

Born with less than a 4% chance of survival, Nebraska's 'miracle' quadruplets ready for 18th birthday

LORI POTTER, FLATWATER FREE PRESS

As nurses rushed Rachel Woollen to an Omaha operating room, all she could do was pray for the four tiny babies she was about to deliver.

"All I could say was, 'Please, God, help them.' I repeated it over and over. One nurse heard me, grabbed my hand, and told me she and everyone else on the medical team were praying the same thing."

Brett entered the world at 2:04 p.m. Brother Kaden, sister Parker and brother Cooper followed within the next two minutes. None weighed more than 1.8 pounds.

The quadruplets arrived on Feb. 11, 2008 — 17 weeks early and a few days before what doctors considered the edge of viability.

The odds were not on the Woollens' side, recalled Dr. Ann Anderson-Berry, the neonatologist in charge of clinic care at Nebraska Medical Center that day. Each newborn could fit in one hand, and was about the length and weight of two large bananas.

Using national data, she determined there was a 3.4% chance that all four babies would survive. The chance of all surviving with no serious developmental issues: 0.03%.

Anderson didn't share that immediately with Rachel and her husband, Lee. "I definitely told them the quads were stable, but they were critically early ... and we expected them to be in the hospital past their (June 4) due date."

Ultimately, a mother's prayer was answered — the Woollen babies beat the odds. A University of Nebraska Medical Center press release issued on their first birthday said they were believed to be the most premature surviving quadruplets in the world.

Next month, the Woollen quads will celebrate their 18th birthday. All four have their sights set on college in the fall.

"They're absolutely unique," said Anderson, now the Neonatology Division chief at the UNMC. "They're phenomenal."

Before babies

Kearney girl Rachel and Wilcox farm boy Lee met at a Halloween party in 1999. Nearly four years later, they were married.

They bought a house in Holdrege. Rachel was a special



The timing of activities can require the Woollen quads, from left, Kaden, Cooper, Parker and Brett, to drive three vehicles to school. They will need four in August to attend different colleges as the next big step toward their career goals: Kaden, social worker; Cooper, pastor; Parker, photography business; and Brett, ER or pediatric nurse. (Photo by Lori Potter for the Flatwater Free Press)

Weather Forecast

Feb. 6:	55/29	
Feb. 7:	54/28	
Feb. 8:	57/31	
Feb. 9:	58/32	
Feb. 10:	54/27	
Feb. 11:	43/25	
Feb. 12:	45/25	



News Briefs

Valentine's Kid's Night Out

The Minden FCCLA chapter is hosting a Valentine's Kid's Night Out on February 13 from 5-10pm in the MHS FCS room. The program will include supper/snacks, crafts, games, and a movie. Register at <https://forms.gle/8VDGkk8UwUwsEAXw8>. Registration is due by February 6 at 3:30pm. Payment of \$25 per kid is due at drop off (Cash or Venmo). All ages are welcome! Please send your child with a water bottle, pillow, blanket. If your child is not potty trained, please provide diapers/pull-ups, wipes, change of clothes, etc. Questions? Call FCCLA advisor Britney Heller at 402-640-8638.

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.

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.

Alumni Pep Band

Calling former band nerds! Falcons, Eagles, Greyhounds, current band parents! Come play with the Wilcox-Hildreth alumni pep band on February 20th beginning at 6pm. The band will play for the varsity girls and boys basketball games. Email Mrs. Arehart at elaine.arehart@whfalcons.org to get music by February 13.

NDA's Annual Poster Contest: Agriculture: Building the Future

PRESS RELEASE

LINCOLN – Prepare your colored pencils, pull out your crayons and ready your markers, students! It's time for the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's (NDA) annual poster contest, open to all Nebraska students in first through sixth grades. This year's theme is "Nebraska Agriculture: Building the Future," highlighting Nebraska's number one industry.

"With advancements in fuel and resources, agriculture truly is building the future," said NDA Director Sherry Vinton, "and the future of agriculture is the students today. As they learn and grow, they will bring new ideas and innovations to the agricultural field. Our annual poster contest creates an opportunity for students to learn more about where our food comes from."

NDA will announce the winners during National Agriculture Week, March 15-21, 2026. National Ag Week highlights the diversity of agriculture and celebrates the food, fuel and fiber that farmers and ranchers provide every day. NDA will feature winning entries from this year's contest on its website and in promotional materials and publications.

NDA's poster contest is divided into three age categories for judging purposes: first and second grade students; third and fourth grade students; and fifth and sixth grade students, in any Nebraska public, private or home school. All posters must be created exclusively by students and relate to this year's theme. Entries will be judged on originality, effort and accuracy and must be received at NDA's office by March 2, 2026.

Poster contest rules and official entry forms are available online at <https://nda.nebraska.gov/kids>. For more information, contact Christin Kamm at 402-471-6856 or by email at christin.kamm@nebraska.gov.

Subscribe Today!

Weather Recap

Date	High	Low	Precip.
1/24/26	9	2	.71
1/25/26	26	5	-
1/26/26	32	2	-
1/27/26	33	15	-
1/28/26	43	17	-
1/29/26	28	20	-
1/30/26	23	11	-
Total Week Precip.....			0.71

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!



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Kearney County Planning and Zoning Holds Informational Meeting Regarding Alternative Energy, Residents Attend in Droves

CINDY RAMSEY

The January 26 meeting of the Kearney County Planning and Zoning Commission regarding alternative energy drew the attention of several residents resulting in attendance numbers unseen in the recent past. The meeting venue was moved to the Kearney County Fairgrounds to accommodate the audience of over 150 citizens.

Board Chairperson Dawn Thompson called the meeting the order and explained how the meeting will be conducted so the public would know what to expect. She began by explaining this was an informational meeting only, not a public hearing, intended to educate the board and gather public input regarding alternative energy.

Thompson explained Kearney County currently has general regulations in place related to alternative energy, but with the increasing popularity of these kinds of projects across the state the board is reviewing those regulations and considering potential amendments while the current moratorium is in place.

She also explained how the planning commission operates. When a matter comes before the board for a formal public hearing, the board will take testimony and develop a recommendation. That recommendation is then forwarded to the County Commissioners for review. The commissioners will then make the final decision.

The meeting's agenda included January business items, a presentation by guest speaker John Hay, and speaker Q&A from the board followed by public comment. With the introduction out of the way, the board quickly approved the minutes from the previous meeting and reorganized keeping officers the same as the previous year. This was followed by a presentation by UNL Extension Educator John Hay.

He began by acknowledging renewable energy is a controversial topic and explaining that is why it needs to be discussed. Hay explained the process of renewable energy projects. These projects require private developers to lease land and sell energy to public power entities. There are several drivers behind renewable energy projects with available subsidies being a large contributing factor.

Looking at the dedicated space required for these projects and impact on vegetation, Hay noted solar often affects 5-7 acres per 1MW of AC power produced while wind has an influence of 30-60 acres per 1MW of AC power produced despite taking up less physical space. Conversely, wind typically takes 3-9 months to provide a return on investment while solar is closer to 2-3 years.

In relation to water and wildlife concerns, renewable energy uses less water than nuclear and coal power options and there are no current findings of wind turbine construction having an impact on water quality. Solar has only a minimal impact on wildlife, but birds and mammals have been found to keep their distance from wind turbines and turbines can kill birds and bats.

While toxicity has been voiced as a concern, Hay noted studies have been completed that refute many of these arguments. The most concerning factor at this time is that turbine blades are not recyclable, but work is being done to try and find a way to recycle or repurpose the blades. Noise in relation to wind turbines has been noted as a problem, but the correlation is very subjective.

Renewable energy projects can have a negative impact on property values that is highly impacted by community acceptance and distance. The projects can also bring some tax dollars into the county. Decommissioning requirements should also be included in any regulations.

Hay concluded his presentation by inviting the public to email him at jhay2@unl.edu with any questions.

The board asked a few questions about nuclear power, costs for renewable projects, financial benefits to landowners, and effects on vegetation. Once their questions were answered, the floor was opened to public comment.

Five individuals shared their thoughts and concerns mostly surrounding wind turbines. One community member encouraged the board to reference a resolution adopted by Buffalo County requiring stronger setbacks for turbines. Another citizen spoke to the impact turbines have on birds and noted Kearney County is in the central flyway for cranes. Yet another member of the public spoke against turbines noting the available subsidies are initiating interest in building them. He also noted solar panels require a lot of maintenance and are highly susceptible to Nebraska hailstorms.

Another community member asked the board to consider the risks and costs of renewable energy projects. His comments focused on emergency response and safety concerns. The final speaker addressed the audience calling for help to compose documents for opposing views to renewable energy projects to submit at the public hearing.

The meeting concluded with an invitation to the public to attend a public hearing on the matter on February 23 at 6pm at the fairgrounds. Anyone wishing to submit documents for the board's consideration is encouraged to provide 12 copies.

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Fort Hays State University Releases Fall 2025 Dean's Honor Roll

PRESS RELEASE

HAYS, Kan. (January 27, 2026) - Fort Hays State University has named 2,066 students to the Dean's Honor Roll for the fall 2025 semester.

The Dean's Honor Roll includes undergraduate students only. To be eligible, students must have completed 12 or more credit hours and earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.60 for the semester. Full-time on-campus and online students are eligible.

The list does not include students who requested privacy. If a Hays address was given by the student as their primary home address, and no other hometown was designated, the student will be listed as a Hays student. Students are listed by city and zip code.

Heartwell: Dawson Conyers

Minden: Hannah Donley, Brett Eckhardt, Gracie Fries, William Runions

Zu Haus Flats Open House



A ribbon cutting and open house celebration was held on January 30th for the completion of the Zu Haus Flats apartments in downtown Minden. The 1886 historic building on the southwest corner of the square underwent a full restoration that created five new upper-story apartments, made possible through the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The apartments feature a modern look with high ceilings, full kitchen, and fantastic views. The newly opened 52 Taphouse is located on the main floor of the building. (Courier photos by Carrie Conner)



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Kearney County Clerk of District Court



Jill Fritson (above) was celebrated on January 30 for her retirement as Clerk of the District Court after 27 years of service. On February 2, Angela Follmer (below) was sworn in as the new Kearney County Clerk of the District Court to complete the current term. (Courtesy photos)



Zambian Mission Project Chili Cookoff



Zambian Mission Project hosted a Chili Cookoff fundraiser event on February 1st at Windmill Studios in Minden. Community members attended to taste a variety of chili and cinnamon rolls and bid on silent auction items. Judge's Choice winners were Jhett Ostrom for chili and Karen Barnes for cinnamon rolls. Peoples' Choice winners were Rachelle Warner for chili and Laura Horner for cinnamon roll. (Courier photos by Carrie Conner)



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from PAGE 1 - Woollen Quads

education paraprofessional while Lee worked at a local manufacturing plant and as a Phelps County corrections officer.

After two years trying to start a family, Rachel was diagnosed with polycystic ovary syndrome, a common hormonal disorder causing infertility. She started taking different medications and eventually landed on one that worked.

"When the doctor first told us how many babies we were having, I was in absolute shock for a long time," Rachel said. "I knew we had a chance of having multiples, but I was thinking maybe twins. Quads were unimaginable."

Rachel's pregnancy began with five babies, but one died after about eight weeks. When doctors suggested reducing the number of fetuses to two, Lee and Rachel decided that wasn't an option, despite knowing the huge risk of losing one or more babies.

"We had waited for so long to start a family, and God blessed us with four babies," Rachel said. "We knew it was all in his hands and he would take care of all of us."

At a regular 21-week checkup, an ultrasound revealed that her cervix had shortened and she was having contractions. Rachel was immediately sent to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney with the goal of delaying birth until 24 weeks, at which point doctors would transport her to Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Birth day

Days before reaching 24 weeks, Rachel started having frequent contractions. Then a cervical stitch meant to prevent premature birth broke. She worried she might lose all four babies.

Her doctor in Kearney made phone call after phone call seeking emergency transport to Omaha.

"The Kearney helicopter was gone, the Omaha helicopter wouldn't come because of weather, and many other hospitals with air care refused to transport me because I was in active labor with four extremely premature babies," Rachel recalled.

The doctor finally found a Sioux Falls, South Dakota, crew with a small airplane that was willing to take Rachel and Lee to Omaha. They arrived at the hospital around 11:30 p.m. Feb.10, 2008.

Less than 24 hours later, Rachel was on her way to the operating room.

