



Fort Kearny Hike & Bike Trail Bridge Repairs Complete

LORI POTTER, SPECIAL TO THE COURIER

FORT KEARNY - Details were the focus Feb. 3 as Paul Mara, a Nebraska Game and Parks Commission facilities construction coordinator, and Simon Contractors Project Manager Dale Burkhead surveyed the transformed, nearly 1,000-foot-long bridge over the Platte River's main channel on the Fort Kearny Recreation Area's hike-bike trail.

The three smiling observers following close behind were the NGPC staff members responsible for projects and day-to-day operations at Fort Kearny State Historical Park: Superintendent Gene Hunt, Assistant Superintendent Elijah Lovin; and Laura Rose, south-central regional park superintendent.

Mara, of Lincoln, said he would compare his notes and photos with the original project plans, but saw mostly small fixes such as fully driving in nails and sanding bridge sidewall tops. "It's very quality work, with good materials and a good crew, but there are things we need to check on and make the way they need to be," he said, estimating a final sign-off would be done this week.

BRIDGE HISTORY

An original railroad bridge across the Platte River was built in 1871. Hunt said the second bridge probably was constructed in the early 1900s.

A bridge over the river was vital for railroads to operate the 24-mile Kearney-to-Kenesaw part of their lines. After the last train ran there in November 1976, the Fort Kearny Preservation, Retoration and Development Board bought the 1.8-mile bridge segment to donate to Game and Parks.

Hunt said the decking needed to make that second bridge useful as part of a hike-bike trail was installed in the early 1980s by members of the Youth Civil Conservation Corps.

"Because of the age, we really needed to have it improved and especially at this level of improvements," Hunt said. "We were making repairs once or twice a year on the old deck boards."

The wooden deck, bridge walls and two original ob-



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission employees with the most Fort Kearny State Historical Park and Recreation Area responsibilities are, from left, South Central Regional Park Superintendent Laura Rose; Fort Kearny Assistant Superintendent Elijah Lovin; and Superintendent Gene Hunt. They stood at the south end of the hike-bike trail bridge on Feb. 3, the finish day in the bridge improvement project contract. (Courtesy photo by Lori Potter)

Weather Forecast

Feb. 13:	51/32	
Feb. 14:	49/28	
Feb. 15:	59/37	
Feb. 16:	62/38	
Feb. 17:	61/32	
Feb. 18:	57/31	
Feb. 19:	50/26	



PAGE 8 - Wil-Hil NHS Induction



PAGES 16-18 - Conference Wrestling

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News Briefs

Candidate Filings

The Incumbent (any current office holder) filing deadline for the upcoming Primary Election is February 17, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. The Non-Incumbent (new filers) filing deadline is March 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Filed candidates as of February 6, 2026:

- Jennifer Pittner, County Assessor, Incumbent
- Tyrell Fickenscher, Axtell School Board, Incumbent
- James Faber, Minden School Board, Non-incumbent
- Rusty Rhynalds, Minden School Board, Incumbent
- Melodie Bellamy, County Attorney, Incumbent
- Jenni Lupkes, County Clerk, Incumbent
- Shon Lieske, County Public Defender, Non-Incumbent
- Lisa Betty, County Clerk of District Court, Non-incumbent
- Jason Sinsel, County Commissioner District 1, Incumbent
- Robert Swanson, County Commissioner District 3, Incumbent
- Brent Stewart, County Commissioner District 5, Incumbent
- Heath Hofstetter, County Commissioner District 7, Incumbent
- Larry Evans, City of Minden Mayor, Incumbent
- David Bunker, Minden City Council North Ward, Incumbent
- Brent Stewart, Minden Airport Authority, Incumbent
- Ed Sheen, Minden Airport Authority, Incumbent

MPS Preschool Enrollment

The Minden Public Preschool is beginning the enrollment process for the 2026-2027 school year. For more information or to request an application, please contact the central office at (308)832-2440. Applications will be mailed to all requests on February 23rd and will be accepted through March 23rd, 2026.

Courier Weekly Deadlines:

- Courier Designed Ads need to be requested by the customer by Thursday at 5:00 pm.
- Client supplied or pre-designed ads are due on Friday at 4:00 pm.
- Community supplied content needs approved by Friday at 4:00 pm.

Legals are DUE on Friday at noon.

Thank you Minden for helping us make our paper great!

Husker Quilt Raffle

Paws Up Kearney County is selling tickets for a Husker quilt raffle. The Husker themed, all cotton, king sized quilt was made and donated by Marlene Detmers. Drawing for the quilt will be held on Saturday, April 25 at the Paws Up Shelter Me fundraiser. You do not need to be present to win. Raffle tickets can be purchased through Paws Up Kearney County board members by email at pawsupkearneycounty@gmail.com, by messaging Paws Up Kearney County on Facebook, or by texting Jane at 308-830-9870. Cash, check and venmo accepted.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

The Minden Trap Team will host a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Sunday, March 1 from 11am-2pm at the Kearney County Fairgrounds. \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids includes spaghetti dinner, salad, dessert, and drinks. A silent auction will also take place during the meal. All proceeds will go towards helping reduce the cost for kids to participate in trapshooting. To donate items for the silent auction or for other questions call Anson Nielsen at 308.832.5111.

Republican Convention

The Kearney County Republican Party will hold its 2026 County convention on Tuesday, March 24 at 7pm in Minden. The event will be held at the Kearney County Fairgrounds, North Highway 10, Minden. All registered Republicans are invited to attend the convention.

The 2026 Kearney County Convention serves many important functions for the Republican Party. Local party officials will be elected, and the selection of delegates and alternates to the NEGOP State Convention

will occur. The voting delegates at the convention are those who registered at <https://secure.anedot.com/negop/delegate-form-2026> before the March 1 deadline.

Minden Legacy Fund Community Visioning Session

Minden Legacy Fund will host a Meet & Greet event and Community Visioning Session on Monday, March 16 at 52 Taphouse. Everyone is invited to these events to learn more about the Minden Legacy Fund, help share ideas for the future of Minden, and enjoy desserts made by the Minden Community Center. The Meet & Greet will begin at 6:15pm and the Community Visioning Session will begin at 7pm.

Wilcox-Hildreth Music Department Mattress Fundraiser

The Mattress Fundraiser is back and every purchase benefits the Wilcox-Hildreth Music Department. The event will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 10am-4pm at Wilcox-Hildreth High School. All sizes available including custom. Brand new with 1-20 year warranties. Delivery and shipping available. Free threshold delivery. Cash, check, credit card accepted. Financing available. 25+ mattresses on display, all comfort levels.

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Weather Recap

Date	High	Low	Precip.
1/31/26	21	3	-
2/1/26	46	17	-
2/2/26	31	19	-
2/3/26	40	32	-
2/4/26	39	31	-
2/5/26	56	27	-
2/6/26	49	32	-
Total Week Precip.....	0.00		



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Letters to the Editor

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from PAGE 1 - Fort Kearny Bridge

ervation decks hadn't been fully replaced until Simon crews started the improvement project on Dec. 1, 2025. With 8-10 workers on the bridge daily, they finished by the Feb. 3 contracted day.

"For the most part, we had really good weather," said Burkhead of North Platte, with early winter days that varied from warm and sunny to frigid and windy.

He added that Simon also built the trail's current north channel bridge after the original one was destroyed in a March 23, 2009, wildfire.

That left a gap in the Fort Kearny trail and delayed progress to link it with other Kearney area trails.

FUNDS, FEATURES

Funds for the \$400,000 main bridge improvement project came from a \$250,000 federal Recreation Trails Program grant; a \$13,000 donation from Shannon and Tim Vanderheiden of North Platte in memory of their son Tyler; and \$137,000 from NGPC's Capital Maintenance Funds, Rose said.

The Nebraska Legislature established the maintenance funds to help preserve public outdoor recreation facilities and parklands. They often are combined with other state and federal sources, and NGPC state park system fees to fund park projects like the Fort Kearny Hike-Bike Trail bridge improvements.

In addition to all the new, splinter-free deck and wall materials, there are six new observation decks. Lovin said the original two each measure 20 feet by 20 feet, and the new ones are 16 feet by 20 feet.

"That was one of the main comments we heard over the years, that we needed more observation decks," Hunt said.

The main benefit - allowing more people to be on the bridge, while leaving a path down the middle for walkers and bicyclists - will be obvious soon as visitors come to the Central Platte region for the annual spring migration season stop by an estimated 1 million sandhill cranes.

The big show from the hike-bike trail bridge from about mid-February to early April includes waves of cranes flying over the river before sunset on their way from daytime feeding sites in grasslands, wet meadows and harvested cornfields to overnight roosts on parts of the Platte with wide, open sandbars.

Hunt said there are no capacity limits on the bridge, so it's first-come-first-served for an overlook place. There is no bridge fee, but everyone entering the Fort Kearny Recreation Area must have a Nebraska Game and Parks annual or daily permit.

Rose added that the bridge improvements will benefit Fort Kearny visitors and users of the greater Kearney area trails year round. "It's a major feature of the trail, especially since Game and Parks started cooperating with the city of Kearney to connect the trails and better connect people with the outdoors."

After Fort Kearny's fire-destroyed north bridge was replaced in

2017, the partners moved ahead to complete the 13.1-mile Cottonmill to Fort Kearny Trail.

WHAT'S AHEAD

Visitors can get information about the bridge improvements from Hunt and Lovin, who are at the historical park and the recreation area full time, or from campground hosts and staff at the rec area's entry kiosk.

"It's obviously a safer bridge than it was in many ways. It's a safety upgrade," Rose said about her message to regular and new trail users.

"If you look at how beautiful it is compared to what it was, people may want to use it more," Lovin added.

There will be a public event this summer to celebrate completion of the bridge project. Hunt hopes to find and invite some Youth CCC crew members who worked for two summers 45 years ago to turn the old railroad bridge into a bike-hike trail feature.



Paul Mara of Lincoln, a facilities construction coordinator for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, right, and Simon Contractors Project Manager Dale Burkhead of North Platte check a bridge wall Feb. 3 during the walk-through inspection of the Fort Kearny Hike-Bike Trail bridge project. (Courtesy photo by Lori Potter)



Simon Contractors crews removed and replaced all of the deck boards on the hike-bike trail bridge over the Platte's main channel. The original deck on the old railroad bridge was installed 45 years ago by the Youth Civil Conservation Corps. Other trail improvements over the years include history- and wildlife-related signs. (Courtesy photo by Lori Potter)



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City Council Selects Chautauqua Park Shelter Bid

CINDY RAMSEY

City Administrator Michael Krings gave an update on a water main break to the council and public during the February 2 regular meeting of the Minden City Council. An 8-inch water main broke under Highway 6 around 6pm the previous Tuesday. City utilities workers struggled to isolate the break, but eventually were able to fix the problem.

Highway 6 was down to two-lane traffic as the road had to be torn up to resolve the issue. Krings reported plans to pour cement the next day and to hopefully reopen those lanes soon. The council is thankful to all the City workers who helped with this problem.

The council made quick work of the light agenda for the evening. The consent agenda was approved including minutes from the January 20 meeting and bills and claims.

An agreement with Miller & Associates for the Leadership Community Recertification process for \$5,500 was approved. The City of Minden has been designated a Leadership Certified Community since 2015. Every five years the City must reapply for the designation which shows Minden has a high level of economic development readiness and allows the City to apply for grants. Miller & Associates assisted in both the initial application and previous recertification.

The council approved a resolution authorizing the sale of surplus property with a fair market value of less than \$5,000. The City will work with Rhynalds Auction to sell the surplus at public auction.

Four estimates were received by the City for the purchase and installation of a shelter at Chautauqua Park. This is a project the City has been working on for some time as Chautauqua Park is the only City park currently without a shelter. A portion of the funds for this project are from the ACE member distribution program.

The council approved the bid from Morton Buildings for \$34,985. The shelters at the other City parks are also from Morton Buildings so the new shelter will match those existing at Legion Park and Jaycee Park. The shelter will be placed on the north side of

Giving Children a "Head Start"

PRESS RELEASE

Head Start is an early education program designed to support children (0-5), families, and communities through quality education, comprehensive health and family services and by fostering community partnerships. Head Start is a federal investment program that has been providing quality Pre-K to income eligible children for more than 55+ years.

The Head Start program strives to involve families in their children's learning and make progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals. Our program focuses on the unique strengths and needs of each child and family. Our staff provide high quality early education through research-based curriculums, health and nutrition services. We provide support to families through ongoing parent education, case management, and group socializations.

If you have a child, age 0-4, please contact our staff at Head Start, a program of Community Action Partnership of Mid Nebraska, at the following address or phone number:

Minden Head Start
506 S Nance Minden, NE 68959
(308)832-1054

For more information see www.communityactionmidne.com for all Mid Head Start and Early Head Start center contact information.

Chautauqua park near the parking area. With this and the flag pole the Rotary Club will donate and install in June, improvements at Chautauqua Park should be wrapping up. The council did briefly discuss the possibility of installing sidewalk from the parking area to the new shelter.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next regular City Council meeting will be held on February 17 at 6pm in the council chambers at City Hall.

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Werner Construction Awarded 40 Road Overlay Project

CINDY RAMSEY

The Kearney County Board of Commissioners addressed a variety of matters during the February 3 regular meeting.

Clerk Magistrate Laura Tobiassen told the board she has room in her budget for new carpet in her office and asked if she could expend the funds for this purpose. Her office was scheduled to receive new flooring next year, but the process will be easier during a reset of the office furniture that is planned for the near future. The board approved the county court office carpet, but to be paid from Inheritance like the rest of the upcoming carpet projects.

Staffing changes, meetings, and hearings have put a strain on the Planning and Zoning budget. The board approved a resolution to reallocate budget authority of \$5,000 from the General Fund to Planning and Zoning. It is believed this amount should cover the Zoning Administrator's salary for the remainder of the budget year.

A public hearing was opened for an application for administrative subdivision for J&P Hoban Ag, LLC. The administrative subdivision would separate part of a pivot

corner shelter belt so a house can be built on the land. Neighbors of the property attended the meeting to get information, but none offered opposition. The hearing was closed and the board approved the application for administrative subdivision as presented.

Veteran's Service Officer Philip Heun spoke to the board about LB1072, a proposed bill that would move monies from the Nebraska Veteran's Aid Fund to the Nebraska Department of Veteran's Affairs Fund. Heun explained his concerns regarding the impact this bill could have on veteran aid. He explained this is a very fluid situation. Board member Nathan Avery stated he is opposed to the bill and wants the rest of the board to be aware of how it affects the County. The board approved sending a letter of opposition to LB 1072 to state representatives.

Franklin County has decided to proceed with its road project that was tied to Kearney County's 40 Road overlay project. Franklin County approved the low bid from Werner Construction. While this was the overall low bid, Kearney County's portion was higher with the Werner Construction bid than the bid received from Vontz Pav-

ing. Lance Harter from Oak Creek Engineering explained the interlocal agreement that was signed to bid the projects together requires that if both counties choose to proceed with their projects, the same contractor must be awarded the bid. He explained this is a rare case where the low bid for all is not also the low bid for each project.

The board was displeased with this turn of events and discussed options. The bid can be rejected and the project re-bid, but the bids could be even higher and the project may not be completed in this budget year. In the end, the board approved the bid from Werner Construction for the 40 Road overlay project. They noted any similar interlocal agreements in the future should include language that allows the entity with the larger portion of the projects to select the winning bid.

Emergency Manager Craig Lupkes informed the board the emergency notification platform he has been using to send out notifications had a security breach and has been shut down. The board met with Jayden Eastman via Zoom to learn about Text My Gov, a different notification service Lupkes would like to use as a replacement. Text My Gov provides a lot of options that could be utilized by all County offices, but the cost is reflected in those options. Furthermore, the potentials available require citizens to sign up for the service. No action was taken.

In other business the board: Approved January 20 minutes. Approved bills and claims, payroll, and hospital taxes. Approved January 2026 County Clerk fee report. Approved amended interlocal agreement with SCEDD. Received annual report from Extension Educator Rhonda Herrick.

NDA Opens Application Process for 2026 Nebraska Ag Youth Institute

PRESS RELEASE

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) is currently accepting applications from high school juniors and seniors for the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI). NAYI is one of Nebraska's largest agriculture youth outreach events. This five-day program brings students together, offering networking opportunities with ag leaders and a chance to learn more about the industry, discover careers and make new friends. NDA helps sponsor and coordinate NAYI every year. This year's theme is "Passion Meets Purpose."

NAYI will be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus July 6–10, 2026. Current high school juniors and seniors interested in attending must apply online at www.nda.nebraska.gov/nayi. All applications must be submitted by April 15, 2026.

"NAYI is a long-standing tradition in Nebraska agriculture and a one-of-a-kind opportunity for high school students to connect with peers from around the state," said NDA Director Sherry Vinton. "It is one of the best ways for students to learn more about Nebraska's diverse agricultural industry and the hard-working people who help make our ag industry great."

NAYI features motivational speakers, discussions on agricultural issues, career development, networking opportunities, leadership activities, a farm management game, a formal banquet and awards presentation, and a dance. In its 55th year, NAYI is the longest running agricultural youth program of its kind in the nation. More than 225 students attended NAYI last year.

NDA selects students to attend NAYI based on their leadership skills, interests and involvement in agriculture. Students attend NAYI free of charge due to generous donations from agricultural businesses, commodity groups and industry organizations. Space is limited. Those interested in helping sponsoring NAYI can visit <https://nda.nebraska.gov/NAYIsponsors> for more information.

NAYI is coordinated by the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council, which is comprised of 21 college-aged students selected by NDA for their passion and interest in the ag industry. The Council's purpose is to provide young Nebraskans with a better understanding of agriculture, including agricultural opportunities available to today's youth.

Kearney County Courthouse
will be
CLOSED
for
Presidents' Day
on
Monday, February 16,
2026

NRDs Renew Agreement with NRCS to Strengthen Long-Standing Conservation Partnership

PRESS RELEASE

LINCOLN, Nebraska – Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (Tri-Basin NRD) renewed their Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) during a signing ceremony Jan. 27, 2026. The updated agreement reaffirms a partnership that traces its roots back more than 90 years to the Dust Bowl era.

