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John Burbank

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 sesquicentennial, 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 four.

By Bob Nelson

A Theory About Why Jesse James Couldn't Stop Wearing the Gold Watch He Stole From Falls City's First Mayor.

Jesse James was so moral he only stole from those who fought to end the enslavement of four million people.

A Tale of Two J. Burbanks.

Of the two Falls City founders named J. Burbank, only one of them owned the gold watch found on the corpse of Jesse James.

Jesse James died with his boots and John A. Burbank's watch on.

Who Has Gotten a Worse Rap? John A. Burbank or Jesse James?

John A. Burbank is arguably most known now as the owner of the gold watch Jesse James was wearing when he was by Robert Ford in St. Joseph in April of 1882.

According to numerous stories published that year, James had worn the watch most every day since stealing it from Burbank during a stagecoach robbery in Arkansas eight years earlier in which Burbank was almost executed because he was wrongly believed to be a reporter for the *Missouri Democrat*, an anti-slavery St. Louis paper. Burbank's life was only spared when he corrected his assailants by proving he was, in fact, the governor of the Dakota territories.

Just wait: The story gets even stranger as it explains much about stereotypes that exist in Richardson County to this day.

Jesse James and his gang had stolen countless watches during stagecoach, train, and bank robberies during his career as an outlaw, during which, his admirers noted, he only stole from "Yankees" while returning belongings to those who had fought to maintain slavery. For this reason, Jesse James was viewed by many whites in the former slave states as a sort of neo-Confederate Robin Hood - stealing from the rich Northern men made wealthy from the spoils of war, not stealing from those poor souls struggling financially after they lost fighting for the great cause of protecting their culture and way of life.

Jesse James, who convalesced at his mother's home in Rulo in 1865 after his first bullet wound, and his supporters argued that men like John A. Burbank, co-founder of Falls City and its first mayor, didn't go to the territories of Kansas and Nebraska to block the advancement west of the institution of slavery or end the enslavement of four million African Americans. They went west to get rich.

Sadly, if anyone appeared to live down to that stereo-

BURBANK -Page 8

Falls City Council approves audit of Wartsila engine at power plant

The Falls City Council met at City Hall on Monday, June 15, 2026. Councilpersons Frank Killingsworth and Derrick Leyden were absent.

In the City Administrator's Report, Gary Jorn stated that his office had met with the auditors and was pushing to complete the audit.

"So, we're kind of pushing on them now to get them moving so we get this done timely," said Jorn.

Jorn also reported that his office was working with a property owner on East 17th Street to complete the property's cleaning.

"Chief Baker and I went on Friday and talked to the property owner," Jorn said.

Jorn also addressed an issue about residents being added to the council agenda to speak. Jorn stated that the Nebraska Open Meetings Act requires the Council to allow public comment during meetings. According to Jorn, the Open Meetings Act requires the public body to allow citizens to speak at some meetings, but not at every meeting.

Administrator Jorn said an individual was recently denied for repeatedly bringing the same matter before the board.

"We're working on it," said Jorn. "So, you guys might get phone calls over that issue."

He also reported a significant expenditure on claims related to OPPD and MEAN (Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska).

"They were originally set for like an ACH (Automated Clearinghouse), and for some reason, we did not get them done in a couple; there were a couple of months on each of them," said Jorn.

Jorn said he discovered the discrepancies while reconciling bank statements.

"So, we had to go back and make those payments."

Issues with electric scooters and electric bikes were discussed. Council members have been receiving phone calls from the public about the misuse of E-Bikes and scooters.

An educational campaign on the use of the equipment was discussed as an option.

Jorn reported to the Council that he has reached out to other municipalities and learned that Overland Park has a 16-year age limit for E-Bike or E-Scooter use.

Chief Jamie Baker reported to the Council that the newest dispatcher is completing her training and will soon be on her own.

Resident Ron Kelly addressed the Board, asking it to consider a parking restriction on 17th Street and on the north side of 21st and Fulton.

Kelly said buses have difficulty on 17th Street when people park on both the north and south sides.

He also said that vehicles, including emergency vehicles, would have difficulty getting through to the north at 21st and Fulton Street.

"I mean, you've got three or four parked on this side, and you've got four on this side, it's really hard to get through there," said Kelly.

Kelly said he asked the Council in 2021 to consider changes to the areas in question.

Kenny Killingsworth advised the Board that residents on the east side of 21st Street lack alley access and must park on the street.

Kelly asked whether spacing could be adjusted to remedy the issue.

Mayor Harkendorff said some families have multiple kids driving and need the street for parking.

"I'm just trying to stick up for the families that got two or three kids driving," said Harkendorff. "Where are they supposed to go?"

Next, the Council approved a request from Bing Bindrum to forgo replacing the sidewalk at 901 Morton.

Bindrum told the Board that he had purchased eight lots north of his property, and at the time, it was hard to tell that a sidewalk ever existed in the area.

The Board approved an amendment to the Transmission Line and Substation Planning and Engineering by Olsson.

COUNCIL -Page 8

Top honor given to Sheriff's Department employee



Chase Hardesty, a three-year employee of the Richardson County Sheriff's Department, was recently recognized for his quick thinking and calm demeanor during a 911 call. Hardesty, a dispatch supervisor, was awarded the Life Saving Award by NESCA (Nebraska Emergency Service Communications Association) during meetings at the end of April.

Hardesty was surprised when his name was called as the award recipient.

"I didn't even know I was getting the award until they started saying the speech and everything," said Hardesty. "It meant a lot. I was very caught off guard initially."

The award is given to 911 dispatchers who perform exemplary life-saving action.

Hardesty received the award due

to the fashion that he fielded a call in which an individual was contemplating taking his own life. The call involved himself, Sheriff Rick Hardesty and Chief Deputy Jeremiah Franks.

The dispatcher said the caller on that day was "just having a really hard time," Chase said.

The dispatch supervisor immediately contacted OnStar, pinging the vehicle to obtain the caller's location.

"That way, I could better direct our guys to there in a timely manner," said Hardesty. "That way, he had a minimal amount of time alone or left to his own vices. That way, he wasn't able to take action on any of those thoughts."

In dealing with stressful situations, 911 dispatchers need to remain calm so as not to further excite an individual who is already agitated.

HARDESTY -Page 6



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JUNE

28 -Mark Vyhlidal Orchestra at ZCJ Czech Dance Hall 1-4 dance; Potluck at noon

JULY

3-5 -Suedmeier Estate Sale, 10-3PM, 211 W. 10th St., FC

JULY

10-12 -SoulRoot Band - Brownville Concert Series

15 -Humboldt Lion's Club Peach Sales order deadline



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PRIZE-WINNING
NEWSPAPER
2026

Nebraska Press Association

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Horoscopes

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, physical activity can boost your mood and clear your mind for some big decisions that are ahead this week. Tackle some larger projects.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Indulge in simple pleasures this week, Taurus. They will lead you to the happiness you deserve. You may discover a new favorite recipe or cozy nook to hang out.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Networking may feel less like a chore and more like a party this week, Gemini. A chance encounter could open a door to an excellent opportunity.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, right now your home is filled with laughter and shared memories. It's a great week to host a small gathering or a movie night with close friends to share all the good vibes.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, today you are a beacon of light and a source of inspiration. Use your unique position as a leader to spread positivity and watch good fortune multiply.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you are often a master of finding practical solutions to tricky problems both at work and at home. Your reliable nature is a great gift to those around you.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, some diplomacy this week can help you navigate a complex situation with ease. Find moments for mindful meditation so you can create a calm atmosphere wherever you go.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

If you are brave enough to voice it, a secret wish just might come true, Scorpio. After some difficult days, you can use a bit of magic and mystery to change your perspective.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

You're definitely a glass-half-full kind of person, Sagittarius. This optimism will open doors to a new horizon. A sudden urge to learn something new leads to an opportunity.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Discipline will be rewarded with a measurable success that can feel very uplifting, Capricorn. Your hard work is finally getting the recognition it deserves.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Be your most authentic self this week and watch how it attracts those you want in your circle, Aquarius. A weird coincidence may lead to a funny situation.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, calmer waters ahead allow you to reflect on yourself and recharge your emotional batteries. You may emerge at the end of the week centered and ready for anything.

All things Nebraska Resilient Nebraskans always say 'it could have been worse'

By Paul Hammel, Retired Senior Reporter for Nebraska Examiner

Back in the day, reporters used to be able to hitch a ride with the governor or National Guard to the site of a disastrous tornado or flood.

One of those trips involved a flight to Coleridge, in northeast Nebraska, after a tornado had destroyed two farm homes and damaged several residences on the north edge of the town.

At one of the farms, the owner stood just outside the now-bare foundation where his house once stood. The house was gone.

"It could have been worse," he said. No one had been injured or killed, after all.

For some reason, that quote has stuck with me over the years. It could be, I keep thinking – maybe should be – the state motto.

I can't recall the number of times I've heard the same comment when visiting the scene of a devastating flood, a horrible fire, or, like in Coleridge, one heck of a nasty tornado.

But it kind of typifies what Nebraskans are all about. Despite homes being washed away by flooding, or burned to the ground in a fire, or wiped off the map by a tornado, despite watching crops burn up in a drought, the phrase we often use is, "it could have been worse."

It says to me that Cornhuskers are in it for the long run. We're not cutting our losses and moving on due to some calamity or disaster.

To be sure, Nebraska has always been a place where people traveled across, to get somewhere else. It's fly-over country.

That was true back in the pioneer days when wagon trains rolled up the flat Platte River Valley en route to Oregon, Utah and other points west. It's still true today as semis and SUVs rumble down Interstate 80 and jetliners leave lazy contrails in the sky.

"Nebraska is an Indian word for 'long ways across,' " is how the joke goes.

But it's also a place where people stuck it out, through thick and thin, disasters and droughts. There was always an expectation that things would get better, and that it could have been worse.

Nebraskans persevere, through all kinds of weather. They stay on. They don't move on. (Unless, of course, it's to follow the football or volleyball team, or to go to a NA-SCAR race.)

The state motto has sparked more debates than I can remember.

"Equality Before the Law" is the official state motto, the one on the state flag and seal. It's a unique expression that everyone, black, white and otherwise, should be viewed equally, with equal rights.

Nebraska was granted statehood back in 1867 only after it dropped a "whites only" voting provision in its constitution, according to the Nebraska State Historical Society. You know, "equality before the law."

We've also had a variety of other state mottos, mostly for tourism.

I personally liked "Where the West Begins," a 1960s pitch, because Nebraska really is where "the West Begins" (and that's somewhere west of North Platte or thereabouts).

There's been a variety of other tourism taglines, but the one that stirred the most controversy was "Honestly, it's not for everyone."

That motto, since mothballed, was hailed by marketing types as edgy and directly confronting the idea that Nebraska was flat and boring. That slogan won some awards, and a survey said that interest in visiting the state increased after we admitted the state "wasn't for everyone."

But Gov. Pillen and others called it "nonsense" and a putdown. They said it hurt efforts to lure new residents to the state, and was contrary to economic development slogans stating that Nebraska was "open" for business and new folks.