"I didn't just have Rachel to worry about, I also had four tiny people to worry about," Lee said. "When they wheeled her away, I didn't know what would happen. I thought I might not only lose the kids but Rachel, too."

He and relatives who had arrived "cried, prayed and cried some more."

About 25 people worked to deliver the quads and get each baby stable in the neonatal intensive care unit, Dr. Anderson said.

"I was a mother during this period and had a young infant myself," she said. "There is nothing like being a parent to impact the care you provide in the NICU."

Lee still remembers when a nurse gave him four baby bracelets. A huge relief came over him. It faded as NICU staff explained what was in store in the days, weeks and months ahead.

The babies were supported with breathing tubes and umbilical cord IVs to administer medications.

"Parker gave me more gray hairs than the boys early on," Anderson recalled. "She was slower to gain weight and had a few more bumpy days. That usually happens with the boys."

Rachel insisted on seeing her babies hours after they were born.

"I remember being absolutely heartbroken when I saw them the first time. They were so tiny and fragile looking. The nurse told me I could touch them, but I was so scared that I would hurt them. Their eyes were still fused shut and their skin was bright red and translucent," she said. "They were absolutely perfect, but so tiny."

Four months passed. Brett left the NICU on June 3, one day ahead of the quads' due date. Parker and Kaden were discharged on June 19. Cooper came home June 26 with oxygen and two monitors because of lingering breathing issues.

Raising quads

The Woollens had lots of help at their Holdrege home. Both sets of grandparents — Stan and Roma Grube, and Ron and Sue Woollen — were a regular presence. Lee's cousin Stephanie White was the quads' nanny for three years.

Other relatives, friends and neighbors pitched in when the daily routine still involved changing 30 diapers and preparing 28 bottles. Potty training took six months.

"It takes a village to raise quadruplets, and we had the best village," said Rachel, who ran an in-home day care until last summer.

The family moved to Wilcox in 2013 so Lee could be closer to the family farm southwest of town. In 2022, they moved to the farm.

Today, the quads account for 20% of the entire senior class at Wilcox-Hildreth High School. They stay busy. All four performed in the one-act play that qualified for October's state competition. Brett and Cooper are on the high school cross country and wrestling teams. Cooper and Kaden play in the school band — trumpet and alto sax, respectively. Parker loves her journalism class and photography.

"I have what I call my big book of life. I write down everything in there. Every Sunday evening, I write on a dry-erase board on my fridge all the practices, activities and meetings," Rachel said. Some days, the kids drive three vehicles to school just to accommodate the various activities.

The quads plan to celebrate their 18th birthday with friends at the Spring City Indoor Trampoline Park in Grand Island and continue a tradition of having a Super Bowl watch party with relatives and friends, since the big game always falls near birthday time.

YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRXecuDE1lw>

Empty nest ahead

Mom and Dad are preparing for a slower pace and a little less noise. Lee joked that he might enjoy a quiet house for about 10 minutes before needing to find something to make it noisy.

They think daily about the slim odds they faced 18 years ago. "I once thought I would have severely disabled children," Rachel said. "Or no children at all," Lee added.


"Having quadruplets has been an incredible ride. It's been the hardest, most rewarding thing we've ever done," Rachel said. "... Not many people get to experience a miracle. I've been lucky enough to watch my four miracles grow up."

The Flatwater Free Press is Nebraska's first independent, nonprofit newsroom focused on investigations and feature stories that matter. Learn more at flatwaterfreepress.org.




The Woollen quads' Feb. 9, 2009, baptism at Kearney's Faith United Methodist Church was followed by a first birthday party with family, friends and four cakes. From left are Brett, Parker, Kaden and Cooper, with their parents Rachel and Lee. UNMC Neonatal Division Chief Dr. Ann Anderson-Berry says triplets and quads are less common now because doctors have learned how to better regulate doses of fertility medicines like the ones used by the Woollens. Photo by Lori Potter for the Flatwater Free Press

HAPPY
80th
Birthday!



Rosalie Worick will celebrate her 80th birthday on February 7th. Eighty years of wonderful sweetness.

Please send cards to Rosalie at 7316 York Lane, Lincoln NE 68505. Rosalie loves to hear from her Minden friends.



Whippets Compete at CNFL#2

CINDY RAMSEY

Halfway through the regular season and the Minden Speech team is finding a steady pace. The Whippets returned to Grand Island on January 31 for the CNFL #2 meet where the competition required peak performance to earn recognition. Not intimidated, the Minden orators earned fourth place in varsity and brought home double digit individual medals.

This meet was a good practice round for the Whippets as many of the events that saw finals rounds will rival the quality of the state tournament finals next month. Additionally, six of the eight schools in Minden's district competed at the CNFL meet and results favored the Whippets.

On February 7, the Whippets will head to Aurora where a few schools not seen at other meets will join the competition. Then on February 14, the Whippets will host their annual invite. While the public is welcome and encouraged to attend any meet, the Minden Invite provides an opportunity at home to see the events the students have worked so hard on and the competition they face. For those who enjoy a more relaxed performance, mark your calendars now to attend the public performance event scheduled for Tuesday, March 3 beginning at 7pm in the MHS Auditorium.

Novice medal winners at CNFL #2 were: Steven Rhodes, 2nd Place, Entertainment; Tynlie Struss and Mia Tira, 6th Place, Duet Acting; Hallie Hartman, 7th Place, Humorous Prose and Extemporaneous

Varsity medal winners at CNFL #2 were: Rebecca Lempka, 2nd Place, Persuasive; Arabella Reed, 4th Place, POI; Frank Kovacs, 5th Place, Persuasive; Arabella Reed, 7th Place, Humorous Prose; Natali Uribe, 8th Place, Entertainment; Emory Porter, 9th Place, POI; Arabella



Rebecca Lempka (right) waits on stage to learn whether she earned first or second in Persuasive Speaking at the CNFL #2 awards ceremony in Grand Island on January 31. (Courier photo by Arabella Reed)

Reed, 9th Place, Serious Prose; Carson Wright and Frank Kovacs, 10th Place, Duet Acting; Carson Wright, 10th Place, Extemporaneous; Frank Kovacs, 10th Place, Humorous Prose; Natali Uribe, 12th Place, Poetry; Jonathan Althouse, 12th Place, Entertainment; Miles Heath, 12th Place, Serious Prose; Dayne Porter, 14th Place, Poetry; Emory Porter, 15th Place, Poetry; Danica Schoone, 15th Place, Entertainment.

Mike Trader's Mid-America Basketball Camp

PRESS RELEASE

Mike Trader's Annual Mid-America Basketball Camp will conduct eight individual sessions this summer. The overnight and commuter camps for boys and girls will be held on July 6-9 at Doane University and July 20-23 at Central Community College in Columbus.

Commuter Day Camps will be held for both boys and girls at Sidney High School on June 1-3, Norfolk YMCA on June 15-17, Bennington Middle School on June 22-24, Hastings Middle School on June 29-July 1, Scottsbluff High School on July 13-15 and Grand Island Central Catholic on July 27-29.

The individual camp is open to those 7 years old through 11th grade.

Over 155 boys and girls who played in the 2025 State Basketball Tournament have attended Mike Trader's Basketball Camp.

The camp has been one of the most popular camps in the Midwest during the past 39 years with over 37,000 campers having attended during that time.

This camp is well known for its great teaching of fundamental skills and having outstanding coaches from throughout the nation teaching the campers. It combines the teaching of these skills with team play and contests throughout the camp.

The camps will be held at Doane University in Crete, Central Community College in Columbus, Sidney High School, Norfolk YMCA, Bennington Middle School, Hastings Middle School, Scottsbluff High School and Grand Island Central Catholic High School. As mentioned, the camp staff will include both top college and prep coaches, all experienced in basketball summer camp work.

For more information and application forms call, write, or e-mail Mike Trader at: Mike Trader, Box 86, York, Ne 68467; 402-960-8011; mtradercamps@outlook.com; or check out the camp website at: www.traderscamp.com.

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Samaritan's Purse Celebrates 12.2 Million Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts

PRESS RELEASE

Samaritan's Purse is celebrating a successful season after collecting 12.2 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts in 2025, sharing the love of Jesus with children in need around the world.

The milestone reflects the generosity of millions of shoebox packers helping to fill shoebox gifts with toys, school supplies and personal care items. Across the U.S., the project collected 10.9 million shoebox gifts in 2025. Combined with those collected from partnering countries, the ministry is now sending over 12.2 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide, including those whose lives were turned upside down by Hurricane Melissa, a category 5 storm that recently struck Jamaica.

"Each shoebox gift is an opportunity to remind boys and girls around the world that God loves them," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "We are so thankful for the generosity of every person who packed a shoebox. These gifts are bringing joy and the hope of the Gospel to children in need."

For many children, a shoebox gift is the first gift they have ever received. Each one is a tangible expression of God's love, offering hope to children facing war, poverty, disease and disaster. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 244 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

While local drop-off locations are closed until National Collection Week, Nov. 16 – 23, 2026, anyone can participate year-round by packing a shoebox gift online at samaritanpurse.org/buildonline. These shoebox gifts built online go to the hardest-to-reach areas in the world—whether deep jungles, city slums, or steep mountainsides.

Information about ways to get involved year-round can also be found at samaritanpurse.org/occ.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 244 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Veterans' Quilts of Honor Requested

PRESS RELEASE

The Nebraska Prairie Museum is planning a patriotic 250th display during the months of June and July 2026 and we need your help! The Museum has paired up with the Nebraska State Quilt Guild to celebrate America's 250th with "Quilts Across Nebraska!" For this program, the State Quilt Guild is asking Nebraska museums, shops, churches, libraries, civic organizations, etc. to register with the State Quilt Guild (America250@NSQG.org) to exhibit patriotic and/or historical quilts during June and July 2026. The hope is for Nebraska to record the largest quilt show in the Midwest or even the USA! Who knows, if the Nebraska Prairie Museum gets a lot of the Quilts of Honor, maybe the Museum will have the biggest display right here in Nebraska!

We at the Nebraska Prairie Museum think this is a great idea and want to participate! To celebrate, we are requesting any of the 750+ Veterans who have received a Quilt of Honor from one of our area quilt guilds to loan us their Veteran quilt from June 1st through July 30th. We will display all these beautiful Veteran quilts from our balconies so visitors can enjoy them during these two months while we celebrate our annual Swedish Day Supper / Sports Wall of Honor on June 19th and also during our July Prairie Program. All quilts loaned for this display will be thoroughly documented so they can be released back to their proper owners the end of July.

If you have a Quilt of Honor, please join us and be a part of our America 250th "Quilts Across Nebraska!" project. Please give the Nebraska Prairie Museum a call at 308-995-5015 to find out all the particulars. The Nebraska Prairie Museum is located one-half mile north of Holdrege on US Highway 183. We are open this winter, Monday thru Friday from 10 am to 5 pm and on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 pm to 4 pm.

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Range – \$375-\$420.50; Average Price – \$399.67
Heifers – Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt./Actual Wt.)
Weight Range – 650-699; Avg. Weight – 674; Price
Range – \$361-409; Average Price – \$386.93



Extension News - Horticulture

By Elizabeth Exstrom, M.S.

Central Nebraska Extension Horticulture Educator
and Certified Arborist

Protecting Pines and Planning Windbreaks: Building Resilient Nebraska Landscapes

In Nebraska landscapes, trees provide far more than aesthetic value. They offer shade, wildlife habitat, wind protection, and even help manage snow. However, trees also face challenges from pests, disease, and harsh environmental conditions. Understanding these risks — and planning accordingly — can help homeowners and land managers protect existing trees while making more resilient decisions for the future.

One serious issue impacting pine trees across Nebraska is pine wilt, a disease caused by an organism far too small to see with the naked eye. The pinewood nematode is a microscopic, worm-like organism that attacks the tissues responsible for moving water and nutrients throughout the tree. While highly destructive, the nematode cannot travel far on its own. Instead, it relies on a vector, the pine sawyer beetle, to move from tree to tree. The beetle transports the nematodes, which drop off and infest new hosts as the beetle feeds.

Not all pine species are equally susceptible to pine wilt. Mature Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) is the most vulnerable, while Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*) has moderate susceptibility. Native pines, such as ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), or limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) tend to be more tolerant. Other evergreen species — including spruce, fir, juniper, and eastern red cedar — are not affected because they are not pines.