"For decades, Nebraska's NRDs and the NRCS have worked side-by-side to support Nebraska producers and promote conservation across the state," said Martin Graff, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts president. "Districts are committed to continuing this cooperative approach to protect lives, property, and future."

The partnership between NRDs and NRCS draws its foundation from the Soil Conservation Act of 1935, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The law was enacted in response to the historic drought and devastating soil erosion of the Dust Bowl, and it established the Soil Conservation Service—known today as the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Recognizing that conservation succeeds best when driven locally, the USDA encouraged states to form conservation districts. Nebraska's first, the Papio Soil Conservation District, was created in 1938. By 1972, the Nebraska Legislature consolidated 154 local districts into today's 23 Natural Resources Districts, organized along watershed boundaries.

NRCS maintains 77 county field offices across Nebraska, with service areas that closely align with NRD boundaries. This structure allows NRCS and NRDs to collaborate daily on locally identified natural resource priorities including soil health, water quality, groundwater management, forestry, wildlife habitat, and flood control.

"The renewal of this agreement demonstrates the importance of our long-standing conservation partnership here in Nebraska," said NRCS Acting State Conservationist

James Huntwork. "Just as during the Dust Bowl, the natural resource challenges we face today, whether drought, flooding, or soil health, require us to work together. By partnering with NRDs, we can deliver more effective solutions for farmers, ranchers, and communities."



Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) signs a Memorandum of Agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) during a signing ceremony Jan. 27, 2026. From left, Director Joel Grams, Director Larry Reynolds (sitting), Director Ed Harris, Director Reed Philips, General Manager John Thorburn (sitting), Director Joe Larson, NRCS Acting State Conservationist James Huntwork (sitting), Director Robin Hinrichs, Director David Grimes, Director Brad Lundeen (sitting), and Director Andrew Stade. Tri-Basin NRD serves Kearney, Phelps, and Gosper counties in south-central Nebraska. (Courtesy photo)

Local leaders also emphasize the importance of cooperation.

"Tri-Basin NRD has a very productive and constructive relationship with our federal partners at NRCS. Working together, we provide farmers and landowners with a wider variety of options and a broader range of expertise to help them achieve their soil and water conservation objectives" said John Thorburn, manager of Tri-Basin NRD.

Each of the 23 NRDs are working toward signing the official renewed agreement with NRCS. The document formalizes coordination between the agencies and will remain in effect until mutually modified or terminated.

For more information about Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts, visit nrdnet.org. To learn more about NRCS programs and services, visit ne.nrcs.usda.gov.

About Tri-Basin Natural Resources District

The Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) protects lives, property, and the future of Gosper, Phelps, and Kearney counties through stewardship, management, and education programs — ranging from tree planting to groundwater quality and quantity monitoring, from irrigation management to outdoor recreation. Activities and projects of Tri-Basin NRD are reviewed and approved by a locally elected board of directors. Tri-Basin NRD is one of 23 Natural Resources Districts across Nebraska. For more information, visit tribasinnrd.org or call 308.995.6688.

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Potter's Wheel

By Lori Potter

Journalists know it's impossible to tell a whole story, because it would require talking to everyone with an interest in an event or topic. There isn't enough newspaper, magazine or book space, or TV, radio or podcast time to tell whole stories, and too much information overwhelms readers.

So we focus on information readers need and want to know from city, county, school board and other meetings; events with expert or decision-making speakers; and hometown activities. And by talking to area folks.

I recently told much of the story about the Woollen quadruplets of Wilcox turning 18 Feb. 11, which was published Jan. 23 by the Flatwater Free Press. It was a honor and a joy to write and share the Woollen family's uplifting story.

It and similar features need attention-grabbing beginnings that flow to how-did-it-all-turn-out endings, and many details. So the best part was learning many things about the family - parents Lee and Rachel, and siblings Brett, Kayden, Parker and Cooper - by visiting with them.

However, I knew I couldn't share all the details from my observations and in my notes.

Flatwater has story length limits, so I initially left out interesting details that weren't vital to the main storyline. The editor made more detail cuts in my submitted version, but agreed to restore several as we worked together on the final edit.

Here are some unpublished story details from my notes and early drafts.

Hospital Time:

Rachel stayed in Omaha during the four months her 17-weeks-premature quads were at UNMC. Brett left June 3, Parker and Kaden were discharged June 19; and Cooper came home June 26.

Rachel sometimes took a day or two off from the hospital, after a doctor told her that the "best, most expensive and most well-trained babysitters" were caring for her children.

Baptism and Birthday:

The quads weren't the only babies baptized Feb. 9, 2009, at Kearney's Faith United Methodist Church, where their first birthday also was celebrated by friends and family. Also baptized were Rhelynn and Rhidelle Schriener, who were born Sept. 5, 2008. The twins' parents are Daniel and Richelle, who is Rachel Woollen's sister.

Changing Homes

Rachel, Lee and the quads lived in Holdrege until moving to a Wilcox house in 2013 to be closer to the farm southwest of town owned by the Woollen family since 1889. Lee worked with his dad, Ron; uncle, Larry Johnsen; and brother-in-law, Aaron Pistulka.

When Ron and his wife, Sue, retired in January 2022, they moved to the Wilcox house, and Lee, Rachel and the quads moved to the farm. "Luckily, the house didn't need a whole lot of renovations to make it fit our family," Rachel said. "There are three bedrooms upstairs, so

that fits the three boys perfectly. We made the living room in the basement into a bedroom for Parker. That way she has her own space away from the boys!"

Always Active

In addition to sports, music and one-act play activities at Wilcox-Hildreth High School, all four teens are on the speech team. They also are regulars in the cast or crew at Kearney's Crane River Theater.

Brett and Kaden help staff the Holdrege YMCA's after-school and summer programs; Cooper works summers at the Trails and Rails Museum in Kearney; and Parker worked at the Holdrege Dairy Queen last summer.

Birthday Treats and Other Favorites

Specific food requests were made for their 18th birthday by Brett, a snickerdoodle cake, and Cooper, chocolate chip pancakes.

The quads have different favorite Wilcox-Hildreth classes and non-birthday foods. Brett: "Shop class because I get to build stuff for my mom, but I also really like anatomy because my teacher, Mrs. Simon, is really fun," and filet mignon.

Kaden: "Spanish is my favorite because I have a really fun teacher," and steak.

Parker: "I enjoy journalism because we create our school's yearbook ... I also take pictures for the yearbook," and meatballs.

Cooper: "Band, choir and art. It is hard to pick between the three ... They each challenge me a lot, but bring me the most joy," and tetrazzini.

From a Mother's Heart

Rachel described her children this way: Brett, a leader, kind, caring and amazing with kids; Kaden, huge heart, humor is incredible and also good with kids. Parker, sweet girl and always has had a natural talent for photography; and Cooper, wonderful person, huge musical talent and great leader at Wilcox United Methodist Church.

"They're amazing people and they're going to do amazing things," the proud mom added.

Lori Potter of Kearney is a Wilcox area native and co-owner of her family's farm. She has been a Nebraska newspaper journalist for 48 years, including as a freelancer since March 2021.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION SALE

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Wilcox-Hildreth National Honor Society Inductees



The Wilcox-Hildreth National Honor Society induction ceremony was held in Wilcox on January 13. (Above) New inductees are Keegan Patrick, Taylor Ingram, Craig Bunger, Bella Grymes and Grayson Johnson. (Left) Wilcox-Hildreth National Honor Society members following the induction ceremony are: (front row) Taylor Ingram, Bella Grymes, Aubree Overholser, Dinah Culp, Cheyenne Lieb, Parker Woollen, Brody Patterson and Grayson Johnson. (back row) Keegan Patrick, Kaylan Ogier and Craig Bunger. (Courtesy photos)

400-Plus Huskers Named to Dean's Commendation List for Fall 2025

PRESS RELEASE

LINCOLN - More than 400 University of Nebraska-Lincoln students have been named to the Deans' Commendation List for the fall semester of the 2025-26 academic year.

The Commendation List recognizes students in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education and Human Sciences, College of Engineering and/or College of Journalism and Mass Communications who met or exceeded a specified grade-point average and carried six to 11 graded semester hours.

Qualification for the Commendation List varies. Listed below are the minimum requirements for each college and the name of its respective dean. All qualifying grade-point averages are based on a four-point scale. Students can be on the Commendation List for more than one college.

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, 3.75; Interim Dean Thomas Burkey.

College of Arts and Sciences, 3.7; Interim Dean Patrick Dussault.

College of Education and Human Sciences, 3.75; Dean Jeff Reese.

College of Engineering, 3.7; Dean Lance C. Perez.

College of Journalism and Mass Communications, 3.7; Interim Dean Adam Wagler.

Following is a list of area honorees with their year in school, college(s) and major(s). Some students chose not to be listed. Students in the University of Nebraska at Omaha's College of Public Affairs and Community Service are listed in the UNO Deans' List.

Heartwell: Isaac Kuehn, junior, Dean's Commendation List, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, agribusiness.

For the full Deans' Commendation List, visit <https://go.unl.edu/commendation-fall25>.

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Lempka Earns First Whippet Gold of the Year

CINDY RAMSEY

The Minden Speech Team attended Aurora Meet on February 7. Despite facing competitors not previously seen this season, the Whippets continued to find success placing 3rd as a team out of 24 competitive schools. Several Minden events earned medals again this week with senior Rebbeca Lempka earning the first gold medal for the team this season.

Novice medal winners were: Steven Rhodes, 2nd Place, Extemporaneous; Steven Rhodes, 3rd Place, Entertainment; Hallie Hartman, 6th Place, Extemporaneous; Hallie Hartman, 7th Place, Humorous Prose;



Danica Schoone makes her way to claim her medal in Entertainment while teammates Jonathan Althouse and Natali Uribe cheer. (Courier photo by Arabella Reed)

Tynlie Struss and Mia Tira, 7th Place, Duet Acting

Varsity Medal Winners were: Rebbeca Lempka, 1st Place, Persuasive; Frank Kovacs, 3rd Place, Persuasive; Arabella Reed, 3rd Place, Humorous Prose; Emory Porter, 5th Place, Poetry; Jonathan Althouse, 5th Place, Entertainment; Arabella Reed, 6th Place, POI; Dayne Porter, Mia Tira, and Miles Heath, 6th Place, OID; Natali Uribe, 6th Place, Poetry; Frank Kovacs, 8th Place, Humorous Prose; Arabella Reed, 9th Place, Serious Prose; Natali Uribe, 10th Place, Entertainment; Isabelle Martin and Dayne Porter, 11th Place, Duet Acting; Emory Porter, 11th Place, POI; Danica Schoone, 13th Place, Entertainment

On February 14 the Whippets will host 26 schools for the 22nd annual Minden Invite. First round begins at 8:00 a.m. The public is invited to attend. The regular season is winding down with only two meets following the one at home. The public is invited to a performance showcase night on March 3 at Minden High School. All events will perform for an evening of entertainment.

The SWC meet will be held on March 9 in McCook followed by the District meet in Aurora on March 16. Any event placing third or better at the district meet will qualify for the Class B State Meet on Saturday, March 28 in Kearney at Horizon Middle School.



Isabelle Martin and Dayne Porter clap for their competition as they wait to learn where they scored for Duet Acting at the Aurora Invite on February 7. (Courier photo by Arabella Reed)

7,000-Plus Huskers Named to Deans' List for Fall 2025

PRESS RELEASE

LINCOLN, — More than 7,000 University of Nebraska-Lincoln students have been named to the Deans' List for the fall 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 and the name of its respective dean or director. 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; Interim Dean Thomas Burkey.

College of Architecture, 3.75; Dean Kevin G. Van Den Wymelenberg.

College of Arts and Sciences, 3.7; Interim Dean Patrick Dussault.

College of Business, 3.6; Dean Kathy Farrell.

College of Education and Human Sciences, 3.75; Dean Jeff Reese.

College of Engineering, 3.7; Dean Lance C. Perez.

College of Journalism and Mass Communications, 3.7; Interim Dean Adam Wagler.

Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, 3.7; Dean Andy Belser.

Explore Center for undeclared, pre-engineering, pre-health and pre-law students, 3.6; Senior Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Undergraduate Education Amy Goodburn.

Following is a list of area honorees, listed alphabetically by hometown, with their year in school, college(s) and major(s). Some international students are listed under their adopted hometowns in the United States. Some students chose not to be listed. Students in the University of Nebraska at Omaha's College of Public Affairs and Community Service are listed in the UNO Deans' List.

Kenesaw: Chloe Uden, senior, Dean's List, College of Arts and Sciences, biological sciences; Chase Uden, sophomore, Dean's List, College of Arts and Sciences, biological sciences

Minden: Peyton Schoone, senior, Dean's List, College of Arts and Sciences, political science; Levi Loseke, junior, Dean's Lists, College of Arts and Sciences and College of Engineering, mathematics and software engineering; Cassandra Arnold, sophomore, Dean's List, College of Business, marketing; Sam Cederburg, freshman, Dean's List, Explore Center, pre-law; Kara Suchsland, freshman, Dean's List, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, PGA golf management

Axtell: Megan Kindschuh, junior, Dean's List, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, agricultural leadership, education and communication; Tyler Hanson, junior, Dean's List, College of Arts and Sciences, biochemistry.

For the full Deans' List, visit <https://go.unl.edu/deanslist-fall25>.

Calendars and Menus

MINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MENUS:

Friday, Feb. 13: BREAKFAST: Apple donut bites; LUNCH: Bosco stick with marinara

Monday, Feb. 16: BREAKFAST: Donut bites, yogurt; LUNCH: Pizza calzone

Tuesday, Feb. 17: BREAKFAST: French toast sticks, hard boiled egg; LUNCH: Cheeseburger, French fries

Wednesday, Feb. 18: BREAKFAST: Cheese omelet; LUNCH: Fish sticks, Mac-n-cheese

Thursday, Feb. 19: BREAKFAST: Biscuits & gravy; LUNCH: Beef & noodles

Friday, Feb. 20: BREAKFAST: Breakfast pizza; LUNCH: Tomato soup, grilled cheese

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Feb. 13: MS Dance, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14: Boys WR Districts @ Madison; ACT test, 8 a.m.; Speech Minden Invite, 8 a.m.; JV Girls BB @ Wood River Tournament, 9 a.m.; 9th Boys BB @ Wood River Tournament, 10 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 16: Girls BB Subdistricts; 7th Boys BB @ Holdrege, 4:30 p.m.; 8th Boys BB vs. Holdrege, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 17: Girls BB Subdistricts; Girls State WR @ CHI Center

Wednesday, Feb. 18: Girls State WR @ CHI Center

Thursday, Feb. 19: Girls BB Subdistrict Final; Boys State WR @ CHI Center; 7th Boys BB @ Hastings, 4:15 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 20: Boys State WR @ CHI Center; V/JV Boys BB @ Hastings, 5:30 p.m.

AXTELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Feb. 13: Boys WR @ District meet; JV Girls & Boys BB vs. Southwest, 4:30 p.m.; Girls BB vs. Southwest, 6 p.m.; Boys BB vs. Southwest, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14: Boys WR @ District meet; SP @ Minden Invite

Monday, Feb. 16: Girls BB @ Districts

Tuesday, Feb. 17: Girls BB @ Districts; Girls State WR @ Omaha

Wednesday, Feb. 18: Girls State WR @ Omaha; JH Girls & Boys BB vs. Ansley-Litchfield, 1 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 19: Boys State WR @ Omaha; Girls BB @ Districts

Friday, Feb. 20: Boys State WR @ Omaha; State Cheer Class D, 3:30 p.m.; Boys BB @ Southern Valley, 6 p.m.

MENUS:

Friday, Feb. 13: LUNCH: Tater tot casserole, green beans, dessert

Monday, Feb. 16: LUNCH: Sausage gravy & biscuit, corn OR Oriental chicken salad

Tuesday, Feb. 17: LUNCH: Crispito, refried beans OR Blueberry parfait

Wednesday, Feb. 18: LUNCH: Tomato soup, grilled cheese, mixed vegetables

Thursday, Feb. 19: LUNCH: BBQ rib sandwich, green beans OR chef salad

Friday, Feb. 20: LUNCH: Mac-n-cheese & toppings, peas OR PBJ

WILCOX-HILDRETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MENUS:

Friday, Feb. 13: NO SCHOOL

Monday, Feb. 16: BREAKFAST: Breakfast bagel; LUNCH: Pulled pork

Tuesday, Feb. 17: BREAKFAST: Egg bites; LUNCH: Soft shell tacos

Wednesday, Feb. 18: BREAKFAST: Tornados; LUNCH: Chicken fajitas

Thursday, Feb. 19: BREAKFAST: Pop tarts; LUNCH: Cheese pizza

Friday, Feb. 20: BREAKFAST: Muffins; LUNCH: Sack lunch combo sub

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Feb. 13: NO SCHOOL; Boys WR Districts @ Oakland-Craig Elementary, 3 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14: Boys WR Districts @ Oakland-Craig Elementary, 10 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 16: Girls BB Subdistricts; Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 17: Girls State WR @ CHI Center; Girls BB Subdistricts; 7-12 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.; Student Council meeting, 11:40 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 18: Girls State WR @ CHI Center; FFA Nebraska Cattleman's Classic FFA Day; MTSS-C, 3:50 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 19: Boys State WR @ CHI Health Center; Girls BB Subdistricts; PK-6 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.; FCA meeting, 11:40 a.m.; JH Boys BB @ Southern Valley, 1 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 20: Boys State WR @ CHI Health Center; HAL: Hildreth, 9:10 a.m.; HAL: Wilcox, 12:30 p.m.; Boys BB Senior Night vs. Giltner/Harvard, 5 p.m.; Pep Band @ BB game, 5:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Dinner Menus

Meals served at Minden Community/Senior Center (Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska), 403 N. Colorado Avenue, at noon. Please call 308-832-2139 the day before the dinner with your res-

ervations. All meals are served with coffee, water, and milk. Menu are subject to change. Join us.

