



A Second Look at 2025 Summer Headlines

CINDY RAMSEY

As our readers return to work and school after the holidays, the Minden Courier invites you to reflect on warmer days and the people, events, and news that made headlines in the summer of 2025. Read on for a look at the highlights of Kearney County from May through August of 2025.

May

The Lady Whippets team of Brielle Boudreau, Madi Morey, Sawyer Grotrian and Aclynn Osterbuhner broke the school freshmen record in the 4x800 during the GINW Invitational with a time of 10:39.23 surpassing the previous record of 10:44.6 from 2006 by Sadie Jons, Sarah Nielsen, Brittany Chramosta and Laura Fritson.

The Minden Opera House Board of Directors hosted a week-end of activities to celebrate its 25th anniversary. The Silver Celebration included a 'Cheers to 25 Years' event with desserts, recognitions, wine tasting, and entertainment as well as a Family Fun Day with sidewalk chalk, games, music, food trucks, Nebraska artist displays, guided tours, and performance by 'Oh My Gosh It's Josh!'.

MPS Business Manager Jeremy Knajdl was awarded the Nebraska Association of School Business Officials 2025 Outstanding Business Official of the Year Award. This award recognizes individuals who have exhibited outstanding and visionary leadership in school business management.

One dozen Minden High School athletes qualified for the State Track & Field Meet. The Whippets brought home medals in six events, three each on the boys' and girls' sides.

The Axtell boys track and field team was the Class D State runner-up. The Cats' medal haul included two golds, three silvers and three bronzes. Senior Luc Lopez repeated as the 'D' 800 meter champ and senior Jake Halvorsen earned gold in the 110 hurdles. Additionally, three Axtell school records were set at the meet.

June

A new entrance sign was installed at Harold Warp Pioneer Village. The original arrow pointing visitors to the museum's entrance had been destroyed the previous fall, but volunteers from RV Friends built and hung a new sign as one of their most recent contributions to Pioneer Village.

Warm, sunny weather provided a perfect day for the Minden Chamber of Commerce Dawg Days event. Residents hunted down deals at citywide garage sales in the morning before



The summer months of 2025 were full of celebrations and achievements in Kearney County. The Minden Opera House celebrated its 25th anniversary in May with two days of events including a performance by 'Oh My Gosh It's Josh!'. The circus performer also performed at area libraries and Harold Warp Pioneer Village while he was in town. (Courier file photo)

Weather Forecast

| | | |
|----------|-------|--|
| Jan. 9: | 42/23 | |
| Jan. 10: | 39/19 | |
| Jan. 11: | 43/29 | |
| Jan. 12: | 53/28 | |
| Jan. 13: | 50/29 | |
| Jan. 14: | 52/28 | |
| Jan. 15: | 52/28 | |



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Letter to the Editor

AI and The Future of Education, by Bennett Johnson

I recently read an article on Artificial Intelligence and education. In the nutshell, the article encouraged educators to focus on teaching and fostering “durable skills” over technical skills that become obsolete in very short order. Durable skills include things like foundational literacies (reading, writing, math), problem solving, collaboration, creativity, cognitive and thinking skills, relationship building, communication skills, work ethic, self-management, physical fitness and organizational skills. In all 475 skills were identified as foundational skills that students need to master for success in a world that is changing at the speed of light. The article suggested that these skills take priority over memorization of fact or technical skills- both of which as easily accessed through technology and are subject to obsolescence. In short, durable skills are those that are enduring, emphasize qualities that are uniquely human and are not subject to obsolescence by changes in technology.

The article got me thinking about the classroom of the future. What will it look like? What kinds of people will be effective teachers? And how will they teach durable skills over simple acquisition of fact? To that end, I think schools of the future may look very much like the farm where I grew up.

As a young girl, I loved music. I inherited an old violin from my uncle, and somehow my parents managed to scrape together enough money for lessons. By the time I was eleven I'd become interested in branching out to guitar and mandolin. Musical instruments, however, aren't cheap. I saved some money by babysitting, but that wasn't enough. So, my father helped me learn how to build things to sell. He would front the money to purchase materials or old things that needed repair. I would do the work, put the item up for sale and then pay him back with the proceeds. The profit, which was mine to keep, quickly turned into a growing collection of musical instruments.

Consider the number of durable skills I learned through this activity, not the least of which was how to find a solution to a problem that had initially looked hopeless.

When I was older my father taught me how to do body and fender and light mechanical work on cars. I turned those skills into a small car flipping business, which put me through college. The skills I learned included sourcing, marketing, negotiating, time management, logistics -- all of which have served me more throughout my life than my degree from the University of Oregon!

I have always been grateful that my parents provided me with tools to achieve my goals rather than simply funding my aspirations. As we journey into a technical era that increasingly moves at speeds we cannot comprehend, it would seem that this hands-on, sink-or-swim approach to learning is not only valuable but is fundamental and critical to our future.

2025 Goodfellows Final Recap For This Christmas Season

PRESS RELEASE

The Kearney County Goodfellows have concluded their Christmas drive for this year. The final total for this season is \$5,422.27. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the people that this program has helped.

The Goodfellows want to compliment the support from the Axtell Community School and Minden East Elementary School for their canned food drive and Axtell Community School for Toys For Tots. Super Job!

Kearney County Goodfellows provided 85 families with a Christmas food box thanks to everyone's generosity.

Nebraska Awards 1,197 Degrees in December Ceremonies

PRESS RELEASE

LINCOLN, NE - The University of Nebraska-Lincoln conferred 1,197 degrees during commencement exercises Dec. 19 and 20 at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

The 1,175 graduates are from 44 countries, 39 U.S. states and 140-plus Nebraska communities. Chancellor Rodney D. Bennett presided over the ceremonies.

Following is a list of area graduates, listed alphabetically by hometown, with their college(s) and degree(s).

Heartwell: Elizabeth Cole, Graduate Studies, Master of Education.

Kearney: Hannah Godwin, College of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Science with distinction.

Kearney: Taylor Jo Hosick, College of Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering.

Minden: Evan Smith, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Bachelor of Science in Agronomy.

For the full list of December graduates, visit <https://go.unl.edu/grads-dec25>.

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Weather Recap

| Date | High | Low | Precip. |
|------------------------|------|-----|---------|
| 12/27/25 | 59 | 37 | - |
| 12/28/25 | 47 | 22 | .4 |
| 12/29/25 | 31 | 18 | - |
| 12/30/25 | 47 | 19 | - |
| 12/31/25 | 49 | 26 | - |
| 1/1/26 | 32 | 26 | - |
| 1/2/26 | 38 | 29 | - |
| Total Week Precip..... | 0.40 | | |

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.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters must be signed and contain writer's contact information for verification. Phone numbers are not published. Letters may be sent via email.

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heading downtown to the square for bounce houses, vendors, games, food, dog parade, and pin pong ball drop in the afternoon.

Minden Gun Club hosted an open house to celebrate the new clubhouse and all of the recent improvements made at the club. Attendees were able to participate in an open shoot, enjoy refreshments, and socialize with friends.

Minden's newest police sergeants, David Graham and Logan Shrader, received their sergeant pins during a Minden City Council meeting. The officers' families were honored to help the new sergeants during the pinning ceremony.

July

Recent Minden grads Kara Suchsland and Brynn Smith played in the annual Nebraska Lions High School All-Star Golf Tournament. Kara claimed the championship by 18 strokes while Brynn placed fifth.



An open house event was held at Kearney County courthouse to celebrate the retirement of County Clerk Myra Johnson after 38 years with the County. Jenni Lupkes was then sworn in as Kearney County Clerk for the remainder of the current term.

Wilcox-Hildreth teacher Nurita Lambert was recognized as the Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers of Nebraska Teacher of the Year. Lambert taught at Wilcox-Hildreth School for 31 years using innovative techniques to engage students in classroom and leadership activities.

Area youth starred in the Missoula Children's Theatre production of

'Hercules!' at Minden Opera House. The young actors portrayed Zeus, Hera, Hercules, Helen of Troy, Pegasus, Cyclopes, Titans, Grecians and more in the fun filled musical.

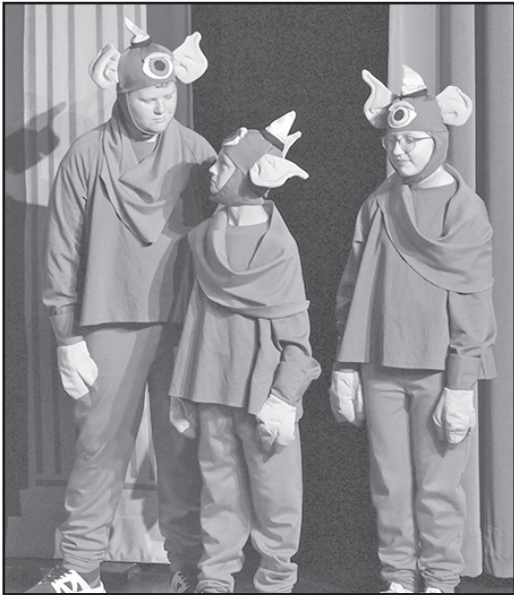
August

New C.L. Jones Middle School Principal Nathan Strasburg and his family (wife) Kylea, (son) Barrett, (daughters) Beighlor and Breckyn prepared for the new school year. The family moved from Phillipsburg, Kansas and settled in Minden over the summer. They were excited to make Nebraska's Christmas City their home, hopefully for the rest of their careers.

2025 MHS graduate Aliena Osterbuhr completed a mural on the north side of a storage building at Jensen Memorial Library and a star and logo on the west side of the building. The image is an original design by Osterbuhr that adds color and fun to the otherwise plain siding.

Harold Warp Pioneer Village hosted a grand reopening ribbon cutting ceremony for the museum's 1800s carousel. The Village was flooded with residents and visitors of all ages for the event. Attendees were able to take a ride on the carousel for the first time in many years.

New gates and archways built by MPS students were installed at Kuper Field. The design was created by retired Industrial Tech Instructor Rick Chramosta and made a reality by the team effort of students, staff, and area businesses.



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SOLD
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Twelve Facts About Law Enforcement

PRESS RELEASE

Law enforcement professionals are in the business of keeping people safe and secure. People from all walks of life work in law enforcement, where careers include dispatchers, crime scene technicians and police chiefs. The law enforcement field is vast and interesting, and the following are 12 facts about those who protect and serve, courtesy of Fact Retriever, Kiddle, the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, and the Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund.

1. In 1916, Georgia Ann Robinson became the first African American police woman.

2. Law enforcement agencies are still staffed primarily with men. However, about 12 percent of sworn law enforcement officers in the U.S. are women.

3. The deadliest day in law enforcement history was on September 11, 2001. Seventy-two officers were killed while responding to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and other locations.

4. Police are trained in first aid and rescue because they usually

are the first to arrive on the scene of an emergency.

5. The police are known by different names in other countries. In Ireland, for example, they are known as the Garda.

6. Police in the United States cannot make an arrest without probable cause and the intent to prosecute.

7. The vast majority of Americans (71 percent) are satisfied with local police.

8. Most cops (95 percent) never fire their service weapons on duty during their entire careers.

9. 99.9 percent of police calls are resolved peacefully.

