

New Directors, Same Sense of Community

CINDY RAMSEY

Libraries are a vital resource in any town not only for the access to books and information, but as a place to come together and build community. Connections and community are the top priority for new Hildreth Public Library Director Amber Harms and Axtell Public Library Director Tara Schneider.

Harms left her home in South Dakota and eventually settled in Hildreth with her husband and two young daughters. Although she doesn't have previous experience working in a library, she has experience with the written word that gives her a unique perspective on libraries.

"They kind of took a leap of faith when they hired me," Harms said. "I enjoy reading books and I've written a few so I understand books to a certain extent which I think is cool when you go into a library. Also I have kids and a library is for kids. So I'm leaning on my experience as a mom and my experience as an author and as a reader."

Before taking on the role as library director, Harms worked as a para at Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools. That position served as a good entry into the community, but her new career promises to grow on that foundation.

"I just really like books. The idea of a library seems almost magical," Harms said. "So the love for reading is what made me apply, but I also just wanted to do something more. Not that being a para isn't enough, but I just felt like I was better suited for something more professionally."

She got started in her new role in early December. Retired library director Vicky Casper has been on hand to help guide Harms through the administrative side of the position and answer any questions as she gets settled.

"She is a Godsend. What I didn't realize was as the director for this library specifically, I'm everything top to bottom. CEO, secretary, all of it. So Vicky is so, so, so good to me and the community wanting to make sure it goes smoothly and in the right way," Harms said.



Amber Harms took on the Hildreth Public Library Director position in early December. She looks forward to building on established programs to create a welcoming place for residents of all ages to come together. (Courier photo by Cindy Ramsey)

Weather Forecast

Jan. 23:	9/-3	
Jan. 24:	15/2	
Jan. 25:	34/13	
Jan. 26:	44/16	
Jan. 27:	34/11	
Jan. 28:	34/14	
Jan. 29:	37/21	



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PAGES 14-21 - High School Sports

Hastings College to Feature Two World Premieres, 119 High School Students at Annual Honor Festival

PRESS RELEASE

(Hastings, Nebraska) – Hastings College will hold its 62nd Annual Honor Band and 54th Annual Honor Choir concert on Monday, January 19, at 5:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Hastings (621 N Lincoln Avenue). The concert is free and open to the public, and will be live-streamed on the Hastings College YouTube channel.

The Hastings College Honor Band and Choir (HHBC) festival is the longest-running high school music honor ensembles sponsored by a college in Nebraska and features some of the best high school musical talent

throughout the region. This year, 119 students were selected from Nebraska — with 68 selected to be part of the choir and 51 selected for band.

Student check-in for both ensembles is Sunday, January 18, with rehearsals happening until later on Monday when the groups move to the church to prepare for the concert.

The honor band is directed by Dr. Drew Dickey, director of athletic bands and assistant director of bands at the Texas Christian University School of Music. The choir is directed by Dr. Raoul Carlo (Miggi) F. Angangco, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities at Hastings College.

Among other works, the Honor Choir will be premiering pieces by two Hastings College graduates: “Alebrijes” by Hugo Madera ‘19, and “I Know...” by Hannah Jensen ‘15. Madera is a composer, conductor, educator and clinician, and director of the choral ensembles at Adams Central High School. Jensen-Heitmann is a composer, performer and educator, and executive director of the Hastings Community Music Academy.

Local students selected for this year’s Hastings College Honor Band and Choir are:

Madalyn Morey, Minden High School, Choir

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News Briefs

MHS Junior Class Fundraiser

The Minden High Junior Class will hold a fundraiser at Runza on February 4th from 5–10 p.m. Runza will donate 10% of all sales during that time to support the Junior Class, helping pay for prom and graduation. Families are encouraged to stop by after parent-teacher conferences and enjoy a meal while supporting local students.

Husker Quilt Raffle

Paws Up Kearney County is selling tickets for a Husker quilt raffle. The Husker themed, all cotton, king sized quilt was made and donated by Marlene Detmers. Drawing for the quilt will be held on Saturday, April 25 at the Paws Up Shelter Me fundraiser. You do not need to be present to win.

Raffle tickets can be purchased through Paws Up Kearney County board members by email at pawsupkearneycounty@gmail.com, by messaging Paws Up Kearney County on Facebook, or by texting Jane at 308-830-9870. Cash, check and venmo accepted.

Heart of Our Hometown

Only a few tables are left for the Axtell Community Fund Heart of Our Hometown fundraiser. The event will be held on February 21 at the Axtell Fire Hall and includes a prime rib meal, dueling pianos, a live auction, and a silent auction. Social hour begins at 5:30pm followed by dinner at 6:30pm.

Weather Recap

Date	High	Low	Precip.
1/10/26	44	24	-
1/11/26	49	26	-
1/12/26	54	30	-
1/13/26	54	36	-
1/14/26	41	34	-
1/15/26	52	28	-
1/16/26	39	28	-
Total Week Precip.....			0.00



The community is invited to celebrate the retirement of Jill Fritson, Clerk of the District Court, after 27 years of service.

2 p.m. Jan. 30 in the Assembly Room of the Kearney County Courthouse, 424 N. Colorado Ave, Minden.

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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from PAGE 1 - New Librarians

While a fondness for books played a large part in prompting her to apply, the community involvement piece is what she looks forward to the most.

"I get overwhelmed as a mom so having somewhere for my kids to go has always been something that is really important, especially in a small community where there's not a lot to offer for activities and for kids and for families. So I'm really excited to really build on what Vicky's already done and continue to grow a place where families can send their kids or come with their kids or come without their kids or be whatever they need," Harms explained.

As she works to master all the duties of her position, Harms plans to maintain the activities and events established by her predecessor. She invites everyone to come in and find a book to read and participate in the programs they have come to expect. In the future she hopes to introduce a low maintenance book club for busy adults who don't have time to read a specific book each month as a way to connect. She would also like to begin some intergenerational programs as well.

"I have plans of getting little kids involved with some people in the older generations to build connections with them. Really just pull everyone together and create this really big sense of community that they've already created in Hildreth and build off of that," Harms said.

Sheila Carmoney retired as the Axtell Public Library Director last summer. Schneider filled the vacancy in August excited to find a local job that allows her to plan and lead fun activities for kids.

"I love interacting with all the kids and planning the events. The kids coming in for Bingo just absolutely makes my day," Schneider said. "I love interacting with the community as they come in and seeing everybody."

With no prior experience, Schneider still picked up quickly on what her duties entailed with some guidance from Carmoney. She has kept a full calendar of programs ready and rolling every month taking extra care to ensure the library is ready to host the youth of Axtell any time school is not in session.

"I have two kids myself so they come in and have something to do after school. I love doing all the events with the kids and seeing how much they love coming to the library. We went from having six kids come into Bingo to almost 30 the other day," Schneider said.

Keeping a full roster of programs has made the library a hub of activity and the place to be for residents of all ages.

"You don't hear about libraries very often and I think having everything going on that we do, we're getting people into the library. They come in for the events and then they check out books before they leave so it's helping them get engaged in reading too," Schneider said.

Both libraries have bright futures full of fun activities and plenty of books with their new directors at the helm. The two towns are working together as they make plans for the summer reading program to allow people the opportunity to enjoy activities at both libraries. But there is no need to wait until summer to get in on the fun. Stop by your local library to learn more about all of the programs and services they have to offer.



Tara Schneider stepped into the Axtell Public Library Director position in August. She most enjoys planning and leading programs for area youth. (Courier photo by Cindy Ramsey)

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MPS Says a Sad Farewell to Four Instructors, Hires One New

CINDY RAMSEY

After approving the excused absence of Justin Glanzer, the Minden Public Schools Board of Education dove right into start of the year business at the January 12 regular meeting.

No changes were made to board operations as Rusty Rhynalds, Glanzer, and Kevin Raun were reelected as Board President, Vice President, and Secretary respectively. The board upheld tradition approving Scott Johnson as district treasurer, Perry Law Firm and KSB as district legal counsel, Minden Exchange Bank and First Bank as depository banks for the district, Minden Courier as the district newspaper, and the current board policies and regulations.

Board committees will be appointed by Superintendent Jim Widdifield and conflict of interest forms were distributed to the board to complete and return. With these actions complete, the board got down to regular business starting with the consent agenda.

Widdifield reported the district is in good shape with expenditures to revenue. Most of the larger expenses for the month relate to heating and cooling, but the budget was built to accommodate maintenance of the aging equipment. A brief discussion was held among the board regarding payment to the school resource officer as the district is responsible for a majority of his salary, but the salary is set by the City of Minden. With a better understanding of the SRO agreement, the board approved the consent agenda including minutes from

the December 8 meeting, financial reports, and expenditures and claims for payment.

C.L. Jones Middle School Principal Nathan Strasburg added to his report to the board by expressing thanks to the three teachers retiring from CLJMS for their years of service and noting they are leaving some big shoes to fill. East Elementary Principal Sandy Pohl brought Media Specialist Kim Olson to the meeting to highlight all the great things happening in the East Elementary library.

The board reviewed the first reading of amendments to Policy 3131 Procurement Plan and Policy 3132 Internal Controls. The amendments reflect changes in the dollar amounts set in the policies to reflect updates as set by law.

Cody Krull shared with the rest of the board that MEA negotiations went well. There was quite a bit of back and forth, but an agreement was reached that satisfied both parties. The biggest change is in sick days and PTO. Additionally, the agreement removed several extra duties that are obsolete while giving administration the authority to add duties and extra curricular assignments as needed. Likewise, additional positions like junior high FFA advisor were added. Minden is number one for teacher base salary in its array of schools.

Raun noted the cost of insurance went up again this year and that is reflected in the overall package. He said the give and take from the negotiations committee and the teachers is good and the process is very smooth. The

board approved the 2026-27 agreement with the Minden Education Association for a 4.02% total package increase and a base salary of \$41,950.00.

High School Principal Don Hosick requested the board approve Rachel Tagtmeyer as the high school Language Arts teacher for the 2026-27 school year. Tagtmeyer has been teaching in Holdrege, but lives in Minden. Hosick noted they had three great interviews to fill the position, and believes Tagtmeyer will do a fantastic job. The board approved the new certified staff contract with Tagtmeyer for the 2026-27 school year.

Four resignation letters were presented to the board for consideration. Bob Carlson, Barb Jacobsen, Michelle tenBensel, and Colleen Thatcher each submitted letters of resignation effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year. The instructors have more than 130 combined years of service to MPS. The board approved with regret all four resignations.

The Minden Public Schools Foundation has made great strides in the past several years to become the resource it was meant to be for the district. With this in mind, the board approved the transfer of Kendall Peterson Scholarship funds to the Foundation in accordance with IRS regulations and guidance. This won't change the scholarship, but only moves the funds from the Activities Fund to the Foundation to be managed by the 501c3 organization.

A master services agreement with ESU# 11 for the 2026-27 school year was approved. This action is taken annually. The agreement with ESU #11 provides a number of benefits to the district including collaboration, efficiency in buying power, services, and support.

Winding down the meeting, the board approved CMBA as architect for the facilities project including a new PK-3 elementary school facility and renovations to the existing high school and middle school. The agreement locks in the rates agreed on during the 2021-22 school year for the duration of the project. The district's legal counsel has advised this agreement is good for the district.

The final piece of business for the meeting was approval of a resolution to authorize financing of the voter-approved facilities projects. The documents approved by the board are tied to the lease agreement planned for the project that allows the district the flexibility of running the project through the Special Building Fund.

With business concluded, the board meeting was adjourned. The next regular school board meeting will be held on Monday, February 9 at 7 p.m. in the Minden High School Media Center.



1 JOHN 4:19

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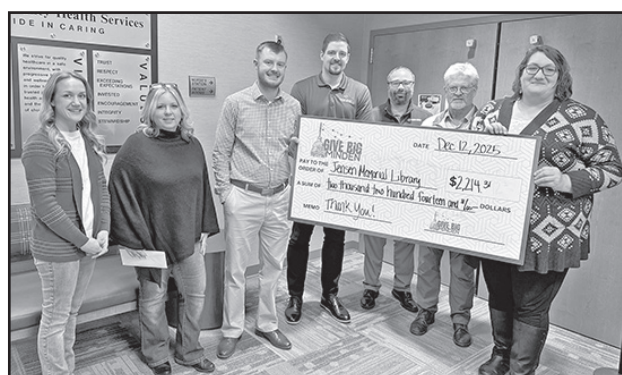
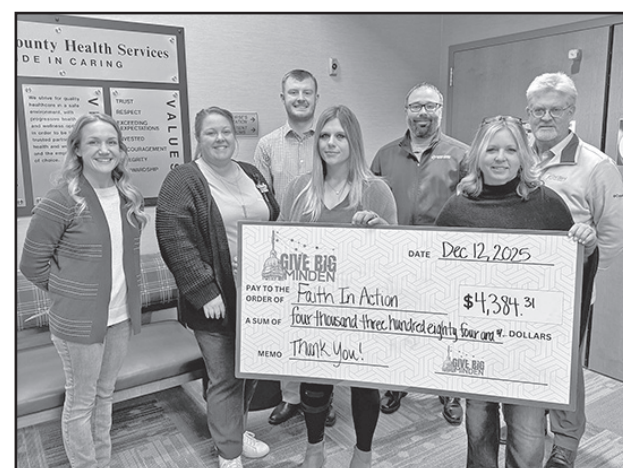
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Give Big Minden 2025

The second annual Give Big Minden event was held on December 12 and checks were distributed on January 8. The giving day event garnered \$66,832.45 for 12 local nonprofits after all donations and fees. There were many generous local sponsors that helped make the day a success. Thank you to the community for all of the support,

donations, and help spreading the word about this event. Organizers hope to keep growing Give Big Minden in the future and are excited to see what the local nonprofits continue to do for the community.