Monday, Feb. 16: Center closed for Presidents Day

Tuesday, Feb. 17: Chicken pot pie casserole, green beans, bread, fruit & dessert

Wednesday, Feb. 18: Pork chop, mashed potatoes potatoes, gravy, corn, dinner roll, fruit & dessert

Thursday, Feb. 19: Hot roast beef sandwich over mashed potatoes, coleslaw & fruit

Friday, Feb. 20: Tuna & noodles, peas, bread, fruit & dessert

RYDE Transportation For All Ages

RYDE Transit offers public transportation for all residents of Minden and Kearney County, Monday thru Friday – 8:00am to 5:00pm. Service is available to Minden and all of Kearney County, and out of town trips to Kearney, Holdrege, Hastings, and Grand Island. Please call at least 24 hours in advance for a ride.

RYDE Transit provides transportation for medical care, therapy, education, jobs, and shopping for individuals of all ages.

Call 308.832.2139 to schedule your ride. Public Transportation is easy to ride, and open to everyone.

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Find us online @ **themindencourier.com**

Do You Remember

Eighty Years Ago — 1946

The Kearney County Teachers Association met with John D. Rice, superintendent of the Kearney Public Schools, speaking on the subject of "State Support of Local Schools."

A group of friends and neighbors called on Mr. and Mrs. Rex Burnham to honor them at a farewell party. The Burnhams were moving to a farm near Elm Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. N.P. Hansen celebrated their 60th anniversary with an open house at their home.

Seventy Years Ago — 1956

The hog, considered almost a liability by many farmers, started to move back into a position of importance. The market, after hitting a low of \$11 early in December moved up to about \$15 for choice butcher hogs.

Chester Jestes, a Minden hatchery operator, was elected president of District 6 of the Nebraska Poultry Improvement Association.

Sheriff Lyle Olsen reported a break-in at the Axtell beer parlor in which three cases of beer were stolen. Access was gained by breaking a window and additional merchandise was stacked outside the building including ten cases of beer, a case of pop, several cartons of cigarettes, candy and gum. Officers surmised that daylight came earlier than expected and the robber was afraid to be seen on a return trip to the parlor.

Sixty Years Ago — 1966

A Nebraska Education Department report showed that 1,413 schools in which a single teacher taught subjects in six, seven and eight different grades still existed in Nebraska.

During the men's bowling league tournament, Dennis Osterbuhr won the singles event by rolling a 657 series. In the doubles competition, Pete Arent and John Schmidt were the winners with a 1,254 series.

Dr. Aristides Sosa, a Cuban refugee and an English professor at Kearney State College, was the guest speaker at the Methodist Church worship services.

Fifty Years Ago — 1976

Cathy Hove, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew C. Hove Jr., was installed as honored queen of Bethel No. 74, International Order of Jobs Daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stuehm of Hildreth celebrated their 60th anniversary at the Pioneer Restaurant and later enjoyed a celebration hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stuehm and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Francisco.

Steve Blank led the Eagles with 23 points as Wilcox downed the Sumner Mustangs, 58-57 in overtime.

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2350 N. Brown, Minden



Forty Years Ago — 1986

Kearney County Community Hospital updated its intensive coronary care unit. The equipment consisted of a bedside monitor in the unit, telemetry and a central station monitor.

Kathy Nordin's sixth grade science students wrote letters about their feelings concerning the tragedy which occurred when the NASA Space



2016 — Kearney County and the surrounding areas were hard-hit by winter storm Kayla with large snow totals and near 50 mile-per-hour winds shutting down schools and businesses in the area. Residents began the digging out process after the wind finally stopped moving all the snow around.

Shuttle exploded 73 seconds after launch.

Marc Hultquist, who placed highest over all age groups at the National TAC Junior Olympic Cross Country meet, received the Jim Kindig Memorial Award.

Thirty Years Ago — 1996

After a year of construction, the Prairie House Apartments, built in Minden by Bethphage Mission, was ready for its residents.

Alice Newbold and Betty Morey were honored for 50 years of service to Moab Chapter 182 Order of the Eastern Star.

The Axtell Wildcats won their third consecutive Fort Kearny Conference wrestling crown.

Twenty Years Ago — 2006

Cassandra Pfeil previewed her upcoming trip to the Philippines for the Minden Rotary Club with a video presentation.

Four 750,000 gallon fermentation tanks were being constructed as part of a \$7 million expansion project at KAAPA Ethanol. The project was expected to increase the plant's ethanol output to 60 million gallons per year.

Minden Whippet varsity wrestler Bryan Anderson received his second SWC title at 112 pounds.

Ten Years Ago — 2016

A winter storm hit most of the state dropping an estimated 15 inches of snow in Kearney County. Snow plows were pulled off the roads when visibility became too poor. Nebraska residents got to work digging themselves and neighbors out of deep drifts once the storm had passed. The heavy, wet snow and soft, muddy ground worked against county snow plows as they worked to clear paths for residents so schools could have classes again.

Former army master fitness and staff sergeant Jason Fox relocated his Kearney training center to Axtell. While in Kearney, FoxFit helped people lose over 1,500 combined pounds. Now Fox is changing lives one pound at a time with a focus on youth development and a more individualized program.

About a month prior, Axtell beat Sumner-Eddyville-Miller by 19. This matchup, in the semifinals of the FKC tournament at the Viaero Event Center, was closer and more was at stake but the Cats again were the victors 64-56. Axtell's tenth consecutive win moved the record to 17-2 and advanced the Cats into the tourney championship game.

Church Directory

Axtell

Bethany Lutheran
903 25 Road
BethanyAxtell.org
(308) 743-2597

Marcia Dorn, Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 15: Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship, 10 a.m.; Worship with Holy Communion, 10:45 a.m.

Worship will be recorded and posted on our website at BethanyAxtell.org.

First Presbyterian

406 A Avenue

Pastor Doodle Harris

Sunday, Feb. 15: Fellowship & Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship service, 10:30 a.m.

Keene Evangelical Free

662 F Road

308-743-2611

Matthew Snell, Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 15: Worship service, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February. 18: Evening Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran, LCMC

104 E. Fifth St.

Craig Richardson, Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 15: Donuts & Juice, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion, 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study, 12:45 p.m.

Monday, February. 16: Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 18: High School Youth Meal/Fellowship, 6 p.m.

Campbell

St. Anne Catholic
Father Adam Sparling,
Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 15: Mass, 8 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran
360 So. Stewart

(402) 756-8552

Greg Volsky,
Vacancy Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 15: Worship, 9:30 a.m. with Sunday school to follow

United Westminster Presbyterian

Broad and Main Street

Mark A. Diehl, Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 15: Worship, 10 a.m.

Funk

Fridhem Lutheran

401 Lake Street

Daren Pople,

Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 15: Sunday School, 9:20 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Communion offered 1st & 3rd Sunday each month

Heartwell

God's Lighthouse, Full Gospel

Sunday, Feb. 15: Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Family Catholic Mission Parish

287 Jefferson Street

Father Evan Winter

Sunday, Feb. 15: Mass, 8:30 a.m.

Hildreth

Trinity Lutheran

502 Sanders Avenue

Caroline Schenk,

Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 15: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Holdrege

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

112 W 11th Ave

402-208-7277

Sunday, Feb. 15: Sacrament meeting, 10 a.m.

To schedule an appointment with the missionaries for either a gospel lesson and/or for any other service call or text (402) 452-1992

Visitors welcome

Macon

Zion Lutheran

Located 1 mile west of Macon, 1503 31st Road, (Franklin)

Marcia Dorn, Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 15: Worship service, 9 a.m.

Minden

Bethany Lutheran

437 E. Fourth St.

Don Hunzeker, Pastor

Julie Schmidt, Parish

Ministry Associate

Thursday, Feb. 12: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m.; Miriam Circle, 9 a.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14: Walking, 8 a.m.; Prayer Shawl Gathering, 9 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 15: Contemporary Worship, 8:30 a.m.; Blended-Traditional Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Holy Communion at both services

Tuesday, February. 17: Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 18: Church Club, 5 p.m.; Wednesday Night Supper Club, 6 p.m.; Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 19: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m.

Stay connected with our website, Bethanyminden.org

Evangelical Free

1310 W. First St.

Tom Barnes, Lige Reed,
Pastors

Sunday, Feb. 15: Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 11 a.m.

First Christian Church
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Call (308) 832-2693

Sunday, Feb. 15: Worship service, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Fellowship after worship services; Sunday School, 11 a.m.

Ladies' Bible Study Tuesdays @ Bloomfield Home, 9 a.m.

Fredericksburg

Lutheran

616 33 Road

Julie Schmidt, Parish
Ministry Associate

Don Hunzeker, Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 15: Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship Coffee 10:30 a.m.

Communion served 2nd Sunday each month

Saint John The Baptist Catholic

628 N. Garber

Father Evan Winter

Saturday, Feb. 14: Mass, 5:30 p.m., confessions before Mass

Sunday, Feb. 15: Mass, 10:30 a.m.; (in Spanish at 12:30 p.m.); confessions before Mass

Sunday, Feb. 15: Mass, 10:30 a.m.; (in Spanish at 12:30 p.m.); confessions before Mass

St. Paul Lutheran

206 N. Colorado

Rev. William Zwick

Friday, Feb. 13: Breakfast & Prayer, 7 a.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14: Valentine's Day Meal & Entertainment (ticket \$20), 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 15: Bible Study/Sunday School, 9 a.m.; High School Youth, 9:15 a.m.; Worship/Communion, 10:15 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 16: Quilt Tie Group, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 17: Choir Practice, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, February. 18:

NO JYM CLASSES; Lent Supper, 5:30 p.m.; Ash Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 19: Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 20: Breakfast & Prayer, 7 a.m.

United Methodist

340 N. Newell Ave.

Kayla M. Mangrich,

Pastor

Thursday, Feb. 12: Prayer Time, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 15: Worship, 10 a.m.; Confirmation, 11:15 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 19: Prayer Time, 1:30 p.m.

Westminster United

Presbyterian

109 N. Colorado

Sharon Rees, Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 15: Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Fellowship, 10:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sundays

Wilcox

St. John's Lutheran

102 S. Stockton St.

Kenton Birtell, Pastor
Sunday, Feb. 15: Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion every other Sunday

United Methodist
203 S. Sapp St.

Candance Miller,

Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 15: Worship, 9 a.m.

Communion 1st Sunday every month

Wilcox Community

106 W. Detroit St.

Craig Cedar, Pastor

Affiliated with

Evangelical Free

Church of America

Sunday, Feb. 15: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Wednesdays: Awana & Youth Group (during school year), 6:30 p.m.

Bible Studies during the week. Check our Facebook page.

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Obituaries

Shirley M. Nielsen, 91 - Minden Resident



Shirley M. Nielsen, 91, of Minden, passed away on Friday, January 30, 2026 at Kearney County Health Services in Minden. Funeral services were held on Friday, February 6, 2026 at Minden Evangelical Free Church with Rev. Tom Barnes officiating. The service was streamed to the church's YouTube page. Interment was held following the service at

the Minden Cemetery. Visitation was held on Thursday, February 5, 2026 at Craig Funeral Home in Minden. Memorials in Shirley's honor are kindly suggested to the Minden Evangelical Free Church or to the family for future designation. Arrangements are under the care of Craig Funeral Home in Minden.

Shirley Mae Nielsen was born on November 6, 1934 near Roseland to Alfred and Anna (Mazel) Juranek. In her younger years the family moved to a farm near Campbell, where she attended school and graduated from Campbell High School with the class of 1952. She was baptized and confirmed at Campbell Presbyterian Church.

After high school, she moved to Minden and worked at the dime store. She was married to Herbert Nielsen on July 4, 1953 at Bethany Lutheran Church. Shirley returned with Herbert to Colorado Springs where he was stationed in the service. In 1955 the couple returned to Minden and settled on the family farm east of Minden. They were blessed two children: Lonney and Valerie.

Most of the years were spent working on the farm. She raised chickens and delivered milk and eggs to customers in the surrounding area of Minden.

Shirley was very active in the community. She was a member of the Bethany Lutheran Church, where she taught Sunday school and Bible school during the summer, and hosted camp kids in their home. She was a 4-H leader, extension club member and sewed with the Willing Workers Club. Herb and Shirley loved to entertain and dance. Shirley organized and started the Pioneer Promenaders Square Dance Club where local couples learned how to square dance from weekly lessons. She also was involved with the Danish Dancers and the organization of Danish Days. Shirley kept busy with her gardening, canning fruits and vegetables on the farm.

In 1991, Herb and Shirley retired and moved into

Minden. They continued to entertain and travel. They looked forward to the grandchildren coming every Saturday morning for brunch and time in the hot tub.

Those left to cherish her memory include her son Lonney (Suzanne) Nielsen of Minden; daughter, Valerie (Bruce) Shepherd of Minden; grandchildren, Danielle Nielsen (Scott Bonneau), Chris Nielsen, Kirk (Machaela) Nielsen, Alex (Ali) Nielsen, Brittney Shepherd, and Kelsey (Justin) Jorgensen; great-grandchildren, Tessa, Logan, and Cole Nielsen, Barry Nielsen, Augie Nielsen, Kyren, Natalie, Reah and Isla Jorgensen, and Emerson Shepherd; brother-in-law, Clyde Frerichs; sister-in-law Lora Juranek; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, extended relatives and close friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Herbert; brothers, James Juranek, LaVern Juranek, and Virgil (Dean) Juranek; sisters, Maxine (Edward) Morgan, Phyllis (Marlin) Sorensen and Lela Frerichs.

Tributes and memories can be shared with the family at www.craigfunerals.com.

Robert E. Christensen, 85 - Minden Resident



Robert E. Christensen, 85, of Minden, passed away on Friday, January 30, 2026 at Bryan Health - Kearney Regional Medical Center. A joint celebration of life service with his wife, Audrey, will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 4, 2026 at Westminster United Presbyterian Church in Minden with PMA Julie Schmidt officiating.

Private family inurnment will be held prior to services at the Minden Cemetery. Memorials in Robert's honor are kindly suggested to the family for future designation. Arrangements are under the care of Craig Funeral Home in Minden.

Robert Eugene Christensen was born on October 20, 1940, to Orval and Marie Christensen. He spent his entire life in Kearney County, growing up and building a rich, fulfilling legacy in the community he loved.

He graduated from Minden High School in 1958. On November 19, 1961, he married Audrey Johnson of Campbell in the Westminster United Presbyterian Church in Minden, Nebraska. In 1962, they settled on the family farm northeast of Minden, where they made their home until 2024. Robert and Audrey raised three children and delighted in attending all their events.

Robert farmed alongside his father, brother, and later his son until his retirement in 2005. He also drove semi-

trucks for 10 years, an experience he truly enjoyed. He cherished the rhythm of the four seasons, with a special fondness for planting and harvesting. After retiring, he took great pleasure in gardening, assisting Audrey with yard work, and maintaining their beautiful yard. Evenings spent relaxing on the porch were among his favorite moments. He also discovered a passion for baking homemade bread and his famous "monster cookies," which his grandchildren eagerly anticipated.

For many years, Robert sold seed corn and grain bins, opportunities that allowed him and Audrey to enjoy memorable company-sponsored trips. He was a lifelong member and deeply involved in the Westminster United Presbyterian Church, serving as a trustee, Sunday school teacher, and choir member.

Robert was active in community organizations, including the Jaycees, Minden Chamber of Commerce, and Kearney County Livestock Feeders. He was a dedicated 4-H member and leader in his younger years.

An avid card player, Robert especially loved Somerset and belonged to a card club with high school classmates for over 50 years. He also enjoyed refinishing furniture for many years, and he and Audrey operated a booth at Granny's Attic. His unique collections included butter molds and presses, rubber tire ashtrays, and four-ounce oil cans.

At age seven, Robert contracted polio and spent four weeks hospitalized in Omaha. He managed well for most of his life, though post-polio syndrome affected him in later years.

Robert cherished his family deeply and took immense pride in their accomplishments and extracurricular activities.

He is survived by his three children; Kelly Trausch (Gene) of Minden, NE; Kathy Lippert (Tom) of Chardon, Ohio; and Kent Christensen of Minden, NE; six grandchildren: Molly Trausch of Des Moines, Iowa; Peter Trausch (Missy) of Minden, NE; Dallas Christensen (Elly) of Syracuse, NE; Dakota Christensen (Ashley) of Roca, NE; Nick Lippert of Cleveland, OH; and Maddie Lippert of San Diego, CA; four great-grandchildren brought additional joy: Mayley Christensen (daughter of Dallas and Elly); Evan Christensen (son of Dakota and Ashley); and Emma and Charlie Trausch (children of Peter and Missy); brother Vern Christensen (Carol); brothers-in-law Dale Johnson and wife Ardyce, and John Schell; sisters-in-law Sandy Johnson and Lyra Johnson; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife Audrey; parents, Orville and Marie Christensen; brothers-in-law Haldine Johnson, Donald Johnson, and Rodney Osler; sisters-in-law, Marjorie Osler and Janice Schell.

Tributes and memories can be shared with the family at www.craigfunerals.com.

Harvey L. Moore, 66 - Prosser Resident



Harvey Lee Moore, 66, of Prosser, Nebraska, passed away on February 7, 2026. A celebration of life open house will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. on Sunday, February 15, 2026 at Craig Funeral Home in Minden. Private family inurnment will be held at a later date. Memorials in Harvey's honor

are kindly suggested to the family for future designation. Arrangements are under the care of Craig Funeral Home in Minden.

Born on August 19, 1959, in Loup City, Nebraska, Harvey lived a life marked by dedication and resilience.

A hardworking man known for his skill as a jack of all trades, Harvey brought determination and craftsmanship to everything he did. Whether working with his hands or lending them to others in need, he was someone who could be counted on to get the job done right.