Knowing what type of pine you have can help determine its level of risk. One simple identification method is counting the number of needles in a bundle, known as a fascicle. Austrian pines have two long needles per fascicle. Scotch pines also have two needles per fascicle, but they are medium in length and are slightly twisted and have a small, golf ball sized pine cone. Ponderosa pines typically have two to three needles per fascicle and produce large, prickly cones. Bark characteristics can also help distinguish species. Scotch pine bark is flaky and orange to cinnamon-colored, while Austrian pine bark is darker, thicker, and plate-like.

With a little training, pine wilt symptoms can often be recognized early. The first sign is typically a grayish-green tint in the needles on a major branch or throughout the tree. As the nematodes multiply, needles turn tan and eventually brown. One key indicator of pine wilt is that the dead needles remain attached to the tree for a year or more. In addition, infected wood is unusually light in weight and lacks the sticky resin commonly found in healthy pine trees.

When it comes to pine wilt, treatment can come with a hefty price tag. Preventative injections may help protect high-value, susceptible trees, but treatments must be applied before infestation occurs and repeated every two to three years. Costs vary depending on tree size, but average treatments range from \$200 to \$300 for a tree approximately 10 inches in diameter. Unfortunately, there is no cure. Once a tree develops pine wilt, there aren't any curative treatments.

Prompt removal of infected trees is essential to prevent further spread of the disease. Trees that die between May 1 and October 1 should be removed and destroyed immediately. Trees dying after October 1 must be removed by April 30. The wood should be burned, buried, or chipped as soon as possible. It should not be saved for firewood, though chips may be safely used as mulch.

If pine wilt has affected your property, consider using the loss as an opportunity to improve long-term landscape resilience. Pine wilt often impacts windbreaks, making thoughtful plant selection especially important. Species should be chosen based on soil type, climate, available space, and windbreak objectives. Diversity is key. Windbreaks made up of only one or two species are far more vulnerable to insects and diseases, while diverse plantings remain functional even if one species is affected.

Windbreaks also have a lifespan. If a planting is 30 to 50 years old or if the windbreak is mainly Scotch or Austrian pine, it may be time to consider rejuvenation or renovation. Local Natural Resource Districts (NRDs) offer low-cost seedlings through conservation tree programs for windbreaks, wildlife habitat, and living snow fences. These programs can help landowners rebuild stronger, more diverse plantings that are better equipped to withstand future challenges.

Pine wilt highlights the importance of prevention, diversity, and timely action. By understanding the disease and planning windbreaks with a variety of well-adapted species, Nebraska landowners can create landscapes that are better equipped to withstand pests, disease, and environmental stress.

Elizabeth Exstrom is the Horticulture Extension Educator with Nebraska Extension in Hall County. For more information contact Elizabeth at elizabeth.exstrom@unl.edu, her blog at <http://huskerhort.com/>, or HuskerHort on Facebook and Twitter.

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Calendars and Menus

MINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MENUS:

Friday, Feb. 6: NO SCHOOL

Monday, Feb. 9: BREAKFAST: Egg bites, cereal; LUNCH: Chicken, corn, mashed potatoes & gravy bowl

Tuesday, Feb. 10: BREAKFAST: Cinnamon roll, cheese stick; LUNCH: Chicken tenders, macaroni & cheese

Wednesday, Feb. 11: BREAKFAST: Biscuits & sausage gravy; LUNCH: Goulash, breadstick

Thursday, Feb. 12: BREAKFAST: Mini waffles, cheese stick; LUNCH: Oriental chicken with rice

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

0-0-0

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Feb. 6: NO SCHOOL; Girls WR Districts @ Plainview; Boys WR SWC @ Holdrege, 11 a.m.; V/JV Girls & Boys BB @ Cozad

Saturday, Feb. 7: Boys WR State Duals @ Buffalo County Fairgrounds; Girls WR Districts @ Plainview; Speech @ Aurora, 8 a.m.; V/JV Girls & Boys BB @ Gothenburg, 3 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 9: Board of Education meeting; FBLA Week; FCCLA Week; 9th Boys BB @ Alma Tournament, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 10: 7/8 Girls WR @ Lexington Invite, 4:15 p.m.; 7th Boys BB @ GINW, 4:30 p.m.; 8th Boys BB vs. GINW, 4:30 p.m.; V/JV Girls & Boys BB vs. Adams Central, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 12: 7/8 Girls WR @ Walnut Invite, 1:30 p.m.; V/JV Girls & Boys Parent & Senior Night vs. Wood River, 4:30 p.m.; Little Whippet Cheer Night @ half time V Boys game, 8 p.m.

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

AXTELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Feb. 6: Girls WR @ District meet

Saturday, Feb. 7: Boys WR Dual Championships @ Kearney

Monday, Feb. 9: National FBLA Week; NO SCHOOL-P/T open house, 1 p.m.; Speech-Community Speech Night, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 10: FFA meeting, 7:15 a.m.; JV Girls & Boys BB @ Loomis, 4:30 p.m.; Girls BB @ Loomis, 6 p.m.; Boys BB @ Loomis, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 11: JH Girls & Boys BB @ Wilcox-Hildreth, 1 p.m.; Elementary QB @ Eustis Farnam, 1 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 12: 8th grade NAEP; Music @ FKC Honors Instrumental @ Litchfield

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.

WILCOX-HILDRETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MENUS:

Friday, Feb. 6: BREAKFAST: Yogurt; LUNCH: Italian dunkers

Monday, Feb. 9: BREAKFAST: Funnel cake; LUNCH: Pop-corn chicken

Tuesday, Feb. 10: BREAKFAST: Breakfast nuggets; LUNCH: Walking taco

Wednesday, Feb. 11: BREAKFAST: Banana bread; LUNCH: BBQ rib

Thursday, Feb. 12: BREAKFAST: Breakfast round; LUNCH: Beef & noodles

Friday, Feb. 13: NO SCHOOL

0-0-0

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Feb. 6: Girls WR Districts @ Lakeview Junior Senior High, 2 p.m.; FBLA SLC Registration deadline/Projects due; District Special Education meeting, 2:45 p.m.; Boys BB FKC Playback games, 6 p.m.; Boys BB FKC Semi Finals, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 7: G WR Districts @ Lakeview Junior Senior High, 9 a.m.; FKC Art Show & Competition; Boys State WR Dual Championships, 9 a.m.; Boys & Girls BB FKC Tournament Cons. & Finals, 2 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 9: FBLA Week; Mentor/Mentee Luncheon, 11 a.m.; JH Girls & Boys BB vs. SEM, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 10: 7-12 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.; FBLA meeting, 11:40 a.m.; V/JV Girls & Boys BB @ Overton, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 11: FFA Officer meeting, 11:40 a.m.; JH Girls & Boys BB vs. Axtell, 1 p.m.; MTSS-B, 3:50 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 12: FKC Instrumental Quint @ Overton; FFA Chapter meeting, 7:30 a.m.; PK-6 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.; FCA meeting, 11:40 a.m.; Early Dismissal for P/T Conferences, 1 p.m.; P/T Conferences in Hildreth building for all students, 2 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13: NO SCHOOL; Boys District WR @ Oakland-Craig Elementary, 3 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 reservations. All meals are served with coffee, water, and milk. Menu are subject to change. Join us.

Monday, Feb. 9: Creamed chicken over biscuits, beets, fruit & dessert

Tuesday, Feb. 10: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, dinner roll & fruit

Wednesday, Feb. 11: Philly steak & cheese sandwich, fried potatoes, green beans, fruit & dessert

Thursday, Feb. 12: Scalloped potatoes with ham, peas, biscuit, & fruit

Friday, Feb. 13: Valentine's Day Dinner

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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.

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Do You Remember

Eighty Years Ago — 1946

Vic Silvrants Men's Wear offered a free gift of an Honorable Discharge Button. Veterans only had to show evidence of an Honorable Discharge to receive the gift.

Loyal rooters watched the Whippets win an eighth straight basketball victory by downing Beaver City 37-22.

Delores Reiss of Wilcox was one of 12 Midland College candidates for the Warrior Charm Girl of 1946.

Seventy Years Ago — 1956

More than 100 people attended the National Farm Loan Association banquet in Kearney. Joseph Anderson was re-elected vice president of the association.

Ninety percent of members of the Farmers Co-op Grain and Farm Supply voted in favor of proceeding with the construction of a new elevator which would hold 250,000 bushels.

Hilly Beck, a Minden high school graduate, set a record

for fast scoring as he scored 41 points in 25 minutes of play at Hastings College.

Sixty Years Ago — 1966

Fred Martin and Jerry Stirtz located in their new office building across the street from the Nichol Hotel. Morey Agency planned to move into the office vacated by Martin and Stirtz, and Wilma Christensen planned to move her beauty shop into the Morey Agency location.

The annual March of Dimes party held at the Norman hall brought in over \$280.

January 1966 was very cold with a -14 registered on Jan. 22 and ten days during the month that the temperature was below zero.

Fifty Years Ago — 1976

George Miller sank a new well on the same farm where he had sunk his first well in 1947.

Kristina Carlson, Brad Fahrenbruch, Karen Fecht, Sara Olsen and Cathy Sovereign, all of Axtell, and Kathy Johnson and Lonnie Schubert, all of Wilcox, were among the musicians at Kearney State College for a day-long music clinic.

Bentley Benson, Don Miller and Steve Exstrom scored in double figures as Minden defeated Central City 77-69.

Forty Years Ago — 1986

Gov. Bob Kerry announced the award of a \$327,000 Community Development Block Grant to Kearney County in the Economic Development category.

Rena Johnson celebrated her 90th birthday at the home of Inez Brown.

Hildreth's one act play received the runner-up plaque at the District D-9 contest. The cast included Shelly Swarthout, Duane Day, Adrienne Benz, Leann Johnson and Jay Halsted.

Thirty Years Ago — 1996

Kearney County Health Services signed an employment agreement with Dr. Rajesh Malhotra. Malhotra was a native of India but had been working in the United States for three years.

The Axtell Area Golf Association decided to move ahead with fundraising efforts to build a golf course in Axtell. The proposed golf course would be located north of North Park and the football field and would straddle the Tri-County Canal.

Minden moved closer to applying for a permit to construct and operate a solid waste incinerator at the present landfill site.

Twenty Years Ago — 2006

Minden Public Schools, Kearney County Health Services, and Madonna Rehab Center of Lincoln teamed up to better determine whether injured MPS athletes had suffered a knock to the head or a true concussion.



2016 — Nebraska State Trooper Todd Suchsland and Nebraska State Patrol Mascot, Trooper Buck L. Up were in Minden on Thursday for a presentation to the East Elementary Third Grade Classes as part of Ed Rowse's health section of their Physical Education class.

During the C.L. Jones Middle School Talent Show, middle school teachers performed "Oh Happy Day" while dressed as nuns.

City of Minden workers took advantage of mild weather by taking down Christmas lights from around the Kearney County Courthouse. The task was complicated by tree branches snagging the strings of lights.

Ten Years Ago — 2016

Minden Whippets Girl's Golf Coach Steve Exstrom was one of 11 Nebraska finalists to advance for the National High School Athletic Coaches Association national coach of the year award. Exstrom helped guide the Whippets to six Class C state championships, most recently to Class C back-to-back state titles in 2013 and 2014. Exstrom also coached the Whippets to four more Class C titles in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2006.

The Minden Whippets girls basketball team brought home some more hardware winning the 2016 Southwest Conference girls basketball tournament championship giving Minden 10 of the past 11 titles. Minden defeated the Cozad Haymakers in the SWC title tilt by six points, 53-47, to improve to 14-6 on the season.

Barb Newcombe and her daughters, Emily McGregor and Erin Grant, made the most of limited space to open Hwy 10 Kitchen for business. The small building at CPI's fueling station on the north side of Minden became the newest restaurant in town offering homestyle meals to go.

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

Marcia Dorn, Pastor
Sunday, Feb. 8: 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. 8: 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. 8: Worship service, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, February. 11: Evening Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran, LCMC

104 E. Fifth St.
Craig Richardson, Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 8: Donuts & Juice, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion, 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study, 12:45 p.m. Monday, February. 9: Bible Study, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11: High School Youth Meal/Fellowship, 6 p.m.

Campbell

St. Anne Catholic
Father Adam Sparling, Pastor
Sunday, Feb. 8: Mass, 8

a.m.