High School Students of the Month

WILCOX-HILDRETH

Name: Brooke Casper

Grade: Senior

Achievements: She served on Kearney County 4-H Council earlier this year and is currently her 4-H club's president.

Attributes that led to success: She exemplifies a strong work ethic, a positive mindset, and a remarkable willingness to take on any challenge. She demonstrates a consistently positive attitude in all activities. Her openness to learning and readiness to contribute makes her a valuable member of any group or class. Future plans: Attending UNL in Lincoln and majoring in agriculture communications

Additional Comments: Brooke has become a standout presence in the school's cheerleading program through dedication, versatility, and positive attitude. She is known for participating in every practice and game. Brooke serves as a positive role model, demonstrating leadership, resilience, and a strong work ethic. Her willingness to participate in all aspects of the program reflects a genuine passion for cheerleading and school pride. She is always willing to have the younger kids stand with her on the sidelines and have them cheer with her. Her willingness to share her knowledge and school pride with the younger kids is appreciated and will never be forgotten. – Coach Nicole Dunker

Name: Cheyenne Lieb

Grade: Senior

Achievements: She is the FFA President and NHS Vice President. She also now holds the school record for in game three-pointers made and the school record for three-pointers made in a season. What attributes does the student have that helped her achieve success: She actively participates in a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities. She is always willing to take on any task with enthusiasm and responsibility. She is always adjusting quickly and effectively to changing expectations. Her involvement, flexibility, and constructive attitude set a strong example for peers.

Future plans: Attending CCC in Hastings majoring in dental hygiene

Additional Comments: Cheyenne is a dedicated member of the cheer squad who participates wholeheartedly in every practice, performance, and school event. She consistently brings energy and encouragement to teammates and the crowd alike. Whether she is learning new routines, stepping into different roles, or supporting others, she approaches every challenge with enthusiasm and adaptability. She is always the one to help whenever it is needed and adjusts to any situation thrown her way. Her commitment and positive influence have made a lasting impact on the cheer squad and the school community. – Coach Nicole Dunker



MINDEN



Name: Madisen Mulroney

Grade: Senior

Achievements: Squad member for 3 years as well as Captain this year

Challenges/success: As a captain this year, Mady has had to adapt to so many changes. She's been dedicated to the squad and seen it through its best and worst. Everything changed this year, coaches, uniforms, expectations, but Mady has not only gotten through it, she's EXCELED and made the team what it is today. Her leadership, drive, levelheaded thinking, and optimism gave the team a new reputation for success this year. As her coach I can confidently say that Mady has openly helped reinvent this program she's been so dedicated to. I couldn't ask for a better captain and teammate to watch.

Future plans: Mady plans on attending Xenon cosmetology school to become a cosmetologist. I just know she'll excel in anything she does!

Additional Comments: Mady has made not only her senior year special but has made this team special as well. Whippet Cheer will forever remember this team that Ma-

disen has captained. Thank you, Mady. – Coach Grace Bowen



AXTELL

Name: Morgan Hawkins

Grade: Junior

Achievements: Cheer-Co Captain

What attributes does the student have that helped her achieve success: Morgan is a great asset to our cheer team. She is a great role model that always has a positive, ready-to-go attitude. She is a well-rounded student and athlete that stays involved in the school and in our community of Axtell. – Coach Chloe Bertrand

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

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Kearney County Extension News

By Jason Tuller

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln Associate
Extension Educator — RPN**

It's January again. Did your community improve over the last year? Did it stay the same? Did it decline? Motivational speakers like to announce that if you aren't getting better, then you're getting worse.

What steps forward has your community taken this past year? What steps have you personally taken to make your community better this year? Did you meet a new neighbor? Did you help others clean up after a storm? Did you volunteer with a group or for an activity? Did you just drive into your garage and shut the door and take the trash out on trash day?

Being an active participant in your community makes it better for everyone. Long time volunteers get a rest when new people come in to help. Participating in the local economy by shopping in your community helps to keep stores open and helps store owners to make a living. Big box stores like Walmart don't care if you spend \$50 more each month, but your neighborhood grocery store would notice.

So how does a community get more people involved? One possible solution is RPN's ECAP program. We do a community survey, on paper and online so everyone can participate. Then we do a series of community meetings, starting with a meeting to set priorities based on the survey results. The following meetings give people a framework and time to work together on the priority issues that are meaningful to them. Perhaps it is childcare, broadband, or the park system. These meetings continue and give the community a starting point to move into the future. Each of these meetings are facilitated by RPN Educators.

Another similar program is Marketing Hometown America. This is a program where RPN trains the community to do the program themselves. There is no survey, it is just the participants in the meetings choosing their project and objectives. This program helps build the leadership capacity in the community

because of the training provided for the team leaders. RPN will train the leaders and provide them with materials to lead the project locally.

If your community is looking for a catalyst like these but can't commit to several months of meetings, give your local RPN educator a call and see if they can come do a presentation at a community gathering to get started. You might be surprised about what can come from a simple one-hour chat. Sometimes these simple presentations are all that is needed to spark a community change. Other times, the larger programs are needed to build buy in and involvement in the community.

As we begin this new year, it's time to start thinking about the future. Did you know that this year is the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, sometimes referred to as the U.S. Semiquincentennial. Is your community planning a giant celebration? Are there time capsules that need opened...or buried? RPN could even facilitate a meeting to plan the celebration. Facilitated meetings are a way to let every voice be heard without one person or group of people controlling the conversation.

If any of these ideas have struck you as something that your community needs, take the first step. Tell someone about your idea. Get a group together and start moving forward. Call a local RPN Educator. If your community isn't getting better... is it getting worse? Very rarely do things stay the same. People come, people go, and change is always knocking at the door. Will that change be good or bad? That is up to you. Encouraging more people to get involved and share ideas may help you find a new direction for your community and be a good roadmap for the future.

If your community could benefit from any of the Rural Prosperity Nebraska ideas that I've discussed in this column, please reach out to me. I'd love to speak to your community about these topics. You can reach me at jason.tuller@unl.edu or at the Thayer County office at 402-768-7212.

Jason Tuller is an Extension Educator for the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. He works in the Rural Prosperity Nebraska program and covers ten-county area including Kearney, Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Saline, Franklin, Webster, Nuckolls, Thayer, and Jefferson Counties.

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Whippets Show Progress at CNFL#1

CINDY RAMSEY



The Minden Speech team earned medals in 16 varsity and one novice event during the CNFL #1 meet on January 17 in Grand Island. Pictured: Isabelle Martin (above) and Carson Wright (below) take their turn on stage during the awards ceremony. (Courier photos by Arabella Reed)

The Minden Speech team saw great improvement in events at the CNFL #1 meet on January 17 in Grand Island. The Whippets earned medals in 17 events at the large and competitive tournament.

Novice medal winners were: Steven Rhodes, 5th Place, Entertainment

Varsity medal winners were: Arabella Reed, 3rd Place, POI; Frank Kovacs, 4th Place, Humorous Prose; Arabella Reed, 4th Place, Serious Prose; Arabella Reed, 6th Place, Humorous Prose; Emory Porter, 8th Place, Poetry; Bailey Alkire, 9th Place, POI; Carson Wright and Frank Kovacs, 9th Place, Duet Acting; Jonathan Althouse, 11th Place, Humorous Prose; Rebecca Lempka, 11th Place, Persuasive; Emory Porter, 12th Place, POI; Frank Kovacs, 12th Place, Serious Prose; Isabelle Martin, 13th Place, Entertainment; Ashlyn Kernick, 14th Place, Poetry; Natali Uribe, 14th Place, Entertainment; Carson Wright, 14th Place, Extemporaneous; Carson Wright, 14th Place, Informative

The Whippets are focused on continuing to progress throughout the season. The team will have an early start on January 24 as they head to Broken Bow.



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 Zambia Mission Project Chili & Cinnamon Roll Cook-Off, happening Sunday, February 1, 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 reintroduced 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 Orphan-care 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 orphan care 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 orphan care 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 orphan care 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 1, 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 Zambia Mission Project:

Since 2015, the Zambia Mission Project has been dedicated to providing orphan care, 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.

Ramsey, Wayne State College Mock Trial Headed to Regionals

PRESS RELEASE

Legal Minds is proud to announce that the Wayne State College Mock Trial team will be heading to regionals.

The American Mock Trial Association hosts collegiate mock trial competitions across the country. Wayne State will be headed to Ohio and competing February 28th-March 1st.

The team will be competing against other colleges across the country including John Carroll University, Tennessee, Miami University, Penn State, Ohio State, Eastern Michigan University, Wittenberg University, Kentucky University, Carnegie Mellon, Xavier University, Bellarmine University, Guelph, Ohio Northern, and Denison.

Wayne State formerly had a collegiate mock trial program,

but it had not been active for many years. Under the direction of Legal Minds, the team has been revived under the direction of former Legal Minds President Sydney McKay and current President Faith King.

The program is coached by Judge Ensz and J.D. Sydney Story and led by captain Parker Kesting.

Members of the team include Hildreth native, Georgia Ramsey.

Join us in celebrating our brave attorneys and witnesses. Donations are accepted, and be given by contacting legalminds@wsc.edu.

Minden Rotary Receives Grant

PRESS RELEASE

The Rotary Club of Minden, Nebraska was awarded a grant in the amount of \$2500 from Southern Public Power District Area Development Fund, also known as Operation Round-up.

The Rotary Club of Minden has been raising funds in support of its 100th Anniversary Project. The club plans to purchase and install a 25-foot flagpole in Minden’s Chautauqua Park. The club centennial celebration and flagpole award ceremony is planned for Saturday, June 13, 2026 in Chautauqua Park. There will be food and music, and the entire community is invited to attend.

“We have been raising money for this project for more than 2 years now,” said club president, Bennett Johnson. “This grant will ensure that we are able to meet our financial goals and purchase and install the flagpole. Our club has been serving the Minden community and Kearney County for a century. We wanted to present the community with something of significance to commemorate the work of so many volunteers that supported our town in the past 100 years.”

Southern Public Power District Area Development Fund is made possible by SPPD customers who generously round-up their electricity bills. The fund is overseen by a separate board of directors representing each of the seven counties in which SPPD provides service.

The Rotary Club of Minden continues to raise money for their centennial project through their annual Flag for a Day Project. The club sells subscription services to businesses and residents, and places and removes American flags from yards on Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4th and Labor Day for \$25 per year. To learn more about participating in that project or contributing to the centennial flagpole project, please contact the club at info@mindenrotary.com.



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308.340.2145 erinpittz.scmi@gmail.com

Bowling Standings

Classey Lassies 1-8-26

Team Standings:	W	L
Skye’s The Limit Salon	13	3
Upland Bar & Grill	11	5
Platte River BBQ	8	8
Split Happens	7.5	8.5
Aurora Coop-Keene	7.5	8.5
Pony Express Ford	7	9
Dobish Dumpsters	6	10
Larson Bros Construction	4	12
High Individual Game: Sheila Schoone, 177; Tanna Struss, 162; Betty Smith & Mary Wendell, 161		
High Individual Series: Betty Smith, 477; Sheila Schoone, 468; Tanna Struss, 458		
High Team Game: Upland Bar & Grill, 438; Split Happens, 438; Pony Express Ford, 418		
High Team Series: Upland Bar & Grill, 1254; Skye’s The Limit Salon, 1186; Dobish Dumpsters, 1135		

Sunday Mixed 1-11-26

Team Standings:	W	L
Flinstones	32	12
3 Chicks & A Stick	26	18
Travelers	2 2 . 5	
21.5		
Lucky Dogs	2 2 . 5	
21.5		
Bowling Stones	22	22
High Individual Game, Men: Randy Durand, 191; Calvin Durand, 190; Will Wyatt, 182		
High Individual Game, Women: Kasey Welch, 183; Sheri Wyatt, 164; Krissy Simonton, 156		
High Individual Series, Men: Calvin Durand, 535; Randy Durand, 535; Will Wyatt, 454		
High Individual Series, Women: Kasey Welch, 436; Sheila Schoone, 422; Krissy Simonton, 395		
High Team Game: Flinstones, 590; 3 Chicks & A Stick, 584; Lucky Dogs, 532		
High Team Series: Flinstones, 1688; 3 Chicks & A Stick, 1614; Travelers, 1377		


Minden Unified Association 12-18-25

Team Standings:	W	L
Joyce Farms	38	22
First Bank	32	28
APEX	20	24
Miller Body	19	41
High Individual Game: Dusty Space, 228; Daniel Dinges, 190; Shawn Nelson, 186		
High Individual Series: Dusty Space, 593; Kevin Reed,		

497; Tad Joyce, 482
High Team Game: Miller Body, 650; First Bank, 635; Joyce Farms, 614
High Team Series: Miller Body, 1864; First Bank, 1701; Joyce Farms, 1691

Monday Maniacs 1-12-26

Team Standings:	W	L
Minden Exchange Bank & Trust	6	2
Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm	6	2
Children First Daycare	3	5
Budget Heating & Air	1	7
High Individual Game: Sherri Merrill, 179; Rendy France, 163; Sherri Merrill, 150		
High Individual Series: Sherri Merrill, 445; Rendy France, 436; Deb Dorn, 413		
High Team Game: Minden Exchange Bank & Trust, 432; Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 390; Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 384		
High Team Series: Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 1155; Children First Daycare, 1127; Minden Exchange Bank & Trust, 1113		



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Calendars and Menus

Minden Public Schools

MENUS:

Friday, Jan. 23: BREAKFAST: Muffin, cottage cheese cup; LUNCH: Hot dog with cheese

Monday, Jan. 26: BREAKFAST: Breakfast burrito; LUNCH: Sweet & sour meatballs, rice

Tuesday, Jan. 27: BREAKFAST: Cheese omelet, cereal; LUNCH: Mini corn dogs, baked beans

Wednesday, Jan. 28: BREAKFAST: Yogurt parfait, granola; LUNCH: Spaghetti, garlic bread

Thursday, Jan. 29: BREAKFAST: Pancakes, sausage patty; LUNCH: Chicken, rice & bean bowl with queso

Friday, Jan. 30: BREAKFAST: Long John, string cheese; LUNCH: Deli sub sandwich bar, chips

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Jan. 23: V Boys & Girls WR @ UNK Duals, 10 a.m.; V/JV Girls & Boys BB vs. Holdrege, 4:30 p.m.; FBLA Soup Supper, 5 p.m.; Cheer Parent/Senior Night, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24: Optimist BKB Tournament; Speech @ Broken Bow, 8 a.m.; V Boys WR @ Lexington Invite, 9 a.m.; JV Girls WR @ Axtell Invite, 11 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 25: Optimist BKB Tournament

Monday, Jan. 26: UNK Honor Choir & Band; 7/8 Girls WR Minden Quad, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 27: Girls & Boys BB SWC

Wednesday, Jan. 28: MS PAC meeting, 7:30 a.m.