Harvey is survived by his wife, Diana; son, Jason McAlevy and Jade of Kearney; daughter, Tina and Cody Flint of Syracuse, and daughter, Becky and Joe Anderson of Minden. His father, Clifford Moore, of Gothenburg. Siblings, Tommy, Wayne, Clifford, Dorothy, Rosa and Julia, many nieces and nephews, and his beloved dogs Gracie and Daisy Pig.

He leaves behind a large and loving family of grandchildren: Megan and Sean McFadden of Axtell; Molli and

Keatton Reese of Pleasanton; Madison and her fiancé, Micheal Root of Kearney; Grady and Karys McAlevy of Minden; Bridget and Adam Zeman of Des Moines, Iowa; Daytona and Tyler Brown of Lincoln; Dawson and Madison Flint of Ord; Brayden Behrends and Tavia Hausman of Lincoln; Broghan Behrends and Kalliah Johnson of Syracuse; Lane Anderson and Emily Spurgin of Minden; Abigail Anderson and Robert Heck of Minden; Lexi Anderson and Calub Clark of Kearney; and Drake Anderson of Minden.

Harvey was also blessed with great-grandchildren: Jordan, Randy, and Synthia of Axtell; Ashton and Vivian of Syracuse; Parker and Peyton of Minden, —with three more expected soon.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy Moore; his mother- and father-in-law, Melvin and Leona Miller; sister-in-law, Doris Applegarth; and nephew Shannon Williamson.

Harvey's legacy lives through the many lives he touched with his strength, generosity, and unwavering work ethic. May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him.

Tributes and memories can be shared with the family at www.craigfunerals.com.

Erma Jean Scharff, 94 - Minden Resident



Erma Jean Scharff, 94, of Minden, went to be with the Lord on February 4, 2026, while receiving care at Tiffany Square in Grand Island, NE. A celebration of life was held on Monday, February 9, 2026, at the Minden United Methodist Church with Rev. Kayla Mangrich officiating. The service was streamed to the church's Facebook and YouTube

pages. Interment was held following the service at the Minden Cemetery. The family received visitors one hour prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Arrangements are under the care of Craig Funeral Home in Minden.

Erma Jean was born in Minden, Nebraska on November 20, 1931, to Pete H. and Stella Petersen. She was the youngest of 6 children. She grew up in Minden and attended District 60 School and graduated from Minden High School in 1949. She worked as a telephone operator, administrative assistant to Judge Martin Law Office, and an employee at the Kearney County Courthouse offices.

She was united in marriage to Delmer Scharff, on June 7, 1952, in a double wedding ceremony with her brother, LaVern and his bride, Milrae. The United States Air Force then stationed them in Texas, Louisiana and finally Bangor, Maine. After the USAF completion, Delmer and Jean moved back to Minden.

With Delmer she raised 5 children, Sheila, Dudley, Sonia, Debra, and Danny. Delmer was self-employed as a car mechanic. He also owned and operated a septic tank cleaning and gravel truck business. Erma Jean was able to be a homemaker raising five children while also helping Delmer with the businesses' bookkeeping. She applied her exceptional seamstress skills by sewing numerous clothing items for the entire family. Later in life, she worked as the receptionist for the Minden United Methodist church from 1986 to 1997. She also did the janitorial work for the church as well. She loved shorthand, typing and editing and helping Pastor with putting together the weekly bulletins.

She was a 78-year member of the Minden United Methodist Church and a 65-year member of the Minden Legion Women's Auxiliary. Her hobbies included sewing clothing and quilts, cross stitching, crocheting, baking and canning. She loved sharing these handmade gifts to family and friends. She had a talent and a gift of dancing the waltz and polkas! Delmer and her were light on their feet on the dance floor. When Delmer had passed, she later met Bob Molle and dancing was their passion. They attended numerous Big Joe Polka Show gatherings and have been seen on reruns of the Big Joe Polka Show.

She loved her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and was very proud of them all. She enjoyed attending their various sporting events and school activities.

Survivors include daughter Sheila (Glenn) Bauer of Omaha; son Dudley (Michelle) Scharff of Minden; daughter Sonia (Bill) Keeling of Grand Island; son Danny (Christy) Scharff of Omaha. Grandchildren include Seth and Lindsey Carlson of Omaha, Sheena and Jamie Meyer of Omaha, Billy (fiancé Skylar) Keeling of Omaha, Kaitlyn and Izaak Kitsmiller of Grand Island, Daniel and Breana Keeling of Omaha, Jada and Reese Holder of Atchison, KS, Alec Scharff (fiancé Nicole) of Omaha, Addison Scharff (friend Noah) of Omaha.

Great grandchildren include Hayes and June Carlson of Omaha; Emmett, Ammon and Eden Meyer of Omaha; Ellis Kitsmiller of Grand Island, Baby Girl Holder of Atchison, KS and one sister, Arlene Wright of Overland Park, Kansas.

Erma Jean was preceded in death by her daughter, Debra, and her husband, Delmer, three sisters, and one brother.

Tributes and memories can be shared with the family at www.craigfunerals.com.

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Nebraska Weekly Grain Prices, Omaha-Council Bluffs

US No. 2 Yellow Corn: \$4.11-\$4.27

US No. 1 Soybeans \$10.00-\$10.50

Steers – Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt./Actual Wt.)

Weight Range – 700-749; Avg. Weight – 726; Price

Range – \$377.50-\$438; Average Price – \$409.50

Heifers – Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt./Actual Wt.)

Weight Range – 550-598; Avg. Weight – 574; Price

Range – \$410-465; Average Price – \$443.17

Clayton H. Schubert, 97 - Holdrege Resident



A funeral service for Clayton H. Schubert was held on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hildreth, Nebraska, with Pastor Caroline Schenk officiating. Interment followed at the Wilcox Cemetery in Wilcox, Nebraska, with Military Honors provided by the Wilcox American Legion

Post #377 in conjunction with the United States Army Funeral Honors Team.

Clayton Henry Schubert, 97 years of age, of Holdrege, Nebraska, formerly of Wilcox, entered his heavenly home on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at Holdrege Memorial Homes, surrounded by his family. Clayton and his twin sister, Kathleen, were born on January 7, 1929, on the family farm south of Wilcox in Franklin County, Nebraska, to Raymond and Elsie (Schluntz) Schubert. He was the smallest of the twins, weighing 3 ½ pounds. He was baptized as an infant and confirmed in 1944 by Rev. A. G. Trost at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hildreth. He was raised in a loving Christian home. He attended Forest Valley District 51 country school, one-half mile from his home. After eighth grade, he went to Wilcox Public School and graduated with the class of 1946.

After graduation, Clayton farmed with his father until he enlisted in the Army in 1953. He served two years during the Korean War, stationed in Germany. He was very proud to be a veteran and, in his later years, eager to share stories of his service.

Clayton met Grace Lyon at the roller-skating rink in Holdrege. They were united in marriage on August 8, 1958, at Holcomb Evangelical Free Church. They had three children: Mark, David, and Linda. They worked together and raised their family on the farm that was homesteaded by his grandfather, August Schubert, in 1881. Clayton spent his life setting a good example of hard work and Christian values, leaving a legacy for his children and grandchildren. His dedication to the farm made a lasting impact on his family.

Clayton was very involved in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hildreth, which later became Trinity Lutheran Church throughout his life. He served as the Central District Lutheran League President from 1955-1958, Sunday School Superintendent, Sunday School teacher, and served on Church Council.

Clayton was involved in the community in many ways. He was a member of the Wilcox School Board for 12 years, the Co-op board, the American Legion, and the Lions Club. In his later years, Clayton enjoyed his time serving with

the Gideons. Through these connections, he made many lifelong friends of all ages.

In 1992, Clayton and Grace moved to Wilcox. Their hearts were broken in 1995 with the unexpected loss of their son Mark. What a joyous reunion they have had as they are reunited in Heaven now.

Besides his parents, Clayton was preceded in death by his wife, Grace; son Mark; sister, Kathleen Springer and husband, Donald Springer; three brothers-in-law: Kenneth Lyon; Max Schultz; LaMonte and wife, Barbara Lyon.

He leaves to mourn his passing; his son, David Schubert and wife, Diane of Wilcox; daughter, Linda Harms and husband, John of Martell, Nebraska; three grandchildren: Benjamin Harms and fiancé, Grace Heinen of Fargo, North Dakota; Emily Harms of Martell and friend Kaden Karst; and Luke Harms of Lincoln, Nebraska; two sisters, Delores Carlson and husband, Franklin of Holdrege; and Marjean Schultz of Oxford, Nebraska; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

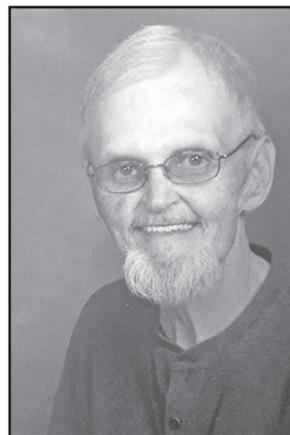
A visitation was held on Friday, February 6, 2026, with family greeting friends at the Bauer-Torrey & Mach Funeral Home in Wilcox.

A memorial has been established in Clayton's honor, and kindly suggested to the family for later designation.

Expressions of caring and kindness can be sent to the family at www.nelsonbauerfh.com

The Bauer-Torrey & Mach Funeral Home in Alma is in charge of the arrangements.

Billy T. Waldon, 77 - Minden Resident



Billy T. Waldon, 77, of Minden, passed away on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at the Omaha VA Medical Center. Graveside services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at the Minden Cemetery. A family coordinated memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Minden with Rev. William Zwick officiating. Memorials in Billy's honor are kindly suggested to the family for future designation. Craig Funeral Home in Minden is assisting the family.

Billy T. Waldon was born on February 28, 1948, to Billy Ray and Ora Lillian (Birchfield) Waldon in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He faithfully served in the United States Navy as a crewman. Billy served on two ships during his time in the Navy and made stops at multiple different ports. During his life, Billy lived in Michigan, California for 10 years, then Kearney and Minden, Nebraska. After moving to Nebraska, he worked as a sound man for Rock 101.5.

He was united in marriage to Sharon Lucille (Hansen) Mildfeldt on March 14, 2014. One of his favorite memories about Sharon was their first kiss.

Billy enjoyed playing the piano and football. His favorite car was his white GTX. He made hundreds of model cars and even won an award for one he made when he was younger. Billy's favorite music group was the Beach Boys, and his favorite song was Wipe Out.

He will be remembered for his words of wisdom: "Think about what you are going to do, how you are going to do it and what you are going to do with it."

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife Sharon of Minden; step-children, Twila (Mark) Slezak, Regina (John) Bauer, and Jeff (Amy) Mildfeldt; step-daughter-in-law, Merry Fries Mildfeldt; grandchildren, Heather (Steven) Coleman, Rachel Elkin (Justin Gendron), Joseph (Margaret Matthews) Slezak, Stacy Bauer, Erin (Garrett) Willyard, David Bauer, Schuyler (Austin) Lewis, and Brant Mildfeldt; 10 great-grandchildren; siblings, Jerry (Carol) Miller, Jack Gant, Ed Richardson, Penny Doty, Roxie Kemp, and Jeanine (Eugene) Crummel; as well as a host of extended relatives and close friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ora and Billy; step-mother, Lillian; and step-son, Bruce Mildfeldt.

Tributes and memories can be shared with the family at www.craigfunerals.com.

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SPORTS

Reed Takes Home Conference Championship

PHIL SERRONE

On Feb. 6, the Southwest Conference tournament for boys wrestling was held at Holdrege High School. Minden took part in the action collecting a fifth place team finish while adding multiple individual medals.

Isaac Reed (36-8) had the best finish for the Whippets as he secured two pinfall victories to reign atop the 138 lb. weight division as conference champion. Cael Smith (21-4) and Drew Seiler (15-8) collected silver medals after placing second overall.

Lukas Labenz (15-26), Aaron Banuelos (16-22), and Parker Hatch (25-13) finished third overall at their respective weight divisions. Judah Bedunnah secured one win by way of pinfall while dropping two other matches to secure a fourth place finish at the 285 lb. weight class. Minden had numerous wrestlers compete in the JV bracket.

Next up for the Whippets is a road trip to Madison High School on Feb. 14 for Districts. This will be the final meet of the season with the chance to qualify for state on the line. We will have a full District recap in next week's paper!

Here are the following results for each Whippet wrestler at their respective weight class:

120: Owen Gilming started with a pin loss against Bell



of Holdrege in 3:33 then had a bye then lost by decision 8-10 against Jackson of Ogallala

126 JV: Owen Hostetler open with a pinfall loss against Uhlig of Broken Bow in 0:23 then was pinned by Uhlig of Broken Bow in 0:56 to place second for JV

132: Lukas Labenz opened with a bye then was pinned by Tilson of Holdrege in 1:47 then had a bye then pinned Osborne of McCook in 0:59 to place third overall

138: Isaac Reed started with a bye then pinned Foster of McCook in 3:50 then pinned Watson of Broken Bow in 3:56 to place first overall

150: Aaron Banuelos opened with a bye then was pinned by Rynearson of Broken Bow in 0:53 then had a bye then won by total falls 19-3 over Therrien of Gothenburg in 1:17 to place third overall

150 JV: Byron Kring opened with a pin over Heggemeyer of Minden in 1:39 then pinned Sughayar of Broken Bow in 1:39 then pinned Helleberg of Broken Bow in 0:38 then pinned Lindly of Broken Bow in 0:50 to place first overall on the JV side

150 JV: Grayson Heggemeyer started with a pin loss against Sughayar of Broken Bow in 0:47 then was pinned by Kring of Minden in 0:56 then was pinned by Helleberg of Broken Bow in 2:45 then was pinned by Lindly of Broken Bow in 0:25 to place fifth overall

157 JV: Reed Morlang started with a pin loss against Herron of McCook in 2:10 then was pinned by Herron of McCook in 0:32 to place second

175: Parker Hatch started with a bye then lost by majority decision 3-16 against Wells of Broken Bow then won by majority decision 15-2 over Mashek of McCook then won by decision 5-4 over Popple of Holdrege to place third overall

175 JV: Steel Saunders opened with a loss due to pinfall against Page of Broken Bow in 0:47 then lost by pinfall against Cock of McCook in 0:39 then was pinned by Rhoades of Ogallala in 0:48 to place fourth

190: Cael Smith started with a total fall 17-1 victory over Dalby of Broken Bow in 2:12 then won by total falls 16-1 over Popple of Holdrege in 4:56 then was pinned by Roberts of McCook in 5:31 to place second overall

190 JV: Dathan Foth opened with a loss against Wiss-

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The Minden boys wrestling team traveled to Holdrege for the SWC tournament on Feb. 6. Isaac Reed claimed a conference championship in his weight division. Pictured: (above) Isaac Reed lines his opponent up in the championship match. (left) Judah Bedunnah looks for an angle in the stand up position. (Courier photos by Phil Serrone)

mann of Holdrege in 0:47 then was pinned by Sorensen of Minden in 0:49 then was pinned by Dixson of Minden in 0:38 to place fourth overall

190 JV: Matt Dixson started with a pin loss against Sorensen of Minden in 2:46 then was pinned by Wissmann of Holdrege in 1:11 then pinned Foth of Minden in 0:38 to place third overall

190 JV: Christian Sorensen opened with a pin victory over Dixson of Minden then pinned Foth of Minden in 0:49 then was pinned by Wissman of Holdrege in 4:40 to place second overall

215: Drew Seiler had a bye to start off then pinned Hellen of Holdrege in 1:02 then lost by decision 1-6 against Watson of Broken Bow to place second overall

215 JV: Sage Saunders started with a pin victory over Pesek of Gothenburg in 1:10 then pinned Greenlee of McCook in 3:39 then pinned Isonobu of Cozad in 1:40 to place first overall

285: Judah Bedunnah opened with a bye then was pinned by Bailey of Holdrege in 0:52 then pinned Ramirez of Ogallala in 2:37 then was pinned by Baum of Broken Bow in 0:16 to place fourth overall

Falcon and Wildcat Wrestling Earn Hardware at FKC Tourney

PHIL SERRONE

Wilcox-Hildreth and Axtell boys wrestling teams took a road trip to Amherst High School on Feb. 5 for the Fort Kearney Conference tournament. Last year, the Falcons finished as conference champions but this year it was host Amherst claiming the championship.

Overall, the Falcons placed fifth overall with a team score of 86 points. Standout Brody Patterson did not wrestle at the event which took away the potential of a higher team finish. Axtell placed 13th overall with a team score of 37.5.

Gavin Ironshell (33-11) secured three victories at the 165 lb. weight class paving way for a first place finish as well as a conference championship. Kyler Masters (35-10) went 3-1 in his matches leading to a second place finish and silver medal. Jacob Jezbera (37-7) and Craig Bunger (21-22) placed third overall while Brett Woollen (10-23) collected a fourth place medal.

Axtell was led by two medallists with Luke Abbott (8-30) placing third overall and Chase Nickel (12-18) collecting a fourth place finish. The pair combined for four pinfall victories. Connor L'Heureux (20-23) and Nick Dahl (26-21) did not place but added a combined three victories to their win/loss record.

Both teams will have a chance to qualify for the state tournament when the team competes at Districts on Feb. 13-14. The meet will be held in Oakland, NE at 309 N Davis Ave. Keep an eye on next week's paper for the full recap and potential state qualifiers!