10. In colonial America, law enforcement officers had less authority and personnel and were not effective at apprehending criminals. The church congregation would hold trials to "catch" criminals.

11. The first policing organization was created in Egypt around 3000 BCE. However, Nicolas de la Reynie was the first Lieutenant General of the Paris police, and his views on law enforcement were

used to form the basis for modern police forces.

12. Only about one-third of a police officer's time is spent actually enforcing crime. Officers spend the majority of their time maintaining the peace and solving problems.

First Responders Appreciation Event

The Minden Evangelical Free Church will host a First Responders Appreciation Event on Saturday, January 10th from 9-11am at Windmill Studios, 521 N. Colorado Avenue. The community is invited to stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee, a roll, or a muffin, and show your gratitude to the individuals who play a vital role in public safety. Law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and dispatchers are asked to attend so the community can show their thanks.

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Sgt. Clair Berger (#4521), Chief Elmer Fitzke (#452)

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NATIONAL
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APPRECIATION
DAY
JANUARY 9

MINDEN
courier

KCHS Earns Special Recognition as an Age-Friendly Health System

PRESS RELEASE

Minden, NE – Announced recently, as part of the Age-Friendly Health Systems movement, Kearney County Health Services has achieved special recognition as an Age-Friendly Health System committed to Care Excellence in our ongoing efforts to ensure age-friendly care for all older adults we serve.

Over the last three months, we have collected data about the count of older adults who received a set of evidence-based elements of high-quality care, known as the 4Ms: What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility. We are excited to continue our ongoing commitment towards reliable practice of the 4Ms.

More than 5,200 hospitals, practices, convenient care clinics, nursing homes, and home health care organizations have been recognized as Age-Friendly Health Systems – Committed to Care Excellence. Kearney County Health Services is proud to join the growing ranks of these organizations in putting the 4Ms into practice. Globally, more than 5,470,000 older adults have been reached with 4Ms care.

“Our commitment to sharing data and learning only grows stronger as we further our efforts to improve care delivery for those most in need. We continue to strive toward reliable implementation of age-friendly best practices across emergency departments, intensive care units, medical-surgical units, general wards, and primary and specialty care settings.”

Small Town, Big Impact

Minden's Chili & Cinnamon Roll Cook-Off Helps Orphans in Zambia

PRESS RELEASE

Get your aprons ready and your taste buds fired up! The community is invited to the Zambian Mission Project Chili & Cinnamon Roll Cook-Off, happening Sunday, February 2, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Windmill Studios in Minden.

This much-loved event is back—and spicier than ever! After several years of hosting auctions, organizers decided to stir things up with something fresh, fun, and delicious. Drawing inspiration from the success of past MOPS cook-offs, the Chili & Cinnamon Roll Cook-Off was re-introduced and has quickly become a small-town favorite with a global purpose.

Last year, thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we raised \$4,300 for the Zambia Orphancare Project. This year, our goal is to surpass \$4,500—and we believe this little town can do it again.

The Heart Behind the Heat

Our passion for orphancare in Zambia began in 2015, when Sandwell Zgambo, a Zambian seminary student studying in Chicago, spent a summer internship with our church. Sandwell had been an orphan himself, and through his story, we caught his vision.

In Zambia—a country of 16 million people—there are over one million orphans. The region where we built our orphancare center, located two hours west of Lusaka, had no one else providing care or hope for these children. That's why we're committed to walking alongside them—meeting physical needs, teaching trades that lead to self-sufficiency, and, most importantly, introducing them to the life-changing love of Jesus Christ.

From the heart of Nebraska's small-town community to the heart of Africa, Minden is proving that generosity has no borders. Each bowl of chili, each sweet cinnamon roll, and every dollar raised

ripples thousands of miles away—offering hope, education, and a future to children once forgotten.

Our long-term vision is to see the orphancare center become self-sustaining, fueled by local businesses that provide income, skills, and dignity to those once orphaned. And it all begins right here—with a town that believes even the smallest acts of kindness can reach across oceans.

Join the Fun — Compete or Come Hungry!

Do you have the best chili recipe in town? A cinnamon roll so good it could make Grandma proud? Then it's time to put your culinary skills to the test!

Competitors will battle for the coveted title of Chili King or Queen (and bragging rights for an entire year). Attendees will enjoy all-you-can-sample chili and cinnamon rolls, fellowship, and the joy of knowing every bite helps change lives in Zambia.

Event Details:

Date: Sunday, February 2, 2026

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Windmill Studios, Minden, NE

Goal: Raise \$4,500+ for the Zambia Orphan-care Center

For more information or to enter your chili or cinnamon rolls, contact Frank Kovacs at 308.627.8147. Also, for information about the ZMP visit: zambianmissionproject.org or facebook.com/zambianmissionproject.

About the Zambian Mission Project:

Since 2015, the Zambian Mission Project has been dedicated to providing orphancare, education, and spiritual guidance to children in Zambia. Through sustainable ministry, vocational training, and gospel outreach, this partnership between Minden and Zambia is proof that when a small town comes together with big faith, lives can be changed across the world.

“Kearney County Health Services has always been committed to care excellence and is proud and humbled to have achieved this external recognition” said Kendra Brown, Chief Nursing Officer of Kearney County Health Services “The Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative continues to be an important part of our overarching vision to provide every older adult with the best care possible. Above all, we aim every day to earn recognition of excellence from the older adults and carers whom we serve. This partnership with our community is our guiding star.”

“I applaud the team at Kearney County Health Services for continuing your journey to advance age-friendly care. Age-Friendly Health Systems and IHI celebrate your recognition as an Age-Friendly Health System — Committed to Care Excellence,” said Camille Burnett, PhD, MPA, APHN-BC, BScN, RN, DSW, FAAN, Vice President for Health Equity, Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

Burnett continued, “We know that older adults and staff alike want equitable, evidence-based quality care centered on what matters most to each individual. Together, we can move toward a future in which every older adult, during every care interaction, receives age-friendly care. Thank you for all that you do to improve care for our neighbors, colleagues, and friends.”

Age-Friendly Health Systems is an initiative of The John A. Hartford Foundation and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), in partnership with the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the Catholic Health Association of the US (CHA). For more information, visit www.ihl.org/agefriendly.

WELLNESS VISITS

Now is a great time to schedule your annual wellness visits!



KEARNEY COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES



- Preventative Healthcare/Screenings
- Women's Health Services
- Well-Child Visits & Immunizations
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Potter's Wheel

By Lori Potter

There always was something interesting to read at my family's farmhouse southeast of Wilcox during my childhood.

Most books came from the bookmobile that made regular stops at school. We also had a small bookcase in our living room with 20-plus alphabetized volumes of the World Book Encyclopedia, the Google technology of that time.

I don't know if my parents purchased the encyclopedia before or after an elementary teacher told them that my brother James, who loved reading and history, was so bored in class that he was reading the classroom's encyclopedia. He then was allowed to get books from the junior-senior high library.

I preferred to read newspapers - Franklin, Kearney and Lincoln - and news and feature magazines my parents subscribed to, including LIFE and National Geographic. We watched Walter Cronkite on the CBS Evening News.

I don't know if my 1960s inner child wanted to be a journalist some day, but access to current news and feature stories, history and facts throughout my teens certainly influenced my career choice.

Challenges for my parents while having two boys, James and Glen, in high school when my twin sister, Lisa, and I were in lower elementary grades included monitoring media content appropriate for both ages.

My brothers probably were told to keep National Geographics in places where their little sisters couldn't find them, especially the ones with photos of mostly naked people that illustrated stories about indigenous communities in Africa and South America. I'm pretty sure that Lisa and I found those hiding places a few times while we snooped in our brothers' upstairs bedrooms.

Mom and Dad decided at some point that it was better to tell us why the people pictured wore no clothes than to hide magazines with other interesting and educational stories.

So that's how I first learned about Jane Goodall and her studies of wild chimpanzees in Tanzania. National Geographic's first Goodall story was published in 1963. The most recent one in the December 2025 edition is a memorial after her Oct.1 death and a tribute to her world-changing contributions to science and conservation.

I never dreamed as a child (or an adult journalist) that I'd meet and write a story about

Goodall. But I did, at least twice, when she spoke at Rivers and Wildlife Conferences in Kearney during spring migration seasons.

She was introduced to the sandhill crane experience by her friend Tom Mangelsen, a Nebraska native and well-known wildlife photographer, who has a cabin along the Platte River. Goodall visited him there for 20-plus springs.

In a story I wrote for the March 17, 2008, Kearney Hub, Goodall said, "I was absolutely entranced by the whole atmosphere of the (crane) migration."

After her Kearney presentations, I waited until other reporters left the room before asking more questions about a new conservation program and/or book she was promoting and her crane viewing experiences. I wanted at least one good quote no other journalist had.

Goodall answered my questions, but gave me the impression that they were kind of lame, and that she was talking to me only because it was part of the process to promote her projects, not something she enjoyed.

I also wanted a photo of her doing something more interesting than talking at a podium. One success was a book-signing photo with a smiling girl beside her. I zoomed my camera to the book page Goodall was signing to read her message: Together we can change the world.

Most photos in the December National Geographic were taken during Goodall's early years with the chimpanzees. The story by David Quammen, who had profiled her twice before for the magazine, says she "could be curt, in the politest way, and judgmental."

Goodall certainly needed introvert qualities when spending so much alone time while observing chimpanzees.

Quammen wrote that she had no qualifications in biology and no academic degree when paleoanthropologist Louis Leakey hired her as his secretary in Kenya. So she must have been brave and self-confident to accept Leakey's challenge to gather information about chimpanzees that might lead to a better understanding of human ancestry.

I rarely read something that makes me stop, stare at the words and catch my breath, but I had such a moment while reading Quammen's December story.

Like other news reports related to Goodall's death at age 91, it says she died of natural causes. Quammen wrote that the vague phrase only means that the person was old and life is finite.

Then he added, "It's a little too negative. I think you could just as well say that she died of fulfillment."

Knowing that you've achieved something desired, promised or predicted - the definition of fulfillment - would be a wonderful way to leave Earth at any age.

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

Whippets of the Month

East Elementary



Preschool
Wayllen Rome



Wayllen is kind and thoughtful. He works hard and is a good friend to everyone. We love spending our days with Wayllen!

Kindergarten
Grace Talbert



Grace does a great job being safe by following all the expectations at East Elementary. She shows respect by being kind to all, and responsibility by working hard and participating. Keep up the amazing work, Grace!

1st Grade
Amara Hardage



Amara is a great whippet! She is always safe, respectful, responsible, and kind to everyone. She is a positive influence on peers and a joy to be around!

2nd Grade
Henley Turacek



Henley shows Whippet character all the time. She is excited about learning, is always willing to help, and shows empathy towards others. She makes school days better. Keep it up, Henley!

3rd Grade
Cecily Smock



She always has a positive attitude and knows how to brighten up anyone's day. She stays on task, gives her very best effort, and is a hard worker.