Trinity Lutheran
360 So. Stewart
(402) 756-8552

Greg Volsky, Vacancy Pastor
Sunday, Feb. 8: Worship, 9:30 a.m. with Sunday school to follow

United Westminster Presbyterian

Broad and Main Street

Mark A. Diehl, Pastor
Sunday, Feb. 8: Worship, 10 a.m.

Funk

Fridhem Lutheran
401 Lake Street
Daren Poppo, Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 8: 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. 8: Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Family Catholic Mission Parish
287 Jefferson Street

Father Evan Winter
Sunday, Feb. 8: Mass, 8:30 a.m.

Hildreth

Trinity Lutheran
502 Sanders Avenue
Caroline Schenk, Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 8: 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. 8: 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

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Marcia Dorn, Pastor
Sunday, Feb. 8: Worship service, 9 a.m.

Minden

Bethany Lutheran
437 E. Fourth St.

Don Hunzeker, Pastor
Julie Schmidt, Parish Ministry Associate

Thursday, Feb. 5: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7: Walking, 8 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 8: Contemporary Worship, 8:30 a.m.; Blended-Traditional Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 9: Church Council, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, February. 10: Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 11: Ruth Circle, 4:30 p.m.; Church Club, 5 p.m.; Wednesday Night Supper Club, 6 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.

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

Stay connected with our website, Bethanyminden.org

Evangelical Free
1310 W. First St.

Tom Barnes, Lige Reed, Pastors

Sunday, Feb. 8: Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 11 a.m.

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Sunday, Feb. 8: 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. 8: 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. 7: Mass, 5:30 p.m., confessions before Mass

Sunday, Feb. 8: 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. 6: Breakfast & Prayer, 7 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 8: Bible Study/Sunday School, 9 a.m.; High School Youth, 9:15 a.m.; Worship/Sunday School sings, 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday, February. 11: JYM 5th, 5 p.m.; Commu-

nion, 6:30 p.m.; JYM 6th-8th, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 12: Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

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

United Methodist
340 N. Newell Ave.

Kayla M. Mangrich, Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 8: Worship, 10 a.m.; Confirmation, 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 11: Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

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

Westminster United Presbyterian

109 N. Colorado

Sharon Rees, Pastor
Sunday, Feb. 8: 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. 8: Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion every other Sunday

United Methodist
203 S. Sapp St.

Candance Miller, Pastor
Sunday, Feb. 8: 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. 8: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m.

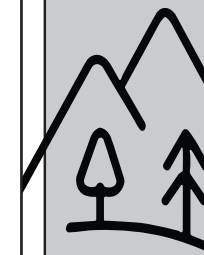
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Obituaries



Dawn M. Anderson, 64 - Minden Resident

Dawn M. Anderson, 64, of Minden, passed away on Friday, January 30, 2026, at St. Lukes Good Samaritan Society in Kearney. A celebration of life open house will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 2026, at The Windmill Studios in Minden. Memorials in Dawn's honor are kindly

suggested to the family for future designation. Craig Funeral Home in Minden is assisting the family.

Dawn Marie Anderson was born on March 12th, 1961, in Minden, NE to Donald and Karol (Albers) Sinsel. Dawn grew up in the Minden area and attended school there as well. After graduating Dawn had various jobs but most notably was her job at A1 Heating & Air, where she worked for over 20 years. In her spare time Dawn enjoyed spending time with her loved ones, doing stitch work, and baking cookies. Some called her "the cookie lady." It was something that she deeply enjoyed doing. Dawn was a wonderful mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, and friend and for that she will be greatly missed by those who knew her.

Dawn was preceded in death by her mother Karol (Albers) Sinsel.

Those left to cherish her memory include her daughter, Nichole Anderson; grandson, Orion Anderson; father, Donald Sinsel; siblings, Tim and wife Michelle Sinsel, Teresa and husband Scott Nelson, and Jennifer and husband Justin Czaplowski; as well as a host of nieces, nephews and close friends.

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

State Treasurer Spellerberg Issues Call to Action for National Unclaimed Property Day

PRESS RELEASE

LINCOLN, Nebraska — State Treasurer Joey Spellerberg is launching a statewide push to reunite Nebraskans with their "lost cash" in recognition of National Unclaimed Property Day, set for Sunday, Feb. 1.

With the state safeguarding millions of dollars in forgotten assets, Spellerberg is urging residents to take one minute this week to search NebraskaLostCash.gov. For those who have lived in multiple states, Spellerberg recommends checking MissingMoney.com, a national database. Searching both sites is easy, free of charge, and secure.

At the Treasurer's request, Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen has proclaimed Feb. 1 as Unclaimed Property Day across the state.

"This is not the state's money — it's money that belongs to individuals who could use these funds for daily expenses, a down payment on a first home, or college savings," Spellerberg said. "Nebraska has streamlined the claims process because we want these unclaimed dollars back in our local economies."

According to the Unclaimed Property Division of the State Treasurer's Office, there is unclaimed property in all 93 counties, while millions of dollars in unclaimed assets are waiting in Nebraska's largest cities, including:

- \$96 million in the Omaha metro;
- \$28.6 million in Lincoln;
- \$7 million in Bellevue;
- \$5.1 million in Grand Island;
- \$3.7 million in Kearney;
- \$2.7 million in North Platte;

- \$2.4 million in Fremont;
- \$2.1 million in Hastings; and
- \$1.9 million in Columbus.

The State Treasurer serves as a custodian for lost financial assets, ranging from uncashed payroll checks and insurance benefits to forgotten bank accounts and mutual funds. In 2025, the Unclaimed Property Division returned more than \$19.7 million through 19,952 claims.

"Whether you've lived in Nebraska your entire life or just a few years, take a few seconds to check NebraskaLostCash.gov for yourself and family members," said Unclaimed Property Director Meaghan Aguirre. "You might just find a surprise waiting for you."

Director Aguirre was recently elected president of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators (NAUPA), an affiliate of the non-partisan National Association of State Treasurers. An 18-year veteran of Nebraska's Unclaimed Property Division, she was elected by her peers from across the U.S. to lead the organization's collaborative efforts to reunite assets with their rightful owners.

About the State Treasurer's Office: The Nebraska State Treasurer is responsible for the safekeeping and supervision of the state's public funds and is mandated to receive, keep, and disburse all state money. The office administers the Nebraska Educational Savings Trust (NEST 529) and Enable Savings Plan; manages and returns unclaimed property; collects and disburses child support payments; and promotes transparency in state spending. Learn more at treasurer.nebraska.gov.

Whippets

of the

Month

East Elementary

Preschool
Addison Larson

Addie is kind and a hard worker. She always does the right thing, even when nobody is looking. Addie is a wonderful preschool role model.

Kindergarten
Jason Gasseling

Jason is a very kind, helpful and loving boy. He is always respectful and looking to do the best he can do. He has been doing a wonderful job of showing us what he knows academically and has made great progress this year in kindergarten. I am one lucky teacher to get to spend my days with such a wonderful boy who is always showing integrity.

1st Grade
Kevin Guido

Kevin Felix is a respectful 1st grader. He is kind to everyone everyday. Kevin works hard and is always following the school rules. I can always count on him to be listening and following directions. Way to go, Kevin!

2nd Grade
Kamery Vancura

Kamery is a student that is consistently showing his leadership and hard work effort, with such great character. He always has a smile and caring heart, and is quick to help others. Kamery's kindness and positive attitude shines bright at East Elementary. Keep being amazing, Kamery!

3rd Grade
Hudson Jensen

Hudson is one of the kindest students! He has such a huge heart that is ready to love his teachers and peers! He comes to school ready to go and works super hard throughout the whole day! He asks great questions and shows great integrity! He loves to include others and is always quick to lend a helping hand! In math, he just mastered all of his multiplication facts! Go Hudson!

SPORTS



Back To Back SWC Champs! Lady Whippets Collect Nine Medals at Conference Tournament

PHIL SERRONE

What a show! The Lady Whippets have now reigned supreme atop of the Southwest Conference for the second consecutive year! Minden hosted the conference tournament on Jan. 31.

In front of a rowdy home crowd, the Lady Whippets had every wrestler on the roster collect medals including six conference champions. This effort bolstered the team finish of 152.5 points and allowed the Lady Whippets to outpace second place McCook by 40 points.

Victoria Hansen (16-9), Brinley Pohl (27-16), Myka Petersen (15-6), Ella Warburton (20-23), Marlie Petersen (20-13) and Ashlyn Zerr (17-13) ended the afternoon as conference champions. For Myka Petersen and Hansen, this is the second straight conference championship in their young careers.

Annika Soelberg (8-17) finished the meet with a silver medal at second place while Cristal Gonzalez (18-16) and McKinley Segelke (22-22) placed third overall.

Minden now rides a wave of momentum heading into the postseason as the team will travel to Plainview High School for Districts. The two day meet will take place on Feb. 6 and Feb. 7. We will have a full recap of potential state qualifiers in next week's paper!

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



100: Ella Warburton opened with a bye in the first two rounds and pinned Utrera of Cozad in 4:00 to place first

110: Ashlyn Zerr secured a championship with three byes, no other wrestlers were in this weight class

115: McKinley Segelke had a bye to start then was pinned by Jones of Broken Bow in 3:00 then had a bye for the final two rounds to place third



For the second consecutive year, the Lady Whippets sit atop the Southwest Conference as champions. The team had every wrestler on the roster collect a medal and numerous conference champions. Pictured: (above) Marlie Petersen takes her opponents' backside. (left) Cristal Gonzalez locks up with her opponent. (Courier photos by Phil Serrone)

overall

125: Myka Petersen started with a bye then pinned Griffiths of Broken Bow in 0:33 then won by total falls 16-1 over Barnhill to place first overall

130: Brinley Pohl opened with a bye in the first round then pinned Roberts of Cozad in 3:23 then pinned Hochstine of Ogallala in 1:51 to place first overall

135: Victoria Hansen had a bye to start then pinned Rork of McCook in 0:35 then pinned Koch of Gothenburg in 5:22 to place first overall

140: Marlie Petersen had a bye for the first two rounds then pinned Wyatt of Ogallala in 2:49 to place first overall

145: Cristal Gonzalez had a bye to start then was pinned by Knight of McCook in 3:01 then had a bye then pinned Valdez of Ogallala in 0:56 to place third overall

155: Annika Soelberg had a bye to open the first round then pinned Sanpedor of Gothenburg in 1:08 then was pinned by Steinbeck of McCook in 3:16 to place second overall

Falcons Celebrate Senior Night

PHIL SERRONE

Seven seniors were celebrated for 'Senior Night' for the Wilcox-Hildreth wrestling program on Jan. 30. Before each senior was honored before the home crowd, the Falcons boys wrestling team faced off in a dual against Weeping Water. Alma was originally scheduled to attend to make the meet a triangle but had to forfeit due to sickness to the coaching staff and wrestlers.

It was a competitive battle on the mats throughout each weight class but Weeping Water narrowly etched out the Falcons by a score of 35-46. Overall a total of 11 matches took place with Wilcox-Hildreth prevailing in five of them.

Brody Patterson, Cauy Twohig, Gavin Ironshell, Jacob Jezbera and Craig Bunger were victorious in their head-to-head matchups. Ironshell had the most dominant win of the bunch as he collected a total fall 18-3 victory in 6:00. Kyler Masters added six points to the team's score with a forfeit win.

After the loss, the home crowd celebrated seniors Dinah Culp, Callen Wenninghoff, Brandon Wagner, Cauy Twohig, Brett Woollen, Cooper Woollen and Brody Patterson. Congrats to each wrestler on their hard work and commitment devoted to the program over the years as you all move into the next chapter of your lives.

Here are the following stats from Wilcox-Hildreth vs Weeping Water:

106: Mikah Eiley was pinned by Brad-



The Wilcox-Hildreth wrestling program celebrated 'Senior Night' on Jan. 30 when the boys team faced off against Weeping Water in a dual. Dinah Culp, Callen Wenninghoff, Brandon Wagner, Brett Woollen, Cooper Woollen, Cauy Twohig and Brody Patterson were honored for 'Senior Night'. (Courier photo by Phil Serrone)

bury in 0:49

126: Cooper Woollen was pinned by Cover in 4:36

132: Kyler Masters won by forfeit

138: Brody Patterson pinned Nash in 3:32

144: Cauy Twohig pinned Bailey in 5:25

150: Drake Ritner lost by total falls 0-18 against Bickford in 4:47

157: Brett Woollen lost due to total falls 3-18 against McGill in 3:05

165: Damien Campbell lost due to pin against Harms in 1:28

175: Gavin Ironshell won by total falls 18-3 against Flanagan in 6:00

190: Jacob Jezbera pinned Willis in 1:19

215: Callen Wenninghoff was pinned by Gerloff in 1:25

285: Craig Bunger was pinned by Bergmann in 0:32



Scammers like to take advantage of people's kindness by impersonating charities.