Thursday, Jan. 29: Girls & Boys BB SWC Consolation; 7/8 Girls WR Dual @ Lexington, 5 p.m.; V/JV Girls WR @ Lexington, 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30: Girls & Boys BB SWC Semi-Final; 7/8 Girls WR @ Grand Island Westridge, 4:15 p.m.

Axtell Community School

MENUS:

Friday, Jan. 23: LUNCH: Flying saucers, peas OR Turkey sub

Monday, Jan. 26: LUNCH: Cooks Choice

Tuesday, Jan. 27: LUNCH: Walking taco, black beans OR Ham sub

Wednesday, Jan. 28: LUNCH: Teriyaki chicken, rice, oriental veggies

Thursday, Jan. 29: LUNCH: Steak fingers, fries OR Crispy chicken salad

Friday, Jan. 30: LUNCH: Pizza, green beans

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Jan. 23: Boys WR @ South Loup Invite, 11 a.m.; JV Boys BB vs. Wilcox-Hildreth, 4:30 p.m.; Girls BB vs. Wilcox-Hildreth, 6 p.m.; Boys BB vs. Wilcox-Hildreth, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24: Girls WR Axtell Invite, 11 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 25: Axtell Youth WR meet, 12 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 26: JH Boys & Girls BB vs. Elm Creek, 2:30 p.m.; JV Boys BB vs. Silver Lake, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 27: 4th grade NAEP testing

Wednesday, Jan. 28: JH Girls & Boys BB @ Hi-Line, 1 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 29: JV Girls & Boys BB @ Franklin, 4:30 p.m.; Girls BB @ Franklin, 6 p.m.; Boys BB vs. Franklin, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30: Boys WR @ Ord Invite, 10 a.m.

Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools

MENUS:

Friday, Jan. 23: BREAKFAST: Donuts; LUNCH: Crisritos

Monday, Jan. 26: BREAKFAST: Stuffed hashbrowns; LUNCH: Mandarin orange chicken

Tuesday, Jan. 27: BREAKFAST: Bagel; LUNCH: Spaghetti bar

Wednesday, Jan. 28: BREAKFAST: Ham & egg sandwich; LUNCH: Corn dogs

Thursday, Jan. 29: BREAKFAST: Ham bar; LUNCH: Soft shell tacos

Friday, Jan. 30: BREAKFAST: Pancakes; LUNCH: Fried chicken legs

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Jan. 23: FFA State Degree submissions; Boys WR South Loup Invite @ Callaway, 10 a.m.; V/JV Girls & Boys BB @ Axtell, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24: Boys WR @ Neligh-Oakdale Invite, 10 a.m.; Girls WR @ Axtell Invite, 11 a.m.; Pep Band @ BB game, 12:15 p.m.; V/JV Girls & Boys BB vs. Amherst, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 26: JH Boys BB @ Franklin Tournament, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 27: 7-12 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.; V/JV Girls & Boys BB vs. Silver Lake, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 28: JH Girls & Boys BB vs. Loomis, 1 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 29: 8th grade NAEP testing; PK-6 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.; FCA meeting, 11:40 a.m.; JH Girls & Boys BB @ Pleasanton, 4 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30: V/JV Girls & Boys BB (Girls Senior Night) vs. Franklin, 4:30 p.m.; Boys WR Wilcox-Hildreth Triangular Senior Night, 5 p.m.; Pep Band @ BB game, 6:15 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.

Friday, Jan. 16: Chicken & rice casserole, beets, bread,

fruit & dessert

Monday, Jan. 26: Chicken noodles over mashed potatoes, carrots, dinner roll, fruit and dessert

Tuesday, Jan. 27: Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, coleslaw, dinner roll and fruit

Wednesday, Jan. 28: Breakfast casserole, salad, fruit and dessert

Thursday, Jan. 29: Baked steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner roll and fruit

Friday, Jan. 30: Casserole, peas, fruit, bread and dessert

RYDE Transportation For All Ages

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

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

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

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Do You Remember

Eighty Years Ago — 1946

Red Gaston was credited with 15 points as the Minden Whippets downed St. Cecilia in overtime 27-25. On the next night, Gerald Jacobs scored 26 points as the Whippets overcame Gibbon 54-32.

Fred Swayze, former butcher at Mason's Cash and Carry Market, opened a new grocery and meat market in the room which formerly housed the Arnold department store.

About 40 neighbors gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Johannesen in north Minden to honor them at a housewarming party.

Seventy Years Ago — 1956

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jensen left Minden for a projected trip around the world, including stops in New York, South America, Africa, India, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Hawaii.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels P. Mathiasen celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in Omaha. The event was hosted by Mrs. Grayce Mathiasen Marsh and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Clifford Mathiasen.

The Jolly James project club met at the home of Mrs. Jerry Steggs. The lesson on broiler meals was given by Mrs. Duane Layton and Steggs.

Sixty Years Ago — 1966

The Rev. J. Wm. Brewer, pastor of the Westminster United Presbyterian Church since 1958, was extended a call to serve the Grace United Presbyterian Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Linda Nielsen, 10 year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Severin Nielsen, posted the fastest time in the nation in 1965 among girls in her age group in the 50-yard breaststroke.

Wilcox defeated Overton in two overtimes, resulting in a 6-0 season in league action. Ken Meyers poured in 26 points followed by Bob Swanson with 13 and Rodney Jurgens 10.

Fifty Years Ago — 1976

Dr. Maurine Eckloff was elected as president of the District R-3 Board of Education. Other officers were Gordon Petersen, John Darnier and Ray Van Norman.

The driver of a Cargill molasses truck got cold and wet after a front tire blew out and sent the truck into a sandpit just north of the county line on Highway 10.

Harold Sindt Jr. was accepted as the Special Kearney County Deputy, fulfilling a requirement for service to the Kearney County Sheriff's Department.

Forty Years Ago — 1986

Kearney County Home Health was five years old. The office was started Jan. 7, 1981, and located in the Minden Medical Clinic. The office was moved to the Kearney County Community Hospital in 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hemje of Hildreth celebrated their 65th

anniversary with an open house at the Hildreth Lions Hall.

Air Force Major Randahl N. Lindgren, son of Emerald and Miriam Lindgren of Axtell, was decorated with the second award of the Meritorious Service Medal in England. The medal was awarded specifically for outstanding non-combat achievement or service to the United States.

Thirty Years Ago — 1996

Following six years of service to Bethphage Mission, Val Bond was appointed Bethphage Mission director. Bond was looking forward to the opening of the Prairie House, the Mission's newly-constructed group home in Minden.

Miss Nebraska 1995, Myra Katherine Hale, was a visitor at the Minden Public Schools.

Axtell musicians chosen for the UNK Honor Band and Choral Clinic were Simone Evenson, Jodi Van Fossen, Amber Sinder, Angela Dunn, Scott Schneider, Matt Wells, Rachel Wells, Ryan Soderquist and Jim Victor.

Shannon Schwenka had a season-high 19 points as the Minden girls' basketball team outlasted Gibbon 51-49.

Twenty Years Ago — 2006

Eighty-five people took advantage of the free health screening held at Kearney County Hospital for people at increased risk for kidney disease. The screening was part of the National Kidney Foundation's KEEP (Kidney Early Evaluation Program), designed to educate and identify those at risk.

Only two Minden athletes received medals during the annual Minden Invitational wrestling meet. Trevor Upshaw placed third in the 103 pound class while Bryan Anderson placed second at 112 pounds.


Minden Head Start students were visited by Pat Anderson from the Buffalo County Extension Office. Anderson spoke about grains and helped the kids make bread which they used to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Ten Years Ago — 2016

The Axtell boys basketball team moved to 10-2 with a 49-34 home win over Elm Creek. Axtell then ran their winning streak to four visiting Lawrence-Nelson and coming away with a 64-57 defeat of the Raiders. The

85%

of Nebraskans surveyed are comfortable hiring a business they see advertised in the newspaper.



The image shows a man in a plaid shirt and a woman in a striped shirt shaking hands. Behind them is a large newspaper with various headlines and photos. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right. They are both smiling and looking at each other.

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Source: Nebraska Statewide Study 2025, Coda Ventures

Church Directory

Axtell

Bethany Lutheran

903 25 Road

BethanyAxtell.org

(308) 743-2597

Marcia Dorn, Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 25: 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. 25: 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. 25: Worship service, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 28: Evening Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran, LCMC

104 E. Fifth St.

Craig Richardson,

Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 25: Donuts & Juice, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion, 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study, 12:45 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 26: Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 28: High School Youth Meal/Fellowship, 6 p.m.

Campbell

St. Anne Catholic

Father Adam Sparling,

Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 25: Mass, 8 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran

360 So. Stewart

(402) 756-8552

Greg Volsky,

Vacancy Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 25: Worship, 9:30 a.m. with Sunday school to follow

United Westminster

Presbyterian

Broad and Main Street

Mark A. Diehl, Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 25: Worship, 10 a.m.

Funk

Fridhem Lutheran

401 Lake Street

Daren Popple,

Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 25: 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. 25: Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Family Catholic Mission Parish

287 Jefferson Street

Father Evan Winter

Sunday, Jan. 25: Mass, 8:30 a.m.

Hildreth

Trinity Lutheran

502 Sanders Avenue

Caroline Schenk,

Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 25: 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. 25: Sacrament meeting, 10 a.m.

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

Visitors welcome

Macon

Zion Lutheran

Located 1 mile west of

Macon, 1503 31st Road,

(Franklin)

Marcia Dorn, Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 25: Worship service, 9 a.m.

Minden

Bethany Lutheran

437 E. Fourth St.

Don Hunzeker, Pastor

Julie Schmidt, Parish

Ministry Associate

Thursday, Jan. 22: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24: Walking, 8 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 25: Contemporary Worship, 8:30 a.m.; Blended-Traditional Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Healing Services at both services; Potluck & Annual meeting following late service

Tuesday, Jan. 27: Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 28: Church Club, 5 pm.; Wednesday Night Supper Club, 6 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 29: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m.

Stay connected with our website, Bethanyminden.org

Evangelical Free

1310 W. First St.

Tom Barnes, Lige Reed,

Pastors

Sunday, Jan. 25: Worship,

9:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 11 a.m.

First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

444 N. Brown Ave.

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Sunday, Jan. 25: Worship service, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Fellowship after worship services; Sunday School, 11 a.m.

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

Fredericksburg

Lutheran

616 33 Road

Julie Schmidt, Parish

Ministry Associate

Don Hunzeker, Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 25: 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. 24: Mass, 5:30 p.m., confessions before Mass

Sunday, Jan. 25: Mass, 10:30 a.m.; (in Spanish at 12:30 p.m.); confessions before Mass

St. Paul Lutheran

206 N. Colorado

Rev. William Zwick

Friday, Jan. 23: Breakfast & Prayer, 7 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 25: Bible Study/Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Worship, 10:15 a.m.; Fellowship Coffee & Cookies, 11:15 a.m.; Congregation Voters meeting, 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 28: JYM 5th, 5 p.m.; Communion, 6:30 p.m.; JYM 6th-8th, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 29: Bible

Study, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30: Breakfast & Prayer, 7 a.m.

United Methodist

340 N. Newell Ave.

Kayla M. Mangrich,

Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 25: Worship, 10 a.m.; Confirmation, 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 28: Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 29: Prayer Time, 1:30 p.m.

Westminster United

Presbyterian

109 N. Colorado

Sharon Rees, Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 25: Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Fellowship, 10:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sundays

Thursday, Jan. 29: Blood Drive, 11 a.m.

Wilcox

St. John's Lutheran

102 S. Stockton St.

Kenton Birtell, Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 25: Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion every other Sunday

United Methodist

203 S. Sapp St.

Candance Miller,

Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 25: Worship, 9 a.m.

Communion 1st Sunday every month

Wilcox Community

106 W. Detroit St.

Craig Cedar, Pastor

Affiliated with

Evangelical Free

Church of America

Sunday, Jan. 25: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m.

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

Bible Studies during the week. Check our Facebook page.

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For the Record

Kearney County District Court
State vs. Edward Sanders, Pueblo, Colorado; felony-bind over possess firearm by prohibited person-1st; 1-8-26
State vs. Cory A. Rady, Indianapolis, Indiana; felony-bind over; COUNT I: motor vehicle homicide-reckless/willful; COUNT II: violate stop or yield sign; COUNT III: reckless driving-1st offense; 1-12-26

Kearney County County Court
Sacramento Perez, Hastings, speeding 11-15 MPH County/State, fine \$125, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Clark, 10-12-25
Jenny M. George, Minden, speeding 6-10 MPH County/State, fine \$75, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Buhlke, 12-23-25
Kelly M. Castillo Prather, Grand Island, speeding 11-15 MPH County/State, fine \$125, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Las-

sen, 12-11-25

Minden Fire & Rescue
1-10-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to KCHS for a transport.
1-10-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to S. Nance Avenue for an unknown situation.
1-10-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to the Sheriff's Office for an personal injury.
1-10-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to S. Nance Avenue for an incoherent patient.
1-12-26—The Minden Fire & Rescue was dispatched to 41 Road for a field fire.
1-13-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to Bethany Home for a fall.
1-14-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to E. 3rd Street for a personal illness.