Calendars and Menus

Minden Public Schools

MENUS:

Friday, Jan. 9: BREAKFAST: Long John, cheese stick; LUNCH: Chicken enchilada, beans

Monday, Jan. 12: BREAKFAST: Scrambled eggs, hash browns; LUNCH: Chicken Alfredo, breadstick

Tuesday, Jan. 13: BREAKFAST: Bagel, cream cheese; LUNCH: Soft or hardshell beef tacos

Wednesday, Jan. 14: BREAKFAST: Breakfast pizza; LUNCH: Chicken crispito with cheese

Thursday, Jan. 15: BREAKFAST: Muffin, cheese stick; LUNCH: Goulash, garlic bread

Friday, Jan. 16: BREAKFAST: French toast, sausage links; LUNCH: Breaded pork patty, chips

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Jan. 9: ACT Registration deadline for February test; JV Girls WR @ Franklin Invite; V Girls WR @ Malcolm Invite, 3 p.m.; MS Bingo Night, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10: Speech @ Adams Central, 8 a.m.; V Boys WR @ Central City Invite, 10 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 12: Board of Education meeting; 7th/8th Boys BB @ Gothenburg, 4:30 p.m.; JV Boys WR @ Holdrege Invite, 5 p.m.; 9th Girls & Boys BB vs. Northwest, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 13: 7/8 Girls WR @ Sandy Creek Invite, 3 p.m.; V/JV Girls & Boys BB @ Ravenna, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 15: 7th Boys BB vs. Christ Lutheran, 4:30 p.m.; 8th Boys BB vs. St. Cecilia, 4:30 p.m.; V/JV Girls & Boys BB @ St. Cecilia, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 16: V Girls WR @ Ord Invite; V Boys WR Minden Invite, 3 p.m.

Axtell Community School

MENUS:

Friday, Jan. 9: LUNCH: Chicken patty sandwich, green beans OR Apple cinnamon parfait

Monday, Jan. 12: LUNCH: Mashed potato bowl, corn OR Chef salad

Tuesday, Jan. 13: LUNCH: Quesadilla, refried beans OR Crispy chicken salad

Wednesday, Jan. 14: LUNCH: Lasagna, breadstick, peas

Thursday, Jan. 15: LUNCH: Chicken strip wrap, green beans OR Cranberry, walnut & chicken salad

Friday, Jan. 16: LUNCH: Pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw OR Peach parfait

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Jan. 9: Girls WR @ Franklin Invite, 3 p.m.; JV Boys & Girls BB vs. SEM, 4:30 p.m.; Girls BB vs. SEM, 6 p.m.; Boys BB vs. SEM, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10: Boys WR @ Franklin Invite, 10 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 12: Girls WR @ Summerland; FFA meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 13: JH Girls & Boys BB vs. Kearney Catholic, 1 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 15: JV Girls & Boys BB vs. Elm Creek, 4:30 p.m.; Girls BB vs. Elm Creek, 6 p.m.; Boys BB vs. Elm Creek, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 16: State FFA Degree Applications due; Boys WR @ SEM Invite, 10 a.m.; Girls WR @ Ord Invite, 1 p.m.

Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools

MENUS:

Milk, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, fresh fruit and vegetable bar and yogurt served daily plus many more new breakfast and lunch items.

Friday, Jan. 9: BREAKFAST: Breakfast on a stick; LUNCH: Hotdogs

Monday, Jan. 12: BREAKFAST: Breakfast pizza; LUNCH: Chicken strips

Tuesday, Jan. 13: BREAKFAST: Pop Tarts; LUNCH: Tater tot casserole

Wednesday, Jan. 14: BREAKFAST: Breakfast sandwich; LUNCH: Chicken noodle soup

Thursday, Jan. 15: BREAKFAST: Frudel; LUNCH: Goulash

Friday, Jan. 16: BREAKFAST: Chocolate crescent; LUNCH: Bacon cheeseburger

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Jan. 9: FFA Chapter meeting, 7:30 a.m.; FBLA Officer meeting, 11:40 a.m.; Girls WR @ Franklin Invite, 3 p.m.; V/JV Girls & Boys BB vs. Kenesaw, 4:30 p.m.; Pep Band @ BB game, 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10: Boys WR @ Amherst Invite, 9:30 a.m.; V/JV Boys & Girls BB vs. Elm Creek, 1:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 12: Mentor/Mentee luncheon, 11 a.m.; JH Girls & Boys BB vs. Hi-Line, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 13: 7-12 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.; FBLA meeting, 11:40 a.m.; NHS Induction Ceremony, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 14: Army Recruiter on Campus, 11:40 a.m.; JH Girls & Boys BB @ Amherst, 1:30 p.m.; MTSS-B, 3:50 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 15: PK-6 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.; FCA meeting, 11:40 a.m.; Boys WR @ Loomis Triangular, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 16: HAL: Hildreth, 9:10 a.m.; Boys WR @ SEM Invite, 10 a.m.; Girls WR @ Elm Creek Invite, 10:30 a.m.; HAL: Wilcox, 12:30 p.m.; V/JV Girls & Boys BB @ Loomis, 4:30 p.m.

Community Services

Dinner Menus

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

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

Monday, Jan. 12: Creamed chicken over biscuit, green beans, fruit and dessert

Tuesday, Jan. 13: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, dinner roll and fruit

Wednesday, Jan. 14: Soup, sandwich, fruit and dessert

Thursday, Jan. 15: Pork roast, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas, dinner roll and fruit

Friday, Jan. 16: Chicken and rice casserole, beets, bread, fruit and dessert

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Do You Remember

Eighty Years Ago — 1946

Nebraska's farmers had an income of approximately 40 million dollars more from crops in 1945 than they received in 1944.

Honorably discharged veterans were informed that if they reenlisted before Feb. 1, they could retain their present grade.

Mrs. J.H. Robb reviewed the story, "The Fourth Wiseman," at the Garden Club meeting hosted by Mrs. Val Jensen.

Seventy Years Ago — 1956

Nebraska teachers voted in favor of social security coverage in addition to the regular state retirement program.

For the first time in 22 years, there was complete reciprocity between Kansas and Nebraska in the matter of truck fees.

A weather balloon and its metal box of recording instruments was picked up on the Magnar Nielsen farm six miles south of Minden. Balloons carrying recording instruments were sent out regularly from the different weather stations to learn about wind currents in the upper air temperatures.

Sixty Years Ago — 1966

Three MHS English students, Mike Finkner, Janice Coon and Jim Christensen, were winners in the National School Poetry Press Contest. Their prize winning poetry was entered by teacher Marian Dinnis.

Dale F. Mathine replaced retiring Howard Richardson as the work unit conservationist for the Kearney County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Weatherman J.P. Jensen reported that 1965 was reported as one of the five wettest years since 1878. A total of 40.35 inches of rain and snow had been recorded throughout the year.

Fifty Years Ago — 1976

The Community Center began a once-a-month program of potluck dinners for seniors 60 and over. Each participant was asked to contribute by bringing a potluck dish to the dinner.

Winners in the Voice of Democracy Contest hosted by the Axtell V.F.W. Auxiliary 7935 were Kristin Carlson, Kathy Sovereign and Paul Keyes.

California navel oranges were advertised

at 20 for \$1 at Mason's Market.

Forty Years Ago — 1986

Dorothy Vanderwerff of Hastings became the new Rural Route 2 mail carrier at the Minden Post Office. She succeeded Fred Speed who transferred to the York office.

Virginia Smith, serving her 11th year as a Nebraska Third District representative, was guest speaker at a farm meeting in Macon.

Karen J. Sorensen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Burdette Sorensen, enlisted in the Navy under the school guarantee program.

Thirty Years Ago — 1996

The Hildreth Hoop Shoot qualifiers for the Elks finals were Lacey Barrow, Kris Hendricks, Todd Bebensee, Anthony Blum, Beth Alt, Matt Fritz, Rydell Lienemann, Matt Bebensee, Angie Mahler and Rebecca Garrelts.

A crack in the side of a silo at Cargill was responsible for spilling 80,000 bushels of corn on the ground. The sharp eyes of a worker, noting the crack, resulted in the evacuation of the area before the spill occurred.

The Kearney County Hospital Board of Trustees reviewed the search for new physicians at its monthly meeting.

Twenty Years Ago — 2006

Gene Rasmussen of Minden retired from the Minden Terminal after 56 years of working in the business's parts department.

The Axtell Wildcats boys basketball team defeated Superior 51-44 to advance to the semifinals of the Franklin Holiday Tournament.

Minden High School physical education classes received two bowling sets including ball, pins, 45 foot mat, and a bag to store everything. The donation was made on behalf of the late Katie Maxon who was a school district employee.

Ten Years Ago — 2016

The Nebraska Corn Growers Association began accepting applications for a new specialty license plate that promotes Nebraska's leadership in corn production. The license plate featured a large golden ear of corn against a ready-to-harvest field and bright blue Nebraska sky. Cost for the Nebraska Corn specialty license plate was \$70, which is in addition to the standard fees for licensing one's vehicle in Nebraska.

Forty-four county officials from 25 counties received Certificates of Achievement for their participation in the Nebraska Association County Officials (NACO) Institute of Excellence. Larry Landstrom, Kearney County Commissioner was awarded a certificate by Nebraska Extension Associate Dean and Director, Dr. Wayne Moore and NACO President and Buffalo County Commissioner, Sherry Morrow.

After years of planning, organizing, and fund raising, construction of the new Wilcox Agriculture Education and FFA building was under way. The structure originally slated to sit near the track was being erected where the old bus barn was located. Sorensen Construction out of Kearney had made a good deal of progress and expected to be finished with the project by early summer.

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Church Directory

Axtell

Bethany Lutheran
903 25 Road

BethanyAxtell.org
(308) 743-2597

Marcia Dorn, Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 11: 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, Jan. 11: 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, Jan. 11: Worship service, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 14: Evening Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran, LCMC
104 E. Fifth St.

Craig Richardson, Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 11: Donuts & Juice, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study, 12:45 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 12: Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 14: High School Youth Meal/Fellowship, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 15: Church Council, 8 p.m.

Campbell

St. Anne Catholic

Father Adam Sparling, Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 11: Mass, 8 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran

360 So. Stewart

(402) 756-8552

Greg Volsky,

Vacancy Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 11: Worship, 9:30 a.m. with Sunday school to follow

United Westminster

Presbyterian

Broad and Main Street

Mark A. Diehl, Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 11: Worship, 10 a.m.

Funk

Fridhem Lutheran

401 Lake Street

Daren Popple,

Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 11: 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, Jan. 11: Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Family Catholic Mission Parish

287 Jefferson Street

Father Evan Winter

Sunday, Jan. 11: Mass, 8:30 a.m.

Hildreth

Trinity Lutheran

502 Sanders Avenue

Caroline Schenk,

Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 11: 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, Jan. 11: 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

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Macon

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Marcia Dorn, Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 11: Worship service, 9 a.m.