Warning signs

- *Pressure to give right now. A legitimate charity will welcome your donation whenever you choose to make it.
- *A thank-you for a donation you don't recall making. Making you think you've already given to the cause is a common tactic scammers use.
- *A request for payment by cash, gift card or wire transfer. Scammers love gift cards.

How to protect yourself from this scam

- *Search online watchdogs like Charity Navigator, CharityWatch and the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance.
- *Contact your state's charity regulator to verify that the organization is registered to raise money there.
- *Pay attention to the charity's name and web address. Scammers often mimic the names of familiar, trusted organizations to deceive donors.
- *Keep a record of your donations and regularly review your credit card account to make sure you weren't charged more than you agreed to give or unknowingly signed up for a recurring donation.
- *Don't click on links in unsolicited email, texts or fundraising messages on social media platforms; they can unleash malware.



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Minden Places 8th Overall at Raymond Central

PHIL SERRONE

With the state tournament beginning in a few weeks, the Minden boys wrestling team traveled to Raymond Central on Jan. 31 for an invitational with the hopes of refining their mats skills as much as possible before facing Nebraska's best.

Overall it was a solid afternoon of wrestling as the Whippets were led by four individual medalists paving the way towards an eighth place finish. Minden finished with a team score of 82.5. The invitational had a total of 17 schools in attendance.

Parker Hatch (23-12) and Cael Smith (19-3) collected a pair of medals at the 175 lb. and 190 lb. weight classes. The duo combined for four victories with three pinfalls and one decision win.

Isaac Reed (34-8) competed in four matches where he notched three victories as well as a loss in the second round against Stubbendick of Syracuse. Reed's three victories came in dominant fashion by majority decision.

Bryon Kring (23-13) was the most active on the roster as he participated in the most matches on the team with five total. He finished 3-2 at the invitational with three pinfall victories.

Next up for the Whippets boys wrestling team will be a road trip to Holdrege where Minden will aim to prove that they are among the SWC best. The SWC Invitational will take place on Feb. 6 with a start time of 11:00 a.m.

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

120: Owen Gilming opened with a pin loss against DeMilt of Fort Calhoun in 1:33 then won by a bye then was pinned by Bruber of Omaha Westside in 0:49

132: Lukas Labenz opened with a bye then was pinned by Randall of Falls City in

2:45 then lost by majority decision 3-11 against Jano of Raymond Central

138: Isaac Reed opened with a bye then won by total falls 17-1 over Kouba of Omaha Concordia in 2:22 then was pinned by Stubbendick of Syracuse in 3:59 then won by majority decision 15-3 over Hayes of Auburn then won by majority decision 15-4 over Quinlivan of Mount Michael Benedictine to place third overall

144: Byron Kring started with a bye then lost by total falls 5-22 against Omar of Beatrice then pinned Collier of Falls City in 1:20 then pinned Gulizia of Auburn in 3:33 then lost by decision 4-11 against Sisco of Syracuse then pinned Blum of Underwood in 2:08 to place fifth

150: Aaron Banelos started with a bye then lost by majority decision 4-12 against Jernigan of Omaha Westside then pinned Holtorf of Lincoln Lutheran in 0:49 then was pinned by Burki of Johnson County in 0:38

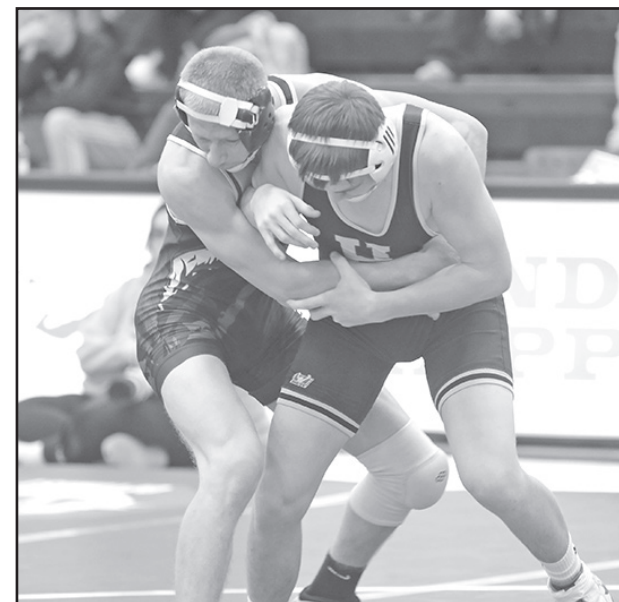
175: Parker Hatch had a bye to start then pinned Spilinek of Lincoln Lutheran in 0:51 then won by majority decision 4-2 against Zimmerman of Mount Michael Benedictine then was pinned by Kansteiner of Conestoga in 2:54 to place second overall

190: Cael Smith had a bye to start then pinned Kelsay of Mount Michael Benedictine

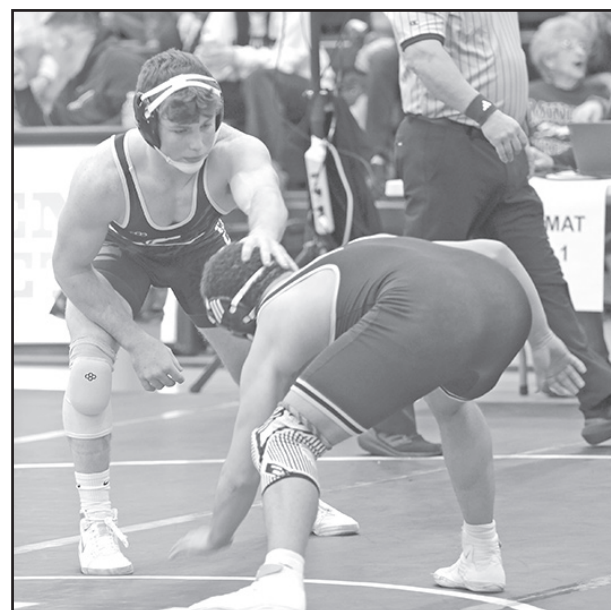
in 2:31 then pinned Sells of Falls City in 1:19 then lost by total falls 2-17 against Johnson of Beatrice in 4:37 to place second overall

215: Sage Saunders started with a pin victory over Baker of Omaha in 1:23 then was pinned by Rowell of Auburn in 1:26 then pinned Duros of Fort Calhoun in 2:48 then was pinned by Gates of Syracuse in 2:42

285: Judah Bedunnah opened with a pin loss against Rhoden of Beatrice in 0:22 then was pinned by Simpson of Falls City in 0:47



On Jan. 31, the Minden boys wrestling team competed at the Raymond Central Invitational. As a team, the Whippets had multiple wrestlers collect individual medals. Pictured: (above) Kanin Heath locks up with his opponent as he attempts to drag him to the ground. (below) Parker Hatch sizes up his opponent. (Courier photos by Phil Serrone)



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

TRAE LIN CHRISTENSEN - BASKETBALL

School: Minden High School

Grade: Junior

Achievements: Trae is averaging 16.0 points per game along with 9.9 rebounds per game. He's had 6 double-doubles this year and a career high of 26 points against Holdrege on January 23rd!

Attributes that have led to his success: Trae is one of the hardest working kids on our team, and he's always competing in the gym. Whether it's playing one-on-one with another teammate or just getting shots up, he loves everything basketball!

Trae is also one of the most humble players on our team. He just wants



the team to be successful and does whatever is asked of him day in and day out. He's an absolute joy to coach! - Coach Carson Blum



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Lady Falcons Earn Another Runner-Up Finish

Axtell Medals Seven at FKC Invitational

PHIL SERRONE

The Fort Kearney Conference girls wrestling tournament was hosted on Jan. 31 at Ansley-Litchfield High School. Wilcox-Hildreth and Axtell were both in attendance for the crowded event that fielded 27 schools as not only was this a conference tournament but also an invitational with other schools outside the conference.

For the third straight week, the Lady Falcons earned a runners-up trophy after placing second in the conference with a team score of 92. As for the Ansley-Litchfield Invitational, the Lady Falcons finished fourth overall.

Senior Dinah Culp (17-8) ended her day on a high note as she claimed first place and the conference championship at the 100 lb. weight class. Elin Patterson (25-13) and Camryn Bunger (21-4) finished the Ansley-Litchfield portion of the invite in third place but ended the afternoon as FKC champions.

Ona Wilsey (24-12) placed third overall in the Ansley-Litchfield bracket but added a silver medal on the conference side. Ayva Bendorf (20-17) competed in five matches and finished 3-2 for a fourth place finish on the Ansley-Litchfield side but a bronze medal within the conference.

As for Axtell, the Lady Wildcats finished 11th overall with a team score of 44 points. The team was led by one medalist on the Ansley-Litchfield side of the tournament but added six conference medals.

Madi Hayes (6-16) finished the afternoon as conference champion of the 145 lb. weight class. Jerzey Ramirez (19-10) added a bronze medal with a third place finish, she finished as the conference runner-up of her weight class along with teammate Sadie Lorenzo (13-19).

Kristal Fickenscher (16-20) and Taelynn Meyers (16-16) did not place in the overall tournament but did add some FKC hardware with a third place finish. Binzley Walz (19-18) and Allison Fullmer (10-12) placed fourth overall on the FKC side.

Next up for both wrestling teams will be Districts which will be a two-day event held on Feb. 6-7 at Lakeview High School. We will have a full update in next week's paper with potential state qualifiers for both teams!

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

100: Jerzey Ramirez started with a pin victory over Drahota of Ansley-Litchfield in 1:30 then was pinned by Culp of Wil-Hil in 0:50 then pinned Rodriguez of Gibbon in 2:31 then pinned Santifer of Southern Valley in 4:36 to

place third overall and second in the FKC.

115: Sadie Lorenzo opened with a bye then lost by total falls 2-19 against Serfontein of Southern Valley in 5:05 then pinned Salvador of Loomis in 1:40 then won by decision 5-0 over Almanza of Wauneta-Palisade then lost by decision 0-6 against Patterson of Wil-Hil to finish second in the FKC

125: Binzley Walz started with a pin victory over Ackley of Gibbon in 0:44 then was pinned by Lawless of Wauneta-Palisade in 3:34 then pinned Halbur of Fillmore Central in 3:10 then pinned Svoboda of Thayer Central in 2:31 then was pinned by Wilsey of Wil-Hil in 2:02 to place fourth in the FKC.

135: Krystal Fickenscher started with a pin victory over Zulkoski of Ansley-Litchfield in 3:24 then was pinned by Gewecke of Fillmore Central in 2:32 then pinned Ocomb of Twin Loup in 1:36 then was pinned by Porteck of Loomis in 4:55 to place third overall in the FKC.

145: Madilynn Hays opened with a pin loss against Rusher of Chase County then pinned Escobar Salas of Southwest in 4:14 then was pinned by Dunse of Alma in 4:33 to place first overall in the FKC.

155: Allison Fullmer started with a pin victory over Becerra of Lexington JV then was pinned by Scoville of SEM in 0:20 then had a bye then was pinned by Lorenz of Lexington JV in 1:40 to place fourth in the FKC

170: Taelynn Myers started with a bye then was pinned by McDonald of SEM in 1:36 then had a bye then lost by decision 7-10 against Ramm of Ord to place third overall in the FKC.

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

100: Dinah Culp opened with a pin victory over Stutzman of Sandhills Valley in 3:16 then pinned Ramirez of Axtell in 0:50 then pinned Hernandez of Ord in 0:44 to place first overall in the FKC.