(I've always thought that the state's best tourism pitch would be showing on-coming motorists flashing the one-finger wave, the friendly greeting to strangers that is unique to Nebraska (and kind of unheard of elsewhere.)

But for my money, the state motto, while nice, could use an upgrade. And "It Could Have Been Worse" works for me.

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

Did you know?

The Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The Library of Congress notes that marked an official announcement of the colonies' separation from Great Britain, but it would be awhile before celebrating American independence on July 4 became commonplace.

According to the LOC, it was not until the conclusion of the War of 1812 that festivities celebrating American independence became the norm. Curiously, even though the War of 1812 officially concluded in 1815, Congress did not pass a law making Independence Day a federal holiday until 1870.

Since then, Americans have celebrated July 4 in numerous ways. Backyard barbecues and community fireworks displays are popular ways to celebrate the holiday. Some even experience life-changing moments on July 4, when the country still holds naturalization ceremonies at which many individuals officially become U.S. citizens.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: TV MOMS

ACROSS

1. Ionic and Corinthian predecessor
6. Good times
9. AI fodder
13. Offer two cents
14. Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
15. Interior designer's concern
16. Not fiction, pl.
17. Big head
18. Fear-inspiring
19. **"Good Times" mom
21. **"The Sopranos" mom
23. Possessive pronoun
24. Gumbo pod
25. Protrude
28. Catcher's catcher
30. *Marvelous Midge Maisel's first name
35. "Metamorphoses" poet
37. Chows down
39. Millionaire maker
40. Time for eggnog
41. Sure sign of fire
43. "Frasier" actress Gilpin
44. TSA PreCheck alternative
46. Mosque V.I.P.
47. Arabian bigwig
48. Received salary
50. At the apex
52. Masseuse's office
53. "Where the Red _____ Grows"
55. Likewise
57. **"Arrested Development" mom
61. **"Fresh off the Boat" mom
65. Circumvent
66. French vineyard
68. Open disrespect
69. Dewey Decimal System, e.g.
70. 252-gallon cask
71. Cause anxiety (2 words)
72. Back talk
73. Extra point
74. Vanish without this

DOWN

1. Take of a hat, e.g.
2. Traditional October birthstone
3. Puerto follower
4. Opening, colloquially
5. #55 on periodic table
6. Part of an eye
7. **"Married with Children" mom
8. Investor's asset
9. Hold as a conviction
10. Unit of land often featuring a home
11. Load sixteen tons, e.g.
12. Geometry calculation
15. Divert from course
20. Between washes and styles
22. Casino's pull
24. Foot rest
25. **"Stranger Things" mom
26. Throat dangler
27. Mosaic artist
29. **"Friday Night Lights" mom
31. Tug-of-War gear
32. List entries
33. Like anchor aweigh
34. **"Schitt's Creek" mom
36. Martin of Rat Pack
38. 3-handed card game
42. Bring character to life
45. Response to stimulus
49. Ctrl+Alt+_____
51. Lemony cream dessert
54. Right-hand page
56. Academy Award
57. Orchid garlands
58. Forearm bone
59. Cow chow, pl.
60. "Beware the _____ of March"
61. **"The Handmaid's Tale" mom
62. Letter before kappa
63. Nile dweller, for short
64. Writer Rice
67. _____-D.M.C.

CROSSWORD

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THE FALLS CITY JOURNAL
Falls City Journal, LLC
www.fcjournal.net

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

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

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Member of the Nebraska Press
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Monday: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM • **Tuesday:** 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Wednesday: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM • **Thursday:** 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Friday: 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

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www.fcjournal.net

Postmaster: Send address change to:
The Falls City Journal, 1709 Stone St. Falls City, NE 68355

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"SEZ-I" LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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



75 Years Ago, June 24, 1951 to June 30, 1951

A huge cottonwood tree, beneath which many fishermen napped, crashed over the bridge at the mouth of the Nemaha River during a weekend flood, threatening to take out the structure. The great cottonwood, known as the "squirrel tree", stood on the east bank of the river, 30 yards south of the bridge.

A twelve-precinct survey reported farmers had approximately 75% of the corn planted in the county.

Montgomery Ward advertised regular softballs or bats for sale for 89 cents and a 12-month Commander battery for just \$5.97.

A crowd of over 600 attended the performance of the famous "Wings Over Jordan" group at the auditorium. The all-black chorus group traveled nearly 50,000 miles per year performing.

The FBI added Anthony Brancato to its 10 Most Wanted List. The tough hoodlum was one of four gunmen to rob a Las Vegas casino the month prior. Brancato, 36, hailed from Kansas City, Missouri.

After a year on the war front in Korea, Sgt. Raymond B. Smith called his parents from San Francisco, stating he was on his way home. Sgt. Smith served as an artilleryman with the 225th Division, which had moved up from Japan to the combat zone a week after the Korean War began.

Veteran St. Louis Cardinal scouts Joe Monahan and George Silvey were in St. Joseph, holding tryout camps. Expenses incurred by attending the camp would be refunded to all players who were signed to contracts by the Red Bird scouts.

Puppies for Sale—One male Scottie, 8 months old, \$8.00. One female Fox Terrier, 1-year-old, \$2.00. One male Rat Terrier, 1-year-old, \$3.00. House and yard puppies. 807 East 11th Street, Phone White 297.

Water lines from Rulo to Falls City had been repaired. The lines from the wells on the Missouri River had been in use since June 1941. The Layne-Western Company owned and operated the line at the time, and the city merely purchased water from the company. The contract had a clause allowing the city to purchase the system, which it did in 1946.

Tony Schroedl, who had recently purchased the Rivoli Theater, announced that the business would be closed for an extensive remodeling and repairing job.

Governor Peterson told the Central Nebraska North-South Highway Association that big truckers should pay for state highways because they were the heaviest users of them. Peterson cited a recent survey by college analysts that said truckers should pay one-third of all road costs in the state.

Three experimental plantings of bi-colored lespedeza, a woody perennial shrub, were set out in the area through the cooperation with the Falls City office of the soil conservation district.

50 Years Ago, June 24, 1976 to June 30, 1976

The Falls City Business and Professional Women's Club was restoring the Falls City Museum at Prichard Auditorium as its contribution to the local Bicentennial celebration.

Over 300 people who would be directing and making solicitations for the Community Hospital's \$640,000 fund drive for an addition for approximately 20 new beds attended an informational meeting at Prichard Auditorium. Tom Aitken, Sr., was the drive chairman, Dick Wilson headed the Rural East campaign, and Glenn Merz headed the Rural West campaign. Edgar Roesch was in charge of the drive in Falls City.

Jim Sheets took over as president of the Falls City Lions Club for 1976-77. Sheets took over from Ray Koopman, who had previously handled the duties.

George Brett led the American League with a batting average of .359, while teammate Hal McRae was second at .347. Brett also led the league with 97 hits, while McRae led the AL with 17 doubles.

The Rev. Edward H. Flannery, a leading Roman Catholic theologian, foresaw the disappearance of Christian antisemitism and predicted peace in the Middle East.

For Sale—Mutt and Jeff Drive In. Cash or contract. Miller-Monroe Co. Broker. 245-2722. Golf ball-sized hail hit the area as Harry Strasil, Jr. showed off a display of the hailstones.

Jr. and Opal's Fireside Inn. Help Celebrate Our First Year in Business. Free hors d'oeuvres, free dance and happy hour on Wed., June 30.

The Falls City delegation to the United Nations' youth pilgrimage left for New York. Falls City delegates included Julie Giles, Cindy Gerdes, Beth Phillips and Greg Weintert. The trip was sponsored by the Odd Fellows and Rebekah Lodges.

Darren Trull and Joe Lunsford combined for a no-hitter as Southside Inn defeated Rotary 10-2, in Pee Wee League action. Trull, Bill Lotter and Mark Zentner doubled for the only hits for the victors. Meanwhile, in Junior Midget League action, Kevin Scheitel threw a no-hitter as Scheitel Feed defeated Stephenson Drug, 12-1.

The hospital fund drive got off to a quick start, with Richardson County Bank and its officers, staff and directors donating \$37,500. First National Bank and Trust and its directors donated \$20,500.

Nelson Merz was named the new president of the Falls City Rotary Club.

Dr. H.E. Tracey, a dentist in Falls City for 33 years, announced his retirement in the near future.

25 Years Ago, June 24, 2001 to June 30, 2001

Work was on schedule, and officials anticipated an opening date of November for the 960-inmate prison in Tecumseh. The maximum/medium security prison had the capabilities of housing 32 death row inmates. Officials expected to fill the facility within 6 to 7 months. The \$73 million prison was comprised of 350,000 square feet of building space.

Thirty-four volunteers from various community groups performed a facelift on the property at 2321 Crook Street. The project leader was Ken Kunce.

Three recent graduates of Falls City High School were awarded Midland Lutheran College scholarships. Sarah Rasmussen, Devon Kottich and Sarah Baker all received scholarships to the Fremont-based school.

Juniors' pitcher Trevor Godemann threw five strong innings, striking out five in a 17-4 win over Lincoln Christian.

Ten volunteers from Salem donated approximately 50 hours of community service to scrape and paint the village equipment building. Volunteers included Casey and Colton Strauch, Mary Jane Wessel, Trudy and Gary Rowley, Sandy Catlin, Jon and Kelli Kean and Loretta Porter.

Burger King in Falls City advertised all-you-can-eat biscuits and gravy on Sunday mornings for just 99 cents.

Ryan Held was named the head football coach at Peru St. College, following the surprising resignation of coach Dick Strittmatter.

The Falls City American Legion Juniors defeated Auburn, 12-7, in an upset of the SE Nebraska League leader. Phillip Bahr earned the win on the mound, while Brent Shubert was 4-for-5 with a double and three RBI.

Total Entertainment Center advertised a 4th of July Special. Rent 3 movies, get 1 free on Tuesday, July 3 and keep until Thursday, July 5.

Joe and Margie Fleskoski celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by taking a seven-day cruise to Alaska.

BURBANK

-Continued from Page 1

type of post-Civil-War Republican cronyism and graft, it was John Burbank, who, when he was robbed by Jesse James, had just been removed as governor of the Dakotas for what reform-minded Republicans and all Democrats argued was a series of ethically challenged business dealings.

Burbank's Republican detractors and James' neo-Confederate apologists made strange bedfellows after the robbery — both sides argued there was some poetic justice in Burbank losing cash and fancy jewelry worth the equivalent of \$60,000 today.

According to a 1911 Richmond Palladium-Item story, after the robbery, Burbank returned to his home in Richmond, Indiana, where he served for the remainder of his career as "post office inspector and had exclusive charge of all post office buildings in the United States rented by the government. He was the only person who ever held that position for the office was discontinued upon his retirement."