Minden

Bethany Lutheran

437 E. Fourth St.

Don Hunzeker, Pastor

Julie Schmidt, Parish

Ministry Associate

Thursday, Jan. 8: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10: Walking, 8 a.m.; Prayer Shawl Gathering, 9 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 11: Contemporary Worship, 8:30 a.m.; Blended-Traditional Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 12: Church Council, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 13: Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 14: Ruth Circle, 4:30 p.m.; Church Club, 5 p.m.; Wednesday Night Supper Club, 6 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 15: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m.

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

Fredericksburg

Lutheran

616 33 Road

Julie Schmidt, Parish

Ministry Associate

Don Hunzeker, Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 11: Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship Coffee 10:30 a.m.

Communion served 2nd Monday each month

Saint John The

Baptist Catholic

628 N. Garber

Father Evan Winter

Saturday, Jan. 10: Mass, 5:30 p.m., confessions before Mass

Sunday, Jan. 11: Mass, 10:30 a.m.; (in Spanish at 12:30 p.m.); confessions before Mass

St. Paul Lutheran

206 N. Colorado

Rev. William Zwick

Sunday, Jan. 11: Christian Education meeting, 8:30 a.m.; Bible Study/Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Worship, 10:15 a.m.; Foundation

meeting, 11:15 a.m.

Tuesday, LWML Bible Study, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 14: JYM 5th, 5 p.m.; Communion, 6:30 p.m.; JYM 6th-8th, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 15: Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 16: Breakfast & Prayer, 7 a.m.

United Methodist

340 N. Newell Ave.

Kayla M. Mangrich, Pastor

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

Westminster United

Presbyterian

109 N. Colorado

Sharon Rees, Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 11: 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, Jan. 11: Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion every other Sunday

United Methodist

203 S. Sapp St.

Candance Miller,

Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 11: Worship, 9 a.m.

Communion 1st Sunday every month

Wilcox Community

106 W. Detroit St.

Craig Cedar, Pastor

Affiliated with

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Sunday, Jan. 11: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Wednesdays: Awana & Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Bible Studies during the week. Check our Facebook page.

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SPORTS

Cats Take a Loss

ROGER HANSEN

Axtell's boys were bested in a pair of games at the Axtell Holiday Tournament on December 30-31 to slide to 0-9.

A veteran and unbeaten Dundy County-Stratton crew defeated the Cats 75-15 on Tuesday.

Easton Bergstrom scored four in the opening quarter and Reece Hunt four in the second. Then Kyler Kolbo knocked down a trey and Bergstrom got another two pointer in the third.

The Cats were 4-31 (including 1-17 on 3s) for 13% on FGs and 6-10 on FTs. They had 27 turnovers.

DC-S was 32-58 (5-16 on 3s) for 55% from the field and 4-9 on FTs. They had 2 turnovers.

Bergstrom led with 6 points and 4 rebounds. Hunt scored 4. David Sonnenfeld, Warren Myers and Kolbo got 4, 3 and 2 rebounds, respectively, and Aydan Houchin had 2 assists.

DC-S 23 22 17 13- 75 (7-0)

Axtell 4 5 5 1- 15 (0-8)

AXTELL- Bergstrom 6, Hunt 4, Kolbo 3, Carter Lorenz 1, David Sonnenfeld 1

Grand Island Heartland topped Axtell on Wednesday 60-22.

Axtell was 8-29 (4-16 on 3s) for 27% on FGs and 2-2 at the foul line. The team had 15 defensive and 2 offensive rebounds, 6 assists, 4 steals and 28 turnovers.

Carter Lorenz had 7 points and 2 steals and Kolbo scored 6. Hunt, Myers and Nolan wells grabbed 5, 3 and 2 rebounds, respectively, and Houchin got 2 rebounds and 2 assists.

GI Heart. 20 23 9 8- 60 (5-3)

Axtell 7 10 0 5- 22 (0-9)

AXTELL- Lorenz 7, Kolbo 6, Wells 3, Myers 2, Hunt 2, Bergstrom 2

Lady Wildcats Bounce Back

ROGER HANSEN

Axtell's girls lost on the first day but came back with a win on the second day of the Axtell Holiday Tournament on December 30-31 to go into the 2026 portion of this season's schedule with a 4-5 record.

A very athletic Dundy County-Stratton squad topped the Cats 56-16 on Tuesday.

Axtell was up 5-3 about halfway through the first period but then the Tigers went on a 20-0 run which stretched half-way into the second quarter to go on top 23-5. Maddie Wells' two free throws at 4:08 stopped the run but by halftime DC-S had completed a 28-2 run which had them ahead 31-7.

Another 9-0 Tiger run to open the third period had them up 40-7. The Cats scored on four of their final six possessions of the third to close the gap a bit. In that stretch Morgan Hawkins hit a pair of two-pointers and Emily Danburg made 3 of 4 FTs as the quarter ended with DC-S holding a 42-14 lead.

Axtell was 3-39 (0-9 on 3s) for 8% on FGs and 10-16 on FTs. The team had 27 turnovers while DC-S was 26-71 (2-16 on 3s) for 36% on FGs and 2-11 on FTs. The Tigers had 11 turnovers.

Danburg and Hawkins led with 7 and 5 points, respectively.

DC-S 13 18 11 14- 56 (7-0)

Axtell 5 2 7 2- 16 (3-5)

AXTELL- Danburg 7, Hawkins 5, Wells 3, Ashlynn Nelson 1



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The second day was much more to the Cats' liking as they defeated Chambers/Wheeler Central (CWC) 42-21.

Axtell uniformly widened the gap over the Renegades with quarter leads of 11-4, 16-6 and 34-16.

Danburg dropped in 15 points, Hawkins and Leah Stritt 7 apiece and Morgan Thorell 6.

CWC 4 2 10 5- 21 (2-6)

Axtell 11 6 17 8- 42 (4-5)

AXTELL- Danburg 15, Hawkins 7, Stritt 7, Thorell 6, Wells 4, Nelson 3

Lady Cats Trail Blue Devils 40-45

ROGER HANSEN

Axtell's girls shackled themselves with an early deficit and couldn't recover enough to overtake Kenesaw in the Blue Devils' 45-40 win over the Cats at Axtell on January 2. Axtell slid to 4-6.

Kenesaw jumped out to an 18-5 lead at the end of the first period with Emily Danburg accounting for all of the Cats' points. Then the Blue devils were ahead going into halftime 24-10.

Morgan Hawkins heated up in the third quarter scoring eight, but Axtell still trailed 21-33 heading to the fourth.

The Cats cut into the margin quite a bit in the fourth period, led by Danburg's nine and Leah Stritt's five, but in the end came up a bit short.

Pacing Axtell were Danburg with 16 (12.5 ave. through ten games) and Hawkins with 12. Stritt added 7.

Kenesaw 18 6 9 12- 45 (4-5)

Axtell 5 5 11 19- 40 (4-6)

AXTELL- Danburg 16, Hawkins 12, Stritt 7, Maddie Wells 3, Bristol Thorell 2

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Lady Falcons Can't Snap Losing Skid

PHIL SERRONE

Getting back onto the court after a short Christmas break was the Lady Falcons as the team hosted their Holiday Tournament on Dec. 29-30. Kenesaw, Wauneta-Palisade and Giltner/Harvard High School were the other teams a part of the tournament.

In round one, the Lady Falcons faced off against Kenesaw in a tough matchup that ended with the Blue Devils dominating all four quarters en route to a 17-40 victory.

Wilcox-Hildreth started the first quarter with six points but was outscored by the Blue Devils 6-13. In the second quarter, the Lady Falcons could only muster three points which allowed Kenesaw to head into halftime with a 9-23 lead.

Unfortunately, things did not improve in the second half as Wil-Hil was outscored 8-17. Despite the score, the team gave their best effort until the final whistle. Chloe Johnson led the team with eight points scored as well as four rebounds and two assists. Cheyenne Lieb collected a team high seven rebounds.

In the consolation bracket, the Lady Falcons faced off against Wauneta-Palisade on Dec. 30. Down early, Wilcox-Hildreth was never able to find their footing resulting in a 22-56 loss.

At the end of the first quarter, the score was 6-10 in favor of the Broncos. This was the smallest deficit of the game for the Lady Falcons as the Broncos exploded for 17 points in the second quarter in comparison to Wil-Hil's three points. Wauneta-Palisade outscored the Lady Falcons 13-29 in the second half en route to victory.

Lieb and C.Johnson combined for 19 of the Lady Falcons' 22 points. Lieb picked up a double-double in the contest as well with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Starting off the New Year, the Lady Falcons traveled to Doniphan-Trumbull on Jan. 3 looking for their first win of the season. Unfortunately, that victory will have to wait another week as the Lady Falcons were defeated 22-53.

Doniphan-Trumbull got out to a fast start with 19 points in the first quarter while limiting Wil-Hil's offense to one basket. Both teams scored eight points in the second quarter to give the Cardinals a 27-10 lead. After halftime, the Cardinals did not let their foot off the gas as the team scored 20 points in the third quarter and never looked back for the remainder of the game.

Lieb scored 10 points for the

second consecutive game while collecting seven rebounds. Allegra Johnson and C.Johnson each brought down six rebounds.

Wilcox-Hildreth (0-10) had a road trip on Jan. 6 against Bertrand High School. Following that matchup, the team will have a pair of home games beginning on Jan. 9 against Kenesaw and Jan. 10 against Elm Creek High School. We will have a full breakdown from all three games in next week's paper!

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

Points: Chloe Johnson 8, Kinley Hansen 4, Kaylan Ogier 2, Allegra Johnson 2, Cheyenne Lieb 1

Rebounds: Lieb 7, Hansen 5, C.Johnson 4, Kamryn Russell 2, A.Johnson 2

Assists: C.Johnson 2, Hansen 2, A.Johnson 1

Steals: Lieb 2, Hansen 1, C.Johnson 1, Ogier 1, A.Johnson 1

Blocks: C.Johnson 1

Here are the following stats from Wilcox-Hildreth vs Wauneta-Palisade:

Points: Lieb 10, C.Johnson 9, Hansen 3

Rebounds: Lieb 10, Hansen 7, A.Johnson 6, C.Johnson 6, Ogier 3

Assists: A.Johnson 1, Lieb 1, Russell 1

Steals: Lieb 2, Hansen 1

Blocks: Ogier 1, A.Johnson 1

Here are the following stats from Wilcox-Hildreth vs Doniphan-Trumbull:

Points: Lieb 10, C.Johnson 5, Hansen 3, A.Johnson 2, Ogier 2

Rebounds: Lieb 7, A.Johnson 6, C.Johnson 6, Hansen 4, Russell 2, Ogier 1

Assists: C.Johnson 2, A.Johnson 1, Hansen 1, Lieb 1

Steals: Lieb 2, C.Johnson 2, A.Johnson 1, Ogier 1, Russell 1



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Lady Whippets Take GICC Holiday Tournament Title

ROGER HANSEN

Minden's girls had themselves a successful end to the 2025 portion of the '25-'26 season by winning the Grand Island Central Catholic Holiday Tournament on December 29-30. In defeating North Platte St. Patrick's 48-25 on Monday and then Sandy Creek 41-35 on Tuesday the Whippets upped their season record to 6-2.