Biskup Named to Missouri State University's Fall 2025 Dean's List

PRESS RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD, MO (01/13/2026)-- Each semester, students at Missouri State University who attain academic excellence are named to the dean's list.

For undergraduate students, criteria include enrollment in at least 12 credit hours during the fall semester and at least a 3.50 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Linden Biskup from Wilcox made the list. Biskup was among more than 5,400 students named to the fall 2025 dean's list.

Wind Turbines are coming to Kearney County

Please come to the Kearney County Joint Planning Commission meeting on Monday, Jan 26 at 6pm at the courthouse.

Wind Turbines should be not be built in Kearney County because:

Wind Turbines kill thousands of birds each year and can alter migration routes. Kearney County is in the middle of the Central American Flyway, used by hundreds of thousands of migratory birds each year. Wind Turbines pose a very real threat to these birds.

Wind Turbines introduce frequencies inaudible to humans, but which some dog breeds can hear. Depending on the breed, it can be distressing to dogs - potentially making dog ownership next to impossible depending on how close to your house the Wind Turbines are located.

Wind Turbines introduce a great deal of additional risk to airplanes used to treat crops and in some cases can make aerial application impossible.

Wind Turbines are a blight on the landscape. Say goodbye to our picturesque Sunsets.

Whether you're opposed or in favor, your attendance at this meeting is crucial. Please attend.

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SPORTS



Three Falcons Score Double Digits in Victory Over Ansley-Litchfield

PHIL SERRONE

The Wilcox-Hildreth boys basketball team (3-11) got back into the win column after a five game losing stint with a victory over Ansley-Litchfield on Jan. 17. Earlier in the week, the team was defeated by Loomis on Jan. 16.



In the Loomis matchup, it was much closer in the first half as the Falcons went into halftime down nine points 20-29. Unfortunately, Wil-Hil's offense went cold in the second half which led to the team being outpaced 13-41. When the final whistle blew, it was Loomis who stood tall by a score of 33-70.

Thomas Donley led all scorers with a team high 14 points along with six re-

bounds, one steal and one block. Drew Blank was dominant on the boards snagging a team high 10 rebounds. He also added eight points, four assists, one steal and one block. Wolves frustrated the Falcons ball movement for the majority of the game forcing 23 turnovers.

Wilcox-Hildreth defeated Ansley-Litchfield for their third victory of the season behind consistent scoring that included three double digit scorers. The Falcons found themselves down heading into halftime 22-25.

Strong defense and timely shooting was key for Wil-Hil in the second half, outshooting the Spartans 31-17 including limiting the opposing team's offense to four points in the third quarter. Once the buzzer sounded, it was the Falcons emerging victorious 53-42.

Kaleb Johnson and Donley tied for the team high in points with 12 total. Landon Lienemann finished one point away from a three-way tie scoring 11 points. Drew Blank added eight points while Cody Schriner scored six points. No other stats were provided.

Aiming for their second win in a row, the team will travel to Axtell High School on Jan. 23 with tip-off slated for 7:30 p.m. Following that contest, the team will host Amherst High School on Jan.24 with tip-off scheduled for 5:30 p.m. We will have a full recap from both games in next week's paper!

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

Points: Thomas Donley 14, Drew Blank 8, Landon Lienemann 4, Rylan Lush 2, Kaden Schriner 2, Luke Lush 1, Cody Schriner 1, Kaleb Johnson 1

Rebounds: Blank 8, Donley 4, C.Schriner 3, Alexander Klatt-Terabelian 2

Assists: Blank 4, Johnson 2, Lush 2, C.Schriner 1

Steals: Donley 1, K.Schriner 1, Luke Lush 1, Blank 1



Wilcox-Hildreth boys basketball team secured their third win of the season defeating Ansley-Litchfield on Jan. 17. The team lost to Loomis on Jan. 16. Pictured: (above) Cody Schriner shoots a pull up jumper with a defender in his face. (left) Thomas Donley tips the ball towards his teammate to begin the game. (front page) An excited Falcon fan shows some school spirit during the game, rooting the Falcons on in the process. (Courier photos by Shaina Johnson)

Blocks: Johnson 3, Donley 1, Blank 1

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

Points: Donley 12, Johnson 12, Lienemann 11, Blank 8, C.Schriner 6, Luke Lush 4

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Lady Falcons Defeated on the Road

PHIL SERRONE

Wilcox-Hildreth girls basketball team hit the road to Loomis High School on Jan. 16 followed by another road matchup against Ansley-Litchfield on Jan. 17.

Unfortunately for the Lady Falcons, the team was without leading scorer Cheyenne Lieb for both games delivering a blow to an already short-handed squad. Loomis defeated the Lady Falcons 8-54.

Chloe Johnson and Allegra Johnson each had three points in the contest. Kamryn Russell had a team high six rebounds. Kinley Hansen collected two blocks on the defensive end.

In the Ansley-Litchfield contest, the Lady Falcons found a little bit more success on the offensive end compared to their last game but still were outmatched by a score of 18-40. Wil-Hil kept it close after a 5-8 first quarter but went scoreless in the second quarter which provided an opportunity to separate on the scoreboard for the Spartans.

The Lady Falcons scored 13 points in the second half but was not enough for the Spartans' 26 second half points.

Hansen tied for a team high six points along with five rebounds, one assist, and one steal. C.Johnson paced her teammate with six points, five rebounds and one steal. A.Johnson snagged a team high six rebounds.

Wilcox-Hildreth will look to secure their first win of the season on Jan. 23 against the Axtell Lady Wildcats. Tip off is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. After that game, the team will travel

to Amherst High School on Jan. 24 with tip off slated for 2:00 p.m. We will have a full recap from both games in next week's paper!

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

Points: Chloe Johnson 3, Allegra Johnson 3, Kamryn Russell 2
Rebounds: Russell 6, A.Johnson 5, Kinley Hansen 5, Kaylan Ogier 3, C.Johnson 3

Assists: C.Johnson 1

Steals: Ogier 1, A.Johnson 1, Hansen 1

Blocks: Hansen 2

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

Points: Hansen 6, C.Johnson 6, Russell 4, A.Johnson 2

Rebounds: A.Johnson 6, C.Johnson 5, Hansen 5, Ogier 4, Russell 4

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

Steals: Hansen 1, Ogier 1, Russell 1, C.Johnson 1

Blocks: Russell 1



The Lady Falcons failed to pick up their first win of the season this past week with losses against Loomis and Ansley-Litchfield. Wilcox-Hildreth will face off against Axtell on Jan. 23. Pictured: Kamryn Russell gets on the ground for a loose ball. (Courier photo by Shaina Johnson)

Bunger and Patterson Medal at Elm Creek Invite

PHIL SERRONE

Starting off the week was a trip to Elm Creek High School for the Wilcox-Hildreth girls wrestling team. The crowded event was held on Jan. 16 with 24 total schools in attendance.

As a team, the Lady Falcons placed 16th overall with a team score of 38. Wilcox-Hildreth collected two medals at the event.

Camryn Bunger had the best finish of the afternoon for the Lady Falcons as she placed third overall. Bunger added four victories to her young career including a dominant total fall win 15-0 over Porteck of Loomis in the second round. Elin Patterson placed fourth overall behind two victories.

No other Lady Falcon wrestler placed but Ayva Bendorf and Ona Wilsey each added one win to their record.

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

115: Elin Patterson opened with a bye then

was pinned by Heckman of Loomis in 1:27 then had a bye then won by total falls 15-0 over Johnson of Fillmore Central in 2:53 then won by decision 12-5 over Koch of Southwest then was pinned by Heckman of Loomis in 0:39 to place fourth overall

125: Ona Wilsey started with a bye then won an 'ultimate tie break' over Waltermath of Loomis 4-3 then was pinned by Amendt of Sedgwick County/Fleming in 5:07 then was pinned by Hrasky of SEM in 2:07

130: Ayva Bendorf opened with a bye then pinned Hatterman of Fillmore Central in 1:58 then was pinned by Glende of Sedgwick County/Fleming in 2:21 then was pinned by Putnam of Elm Creek in 4:28

135: Camryn Bunger started with a pin win over Luebbe of Centennial in 0:41 then won by total falls 15-0 over Porteck of Loomis in 2:00 then was pinned by Degenhardt of Thayer Central in 5:05 then pinned Cordes of Kenesaw in 4:04 then pinned Porteck of Loomis in 3:45 to place third overall

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Whippets Finish Roller-Coaster Week on a High Note

ROGER HANSEN

Minden's girls competed three times last week going 2-1, defeating Ravenna, losing to St. Cecilia and then downing McCook. The record rose to 9-4.

The girls won at Ravenna 44-25 on January 13.

Another great start to a game had the Whippets up 23-5 after one quarter. Then the rest of the evening points were harder to come by but Minden's defense was frugal in not allowing the Blue Jays to score much in any period. The Whippets leads were 30-12 at halftime and 39-16 by the end of the third.

Minden was 15-46 (6-23 on 3s) for 32% on FGs and a flawless 8-8 on FTs (Riley Eden 5-5, Myla Emery 3-3). The team had 9 offensive and 21 defensive rebounds, 10 assists, 10 steals and 19 turnovers.

Emery achieved her fourth double-double of the season going for 25 points (four 3s) and 10 rebounds plus 2 assists and 5 steals. Eden had 9 points and 6 rebounds. KayLynn Jorgensen got 5 points and 3 rebounds and Kaleigh Carr added 3 rebounds and 3 assists. Macy Jorgenson swished a three and blocked three shots, Ruby Rhynalds had 3 rebounds and 2 assists and Lauren Starkey nabbed 2 rebounds.

Minden 23 7 9 5- 44 (8-3)

Ravenna 5 7 4 9- 25 (4-10)

MINDEN- Emery 25, Eden 9, K. Jorgensen 5, M. Jorgensen 3, Starkey 2

On January 15 at Hastings St. Cecilia, the hometown Blue-hawks scraped by the Whippets 32-28.

Both teams' defenses kept scoring at a premium for the opposing offense. St. Cecilia was up 10-4 after the first period but Minden cut into that lead in the second quarter so the Blue-hawks went into intermission ahead 15-14.

Top Ten C2-rated St. Cecilia then had slim margins in both the third and fourth periods to earn the win by four.

The Whippets were 12-36 (2-15 on 3s) for 33% from the field and 2-3 on FTs. They had 3 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds, 5 assists, 6 steals and 15 turnovers.

Emery scored 12 in addition to having 3 rebounds, 2 assists and 3 steals. Eden got 5 points, 3 rebounds and 2 assists and Starkey also scored 5. Carr pitched in 4 points, 6 rebounds and 3 blocks and KayLynn and Rhynalds got 3 and 2 rebounds, respectively.

Minden 4 10 6 8- 28 (8-4)

St. Cec. 10 5 8 9- 32 (12-1)

MINDEN- Emery 12, Eden 5, Starkey 5, Carr 4, Rhynalds 2

Back at home on January 17, the Whippets were victorious over McCook 45-32.

The contest was a tight struggle for three quarters. Minden led at the end of the first 17-13 on 7 of 13 shooting from the field. KayLynn potted two treys, Emery one and Eden scored 4 points.



Kaleigh Carr goes up strong towards the basket. (Courier photo by Phil Serrone)

Lady Wildcats Pick Up Road Win

ROGER HANSEN

Axtell's girls split two contests last week losing at home to Elm Creek and winning over Lawrence-Nelson at Nelson. The record shifts to 5-9.

Elm Creek is rated in D1 and they played very well in topping the Cats 68-31 on January 15.

The Buffs methodically pushed the margin further in their favor with each ensuing period. It was 31-13 at halftime and 46-22 at the conclusion of the third before ending with their strongest quarter in the fourth.

Emily Danburg scored 5 in the second and 7 in the third on her way to 15 for the game. Leah Stritt had 4 first period points and 7 in all. Morgan Hawkins added 5.

Elm Creek 13 18 15 22- 68 (11-2)

Axtell 4 9 9 9- 31 (4-9)

AXTELL- Danburg 15, Stritt 7, Hawkins 5, Maddie Wells 2, Bristol Thorell 2

The trip to Nelson on January 17 was a successful one for the Cats as they downed the Raiders 46-29.

Axtell was dominant from the start and got out to a 26-6 lead going to the halftime break.

Although L-N outscored the Cats 23-20 in the second half the outcome was never in doubt.

Danburg's quarter point tallies were 6-6-5-6 as she led with 23 points. She was 11-20 at the foul line. Hawkins got 4 in the third and 8 altogether. Stritt had 4 in the second quarter and a second straight 7-point game total. Thorell scored 5.



Madison Wells drives baseline towards the basket amidst defensive pressure. (Courier photo by Rachel Hawkins)

Axtell 14 12 9 11- 46 (5-9)

Law-Nel 3 3 8 15- 29 (1-10)

AXTELL- Danburg 23, Hawkins 8, Stritt 7, Thorell 5, Ashlynn Nelson 2, Brooklyn DeJonge 1

By halftime the Bison were up one, 27-26. The Whippets were ahead 23-16 at 5:25 of the second but were outscored 11-3 the rest of the quarter. Rhynalds, Carr and KayLynn all made threes to account for Minden's points.

McCook went on top by four, 30-26, on the first possession of the third but did not score again in the period. The Whippets did not score much either, but four free throws by Emery in the final 1:34 of the quarter gave Minden a two-point edge, 32-30.

Neither team scored in the first two-plus minutes of the fourth but then treys on three of four possessions in the middle of the period (two by Rhynalds, one by KayLynn) gave Minden some breathing room. McCook scored only two points in the final period and was 2-24 from the field in the second half.