The story failed to mention a key detail of John Burbank's past — his brother-in-law and close political ally was Oliver P. Morton, a former Northern Democrat who abandoned his party in 1856 due to the crimes of the pro-slavery wing of his party in Kansas that year. Oliver P. Morton (no relation and greatly disliked by J. Sterling Morton) nearly won the governorship of Indiana in 1856, with John A. Burbank's financial help, as the "anti-Nebraska" candidate (the term then used for those who saw the Kansas-Nebraska Act, formerly the "Nebraska Bill," as a pro-slavery conspiracy to make Kansas a slave state). Oliver P. Morton ran for lieutenant governor as a Republican in 1860, won, then quickly became governor when Henry Lane (no relation but close political ally to Falls City co-founder James H. Lane) stepped down as governor to become a U.S. senator. O.P. Morton would quickly become known as a leading "war governor" as Indiana supplied massive amounts of funding and volunteers to the early Union cause, and, in so doing, made himself and his associates deeply appreciated by Abraham Lincoln and his top administrators and military leaders such as Ulysses S. Grant.

If this sounds complicated, just wait. It gets worse.

John A. Burbank was a more conservative, business-oriented Republican like his brother-in-law Oliver P. Morton. Like many northern Democrats, they supported laws limiting the rights of Blacks in their state at the same time they only hoped to limit slavery's expansion, not bring about its demise.

John A. Burbank's brother, Joseph Edward Burbank, however, had much more radical ideas. Maj. J.E. Burbank, unlike his brother, was vocal in his belief that the United States was fundamentally failing to meet in reality the proposed Enlightenment ideals of the country's founding document. While J.E. Burbank also supported John's brother-in-law in his bid to lead Indiana, he argued the new Republican Party needed to fight both to end slavery and eradicate the "black-exclusion" laws then marring the legal codes of several border states.

It is Joseph, not John, who started a little fun-loving, satirical newspaper in Richmond, Indiana, in 1855 called the *Broad Axe* of Freedom and the Grubbing

Hoe of Truth that quickly morphed into a fiercely anti-slavery journal. It is Joseph and his writing partner Sewell Jamison who agree to take their press by steamboat to the northern Kansas river town of Doniphan, then haul it by wagon to a hilltop overlooking the Great Nemaha River and, just beyond that river, the northern border of the territory of Kansas.

Where, Joseph Burbank and Sewell Jamison quickly make the *Falls City Broad Axe* of Freedom and Grubbing Hoe of Truth arguably the fiercest critic of slavery, its apologists, and the administration officials and fire-eating slaveowners who tried from 1855 to 1859 to foist slavery on Kansas with, first, violence, then, increasingly — as a viable military free-state force headquartered at Falls City — just widespread fraud.

Joseph later serves in the Union Army and rises to the rank of major. John lands an appointment to be the administrator of the Great Nemaha Indian Agency headquarter close to the Falls of the Nemaha and the home of Sauk and Fox chief Mas-sau-quit and his clan at "Sauktown." Maj. Burbank suffered a profound brain injury during the war, but was able to continue serving as an army quartermaster at several frontier forts until retiring to a small ranch in western Nebraska.

Later in life, Maj. Burbank described in a short reminiscence in the Journal the tough road not only for winning the county seat of Richardson County for Falls City, but for any efforts to aid the formerly enslaved reach Iowa when slaveholders like Huston and Stephen Nucholls controlled many of the river towns between Rulo and Nebraska City. Maj. Burbank described the perception of him within the pro-slavery community while putting to rest any idea that Nebraska was either free of slavery or safe for those hoping to reach freedom farther north:

Our convention was held in St. Stephens. Huss Nuckolls had a crowd of hoodlums around him chiefly engaged in returning slaves back to their masters in Missouri. When they heard (I had been nominated from Falls City), they approached Nuckolls, expressing their refusal to vote for a damn black republican from Falls City, but Huss satisfied them that if they went back on Burbank, Falls City would go back on him.

In 1869, new president Ulysses S. Grant gave John A. Burbank one of the most coveted of federal appointments in the west — the governorship of the Dakotas, where the race was on to build railroads to the gold fields and other resource-rich areas of the region.

At the same time he was governor, John received significant incomes from railroad companies and real-estate investments and was widely viewed as an absentee leader. His tenure is still mentioned in South and North Dakota legislative and legal debates as the reason for both states' strong conflict-of-interest regulations on elected officials.

Radical reform-minded Republicans such as James Garfield of Ohio would later cite Gov. Burbank and other

life-long allegedly overpaid and underperforming political appointees as examples of the moral decay of "The Party of Lincoln" that he hoped to reform after his election in 1880. Garfield, like other reform-minded Republicans, hoped to refocus the party on issues of civil-service reform and expanding, not retreating from, Reconstruction-era efforts to protect the civil rights of African Americans and expand the rights of women.

His platform was simply a return to the radical egalitarian ideals touted in the mid-1850s by many of those who had marched into Kansas through Iowa and down over the later townsite of Falls City in 1856 to break a pro-slavery embargo of the Missouri River, then, in the years following, as a path to run guns and supplies to free-state fighters while maintaining a safe route for African Americans fleeing slavery in Missouri and Arkansas, the most famous of whom were the 11 enslaved men and women and one infant aided from slavery by John Brown, John Kagi, Aaron Stevens, John Ritchie and other famous abolitionists who stayed at least one night at the house and barn of David and Ann Dorrington (where the Collection Museum now sits.)

John A. Burbank and Major Joseph E. Burbank's resumes would become fused in later efforts by historians to identify early town leaders and, with that, which town founders were, in essence, focused on advancing freedom for themselves and fellow whites and those who genuinely seemed motivated to aid the new states of Kansas and Nebraska come closer to offering the breadth of human freedom deemed a natural right in the Declaration of Independence.

Town founder Maj. J.E. Burbank's resume suggests he was willing to speak and act to advance a more universal concept of liberty. Town founder John A. Burbank, both later Republican reformers and those like Jesse James committed to robbing wealthy Republicans and murdering reform-minded ones, seemed at least sometimes dedicated to personal rather than public gain.

Jesse James treasured wearing and showing off his gold watch with its heavy gold chain stolen from a Union man who had benefit greatly from being on the winning side.

One can only speculate if James would have murdered the abolitionist Burbank, a man who had journalistic ties to the Missouri Democrat and one of that paper's most controversially anti-slavery writers, James Redpath, who was not only a silent partner in the effort to boom Falls City, but arguably the leading voice in attempts to frighten pro-slavery ruffians like Jesse and Frank James.

Why would people like the James brothers want to kill Redpath?

Why did Huston Nuckolls and other slavery enthusiasts, including those who sheltered Jesse James in Rulo after murderous raids on abolitionists in Kansas, threaten to burn Falls City to the ground on more than one occasion?

The following clip from the James gang's most hated newspaper gives a clue:

LATEST FROM KANSAS.
Mr. James Redpath, (our special correspondent "Jacobius,") arrived in St. Louis last night from Kansas.
Gen. Lane and a company of men from Doniphan, had been absent several days before he left that town, for the purpose of guarding old Capt. Brown, with his rifles from Falls City, Nebraska, to the interior of the territory.

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Ben Hullman - ER celebrating eighth grade students who were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Students include Noah Jacobs, Gavin Dean, Braxton Moore, Myla Rumbaugh, Isabel Janky, Lucas Wisdom, DeLana Richey and Alaina Jackson. Not pictured was Ava Kieser. These students and their families were treated to supper and a special recognition program at the Falls City Elks #963.



Stephanie Boyer - Loyal Knight and Peter Diltz - Tiler, with students grade sixth thru eighth who won the Elks Americanism Essay Contest. The winners pictured included Ashly Ahern, Garrett Rieger, TJ Stice, Berklie Davis, Emmitt Bangert and Olivia Santo. These students and their families were treated to supper and a special recognition program at the Falls City Elks #963.

Huskers named to the spring Dean's list

More than 6,200 University of Nebraska-Lincoln students have been named to the Deans' List for the spring semester of the 2025-26 academic year.

Qualification for the Deans' List varies among the eight undergraduate colleges and the Explore Center. Listed below are the minimum requirements for each entity. All qualifying grade-point averages are based on a four-point scale and a minimum number of graded semester hours. Students can be on the Deans' List for more than one college.

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, 3.75; College of Architecture, 3.75; College of Arts and Sciences, 3.7; College of Business, 3.6; College of Education and Human Sciences, 3.75; College of Engineering, 3.7; College of Journalism and Mass Communications, 3.7; Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, 3.7; Explore Center for undeclared, pre-engineering, pre-health and pre-law students, 3.6.

Falls City students include: Emmy Lu Feek, senior, Dean's List, College of Business, actuarial science. Vaughn Lenard, junior, Dean's List, College of Business, management. Reece McNeely, senior, Dean's List, College of Business, business administration. Jocelyn Adelle O'Grady, senior, Dean's List, College of Business, management. Henry James Rottinghaus, sophomore, Dean's Lists, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and College of Arts and Sciences, agronomy and geology. Laura Waggoner, senior, Dean's List, College of Business, marketing and management.

Humboldt students include: Skai Joyner, junior, Dean's List, Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, graphic design. Daniel Snodgrass, senior, Dean's List, College of Engineering, electrical engineering. Joe Stalder, senior, Dean's List, College of Arts and Sciences, geology.

Rulo: Riley Kobza, senior, Dean's List, College of Business, accounting.



Auburn father-daughter duo turns welding tradition into a future in the trade

FAST Global Solutions Production Manager Andy Carman credits 25 years at the Auburn facility, a hands-on upbringing, and strong local educators for shaping daughter Aubrey's award-winning welding career.

AUBURN, Neb. - Andy Carman has spent 25 years on the floor of FAST Global Solutions' Auburn facility, moving from welder to instructor to Production Manager. His daughter Aubrey grew up watching him work. Now she's building a name of her own.

Aubrey Carman is currently enrolled in the welding program at Highland Community College in Belleville, Kansas, where she has placed second in SkillsUSA Welding Sculpture competitions at the college level and earned recognition across FFA district and state events in Nebraska. Her work, which blends technical precision with an artist's eye, has drawn comparisons to sculpture as much as manufacturing.

"She'll have her pick of companies wanting to hire her right out of college," Andy said. "All you want is for your children to be successful and happy. I feel she is very well on her way."

The path started early. Aubrey was around nine or ten years old the first time she tried welding, tagging along to one of her father's classes. She took to it immediately.

"The first time we got to welding and learned the basics, I was hooked," Aubrey said.

Her high school experience at Johnson-Brock Schools helped cement that interest. Metals shop and FFA teacher Ashton Bohling, who has worked alongside Andy Carman for more than 15 years to develop strong welding programs in local schools, was a formative influence. Bohling's program earned a \$50,000 Harbor Freight grant and regularly brings in industry professionals to give students a real-world look at manufacturing careers.

"Aubrey was extremely fortunate to have Ashton as a role model," Andy said.

Andy's connection to the Auburn community runs deep. He first encountered FAST Global Solutions through the welding classes he taught for Southeast Community College in Falls City, where he met many of the company's welders and learned about its employee-ownership model.

"One thing that really stood out to me was that FAST is an employee-owned company with an ESOP," Andy said. "When FAST purchased this facility and brought us on board, that was something I was truly excited about."

Two and a half decades later, he's still there. "This truly is my work family," he said. "Many of us have been together for most, if not all, of our professional lives." Andy regularly speaks to students and parents about manufacturing careers, and his message is consistent: encourage kids to explore hands-on skills early, even if they don't plan to make it a career. "Life doesn't always go as planned," he said. "Many people end up in manufacturing later in life, even if they started somewhere else. These skills open doors."