Here are the following results for each Falcon wrestler at their respective weight class:

106: Mikah Eiley opened with a pinfall loss against Nickel of Axtell in 2:28 then pinned Beal of Lawrence-Nelson in 0:26 then was pinned by Swanson of Loomis in 1:45

120: Cooper Woollen started with a total fall loss against Larson of Elm Creek in 1:17 then had a bye then lost by decision 5-9 against Perez of Giltner/Harvard

132: Kyler Masters opened with a pin victory over Jarmin of Overton in 1:16 then pinned L'Heureux of Axtell in 1:16 then won by medical forfeit then lost a close tie-breaker battle 0-2 against Trambly of Franklin to place second overall

150: Drake Ritner started with a bye then was pinned by Meier of Elm Creek in 0:43 then had a bye then pinned Triplett of SEM in 2:30 then was pinned by Gillming of Pleasanton in 0:44

157: Brett Woollen had a bye then was pinned by Rasser of Red Cloud/Blue Hill in 3:57



Wilcox-Hildreth collected five medals at the FKC Wrestling Invite on Feb. 5 at Amherst High School. Gavin Ironshell was crowned conference champion. Pictured: Gavin Ironshell stands atop his weight division as conference champion. (Courtesy photo)



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Continued on Next Page

from PAGE 17 - FKC Wrestling

then had a bye then was pinned by Roach of Amherst in 0:55 to place fourth overall

165: Gavin Ironshell started with total fall victory 17-2 over Corman of Lawrence-Nelson in 2:00 then won by majority decision 13-5 over Henson of SEM then won by decision 7-5 over Graham of Amherst to place first overall

175: Damien Campbell had a bye to start then was pinned by Arredondo of Overton in 5:41 then had a bye then was pinned by Marks of Franklin in 4:35

190: Jacob Jezbera started off with a pin victory over Goad of Elm Creek in 2:24 then lost by decision 10-12 against Smith of Amherst then pinned Hesman of Red Cloud/Blue Hill in 3:57 then won by total falls 21-3 over Kohmetscher of Kenesaw in 3:41 to place third overall

285: Craig Bunger opened with a pin loss against Iannone of Kenesaw in 1:58 then pinned Moreno of Red Cloud/Blue Hill in 0:46 then pinned Hernandez of Elm Creek in 1:31 then pinned Iannone of Kenesaw in 2:44 to place third overall

Here are the following results for each Wildcat wrestler at their respective weight class:

106: Chase Nickel opened with a pin win over Eiley of Wil-Hil in 2:28 then was pinned by Robinson of Elm Creek in 1:30 then pinned Wagoner of Superior in 2:19 then was pinned by Swanson of Loomis in 0:41 to place fourth overall

113: Luke Abbott started with a pin victory over Walvoord of Amherst in 2:31 then was pinned by Christensen of Amherst in 0:31 then had a bye then pinned Gruntorad of Elm Creek in 2:41 to place third overall

132: Connor L'Heureux started with a pin win over Mallneck of Amherst in 3:08 then was pinned by Masters of Wilcox-Hildreth in 1:16 then won by total falls 17-1 over Oliva of Giltner/Harvard in 1:20 then was pinned by Dack of Shelton in 2:05

150: Coben Hill opened with pin loss against Boyles of Superior in 0:42 then had a bye then was pinned by Triplett of SEM in 2:10

165: Nick Dahl opened with a pin victory over Balfour of Red Cloud/Blue Hill in 3:20 then had a pin loss against Graham of Amherst in 1:19 then was pinned by Hinz of Superior in 3:48



The Axtell wrestling team brought home two medals from the FKC Invite on Feb. 5 at Amherst High School. Pictured: Luke Abbott placed third overall in his weight class. (Courtesy photo)



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Program First: Lady Falcons Bunger and Patterson Qualify for State

PHIL SERRONE

District wrestling was held at Lakeview High School on Feb. 6-7 with Wilcox-Hildreth and Axtell girls wrestling programs in attendance. 32 teams were in attendance for the event.

Wilcox-Hildreth added another program first this season as Camryn Bunger (24-5) and Elin Patterson (29-14) punched their tickets to the state tournament. As a team, the Lady Falcons placed 14th overall with a team score of 47 points.

Patterson and Bunger combined for seven victories including five pins and two decisions. Dinah Culp (19-10) added seven team points to the Falcons' total with two victories but did not qualify for state in her final year in the program. It was a strong season across the roster as each wrestler on the team finished with a record over .500.

Axtell missed out on sending a wrestler to state this season. As a team, the Lady Wildcats placed 21st overall with a team score of 26.5.

Jerzey Ramirez (22-12) narrowly missed punching her ticket to state coming up one match short after finishing districts 3-2. Binzley Walz, Krystal Fickenscher, Allison Fuller and Taelynn Myers each added a pinfall win or more at the event.

This was a strong season for the Lady Wildcats as the program grew in numbers and collected multiple individual medals. The majority of the team will return next season minus senior Sadie Lorenzo who will graduate later this year.

Bunger and Patterson will look to bring home the program's first ever state medal on Feb. 17-18. Good luck to the Lady Falcons in Omaha! We will have a full recap from state wrestling in two weeks!

Here are the following results for each Lady Wildcat wrestler at their respective weight class:

100: Jerzey Ramirez started with a total fall win 15-0 over Eggleston of Aurora in 1:43 then was pinned by Hoffman of North Central in 1:39 then pinned Rodriguez of Gibbon in 4:32 then won by total falls 15-0 over Olberding of Falls City in 3:00 then was pinned by Hernandez of Ord in 1:55

115: Sadie Lorenzo opened with a decision loss 1-8 against Patterson of Wil-hil then had a bye then was pinned by Young of Falls City in 2:35

125: Binzley Walz had a bye to open then was pinned by Bleich of Battle Creek in 1:10 then had a bye then pinned Kokes of Ord in 3:30 then lost by decision 8-10 against Alexander of Falls City

135: Krystal Fickenscher started with a bye then was pinned by Wortman



The Lady Falcons continued their strong season with another program first with Camryn Bunger and Elin Patterson qualifying for the state tournament. (Courtesy photo)

of Randolph in 4:47 then had a bye then pinned Wall of Alma in 3:28 then was pinned by Maria Leininger of Aurora in 3:53

145: Madilynn Hays opened with a pin loss against Campbell of Auburn in 1:06 then had a bye then was pinned by Dunsen of Alma in 3:44

155: Allison Fulmer started with a pin loss against Vogel of Ansley-Litchfield in 0:33 then had a total fall win over Novotne of Kenesaw 18-2 in 4:06 then pinned Godoy of Overton in 2:43 then lost by decision 0-1 against Rudnick of Ainsworth

170: Taelynn Myers opened with a pin victory over Kent of Red Cloud/Blue Hill in 2:58 then was pinned by Rhamy of Overton in 0:54 then was pinned by McDonald of SEM in 4:10

Here are the following results for each Lady Falcon wrestler at their respective weight class:

100: Dinah Culp started off with a pin victory over Rodriguez of Gibbon in 1:44 then lost by decision 9-14 against Hernandez of Ord then pinned Eggleston of Aurora in 2:03 then lost by decision 4-6 against Gomez of Lakeview

115: Elin Patterson kicked off her opening round with a decision win 8-1 over Lorenzo of Axtell then won by decision 4-3 over Gress of High Plains Community then was pinned by Last of Battle Creek in 1:03 then pinned Young of Falls City in 2:03 then pinned Gress of High Plains Community in 3:00 to place third overall

125: Ona Wilsey had a bye to open then lost by decision 2-4 against Alexander of Falls City then had a bye then lost by majority decision 1-14 against Perez of Aurora

130: Ayva Bendorf started off with a sudden victory 15-12 over Holder of Doniphan-Trumbull then was pinned by Becker of Boone Central in 0:39 then lost by decision 3-6 against Putnam of Elm Creek

135: Camryn Bunger opened with a bye then pinned Fraser of Stanton in 0:10 then pinned Goff of Falls City in 0:50 then pinned Peters of Central City in 1:53 then was pinned by Mefford of Battle Creek in 3:44 to place second overall

Teller Position

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Hansen and Petersen Punch Ticket to State

PHIL SERRONE

It was a crowded field at District girls wrestling as the Lady Whippets competed against 34 other schools throughout a two-day stretch on Feb. 6-7. Districts was held Plainview High School.

As a team, Minden ended the first day of competition in third place with a point total of 73.5. Unfortunately, the Lady Whippets did not collect anymore points on day two resulting in a seventh place team finish.

Sophomore Victoria Hansen (20-11) had a great showing as she punched her ticket to the state tournament for the second time in her career. Hansen finished fourth overall at the two day event with a 4-2 record including three pins and one total fall victory.

Marlie Petersen (24-14) qualified for state for the first time in her career behind a third place finish. This was an excellent bounce back season for the sophomore after missing her entire freshmen season due to injury. Brinley Pohl (30-18) and Cristal Gonzalez (21-18) fell one match shy from qualifying to state.

State wrestling will be held in Omaha for two days on Feb. 17-18. Hansen and Petersen will look to represent

the city of Minden with hopes of bringing back a state medal. Congrats to the entire team on a hard fought season. We will have a full recap from the state tournament in two weeks!

Here are the following results for each Lady Whippet wrestler at their respective weight class:

100: Ella Warburton started with a pin loss against Santifer of Southern Valley/Arapahoe in 3:23 then won by majority decision 14-0 over Treat of North Bend Central then was pinned by Vieth of St.Paul in 2:07

110: Ashlyn Zerr opened with a pin victory over Williams of North Bend Central in 3:10 then had a pin loss against Darling of Yutan in 0:34 then pinned Kramper of Homer in 0:38 then was pinned by Carruthers of St.Paul in 1:58

120: McKinley Segelke had a bye to open then was pinned by Wiese of NG/SE in 1:05 then had a bye then was pinned by Mimick of North Bend Central in 0:50

125: Myka Petersen started with a bye then pinned Buss of Oakland-Craig in 1:35 then was pinned by Drueke of St.Mary's in 2:45 then lost by decision 4-7 against Kirchmann of Yutan

130: Brinley Pohl started with a pin win over Schmidt of Winside in 2:20 then was pinned by Mosel of Plainview/Osmond in 5:09 then pinned Scheuler of Yutan in 0:46 then pinned Sanderson of NEN in 0:57 then was pinned by Daugherty of North Bend Central in 2:20

135: Victoria Hansen opened with a pin victory over Curry of Norfolk Catholic in 3:07 then was pinned by Gewecke of Fillmore Central in 3:36 then pinned Ruvalcaba of Wakefield in 3:27 then won by total falls 16-0 over Beltran of West Point-Beemer in 4:00



Victoria Hansen (4th) and Marlie Petersen (3rd) punched their tickets to the state tournament after a strong showing at Districts held at Plainview High School on Feb. 6-7. (Courtesy photo)

then pinned Peter of O'Neill in 2:52 then was pinned by Gewecke of Fillmore Central in 2:56 to place fourth overall

140: Marlie Petersen opened with a pin victory over Sellin of Winside of 0:08 then pinned Breinig of Southern Valley/Arapahoe in 3:47 then was pinned by Willing of Tekamah-Herman in 2:33 then pinned Talarico of Franklin in 0:58 then pinned Henkel of Yutan in 4:03 to place third overall

145: Cristal Gonzalez started with a pin victory over Rodriguez of West Point-Beemer in 3:10 then was pinned by Cline of Franklin in 5:43 then pinned Scott of Wakefield in 1:35 then pinned Reinsch of Fillmore Central in 2:01 then was pinned by Forbes of Plainview/Osmond in 2:00

155: Annika Soelberg opened with a pin loss against Vaughn-Lantzer of Yutan in 2:00 then had a bye then pinned Lind of Franklin in 3:54 then was pinned by Moyer of West Point-Beemer in 0:48

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

NICK DAHL - WRESTLING

School - Axtell Community School

Grade - Sophomore

Achievements in past seasons and this season

- Nick has 25 wins in wrestling this season as a sophomore. Last year as a freshman, he won 22 matches. He has placed at nearly every tournament that we have been to this year.

Challenges that he has overcome: Nick has some close losses this season that he hopes to make wins as the season progresses.

Attributes that have led to his success: Nick is a very hard worker in the weight room and at practice. He is consistently at summer workouts and camps as well in the off-season. He has also been wrestling since he was a 5th or 6th grader in our youth program so his early success is not a big surprise.

Nick is also a great student. He has a 4.0 GPA. He is very kind to everyone and treats people with respect. He is the definition of what a student-athlete and a great young man should be. I am proud to be able to coach him. He will have earned every bit of success that he has over the next few years because he works hard and does things the right way! - Coach Justin Swedburg



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 PIONEER.

Top Seeded Buffalos Stampede Falcons' FKC Hopes

PHIL SERRONE

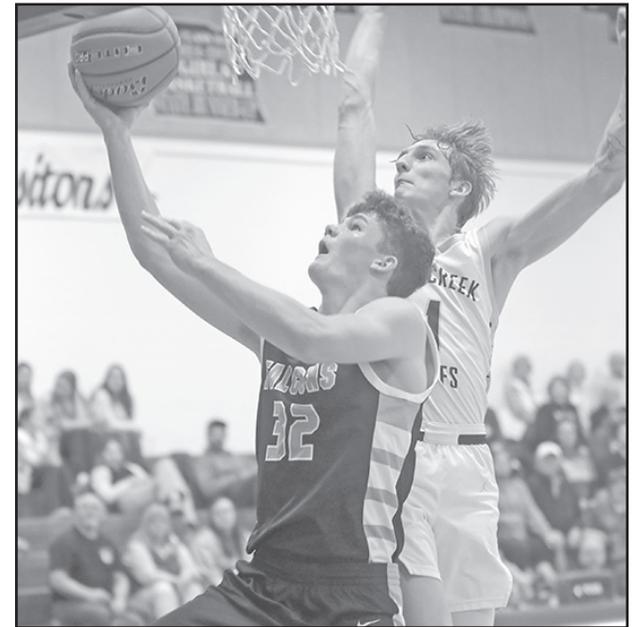


Wilcox-Hildreth boys basketball team gave top-seeded Elm Creek Buffalos all they could handle in the quarterfinals of the Fort Kearney Conference tournament on Feb. 3.

While the final score might not reflect such effort, the Buffalos defeated the Falcons by a score of 48-68. The box score does not tell the full story as through three quarters, the Falcons trailed the one-seed by seven points. It was only after a 8-21 run in the fourth quarter that pushed the Buffalos into the semi-finals.

No stats were provided from the game. Wilcox-Hildreth traveled to Overton High School on Feb. 10 with their sights set on their seventh win of the season. We will have a full recap from that game in next week's paper!

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	F
Wil-Hil	11	14	15	8	48
Elm Creek	18	13	16	21	68



The Falcons boys basketball team dropped their FKC quarterfinal matchup against Elm Creek on Feb. 3 by a score of 48-68. Pictured: (above) Thomas Donley lays the ball off the glass avoiding an Elm Creek player in the process. (left) Kaleb Johnson looks for an angle in the paint to get his shot up. (Courier photos by Phil Serrone)

Spartans Steal Victory

ROGER HANSEN

Axtell's boys, competing for much of the game like they might get their second win, succumbed to Ansley-Litchfield 33-45 on February 6 in an FKC Tournament consolation game played at Pleasanton.

The Courier, and the sportswriter specifically, regret the error in last week's paper that the Cat boys would play only one game in the tournament.

Axtell led after one period and were down just two, 20-18, at halftime.

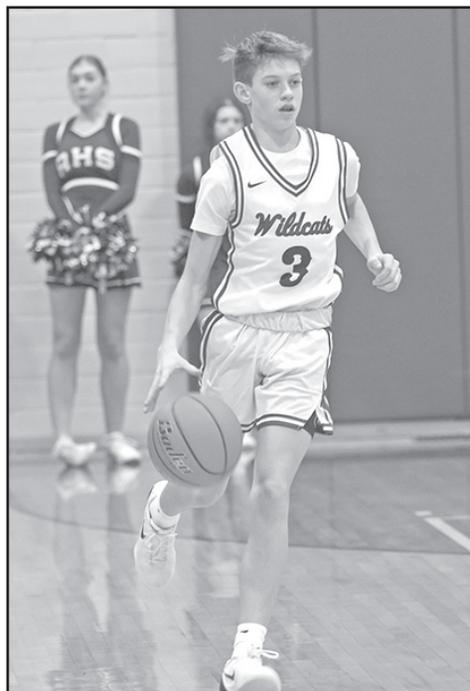
Ans-Lit pulled away a bit in the third quarter, but the Cats were within five, 30-35, with six minutes remaining in the contest before the Spartans did some scoring down the stretch.

Easton Bergstrom (8), Warren Myers and David Sonnenfeld (7 each), and Reece Hunt and Carter Lorenz (6 each) led the rebounding. Hunt had 3 assists and Micah Houchin, Lorenz and Sonnenfeld dished 2 apiece.

Axtell 13 5 6 9- 33 (1-18)

An-Lit 4 16 13 12- 45 (4-15)

CATS- Hunt 12, Bergstrom 6, Myers 6, Sonnenfeld 3, Kyler Kolbo 3, Lorenz 3



Axtell boys basketball was defeated in their lone game on the week on Feb. 6 against Ansley-Litchfield 33-45. Pictured: Carter Lorenz brings the ball up the court. (Courier photo by Phil Serrone)

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

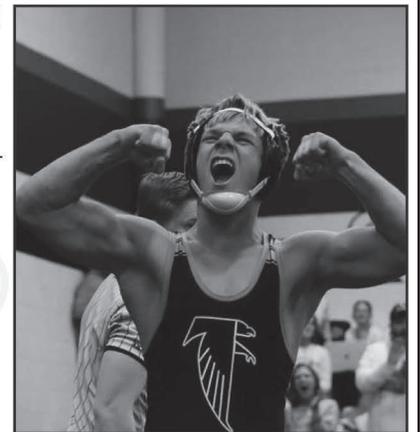
BRODY PATTERSON - WRESTLING

School - Wilcox-Hildreth Public School
Grade - Senior

Achievements in past seasons and this season: Three-time state qualifier. Returning sixth-place medalist from last year. Record this season 37-2. 160 career wins. 108 career pins. 319 career takedowns (school record holder). Currently ranked #1 by NEWrestle.

Attributes that have led to his success: Brody is a very hard-working and positive student athlete. Brody is very goal oriented, and when he sets his mind to something, he puts in 100% to accomplish his goals. He never shies away from work and has bought into our system of "embracing the grind."

Brody wants to further his education and become a teacher. - Coach Justin Patterson



Whippets Fall in Back to Back Road Games

ROGER HANSEN

Minden's boys faced some stout competition this past weekend and came up on the losing end of both games in Dawson County, falling at Cozad on Friday and at Gothenburg on Saturday. The Whippets record dipped to 11-8.