The Whippets defense has allowed no more than 38 points for seven consecutive games.

Minden was 15-42 (9-20 on 3s) for 36% on FGs and 6-6 on FTs (all by Emery). The team had 8 offensive and 27 defensive rebounds, 15 assists, 8 steals and 16 turnovers.

KayLynn had 12 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists and 3 steals. Emery got 9 points, 11 rebounds (just a point shy of a fifth double-double) and 2 blocks and Rhynalds scored 9 as well plus 2 rebounds. Carr supplied 7 points, 11 rebounds and 4 assists. Eden tossed in 6 points and got 6 rebounds, 4 assists and 3 steals. Starkey had 2 rebounds and 3 assists.

McCook 13 14 3 2- 32 (3-10)

Minden 17 9 6 13- 45 (9-4)

MINDEN- KayLynn 12, Emery 9, Rhynalds 9, Carr 7, Eden 6, Starkey 2

Bison Block Dawgs' Perfect Week Cats Fall at Home

ROGER HANSEN

Minden's boys took the court three times last week and beat Ravenna and St. Cecilia on the road but lost to McCook at home. The Whippets record moved to 8-5.

The boys hit rare air with their 91-63 win at Ravenna on January 13. The 'rare air' refers to Minden's point total which over the years had not often reached 90. Without doing extensive research, it is known the '84-'85 team scored 94 vs. Adams Central. The school record for single game scoring is 102 vs. Hebron in 1968.

The contest against the Jays was a shootout in the first period with Ravenna leading 22-21. The Whippets, however, kept racking up points while somewhat limiting the Blue Jays production in the middle two periods. At halftime Minden led 48-31 and furthered the margin after three quarters to 73-43.

The Whippets were 39-76 (5-32 on 3s) for 51% on FGs and 8-15 on FTs. They had 25 offensive and 24 defensive rebounds, 26 assists, 6 steals and 14 turnovers.

Luke Grollmes had 22 points, 8 rebounds and 5 assists and scoring 22 as well as Luke Craig who added 7 rebounds, 5 assists and 2 blocks. Traelin Christensen hit the daily double with 19 points and 13 rebounds. Landon Bules accounted for 11 points, 9 rebounds and 2 assists. Jack Scheibel got 4 points and 4 rebounds and Turner Schmidt scored 4. Ambrose Bloomfield had 3 points, 3 assists and 2 steals. Sam Rowan and Cole Schwenka dished 5 and 4 assists, respectively.

Minden 21 27 25 18- 91 (7-4)

Ravenna 22 9 12 20- 63 (4-9)

MINDEN- Grollmes 22, Craig 22, Christensen 19, Bules 11, Schmidt 4, Scheibel 4, Bloomfield 3, Rowan 2, Jackson Armstrong 2, Zach Klabunde 2

On January 15 the Whippets were at Hastings St. Cecilia and topped the Bluehawks 67-53.

A 35-19 halftime Minden lead held up. Even though St. Cecilia outscored the Whippets by seven in the third to narrow the gap, Minden was stronger again in the fourth to close out the contest.

The Whippets were 23-37 (5-11 on 3s) for a commendable 62% from the floor and 16-30 on FTs. They had 4 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds, 18 assists, 6 steals and 15 turnovers. St. Cecilia was 20-50 on FGs and 4-11 on FTs. They had 17 turnovers.

Four Whippets hit double figures in scoring led by Christensen with a near double-double of 19 points and 9 rebounds. Bules had 15 points, 2 rebounds, a sterling 8 assists and 2 steals. Grollmes came up with 14 points and 5 rebounds and Craig contributed 11 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists and 3 steals. Bloomfield had 3 points and 3 rebounds and Armstrong got 3 points and 2 rebounds.

Minden 18 17 15 17- 67 (8-4)

St. Cec. 9 10 22 12- 53 (3-10)

MINDEN- Christensen 19, Bules 15, Grollmes 14, Craig 11, Bloomfield 3, Armstrong 3, Cole Schwenka 2

Minden hoped to complete a perfect week but McCook shot extremely well from long distance in the first quarter to open up a double-digit lead that the Whippets could not overcome as the Bison went on for a 72-56 win at Minden on January 17.



Jackson Armstrong absorbs contact for a scoop layup attempt. (Courier photo by Phil Serrone)

At 3:15 of the first the Whippets were down just one, 10-11, but McCook nailed threes on five consecutive possessions late in the quarter and outscored Minden 17-7 in the final 2:55 of the period to lead 28-17. Grollmes scored seven in the first.

The second and third quarters had much more pedestrian scoring as the Bison had advantages of 40-26 at halftime and 47-37 through three periods. Grollmes put up eight third quarter points.

McCook found the range from long distance again in the fourth period--three more treys, plus 10-12 on FTs. The Whippets also scored well in the quarter, led by nine from Craig and five from Grollmes.

Minden shot well from the field for the second straight game connecting on 18-34 (4-12 on 3s) for 53% and 16-24 on FTs. There were 3 offensive and 14 defensive rebounds, 14 assists, 6 steals and 19 turnovers.

Giving up second chance points was a bugaboo for Minden on many possessions in the contest.

Grollmes had 22 points and 5 rebounds, Craig 13 points and 2 assists, Christensen 9 points, 7 rebounds and 4 assists, Bules 7 points, 3 assists and 2 steals. Schwenka got 3 points and 3 assists, Armstrong 2 rebounds and Bloomfield 2 assists.

McCook 28 12 7 25- 72 (9-3)

Minden 17 9 11 19- 56 (8-5)

MINDEN- Grollmes 22, Craig 13, Christensen 9, Bules 7, Schwenka 3, Armstrong 2

After a home contest vs. St. Paul played on January 20, both the girls and boys will host Holdrege on Friday, January 23. Girls @ 6:00, boys @ 7:30.



Caleb Hall applies a crossover while handling the ball. (Courier photo by Rachel Hawkins)

Axtell's boys went down to defeat in a pair of games last week to opponents with excellent records losing at home to Elm Creek 66-20 on January 15 and to Lawrence-Nelson 41-17 at Nelson on January 17. The Cats record stands at 0-14.

Elm Creek 34 15 8 9- 63 (12-1)

Axtell 2 7 2 9- 20 (0-13)

AXTELL-Kyler Kolbo 6, Landon Powers 4, David Sonnenfeld 4, Nolan Wells 2, Warren Myers 2, Elijah Sinachack 2

Axtell 2 1 4 10- 17 (0-14)

Law-Nel 15 8 15 3- 41 (9-2)

AXTELL- Reece Hunt 7, Kolbo 4, Myers 4, Sonnenfeld 2

Both the Cats' boys and girls will entertain Wilcox-Hildreth on January 23 with the girls at 6:00 and the boys at 7:30.

SWC First Round Games Announced

ROGER HANSEN

The Southwest Conference Basketball Tournament first round games have been announced.

Minden's girls will host Broken Bow while the Minden boys will travel to McCook. Both games are on Tuesday, January 27 with both beginning at 6:00pm.

The consolation games for first round losers will be on Thursday, January 29. Home site is the higher seeded of the losers.

Semifinals and finals will be on January 30 and 31, respectively, at North Platte.

Falcons and Cats Collect 11 Medals at SEM Invite

PHIL SERRONE



Axtell boys wrestling team collected three medals at the SEM Invite on Jan. 16. Chase Nickel (2nd), Nick Dahl (3rd), and Luke Abbott (4th) placed at the event. Pictured: Connor L'Heureux secures a takedown attempt. (Courier photo by Cheri Twohig)

On Jan. 16, Sumner-Edyville-Miller hosted their boys wrestling invitational with Wilcox-Hidreth and Axtell both making the trip to showcase their mat skills. 14 other schools were in attendance.

As a team, the Falcons placed second overall behind a team score of 136 to collect a runners-up team trophy. Axtell placed 10th overall with a team score of 33.5.

Wilcox-Hidreth left the invitational with eight medallists including two champions in Kyler Masters and Brody Patterson. Jacob Jezbera, Cauly Twohig and Gavin Ironshell finished second place securing silver medals in the process. Brandon Wagner placed third overall while Craig Bunker and Drake Ritner finished fourth.

Patterson's mat skills have been on full display all season long as the senior has a team high 24-2 record. Jezbera has a record of 22-4 on the year while Ironshell's 20-8 and Masters' 19-5 round out the Falcons leaderboard.

Axtell had three wrestlers secure medals at their respective weight classes. Nick Dahl (157) had the best finish for the Wildcats as he toughed out a third place finish. All three of Dahl's wins came from pinfalls. Chase Nickel and Luke Abbott each placed at the 113 weight division with a second place

finish for Nickel and a fourth place finish for Abbott.

Wilcox-Hidreth will have a busy three-day stretch of action beginning on Jan. 22 at a triangular dual in Hi-Line slated to start at 5:30 p.m. Following that meet will be a road trip to South Loup for an invitational slated to start at 10:00 a.m. on Jan. 23. Closing out the week, Wilcox-Hidreth will travel to Neligh-Oakdale for an invitational with matches starting at 9:00 a.m.

Axtell will join the Falcons at the South Loup Invite on Jan. 23. This will be the Wildcats lone meet on the week. We will have a full recap for each team in next week's paper!

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

106: Mikah Eiley opened with a pin fall loss to Small of Kearney Blue JV in 2:30 then pinned Connell of North Central in 4:27 then lost by decision 8-15 against Mills of Kearney Blue JV

120: Cooper Woollen opened with a pin fall loss against Coleman of South Loup then pinned Zurita of Kearney Blue JV then was pinned by Wendell of Bertrand in 1:00

132: Kyler Masters had a bye to open then pinned Walters of Anselmo-Merna in 1:46 then pinned Davis of Maxwell in 3:16 then pinned Olesen of Bertrand in 5:39 to place first overall

138: Brody Patterson started with a pin victory over Hansen of Elgin Public/Pope Johnson in 1:37 then pinned Ebner of Kearney Blue JV in 1:22 then pinned Kyle of Overton in 0:57 then pinned Solomon of Kearney Gold JV in 2:33 to place first overall

144: Cauly Twohig started with a pin win over Wright of North Central in 0:57 then won by majority decision 13-3 over Schall of Kearney Blue JV then lost by decision 1-6 against Sutton of Kearney Gold JV to place second overall

150: Drake Ritner opened with a bye then lost by total falls 1-17 against Tripe of Kearney Gold JV in 3:05 then pinned Flock of Maxwell in 0:40 then won by decision 6-4 over Triplett of SEM then won by decision 5-4 over Lewis of North Central then had to medical forfeit in the final round to place fourth overall

157: Brett Woollen opened with a 2-17 total falls loss against Brown of Bertrand in 2:00 then won by decision 10-8 over Olson of Kearney Gold JV then was pinned by Dahl of Axtell in 3:17

165: Gavin Ironshell opened with a total fall win 18-1 over Zwingman of Elgin Public/Public John in 3:16 then won by majority decision 17-3 over Hensen of SEM then was pinned by Perks of Cambridge in 1:50 to place second overall

175: Damien Campbell started with a bye then was pinned by Bierman of South Loup in 1:31 then had a bye then pinned Teel of Bertrand in 0:12 then was pinned Arredondo of Overton in 0:46

190: Jacob Jezbera started with a total fall win 16-1 over Solomon of Kearney Gold JV in 3:25 then pinned Wiest of North Central in 1:08 then

pinned Diebert of North Platte in 1:03 then lost by majority decision 3-15 over Manka of Maxwell to place second

215: Brandon Wagner started off with a pinfall loss against Whiting of Kearney Gold JV in 0:57 then was pinned by Burke of Cambridge in 1:56 then was pinned by Gosnell of Maxwell in 0:49 then pinned Brill of Kearney Blue JV in 1:15 to place third overall (fourth round match was not provided)

285: Craig Bunker opened with a pin fall loss against Estrada of Bertrand in 1:42 then pinned Ristau of Axtell in 0:33 then pinned Hasenauer of Maxwell in 0:54 then was pinned by Estrada of Bertrand in 1:00 to place fourth overall

Here are the following results for each Wildcat wrestler

at their respective weight division:

113: Chase Nickel opened with a total fall win over Schaeffer of Maxwell 18-2 in 3:42 then was pinned by Lewis of Kearney Gold JV in 0:24 then pinned Abbott of Axtell in 4:51 to place second overall

113: Luke Abbott started with a pinfall loss against Lewis of Kearney Gold JV in 2:28 then was pinned by Schaeffer of Maxwell in 3:53 then was pinned by Nickel of Axtell in 4:51 to place fourth overall

132: Connor L'Heureux had a bye to start off then got pinned by Olesen of Bertrand in 1:36 then pinned Linden of South Loup in 1:52 then had a sudden victory 12-9 over Schreiner of SEM then was pinned by Davis of Maxwell in 1:13

144: Samuel Kindschuh opened with pin fall loss against Shoemaker of Cambridge then was pinned by Bumgarner of Anselmo-Merna in 3:00

150: Coben Hill started with a pin loss to Wells of Anselmo-Merna in 1:26 then had a bye then was pinned by Triplett of SEM in 0:56

157: Nick Dahl started with a pin victory over Santos-Velasquez of Kearney Blue JV in 2:57 then was pinned by Drueke of Elgin Public/Pope John in 5:00 then pinned Woollen of Wil-Hil in 3:17 then pinned Wiebelhaus of North Central in 2:12 to place third overall

285: Maddex Ristau opened with a pin fall loss against Vasquez of Kearney Gold JV in 0:35 then was pinned by Bunker of Wil-Hil in 0:33

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

BYRON KRING - WRESTLING

School: Minden High School

Grade: Sophomore

Achievements: Byron is 16-4 so far this season, with all of those losses up a weight class at 150. He's now wrestling at 144. Byron is a great wrestler who always stays in good position. He's worked hard leading up to this year, trying to perfect his neutral offense. Byron's goal is to make some noise at the state tournament in Omaha this year!