Against NPSP, Minden outscored the Irish in each quarter to steadily pull away. The Whippets had built leads of 23-8 at halftime and 40-19 by the end of the third period.

The team was 16-43 (5-15 on 3s) for 37% on FGs and 11-20 on FTs. There were 8 offensive and 16 defensive rebounds, 12 assists, 14 steals and just 8 turnovers.

Myla Emery surpassed the 1000 career point plateau by tossing in 16 and getting 7 rebounds, 3 assists and 4 steals. KayLynn Jorgensen had a career-best 15 points, most of it coming on three 3s and 4-4 on FTs. She added 2 assists and 2 steals. Kaleigh Carr had 7 points, 6 assists

and 3 steals and Riley Eden got 4 points, 2 assists and 2 steals. Macy Jorgensen scored 4, Ruby Rhynalds dished 5 assists and Lauren Starkey grabbed 3 rebounds.

NPSP 6 2 11 6- 25 (0-9)
Minden 13 10 17 8- 48 (5-2)

MINDEN- Emery 16, K. Jorgensen 15, Carr 7, Eden 4, M. Jorgensen 4, Starkey 2

In the championship contest against the previously undefeated Cougars, Minden had to overcome a 12-point (9-21) halftime deficit.

A big 19-5 third quarter margin, which included an 11-0 run, had the Whippets up 28-26. Then Emery really took over in the fourth period, scoring 11 in the frame including 6-6 on FTs in the last minute and a half after Sandy Creek had knotted the score at 35-35.

The team was 14-36 (5-18 on 3s) for 39% on FGs and a

perfect 8-8 on FTs. There were 4 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds, 8 assists, 12 steals and 16 turnovers.

Emery had a stat line of 7-11 FGs (including 3-6 on 3s) and 6-6 on FTs for 23 points, 11 rebounds (to complete a double-double), 3 assists and 5 steals. Rhynalds had 7 points and 2 steals and Eden helped out with 6 rebounds, 3 rebounds, 3 assists and 3 steals. Carr had 3 points, 5 rebounds and 3 blocks and KayLynn Jorgensen got 3 rebounds.

S. Creek 11 10 5 9- 35 (9-1)
Minden 3 6 19 13- 41 (6-2)

MINDEN- Emery 23, Rhynalds 7, Eden 6, Carr 3, K. Jorgensen 2

Emery's career point total now stands at 1,038 and counting.

Dawgs Split Holiday Tourney Games

ROGER HANSEN

Minden's boys split their two games at the Grand Island Central Catholic Holiday Tournament on December 29-30. On Monday the Whippets eked by North Platte St. Patrick's 54-52 and then fell to the host GICC Crusaders 49-61 on Tuesday. Heading into the post-holiday portion of the schedule, Minden sits at 5-3.

Against NPSP, the Whippets led 35-32 going to the fourth quarter then fashioned a 10-point lead with about three minutes remaining. The Irish took advantage of a flurry of Minden turnovers and surged into a tie, 50-50, with 27 seconds left. They could have gone in front but missed a FT in attempting to complete an and-1. Luke Grollmes got fouled rebounding the miss and made one of two FTs to put Minden on top 51-50. After trading turnovers, Grollmes blocked an Irish layup attempt. Traelin Christensen rebounded and went to the other end and sank two FTs with seven seconds on the clock. The Whippets fouled at the 4 second mark. NPSP made the first FT and intentionally missed the second. The Irish rebounded, tossed it out for a three-point attempt but missed, so Minden survived.

The Whippets were 23-54 (4-22 on 3s) for 42% on FGs and 4-7 on FTs. They had 12 offensive and 28 defensive rebounds, 14 assists, 3 steals and 14 turnovers.

Christensen doubled up with 22 points and 10 rebounds and added 3 assists. Luke Craig had 9 points, 6 rebounds and 2 assists and Jackson Armstrong got 9 points, 4 rebounds and 3 steals. Grollmes statted 8

points, 9 rebounds, 4 assists and 3 blocks and Landon Bules had 6 points, 10 rebounds and 5 assists.

NPSP 11 5 16 20- 52 (4-5)
Minden 12 11 12 19- 54 (5-2)

MINDEN- Christensen 22, Armstrong 9, Craig 9, Grollmes 8, Bules 6

In the championship game, GICC expanded a two-point first quarter lead to 11 by halftime and the Whippets couldn't close the gap.

Minden was 17-46 (3-17 on 3s) for 37% on FGs and 12-16 on FTs. The team had 10 offensive and 21 defensive rebounds, 14 assists, 2 steals and 15 turnovers.

Grollmes led with 15 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals. Bules chipped in 10 points, 4 rebounds and 4 assists. Christensen supplied 7 points, 7 rebounds and 3 assists and Craig had 6 points, 7 rebounds and 2 assists. Armstrong contributed 5 points and 3 rebounds and Cole Schwenka had 4 points.

Minden 11 11 11 16- 49 (5-3)
GICC 13 20 11 17- 61 (8-1)

MINDEN- Grollmes 15, Bules 10, Christensen 7, Craig 6, Armstrong 5, Schwenka 4, Ambrose Bloomfield 2

Kenesaw Tops Axtell

ROGER HANSEN

The Axtell boys tipped off 2026 hosting Kenesaw on January 2. The Blue Devils left with a 67-29 win and dropped the Cats to 0-10.

Axtell was 12-42 (3-18 on 3s) for 28% on FGs and 2-9 on FTs. There were 16 defensive and 5 offensive rebounds, 6 assists, 4 steals and 22 turnovers.

Reece Hunt collected 12 points, 7 rebounds and 2 assists. Kyler Kolbo scored 8 and David Sonnenfeld had 6 points and 5 rebounds. Aydan Houchin got 3 points and 2 rebounds and Easton Bergstrom had 4 rebounds and 3 assists.

Kenesaw 18 25 13 11- 67 (5-3)
Axtell 5 9 10 5- 29 (0-10)

AXTELL- Hunt 12, Kolbo 8, Sonnenfeld 6, Houchin 3

Where are the photos?

Don't worry, we didn't miss the action on the court or the mats.

You can find photos from the latest high school games and so much more on our website at www.themindencourier.com.

Falcons Claw For Second

PHIL SERRONE

Before the Falcons could bring in the New Year, the team hosted their Holiday Tournament on Dec. 29-30. Giltner/Harvard, Waukena-Palisade and Kenesaw High School were the other schools a part of the four-team bracket.

Leading off round one of the tournament saw the Falcons pick up their second victory of the season with a 54-41 victory over Giltner/Harvard. Wilcox-Hildreth never trailed throughout the four quarters.

At the end of the first half, the Falcons had a 33-17 point lead led by a 19 point second quarter. In the second half, Wil-Hil was out-scored 21-24 but the deficit was too much for Giltner/Harvard to overcome advancing the Falcons to the next round in the process.

Thomas Donley had a monster double-double performance with 22 points and 20 rebounds. Seven of those 20 rebounds came on the offensive end and the senior also collected two steals on the defensive end. Kaleb Johnson was just two rebounds away from his own double-double as he finished with 10 points, eight rebounds, three assists, two blocks and one steal. Landon Lienemann added eight points.

Heading into the championship round on Dec. 30, the Falcons faced off against Kenesaw in a highly competitive matchup. Despite having the lead in the fourth quarter, the Falcons offense went cold in the final period totaling two points of offense resulting in a 41-49 defeat. Due to the loss, the Falcons placed second overall.

It was a back and forth first half that saw multiple lead changes with the Blue Devils limiting the Falcons offense to eight points in the first quarter. Wilcox-Hildreth could not be contained for long as the team used an offensive onslaught of 17 points in the second period to take a 25-23 lead into halftime.

Both teams kept pace with one another in the third quarter with the Falcons edging the quarter point output 14-12. Unfortunately, it was the fourth quarter that neutralized the Falcons chances at success as the team could only score two points.

Lienemann led the team in scoring with eleven points while Luke Lush and Kaleb Johnson each collected nine points. Donley was limited on the offensive end with eight points but was a force down below coming down with a team high 16 rebounds. Johnson brought down 10 rebounds. Drew Blank set up the offense with precision leading the team with six assists.

Wilcox-Hildreth's record on the season now stands at 2-7. On Jan. 6, the team traveled to Bertrand High School. Following that matchup, the team will have a chance at revenge against Kenesaw on Jan. 9. We will have a full recap from both games in next week's paper!

Here are the stats from Wilcox-Hildreth vs Giltner/Harvard:

Points: Thomas Donley 22, Kaleb Johnson 10, Landon Lienemann 8, Kaden Schriener 6, Drew Blank 4, Luke Lush 4

Rebounds: Donley 20, Johnson 8, Lush 5, Blank 4, Lienemann 2, Schriener 2

Assists: Blank 5, Johnson 3, Lush 2, Lienemann 1

Steals: Blank 3, Donley 2, Johnson 1

Blocks: Johnson 2, Blank 1

Here are the stats from Wilcox-Hildreth vs Kenesaw:

Points: Lienemann 11, Johnson 9, Lush 9, Donley 8, Blank 4

Rebounds: Donley 16, Johnson 10, Blank 5, Lush 4, Schriener 2,

Assists: Blank 6, Lienemann 2, Johnson 1

Steals: Donley 2, Lush 2, Johnson 1

Blocks: Johnson 2

Lady Falcons Medal Five at SEM Invite

PHIL SERRONE

Before the holiday break, the Lady Falcons wrestling team had been on roll of momentum earning medals at consecutive meets with strong showings from multiple individuals. Luckily, the break did not slow down Wilcox-Hildreth as the team once again shined bright at the SEM Invite on Jan. 3.

As a team, the Lady Falcons placed fifth overall with 74 team points. 19 schools were in attendance. Individually, Wilcox-Hildreth flashed their strong consistency across their roster as the entire team walked away with medals at their respective weight classes.

Dinah Culp reigned atop of the 100 lb weight division as she secured two pin fall victories to claim first place honors. Camryn Bunker debuted on the team for the first time this season as she claimed third place after going 3-1 with three pinfalls. Elin Patterson, Ona Wilsey and Ayva Bendorf placed fourth overall to make it five for five on medalists for the Lady Falcons.

Wilcox-Hildreth will look to stay on fire when the girls team takes a road trip to Franklin High School on Jan. 9. We will have a full recap from that invitational in next week's Courier!

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

Multiple Medalists Pave Way For Lady Cats' Top Ten Finish

PHIL SERRONE

The Axtell Lady Wildcats wrestling team returned to the mats at Fillmore Central High School on Jan. 2 after a brief break due to the holidays.

It was a tremendous showing for the Lady Cats as the team placed 10th overall led by a third place finish from Jerzey Ramirez. Axtell finished with a team score of 56.5 points.

Ramirez was dominant on the mat behind three pinfall victories. Her record on the season stands at 10-5.