Minden lost to Cozad 42-60 on February 6.

Jackson Armstrong was hot early, scoring Minden's first eight points (including two 3s) as the team had four leads in the opening quarter.

The Whippets went cold in the second period, the only points coming from a trey and a FT from Traelin Christensen, allowing the Haymakers to lead at halftime 27-16.

Minden scored well in the third and were was eight, 31-39, at 2:19 of the period, but another Haymaker surge put them up 46-33 going to the fourth. Christensen and Landon Bules each scored seven in the third.

Points were hard to come by for Minden for much of the fourth as Cozad eventually led by as much as 22. For the game the Haymakers were 17-20 at the foul line and relentless on the offensive glass.

The Whippets were 13-40 (6-18 on 3s) for 32% on FGs and 10-13 on FTs. They had 6 offensive and 21 defensive

rebounds, 10 assists, 4 steals and 17 turnovers.

Christensen got 13 points and 11 rebounds (for his sixth double-double) plus 2 assists and 2 blocks and Bules scored 10 and had 5 rebounds and 2 assists. Armstrong finished with 8 points and Grollmes had 5 points, 2 rebounds and 2 assists. Craig had 4 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 blocks and Ambrose Bloomfield secured 3 rebounds. Cohen Schmidt hit a three to beat the final horn.

Minden 12 4 17 9- 42 (11-7)

Cozad 16 11 19 14- 60 (19-2)

WHIPPETS- Christensen 13, Bules 10, Armstrong 8, Grollmes 5, Schmidt 3, Cole Schwenka 2, Luke Craig 1

On February 7 Gothenburg downed the Whippets 77-43.

Minden led 12-11 five minutes in but trailed 14-20 at the end of the first. Craig scored nine of his ten points in the opening frame.

Gothenburg kept scoring while the Whippets just couldn't respond enough. At halftime the Swedes led 40-24, thanks in part to eight 3s and scoring in the paint. Grollmes (6) and Christensen (4) scored Minden's points.

It was deja vu in the third quarter as far as Gothenburg getting points and the Whippets finding points difficult to come by. Grollmes scored five in the third but the Swedes widened the lead to 28, 59-31.

Christensen, Grollmes and Sam Rowan connected from long range in the fourth but Minden couldn't keep Gothenburg from scoring an opponent season-high 77 (previous highs were 75- Elm Creek and 74-Ogallala and McCook).

The Whippets were 12-44 (7-24 on 3s) for 27% from the floor and 12-16 on FTs. They had 7 offensive and 24 defensive rebounds, 10 assists, 5 steals and 23 turnovers.

Grollmes had 16 points, 4 rebounds and 2 assists and Craig scored 10 to go with 6 rebounds. Christensen got 7 points and 7 rebounds and Armstrong had 5



It was a tough week of games for the Whippets boys basketball program dropping games against Cozad 42-60 and Gothenburg 43-77. Their record on the season now stands at 11-8. Pictured: (above) Landon Bules looks to knock down a baseline three-point shot. (left) Traelin Christensen gets pumped with teammate Ambrose Bloomfield during the pre-game introductions. (Courier photos by Phil Serrone)

points, 3 rebounds and 3 assists. Rowan had 3 points and 3 rebounds, Bules added 6 rebounds and 3 assists and Bloomfield made 2 steals.

Minden 14 10 7 12- 43 (11-8)

G'burg 20 20 19 18- 77 (16-4)

WHIPPETS- Grollmes 16, Craig 10, Christensen 7, Armstrong 5, Rowan 3, Bules 2



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Lady Whippets Best Haymakers, Fall to Swedes

ROGER HANSEN

Minden's girls split two contests in Dawson County last weekend, winning at Cozad on Friday and losing at Gothenburg on Saturday, and saw the record move to 12-7.

In a contest that was kind of a struggle for both teams, Minden struggled less and bettered Cozad 34-23 on February 6.

After the Whippets took a 13-3 lead early in the second period, the Haymakers went on a 7-0 run to cut Minden's lead to three. Then Adelyn Whitten provided an offensive spark off the bench by drilling two 3s for her first varsity game points of the season. At halftime the Whippets led 19-13.

There was not much scoring for either side in the third quarter. Myla Emery made four FTs for Minden's points. Through three periods the Whippets were on top 23-17.

Emery then tallied nine points in the fourth as Minden got some separation.

The Whippets were 10-42 (4-18 on 3s) for 24% on FGs and 10-16 on FTs. They had 10 offensive and 24 defensive rebounds, 5 assists, 6 steals and 11 turnovers. The 23 points allowed to Cozad was the lowest for this season, bettering the 25 points given up to both North Platte St. Pat's and Ravenna.

Emery's fifth double-double of the season had her with 15 points, 12 rebounds, 3 steals and 3 blocks. Whitten tossed in 6 points and Kaylynn Jorgensen added 5 points, 5 rebounds and 2 assists. Kaleigh Carr had 4 points and 6 rebounds and Riley Eden grabbed 5 rebounds. Ruby Rhynalds and Macy Jorgensen got 3 and 2 rebounds, respectively.

Minden	9	10	4	11-	34 (12-6)
Cozad	3	10	4	6-	23 (3-16)

WHIPPETS- Emery 15, Whitten 6, K. Jorgensen 5, Carr 4, Eden 2, M. Jorgensen 1, Rhynalds 1

Top-ten ranked Gothenburg pulled away from Minden in the second half as the Swedes gained a 63-43 win on February 7.

Rhynalds (a 3), Carr (a 2) and Emery (3 FTs) got the Whippets going in the opening quarter, when at 1:40 the teams were tied at 8-8. Then, in the final stretch of the first period and extending into the second, the Swedes put together a 9-0 run to lead 17-8.

Back-to-back 3s from Carr and Emery in the second period got Minden to within three, but by intermission Gothenburg led 28-21.

In the third quarter, Gothenburg remained rigorous in its scoring and the Whippets were faltering a bit. In spite of Emery's eight points in the third the Swedes upped the margin to 14, 44-30.

Emery made two 3s in the fourth and Kaylynn a 3 and a 2 but Gothenburg kept scoring at a pretty good clip to close out the win.

The Whippets were 15-44 (6-19 on 3s) for 34% on FGs and 7-16 on FTs. They had 12 offensive and 17 defensive rebounds, 9 assists, 10 steals and 25 turnovers.

Emery's 23 points and 11 rebounds (6th double-double) plus 4 steals and 2 assists led Minden. Eden had 6 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists and 3 steals, Carr 5 points, 9 rebounds and 2 assists and Jorgensen 5 points and 3 steals. Rhynalds chipped in 4 points and 4 rebounds.



The Lady Whippets ended the week 1-1 with a victory over Cozad 34-23 and loss to Gothenburg 43-63. Their record on the season now stands at 12-7. Pictured: PG Ruby Rhynalds passes the ball into the corner. (Courier photo by Phil Serrone)

Minden	8	13	9	13-	43 (12-7)
G'burg	13	15	16	19-	63 (17-3)

WHIPPETS- Emery 23, Eden 6, Jorgensen 5, Carr 5, Rhynalds 4

Whippets

of the Month

C.L. Jones Middle School

4th Grade
Aria Damratowski

Aria is a hardworking student who greets everyone with a smile and treats other people with kindness. She is fun to have in our classroom!

5th Grade
Kristen Petersen

Kristen is a sweet kid who likes to help other students. She is a hard worker who takes her time and asks questions when she doesn't understand.

6th Grade
Tobin Macias

Tobin is a great student with a great attitude. He is responsible and does a fantastic job participating in class.

7th Grade
Vincent Hansen

Vincent is the kind of student who makes the whole room better - positive, respectful, and dependable.

8th Grade
Laynee Joyce

Laynee is a model student! She always does her work to the best of her ability and is eager to help those around her who may be struggling.

Lady Cats Stay Steps Ahead of Falcons

ROGER HANSEN

Axtell's girls and Wilcox-Hildreth's girls both played two games in the recent FKC tournament.

The seventh-seeded Cats opened at second-seeded Elm Creek on February 2 and went down to the Buffs 32-76 in the quarterfinals.



The Cats held Elm Creek scoreless for the first three-plus minutes of the contest but then the top-ten rated Buffs took off.

Emily Danburg led with 12 points, Leah Stritt scored 7 and Ella Lorenz got her first points in a varsity game.

Axtell 6 8 8 10- 32 (7-11)
E. Crk. 18 19 21 18- 76 (16-3)

CATS- Danburg 12, Stritt 7, Maddie Wells 3, Morgan Hawkins 2, Bristol Thorell 2, Brooklyn DeJonge 2, Mina Schilling 2, Lorenz 2

Wilcox-Hildreth had lost in the bunny bracket game to Ansley-Litchfield 22-52 on January 31 (previously reported on).

In a consolation contest that had an Axtell-Wil-Hil matchup on February 5, the Cats prevailed over the Falcons 49-15 in a game played at Loomis.

Axtell was ahead 35-5 at halftime and was able to empty the bench in the second half.

Wil-Hil was led, as it usually is, by Cheyenne Lieb with 8 points. She added two more threes to her school-record total.

For Axtell, Hawkins scored 5 in the first period, eight in the second and 4 in the third on her way to a career-best 19 points. Danburg tallied 7 in the first and ended up with 12. Leah Stritt finished with 11, including 3 threes. Solara Quigley hit a FT for her first varsity point.

Wil-Hil 2 3 3 7- 15 (0-21)
Axtell 19 16 6 8- 49 (8-11)

FALCONS- Lieb 8, Chloe Johnson 3, Allegra Johnson 3, Kinley Hansen 1

CATS- Hawkins 19, Danburg 12, Stritt 11, Wells 3, Schilling 2, Quigley 1, DeJonge 1

Bowling Standings

Minden Unified Association

1-8-26

Team Standings:

Team	W	L
First Bank	60	44
Joyce Farms	53	51
APEX	42	46
Miller Body	34	74

High Individual Game: James Miller, 212; Ty Bienhoff, 203; Dusty Space, 203

High Individual Series: Dusty Space, 553; James Miller, 530; Travis Kuhlmann, 508

High Team Game: First Bank, 640; APEX, 607; Joyce Farms, 587

High Team Series: First Bank, 1804; APEX, 1801; Joyce Farms, 1698



The Lady Falcons and Lady Wildcats clashed in the FKC tournament on Feb. 5 with Axtell prevailing by a score of 49-15. Pictured: (left) Wil-Hil's Cheyenne Lieb looks to deliver a bounce pass past Axtell's Madison Wells. (Courier photo by Shaina Johnson)



Axtell was defeated in their first game of the FKC tournament on Feb. 2 against Elm Creek by a score of 32-76. Pictured: (far left) Madison Wells looks to prevent a jump ball. (Courier photo by Rachel Hawkins)



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For the Record

Marriage License

Michael Darren Workman, 53, Hutchison, Kansas & Sarah A. Cassidy, 48, Superior; 1-29-26

Shawn Fredrick Cassidy Jr., 20, Concordia, Kansas & Alyssa Cynthia-Dawn Tripp, 26 Concordia, Kansas; 1-29-26

Kearney County District Court

1st Bank & Trust Company, Minden vs. NEBTEX, LLC, Shelton; contract disputes; 2-2-26

Quincy M. Miller, Minden vs. William D. Miller, Union, New Jersey; paternity-private atty; 2-4-26

Kearney County County Court

Mohammed A. Mohammed, Lexington, speeding 11-15 MPH County/State, fine \$125, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Margritz, 1-22-26

Julian Contreras Machado, Irving, Texas, speeding 6-10 MPH County/State, fine \$75, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Margritz, 1-23-26

Linda K. Wentling, Norton, Kansas, overweight on axle or group of axles, fine \$25, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Wroblewski, 1-6-26

Joy M. Yates, Franklin, careless driving, fine \$100, Kearney County Sheriff Officer Larsen, 12-16-25

Madalyn S. Morey, Minden, speeding 11-15 MPH County/State, fine \$125, Kearney County Sheriff Officer Herada, 1-2-26

Minden Fire & Rescue

2-3-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to 37 Road for a fall with injury.

2-4-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to Highway 6 & O Road for an injury.

2-5-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to S. Nance Avenue for a personal illness.

Axtell Fire & Rescue

2-1-26—The Axtell Emergency Unit was dispatched

to C Avenue for transport to Kearney Regional Medical Center.

2-1-26—The Axtell Emergency Unit was dispatched to Mosaic to transport a patient to Good Samaritan in Kearney.

Kearney County Sheriff

1-28-26, A vehicle driven by Boyd L. Jacobsen, Grand Island, was traveling northbound on 40 Road, when it drifted across the center line, leaving the roadway to the left. The vehicle impacted the middle of the canal guardrail, a warning sign, a power pole & a bush before coming to rest approximately 125 feet in the west ditch on top of an electric cattle fence. Estimated damage to vehicle: Totaled. Estimated damage to guardrail & utility pole: \$1,000 each. Estimated damage electricity fence: \$100.



Legal Notices

NOTICE

CITY OF MINDEN

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The City Council of the City of Minden, Nebraska, met on January 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in regular session in the Council Chambers, pursuant to advance notice of said meeting simultaneously transmitted to all members of the Council and to the public as shown by the copy thereof posted in the Minden City Hall, Outside the Minden City Hall, First Bank & Trust Co., Minden Exchange Bank & Trust Co., and the Post Office. A copy of the notice is on file in the office of the City Clerk. Council Members Present: Bungler, Sumstine, Yant, and Schneider. City Officials Present: Olson, Evans, Krings and Jordan. Approved Bills and Claims: 7aa Investments--Supplies \$4.69, A. Spracklin Pc--Medical \$130.00, A. Clark--Supplies \$52.06, A. Eschliman--Training \$200.00, Abdo Publishing--Supplies \$794.45, Amazon Capital Services--Supplies \$1,375.61, American Express--Supplies \$1,477.60, Atlas Automation Llc--Repairs \$975.00, B&R Stores, Inc--Supplies \$1,317.68, Benchmark Government Solutions, Llc--Training \$1,443.75, Biblionix Llc--Membership \$1,430.00, Black Church Llc--Vegetation \$150.00, Black Hills Gas Holdings, Llc--Utilities \$364.59, Budget Heating And Air Conditioning Inc--Repairs \$221.00, Business World Products Of Hastings, Inc--Supplies \$85.74, Ccmobl Inc--Cleaning \$577.80, Cengage Learning, Inc--Supplies \$196.74, Central District Health Depart-

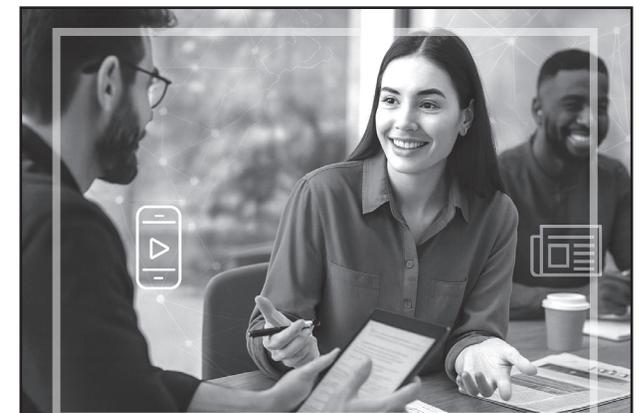
ment--Fees \$234.00, Charter Communications Holdings, Llc--Phone/Internet \$340.09, City Of Hastings--Fees \$179.10, City Of Holdrege--Fees \$6,995.06, Community Action Partnership Of Mid Nebraska--Fees \$5,000.00, Computer Hardware Inc--Tech/Engineering \$298.00, Cooperative Producers, Inc--Fuel \$436.90, Core & Main Lp--Supplies \$2,151.44, D. Schroeder--Training \$207.80, Dana F Cole & Company, Llp--Fees \$50.00, Dier, Osborn & Cox, P.C., L.L.O--Legal \$1,201.00, Dollar General-Regions 410526--Supplies \$86.25, Eakes Inc--Supplies \$321.73, Electronic Systems, Inc--Maintenance \$156.40, Ewers Technology, Llc--Fees \$2,282.00, Five Points Bank--Fees \$249.68, Great Plains Communications--Phone/Internet \$1,299.71, Greatamerica Financial Services Corporation--Fees \$135.23, Ingram Library Services Llc--Supplies \$691.88, Innovative Pharmacists, Inc--Supplies \$1,126.69, Integrated Security Solutions, Llc--Tech/Engineering \$1,200.00, Intellicom Computer Consulting--Tech/Engineering \$8,535.00, Isw--Supplies \$69.42, J. Hlavinka--Training \$200.00, Jims Ok Tire Minden Llc--Repairs \$305.00, John Deere Financial--Supplies \$1,455.13, K&K Auto Repair Inc--Repairs \$724.46, Ke Co Health Payment Cntr--Fees \$200.00, Kearney County Clerk--Fees \$60.00, Klein, Brewster, Brandt & Messersmith--Legal \$562.50, Kt Diesel & Equipment--Repairs \$2,979.73, Landmark Implementation Carquest--Supplies \$109.95, M. Raffaelli--Cleaning \$600.00, Matheson Tri-