- Coach Keaton Gracey



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One Lady Cat, Five Whippets Medal at Ord Invite

PHIL SERRONE

It was another consistent showing for the Lady Whippets wrestling team as Minden put together their second straight week of eclipsing 100 team points at the Ord Invite. The meet was held on Jan. 16. Axtell Lady Cats were among the 29 schools in attendance.

As a team, the Lady Whippets claimed sixth place overall after totaling 111.5 team points. Ord High School placed first overall followed by Plainview. Axtell placed 20th overall with a total team score of 35.

Marlie Petersen had the best finish of Minden's five medallists as she claimed a silver medal after placing second. Victoria Hansen and Myka Petersen brought home bronze medals with third place finishes. Ashlyn Zerr and Brinley Pohl each placed fifth overall.

Myka Petersen's performance was also notable as she moved into fifth place in the school record books for most takedowns in a career.

Sadie Lorenzo led the Axtell Lady Cats with a fifth place finish. She defeated three wrestlers including two by decision and one by pinfall. While no other wrestler placed for Axtell, each wrestler on the team collected one or more victories at the meet.

'Parents Night' is slated for Jan. 22 featuring a dual against Central City. After that meet, the team will head to the Kearney Sportsplex on Jan. 23 for the Younes Hospitality Invitational. We will have a full recap in next week's paper from both events!

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

100: Ella Warburton opened with a pin fall loss to Johnson of Stanton in 2:18 then pinned Rodriguez of Gibbon in 0:23 then pinned Clay of Ansley in 2:51 then was pinned by Hernandez of Ord in 2:10

110: Ashlyn Zerr pinned Thorsen of Gordon-Rushville to start in 1:01 then was pinned by Nelson of Crofton-Bloomfield in 0:51 then pinned Ortis of Ravenna in 0:20 then won by decision 7-3 over Bru-

ha of Ord then was pinned by Berg of West Point-Beemer in 0:18 then pinned Hoffman of North Central in 1:58 to place fifth overall

115: McKinley Segelke opened with a pin fall victory over Kumm of Plainview/Osmond in 1:19 then lost by majority decision 3-12 against Lorenzo of Axtell then had a bye then won by total falls 15-0 over Espinoza in Lexington in 5:00 then was pinned by Wurdinger of Stanton in 3:40

125: Myka Petersen opened with a pin victory over Schuster of Gibbon in 0:44 then was pinned by Salers of O'Neill in 2:33 then pinned Peterson of Gothenburg in 3:33 then pinned Spann of Boone Central in 1:52 then won by decision 3-1 over Kester of Summerland then pinned Bleich of Battle Creek in 3:26 to place third overall

130: Brinley Pohl started with a pin fall win over Walz of Axtell in 1:23 then was pinned by Druke of O'Neill in 1:31 then won due to injury over Ruiz of Lexington in 0:43 then pinned Koch of Ainsworth in 3:23 then was pinned by Becker of Boone Central in 1:24 then pinned Chessmore of Elgin Public/Pope John in 4:37 to place fifth overall

135: Victoria Hansen started with a pin victory over Grijalva of Lexington in 0:51 then pinned Melnick of Ord in 1:16 then was pinned by Hansen of Stanton in 2:44 then won by majority decision 10-2 over Beltran of West Point-Beemer then pinned Melnick of Ord in 4:54 to place third overall

140: Marlie Petersen opened with a bye then got a pin win over Pittet of Plainview/Osmond in 1:56 then won by decision 14-8 over Wiehn of Shelton then was pinned by Mahnke of West Point-Beemer in 0:27 to place second overall

145: Cristal Gonzalez started with a bye then was pinned by Arens of Crofton-Bloomfield in 3:38 then pinned Quinones of West Point-Beemer in 1:20 then lost by majority decision 0-10 over Rodriguez of West Point-Beemer

155: Annika Soelberg lost an opening round match 7-10 against Rudnick of Ainsworth then had a bye then was pinned by Hernandez of Gibbon in 4:44

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

115: Sadie Lorenzo opened with a bye then won by majority decision 12-3 over Segelke then was pinned by Galusha of St. Paul in 1:52 then pinned Hetzel of Crofton-Bloomfield in 1:23 then won by decision 12-7 over Dennis of Crofton-Bloomfield then was pinned by Corkle of O'Neill in 0:21 then won by medical forfeit to place fifth overall

130: Binzley Walz opened with a pinfall loss to Pohl of Minden in 1:23 then pinned Knowles of McCook in 0:31 then lost by decision 6-8 against Jennings of St. Paul

135: Krystal Fickenschier opened with a pinfall loss against Melnick of Ord in 1:49 then pinned Grijalva of Lexington in 2:15 then pinned McGargill of Crofton-Bloomfield in 2:27 then lost by decision 5-6 against Beltran of West Point-Beemer

155: Madilynn Hays had a bye to start off then was pinned by Dack of Shelton in 0:50 then pinned Glidden of Sandhills-Thedford in 2:07 then was pinned by Reel of Boone Central in 3:23

170: Taelynn Myers started with a pin over Oliver of Gibbon in 1:11 then was pinned by DeRoos of Crofton-Bloomfield in 0:40 then pinned May of Plainview/Osmond in 2:55 then was pinned by Ramm of Ord in 2:06



Minden's Myka Petersen lifts her opponent off the mat for a big takedown. (Courier photo by Phil Serrone)

Shelton Invite Highlighted by Program First for Lady Falcons

PHIL SERRONE



The Lady Falcons wrestling team had its best finish in program history securing the runner-up trophy at the Shelton Invite on Jan. 17. Each Lady Falcon wrestler medaled at the event. Pictured: The Lady Falcons pose together after securing the program's best team finish to date. (Courtesy photo)

The last few weeks for the Lady Falcons wrestling program has been one filled with multiple top five finishes and numerous individual medals across the depth chart.

On Jan. 17, at the Shelton Invite, the team had its best finish in program history earning their first team trophy including individual medals for every wrestler on the roster. The program is surging at

the right time with the state tournament looming in the next few weeks.

As a team, the Lady Falcons claimed second place and the runners-up trophy with a total of 94.5 points.

Leading the way was a trio of champions at their respective weight classes. Dinah Culp (13-7) has now claimed first place at the 100 lb. weight division for consecutive weeks, she pinned all three of her opponents.

Elin Patterson (19-12) and Camryn Bunker placed first overall after a combined four pins and one majority decision win. Despite only starting the sport a few weeks ago, Bunker has been impressive so far with multiple medals and a record of 13-3.

Ona Wilsey (18-10) picked up three victories including a dominant 17-1 total fall win in the second round. Wilsey earned a bronze medal after pinning Birdwell of Kearney JV in 0:59. Ayva Bendorf (16-13) placed fourth overall with one win from pinfall.

Wilcox-Hildreth will next be in action on Jan. 23 when the team takes a road trip to Neligh-Oakdale for an invitational. We will have a full recap in next week's paper!

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

100: Dinah Culp started with a pin victory over Boyles of Ansley-Litchfield in 2:20 then pinned Vaughn of Lincoln High in 3:49 then pinned Clay of Ansley-Litchfield in 0:41 to place first overall

115: Elin Patterson had a bye to start then pinned Hunt of Overton in 1:33 then won by majority decision 15-3 over Sunblade of Kearney JV Blue to place first overall

125: Ona Wilsey opened with a pin victory over Kuchera of Kearney JV Blue in 1:21 then won by total falls 17-1 over Mickel of Alma in 5:26 then lost by decision 1-6 against Hrasky of SEM then won by decision 4-2 over Pomplun of Doniphan-Trumbull then pinned Birdwell in 0:59 to place third overall

130: Ayva Bendorf started with a majority decision 2-10 loss against Mendoza-Cruz of Kearney JV Blue then pinned Jeremias of Kenesaw in 1:00 then won by medical forfeit then lost by decision 3-9 against Mendoza-Cruz to place fourth overall

135: Camryn Bunker opened with a bye then pinned Garcia of Doniphan-Trumbull in 0:47 then pinned Walters of Kearney JV Blue in 2:34 then pinned Cordes of Kenesaw in 3:28 to place first overall

Whippets Stay Busy at Swede Invite

PHIL SERRONE

After competing in five duals on Jan. 16, the Whippets had a quick turnaround on Jan. 17 at the Gothenburg Dual Invite where Minden once again competed in five matches. Alliance, Broken Bow, Holdrege, Colby (KS), O'Neill, St. Paul and host Swedes were the schools in attendance.

Minden gave their all in the matches despite the short recuperation period and finished 1-4 overall. The team's lone victory came against Gothenburg in the seventh place matchup with a team score of 45-24.

As for the losses, in round one, Minden was defeated by Doniphan-Trumbull 51-30. Isaac Reed, Kanin Heath, Cael Smith and Sage Saunders collected wins while the rest of Minden's team points came from forfeit.

Heading into the second round, Minden lost to Alliance High School by a score of 21-41. Smith and Reed both dominated their competition with majority fall decisions. Heath earned a pinfall victory over Carter in 2:23.

The third round was another loss for the Whippets, this time against SWC foe Broken Bow with the Indians securing a 15-54 win. Reed continued his strong afternoon with a pinfall against Eggleston in 0:48. Smith won his matchup with a pin and Heath secured a decision victory over his opponent.

Holdrege was able to get revenge against their SWC rival as the Dusters defeated the Whippets 31-41. Minden had defeated Holdrege the day before 41-26. Owen Hostetler, Parker Hatch, Sage Saunders, Heath and Smith earned victories in their matches.

Closing out the invite was against host Gothenburg where the Whippets were victorious. Smith and Reed completed an undefeated run with

each wrestler pinning their opponent's shoulders to the mat. Judah Bedunnah earned his first win of the day against Matthies with a pinfall in 2:23.

Smith had a tremendous two-day stretch of matches as the senior continued his push to qualify for the state tournament with a 10-0 showing.

'Parents Night' was held on Jan. 22 when the Whippets went head-to-head against Central City. On Jan. 23, the team will get back to the mats for the Younes Hospitality Invite at the Kearney Sportsplex. It will be another quick turnaround for the Whippets as the team will be in action at the Lexington Invite on Jan. 24. We will have a full recap from all three events in next week's paper!

Results from Minden vs Doniphan-Trumbull:

120: Owen Gilming was pinned by Sipp in 0:43

126: Owen Hostetler was pinned by Bishop in 0:51

132: Lukas Labenz was pinned by Smith in 0:56

138: Isaac Reed pinned Berlie in 3:53

150: Aaron Banuelos was pinned by Kenny in 3:18

165: Kanin Heath pinned Einsel in 1:35

175: Parker Hatch lost by decision 2-4 against Moorman

190: Cael Smith pinned Smith in 0:29

215: Sage Saunders pinned Martin in 3:36

285: Judah Bedunnah won by forfeit

Results from Minden vs Alliance:

120: Gilming was pinned by Stabnow in 0:38

126: Hostetler was pinned by J.Children in 0:45

132: Labenz was pinned by C.Children in 0:19

138: Reed won by majority fall 15-3 over Trejo



The Whippets boys wrestling team competed in 10 different dual matchups this past week with a home dual invitational on Jan. 16 followed by the Gothenburg dual invitational on Jan. 17. Pictured: Cael Smith attempts to lift his opponent off the ground to readjust for positioning. (Courier photo by Phil Serrone)

150: Banuelos was pinned in 5:22 by Benzel

165: Heath pinned Carter in 2:23

175: Hatch won by forfeit

190: Smith won by total falls 19-4 over Johnson

215: Saunders lost by total falls 1-17 against Weber

285: Bedunnah was pinned in 0:13 against Tolstedt

Results from Minden vs Broken Bow:

120: Gilming was pinned by Ridder in 1:26

126: Hostetler was pinned by Lindner in 0:28

132: Labenz lost due to pinfall in 3:13 against Palmer

138: Reed pinned Eggleston in 0:48

150: Banuelos was pinned by Rynearson in 1:35

165: Heath won by decision 4-0 over Markham

175: Hatch lost by decision 3-7 against Wells

190: Smith pinned Dalby in 2:44

215: Saunders lost by decision 1-3 against Watson

285: Bedunnah was pinned by Baum in 0:38

Results from Minden vs Holdrege:

120: Gilming lost by total falls 0-16 against Bell

132: Labenz was pinned by Tilson in 3:32

138: Reed won by forfeit

150: Banuelos was pinned by Marquardt in 3:51

165: Heath pinned Ganser 1:02

175: Hatch won by decision over A.Popple 11-5

190: Smith pinned J.Popple in 1:47

215: Saunders pinned Holen in 5:03

285: Bedunnah was pinned by Bailey in 0:46

Results from Minden vs Gothenburg:

120: Gilming was pinned by Hagan in 1:14

126: Hostetler was pinned by Therrien in 0:35

132: Labenz pinned Wahlgren in 5:20

138: Reed pinned Ricley in 1:34

150: Banuelos won by forfeit

165: Heath won by forfeit

175: Hatch won by decision 7-4 over Koch

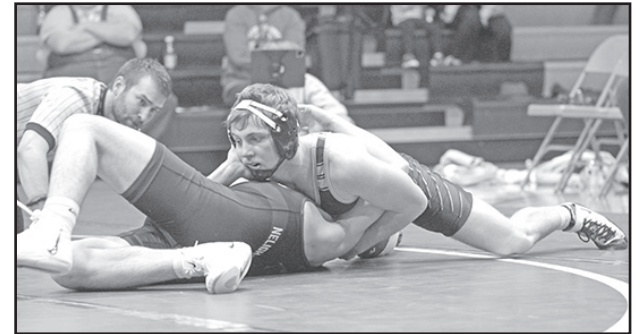
190: Smith pinned Brockevell in 0:26

215: Saunders pinned Pesek in 1:50

285: Bedunnah pinned Matthies in 2:23

Falcons Claw Two Victories at Loomis

PHIL SERRONE



Cauy Twohig takes top position attempting to pin his opponent's shoulders to the mat. (Courier photo by Cheri Twohig)

Wilcox-Hildreth boys wrestling traveled to Loomis High School on Jan. 15 for head-to-head action against the Wolves and Neligh-Oakdale.