Sadie Lorenzo and Krystal Fickenscher picked up medals at their respective weight classes after placing fourth overall. Other medalists include Binzley Walz and Allison Fulmer who placed sixth. Overall, it was a strong showing for the Lady Cats team securing five medals and each wrestler securing at least one win each.

On Jan. 9, the Lady Cats will be back in action at the Franklin Invitational. We will have a full recap on how each wrestler performed in next week's paper!

Here are the following results for each wrestler for the Axtell girls team:

100: Jerzey Ramirez opened with pin fall victory over Clemente of Columbus in 2:39 then pinned Doane of Wood River in 4:01 then pinned Clabaugh of Oakland Craig in 1:25 then was pinned by Mazzulla of Auburn in 1:04 then won due to medical forfeit to place third overall

115: Sadie Lorenzo opened with a pin fall win over Landa-Vazquez of Sandy Creek in 0:53 then lost due to pinfall against Wiseman of

100: Dinah Culp opened with a bye then pinned Bates of Wilber-Clatonia in 4:55 then pinned Clay of Ansley-Litchfield in 2:50 to place first overall

120: Elin Patterson opened with a pin fall victory over Donker of Hemingford in 1:22 then won by majority decision 9-0 over Jones of Broken Bow then was pinned by McDonald of SEM in 3:49 then pinned Rose of Arcadia/Loup City in 4:22 then lost by decision 9-14 against Jones of Broken Bow to place fourth

125: Ona Wilsey started with a decision victory 8-4 over Chrans of Wilber-Clatonia then was pinned by Reitz of Ansley-Litchfield in 4:41 then pinned Schuster of Gibbon in 1:51 then was pinned by Peterson of Gothenburg in 2:49 to place fourth overall

130: Ayva Bendorf opened with a pin victory over Bayne of Maxwell in 3:23 then won by decision 11-9 over Strickland of Holdrege then was pinned by Brott of Ansley-Litchfield in 1:34 then pinned Bayne of Maxwell in 3:34 then lost by decision 7-13 against Polite of Wilber-Clatonia to place fourth overall

135: Camryn Bunker opened with a pin over Zulkoski of Ansley-Litchfield in 1:58 then was pinned by Koll of Wilber-Clatonia in 4:51 then pinned Kroll of Ravenna in 0:17 then pinned Ellis of SEM in 0:17 to place third overall

Adams Central in 4:51 then pinned Rodriguez of York in 3:34 then was pinned by Everson of Sandy Creek in 4:29 then was pinned by Torress of Wood River in 0:28 to place fourth overall

130: Binzley Walz opened with total fall 17-0 win over Jacks of Sandy Creek in 1:27 then was pinned by Buggi of Palmyra in 3:57 then was pinned by Panyathong of Columbus in 2:22 then won by decision 10-7 over Wallace of Wood River then was pinned by Buggi of Palmyra in 1:55 to place sixth overall

135: Krystal Fickenscher opened with a pin fall win over Kopietz of Oakland Craig in 2:18 then won by decision 7-6 over Bachle of EMF then pinned Luebbe of Centennial in 2:15 then was pinned by Gewecke of Fillmore Central in 2:04 then was pinned by Krause of Palmyra in 3:56 to place fourth overall

155: Madilynn Hays started with a pin fall loss to Mayo of Seward County in 1:15 then was pinned by Methe of York in 0:32 then got a bye then picked up a pin fall win over Kindall of Wood River in 2:50 then was pinned by Back of Malcom in 3:22

170: Allison Fulmer opened with a pin victory over Miller of Harvard in 0:36 then was pinned by Spilker of Sandy Creek in 4:37 then was pinned by Johnson of Wood River in 1:31 then pinned Bella of Columbus in 4:45 then was defeated due to pinfall against Bietz of Malcolm in 2:29 to place sixth

190: Taelynn Meyers started with a pin fall loss to Kurz of Shelton in 4:55 then was pinned by Crumbliss of Sandy Creek in 2:41 then received a bye then won by pinfall over Tripe of Sandy Creek in 0:59 then pinned Sims of Sandy Creek in 2:23

L'Heureux Takes First Place at Pleasanton Invite

PHIL SERRONE

Closing out the week for Axtell boys wrestling was a road trip to Pleasanton High School on Jan. 3. Axtell placed 25th overall out of 25 schools in attendance with a team score of 2.

Due to the amount of schools at the event, some of the wrestlers were split up into an A or B pool. Connor L'Heureux had his best showing of the season earning first place at 144 lb. weight division in pool B. L'Heureux was dominant in all four matches including three pinfalls in under one minute.

Nick Dahl participated in pool A and came away with a decision victory 7-3 over VanHorn from Kearney High School. Dahl's record on the season now sits at 13-11 which is the team high on the year.

On Jan. 6, the Wildcats hosted a home dual triangular with Hi-Line and Loomis High School. Following that meet, the team will hit that mats at Franklin High School on Jan. 10 for an invitational. We will have a full breakdown from each

event in next week's paper!

Here are the following results for each individual wrestler for Axtell:

120: Luke Abbott started with a pin fall loss to Dugan of Central Valley in 0:46 then was pinned by Gruntorad of Elm Creek in 0:57

132 B: Connor L'Heureux started with a pin victory over Phillips of Pleasanton in 0:40 then pinned Jarmin of Overton in 0:36 then pinned Lake of Franklin in 0:53 then pinned Martinez of Kearney in 2:33 to place first overall in pool B

144 B: Samuel Kindschuh opened with a pin fall loss to King of Ravenna in 1:54 then was pinned by Nienaber of Ansley-Litchfield in 1:56 then was pinned by Baker of Pleasanton in 1:21 then was pinned by Wagoner of Franklin in 1:08 to place fifth overall in pool B

157: Nick Dahl opened with a decision victory 7-3 over VanHorn of Kearney then was pinned by Gillming of Pleasanton in 3:50 then was pinned by Jorschumb of Arapahoe in 4:47

157 B: Coben Hill started with a pin fall loss to Cole of St.Mary's in 0:34 then was pinned by Olson of Kearney in 0:30

Falcons Sweep Tri 2-0

PHIL SERRONE

After a well earned holiday break, Axtell and Wilcox-Hildreth boys wrestling teams were back in action at the Falcon triangular dual on Jan. 2. Kenesaw High School was the other school in attendance at the triangular.

Starting off the dual was a faceoff between the Falcons and Blue Devils of Kenesaw. Wilcox-Hildreth dominated this matchup with a score of 60-6.

Mikah Eiley, Kyler Masters, Brody Patterson, Damien Campbell, Jacob Jezbera, Brandon Wagner and Craig Bunger were all victorious in their matches. Drake Ritner was defeated at the 157 lb. weight division resulting in the lone loss for the Falcons.

Heading into the second matchup of the day was the Wildcats of Axtell facing off against the Blue Devils of Kenesaw. This was a competitive matchup despite the lack of numbers for Axtell. The Wildcats were narrowly defeated 17-30.

Nick Dahl and Luke Abbott came away with victories in

their matches. Abbott had a dominant total fall win at the 120 lb. weight class securing a 17-0 stoppage at 2:19. Dahl secured his win in quick fashion pinning his opponent's shoulders to the mat in 1:17. The rest of the Wildcats' points came from forfeits.

Closing out the triangular was a showdown between Wilcox-Hildreth and Axtell. The Falcons overwhelmed the Wildcats by a score of 60-6.

Drake Ritner, Brett Woollen, Cooper Woollen and Kyler Masters earned victories in their matches while the rest of the Falcons points were accumulated through forfeits. Axtell's lone victory came at 165 lb. weight division where Dahl pinned Campbell after a lengthy battle at the 5:01 mark.

Wilcox-Hildreth will look to keep their strong momentum rolling on Jan. 10 when the team travels to Amherst for an invitational. We will have a full recap from that event in next week's paper!

Here are the following results from Wilcox-Hildreth vs Kenesaw:

113: Mikah Eiley pinned Kothe in 0:53

120: Cooper Woollen won by forfeit

138: Kyler Masters pinned Schneider in 1:58

144: Brody Patterson pinned Erickson in 1:25

150: Cauly Twohigh won by forfeit

157: Drake Ritner lost due to pinfall against Milam in 1:29

165: Gavin Ironshell won by forfeit

175: Damien Campbell won by forfeit

190: Jacob Jezbera pinned Kohmetscher in 5:15

215: Brandon Wagner pinned Cordes in 0:29

285: Craig Bunger pinned Iannone in 2:37

Here are the following results from Axtell vs Kenesaw:

120: Luke Abbott won by total falls 17-0 over Kothe in 2:19

138: Connor L'Heureux was pinned by Erickson in 4:00

150: Samuel Kindschuh won by forfeit

157: Nick Dahl pinned Milam in 1:17

Here are the following results from Axtell vs Wilcox-Hildreth:

106: Eiley won by forfeit

120: C.Woollen pinned Abbott in 1:03

132: Masters pinned L'Heureux in 1:41

138: Patterson won by forfeit

150: Ritner pinned Kindschuh in 1:19

157: Brett Woollen pinned Coben Hill in 1:20

165: Dahl pinned Campbell in 5:01

175: Ironshell won by forfeit

190: Jezbera won by forfeit

215: Wagner won by forfeit

285: Bunger won by forfeit

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For the week ending January 3, 2026.

Nebraska Weekly Grain Prices, Omaha-Council Bluffs

US No. 2 Yellow Corn: \$4.21-\$4.34

US No. 1 Soybeans \$9.75-\$9.95

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

Weight Range - 801-839; Avg. Weight - 821; Price

Range - \$358.50-\$369.25; Average Price - \$363.48

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Obituaries



Alene D. (Collier) Evans, 93 - Holdrege Resident

A Funeral Service for Alene D. (Collier) Evans will be held on Friday, January 9, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the Holdrege Methodist Church at Holdrege, Nebraska, with Pastor Sarah Fisher and Chaplain DeWane Dow officiating. A Graveside Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the Arcadia Cemetery, Arcadia, Nebraska.

Alene Doris (Collier) Evans, 93 years of age, of Holdrege, passed away on Thursday, January 1, 2026, at Christian Homes Care Community at Holdrege. Alene was born in Custer County, Nebraska, west of Arcadia, near Westerville, Nebraska, on February 18, 1932, the youngest of four children born to Alfred D. and Pearl Emma (Hallman) Collier. She received her education from Arcadia Public Schools, graduating from Arcadia High School with the class of 1950.

Alene was united in marriage to Claude "Felix" Evans, and together they farmed southwest of Arcadia, until moving to a farm near Holdrege in 1961. Several years later, the couple moved to their family farm south of Loomis. Alene began working for Becton Dickensen and retired in 1993. Several years later, they moved to Holdrege.

She loved the outdoors, going for walks around the section after work and at North Park. She enjoyed family gatherings, cooking, baking, dancing, and was an avid Bingo player. Alene loved to spend time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, attending every event that she possibly could. She will be remembered as a loving, caring, kind, and giving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Alene was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary; a Life-Time Permanent Membership of Unit No. 338 located at Loomis, NE. She was a member of Holdrege Methodist Church for 65 years.