115: Elin Patterson started with a pin victory over Salvador of Loomis in 0:26 then pinned Serano of Lexington JV in 1:06 then was pinned by Gibson of Alliance in 1:24 then won by decision 6-0 over Lorenzo of Axtell then won by total falls 16-1 over Workman of Thayer Central in 3:27 to place third on the Ansley Litchfield side and first in the FKC

125: Ona Wilsey opened with a pin win over Halbur of Fillmore Central in 1:08 then pinned Dubbs of Alma in 0:38 then lost by pin against Hrasky of SEM in 3:25 then pinned Walz of Axtell in 2:02 then pinned Dubbs of Alma



Wilcox-Hildreth and Axtell girls wrestling programs competed in the FKC Invite at Ansley-Litchfield on Jan. 31. Numerous conference medals were awarded including three conference champions for the Lady Falcons. Pictured: The Axtell Lady Wildcats pose together after a success invitational where the team secured seven conference medals. (Courtesy photo)

in 1:25 to place third overall on the Ansley-Litchfield side and second in the FKC

130: Ayva Bendorf started with a bye then lost by decision 11-12 against Cyboron of Chase County then pinned Velaquez of Paxton in 1:18 then pinned Dunse of Alma in 3:59 then won by decision 7-6 over Habana-Lindeman of Thayer Central then was pinned by Cyboron of Chase County in 3:22 to place fourth overall on the Ansley-Litchfield side and third overall in the FKC.

135: Camryn Bunger started with a pin victory over Ellis of SEM in 1:21 then won by total falls 18-3 over Meinick of Ord in 3:17 then was pinned by Degenhardt of Thayer Central in 4:00 then pinned Porteck of Loomis in 2:00 then pinned Raymer of Alliance in 0:35 to place third overall on the Ansley-Litchfield side and first overall in the FKC.

Physical Therapy & More!

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Falcons Place in Top 3 at Doniphan-Trumbull

PHIL SERRONE

Fresh off 'Senior Night' the day before, the Falcons boys wrestling team traveled to Doniphan-Trumbull for an invitational on Jan. 31.

Wilcox-Hildreth placed third overall out of 15 schools with a team score of 132. Doniphan-Trumbull placed first overall while Elm Creek earned runners-up as a team.

Brody Patterson (37-2) once again collected a first place finish at the 138 lb. weight division. It was a brief outing for the senior as he only partook in three matches where he secured three pinfalls.

Jacob Jezbera (34-6) finished atop his weight division with two pinfall wins and a decision victory in the championship round. Gavin Ironshell earned a silver medal after placing second while Tyler Masters (32-9) and Cauy Twohig (28-10) placed third overall. Damien Campbell (8-16) added 13.5 team points with his fourth place finish.

On Feb. 5, the Fort Kearney Conference tournament will be held at Amherst High School. Matches will start at 10:00 a.m. Check into next week's Courier to see if the Falcons can claim a conference championship as well as some individual accolades.



On Jan. 31, the Wilcox-Hildreth boys wrestling team traveled to Doniphan-Trumbull where the team placed third overall. Pictured: (above) Brett Woollen keeps his opponent grounded with a headlock. (left) Drake Ritner tangles with his opponent to establish position. (Courier photos by Phil Serrone)

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

106: Mikah Eiley started with a pin loss against Gates of Grand Island in 1:12 then was pinned by Jones of Bertrand in 2:00

120: Cooper Woollen opened with a pin loss against Lopez of Grand Island in 1:15 then had a bye then was pinned by Thompson of Hastings in 2:03

132: Tyler Masters started with a pin victory over Wall of Nebraska Christian in 1:37 then pinned Glore of Hastings in 4:00 then was pinned by Rogers of Kearney Catholic in 2:24 then won by total falls 16-0 over Hodges of Elm Creek then pinned Olesen of Bertrand in 1:59 to place third overall

138: Brody Patterson opened with a pin victory over Trampe of Elm Creek in 1:15 then pinned Swanson of Hastings St.Cecilia in 2:44 then pinned Woodward of Kearney Catholic in 1:31 to place first overall

144: Cauy Twohig had a bye to start round one then pinned McHargue of Nebraska Christian in 1:21 then was pinned by Freeman of Loomis in 2:45 then pinned Faeh of Nebraska Christian in 0:56 then won by total falls 15-0 over Zeckser of Hastings St.Cecilia in 2:47 to place third overall

150: Drake Ritner opened with a pin victory over Rodriguez of Grand Island in 3:09



then was pinned by Kenny of Doniphan-Trumbull in 2:40 then pinned Sims of Hastings in 0:53 then won by majority decision 10-2 over Hock of Bertrand then was pinned by Marquardt of Holdrege in 0:55

157: Brett Woollen started with a pin loss against Brown of Bertrand in 0:46 then pinned Kaslon of Doniphan-Trumbull in 3:26 then was pinned by Wells of Holdrege in 2:14

165: Gavin Ironshell had a bye to open round one then pinned Colburn of Doniphan-Trumbull in 1:01 then pinned Boeder of Nebraska Christian in 3:31 then lost by decision 2-4 against VanMatre of Kearney Catholic to place second overall

175: Damien Campbell had a bye to start round one then pinned Wood of Hastings in 0:42 then was pinned by Meyer of Loomis in 0:56 then pinned Wasonga of Nebraska Christian in 2:00 then was pinned by Pople of Holdrege in 2:39 to place fourth overall

190: Jacob Jezbera opened with a pin win over Holen of Holdrege in 3:19 then pinned Lopez of Grand Island in 1:57 then won by decision 13-6 over Huls of Meridian to place first overall

285: Craig Bunger opened with a pin victory over Hernandez of Elm Creek in 1:23 then was pinned by Sones of Meridian in 0:16 then was pinned by Hickman in 1:00

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Wildcats Hit The Mats at Ord

PHIL SERRONE

The Axtell boys wrestling team competed at the Ord Invitational on Jan. 30. This was the final invite to refine the team's mat skills before the Fort Kearney Conference tournament this week in Amherst.

As a team, the Wildcats finished 14th overall out of 17 schools with a team score of 29. Battle Creek, Burwell and Gibbon finished as the top three schools.

Nick Dahl (25-19) had the best showing amongst the Wildcats, as he competed in five matches and finished 3-2 for a fifth place medal. Dahl collected two pin fall victories while earning fifth place due to a medical forfeit. Luke Abbott placed fifth overall at the 113 lb. weight division.

Connor L'Heureux did not place but he did add two victories to bring his total on the season to 18. Chase Nickel won his opening match with a pinfall over West of Battle Creek in 5:10.

Axtell will travel to Amherst High School on Feb. 5 with the hopes of proving their mat skills are amongst the

FKC's best. We will have a full recap on how each wrestler performed in next week's paper!

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

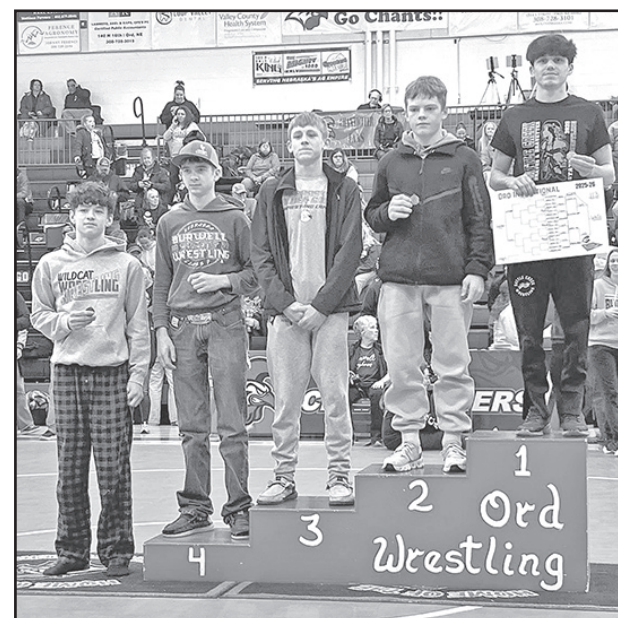
106: Chase Nickel started with a pin victory over West of Battle Creek in 5:10 then was pinned by Stusse of Battle Creek in 1:19 then had a bye then was pinned by Otte of Gordon-Rushville in 2:47

113: Luke Abbott opened with a pin loss against Ferris of Burwell in 3:47 then lost by total falls 0-16 against Clark of Sandhills-Thedford in 3:05 then lost by total falls 0-15 against Wells of Battle Creek in 2:42 then was pinned by Schirmer of Ravenna in 4:40 to place fifth overall

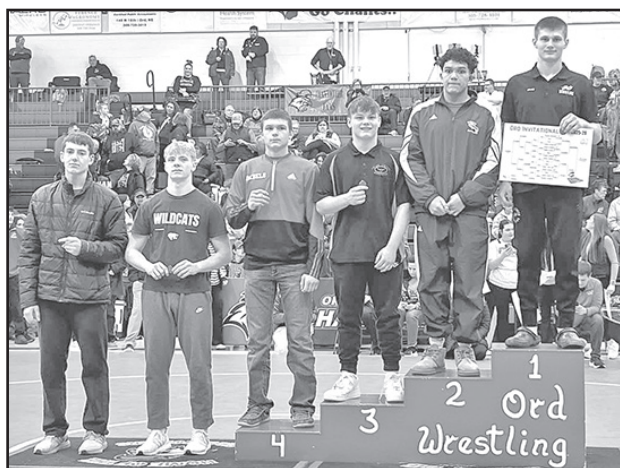
132: Connor L'Heureux opened with a pin victory over Conner of Arcadia-Loup City in 1:42 then was pinned by Jensen of Burwell in 0:31 then pinned Adams of Ravenna in 2:39 then was pinned by Shane of West Houl in 1:27

144: Samuel Kindschuh started with a pin loss against Freeman of Loomis in 0:58 then was pinned by Aguilar Rodriguez of Centura in 2:42

157: Nick Dahl started with a bye then was pinned by Thoene of Burwell in 5:19 then pinned Corbin of Ansley-Litchfield in 0:41 then pinned Finney of Broken Bow in 2:42 then lost by total falls 1-17 against Einspahr of Chase County in 3:46 then won by medical forfeit to place fifth overall



Axtell boys wrestling team competed at a tough invitational held at Ord High School on Jan. 30. The team placed 14th overall and collected two individual medalist. Pictured: (above) Luke Abbott placed fifth overall at the 113 lb. weight class. (below) Nick Dahl placed fifth overall at the 157 lb. weight division. (Courtesy photos)



Lady Whippets End Regular Season Dual With Loss

PHIL SERRONE

Closing out the regular season for dual matchups, the Lady Whippets wrestling team traveled to Lexington High School for an invitational on Jan. 29.

Five years ago, Lexington and Minden were some of the first schools to get involved when the sport was sanctioned in Nebraska sporting some of the larger teams in the state. Numerous accolades have followed since then such as the duals state championship from last season.

While this was a full circle moment for both programs, it was Lexington celebrating at the end of the dual after defeating Minden 13-66.

Overall a total of seven matches took place in front of the Lexington crowd with the Lady Whippets finishing 2-5. Victoria Hansen moved up in her respective weight class and collected a 11-0 majority decision victory over Cohetero. Ashlyn Zerr won a hard fought contest by decision edging her opponent by one point 6-5.

Here are the following results from Minden Girls vs Lexington:

- 100: Ella Warburton won by forfeit
- 110: Ashlyn Zerr won by decision 6-5 over Ramirez
- 120: McKinley Segelke lost by pin against Mendoza in 4:59
- 125: Myka Petersen lost by pin against Diaz in 1:21
- 130: Brinley Pohl was pinned by Aguirre in 5:20
- 140: Victoria Hansen won by majority decision 11-0 in Cohetero
- 145: Cristal Gonzalez was pinned by Church in 1:41
- 155: Annika Soelberg was pinned by Guajardo in 2:00
- Bonus Matches:
- 155: Zoey Seiler pinned D.Becerra in 2:00
- 155: Autumn Johnson won by decision 7-6 over D.Becerra

RHYNALDS Auction & Realty LLC

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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



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



1461 S. Lexington - Hastings
Commercial Property



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



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



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



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



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



2305 Home St. - Hastings
3 Bed, 2 Bath, 3 car garage

Minden Boys Fall to McCook, Top Bow

ROGER HANSEN

Minden's boys dropped one and won one in the SWC Tournament on January 27 and 29. The Whippets fell at McCook 64-74 on Tuesday and returned home to defeat Broken Bow 52-49 on Thursday. Through the end of January the boys' record is 11-6.

Minden and McCook waged a competitive battle for three-plus periods. The Bison led 20-19 after one quarter and still led by one in a lower scoring second period, 31-30, at halftime.

The Whippets ended the third quarter ahead 48-47 and were hoping to stay in the lead and defeat the team that had beaten them a couple of weeks earlier by 16. McCook put 27 on the board on the fourth and, although the Whippets were scoring pretty well, it wasn't enough to keep pace.

The Whippets were 25-51 (6-20 on 3s) for 49% from the floor and 8-11 on FTs. They had 9 offensive and 23 defensive rebounds, 17 assists, 3 steals and 19 turnovers.