In the first matchup, the Falcons dominated Neligh-Oakdale with six wrestlers picking up victories. The rest of Wil-Hil's points came from forfeits en route to a 45-28 win. Kyler Masters, Brody Patterson, Cauy Twohig, Gavin Ironshell, Brandon Wagner and Craig Bunger each earned wins in the dual.

Closing out the triangular, it was a close battle between the Wolves and Falcons. Wilcox-Hildreth secured an eight-point win over Loomis 42-34. Drake Ritner and Patterson picked up wins while the rest of the Falcons points were collected from forfeits.

Here are the following results from Wilcox-Hildreth vs Neligh-Oakdale:

106: Mikah Eiley won by forfeit

120: Cooper Woollen lost by total falls 0-18 in 3:18

132: Kyler Masters pinned Furstenu in 1:10

138: Brody Patterson won by decision 12-7 over Henery

144: Cauy Twohig pinned Klein in 1:39

150: Drake Ritner lost by total falls 4-20 against Hoefer in 4:00

157: Brett Woollen was pinned by Arehart in 1:02

165: Damien Campbell won by forfeit

175: Gavin Ironshell pinned Kight in 1:16

190: Jacob Jezbera won by forfeit

215: Brandon Wagner pinned Acosta-Butanda in 0:23

285: Craig Bunger pinned Shabram in 3:37

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

106: Eiley was pinned by Swanson in 1:14

120: C.Woollen was pinned by Booe in 1:58

132: Masters lost by majority decision 11-20 against Titkemeier

138: Patterson pinned Freeman in 4:50

144: Twohig won by forfeit

150: Ritner pinned Johnson in 1:34

157: B.Woollen won by forfeit

165: Ironshell pinned Hunt in 1:14

175: Campbell pinned Meyer in 0:48

190: Jezbera won by forfeit

215: Wagner won by forfeit

285: Bunger was pinned by Swanson in 0:32

Whippets Host Dual, Finish 3-2

PHIL SERRONE

Minden boys wrestling hosted their dual invitational on Jan. 16 with nine schools in attendance. Thayer Central, Cozad, Hastings, Franklin, Lincoln Northwest, Lincoln Standing Bear, St. Paul and Holdrege all took the trip to show their best on the mats.

The Whippets were placed into pool A to start and swept the competition 3-0 with wins over Holdrege, Thayer Central and Lincoln Standing Bear.

In the Holdrege win, the team score was 41-26 showcased by seven individual victories for the Whippets. Owen Hostetler, Lukas Labenz, Byron Kring, Kanin Heath, Parker Hatch, Cael Smith and Drew Seiler stood tall in their matchups.

It was a narrow victory against Lincoln Standing Bear for the Whippets as the team won by seven points 42-35. Isaac Reed, Aaron Banuelos, Frank Kovacs, Heath, Hatch, Smith and Seiler were triumphant in their head-to-head contests.

Another tough match followed to close out round one for the Whippets as the team pulled off a 45-36 win over Thayer Central. Eight wrestlers for Minden picked up victories in their individual matchups. Reed had a dominant total fall victory 17-1 in 2:50 over Schloendorn.

Unfortunately, the Whippets were defeated in their next two rounds against stiff competition in St. Paul and Hastings High School. In round four, the Whippets were defeated by Hastings 12-60. Closing out the dual invite in the fifth and final round was a loss against St. Paul 28-52.

Smith stood out throughout all five rounds as the senior swept the field 5-0 with four pins and one total fall victory.

Round 1-3 results:

Minden vs Holdrege:

126: Owen Hostetler won by decision 2-1 over Konzelman

132: Lukas Labenz won by decision 8-4 over Tilson

138: Isaac Reed won by forfeit

144: Byron Kring pinned Hohnholt in 0:15

150: Aaron Banuelos lost due to decision 8-17 against Marquardt

157: Frank Kovacs lost due to decision 1-12 against Wells

165: Kanin Heath pinned Ganser in 1:11

175: Parker Hatch pinned A. Popple in 1:36

190: Cael Smith won by total falls 17-2 in 3:38 over J. Popple

215: Drew Seiler pinned Holen in 1:26

285: Judah Bedunnah was pinned by Bailey in 0:41

Minden vs Lincoln Standing Bear:

120: Owen Gilming won by forfeit

126: Hostetler was pinned by Hodne in 0:16

132: Labenz lost due to total falls 3-18 in 5:01 against Neemann

138: Reed won by majority decision 13-2 against Harman

144: Kring was pinned by Alley in 5:35

150: Banuelos won by majority decision 18-7 over Langford

157: Kovacs pinned Doan in 1:11

165: Heath pinned Behmer in 0:29

175: Hatch won by majority decision 10-1 over Peterson

190: Smith pinned Ball in 0:38

215: Seiler pinned Marchand in 2:37

285: Bedunnah was pinned in 0:52 by Schaefer

Minden vs Thayer Central:

120: Gilming was pinned by Burd in 0:24

126: Hostetler pinned Mostek in 1:56

132: Labenz pinned Campos in 1:15

138: Reed won by total falls 17-1 in 2:50 over Schloendorn

144: Kring was pinned by O. McLaughlin in 1:11

150: Banuelos won by majority decision 22-11 over C. McLaughlin

157: Kovacs pinned Waldmeier in 0:53

165: Heath pinned Waldmeier in 0:53

175: Hatch pinned Gregory in 1:10

190: Smith pinned Guthrie in 0:52

215: Seiler was pinned by Vorderstrasse in 0:42

285: Bedunnah was pinned by Bonar in 0:55

Round 4:

Minden vs Hastings:

120: Gilming lost by total falls 0-16 in 4:20 against Schultz

126: Hostetler was pinned by Hudson in 1:24

132: Labenz defeated by pinfall in 1:50 against Favinger

138: Reed lost a close decision 6-7 against Degodt

144: Kring lost by total falls 3-18 in 5:50 against Bruyere

150: Banuelos was pinned by Kelley in 1:02

157: Kovacs lost by total falls 2-17 in 4:23 against Anderson

165: Heath was pinned by Clark in 5:31

175: Hatch was pinned by Thomsen in 6:11

190: Smith pinned Pfeil in 0:37

215: Sage Saunders pinned Smith in 1:45

285: Bedunnah was pinned by Campbell in 0:59

Round 5:

Minden vs St. Paul:

120: Gilming was pinned by Rasmussen in 1:16

126: Hostetler lost by total falls 0-17 in 2:53 against Ryan

132: Labenz was pinned by Baker in 0:59

138: Reed pinned Sanchez in 2:45

144: Kring won by forfeit

150: Banuelos pinned Mitchell in 3:01

157: Kovacs was defeated by pin in 1:20 against Majerus

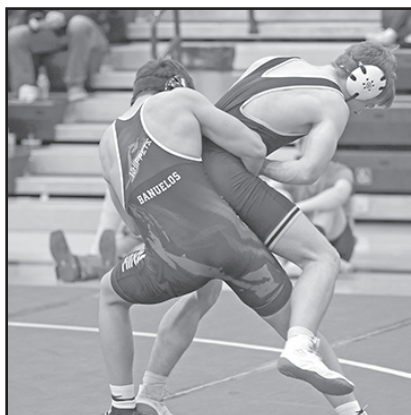
165: Heath was pinned by Thomsen in 5:05

175: Hatch lost by total falls 5-20 against Meinecke in 4:08

190: Cael Smith pinned Kuszak in 1:47

215: Sage Saunders won by majority decision 18-10 over Reimers

285: Bedunnah was pinned by Gass in 0:39



Aaron Banuelos tugs at his opponents backside to drag him to the ground. (Courier photo by Phil Serrone)

Lady Cats Hit the Road

PHIL SERRONE

Kicking off the week for Axtell girls wrestling was a road trip to Summerland High School on Jan. 12. It was a crowded field at the meet with 27 schools in attendance. Axtell placed 20th overall with a team score of 19.5.

No Axtell wrestler placed at the event, but the team did have four wrestlers secure one or more victories.

Jerzey Ramirez collected the most team points for the Lady Cats as she defeated two opponents for a total of 7.5 points. Krystal Fickenschier pinned two opponents shoulder to the mat for six team points. Binzley Walz and Taelynn Myers added three points to Axtell's total with one pinfall each.

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

100: Jerzey Ramirez opened with a total fall victory 18-3 over Lewis of Elkhorn Valley in 2:40 then pinned Skrdla of West Holt in 1:44 then was pinned by Hoffman of North Central in 5:11 then was defeated by pinfall against Dworak of Elgin Public/ Pope John in 3:46

115: Sadie Lorenzo opened with a pin fall loss to Oligmueller of West Holt in 1:16 then lost by decision 3-4 against Juarez of Wakefield

130: Binzley Walz started with a pinfall loss against Thelen of Randolph in 2:55 then pinned Schmidt of Winside of 0:53 then was defeated by pinfall against Spann of Boone Central in 0:50

135: Krystal Fickenschier opened with a bye then was pinned by Melnick of Ord in 2:44 then pinned Ruvalcaba of Wakefield in 3:19 then pinned Campbell of Wayne in 0:38 then lost by decision 10-14 against Caro of South Sioux City

155: Madilynn Hays started with a pinfall loss against Ozuna of Wayne in 0:43 then was pinned by Reel of Boone Central in 1:43

170: Taelynn Myers received a bye to start then was pinned by Jackson of West Holt in 0:21 then earned a pin victory over Kursave of Arcadia/Loup City in 1:32 then was pinned by Ramm of Ord in 2:12

Physical Therapy & More!



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Obituary

Elizabeth "Liz" Jane Merrill, 93 - Former Minden Resident



Elizabeth "Liz" Jane Merrill, 93, of Henderson, formerly of Minden, passed away on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at Legacy Square in Henderson. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at Minden United Methodist Church with Rev. Kayla Mangrich officiating. The service was streamed to the church's YouTube and Facebook pages. Private family interment was held prior to services at the Minden Cemetery. Visitation with family present was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at Craig Funeral Home in Minden. Memorials in Liz's honor are kindly suggested to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Arrangements are under the care of Craig Funeral Home in Minden.

Elizabeth "Liz" Jane Merrill was born on June 24, 1932, in Clay Center, Nebraska to Ivan and Hildred (McNeal) Richert. She grew up in the Clay Center area and graduated from Clay Center High School.

She was united in marriage to Dale W. Merrill on February 5, 1950, in Smith Center, KS and to this union, four children were born: Susan, Cynthia, Mark and Jon. The family made their home in Hastings and moved to Minden after Dale's retirement. Liz was a homemaker until her children were grown, then she began working as a bookkeeper. She worked for Mode-o-day, Rivoli and Strand Theatres, Pepsi, and Custer Federal Bank.

Liz was a member of Minden United Methodist Church. She enjoyed bowling, jigsaw puzzles, as well as playing bridge, cribbage, and board games. Liz quilted hundreds of baby blankets that were given out in NICUs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Children's Hospital in Omaha. She also enjoyed gardening, crocheting and reading. Liz loved spending time with her family.

Those left to cherish her memory include her children, Susan (Al) Lorenz of Council Bluffs, IA, Cynthia (Monte) Burger of Aurora, Mark (Sherri) Merrill of Minden, and Jon (Dawn) Merrill of Olathe, KS; grandchildren, Chad (Jamie) Lorenz, Seth (Jenna) Lorenz, Tye (Amy) Burger, Molly (Eric) Schlegel, Kahjon Owen, Katiana (James) Conner, Kirston (Deo)

Welch, Dirk (Cecilia) Merrill, and Melissa (Jordan White) Merrill; great-grandchildren, Emma, Sawyer, Evan, Kendall, Cooper, Madeline, Morgan, Ella, Zane, Chase, Charles, Christian, Colton, Katherine, Kirstiana, Kaige, Cadence, Karyna, Chloe, Maddison, Hannah, Zola, Zeke, Zuri; great-great-grandchildren, Winston, Penelope, Arthur and Mary; as well as a host of extended relatives and close friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Dale, and sister, Mary Ellen (Warren) Brooks.

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

Legal Notices

NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ONE AND SIX YEAR STREET IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Public notice as required by sections 39-2119, revised statutes of Nebraska, is hereby given that the Village of Axtell, Nebraska, proposes to hold a public hearing on February 11, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. local time, at the regular meeting in the Village Office to consider the adoption of a long-range plan for a one-year and six-year street improvement program for the Village of Axtell, Nebraska. Any interested persons are invited to attend this public hearing and to present pertinent information, data, or views or to request additional information or background regarding said street improvement plans. The purpose of the hearing is to afford full and complete public knowledge and discussion of said street improvement plans prior to adoption according to law and as provided in Legislative Bill No. 1302 passed by the 1969 Nebraska State Legislature and approved by the Governor.
Jan 22, 2026
(38) znez

NOTICE

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF NEBRASKA DUNES, LLC

Notice is hereby given that Nebraska Dunes, LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company, has been organized pursuant to the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act. The designated office of the Company is:

592 S Road, Axtell, NE 68924
The registered agent of the Company is:

Nate Hartman, whose registered office is located at 5340 W 62nd Street, Kearney, NE 68845.

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

The Company became effective on January 12, 2026, and will have perpetual duration unless otherwise provided in its operating agreement.
Dated this 15th day of January, 2026.

Name of Organizer:
/s/Lane Claussen

Lane Claussen, Member of Nebraska Dunes, LLC,

Jan 22, 2026

Jan 29, 2026

Feb 5, 2026

(39) znez

NOTICE

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

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

C2 TRUCKING LLC,
A Nebraska Limited Liability Company.