Aubrey is already walking through them. With welding demand rising nationwide, she sees a future full of possibility. "My long-term goal is to be successful in the trade and more knowledgeable about the science behind welding," she said. "What excites me most is the career opportunities."

SOCIETY NEWS

PARISH CIRCLE

Parish Circle met Monday evening June 15, 2026 at Bethel Global Methodist Church. Twelve members were present.

Lesson Leader Jan Deckinger opened the evening with prayer. She

led lesson seven from Ten Women of the Bible on The Canaanite Woman (When Great Faith meets Great Action). Deb Harris, the co-chair, conducted the business meeting. Discussion regarding the length of the movie for

next month so decided to change the gathering time to 6:30 P.M.

Catherine Palmer gave the treasurer's report. Deb asked for prayer concerns and joys which were shared by the group, she closed the meeting with prayer.

Refreshments were served from a table decorated in Red, White and Blue for Flag Day and Fourth of July by the hostess Cindy Scott and assisted by Catherine Palmer.

The next meeting will be July 20, 2026 at Bethel Global Methodist Church with a Family Movie Night. Showing the movie "A Great Awakening". This is a sight and sound film Beginning at 6:30 P.M. Joyce Jones will be the hostess and will provide the beverages with members bringing snacks to share.

The congregations are invited to attend.

Birthday CARD SHOWER
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THANK YOU!

I want to say thank you to everyone who made my 100th birthday so memorable. Thank you for all the cards, calls, flowers, visits and gifts. I appreciate everything so much.
LaVerne Yoesel

Sabetha Community Hospital Outpatient Calendar---July 2026

Botox

Levi Grimm, APRN: July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Cardiology

Tonya Stallbaumer, APRN: July 10
Swapna Mamidipally, MD: July 13, 27
Diane Wilkens, APRN: July 13, 27

Dermatology

Tiffany Engelken, APRN: July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30

Diabetes Support Group

July 21st @3pm

Dizziness & Balance

Gary McKnight, AuD: July 16

Ear, Nose, & Throat

Jason Lepse, MD: July 10

Endocrinology

Kelli Bradbury, APRN: July 28

Gastroenterology

John Riopelle, DO: July 14

Neurology

Abra Woolard, APRN: July 2, 16

Nephrology

Haley Wingerson, APRN: July 1
Keelyn Ericson, MD: July 20
Lakshmi Duvvur, MD: July 24

Nuclear Stress Tests

July 2, 23

OB/GYN

Jamesina Dickson, MD: July 1

Oncology

Robin McKay, APRN: July 17

Orthopedics

Adam Streit, DO: July 2, 16, 30
Maria VanDyke, PA-C: July 7, 21
Michael McCoy, MD: July 9, 23

Pain Management

Karl Haake, MD: July 7, 21

Podiatry

Robert Shemwell, DPM: July 8, 28

Surgery

Samuel Bruna, MD: July 1, 13, 15, 27, 29
Denis Jimenez, MD: July 6, 8, 20, 22

Wound Clinic

Susie Lueger, APRN: July 6, 13, 20, 27



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FRIDAY, JUNE 26 - Grilled Shrimp & Beef/Chicken Kabobs
SATURDAY, JUNE 27 - Closed

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Waste, litter and scrap tire grant applications accepted thru Aug. 5

Grant applications for the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) 2027 Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive, Litter Reduction and Recycling, and Scrap Tire programs can be submitted between June 24 and August 5, 2026 (4:00 p.m. CST).

The grant term will be January 1 through December 31, 2027. Funding decisions are expected to be announced in December 2026. Available funding is anticipated to be approximately \$4 million for Waste grants and \$3 million for Litter grants with a maximum award of \$500,000 per entity.

A grant application guidance document to aid grant applicants in the preparation of an application can be found at: <https://dwee.nebraska.gov/forms/publications-grants-forms/was075>

A link to major updates, general information, grant funding priorities for the 2027 Grant Year and a technical guide with instruction on how to use the Waste and Litter grant application software can be found at: <https://dwee.nebraska.gov/forms/publications-grants-forms/was066>.

The link to the DWEE application is: <http://ecmp.nebraska.gov/DEE-WGS/> Eligible grant projects include, but are not limited to: Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants: Household hazardous waste, electronic waste, and pharmaceutical collection events. School chemical cleanouts. Market development for recycled materials. Recycling systems and equipment – Equipment used in integrated solid waste programs and projects, such as balers, shredders, densifiers, and trucks/trailers to collect recyclables. Food and yard waste composting – brush chippers, tub grinders, compost turners, and compost screens. Deconstruction of abandoned buildings owned by the city/county (available to cities of the first class, cities of the second class, villages, and counties of 5,000 or fewer in population).

Litter Reduction and Recycling Grants: Public Education – funding to promote recycling and litter reduction awareness through educational activities and programs. Cleanup – funding for cleanup activities on public spaces and roadways. Recycling – funding for equipment and operating expenses.

Scrap Tire Grants: one hundred percent reimbursement of the cost of scrap tire cleanup events (political subdivisions, only).

Fifty percent reimbursement of crumb rubber for rubber modified asphalt, manufacturing, landscaping, or playground mulch

Twenty-five percent reimbursement of mats or tiles for playgrounds, poured-in-place playground surfaces, athletic tracks, and artificial turf football, soccer, and baseball fields.

Fifty percent reimbursement of capital costs for processing, manufacturing, collection, and transporting scrap tires. Cost-sharing for civil engineering uses (\$20/ton).

For more information, or to discuss a project contact: dwee.wastegrants@nebraska.gov, 402-471-2186 <https://dwee.nebraska.gov/>



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Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation launches new WanderNebraska mobile app and statewide trail trek collaboration for 2026

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHSF) is introducing a more connected, interactive way to explore the state with the launch of a new WanderNebraska mobile app and a first-of-its-kind collaboration with Nebraska Game and Parks' Trail Trek program for 2026. WanderNebraska runs through September 30th, featuring 254 sites statewide this year.

The new mobile app, available as a free download on Apple and Android devices, transforms how travelers experience the program. Participants can now easily discover destinations, track visits, and engage with sites across Nebraska as they work towards earning prizes, all from their phone. Complementing the app and updated for 2026, WanderNebraska.com provides a streamlined, user-friendly hub for planning trips, exploring all registered sites, and accessing program details throughout the season.

The enhanced digital experience is paired with continued opportunities for in-person exploration. Travelers can still use the traditional WanderNebraska booklet, available online and at participating sites, while enjoying the added convenience of digital tracking and trip planning. Travelers can request a WanderNebraska booklet at WanderNebraska.com. Beginning in 2026, a \$5 fee per booklet (limit of three per order) will help offset postage costs, while free copies will remain available at participating sites.

In celebration of America's 250th anniversary, NSHSF is partnering with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission on the 2026 Your Parks Adventure: Trail Trek program. This collaboration introduces 50 shared sites where participants can experience both Nebraska's cultural heritage and its natural beauty, combining museum visits with outdoor trail exploration.

"WanderNebraska continues to be a powerful way to connect people with the stories and places that define our state," said Leslie

Fattig, NSHSF Executive Director. "With the addition of our new mobile app and an exciting partnership with Nebraska Game and Parks, we're making it easier than ever for travelers to explore, learn, and experience Nebraska in meaningful ways."

At these locations, travelers will find co-branded Trail Trek and WanderNebraska selfie stations and can check in by scanning on-site QR codes through the Trail Trek system, increasing opportunities to win prizes. Visits at these locations must be registered through the Your Parks Adventure system.

"This partnership creates a unique opportunity for Nebraskans and visitors alike to experience both our natural landscapes and cultural history in one journey," said Bob Hanover of Nebraska Game and Parks. "Trail Trek and WanderNebraska complement each other perfectly, encouraging exploration, activity, and discovery across the state."

In 2025, WanderNebraska recorded more than 4,500 participant stops and distributed over 10,500 booklets across Nebraska and beyond. This momentum is expected to grow with the program's new digital features and statewide partnership.

"We've introduced a lot of new features this year that make the program more interactive, engaging, and

exciting for participants," said Teresa Breazile, WanderNebraska Program Coordinator. "We love seeing where travelers go and encourage everyone to share their adventures with us along their journey."


Participation in WanderNebraska remains free, thanks to generous support from the DF Dillon Foundation, the Midwest Community Foundation, and the Nebraska Lottery.

For more information, to download the app, or to begin planning your journey, visit WanderNebraska.com.

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation raises money in support of the cause of history, including projects of Nebraska State Historical Society, a state agency. The Foundation solicits funds and support from individuals and organizations across the state and beyond, who value Nebraska's unique heritage and wish to play a personal role in ensuring that Nebraska's history will be accessible to future generations.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Taxpayer ID #47-6000332. www.nshsf.org. Century House, 1201 Lincoln Mall, Suite 100, Lincoln, NE 68508.

For more information, please contact Leslie Fattig, Executive Director at lfattig@nshsf.org or 402-209-9140.



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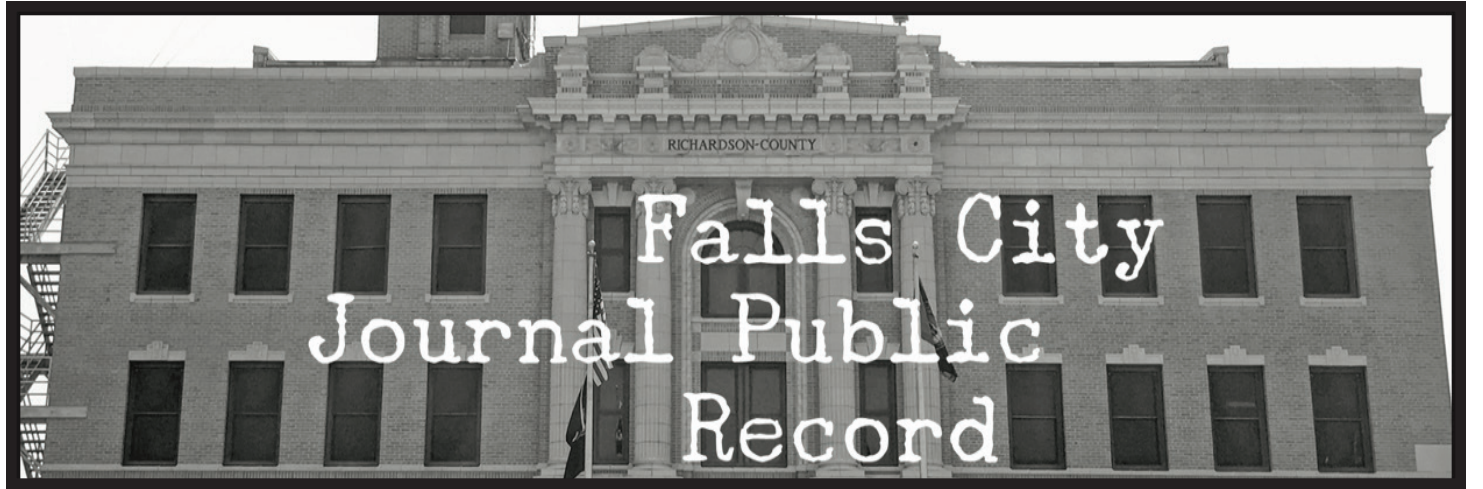
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CITATIONS