Alene was preceded in death by her loving husband, Claude (Felix) Evans; her parents; her in-laws, two sisters, Arlene McCall (Dick), Alfreda Rounds (Downing), and one brother, Allan (Doris) Collier.

Left to cherish her memory are: her sons: Larry Evans and his wife, Nancy of Minden, Nebraska; and Randy Evans and his wife, Janet of Loveland, Colorado; five grandchildren: Melissa Klabunde and her husband, Mark of Minden; Ryan Evans and wife, Amy of Fairbury, Nebraska; Michael Evans of Los Angeles, California; Lindsay Fickenschier and her husband, Levi of Loveland, Colorado; and Brittany Sall and her husband, Brett of Loveland, Colorado; 12 great-grandchildren: Addison and Zach Klabunde of Minden; Brielle Hamel-Evans of Broken Bow, Nebraska; AJ, Holden, and Nickalin Evans of Fairbury,

Nebraska; Asher, Tytus, and Benaiah Fickenschier of Loveland; and Phoebe, Ruthie, and Marigold Sall of Loveland; and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

There will not be a visitation. Memorials are kindly suggested to: Holdrege Methodist Church; Arcadia Methodist Church; Christian Homes Care Community; or Brookstone Home Health and Hospice. Expressions of caring and kindness can be sent to the family at www.nelsonbauerfh.com. The Nelson-Bauer Funeral Home in Holdrege is in charge of the arrangements.



Jeanette L. (Shada) Knox, 80 - Minden Resident

Jeanette L. (Shada) Knox, 80, of Minden, passed away on Sunday, December 28, 2025 at Bethany Home in Minden. Memorial services were held on Friday, January 2, 2026 at First Christian Church in Minden with Kay Tira officiating. Inurnment was held following the service at the Minden Cemetery. A celebration of life open house was held following services at the Windmill Studios in Minden. Memorials in Jeanette's honor are kindly suggested to the First Christian Church in Minden or to Paws Up Kearney County. Arrangements are under the care of Craig Funeral Home in Minden.

Jeanette Lucile (Shada) Knox was born on October 30, 1945 in Campbell. She grew up in the Upland and Minden area, graduating from Minden High School with the class of 1964. Jeanette then

furthered her education at Kearney State College.

She was blessed with four daughters: Georgette, Jennifer, Melissa and Melinda. The family made their home in Central Nebraska, where she worked at Cabela's and various area restaurants.

Jeanette was a member of First Christian Church. She enjoyed cherry icy drinks and baking. She was very independent and was always taking care of others. Jeanette loved spending time with family and attending the Shada and Harms family reunions.

Those left to cherish her memory include her daughters, Georgette (Marty) Walsh of Omaha, Jennifer Grogan of Red Cloud, Melissa (Casey) Williams of Broken Bow, and Melinda Grogan (David Frost) of Kearney; grandchildren, Brett Kreutzer, Brayden (Natasha) Walsh, Jarin Weaver, Allison (Justin) Crawford, Dane Grogan, Alex Torres, and Madden Grogan; great-grandchildren, Benton, Adalyn, Lincoln, Presley and Lydia; sister-in-law, Julie Shada; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, extended relatives and close friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Hilda Helen (Harms) Podewitz; brother, Lyle Shada; uncle, Nick Shada; nephews, Michael and Ryan Shada.

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

Bowling Standings

Classey Lassies 12-18-25

| Team Standings: | W | L |
|---|-----|-----|
| Skye's The Limit Salon | | 10 |
| Upland Bar & Grill | 7 | 5 |
| Split Happens | | 6.5 |
| Aurora Coop-Keene | 6.5 | 5.5 |
| Pony Express Ford | 6 | 6 |
| Platte River BBQ | 5 | 7 |
| Larson Bros Construction | 4 | 8 |
| Dobish Dumpsters | 3 | 9 |
| High Individual Game: Deb Cavanaugh-Dorn, 197; Allyson Sinsel, 190; Betty Smith, 184 | | |
| High Individual Series: Mary Wendell, 489; Sheri Keller, 473; Deb Cavanaugh-Dorn, 460 | | |
| High Team Game: Platte River BBQ, 446; Upland Bar & Grill, 441; Skye's The Limit Salon, 434 | | |
| High Team Series: Skye's The Limit Salon, 1279; Upland Bar & Grill, 1273; Pony Express Ford, 1226 | | |

Sunday Mixed 12-21-25

| Team Standings: | W | L |
|--------------------|----|----|
| Flinstones | 24 | 12 |
| 3 Chicks & A Stick | 22 | 14 |

| | | |
|---|------|------|
| Travelers | 21.5 | 14.5 |
| Bowling Stones | 18 | 18 |
| Lucky Dogs | 15.5 | 20.5 |
| High Individual Game, Men: Randy Durand, 210; Calvin Durand, 207; Marty Misek, 183 | | |
| High Individual Game, Women: Betty Smith, 216; Laurie Wright, 171; Teresa Durand, 158 | | |
| High Individual Series, Men: Randy Durand, 540; Calvin Durand, 506; Marty Misek, 459 | | |
| High Individual Series, Women: Betty Smith, 514; Laurie Wright, 466; Krissy Simonton, 449 | | |
| High Team Game: Flinstones, 664; Bowling Stones, 585; 3 Chicks & A Stick, 559 | | |
| High Team Series: Flinstones, 1783; Bowling Stones, 1631; Travelers, 1578 | | |

Monday Maniacs 12-15-25

| Team Standings: | W | L |
|---|----|----|
| Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm | 40 | 24 |
| Minden Exchange Bank & Trust | 33 | 31 |
| Children First Daycare | 31 | 33 |
| Budget Heating & Air | 24 | 40 |
| High Individual Game: Ashley Osterbuhr, 196; Deb Dorn, 166; | | |

| |
|--|
| Deb Dorn, 158 |
| High Individual Series: Deb Dorn, 472; Rendy France, 429; Ashley Osterbuhr, 425 |
| High Team Game: Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 465; Children First Daycare, 417; Minden Exchange Bank & Trust, 389 |
| High Team Series: Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 1235; Children First Daycare, 1184; Minden Exchange Bank & Trust, 1088 |

Monday Maniacs 12-22-25

| Team Standings: | W | L |
|--|----|----|
| Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm | 40 | 28 |
| Minden Exchange Bank & Trust | 37 | 31 |
| Children First Daycare | 33 | 35 |
| Budget Heating & Air | 26 | 42 |
| High Individual Game: Ashley Osterbuhr, 175; Denise Smith, 168; Deb Dorn, 167 | | |
| High Individual Series: Deb Dorn, 473; Denise Smith, 451; Rendi France, 448 | | |
| High Team Game: Children First Daycare, 447; Children First Daycare, 444; Children First Daycare, 441 | | |
| High Team Series: Children First Daycare, 1332; Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 1172; Minden Exchange Bank & Trust, 1159 | | |

For the Record

Kearney County District Court

Estate of Cesar Castro, Kathleen Pallesen, Omaha vs. Estate of Charles Tomsen, Charles Tomsen, Tomsen Cattle Company Inc, Jana Tomsen, all of Minden; Vehicular Negligence; 12-23-25 Carrie A. Soucie, Kearney vs. Robert L. Soucie, Upland; dissolution of marriage; 12-17-25

State obo vs. Dakota Cline, Holdrege; Montana L. Petersen, Axtell; order of support/custody/visit; 12-18-25

Kearney County County Court

Alicia A. Hill, Portland, Oregon, DUI-alcohol-1st offense, fine \$500, 4 months probation, license revoked 60 days, Kearney County Sheriff Officer Seals, 3-11-25

Carson D. North, McCracken, Kansas, overweight on axle or group of axles, fine \$25, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Wroblewski, 12-1-25

Bronson P. Glanzer, Minden, no license on person, fine \$25, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Daily, 12-6-25

Lane L. Anderson, Minden, no operator's license/non-waiverable, fine \$100, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Lassen, 10-16-25

Heather E. Ottke, Aurora, Colorado, speeding 11-15 MPH County/State, fine \$125, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Lassen, 10-18-25

Michael T. Cooper Lincoln, speeding 6-10 MPH County/State, fine \$75, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Margrit, 11-22-25

Hailey M. Nesbitt, Lincoln, pass on right side, fine \$25, Kearney County Sheriff Officer Struss, 11-26-25

Minden Fire & Rescue

12-18-25—The Minden Fire & Rescue was dispatched to 27 Road for a grass fire.

12-18-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to Bethany Home for a fall.

12-19-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to W. 3rd Street for a personal illness.

12-19-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to S. Nebraska Avenue for a personal illness.

12-20-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to E. 4th Street for an unresponsive fall.

12-20-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to E. 7th Street for an outside fall.

12-20-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to Bethany Home for a fall.

12-21-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to Bethany Home for a fall.

12-22-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to E. 7th Street for an unresponsive person.

12-22-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to S. Logan Avenue for a personal illness.

12-23-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to Mason's for a personal injury.

12-24-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to H Road for a personal illness.

12-25-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to Highway 10 & H Road for a personal illness.

12-26-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to Campbell Street & Nance Avenue for a vehicle accident with injury.

12-27-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to N. Hubbard Avenue for a personal illness.

12-27-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to N. Tower Avenue for a fall.

12-27-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to S. Nebraska Avenue for a personal illness.

12-28-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to N. Tower Avenue for a personal illness.

12-28-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to E. 3rd Street for a personal illness.

12-29-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched for inter facility transport to Hastings.

12-30-25—The Minden Fire & Rescue was dispatched to D Road for a tractor fire.

12-31-25—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to S. Nebraska Avenue for a personal illness.

1-2-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to S. Western Avenue for a fall.

Total number of district incidents for the year of 2025: 336. There were 275 EMS rescues; 18 of which were motor vehicle accidents with injury. There were 32 fires; be it vehicle, building or land. There were 4 hazardous condition calls & 9 service calls. There were 2 good intent calls & 14 false alarms.

Legal Notices

NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The County of Kearney will be accepting sealed bids for mowing services at the Kearney County Courthouse for the 2026 season. This includes mowing and trimming once a week with removal of yard waste. This to be done approx. from April 1, 2026 to October 31, 2026. Sealed bids will be received at the Kearney County Clerk's office, P.O. Box 339, Minden, NE 68959 or at the office on the second floor of the Courthouse until 9:50 a.m. on January 20th. The County reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jan 8, 2026

Jan 15, 2026

(21) znez

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, January 19, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. The public may attend the meeting in person at ESU 11 for said meeting. 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.

Jan 8, 2026

(27) 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, January 12, 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

Jan 8, 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 19th day of January, 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

Jan 8, 2026

(24) znez

NOTICE

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF THOMAS F. MEISENBACH, DECEASED

ESTATE NO. PR 25-42

Notice is hereby given that, on December 12th, 2025, in the County Court of Kearney County, Nebraska, Jean Marie Korth, whose address is 1702 Imperial Drive, Hastings, NE 68901, 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 February 25th, 2026, or be forever barred.

/s/ Laura B. Tobiasen

Clerk of the County Court
JAMES R. KORTH #22674

Reynolds, Korth & Samuelson P.C., L.L.O.