Gas Inc--Supplies \$457.88, Menards Of Kearney--Supplies \$617.98, Midlands Contracting Inc--Repairs \$8,820.00, Miller The Driller--Infrastructure Capital \$19,038.06, Minden Chamber Of Commerce--Economic Development \$20,000.00, Minden Development Corporation--Economic Development \$26,522.50, Minden Legion Baseball Post 94--Economic Development \$5,000.00, Minden Rural Fire Dept.--Fees \$15,020.77, Municipal Supply-Nebraska--Supplies \$683.10, Napa Auto Parts--Supplies \$1,334.06, Nppd Kwh--Utilities \$135,346.11, Nppd O&M--Maintenance \$30,607.80, One Billing Solutions, Llc--Fees \$799.28, One Call Concepts Inc--Fees \$22.06, Platte Valley Communications Of Kearney, Inc--Repairs \$66.74, Platte Valley Laboratories, Inc--Chemical \$276.00, Pony Express Ford--Repairs \$82.95, Presto X Co.--Maintenance \$111.53, Quadient Leasing--Fees \$801.78, R. Hurst--Tech/Engineering \$750.00, Rembolt Ludtke Llp--Legal \$3,731.00, Southern Power District--Utilities \$84.17, Syndicate Publishing, L.L.C.--Fees \$105.12, T. Beck--Printing \$2,746.65, The Hastings Tribune--Fees \$205.00, The Library Store--Supplies \$158.28, Town And Country Farm And Home Inc--Supplies \$1,887.79, Tyler Technologies--Fees \$15,238.54, United Parcel Service, Inc--Fees \$38.72, Village Cleaners Inc--Uniforms \$50.12, Wex Bank--Fuel \$5,029.62, Witmer Public Safety Group--Supplies \$365.68, 01-09-26 Payroll \$78,552.28. Items Approved: Consent Agenda--Yant motioned to approve the consent agenda and Bungler seconded. Voted aye: Sums-

tine, Bungler, Yant, and Schneider. Treasury Report, December 2025--Yant motioned to approve the December 2025 Treasury Report and Schneider seconded. Voted aye: Sumstine, Bungler, Yant, and Schneider. Budget Report, December 2025--Bungler motioned to approve the December 2025 Budget Report and Sumstine seconded. Voted aye: Sumstine, Bungler, Yant, and Schneider. Payment to Klein, Brewster, Brandt & Messersmith in the amount of \$562.50 for legal services--Schneider motion to approve claim in the amount of \$562.50 for Klein, Brewster, Brandt & Messersmith and Yant seconded. Voted aye: Bungler, Yant, and Schneider. Abstain: Sumstine. Payment to Rembolt Ludtke LLP in the amount of \$3,731 for legal services--Bungler motion to approve claim in the amount of \$3,731 for Rembolt Ludtke LLP and Yant seconded. Voted aye: Bungler, Yant, and Schneider. Abstain: Sumstine. Funding agreement with the Minden Development Corporation--Yant motion to approve the funding agreement with the Minden Development Corporation in the amount of \$53,045 for 2026 and Sumstine seconded. Voted aye: Sumstine, Bungler, Yant, and Schneider. Funding agreement with the Minden Chamber of Commerce--Bungler motion to approve the funding agreement with the Minden Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$25,000 for 2026 and Schneider seconded. Voted aye: Sumstine, Bungler, Yant, and Schneider. Funding agreement with the Minden Senior Center--Yant motion to ap-

prove the funding agreement with the Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska for the operation of the Minden Senior Center in the amount of \$5,000 for 2026 and Sumstine seconded. Voted aye: Sumstine, Bungler, Yant, and Schneider. Funding agreement with the American Legion--Schneider motion to approve the funding agreement with the American Legion Post #94 for the operation and maintenance of the Bjorklund Memorial Field in the amount of \$5,000 for 2026 and Yant seconded. Voted aye: Sumstine, Bungler, Yant, and Schneider. Temporary ease-

ment with PSK, LLC for an 18' wide alley abutting Lots 4-9 AND the west 9' of the 18' alley abutting Lots 10-12, all in Block 14, Railroad Addition, an addition to the City of Minden, Kearney County AND issuance of \$22 payment to the Kearney County Clerk for filing--Schneider motion to approve a temporary easement with PSK, LLC across an 18' wide alley abutting Lots 4-9 AND the west 9' of the 18' alley abutting Lots 10-12, all in Block 14, Railroad Addition, an addition to the City of Minden, Kearney County AND issuance of \$22 payment to the Kearney County Clerk for filing



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and Bunger seconded. Voted aye: Sumstine, Bunger, Yant, and Schneider. Temporary easement with Hoff Brothers Inc. across the east 9' of the 18' alley abutting Lots 1-3, Block 14, Railroad Addition, an addition to the City of Minden, Kearney County AND issuance of \$22 payment to the Kearney County Clerk for filing—Bunger motion to approve a temporary easement with Hoff Brothers Inc. across the east 9' of the 18' alley abutting Lots 1-3, Block 14, Railroad Addition, an addition to the City of Minden, Kearney County AND issuance of \$22 payment to the Kearney County Clerk for filing and Schnieder seconded. Voted aye: Sumstine, Bunger, Yant, and Schneider. Consider/Discuss Results of the Scoring Process and decide on next steps in the procurement of a firm to conduct the Planning Grant Study—Yant motion to approve JEO to conduct a water study for the City of Minden and Schneider seconded. Voted aye: Sumstine, Bunger, Yant, and Schneider. Ordinance 1314 vacating the alley abutting Lots 1-12, Block 14, Railroad Addition in the City of Minden, Kearney County, Nebraska AND issuance of \$16 payment to the Kearney County Clerk for filing. Schneider introduced Ordinance 1314 for its first reading and Bunger seconded. Voted aye: Sumstine, Bunger, Yant, and Schneider. Bunger motion to waive the three readings of Ordinance 1314 and Yant seconded. Voted aye: Sumstine, Bunger, Yant, and

Schneider. Schnieder motion to approve issuance of a \$16 payment to the Kearney County Clerk for filing and Bunger seconded. Voted aye: Sumstine, Bunger, Yant, and Schneider. Non-Action Items: Council Announcements. Public Forum. Discuss, Review and Score Submitted Proposals for the City's Water/Water System Planning Study Grant. Bunger motioned to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. and Schneider seconded. Voted aye: Bunger, Sumstine, Yant, and Schneider.

Abbey Jordan, City Clerk
A complete transcript of the council minutes is available at the City Clerk's office and online at minden-nebraska.org.
Feb 12, 2026
(356) znez

NOTICE

REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA FEBRUARY 3, 2026 - 9:30AM

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Kearney County, NE was held February 3, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the Courthouse in Minden, NE. Present were Chairman Brent Stewart and Board Members Heath Hofstetter, James Miller, Robert Swanson, Jason Sinsel, Jeff England and Nathan Avery. Also present were County Clerk Jenni Lupkes, Craig Lupkes EM Director, Scott White Co. Sheriff, Joe Anderson Hwy Supt., Carrie Marquis-Favinger Planning and Zoning Admin., and Cindy Ramsey of the Minden Courier. Detailed Minutes from the Board of Commissioners Meeting are available for inspection at the County Clerk's Office. The Board

of Commissioners took the following action: Approved minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting on January 20, 2026. Approved Bills and Claims, January payroll and Hospital Taxes. Held a Public comment from 9:30 to 9:35 a.m. Approved the County Clerk Fee Report for January 2026. Approved Amended Interlocal Agreement with SCEDD. Approved County Court office carpet to be paid out of Inheritance Tax Fund. Adopted Resolution Reallocating Budget Authority of \$5,000 from Misc General to Misc Planning and Zoning. Met with Philip Heun, Vet Svs Officer and approved sending a letter to State Representatives in opposition to LB1072, moving budgeted monies from the NE Veteran's Aid Fund to the NE Dept of Veteran's Affairs Fund. Met with Rhonda Herrick, Extension Educator to hear annual report. Accepted bid from Werner Construction for the 40 Rd Overlay project, the bids opened on January 8, 2026 and were as follows: Werner Construction, Inc., -Hastings, NE -\$729,601.20; Vontz Paving - Hastings, NE - \$722,505.09. Held a Public Hearing at 10:00 AM for Administrative Subdivision 34-8-13 SE1/4 SE1/4 J&P Hoban Ag L.L.C. Met with Craig Lupkes, EM Director, for a Zoom Presentation with Jayden Eastman about Text My Gov services possibility for replacement of Onsolve services being currently used by the County. Adjourned

the Board of Commissioners meeting at 11:19 a.m.

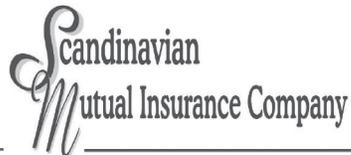
/s/ Brent Stewart, Chairman
Kearney County
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:
/s/ Jenni Lupkes

Kearney County Clerk
GENERAL FUND: KC Payroll Acct, Payroll, Jan 2026, \$302,823.75; AT & T, Su, 41.04; Melodie Bellamy, Co Attny, Sv, 732.14; Black Hills, Sv, 1,992.73; Business World, Su, 347.09; Capital City Transfer Sv, Sv, 1,012.75; City of Minden Ut Dept, Ut, 1,095.73; CMRS-POC, Postage, 4,500.00; Comm Action Ptnrshp of Mid-Ne, Sv, 45.00; Eakes Ofc, Sv/Su, 989.39; FGH Law Ofc, Sv, 1,520.37; First Concord Ben, Self-Fund Ded, 155.00; Great Plains Comm, Sv, 700.92; Rhonda Herrick, Extension Ed, Mile, 315.72; Hometown Leasing, Sv, 348.50; KC Road & Bridge Fund, Transfer, 54,000.00; KC Sheriff's Fund, Sv, 151.60; Klein, Brewster, Brandt & Messersmith, Sv, 471.50; Lockmobile, Sv, 196.00; Craig Lupkes, EM Director, Dues, 75.00; Madison Natl, Sv, 1,057.35; Mason's, Su, 191.23; Jacob Meyer, Deputy Co Attny, Phone, 20.00; Minden Exchange ACH Coordinator, Sv, 20.65; Minden Hrdwr, Su, 34.96; Minden Med Clinic, Sv, 121.29; MIPS, Su, 261.11; NAPA, Sv, 53.98; NACO, Reg, 50.00; Ne Assoc Co Clerks Reg of Deeds, Dues, 50.00; Ne Assoc of EM, Dues, 150.00; Ne Public Health Environmental Lab, Sv, 210.00; Ne State Fire Marshal, Sv, 72.00; Physicians Laboratory, Sv,

2,875.00; Pony Express Ford, Sv, 97.95; Presto-X, Sv, 95.50; Proforma, Su, 1,662.02; Soarin Group, Sv, 414.00; Stof Ne Dept of Corr Sv, Sv, 561.44; Bryce K. Sweeney, Sv, 51.25; Syndicate Publish, Sv, 809.90 Woodward's Disposal Sv, Sv, 23.86; TOTAL \$380,397.72. ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND: KC Payroll Acct, Payroll, Jan 2026, \$104,708.76; Joe Anderson, Hwy Supt, Phone, 30.00; Black Hills, Ut, 683.88; Carquest/Landmark, Su/Pts, 63.70; City of Minden Ut Dept, Ut, 247.83; Eakes Ofc, Su, 299.95; Ed Broadfoot & Sons Sand & Gravel, Su, 2,776.02; Equipment Blades, Su, 3,439.04; First Concord Ben, Self-Fund Ded, 355.48; Grayson Tool, Su, 13.72; Great Plains Comm, Sv, 136.58; Darin Haight, Custodial Staff, Su, 129.00; J & A Traffic Products, Su, 540.00; Jim's OK Tire, Sv, 45.00; Landmark Implement, Sv, 54.06; Menards, Su, 28.95; Minden Hrdwr, Su, 948.95; MIPS, Hwy App, 124.16; NMC, Su, 106.57; Oak Creek Engineer, Sv, 17,751.34; Randy Pracht,

Rd Mechanic, Phone, 30.00; Presto-X, Sv, 77.62; Quality Sound & Comm, Water Rent, 79.00; Sahling Kenworth, Su, 102.71; Soarin Group, Su, 1,037.00; Southern Power District, Ut, 811.50; Syndicate Publish, Pub, 107.34; Wilcox Ut, Ut, 58.03; TOTAL \$134,786.19. INHERITANCE TAX FUND: Kearney Co/ Buffalo Co CASA Program, Annual Fund, \$10,500.00; TOTAL \$10,500.00. 911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND: CenturyLink, Sv, \$856.98; TOTAL \$856.98. JUVENILE SERVICES AID FUND: KC Payroll Acct, Payroll, Jan 2026, \$5,767.37; Morgan Wicht, JV Sv Aid, Mile, \$147.22; TOTAL \$5,914.59. COMMUNICATIONS FUND: KC Payroll Acct, Payroll Jan 2026, \$31,106.77; City of Minden Ut Dept, Ut, 136.88; Eakes Ofc, Su, 92.49; First Concord Ben, Self Fund-Ded, 364.59; Great Plains Comm, Sv, 73.92; St of Ne DAS - Central Fin, Sv, 537.60; TOTAL \$32,312.25.
Feb 12, 2026
(195) znez



608 W 4th Street
Axtell, NE 68924
308.340.2145
erinpittz.scmi@gmail.com

Erin Pittz, Agent

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NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Kearney County Joint Planning Commission on the 23rd day of February 2026; 6:00 p.m. at the Kearney County Fairgrounds Building in Minden, of Kearney County Nebraska to hear public comments on Possible changes to zoning regulations (wind, solar, nuclear)

Questions or comments may be directed to the County Zoning Administrator Office at 308-832-2795. An agenda and copy of proposed regulations for this meeting, kept continuously current, and available for public inspection at the office of the Zoning Administrator. The agenda may be modified prior to such meeting.

Carrie Favinger
Planning & Zoning
Administrator
308-832-2795

Feb 12, 2026
Feb 19, 2026
(32) znez

NOTICE

DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENT NOTICE KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Notice is hereby given that on March 2, 2026, the same being the first Monday in March, the undersigned County Treasurer will offer for sale all real estate including lands and town lots as described on the Tax Lists of Kearney County, Nebraska, for delinquent taxes, interest and costs as allowed by law for the tax year 2024 and prior years. All lands and lots appear-

ing in this list and all land and lots previously advertised will be subject to Tax Sale at the Kearney County Courthouse Assembly Room Minden, Nebraska, starting Monday, March 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., and continuing until said taxes have been sold or paid. The amounts in this list are BASE AMOUNTS ONLY. Interest and penalties WILL be added to the day that actual payment is made. Per new State Statute 77-1818 (2), additional administrative notification fees of \$150.00 will be added as well. This is NOT a foreclosure sale of lands and lots but a SALE OF TAXES ONLY as required by law.

Jody A Payne,
Kearney County Treasurer
***Designates multiple years included in total
CO-Designates County Tax Sale currently exists on taxes

SP-Designates Special Assessment exists on taxes (not included in total)

PP-Designates a Partial Payment on taxes

721710: *** CO/SP, LONG, PAT A. 508 W 4TH E. 78' LOT 2 EX. E. 13' BLOCK 2 FAIRMAN'S ADDITION-AXTELL, \$4,186.00

724003: ADAM, TERESA EAST 72' WEST 112' SOUTH 135 LOT 4 BLOCK 7, FAIRMAN'S ADDITION-AXTELL, \$406.34

801100: *** CO, KINGSTON, DOUGLAS E. & CHERITY A. 103 N BURR S.16' OF LOT 5 & ALL LOT 6 BLOCK 2 ORIGINAL TOWN-WILCOX, \$1,168.20

819000: LIEB, TANYA 305 W LINN LOT 1 & EAST 40' LOT 2 BLOCK 2 SHEFFIELD'S FIRST ADDITION-WILCOX, \$683.87

401400: BECK, ZACHERY & ALEXANDRIA 212 N BROWN NORTH 2' LOT 7 Y ALL

LOT 8 BLOCK 2 ORIGINAL TOWN-MINDEN, \$1,654.32

414700: HIDDEN TREASURES ANTIQUES AND MORE LLC 305 N MINDEN LOT 6 BLOCK 19 ORIGINAL TOWN-MINDEN, \$1,754.62

419300: *** CO, ARELLANO, DAVID & NICKY 442 E 7TH E.67' OF W.121' OF LOTS 5 & 6 & E. 67' OF W. 121' OF S. 10' OF LOT 4 & N 10' OF VACATED 7TH STREET BLOCK 26 ORIGINAL TOWN-MINDEN, \$4,867.68

429000: *** WALKER, CONNIE 507 E 4TH W.57 1/2' LOTS 10-12 & PART OF VACATED KEARNEY AVENUE BLOCK 35 ORIGINAL TOWN-MINDEN, \$1,820.90

431500: *** BECKMANN, ALEX J. & LACEY T. 625 N HUBBARD LOTS 1 & 2, N 1/2 LOT 3 & SOUTH 10' VACATED 7TH STREET BLOCK 38 ORIGINAL TOWN-MINDEN, \$3,140.50

440600: CALDERON, RAMIE D. & HECTOR 105 N GARBER LOT 6 BLOCK 49 ORIGINAL TOWN-MINDEN, \$1,032.20

445000: LEE, JEFFREY D. & KAREN S. 736 N HULL N. 12' OF LOT 11 & ALL LOT 12 & S. 10' OF VAC 8TH ST BLOCK 55 ORIGINAL TOWN-MINDEN, \$712.25

475700: SAUNDERS, HEIDI L. 312 W 1ST E 1/2 OF LOT 4 BLOCK 16 JENSEN'S ADDITION-MINDEN, \$1,073.02

491400: JENNER, JOLENE 245 S WESTERN E 1/2 LOTS 5 & 6 & W. 10' VACATED WESTERN ST. BLOCK 5 PEARSON'S ADDITION-MINDEN, \$604.78

493200: EBERLE, DAVID PAUL 243 S RIDGE LOT 6 BLOCK 7 PEARSON'S ADDI-

TION-MINDEN, \$678.04
505802: SAUNDERS, HEIDI TRACT OF ABANDONED R.R. ROW BLOCK 26 PEARSON'S & CAMPBELL'S ADD.-MINDEN, \$136.64

516701: *** CO, STANGL, LYNDIA L. A TRACT OF ABANDONED BURLINGTON NORTHERN R.R. ROW BLOCK 15 PEARSON'S & CAMPBELL'S ADD.-MINDEN, \$2,177.82