Arlene Wickham of Falls City, count one, plates not clear and visible, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25; count two, no seat belt, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Daniels)
 Gary Davis of Burleson, TX, count one, speeding 1-5 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$50 and court costs. (Janssen)
 Alana Tunget of Falls City, count one, disobey traffic control device, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Quint)
 Marlanna Stalder of Falls City, count one, speeding 6-10, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Cheek)
 Jaxon McCartney of Falls City, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Adams)
 Reid Kirkendall of Falls City, count one, fail to yield ROW-on left turn, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Novak)
 Robert August of Dawson, count one, speeding

16-20 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$200 and court costs. (Holliday)
 Sean McCurdy of St. Augustine, FL, count one, speeding 21-35 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$300 and court costs. (Holliday)
 Michelle Daniel-Johnson of Lincoln, count one, speeding 1-5 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$50; count two, no operator's license, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75 and court costs. (Novak)
 Jose Aldana Moreno of Omaha, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Agena)
 Cara Cavaness of Lincoln, count one, fail to display proper number of plates, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25; count two, fail to use seat belt, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Adams)

Rachelle Kruse of Falls City, count one, careless driving, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$100 and court costs. (Aitken)
 Kaden Dougherty of Falls City, count one, careless driving, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$100; count two, muffler required/good working order, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Adams)

Donald Dozier of Hiawatha, count one, fail to use seat belt, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25; count two, speeding 1-5 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$50 and court costs. (Daniels)
 Albert Curtis of Sealy, TX, count one, speeding 11-15 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$125 and court costs. (Holliday)
 Kole Schawang of Falls City, count one, improper/defective vehicle lighting, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25 and court costs. (Shiley)

COUNTY COURT

Latoyia D. Mackey, count one, nonresident violate susp/rev order, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for August 5, 2026.
 Matthew J. Lyons, count one, nonresident violate susp/rev order, plea changed to guilty, found guilty; count two, improper/defective vehicle lighting, plea changed to guilty, found guilty. Sentencing scheduled for July 22, 2026.
 Krystin C. Stormo, count one, drive under susp/ before reinstated, pled no contest, found guilty and fined \$75; count two, fail to use seat belt, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$25; count three, speeding 6-10 mph, pled guilty, found guilty and fined \$75.
 Dorothy M. Whitney, count one, disturbing the peace, pled not guilty. Pretrial scheduled for July 8, 2026.
 Bryce D. Ebel, count one, theft-unlawful taking \$501-1,499, pled no contest, found guilty. Sentence includes state fine of \$1,000, probation for term of 18 months, offender assessment screening of \$10, community service for term of 40 hours, probation admin enrollment fee of \$30, probation fee-regular of \$450, jail for term of 30 days beginning January 1, 2027, jail for term of 30 days beginning June 1, 2027.

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

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

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

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

D	O	R	I	C	U	P	S	D	A	T	A		
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HARDESTY

-Continued from Page 1

"I just try to put myself in that person's shoes," said Hardesty. "You know, look at it from every angle, every possibility, to try to find a reason why he is like this? Is it a family problem? Is it a spousal issue or something like that?"

He continued, saying it is extremely important to gather as much information as possible while trying to identify the root of the issue.

All said, Chase was on the phone with the caller for over 30 minutes, all along radioing his deputies and keeping them informed, while also keeping himself and the caller calm and composed.

His goal was to keep the individual on the line for as long as possible, asking questions along the way to draw attention away from suicidal thoughts.

"We ended up talking for 30 to 40 minutes until the officers were able to get out there and make contact with them," said Hardesty.

That day, his training definitely paid dividends.

"Without the proper training and learning and understanding those procedures, it is very easy to mess up or be a step behind," said Hardesty. "The balls always rolling in our line of work, and it doesn't stop for anyone or anything, unfortunately."

Hardesty said while he is extremely honored for the recognition, he doesn't do it for the accolades.

"I'm here doing my job to the best of my abilities," said Hardesty. "I'm very grateful that I did receive that acknowledgment and praise, but

that's never why you do it."

Only one recipient in the state receives the award each year, which makes what the dispatch supervisor did on that day even more impressive.

He said he will do whatever he can, within his capabilities and with the resources he has, to do the absolute most in those situations. His quick thinking and calm demeanor kept the caller mellow, taking pressure off the officers responding that day.

"It's kind of hard to put into words how much it really means," said Hardesty. "I've never received anything like it."

It's an important and daily reminder that he helped that individual get home safely that day, and that you never know what the person on the other end will need from you when you answer the call. He said that person may just be having a bad day or going through something difficult, and they just need to hear a friendly voice on the other end of the phone.

After some time had passed since the phone call, the individual who had called 911 called Sheriff Hardesty to express their gratitude for the response that day.

"Even that reaction, I would almost say that the reaction from them was almost greater than the award," Chase said.

Sheriff Rick Hardesty added that the 911 dispatchers "are the heartbeat of any law enforcement center."

The Sheriff continued, saying that if the dispatcher doesn't get accurate, detailed information, an officer could walk into a situation and think it's nothing, only to find it's much more.

FALLS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS AND STATISTICS

June 5, 2026 through June 6, 2026 calls: six miscellaneous calls, four referred to other agency calls, two ambulance/EMS calls, two animal calls, two alarms, two records checks, one traffic/driving complaint, one found or lost property call, one check welfare, one disturbance, one accident, and one information-only call. Twenty-four total calls. Four 911 calls, one warning for improper/defective vehicle lighting, and one warning for display fictitious plate.

June 6, 2026 through June 7, 2026 calls: three ambulance/EMS calls, two animal calls, one referred to other agency call, one alarm, one information-only call, and one traffic/driving complaint. Nine total calls. Two 911 calls.

June 8, 2026 through June 9, 2026 calls: four miscellaneous calls, three nuisance calls, one trespassing call, one ambulance/EMS call, one phone/digital/mail scam, one alarm, one investigation, and one disturbance. Fourteen total calls. Six 911 calls, one citation for terroristic threats, one citation for intimidation by phone call, one warning for street games, and one warning for criminal trespass.

June 9, 2026 through June 10, 2026 calls: three miscellaneous calls, two records checks, two animal calls, two 911 hang-up/misdial calls, two referred to other agency calls, one phone/digital/mail scam, one check welfare, and one assault. Fourteen total calls. Two 911 calls.

June 10, 2026 through June 11, 2026 calls: four ambulance/EMS calls, two referred to other agency calls, one alarm, three nuisance calls, two animal calls, three HHS intake/referral calls, six miscellaneous calls, one check welfare, one weather-related call, one follow-up, two information-only calls, and one parking complaint. Twenty-seven total calls. Five 911 calls.

June 11, 2026 through June 12, 2026 calls: one weather-related call, one missing person or juvenile call, two alarms, four animal calls, five information-only calls, one ambulance/EMS call, two nuisance calls, one burn permit, one 911 hang-up/misdial call, one referred to other agency call, two check welfare calls, and one miscellaneous call. Twenty-two total calls. Seven 911 calls.

June 12, 2026 through June 13, 2026 calls: one noise disturbance, two parking complaints, three miscellaneous calls, one motorist assist, one warrant arrest, two ambulance/EMS calls, two found or lost property calls, two 911 hang-up/misdial calls, one burn permit, one nuisance call, one records check, one gun permit, two traffic/driving complaints, one trespassing call, and one referred to other agency call. Twenty-two total calls. Four 911 calls.

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Post 102 defeats Palmyra/Bennett twice last week

The Froeschl Floors, Post 102 Juniors defeated Bennett/Palmyra 6-4 in action on Wednesday, June 17, in Palmyra. Three late runs propelled Falls City to the win.

Trailing 4-3 entering the seventh and final inning, FC's Noah Howard reached on an error to open the frame. Howard later scored on a passed ball, tying the game at 4-4. Next, Ryder Hullman reached on an error by the third baseman. A walk by Gavin Shubert and an error by the center fielder allowed pinch runner Baker Wissman to score from second, giving FC a 5-4 lead. The final run came on a single by Gavin Dean



Gavin Dean works a lead on third base in Falls City's 16-5 win over Palmyra/Bennett on Saturday morning.

to right field, putting FC in the driver's seat, 6-4. Howard retired the side in the bottom of the inning to preserve the win.

FC opened the game with a 1-0 lead after the top of the first. Paxton Holmes was hit by a pitch, stole second, advanced to third on a wild pitch, and scored on a passed ball.

With the game tied 1-1 in the third, Callen Furnas singled to lead off the

inning. Howard reached on catcher's interference. Furnas scored after an error allowed Holmes to reach base. An error and a groundout moved Holmes to third, and a wild pitch allowed Holmes to cross the plate, giving FC a 3-1 advantage. Palmyra/Bennett scored two in the third to tie the game and took the lead with one run in the fourth.

Furnas led the of-

fense with a pair of base hits, while Shubert, Kam Huppert, Dean and Reid Kirkendall each added a single. Huppert went five innings, allowing three hits, three walks and four runs while striking out three. Elin Vonderschmidt earned the win, walking three and striking out one in one inning of action.

On Saturday, during the first-round action of

POST 102 -Page 8

the Cob's Archive Dive **N** into the Falls City JOURNAL

Welcome to installment No. 1 of 'The Cob's Archive Dive,' where each week, I'll share Associated Press headlines and excerpts from past articles printed in the *Falls City Journal*. Whether you are 20 years old or 80, hopefully you'll find a piece of Husker football history that takes you back to the sights and sounds of game-day years ago.

By Lyle Harmon

On this day in Cornhusker Football History:

August 22, 1970 – Headline: 'Highly Touted Backs Boost Cornhuskers'

The Nebraska football team begins pre-season practice sessions Sunday with a highly-charged backfield corps but a lot of question marks in the offensive line and defense. The team will not be hurting for offensive punch with the likes of junior quarterbacks Jerry Tagge and Van Brownson, running backs Jeff Kinney, Joe Oduna, Dan Schneiss, and receivers Guy Ingles and Jeff Hughs. About 82 players, including 29 lettermen, are expected to report for pre-season practice. Said Devaney, "We feel we may have an opportunity to have a good football team, but we have a great many problems to solve before we can sleep restfully on Friday nights."

(Things a coach worries about haven't changed, what has is the starting date, number of players, and money involved. I'm sure Matt Rhule has the same outlook for his 2026 team.)

August 5, 1980 – Headline: 'Huskers, Sooners Big 8 Favorites'

The Sooners and Cornhuskers, most of the coaches agree, are the teams to beat once again in 1980. Oklahoma's Barry Switzer claimed his team, which lost running back Billy Sims and linebacker George Cumby, would not be as good as the 1979 Big Eight championship team, which was 11-1 and whipped Florida State in the Orange Bowl. This of course was the same man who said his 1979 team was not as good as the '78' squad.

Tom Osborne, low-key to the point of somnambulism, conceded Nebraska would be a pretty good team, despite losing numerous linemen and receivers. "Our running back situation is probably as good as any year I can remember, and that goes back 18 years," he said of the depth-laden crew headed by Jarvis Redwine.