1401 West First Street

P.O. Box 717

Ogallala, Nebraska 69153

(308)284-4001

Dec 25, 2025

Jan 1, 2026

Jan 8, 2026

(30) znez

NOTICE

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, January 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. 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.

Jan 8, 2026

(18) znez



Bethany Home

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NOTICE

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF DOUBLE DART HOL- STEINS, LLC

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has formed a limited liability company under the Limited Liability Company Act:

1. The name of the limited liability company is DOUBLE DART HOLSTEINS, L.L.C.

2. The address of the registered office of the limited liability company is 495 L RD. Axtell, NE 68924 and the registered agent at that address is David R. Anderbery.

3. This company is organized to engage in the transaction of any or all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska including but not limited to the business of farming; and to do and transact all other lawful business incident to, necessary or suitable or advisable for, or in any way connected with, such business.

4. The Company commenced on November 26, 2025 and its duration is perpetual.

5. The affairs of the limited liability company are to be conducted by members who are managers and such other officers as may be provided for in the Operating Agreement.

David R. Anderbery,
Member

Douglas R. Walker, #16953
Duncan, Walker & Schenker,
P.C., L.L.O.

P.O. Box 340
Hildreth, Nebraska 68947
308-938-4585

Jan 8, 2026

Jan 15, 2026

Jan 22, 2026

(53) znez

NOTICE

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF TRAILS END TIRE AND AUTO SALES, LLC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the dissolution of Trails End Tire and Auto Sales, LLC, under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act, as of December 31, 2025. Any person with a valid claim against the company shall submit their written claim and proof thereof to the attorney of the LLC named below. Unless a creditor had received written notice of an earlier deadline, any claim against the company shall be barred unless a proceeding to enforce said claim is commenced within five years after the publication of this notice.

Trails End Tire and Auto
Sales, LLC

Zachary K. Gray #27047

Gray Law Firm, LLC

P.O. Box 855

Holdrege, NE 68949

P: (308) 995-0522

Email: office@graylawne-
braska.com

Its Attorneys

Jan 8, 2026

Jan 15, 2026

Jan 22, 2026

(35) znez

NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Kearney County Board of Commissioners at 10:00 a.m., on January 20, 2026 for the purchase of "Road Gravel". All bids are to be marked "GRAVEL" and filed with the Kearney County Clerk-Courthouse; P O BOX 339 or 424 N Colorado Ave Minden, NE 68959. Specifications can be obtained from the Kearney County Road Department; 1124 East 9th; Minden, NE 68959 or by calling 308-832-2854. The Kearney County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding.

GRAVEL SPECIFICATIONS

The following specifications shall be met by each bidder:

Meet all the specifications of the State of Nebraska for Class A gravel; clay and silt content not to exceed five (5) percent. It shall be

the duty of the contractor to remove immediately any gravel material rejected by the inspector if so ordered.

| Gradation Requirement, | Percent Retained - Mini- | imum, Maximum |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1 inch | -- | 0% |
| 3/4 inch sieve | 2% | 10% |
| #4 sieve | 25% | 50% |
| #10 sieve | 80% | 100% |
| #200 sieve | 95% | 100% |

All gravel loaded on county trucks shall be performed on any or all days of the week between hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. except Saturday and Sunday. The contractor must have on his property a stock pile of a minimum of 2,500 yards of road surfacing gravel at all times that shall conform to the specifications of the State of Nebraska Class A gravel. In the event the Contractor fails to have gravel available for county trucks to load, the County shall be entitled to deduct from moneys due the Contractor, as liquidated damages, an amount equal to two-hundred dol-

lars (\$200.00) per day for each working day of delay. Kearney County reserves the right to perform spot weight inspections on any load. The Contractor shall be subject to penalty as follows for supplying inadequate gravel:

Total average percent retained on the No. 10 sieve:

| Minimum, Maximum, Per- | cent Deduction |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 80% | 100% 0% |
| 75% | 79% 10% |
| 70% | 74% 25% |
| 65% | 69% 50% |
| 0% | 64% Reject |

Bid is to reflect gravel loaded on county trucks by the supplier.

The bid price will be for CYD's and be good from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

For county's information include map showing suppliers gravel pit location(s) and the mileage from pit to Minden.

Jan 1, 2026

Jan 8, 2026

Jan 15, 2026

(96) znez

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by January 16, 2026

Sweet! How do I apply?

Go to www.nebpress.com/scholarships for
the form and all the details! Here's a code
you can scan, too!



Got it - thanks!

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- 2-year-old & Yearling Bulls, Yearling Heifers.
- Reputation cattle known for high Carcass Traits, Calving Ease and super dispositions.
- Delivery cooperation - bull insurance - volume

Videos online mid-Jan.

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John & Mary Ridder
308.836.4430 Off.
402.450.0431 Cell
Ridderranch.com

LiveAg

LIVEAG.COM or
817.533.6699.

Scandinavian
Mutual Insurance Company

Erin Pittz, Agent

608 W 4th Street
Axtell, NE 68924
308.340.2145

erinpittz.scmi@gmail.com

NOTICE

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF WILLIAM K. WOMMER, DECEASED

ESTATE NO. PR25-43

Notice is hereby given that on the 18th day of December, 2025, in the County Court of Kearney County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of said Decedent and that Alexis Wommer, whose address is 400 6th Street, Gaylord, Kansas 67638, 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 the 25th day of February, 2026 or be forever barred.

Kearney County Court
P.O. Box 377

Minden, NE 68959

Steven R. Voigt, #15780

Voigt Law Office

2029 Central Avenue

P.O. Box 1184

Kearney, Nebraska 68848

Phone: (308) 234-5524

Dec 25, 2025

Jan 1, 2026

Jan 8, 2026

(34) znez

NOTICE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

The following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, at the East entrance of the County Courthouse in Minden, Kearney County, Nebraska, on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.:

Lot Five (5), Sandy Lane Subdivision, a Subdivision being part of the Southeast Quarter and part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Sec-

tion 26, Township 8 North, Range 16 West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Kearney County, Nebraska.

SUBJECT TO any and all easements, rights of way, and other restrictions of record.

The particulars of this sale are:

1. The legal description (set forth just above) is associated with the street address of 278 Sandy Lane, Kearney, NE 68845.

2. The terms of the sale are:

(a) The sale will be held open for fifteen minutes to receive bids.

(b) The property is sold subject to any of the following which may be of record at the time of the sale: Real estate taxes; special assessments; mortgages and deeds of trusts and other liens; covenants and restrictions; easements; and other characteristics such as ordinances and resolutions which may affect the property.

(c) All bidders, other than the Beneficiary, must present a cashier's check for at least 10% of the successful bid. A reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 1 day, may be allowed to produce that cashier's check following the sale, at the discretion of the Successor Trustee. Closing of the sale, with the balance of the successful bid paid at that time, shall take place on a day certain between 10 to 20 days after the sale (this exact date to be announced upon the date of sale).

(d) Conveyance upon closing will be by a Trustee's Deed, referencing the exercise of the power of sale in the Deed of Trust. At closing, the successful bidder will be responsible to pay the documentary stamps,

if any, together with all recording fees. This sale, and its closing, is made without any warranties as to title or the condition of the property.

3. The Deed of Trust which is the subject of the default and which provides for the power of sale being exercised by the Successor Trustee, herein, is dated October 19, 2022. The Trustor is Wendy Jolynne Collins f/k/a Wendy Jolynne Starzec. The Successor Trustee is Jack W. Besse. The Beneficiary is Trius Federal Credit Union. This Deed of Trust is recorded at Book 275 of Microfilm on Page 255-277 of the Kearney County Register of Deeds Office.

4. The Notice of Default dated October 31, 2025, which precedes this NOTICE OF SALE, was filed in the office of the Register of Deeds for Kearney County, Nebraska, on October 31, 2025, and a copy of the same mailed to the Trustors as required by law.

5. This Notice will be published 5 times, once a week for 5 consecutive weeks; the last publication to be at least 10 days but not more than 30 days prior to the sale. Dated this 2nd day of December, 2025.

Jack W. Besse #19005

Successor Trustee

Of PARKER GROSSART &
BAHENSKY, LLP

516 1st Avenue, P. O. Box
1600

Kearney, Nebraska 68848-
1600

(308) 237-2114 phone (308)
234-4989 fax

jwb@pgbblaw.com

Dec 11, 2025

Dec 18, 2025

Dec 25, 2025

Jan 1, 2026

Jan 8, 2026

(127) znez

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RIDDER HEREFORD Ranch Annual Bull & Heifer Sale. Thur Jan 29, Callaway, NE. Reputation cattle with excellent carcass, growth, calving ease & disposition. 402.450.0431 www.ridder-ranch.com

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ered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-385-3580.

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SUDOKU

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Level: Intermediate

CLUES ACROSS

1. Lakes
6. Electromotive force
9. Invests in little enterprises
13. Longtime Utah Jazz coach
14. Small sailboat
15. Actor Idris
16. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
17. System that detects objects under water
18. Harsh, grating noise
19. Steward
21. A fencing sword
22. Infections
23. Actress Ryan
24. Sodium
25. Swedish castle
28. A lump of slime
29. African antelope
31. Insurance providers
33. Choosy
36. Ringworm
38. Unpolished
39. Drenches
41. Pant style
44. Son of Noah
45. Spiritual being
46. Upton Sinclair novel
48. Journalist Tarbell
49. Popular sports highlight show
51. Born of
52. Rich tapestry
54. S. China seaport
56. State of being unclothed
60. Surrounded by
61. Residue
62. Away from wind
63. Dried-up
64. Visionary
65. A very large body of water
66. Garden tools
67. Screen type
68. Ancient Scandinavian poet

CLUES DOWN

1. Millisecond
2. Spanish city
3. A sudden very loud sound
4. "The Indiana Jones of beer"
5. Tin
6. Sea eagles
7. Volcanic crater
8. Type of coat
9. Women's apartments in

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- Ottoman palace
10. Divulge a secret
11. Norwegian playwright
12. "It's a Wonderful Life" director
14. Poisonous perennial plant
17. 18-year astronomical period
20. Clothes
21. Places to sit
23. Family of regulator genes
25. New York ballplayer
26. Impressive in size or scope
27. Jacques ___, French biologist
29. One from the Big Apple
30. Genus of woolly lemurs
32. Songs to one's beloved
34. Indigenous person of N.E. Thailand
35. Supplemented with difficulty
37. Farewell
40. Investment account (abbr.)
42. One from Utah
43. Begets
47. A male child
49. Break apart
50. Brief appearance
52. Partner to "oohed"
53. A light informal meal
55. Fabric with smooth, shiny surface
56. One billionth of a second
57. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
58. Close tightly
59. Mail out
61. Language
65. Computer characteristic

1.1.26 SOLUTIONS

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NATIONAL



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Appreciation Day

JANUARY 9



McCann-Carpenter Dental, L.L.C.



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



MINDEN
courier



Bethany Home
Loving Care with a Spiritual Touch



To include your logo on the community support page email ashleyb@syndicatepub.com