Falls City Police Department, Falls City Utilities and Richardson County Emergency Management also responded.

Firefighters deployed two attack lines and quickly brought the fire under control. An exhaust fan was used to remove smoke from the trailer. Firefighters removed portions of the skirting in two locations and opened part of the bathroom floor

while investigating the fire's path through the structure.

McQueen said the cause of the fire has been classified as undetermined.

Richardson County Emergency Management assisted Murphy in securing temporary housing for the night with friends and provided transportation.

Firefighters remained at the scene for approximately two hours.

McQueen thanked residents for their cooperation during both incidents and reminded the public to stay clear of emergency scenes to allow fire apparatus access and provide room for large supply hoses and emergency personnel to operate safely.

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## CHARLES W. HERBSTER FOUNDATION AWARDS LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Charles W. Herbster, a proud fifth-generation farmer and rancher in Richardson County and a Falls City High School alumnus, continues his longstanding commitment to investing in the future of local youth through education. On May 11, during special ceremonies at both Falls City High School and Sacred Heart School, Mr. Herbster awarded \$2,000 scholarships to six deserving students through the Charles W. Herbster Foundation.

"Investing in young people and helping open the door to higher education is one of the greatest responsibilities we have," said Mr. Herbster. "These students are the next generation of leaders, workers, and citizens who will shape the future of our communities and our country. I hope these scholarships encourage them to keep striving, keep learning, and never lose sight of the opportunities that hard work and determination can create."

Scholarship recipients were selected by an independent committee based on academic achievement, personal essays, leadership qualities, and letters of recommendation.

### Falls City High School Scholarship Recipients:

- Ella Glathar, daughter of Ali and Chris Glathar
- Addyson Sayer, daughter of Luke Sayer and Whitney Norris
- Peyton Brown, son of Jeromie and Jennifer Brown

### Sacred Heart School Scholarship Recipients:

- Avery Santo, daughter of Luke and Jina Santo
- Cole Taft, son of Troy and Angie Taft
- Daycee Witt, daughter of Amanda Vonderschmidt and Monty Witt

In addition to local scholarships, the Foundation recognizes students whose parents are employed by Conklin Company Inc., Mr. Herbster's manufacturing and distribution company, and the children of Conklin Independent Distributors from all across the United States. These scholarships support students pursuing post-secondary education.

### Local Conklin Company Scholarship Recipients:

- Nicholas Keithley, son of Michelle Keithley and the late Jerome Keithley
- Carson Sells, son of Tom and Dina Sells

In total, the Charles W. Herbster Foundation awarded \$16,000 in scholarship funds this year to students connected to Richardson County and Conklin Company families. Since the Foundation's establishment in 2015, more than \$420,000 has been awarded in college scholarships. Beyond the Foundation, Mr. Herbster has contributed more than \$4 million to youth-focused organizations and programs nationwide, including FFA, 4-H, nonprofit student initiatives, and youth livestock organizations.



The 2026 Falls City High School Charles W. Herbster Foundation Scholarship winners: (From L to R): Charles W. Herbster, Ella Glathar, Addyson Sayer, Peyton Brown, and Brandon Keithley, Vice President of Conklin Company



The 2026 Sacred Heart School Charles W. Herbster Foundation Scholarship winners: (From L to R): Cole Taft, Avery Santo, Daycee Witt, and Charles W. Herbster