(Osborne had adopted the I-formation at this point, and Nebraska, which had always had good running backs, was on the verge of becoming 'I-Back U'.)

August 3, 1990 – Headline: 'SWC Discusses Big 8 Alliance'

A possible alliance or merger with the Big Eight Conference will be among the items on the agenda when athletic directors from the Southwest Conference meet to discuss options following Arkansas's departure to the Southeastern Conference. SWC Commissioner Fred Jacoby said no action will be taken but said the informal meeting will give officials a chance to discuss important issues concerning the SWC's direction now that Texas A&M and Texas may be considering a move to the SEC. "Coaches say we've got to be on TV, we've got to be seen. That's become so important that you've got to position yourself to be with people that make it attractive," Houston athletic Director Rudy Davalos said.

(You may not consider this Husker football history, but Arkansas finally becoming fed up with Texas and moving to the SEC was the first step in Nebraska eventually ending up in the Big Ten. But not before Nebraska, Colorado, and Missouri got sick of Texas trying to control the Big XII. Texas A&M ended up in the SEC 22 years after this article. For Texas it was 34 years.)

August 6, 2000 – Headline: Huskers on Top of Preseason Football Poll

Husker football stands atop the Associated Press Pre-season Top 25 football poll with a No. 1 ranking. "We're not going to get very excited about it," coach Frank Solich said. "We'll take the same approach we always have." Which means playing down the preseason ranking apparently to stave off overconfidence among the players and keep the accompanying hype to a minimum. Nebraska begins the season on top for the sixth time since the AP's first preseason poll in 1950. The Huskers have captured four AP national championships, but none in the years they started No. 1. Solich said Nebraska's number one ranking was "probably a tribute to the program as much as anything else." The Huskers finished strong last season capping a 12-1 season with a 31-21 victory over Tennessee in the Fiesta Bowl and finished No.3 in the final AP Poll.

(From 1983 to 2000 Nebraska was consistently ranked in the top ten in the preseason rankings. Solich was right to say the rankings were as much a tribute to the program as anything, especially by 1999 when you could clearly see a drop off in talent. It's hard to say exactly what that could be attributed to. But perhaps it was an aging coaching staff that was finding it more difficult to relate to the young players and the changing times.)

Be sure to look for next week's edition as the 'Cob' dives into each week's headlines of the season as they once appeared in the *Falls City Journal*.

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All headlines and excerpts were gathered from Associated Press articles, and most but not all were published in the *Falls City Journal*.

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ARMBRUSTER'S "BACK IN THE DAY"

He won a purple ribbon in the 4-H Family and Consumer Science Contest in July 1998.

Last week's "Back in the Day" was Scott Romine

FC COUNCIL

-Continued from Page 1

Jorn said Olsson was billing at a rate different from the agreed-upon rate. The billing percentage hadn't been updated in the contract. Olsson resubmitted a contract reflecting the 2026 fees.

Approval was also granted for a Master Agreement Work Order for the Nebraska Plant Feeder Structure Replacement, with a maximum of \$135,000.

The area being replaced is the wood structure on the side of the power plant. The structure has five circuits attached to it that run across City Park.

"It's a very important structure and this is for their planning it, engineering it and then going out for a bid to get that structure replaced," said Jorn.

The Board approved Resolution No. 2026-R111, amending Resolution 2026-R108 to fund the Homeownership Financial Assistance Program for 1612 Fulton Street.

Resolution 2026-108 provided \$50,000 in down payment assistance for the residence at 1612 Fulton Street. It was agreed that EDGE and Falls City would each contribute 50% of the down payment. Miller Monroe agreed to

waive fees for 10 years. The new resolution allows the fees to be paid to Miller Monroe immediately and permits negotiation on the property at 606 Morehead.

Council member Fouraker asked whether any final numbers were available. Jorn said the numbers were not final because the closing had not yet been completed.

City Attorney Mike Dunn said that once commissions were paid, the city would get back "a little bit of cash now, and then we'll get paid what is owed to us, back to \$25K. But the total profit on the whole thing is going to be less than \$2,000."

Board members also approved an audit of the Wartsila engine, the plant's auxiliary systems, and the plant and engine automation for \$86,884.74.

Jorn said that after the recent power outage, talks ensued about getting a full audit of the power plant. Wartsila engineers will travel to Falls City to look over the plant. Jorn said the city is "probably looking at a couple hundred thousand" with the audit and repairs.

The Council entered a closed meeting at 6:29 to prevent harm to an individual while discussing personnel.

POST 102

-Continued from Page 8

the SE Nebraska Baseball Conference Junior Legion Tournament in Falls City, Post 102 defeated Palmyra/Bennett 15-6.

FC trailed 4-2 after two innings but scored seven in the third and seven more in the fourth to secure the nine-run win. Holmes, Shubert, Hullman, Vonderschmidt, Kirkendall, and Ramer all recorded base hits. Huppert and Kirkendall led the attack with three RBI each. Brody Scholl threw 3 2/3 innings, allowing just two hits and five runs (four earned) while striking out eight for the win. The Juniors drew 13 walks and struck out just three times.

The second game of the day was halted after four innings due to weather conditions. At the time of stoppage, FC trailed the Adams Hellcats, 4-1. As rain fell, the mound became unsafe, prompting the pause. With no time to schedule a date to complete the game, Adams will move on to the tournament championship.

Trailing 4-0, FC's lone run came in the third inning. Vonderschmidt walked with one out, followed by Baker Wissman's walk. Howard was hit by a pitch, and Holmes drew a four-pitch walk to score Scholl, making it 4-1. A double play ended the inning.

Baker named Veterans Service Committee

The Richardson County Board of Commissioners convened on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, with all members in attendance.

Highway Superintendent Steve Darveau Jr. was unable to meet with the Board on Wednesday. A letter from county resident Vicki Jacobitz asked whether improvements could be made to 644 Avenue between 717 and 718 Road. Jacobitz requested that the ditches be improved to carry water away from the road.

EMA Director Brian Kirkendall presented the Subrecipient Certification of Compliance with Foreign National Vetting Requirements and requested that the Board approve its submission to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the certification for EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) funding for 2025-2026, to be submitted to the NE Emergency Management Agency. The certification verifies that the em-

ployees of the Emergency Management Office are citizens of the United States. The motion passed.

The Board also approved the purchase of 100 NOAA Weather radios from Midland Radio Corporation at a cost of \$3,499.00.

A discussion was held on the cost of being on the statewide radio network. If the county is approved for the grant it applied for, it will receive \$1.6 million for statewide-capable mutual aid radios. If approved, the county will need to provide a 20% (\$326,460) match for the radios. EMA Director Kirkendall said that just because the radios have statewide capabilities doesn't mean they have to be used statewide; it's just an option. The cost of inclusion in the statewide network will rise in the near future.

Sheriff Hardesty advised the Board that the jail was housing 21 inmates. Hardesty also presented the salary proposals for his department for 2026-27.

The Board discussed new vehicles for the Sheriff's Department. Hardesty has budgeted for three new patrol vehicles for the coming year.

"I feel like if you don't stay up on vehicles, then you get behind and it costs too much to get caught back up," said Campbell.

Hardesty said that was an issue when he first assumed the role of Sheriff.

He said that at the time, the department had a Durango with over 350,000 miles on it.

The Sheriff also presented numbers for the Board to consider on family-provided insurance, with a 70% county contribution.

Veterans Service Officer Odis Fields presented the nomination of Jameson Baker to the Veterans Service Committee for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2026. A motion was made and passed to accept the nomination.

Patrick Kreifels, Regional Administrator of Region V Systems, and Matt Kasik, Director of APACE, presented annual reports to the Board. Richardson County will continue to fund \$15,713 for 2026-2027, per Nebraska State Statute 71-808. The County will also provide an additional \$2,446 to cover Region V programming costs.

The claims were paid and the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

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Don Shafer, Moderator - 402-245-5209

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

Christ Lutheran Church LCMS (23rd & Barada) Sunday: Divine Service, 9 AM Sunday School and Bible study, 10:15 AM (September-May). Communion every Sunday. fallscitylcms.blogspot.com Rev. Ken Humphrey, Pastor- 402-245-3324

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMS. (6 Mi. North of Falls City on US 73) Sunday School and Bible study, 9:30 AM (September-May). Divine Service, 10:30 AM. Communion on 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays. fallscitylcms.blogspot.com Rev. Ken Humphrey, Pastor - 402-245-4643

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

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

RULO

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

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Falls City and the Civil War before The Civil War

The Dorrington House and Bard Underground Railroad Museum is hosting an Open House, Talk, and Tour of the "Guns That Won Kansas" exhibit on June 27 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. with Historian and Author Robert Nelson.

Visitors will learn about the early gun-running and anti-slavery history of Falls City told with the help of a large collection of pre-Civil-War weapons known to have been used by John Brown, Jim Lane, John Kagi, Aaron Dwight Stevens and other free-state fighters in their efforts to not only make Kansas a free state, but to end the institution of slavery in the United States.

Historian Bob Nelson will be at the museum all day giving tours of the musket, rifle, cavalry sword, and revolver collection while explaining how these weapons and their owners within "The Army of the North" helped make the name "Falls City" a terror to those who hoped to foist slavery on Kansas by force and fraud.

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Dedicated to Milan Tomek in honor of his 90th Birthday

Joe David Taylor



Joe David Taylor, 77, of Humboldt, Nebraska was born on April 17, 1949, in Omaha, Nebraska to Joseph Harvey H. and Phyllis Jean (Albin) Taylor. He completed most of his schooling in Omaha. As a teenager, Joe moved south of Dawson to live with his Albin grandparents on their farm. He earned his high school diploma from Dawson-Ver-

don High School with the class of 1967. After high school, Joe was blessed with his son Tim Taylor from a previous marriage. On October 29, 1973, Joe was united in marriage to Charlotte "Josie" Clancy in Auburn, Nebraska. To this union two children, David and Dawn were born.

Joe was known for his work ethic. He worked in concrete construction and lended those skills to neighbors and friends. Joe created sidewalks, driveways, foundations, and benches throughout the community. His greatest joys in his later years were attending local sporting events where his grandchildren competed and venturing to nearby casinos visiting with other retired friends.

Joe passed away on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at Bryan Medical Center West in Lincoln, Nebraska having reached the earthly age of seventy-seven years, 1 month, and twenty-seven days. He is preceded in death by his parents; wife Josie Taylor, siblings: Harvey Michael "Mike", William "Bill", Melvin "Lee", and Harriet, grandson Ezekiel Metschke, parents-in-law Cyril and Evalyn Clancy, and sister-in-law Julie Halverson.

Joe is survived by his children: Tim Taylor and wife Shelly of Holmesville, NE; David Taylor and wife Stephanie of Beresford, SD; Dawn Metschke and husband Marty of Johnson, NE; grandchildren: Hayley (Cody) Coon, Zack (Hannah) Taylor, Zayda Taylor, Coralee and Ryman Taylor, and Charlotte and Noah Metschke, brothers-in-law: Greg Clancy and wife Pam of Belleville, KS; Steve Clancy and wife Cindy of Dawson, NE; Bob Clancy and wife Kim of Brookville, KS; sisters-in-law: Mary Clancy of Dawson, NE; Patricia Eastman of Dawson, NE; Amy Sanford and husband Darrell of Lincoln, NE; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Funeral Services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at the Humboldt Christian Church in Humboldt, Nebraska with Pastor Howard Blecha officiating.