Luke Grollmes got 18 points, 6 rebounds and 4 assists, Traelin Christensen had 16 points and 9 rebounds and Luke Craig got 10 points and 8 rebounds. Landon Bules supplied 8 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists and 2 blocks and Cole Schwenka tossed in 7 points and dished 5 assists. Jackson Armstrong added 5 points and 2 rebounds.

Minden	19	11	18	16-	64	(10-6)
McCook	20	11	16	27-	74	(13-3)

WHIPPETS- Grollmes 18, Christensen 16, Craig 10, Bules 8, Schwenka 7, Armstrong 5

Minden won the consolation game in thrilling fashion when Christensen took an under-basket throw-in and, all in one motion, hit the game-winner off the backboard from close range.

The Whippets led for the entirety of the contest, never by more than seven, until the Indians tied it at 48-48 at 1:20 of the fourth and again 49-49 at 0:27.

Minden had possession and, after a timeout, eventually had the aforementioned inbounds, which was converted perfectly.

The Whippets had quarter leads of 18-17, 28-25 and 44-37.

Christensen and Craig were big in the first quarter scoring eight and seven, respectively.

Christensen and Bules each made a threeball in the second.

Grollmes and Craig scored four each in the third and Christensen and Cole Schwenka both arced in a three in that period.

Minden scored enough in the fourth to vanquish the Indians, thanks to the late heroics. There was actually less than a second left on the clock after Christensen's bucket, but Broken Bow attempted a full-court pass which was touched by no-one and Minden got the ball back under its own basket again. Grollmes was needlessly fouled on the inbounds and he made one of two FTs to account for the final three-point difference.

The Whippets were 20-48 (7-25 on 3s) for 41% on FGs and 5-10 on FTs. They had 8 offensive and 12 defensive rebounds, 15 assists, 3 steals and 14 turnovers.

Christensen had 18 points, 4 rebounds and 5 assists and Craig had 15 points, 3 rebounds and 4 blocks. Grollmes tallied 10 plus 5 rebounds and 4 assists and Bules got 6 points, 7 rebounds and 3 assists.

Broken Bow	17	8	12	12-	49	(6-11)
Minden	18	10	16	8-	52	(11-6)

WHIPPETS- Christensen 18, Craig 15, Grollmes 10, Bules 6, Schwenka 3

Ogallala defeated Cozad for the SWC championship and McCook beat Gothenburg for third place.



Minden boys basketball placed fifth overall in the SWC tournament. The team lost their opening round game against McCook but bounced back with a close win over Broken Bow. Pictured: Luke Craig shoots a floater over the defense. (Courier photo by Phil Serrone)

Falcons Basketball Stays Busy

PHIL SERRONE

Getting back to the court this past week was the Wilcox-Hildreth boys basketball team as the Falcons competed in a three-game home stand beginning on Jan. 27 against Silver Lake.

After that matchup, the boys had some rest before facing off against Franklin on Jan. 30 followed by round one of the FKC tournament against Axtell on Jan. 31.

In the Silver Lake matchup, the Falcons were defeated by four points with a final score of 37-41. The difference maker in the game came early as Wil-Hil's offense was limited to one point in the first period. Wilcox-Hildreth's offense got back on track in the second quarter outpacing the Mustangs 13-6.

Heading into the second half, it was even terms of output for both clubs with a 11-14 differential in the third quarter followed by 12-12 output in the fourth.

Luke Lush finished with a season-high for points with 10 points. Landon Lienemann and Thomas Donley tied with one another with eight points. Drew Blank collected six points while Kaleb Johnson added five points. No other stats were provided.

Wilcox-Hildreth dominated Franklin in front of a loud home crowd by a score of 60-34. The Falcons scored no

less than 13 points in all four quarters and had six players score six or more points.

Donley was superb all evening as the senior led the Falcons in scoring with 16 points total. Lienemann added 12 points including two made three-pointers. Drew Blank scored nine points while senior Jacob Beck knocked down two three-pointers producing eight points on the scoreboard. No other stats were provided.

On Feb. 3, the Falcons faced off against Elm Creek in the FKC quarterfinals after the team took down Axtell in the opening round on Jan. 31. If the team is victorious, they will compete at Kearney Catholic on Feb. 6-7. We will have a full recap from the FKC tournament in next week's paper!

Here are the stats from Wilcox-Hildreth vs Silver Lake:
Points: Luke Lush 10, Landon Lienemann 8, Thomas Donley 8, Drew Blank 6, Kaleb Johnson 5

Here are the stats from Wilcox-Hildreth vs Franklin:
Points: Donley 16, Lienemann 12, Blank 9, Jacob Beck 8, Johnson 7, Cody Schriener 6, Sutton Strong 2

Indians Cut Lady Whippets' Time in SWC Tourney Short

ROGER HANSEN

Minden's girls went 1-1 in the Southwest Conference Tournament in two games played at Minden on January 27 and 29 losing to Broken Bow and topping McCook.

On Tuesday, a good start to the game unfortunately did not translate to a win for the Whippets as Broken Bow defeated Minden 51-40 in the quarterfinals.

The Whippets bolted to a 16-5 lead a little over five minutes into the game. Myla Emery got Minden going with a two and a three then Kaleigh Carr scored 8 points in about a minute on three consecutive possessions and shortly thereafter Lauren Starkey canned a three. But then over the last two minutes of the first quarter and nearly six minutes into the second period the Indians used a 15-2 run to go on top 20-18. A bucket by KayLynn Jorgensen in the waning seconds of the opening period was Minden's only points during that dry spell and another Jorgensen two-pointer broke the dry spell at 2:12 Of the second.

In the last minute before halftime Jorgensen drilled a three and Carr hit a two to give the Whippets a 25-22 halftime lead.

The teams traded leads in the third quarter. Minden was up four, 30-26, at 2:53 but by the end of the third Broken Bow led 33-32.

The Whippets briefly led seconds into the fourth period on two Riley Eden FTs, but from there the game slipped away. The Indians led 42-38 at 3:33, however they made

six FTs and a three down the stretch to pull away and advance in the tourney.

Minden was 13-38 (6-21 on 3s) for 34% on FGs and 8-10 on FTs. The team had 4 offensive and 21 defensive rebounds, 12 assists, 7 steals and 15 turnovers.

Carr achieved her first double-double with 12 points, 11 rebounds and 2 steals. Emery had 8 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals. Jorgensen got 7 points, 3 rebounds and 4 assists and Eden had 7 points, 2 rebounds and 2 assists. Starkey had 3 points and 2 assists and Rhynalds scored 3.

Broken Bow	14	8	11	18-	51 (12-6)
Minden	18	7	7	8-	40 (10-6)

WHIPPETS- Carr 12, Emery 8, Eden 7, Jorgensen 7, Rhynalds 3, Starkey 3

A very even contest went the Whippets way in the consolation game of the tourney on Thursday as Minden defeated McCook 46-42.

Minden trailed for just 30 seconds in the game and that was three minutes into the fourth quarter.

In the opening period Jorgensen knocked down two treys, Emery scored seven and Carr four helping Minden to a 15-10 lead.

In the second quarter, Jorgensen swished another three

and Emery scored five as the Whippets, who had three leads of ten, led at halftime 27-20.

Rhynalds got Minden going in the third with a FT and a bucket early in the period then Jorgensen and Emery made treys on consecutive possessions. The Whippets twice led by 10 but McCook battled back to cut Minden's lead to 38-33 by the end of the quarter.

The Bison started the fourth on a 7-0 run to lead 40-38 at 4:59. But in short order Emery made two FTs and a two-point bucket to put the Whippets up 42-40. Buckets by Eden and Emery put Minden on top 46-40 at 0:36 and the Whippets held off McCook and held on for the win.

Minden was 16-44 (6-19 on 3s) for 36% from the floor and 8-11 on FTs. There were 7 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds, 9 assists, 10 steals and 6 turnovers (none in the fourth).

Emery shone bright with 23 points, 9 rebounds, 6 steals and 4 blocks. Jorgensen scored 12 (all on 3s) and had 2 assists. Carr got 4 points and 6 rebounds, Eden had 4 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals and Rhynalds got 3 points, 3 rebounds and 4 assists.

McCook	10	10	13	9-	42 (5-12)
Minden	15	12	11	8-	46 (11-6)

WHIPPETS- Emery 23, Jorgensen 12, Carr 4, Eden 4, Rhynalds 3

Lady Falcons Come Up Short in Trio of Games

PHIL SERRONE

It was a tough outing of games for the Wilcox-Hildreth girls basketball team as the Lady Falcons were defeated in all three games this past week including the first round of the FKC tournament.

Kicking off a three-game home stand for the Lady Falcons was a matchup against Silver Lake on Jan. 27. The Mustangs overwhelmed Wilcox-Hildreth on the offensive and defensive side of the ball cruising to a 22-43 win.

Starting off the game, Silver Lake held the Lady Falcons to five first half points while putting up 29 points on their side of the court. Wilcox-Hildreth had a much better go of things in the second half where they outpaced the Mustangs 17-14. A small victory for the team came in the fourth quarter where the Lady Falcons defense shutout Silver Lake.

Cheyenne Lieb continued her strong scoring output as of late with 11 points while adding five rebounds, one assist and three steals. Chloe Johnson showed resilience on the boards as she tied with teammate Allegra Johnson for a team-high eight rebounds. Johnson also added eight points. Defensively, the Lady Falcons swiped eight steals as a unit.

On Jan. 30, the Lady Falcons were defeated by Franklin High School by a score of 22-43. The Flyers got out to a 11-

27 lead after the first half and continued that pace in the second half outsourcing Wil-Hil 11-16.

Lieb scored 13 points including four three-pointers, two rebounds, two steals and one block. Allegra Johnson and Kinley Hansen tied for the lead in rebounds with six boards. As a team, the Lady Falcons collected 22 rebounds including 11 on the offensive end.

Closing out the week, the Lady Falcons kicked off the first round of the FKC tournament against Ansley-Litchfield. This was a home contest but unfortunately home court advantage was not enough as the Lady Falcons fell 22-55.

Lieb once again finished the contest in double-digit scoring as the senior finished with 13 points, four rebounds, one assists and sunk a trio of shots beyond the arc. A.Johnson continued her strong performance down inside the paint as she secured a team-high seven rebounds. She paced the team on the defense end with two blocks and one steal.

Here are the following stats from Wilcox-Hildreth girls vs Silver Lake:

Points: Cheyenne Lieb 11, Chloe Johnson 8, Allegra Johnson 3

Rebounds: C.Johnson 8, A.Johnson 8, Lieb 5
Assists: A.Johnson 2, C.Johnson 1, Lieb 1
Steals: Lieb 3, C.Johnson 3, A.Johnson 1, Kaylan Ogier 1
Blocks: C.Johnson 1

Here are the following stats from Wilcox-Hildreth vs Franklin:

Points: Lieb 13, C.Johnson 4, A.Johnson 2, Kinley Hansen 2, Kamryn Russell 1
Rebounds: Hansen 6, A.Johnson 6, C.Johnson 3, Russell 3, Lieb 2, Ogier 2
Assists: C.Johnson 2, A.Johnson 2
Steals: Ogier 3, Lieb 2, A.Johnson 1, C.Johnson 1, Hansen 1
Blocks: Lieb 1

Here are the following stats from Wilcox-Hildreth vs Ansley-Litchfield:

Points: Lieb 13, A.Johnson 4, C.Johnson 3, Hansen 2
Rebounds: A.Johnson 7, Lieb 4, C.Johnson 4, Russell 3, Hansen 3
Assists: C.Johnson 3, Ogier 2, Lieb 1
Steals: Ogier 1, A.Johnson 1
Blocks: A.Johnson 2, Russell 1

Falcons Take Wildcats in FKC Bunny Bracket Game

ROGER HANSEN

Wilcox-Hildreth's boys topped Axtell 63-24 on January 31 in the bunny bracket game of the FKC Tournament played at Wilcox.

The Falcons moved on to play top-seeded Elm Creek on February 3 and then had at least one more contest in the tourney on February 6, both of which will be reported on next week. Axtell's next game will be at Loomis on February 10 in a regular season contest.

Wil-Hil had defeated the Cats ten days earlier and the outcome of this one was similar.

The Falcons had quarter leads of 13-2, 27-5 and 49-15. Landon Lienemann scored five

in each of the first two periods and Drew Blank and Thomas Donley tallied 7 and 6, respectively, in the 3rd quarter.