904600: PATTERSON, KALLIE A. LOTS 9 & 10 BLOCK 24 ORIGINAL TOWN-NORMAN, \$6.28

904700: PATTERSON, KALLIE A. LOTS 11 & 12 BLOCK 24 ORIGINAL TOWN-NORMAN, \$6.28

113700: PP, SIMONTON, CODY N 1/2 SW 1/4 31-5-13 GRANT 76.96 AC., \$3,257.96

109500: PP, SIMONTON, CODY NW 1/4 23-5-13 GRANT 159.05 AC., \$4,302.06

111000: PP, SIMONTON, CODY NW 1/4 26-5-13 GRANT 158.46 AC., \$4,229.20

115501: PP, SIMONTON RUNWAY, LLC E 160' OF W 1/2 NE 1/4 35-5-13 GRANT 10.08 AC., \$141.48

164200: PP, STADLER, JOHN NW 1/4 10-5-16 ONEIDA 162 AC., \$3,670.41

205000: PP STADLER, JOHN ALL NW 1/4 EXCEPT

TRI COUTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT 8-6-15 HAYES 156.90 ACS., \$3,621.73

211000: PP, STADLER, JOHN ROBERT SW 1/4 13-6-15 HAYES 160.66 AC., \$3,615.12

219900: PP, STADLER, JOHN NE 1/4 ON EITHER SIDE OF RAILROAD 28-6-15 HAYES 159.03 AC., \$3,537.09

223500: PP, STADLER, JOHN NW 1/4 35-6-15 HAYES 159.67 AC., \$3,632.39

229500: PP, STADLER, JOHN ROBERT W 1/2 NE 1/4 10-6-14 LINCOLN 79.23 AC., \$1,599.83

246900: OCHSNER, JULIE SE 1/4 1-6-13 MAY 160.08 AC., \$6,723.30

250701: THOMPSON, JEFFREY J. 1156 41 ROAD TRACT SW 1/4 NW 1/4 10-6-13 MAY 19.86 AC., \$1,939.74

257500: STEINER, CHARLES ET AL 2365 43 ROAD SE 1/4 23-6-13 MAY 160.05 AC., \$4,719.86

340002: VEBURG, MICHAEL T. 209 MADISON TRACT SE 1/4 SW 1/4 16-7-13 EATON 1.11 AC., \$429.79

330500: PP, STADLER, JOHN SE 1/4 LESS 10 ACS. IN SE CORNER 32-7-14 LIBERTY 150.3 AC., \$6,714.88

270900: BRIAN J. FARMS, INC. NW 1/4 19-7-16 BLAINE

150.72 AC., \$7,262.20
284301: AMM, DARYL L. EAST 150' SOUTH 241.5' WEST 300' SW 1/4 SE 1/4 26-8-16 BLAINE 1.54 AC., \$20.24

284303: AMM, DARYL L. EAST 150' NORTH 600' WEST 300' SW 1/4 SE 1/4 26-8-16 BLAINE 2.07 AC., \$40.52

289300: AMM, DARYL L. 26-8-16 LOT 1 BLOCK 3 MCCONNELL SUB-DIVISION, \$205.36

293200: WELSH, LEONE & SUSAN D. 26-8-16 LOT 1 BLOCK 3 SOUTH KEARNEY SUB-DIVISION, \$653.84

386501: RAMIREZ, RICARDO TRACT SW CORNER NW 1/4 23-8-14 LOWELL 6.6 AC., \$401.74

387813: ANTILLON, ABELARDO D., SR. & ISABELE 2086 36 ROAD 26-8-14 LOT 3 WILKINSON SUBDIVISION, \$1,000.40

379100: WELKE, JARED R. & HUGHES, MEGAN L. 2192 41 ROAD KENESAW TR. NW 1/4 NW 1/4 22-8-13 LOWELL 10.29 AC., \$1,004.38

382200: STEHLIK, THERESA NW 1/4 34-8-13 LOWELL 157.87 AC., \$5,712.32
TOTAL \$96,256.92

Feb 12, 2026
Feb 19, 2026
Feb 26, 2026
(243) znez

RHYNALDS

Auction & Realty LLC

308-832-2444 rhynaldsauction.com

2350 N. Brown, Minden



Rusty Rhynalds
Owner/Realtor
Auctioneer
308.832.7407



Ron Skrdla
Broker/Realtor
402.469.3271



Jeff Loschen
Realtor
308.991.6398



Stephanie Harms
Office Manager/
Realtor

\$220,000



1502 N Street - Franklin
4 Bed, 3 Bath, 2 car garage

Online Auction



1330 W 7th - Hastings
5 Bed, 2 Bath, 2 car garage

Online Auction



1461 S. Lexington - Hastings
Commercial Property

\$229,500



501 A Ave. - Axtell
3 Bed, 1 Bath, 3 car det. garage

Online Auction



911 S. Hastings Ave. - Hastings
4 Bed, 2 Bath, 1 car garage

\$325,000



775 Brewster St. - Minden
4 Bed, 3 Bath, 4 car garage

Online Auction



3206 Ave. H - Kearney
4 Bed, 2 Bath, 1 car det. garage

Online Auction



121 E 13th St. - Hastings
2 Bed, 2 Bath, 1 car garage

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NOTICE**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
KEARNEY COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held during the regular meeting of the Kearney County Board of Commissioners on the 17th day of February 2026 at 10:05 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse in Minden of Kearney County Nebraska, located at 424 N Colorado Ave. for the purpose of hearing public comments regarding the following application for an Administrative Subdivision.

Said hearing is for the purpose of Administrative Subdivision application made by Dean S. Schwenka and Mary Jo Schwenka, Trustees, et al, and Colin D. Schwenka and Mary M. Schwenka, Trustees for, an administrative subdivision further described as: A tract of land being part of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter (E1/2 NE1/4) of Section Three (3), Township Seven (7) North, Range Thirteen (13) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Kearney County, Nebraska, containing 5.89 acres, more or less, of which 0.75 acres, more or less, are presently used for road purposes on the east side.

Said meeting is open to the public and all interested parties are invited to attend for or against said application. Any party may appear in person or be represented by an agent or attorney. The agenda for said meeting is kept current at the office of the county clerk and can be modified up to 24 hours before the meeting. Questions or comments may be directed to

the Zoning Administrator Office at (308) 832-2795.

Carrie Favinger
Zoning Administrator
January 29, 2026
Feb 5, 2026
Feb 12, 2026
(62) znez

NOTICE**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
KEARNEY COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held during the regular meeting of the Kearney County Board of Commissioners on the 17th day of February 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse in Minden of Kearney County Nebraska, located at 424 N Colorado Ave. for the purpose of hearing public comments regarding the following application for an Administrative Subdivision.

Said hearing is for the purpose of Administrative Subdivision application made by Colin D. Schwenka and Mary M. Schwenka, Trustees for, an administrative subdivision further described as: A tract of land being part of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter (E1/2 NE1/4) of Section Three (3), Township Seven (7) North, Range Thirteen (13) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Kearney County, Nebraska. Containing 3.30 acres, more or less, of which 0.28 acre, more or less, are presently used for road purposes on the east side.

Said meeting is open to the public and all interested parties are invited to attend for or against said application. Any party may appear in person or be represented by an agent or attorney. The agenda for

said meeting is kept current at the office of the county clerk and can be modified up to 24 hours before the meeting. Questions or comments may be directed to the Zoning Administrator Office at (308) 832-2795.

Carrie Favinger
Zoning Administrator
January 29, 2026
Feb 5, 2026
Feb 12, 2026
(60) znez

NOTICE**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
KEARNEY COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held during the regular meeting of the Kearney County Board of Commissioners on the 17th day of February 2026 at 9:55 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse in Minden of Kearney County Nebraska, located at 424 N Colorado Ave for the purpose of hearing public comments regarding the following application for Vacating an Administrative Subdivision. Said hearing is for the purpose of Vacating an Administrative Subdivision application made by Colin D. Schwenka and Mary M. Schwenka, Trustees for, an administrative subdivision further described as: A tract of land being part of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter (E1/2 NE1/4) of Section Three (3), Township Seven (7) North, Range Thirteen (13) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Kearney County, Nebraska. Containing 5.62 acres, more or less.

Said meeting is open to the public and all interested parties are invited to attend for or against said application. Any party

may appear in person or be represented by an agent or attorney. The agenda for said meeting is kept current at the office of the county clerk and can be modified up to 24 hours before the meeting. Questions or comments may be directed to the Zoning Administrator Office at (308) 832-2795.

Carrie Favinger
Zoning Administrator
January 30, 2026
Feb 5, 2026
Feb 12, 2026
(34) znez

NOTICE**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
KEARNEY COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held during the regular meeting of the Kearney County Board of Commissioners on the 17th day of February 2026 at 9:40 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse in Minden of Kearney County Nebraska, located at 424 N Colorado Ave. for the purpose of hearing public comments regarding the following application for an Administrative Subdivision.

Said hearing is for the purpose of Administrative Subdivision application made by Melvin R Anderson, Trustee of the Melvin R. Anderson Revocable Trust and Becky S. Anderson, Trustee of the Becky S. Anderson Revocable Trust for, an administrative subdivision further described as: A tract of land being part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4 NW1/4) of Section Twenty-nine (29), Township Six (6) North, Range Fifteen (15) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Kearney County, Nebraska to sepa-

rate land owners.

Said meeting is open to the public and all interested parties are invited to attend for or against said application. Any party may appear in person or be represented by an agent or attorney. The agenda for said meeting is kept current at the office of the county clerk and can be modified up to 24 hours before the meeting. Questions or comments may be directed to the Zoning Administrator Office at (308) 832-2795.

Carrie Favinger
Zoning Administrator
January 30, 2026
Feb 5, 2026
Feb 12, 2026
(60) znez

NOTICE**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
KEARNEY COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held during the regular meeting of the Kearney County Board of Commissioners on the 17th day of February 2026 at 9:50 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse in Minden of Kearney County Nebraska, located at 424 N Colorado Ave., for the purpose of hearing public comments regarding the following application for Vacating an Administrative Subdivision. Said hearing is for the purpose of Vacating an Administrative Subdivision application made by Dean S. Schwenka and Mary Jo Schwenka, Trustees, an administrative subdivision further described as: A tract of land being part of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter (E1/2 NE1/4) of Section Three (3), Township Seven (7) North, Range Thirteen (13) West of the

Sixth Principal Meridian, Kearney County, Nebraska. Containing 5.00 acres, more or less.

Said meeting is open to the public and all interested parties are invited to attend for or against said application. Any party may appear in person or be represented by an agent or attorney. The agenda for said meeting is kept current at the office of the county clerk and can be modified up to 24 hours before the meeting. Questions or comments may be directed to the Zoning Administrator Office at (308) 832-2795.

Carrie Favinger
Zoning Administrator
January 29, 2026

Feb 5, 2026
Feb 12, 2026
(57) znez

NOTICE**NOTICE OF CIVIL SUIT
REQUESTING MONEY
JUDGMENT**

To: Dominique White, 407 C Ave, PO Box 312, Axtell, NE 68924

Collection Associates, A Registered Nebraska Trade-name of THE COLLECTION AGENCY, LLC, has filed a Complaint in the County Court of Kearney County, Nebraska, Case #CI-25-327 to enter a money judgment against Dominique White in the sum of \$273.15, together with costs and interest. You are required to answer the Complaint on or before the 23rd day of March, 2026.

Sullivan Shoemaker P.C.,
L.L.O.
Shelby Yost #27088
PO Box 309
Hastings, NE 68901
(402) 230-9362

Feb 5, 2026
Feb 12, 2026
Feb 19, 2026
(26) znez

NOTICE IN THE COUNTY COURT OF KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF MARLIN L. LARSEN, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 26-3

Notice is hereby given that on January 20th, 2026, in the County Court of Kearney County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Linda K. Larsen, whose address is 1753 34 Road, Minden, Nebraska 68959, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the Estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before March 31, 2026, or be forever barred.

/s/ Laura B. Tobiassen
Registrar
Kearney County Court
Kearney County
Courthouse
Minden, NE 68959

Carson K. Messersmith
#27365

KLEIN, BREWSTER, BRANDT
& MESSERSMITH
Attorney for Applicant
P.O. Box 272
Minden, NE 68959
308-832-2150
minden@kleinbrewster.com

Jan 29, 2026
Feb 5, 2026
Feb 12, 2026
(41) znez

NOTICE IN THE COUNTY COURT OF KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF JERRY KOHLER, DECEASED ESTATE NO. PR 25-40

Notice is hereby given that on January 22, 2026, in the County Court of Kearney County, Nebraska,

the Court issued an Order admitting the Will to probate and Jeffery Kohler, 6 Birchwood Pl., Kearney, Nebraska 68845 was formally appointed by the court as Personal Representative of the Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before the 7th day of April, 2026, or be forever barred.

Laura Tobiassen
Clerk Magistrate of the
County Court
Address of County Court
Kearney County Court
P.O. Box 377
Minden, NE 68959

Griffin E.W. Armendariz
#28404
garmendariz@nebraska-lawfirm.net
Bruner Frank, L.L.C.
5804 1st Avenue,
P.O. Box 2230
Kearney, NE 68848-2230
Attorneys for Personal
Representative
Feb 5, 2026
Feb 12, 2026
Feb 19, 2026
(39) znez

NOTICE NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING KEARNEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINDEN, NE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Regular Meeting of the Kearney County Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., in the Commissioner's Room of the Kearney County Courthouse, Minden, NE. An agenda for said meeting is kept continuously current at the office of the Kearney County Clerk. Said meeting is open to the public.

/s/ Jenni Lupkes
Kearney County Clerk
Feb 12, 2026
(21) znez

NOTICE IN THE COUNTY COURT OF KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF DAWN MARIE ANDERSON, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 26-5

Notice is hereby given that on February 4th, 2026, in the County Court of Kearney County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Teresa A. Nelson, whose address is 743 S. Colorado Avenue, Minden, Nebraska 68959, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the Estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before April 14, 2026, or be forever barred.

/s/ Laura B. Tobiassen
Registrar
Kearney County Court
Kearney County
Courthouse
Minden, NE 68959

Carson K. Messersmith
#27365
KLEIN, BREWSTER, BRANDT
& MESSERSMITH
Attorney for Applicant
P.O. Box 272
Minden, NE 68959
308-832-2150
minden@kleinbrewster.com
Feb 12, 2026
Feb 19, 2026
Feb 26, 2026
(41) znez

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Scott Simsel, Broker/Owner
308-830-1599



Glenda Jacobsen, Realtor
308-830-1000

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Do you have upcoming changes in your insurance?

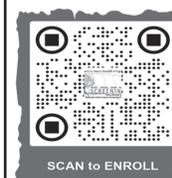
Insurance changes shouldn't stop PREVENTIVE care!

If you are a woman losing or dropping insurance coverage, Every Woman Matters (EWM) may be able to help with well-woman visits. For eligible clients, EWM offers:

- * Breast and cervical cancer screenings for women 21-64
- * Colon cancer testing for women and men 45-74

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SUDOKU

			9	5				
			6					3
	3					1	5	4
						8		
		7					6	9
8	1			9				
2	4							6
			8					
	8	6	1		4		3	

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Breezed through
5. Consumer protection agency
8. Criminal syndicate
11. Moves back from
13. Satisfaction
14. Feel concern or interest
15. Monetary units
16. Congressman (abbr.)
17. Israeli city
18. Restaurants
20. 2,000 lbs.
21. Grandmother
22. North, South and Central
25. In an early way
30. Foes
31. Social networking platform
32. Early term for basketball player
33. Another name for sesame plant
38. Disallow
41. Provide greater detail
43. Inaccessible
45. Evoke emotions
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
49. Celtic punk rockers
50. A fencing sword
55. Actor Idris
56. Affirmative (slang)
57. Afflicted in mind or body
59. One point north of northeast
60. Born of
61. Social media hand gesture
62. Hong Kong food stall
63. Opposite of beginning
64. Email function

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or email
mindencourier@gmail.com
to place
a classified ad

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10			
11				12		13			14					
15						16			17					
	18				19	20			21					
					22	23			24					
25	26	27	28	29										
30							31							
32									33	34	35	36	37	
					38	39	40		41	42				
					43			44						
			45	46										
47	48					49				50	51	52	53	54
55						56				57				58
59						60				61				
62						63					64			

CLUES DOWN

1. Sign language
2. Fashionable
3. Borough in Helsinki
4. Inability to hear
5. More quickly
6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
7. Shrewdly
8. Rooney and Kate are two
9. Mediterranean port
10. Benedictine monk
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. Town in Galilee
19. Satisfy
23. Mice genus
24. Brass instrument
25. Chest muscle (slang)
26. Transmits genetic information from DNA
27. Records electric currents generated by the brain
28. Woman (French)
29. Short route aircraft
34. Pitching statistic
35. Pointed end of a pen
36. Popular sports league
37. Body part
39. Inoffensive
40. Yellowish cotton cloth
41. Feline
42. Does not tell the truth
44. Seduced
45. Spiritual leader
46. Abba __, Israeli politician
47. Repair
48. Olive genus
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. C. European river
54. Keep under control
58. Father

			H	U	P	A			A	E	O	N	S			
	E	R	A	S	E	R			B	A	T	O	N	S		
	R	E	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	O	R		A	B		
M	A	G				N	A	T		S	C	U	T	A		
U	T	E			H	A	D	E	S		O	T	I	S		
D	O	N			M	I	S		S	A	D		I	R	E	
			E	B	O	N				T	A	B	L	E	S	
E	R	R	E	D							M	O	I	S	T	
L	E	A	D	E	D						M	A	T	T		
A	C	T			M	A	M		B	A	N		A	A	R	
P	E	E	L			T	A	A	L	S				R	B	E
S	I	S	A	L			I	D	A					I	B	M
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			T	H	E	C	A	E		C	R	A	N	N	Y	
			T	R	E	N	D			A	G	O	G			

2.5.26 SOLUTIONS

9	5	7	8	2	6	3	1	4
2	3	1	4	9	5	8	7	6
6	8	4	3	7	1	9	2	5
8	9	2	5	3	7	4	6	1
5	7	3	6	1	4	2	9	8
4	1	6	2	8	9	5	3	7
1	2	9	7	4	8	6	5	3
3	6	8	1	5	2	7	4	9
7	4	5	9	6	3	1	8	2




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