Visitation was from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on Monday, June 22, 2026, at the Wherry Mortuary, 207 N. Nemaha Street in Humboldt, Nebraska. Family greeted friends at the mortuary from 6-8 p.m. at the mortuary.

Interment followed services at the Heim Cemetery in Dawson, Nebraska. Memorial contributions are suggested to the family's choice with a later designation.

Condolences can be shared online at www.wherrymortuary.com. Services entrusted to Wherry Mortuary-207 N. Nemaha St., Humboldt, Nebraska 68376 (402) 862-2915.

Senator Bob Hallstrom Newsletter

As we approach Independence Day 2026, southeast Nebraskans join millions of Americans in marking not only our annual celebration of freedom, but also a truly historic milestone: the 250th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence.

Two and a half centuries ago, brave men and women in the American colonies risked everything to declare that governments obtain their just powers from the consent of the governed. That bold idea—that liberty belongs to all people by right, not by permission—still defines who we are.

In southeast Nebraska, we feel the blessings of that liberty every day.

Whether on family farms near our small towns, in local businesses along the Missouri River, or in the classrooms and churches that strengthen our communities, we live in a place where hard work, self-reliance, and neighborly care still matter. Our region's deep agricultural roots remind us that true independence rests on the shoulders of those willing to steward the land, raise families, and contribute to something larger than themselves.

This milestone anniversary invites us to reflect on both our remarkable achievements and the responsibilities that come with freedom. We have weathered wars, economic hardship, and deep divisions, yet we remain one nation under God, bound by a constitution that limits government power and protects individual rights. The experiment in self-government launched in 1776 continues because each genera-

tion chooses to renew it.

I am especially honored to participate in that renewal on Thursday, July 2, when I will deliver remarks at the naturalization ceremony in Nebraska City. Watching new Americans take the Oath of Allegiance is always moving, but this year it carries extra weight as we prepare to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. These citizens chose the United States deliberately—often leaving behind difficult circumstances—to embrace our values of liberty, equality under law, and opportunity. Their presence strengthens our state and reminds us that American citizenship is both a precious gift and a solemn commitment.

This Independence Day, I encourage every family to gather, reflect, and give thanks. Fly the flag proudly. Teach your children the stories of 1776. Discuss what freedom means today and what we must do to preserve it for the next 250 years.

I will continue to travel the District over the summer and would welcome the opportunity to meet people from your community, either for an event or for a town hall meeting. I welcome your input on issues of interest and importance to you. I encourage you to follow along on my Facebook page designated as Senator Bob Hallstrom, for updates on legislation and District 1 activities. Please feel free to contact me directly at Senator Bob Hallstrom, District 1 State Capitol, PO Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509; Telephone (402)471-2733; or email me at bhallstrom@leg.ne.gov.

Ada Magdanz



Ada Magdanz, 102, of Falls City, NE, passed away June 19, 2026 at Falls City. She was born January 22, 1924 at Pierce, NE to Christopher and Emma (Buchholz) Herbosheimer. She married Monroe Magdanz on June 30, 1946 at Pierce. He passed away March 17, 2007.

Ada was raised in Pierce and graduated Pierce High School in 1942. She worked as a teacher in a rural school, then moved to Denver for a year before returning to Pierce. When married the couple established their home in Norfolk, NE. They moved to Falls City in 1953 and in 1966 she began working at J. C. Penny, retiring after more than 20 years of employment. She was a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church at 20th and Towle St. In retirement she volunteered on the Elections Board and was very active in her church.

Ada is survived by her sons, David and his wife Joann of Houston, TX, Scott and his wife Joan of Falls City, granddaughters, Amy (Trevor) Rose and their children, Jonathan and Charlotte, Lindsey (Mike) Crawford and their children, Luke and Noah, Sara Magdanz, Abigail (Toller) Hoffer, Elizabeth (Chaz) Dunn and their child, Kamren and Rachel Magdanz.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and nine siblings.

Her memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2026 at 10:30 A. M. at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church with Pastor Joanna Kathol officiating. Inurnment will be in Steele Cemetery.

The service will be live streamed on Dorr and Clark Funeral Home's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/dorrandclarkfuneralhome>

No visitation or viewing. Friends may sign the guest book at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home during regular business hours.

In lieu of flowers please make memorials to St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Delores Oliver

Delores Oliver, 86, of Falls City, NE, passed away June 17, 2026 at Falls City. She was born December 26, 1939 at Falls City to Bernard and Catherine (Schawang) Niedfeld.

She married Leonard Oliver June 14, 1958 at Falls City. He passed away October 5, 1966.

Delores was raised in the Barada area and graduated Shubert High School in 1958. When married the couple estab-

lished their home in Falls City. She was an Omaha World Herald distributor and she worked managing a detasseling crew in the area until becoming employed at Flairfold. She later became a counselor at Region 5 at Auburn and Nebraska City. She retired in 2004 to become a full-time grandma and helped care for her grandson. She enjoyed attending her children's sporting events. She was also a proud breast cancer survivor. She was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Catholic Daughters, serving in several state positions, PCCW, and was a former DOES member.

Delores is survived by her sons, Brad and his wife Kim of Juniata, NE, Kirby of Falls City and Jeff of Lincoln, NE, grandson, Braden and his wife Alaina of Hastings, NE and a sister, Rita Willey of Lincoln, NE.

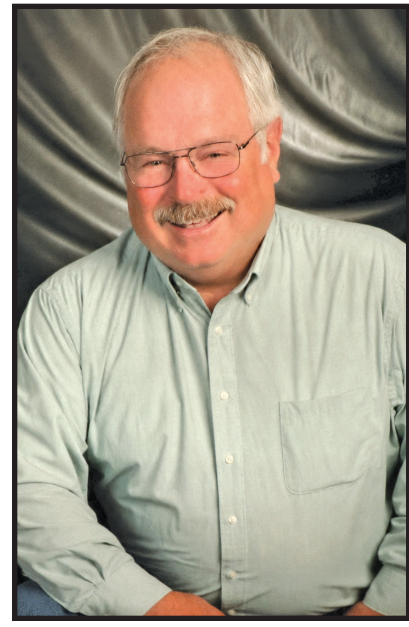
She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

A Mass of Christian Burial was Monday, June 22, 2026 at 10:30 A.M. at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church with Father Jim Meysenburg officiating. Interment was in Falls City Catholic Cemetery.

A Parish Rosary was on Sunday at 7:00 P.M. at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home. Family receive d friends following the rosary.

A Catholic Daughters Rosary was on Sunday at 4:00 P.M. at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home.

David Wheeler



David Keith Wheeler was born July 3, 1958, to Keith and Joan. David grew up a farm boy learning how to drive tractors and raise livestock. He worked putting up hay, walking beans, and even babysitting once in a while. Riding horses and rodeoing were favorite pastimes.

He attended Southeast Consolidated from kindergarten to graduating with the

class of 1976. Dave knew farming was not his best option, so he joined the Navy. He was proud of his service, following in the footsteps of his dad in the Army and his five uncles in Naval Service.

David married Marie Land on December 23, 1978, in Nemaha, Nebraska. Marie followed him to each duty station and through deployments to the Middle East. His first ship assignment was the USS Enterprise, followed by the USS Coral Sea, USS Forrestal, and the USS Kalamazoo, from which he retired after attaining the rank of Chief. Following retirement Dave followed his Navy friend Jay to Alabama for work.

Nikki Marie was born March 7, 1981, followed by Joshua David on June 21, 1991. Dave said goodbye to

Marie on September 23, 2017. Life was lonely for David, and he began to spend more and more time in Stella after losing Marie, his father-in-law Bill Land, and his own dad the same year.

David returned to Stella and became active in the Stella Community Church where he served on the church council. He was also involved in the American Legion doing military honors and with Bedford Cemetery.

David found life and love again uniting in marriage to Jana Geyer Anderson on September 3, 2022. Dave and Jana had adventures camping, enjoying his motorcycle, fishing in Minnesota, helping Jana with her Christmas Display, and being in the Halloween spirit at Indian Cave State Park. Dave also went back to his farming roots working for various farmers, Stella Ag, and Kennedy Farms. He was a help to his mom whenever she called.

God decided He needed David on June 9, 2026, peacefully.

Those left to remember and love him include his wife Jana; children Nikki (Danny) and Joshua, both of Alabama; grandchildren Landon (Ceci) Davis, Logan Davis, Ethan Savage, Paisley and Alexander Gentry; mother Joan Wheeler; sisters Pamela (Vern) Mayfield and Lisa (Gary) Juilfs; Jana's children Dustin (Mariana) Anderson, Dru Anderson, and Cassidy (Billy) Lotter; her grandchildren Chaelee, Brynlee, Quinn, and Everly Lotter, Cole and Kyler Anderson; mother-in-law Betty Land; brother-in-law Jim (Amy) Land; sisters-in-law Lila (Lancer) Land, Beth (Deon) Griffith; aunt Mary Behrends; nephews Eric, Jason (Jamie), Drew, Danny, Lucas (Jessica); nieces Amy (Scott), Mattie, Acacia, Schaulis, Kaylee, Lacey (Adam); great-nieces and nephews, all of whom loved Uncle David; many cousins and many friends.

David was preceded in death by his wife Marie, father Keith, father-in-law Bill Land, grandson Lukah Wheeler, grandparents Helen and Richard Wheeler and Hazel and Lester VanDeventer.

He will be missed.

A funeral service for Dave was Tuesday, June 16, 2025, at the Stella Community Church. Rev. John States and Bob Beckett conducted the service, and Carolyn Bredemeier was accompanist for congregational singing. Casket bearers were Rick Ramer, Steve Kennedy, Vance Hutton, Jay Tumlin, Jim Land, and Dustin Anderson. Jim Owings, John Wheeler, Darren Santana, Dayton Kennedy, Steve Stanley, Joe Schlosser, and Marlin Joy were honorary bearers. Burial followed in Bedford Cemetery at Howe, Nebraska.

Services were entrusted to Hemmingsen Funeral Home of Auburn.

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VILLAGE OF VERDON

VERDON MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 3, 2026 – 7:00 P.M. – VILLAGE HALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairperson Denise Koso. She called attention to the Open Meetings Act posted on the wall.

ROLL CALL: Present: Cody Bahr, Kerry Fritz, Denise Koso, and Richard Strecker Jr. Absent: Lois Miller.

GUESTS: Jackie Johnson
Lois Miller arrived at 7:06 p.m.
MINUTES: Motion by Koso, second by Bahr to approve, all Trustees present voting YEA.

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

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

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

All claims were verified and checked over by Chairperson Koso.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. June 2026 Shut off notices were reviewed – all have been paid

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Streets: A bid was received by Hein Construction for the street repairs on 2nd Street & Pine. This will be included in the 2026-2027 budget.