Micah Houchin scored 5 fourth period points for Axtell.

Wil-Hil made 20 2-point FGs, 6 3-pointers and was 5-10 on FTs.

The Cats converted 6 2-pointers, 3 3-pointers and were 3/8 at the FT line.

The Falcons were led by Lienemann's 16 points (3 treys), 12 points from Donley, 10 from Blank and 8 from Kaleb Johnson. Houchin paced Axtell with 8.

Axtell 2 3 10 9- 24 (1-17)

Wil-Hil 13 14 22 14- 63 (6-13)

Lady Cats Ground Flyers

ROGER HANSEN

Axtell's girls won their third in four tries lately besting Franklin 48-37 in Franklin on January 29. The Cats moved up to 7-10.

Axtell had an edge in scoring in each of the four periods with leads of 12-10, 29-23 and 40-33 before the final tally.

Emily Danburg was fantastic, racking up 32 points and scoring consistently each quarter with 9, 10, 7 and 6, respectively. She scored 31 vs. Loomis in 2024 and Lexie Eckhoff went for 32 vs. Hi-Line in 2023 for the only individual 30-point games at least since the 2013-14 season.

Your humble correspondent has no records before that, although going back many years, certainly the Osborn sisters did it many times and possibly some others did as well.

Leah Stritt pitched in 9 points and Morgan Hawkins 4.

Axtell 12 17 11 8- 48 (7-10)

Franklin 10 13 10 4- 37 (5-10)

CATS- Danburg 32, Stritt 9, Hawkins 4, Bristoll Thorell 2, Maddie Wells 1

Victory Just Out of Cats' Claws

ROGER HANSEN

Axtell's boys nearly got win number two but were edged by Franklin 48-45 on January 29 in Franklin. The Cats' record goes to 1-16.

Axtell led 12-9 after the first quarter but were down 20-21 at half and 28-31 through three periods. Both teams scored really well in the wild fourth period but the Cats came up just short.

Axtell was 17-60 (5-27 on 3s) for 28% from the field and 6-10 on FTs. The team had 14 offensive and 20 defensive rebounds, 6 assists, 9 steals and 19 turnovers.

Kyler Kolbo scored a season-high 18, including 4 3s, and had 2 rebounds and 3 steals. Reece Hunt contributed 15 points, 7 rebounds and 2 assists. David Sonnenfeld got 6 points and 6 rebounds and Easton Bergstrom added 4 points, 8 rebounds and 2 steals. Warren Myers (5), Carter Lorenz (3) and Aydan Houchin (2) each collected rebounds.

Axtell 12 8 8 17- 45 (1-16)

Franklin 9 12 10 17- 48 (3-11)

CATS- Kolbo 18, Hunt 15, Sonnenfeld 6, Bergstrom 4, Myers 2

FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH

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Kearney County Health Services Hospital Entrance
 727 East First Street, Minden, NE

Bowling Standings

Classey Lassies

1-22-26

Team Standings:	W	L
Skye's The Limit Salon	16	8
Upland Bar & Grill	15	9
Aurora Coop-Keene	14.5	9.5
Platte River BBQ	13	11
Pony Express Ford	11	13
Dobish Dumpsters	10	14
Split Happens	8.5	15.5
Larson Bros Construction	8	16

High Individual Game: Sheri Keller, 202; Deb Cavanaugh-Dorn, 192; Amber Misek, 182
 High Individual Series: Sheri Keller, 495; Deb Cavanaugh-Dorn, 489; Amanda Rasmusen, 473

High Team Game: Skye's The Limit Salon, 479; Upland Bar & Grill, 454; Larson Bros Construction, 444

High Team Series: Skye's The Limit Salon, 1275; Larson Bros Construction, 1248; Upland Bar & Grill, 1244

Sunday Mixed

1-25-26

Team Standings:	W	L
Flinstones	36	16
3 Chicks & A Stick	30	22
Lucky Dogs	29.5	22.5
Bowling Stones	29	23

Travelers 24.5 27.5
 High Individual Game, Men: Randy Durand, 199; Calvin Durand, 184; Will Wyatt, 167
 High Individual Game, Women: Amber Misek, 208; Betty Smith, 176; Sheri Wyatt & Laurie Wright, 174
 High Individual Series, Men: Randy Durand, 551; Calvin Durand, 482; Will Wyatt, 442
 High Individual Series, Women: Amber Misek, 506; Betty Smith, 453; Teresa Durand, 445
 High Team Game: Flinstones, 648; Bowling Stones, 609; Lucky Dogs, 573
 High Team Series: Flinstones, 1854; Bowling Stones, 1710; Lucky Dogs, 1635

Monday Maniacs

1-19-26

Team Standings:	W	L
Minden Exchange Bank & Trust	9	3
Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm	7	5
Children First Daycare	4	8
Budget Heating & Air	4	8

High Individual Game: Deb Dorn, 186; Ashley Osterbuhr, 176; Ashley Osterbuhr, 168

High Individual Series: Ashley Osterbuhr, 448; Deb Dorn, 448; Denise Smith, 431

High Team Game: Children First Daycare, 402; Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 388; Children First Daycare, 382

High Team Series: Children First Daycare, 1146; Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 1065; Budget Heating & Air, 1027

For the Record

Kearney County County Court

Clay M. Vanover, Axtell, leave accident-fail to furnish info-1st, fine \$200, 6 months probation, Kearney County Sheriff Officer Herrada, 8-16-25

Enrique Andrade, Shelton, COUNT I: speeding 11-15 MPH County/State, fine \$125; COUNT II: no operator's license/waiverable, fine \$75, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Scott, 11-27-25

Marllys L. Carlson, Minden, speeding 11-15 MPH County/State, fine \$125, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Singh, 1-12-26

Hayden J. Kinnaird, Mansfield, Texas, speeding 6-10 MPH County/State, fine \$75, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Lassen, 11-27-25

Moore W. Jenna, Baytown, Texas, speed-

ing 16-20 MPH County/State, fine \$200, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Bauer, 10-11-25

Monica A. Banuelos, Upland, disturbing the peace, fine \$150, Minden Police Officer Hansen, 11-11-25

Timothy J. Kenney, Minden, speeding 6-10 MPH County/State, fine \$75, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Margritz, 1-7-26

Minden Fire & Rescue

1-22-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to Western Avenue for a personal illness/weakness.

1-22-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to E. 2nd Street for an unresponsive person.

1-23-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to E. 2nd Street for a lift assist.

1-23-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to N. Nebraska Avenue for difficulty breathing.

1-27-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to S. Lincoln for an unresponsive person.

Minden
Nebraska

COMMUNITY WELLNESS CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY 2025

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to take the survey about a potential community wellness center
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Please complete survey by February 25th

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Legal Notices

NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Board of Educational Service Unit No. 11 will hold a regular board meeting at the service unit office located at 412 West 14th Avenue in Holdrege, Nebraska on Monday, February 16, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. In the event the board members are unable to meet due to inclement weather, board meeting will be offered via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/my/esu11b>. The public may attend the meeting in person or via Zoom. A current agenda of items to be brought before the Board at this meeting is available for public inspection in the office of ESU 11. Reasonable accommodations for individuals with special needs who want to attend the meeting will be provided on request if sufficient advance notice is given. Accommodations for special needs can be requested by calling the ESU 11 office, 995-6585.
Feb 5, 2026
(33) znez

NOTICE

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Minden Housing Agency has been scheduled for February 12, 2026 at 4:00 PM at the Minden Housing Agency community room, 849 East 2nd St, Minden NE. The meeting is open to the public. An agenda of said meeting is available for inspection at the Housing Agency office during normal business hours.
Feb 5, 2026
(14) znez

NOTICE NOTICE

On February 9, 2026, a meeting will be held by the Minden Public Schools at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide information about American Civics in the Minden Public Schools curriculum. If you have further questions regarding this meeting, please contact James Widdifield at (308) 832-2440.

MINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education of Minden Public Schools, a.k.a. Kearney County School District No. 50-0503, will be held on Monday, February 9, 2026 immediately after the American Civics hearing in the Minden High School Media Center. An agenda for such meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the Office of the Superintendent.
Feb 5, 2026
(35) 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, Ne-

braska 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 MEETING AXTELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Notice is hereby given that the regular meeting of the Board of Education of School District 50-0501 of Kearney County, Nebraska, a.k.a. Axtell Community School, will be held on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 8:15 a.m., in the Axtell Community School Library, which meeting will be open to the public. An agenda for such meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the Office of the Superintendent. Please email Rob Gregory, superintendent, with questions: rob.gregory@axtellwildcats.org.

Linda Almquist,
Secretary

Feb 5, 2026
(25) znez

NOTICE WILCOX-HILDRETH PUBLIC SCHOOL REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education of the Wilcox-Hildreth Public School, a.k.a. Kearney County School District No. 50-0001 of Kearney County, Nebraska will be held on the 16th day of February, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wilcox-Hildreth Conference Room in Wilcox. An agenda for such meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the office of the Superintendent.

By: Board of Education
Wilcox-Hildreth Public
School

Feb 5, 2026
(24) znez

NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING VILLAGE PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Wilcox Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on February 17, 2026 at the hour of 7:00 P.M. at the Village of Wilcox Office at 107 West Sapp Street, which is open to the public. The purpose of the hearing is to consider a proposed subdivision of two tracts of land

located in:
Part of Block Fourteen (14), Original Town of Wilcox and part of Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section Thirty-one (31), Township Five (5) North, Range Sixteen (16) West of the 6th P.M., Kearney County, Nebraska.

A survey of the property to be subdivided is available for public inspection at the office of the Village Clerk during regular business hours. All interested persons may appear and be heard.

Dated this 27th day of January, 2026

/s/Melinda Ferree,
Village Clerk

Feb 5, 2026
(38) znez

NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Wilcox Board of Trustees will hold

a public hearing on February 17, 2026 at the hour of 7:30 P.M. at the Village of Wilcox Office at 107 West Sapp Street, which is open to the public. The purpose of the hearing is to consider a proposed subdivision of two tracts of land located in:

Part of Block Fourteen (14), Original Town of Wilcox and part of Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section Thirty-one (31), Township Five (5) North, Range Sixteen (16) West of the 6th P.M., Kearney County, Nebraska.

A survey of the property to be subdivided is available for public inspection at the office of the Village Clerk during regular business hours. All interested persons may appear and be heard.

Dated this 27th day of January, 2026

/s/Melinda Ferree,
Village Clerk

Feb 5, 2026
(38) znez

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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 (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**NOTICE OF
ORGANIZATION OF
NEBRASKA DUNES, LLC**

Notice is hereby given that Nebraska Dunes, LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company, has been organized pursuant to the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act. The designated office of the Company is: 592 S Road, Axtell, NE 68924 The registered agent of the Company is: Nate Hartman, whose registered office is located at 5340 W 62nd Street, Kearney, NE 68845. The general nature of the business to be transacted by the Company is to engage in any lawful business for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The Company became effective on January 12, 2026, and will have perpetual duration unless otherwise provided in its operating agreement. Dated this 15th day of January, 2026.

Name of Organizer:
/s/Lane Claussen
Lane Claussen, Member of
Nebraska Dunes, LLC,
Jan 22, 2026
Jan 29, 2026
Feb 5, 2026
(39) znez



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NOTICE**NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
OF LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been organized under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act, the following-named limited liability company: C2 TRUCKING LLC. The street and mailing address of the initial designated office is 129 S Nance Ave., Minden, Kearney County, Nebraska 68959. Collin S. Choquette is the initial agent at such address for purposes of service of process. The limited liability company commenced on January 12, 2026, and shall have perpetual existence. Dated: January 12, 2026

C2 TRUCKING LLC,
A Nebraska Limited
Liability Company.
By/s/ Andrew S. Olson
Andrew S. Olson, Bar No.
26841
Dier, Osborn & Cox, P.C.,
L.L.O.
Attorneys at Law
419 East Avenue,
P.O. Box 586
Holdrege, NE 68949-0586
Phone: (308) 995-8621
Fax: (308) 995-6062
aolson@doelaw.net

Jan 22, 2026
Jan 29, 2026
Feb 5, 2026
(38) znez



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HELP WANTED

STAFF ENGINEER – SPEARFISH, SD. Responsible for CAD activities, engineering support (office/

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



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Marse McCann-Carpenter,
DDS
309 N Minden Ave
(308) 832-1010



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