2. NUISANCE/UNSAFE PROPERTIES: The Village Attorney has been contacted concerning the notices that have been sent and he will get letters sent to the property owners with the next step in getting the nuisance properties taken care of.

3. WEED/GRASS NOTICES: Discussion held on properties that need a weed & grass notice.

4. POSSIBLE SEWER LINE REPAIR – COCHRAN PROPERTY: The ground depression on the Lot at 3rd and Walnut Street was inspected and it was determined that it is on the property owner not a sewer line break.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. FIRE HALL STREET PATCHING: A bid was received from Froeschl Construction for street patching in front of the Fire Hall. A motion was made by Bahr and seconded by Fritz to accept the bid from Froeschl Construction. All Trustees present voting YEA.

2. STREET SIGNS and POLES REPLACEMENTS – DISCUSSION: Discussion was held on the replacement of several street signs and poles and if we are required to have street signs.

3. BLOCKING STREET ON JULY 3RD AT SCHOOL PARK: A motion was made by Bahr and seconded by Strecker to allow the Community Workers to block the street by the school park for the July 3rd celebration. All Trustees present voting YEA.

4. WATER & SEWER SERVICE DEPOSIT AND TAP FEES – DISCUSSION: Discussion held on required water and sewer service deposits and tap fees, and requiring home owners to pay for their water meters at installation.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 2026-101: Second Reading of "RECONNECTION FEES FOR REQUESTED WATER SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS" by Cody Bahr A motion was made by Miller and second by Bahr to accept the second reading of Ordinance 2026-101. All Trustees present voting YEA.

ORDINANCE 2026-102: "RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STORAGE AND PARKING" was introduced and read by Cody Bahr. A motion was made by Bahr and seconded by Strecker to accept the first reading. All Trustees present voting YEA.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Questions and Concerns of the Public: At this time Jackie Johnson discussed dangerous dogs and what can be done about them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Koso and second by Fritz to go into executive session at 7:23 p.m. to discuss waiver/ fine fees. All Trustees present voting YEA.

A motion was made by Koso and second by Fritz to come out of executive session at 7:30 p.m. All Trustees present voting YEA.

No action taken at this time.

Motion by Koso and second by Bahr to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. and all Trustees present voting YEA.

Meeting adjourned.

Dawn Bennett, Verdon Clerk

The next regular meeting of the Verdon Board of Trustees will be held on July 1, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

VILLAGE OF VERDON MAY 2026 CLAIMS PAID

EFTPS EX	\$302.32
People Service SE	\$3,215.50
Verdon Library EX	\$25.00
Seneca Sanitation Service, Inc. SE	\$1,624.00
S.N.C. SE	\$92.31
Farm & City Supply SU	\$410.97
Richardson Co. Rural Water SU	\$1,577.54
Nebraska Public Health SE	\$15.00
Davis PHE, LLC SE	\$286.40
Miller-Monroe Co. EX	\$13,086.00
Tom Borrego SE	\$600.00
Hollens Enterprises SE	\$475.00
Denise Koso RE	\$217.19
Falls City Journal EX	\$56.43
Chuck Bennett SE	\$280.00
Kim Liberty SE	\$576.00
NPPD EX	\$957.96
OPPD EX	\$126.32
Dawn Bennett RE	\$656.44
Dawn Bennett SA	\$1,212.98
EX=EXENSE, FE=FEE, MI=MILEAGE, RE=REIMBURSEMENT, SA=SALARY, SE=SERVICE, SU=SUPPLIES	
Dawn Bennett, Verdon Clerk	ZNEZ

MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE RESULTS

Men's golf league results from Tuesday, June 16, 2026. Results are actual scores and handicap totals.

Early League results.

Team 1 (0.00) Dunn, Chaz 39-39; Veigel, Merle 58-40. Team 9 (6.00) Kurpgeweit, Lee 42-34; Mullins, Jim 47-37.

Team 2 (2.00) Hays, Gary 45-38; Heinzelman, Denny 52-40. Team 8 (4.00) Hillyard, Mark 49-40; Foster, Tim 41-29.

Team 3 (4.00) Ebel, Ron 40-35; Severin, Steve 54-34. Team 7 (2.00) Witt, Wade 43-33; Romine, Alan 54-44.

Team 4 (4.00) Borg, Dave 45-39; Murphy, Jim 47-32. Team 6 (2.00) Dunn, Joe 38-36; Bennett, Chuck 53-42.

Team 5 (1.50) James, Charles 44-36; Rowland, Rod 48-40. Team 10 (4.50) Hankins, Dan 50-37; Kermoade, Terry 52-38.

Late League results.

Team 1 (4.00) Dunn, Joe 43-43; Bippes, Drew 44-35; Coonce, Kyle 56-29. Team 2 (4.00) Montgomery, Carter 40-38; Dunn, Sam 48-36; Malone, Kevin 39-31.

Team 3 (6.00) Aitken, Bob 47-42; Craig, Jake 40-30; Scheitel, Logan 55-29. Team 19 (2.00) Davis, Darin 46-40; Gooch, Blake 50-40; Scheitel, Lane 48-35.

Team 4 (6.00) Witt, Tom 39-35; Morris, Adam 47-34; Jordening, Ron 52-37. Team 18 (2.00) Chesnut, Justin 51-44; Mullins, Jim 45-36; Harmon, Jason 47-33.

Team 5 (6.50) Simon, Steve 40-38; Daake, Brian 42-35; Bredemeier, Logan 57-35. Team 17 (1.50) Godemann, Ted 53-42; Witt, Bailey 46-34; Huppert, Drew 56-40.

Team 6 (2.00) Bachman, Eli 41-38; Witt, Wade 47-38; Leyden, Derrick 53-37. Team 16 (6.00) Hill, Dan 40-33; Steele, Brendan 52-42; Bauer, Trevor 48-33.

Team 7 (3.50) Dunn, Chaz 38-36; Schawang, Cade 53-43; Bauman, Jackson 51-36. Team 15 (4.50) Van Dyke, Kyle 42-37; Froeschl, Ethan 46-37; Heinzelman, Eric 49-36.

Team 8 (0.00) Simon, Dan 41-38; Rowland, Rod 43-36; Waller, Doug 62-43. Team 14 (8.00) Gerweck, Rob 39-34; Meysenburg, Fr. James 48-35; Bippes, Derek 48-33.

Team 9 (4.00) Kirken-dall, Jeremy 39-34; Witt, Rich 50-38; Craig, Robbie 49-33. Team 13 (4.00) Ferguson, Don 41-35; Schawang, Cody 40-29; White, Christian 61-40.

Team 10 (0.50) Gist, Thomas 44-39; Poppe, Brian 46-36; Keller, Bart 57-37. Team 12 (7.50) McNeely, John 44-35; Froeschl, Joe 45-35; Bek, Adam 47-35.

Team 11 (8.00) Siel, Jake 39-34; Kurpgeweit, Lee 42-33; Froeschl, Lucas 41-32. Team 20 (0.00) Anderson, Dusty 49-40; Bennett, Chuck 46-37; Dunn, Mike 58-41.

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Bear-y Clean Pet Groom celebrates ribbon cutting

Bear-y Clean Pet Grooming celebrated its ribbon cutting on Saturday, June 6, at its location at 1604 Stone Street in Falls City.

Owned by Paige Stampler, Bear-y Clean Pet Grooming opened in the fall of 2025 and has

quickly become a trusted grooming option for pet owners in the Falls City area. Stampler said opening her own salon has allowed her to combine her lifelong love of animals with her goal of owning and growing a small business in the community.

“I’ve always loved animals and knew I wanted a career working with them,” Stampler said. “I’ve also always been a creative person, and I think pet grooming is its own kind of art. I love being able to transform a dog’s appearance while making them feel good too.”

Stampler is a certified pet groomer through Penn Foster Career School and has hands-on experience grooming dogs of all breeds, sizes and coat types. She said she enjoys continuing to learn and grow as a groomer so she can provide the best care possible for the pets that visit Bear-y Clean.

Bear-y Clean Pet Grooming offers baths, haircuts, nail trims,

deshedding, sanitary trims, paw pad trims, teeth brushing, ear cleaning and specialty spa add-ons. The business grooms dogs of all sizes and also offers select grooming services for cats.

Stampler said most dogs benefit from grooming every four to eight weeks, depending on breed, coat type and lifestyle. Regular grooming helps maintain healthy skin and coat conditions, prevents matting and keeps pets comfortable year-round.

Because grooming can be stressful for some animals, Stampler said she works to keep each appointment calm and positive.

“I work with each pet individually and make sure they feel safe and comfortable throughout their appointment,” she said.

One of the most rewarding parts of owning the business, Stampler said, has been watching Bear-y Clean grow and seeing clients return again and again.

“I love getting compliments on my work and hearing how happy people are when they pick up their pets,” Stampler said. “Building trust with both the pets and their owners has been incredibly rewarding.”

Looking ahead, Stampler hopes to continue growing Bear-y Clean Pet Grooming while maintaining the personalized care clients have come to expect. She also plans to expand services, continue learning new grooming techniques and remain a trusted resource for pet owners in the area.

Appointments can be scheduled through Bear-y Clean Pet Grooming’s online booking system, by calling or texting, or by reaching out through the Bear-y Clean Pet Grooming Facebook page.



Falls City Fire Dept. conducts in-depth testing on hoses

FireCatt, a hose testing company, was in Falls City on Saturday to carry out hose and ladder testing for the Falls City Volunteer Fire Department.

Jon McQueen of the Fire Department said the company has 17 trailers that travel the country, testing approximately 26 million feet of hose per year.

The Falls City Fire Department had 8,000 feet of hose tested on all three trucks, including spare hoses.

The company also tested ground ladders for the department, applying roughly 500 pounds of pressure to ensure they returned to the proper placement.

The testing funds came from the Richardson Foundation, which had generously donated \$20,000 to the Fire Department.

McQueen said they wanted to purchase new fire hose, but this testing was a way to show exactly which hoses needed to be replaced.

The company’s mobile trailer unit can test 10 hoses simultaneously.

The five-inch yellow supply hose is tested at 200 pounds, while the rest of the hoses are tested at 400 pounds. The fire department operates at 125-150 pounds of pressure.

Once complete, all the hoses will have barcodes, and a spreadsheet will be created listing which hoses need to be replaced.

“This is something I’ve been on for 43 years, and we’ve never done it in my life,” said McQueen.

Humboldt Lion's Club
Palisade Peach Sales 2026
 Order must be placed and paid for by **July 15th**
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 MH

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STEAM ENGINE ALONG THE MISSOURI

JUNE 22, 1946 - ADOPTED BY JOHN MOOREHEAD

You are looking across one of the great rivers of American--the Missouri--in this week's addition to our regional paintings. You are in Kansas, gazing across into Missouri. The town in the distance is Armour Junction. Those flat fields across the way are likely to disappear when the Missouri gets one of its expansive moods. John Falter painted the scene when he visited a farm his father had just bought--painted it, in fact, from a bedroom window in the farmhouse. He had paints and brushes, but not canvas, so painted this one over an old picture which came with the house. The tag-along lad bringing up the rear of the little expedition--Lewis and Clark used the same route--is Falter's nephew.

johnphilipfaltermuseum.com