By/s/ Andrew S. Olson
Andrew S. Olson, Bar No. 26841

Dier, Osborn & Cox, P.C.,
L.L.O.

Attorneys at Law
419 East Avenue,
P.O. Box 586

Holdrege, NE 68949-0586

Phone: (308) 995-8621

Fax: (308) 995-6062

aolson@doclaw.net

Jan 22, 2026

Jan 29, 2026

Feb 5, 2026

(38) znez

NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Village of Norman on the 2nd day of February 2026; at 7:00 pm. at the Village Hall in Norman, of Kearney County Nebraska to hear public comments on: Petition made by Joseph Stangl to close or vacate a portion of public Right-Of-Way between Pine Street and May Street of Block 11 of the Original Town of Norman Part of Section 21, Township 6 North, Range 13 West.

Questions or comments may be directed to the Kearney County Department of Roads Office at 308/832-2854. An agenda for this meeting is kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the Village of Norman Clerk's office. The agenda may be modified prior to such meeting.

Joseph Anderson
Highway Superintendent
01/16/2026

Jan 22, 2026

Jan 29, 2026

(34) znez

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NOTICE

AXTELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 8:15 AM LIBRARY

The Board reserves the right to move agenda items to accommodate the flow of the meeting. AGENDA 1. Call meeting to order, roll call. Approval of motion for absent board member. Motion Passed: Motion to approve absence of board member. Proposal passed with a motion by Ty Fickenscher and a second by Bette Dimon. Bette Dimon Yes, Linda Almquist Yes, Kurt Behrhorst Yes, Ty Fickenscher Yes, Matt Strolberg Yes, Jeff Halvorsen Absent. 2. Open meetings law is posted and recognized. 3. Presentation: FBIA Update, Tara Smith. 4. Presentation: Joe Philippi. 5. Presentation: NSCAS Scores, Christina Eutsler. 6. Recognition of guests and request for public comment. 7. Board Reorganization. A. Oath of Office: All Members, read sign, and return. B. Board History. C. Conflict of Interest: fill out & return. D. Code of Conduct. E. Election of Officers. Motion to retain officers in current positions. Motion Passed: Motion to retain officers in current positions. Proposal passed with a motion by Linda Almquist and a second by Bette Dimon. Bette Dimon Yes, Linda Almquist Yes, Kurt Behrhorst Yes, Ty Fickenscher Yes, Matt Strolberg Yes, Jeff Halvorsen Absent. F. Board Committees. 8. Approval of minutes from the December 8, 2025 school board meeting and January 8, 2026 school board retreat. Motion Passed: Motion to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2025 school board meeting and January

8, 2026 school board retreat. Proposal passed with a motion by Matt Strolberg and a second by Kurt Behrhorst. Bette Dimon Yes, Linda Almquist Yes, Kurt Behrhorst Yes, Ty Fickenscher Yes, Matt Strolberg Yes, Jeff Halvorsen Absent. 9. Discussion and action of district financial reports. Motion Passed: Motion to approve financial reports as presented. Proposal passed with a motion by Ty Fickenscher and a second by Matt Strolberg. Bette Dimon Yes, Linda Almquist Yes, Kurt Behrhorst Yes, Ty Fickenscher Yes, Matt Strolberg Yes, Jeff Halvorsen Absent. 10. Discussion and action of district claims. Motion Passed: Motion to approve district claims as presented. Proposal passed with a motion by Ty Fickenscher and a second by Kurt Behrhorst. Bette Dimon Yes, Linda Almquist Yes, Kurt Behrhorst Yes, Ty Fickenscher Yes, Matt Strolberg Yes, Jeff Halvorsen Absent. 11. Administrative Reports. a. Jenn DeBord, Principal. 1. Holiday Tourney Concessions. 2. Playground fund raiser update. b. Craig Lorenz, Principal. 1. Report Cards. 2. P/T Conferences. c. Rob Gregory, Superintendent. 1. Mission Statement. 2. OAC meeting: Jan: Linda Matt Jeff. Feb 3: Kurt Ty Bette. 12. Discussion Items. a. Policy #4112 Certified Employee Salary Schedule Advancement. b. 2026-27 Negotiated Agreement. c. Mid-Year Policy Update, Justin Knight: Policy #3131 & 3132. 1. #3131: Procurement Plan – School Food Authorities. 2. #3132: Internal Controls. d. Eakes: Copier Lease. e. Shaw Enterprises: Glycol Exchange. f. Hamilton: Main door security system. 13. Action Items. a. Approval of policy #4112 Certified Employee Salary Schedule Ad-

vancement for the 2026-27 school year. Motion Passed: Motion to approve policy #4112 Certified Employee Salary Schedule Advancement for the 2026-27 school year. Proposal passed with a motion by Matt Strolberg and a second by Linda Almquist. Bette Dimon Yes, Linda Almquist Yes, Kurt Behrhorst Yes, Ty Fickenscher Yes, Matt Strolberg Yes, Jeff Halvorsen Absent. b. Approval of the Negotiated Agreement for the 2026-27 school year. Motion Passed: Motion for the approval of the Negotiated Agreement for the 2026-27 school year. Proposal passed with a motion by Ty Fickenscher and a second by Bette Dimon. Bette Dimon Yes, Linda Almquist Yes, Kurt Behrhorst Yes, Ty Fickenscher Yes, Matt Strolberg Yes, Jeff Halvorsen Absent. c. Approval of policy #3131 Procurement Plan – School Food Authorities. Motion Passed: Motion for approval of policy #3131 Procurement Plan – School Food Authorities. Proposal passed with a motion by Linda Almquist and a second by Kurt Behrhorst. Bette Dimon Yes, Linda Almquist Yes, Kurt Behrhorst Yes, Ty Fickenscher Yes, Matt Strolberg Yes, Jeff Halvorsen Absent. d. Approval of policy #3132 Internal Controls. Motion Passed: Motion for approval of policy #3132 Internal Controls. Proposal passed with a motion by Matt Strolberg and a second by Ty Fickenscher. Bette Dimon Yes, Linda Almquist Yes, Kurt Behrhorst Yes, Ty Fickenscher Yes, Matt Strolberg Yes, Jeff Halvorsen Absent. e. Approval of Eakes proposed Copier Lease Option #2 in the amount of \$2,877.81 per month. Motion Passed: Motion to approve the Eakes proposed Copier Lease Op-

tion #2 in the amount of \$2,877.81 per month. Proposal passed with a motion by Ty Fickenscher and a second by Matt Strolberg. Bette Dimon Yes, Linda Almquist Yes, Kurt Behrhorst Yes, Ty Fickenscher Yes, Matt Strolberg Yes, Jeff Halvorsen Absent. f. Approval of Shaw Enterprises quote of \$ 56,340 to complete the glycol exchange in the chilled water system for the new addition in the summer of 2026. Motion Passed: Motion to approve the Shaw Enterprises quote of \$ 56,340 to complete the glycol exchange in the chilled water system for the new addition in the summer of 2026. Proposal passed with a motion by Bette Dimon and a second by Linda Almquist. Bette Dimon Yes, Linda Almquist Yes, Kurt Behrhorst Yes, Ty Fickenscher Yes, Matt Strolberg Yes, Jeff Halvorsen Absent. g. Approval of door access security system installed by Hamilton for the new addition in the amount of \$21,910.27. Motion Passed: Motion to approve the door access security system installed by Hamilton for the new addition in the amount of \$21,910.27. Proposal passed with a motion by Kurt Behrhorst and a second by Linda Almquist. Bette Dimon Yes, Linda Almquist Yes, Kurt Behrhorst Yes, Ty Fickenscher Yes, Matt Strolberg Yes, Jeff Halvorsen Absent. 14. Informational Items. a. January/February calendars enclosed. b. Next Board Meeting: Monday, February 9, 2026 8:15 AM ** (Note: Open House and P.T.'s). 15. Motion to adjourn. Motion Passed: Motion to adjourn at 9:27 am. Proposal passed with a motion by Linda Almquist and a second by Bette Dimon. Bette Dimon Yes, Linda Almquist Yes,

Kurt Behrhorst Yes, Ty Fickenscher Yes, Matt Strolberg Yes, Jeff Halvorsen Absent. Fund: 01 GENERAL FUND: A-1 REFRIGERATION, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, 741.30; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, 377.94; APPTGEY, INC, 6,537.83; BEHRHORST, KURT, 80.00; BLACK HILLS ENERGY, 6,679.49; BROADFOOT'S SAND & GRAVEL INC, 4,836.30; COACH MASTERS INC, 301.13; COOPERATIVE PRODUCERS INC, 4,983.32; DANA F COLE & COMPANY, LLP, 165.00; DUG'S SHOP, 7,755.78; EAKES OFFICE PLUS, 11,414.92; EDGERTON EXPLORE SUPPLY CO, 137.47; ESU #10, 2,613.22; ESU #11, 7,317.77; FAMILY PHYSICAL THERAPY & SPORTS CENTER, 4,558.30; FECHT, CASSANDRA, 50.00; GRAPHIC ARTS SHOP INC, 584.00; GROOTHUIS & SONS PLUMBING LLC, 636.00; Halvorsen, Jeffrey, 280.00; HAMILTON LONG DISTANCE, 1,508.03; HEARTLAND REFRIGERATION LLC, 1,075.74; HOLDREGE SUN THEATER & EVENT VENUE, 350.00; INTEGRATED SECURITY SOLUTIONS, 1,200.00; JAYMAR BUSINESS FORMS INC, 62.04; JOHNSTONE SUPPLY, 192.48; JW PEPPER & SON, INC, 334.24; KAT'S KORNER MARKET, 1,959.25; KINDSCHUH CONSTRUCTION, CO, 100.00; LANDMARK IMPLEMENT CARQUEST, 454.66; LOCKMOBILE, THE, 1,014.30; LUNCH FUND, 678.65; MENARDS-KEARNEY, 292.51;

MID-STATES AUTOMATION & CONTROL, INC, 1,524.00; MIDWEST CONNECT, 323.00; MISSION PLUMBING LLC, 3,817.58; NCS PEARSON, INC, 110.00; NRCSA, 3,083.20; PERRY GUTHERY HAASE & GESSFORD, PC, LLO, 1,458.00; PYE-BARKER FIRE & SAFETY, 234.00; RELIABLE PEST CONTROL SERVICES, INC, 68.00; REVOLVING CASH ACCOUNT, 3,438.06; SNELL SERVICES, INC, 5,502.74; SOUTHERN POWER DISTRICT, 4,852.74; STATE OF NEBRASKA, 317.87; SYNDICATE PUBLISHING, 301.07; TEACHER SYNERGY, LLC, 5.95; TIME MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, 168.00; TREVIPAY-WALMART, 186.13; UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-KEARNEY, 210.00; VILLAGE OF AXTELL, 982.93; VISA, 199.10; Vendors Listed: 52; Total: 96,279.04; January Payroll: 401,949.00; Total: 498,228.04. Fund: 08 SPECIAL BUILDING FUND: BD CONSTRUCTION, INC, 163,199.46; Vendors Listed: 1; Total: 163,199.46. Fund: 10 COOPERATIVE FUND: AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, 322.49; ESU #10, 1,200.35; FAMILY PHYSICAL THERAPY & SPORTS CENTER, 889.00; HOMETOWN LEASING, 99.81; RELIABLE PEST CONTROL SERVICES, INC, 55.00; REVOLVING CASH ACCOUNT, 2.00; Vendors Listed: 6; Total: 2,568.65; January Payroll: 16,168.57; Total: 18,737.22. Jan 22, 2026 (326) znez

McBRIDE REALTY CENTRAL PLAINS LIVING, L.L.C. 308-832-1800		 REALTOR®
 Scott Sinsel, Broker/Owner 308-830-1599	 Glenda Jacobsen, Realtor 308-830-1000	

NOTICE
IN THE COUNTY COURT
OF KEARNEY COUNTY,
NEBRASKA ESTATE OF
JERRY LYNN DYKE,
DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-1

Notice is hereby given that on January 6, 2026, in the County Court of Kearney County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Sarah Brandt, whose address is 245 Western Avenue, Minden, Nebraska 68959, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the Estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before the March 17, 2026 or be forever barred.

/s/ Laura B. Tobiassen
Registrar
Kearney County Court
Kearney County
Courthouse
Minden, NE 68959
Carson K. Messersmith
#27365
KLEIN, BREWSTER, BRANDT
& MESSERSMITH
Attorney for Applicant
P.O. Box 272
Minden, NE 68959
308-832-2150
minden@kleinbrewster.
com
Jan 15, 2026
Jan 22, 2026
Jan 29, 2026
(41) znez

NOTICE
MINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Agendas for the January 12, 2026 meeting of the Board of Education were posted locally. Included in the notification were the time, place, date, and items on the agenda. Notice of meeting was pub-

lished in the paper. The board excused Glanzer's absence. The board elected to keep the same officers: Rhynalds, President; Glanzer, Vice-President; Raun, Secretary. The board approved the current designations of legal counsel, depository banks, treasurer, district newspaper of record, current board policies and regulations, minutes from the meeting held December 8, financial reports, and claims against the General Fund. The board signed Conflict of Interest forms. The board discussed amendments to Policy 3131 Procurement Plan and Policy 3132 Internal Controls. The board approved Rachel Tagtmeyer as high school language arts teacher for the 2026-27 school year, transfer of funds from Kendall Peterson Memorial Scholarship Fund to Minden Schools Foundation, ESU 11 2026-27 Master Services Agreement, 2026-27 agreement with Minden Education Association for 4.02% total package increase and base salary of \$41,950, CMBA as architect for facilities project, and resolution to authorize financing of voter-approved projects. The board approved resignations of Bob Carlson, Barb Jacobsen, Michelle tenBensel, and Colleen Thatcher at the end of the 2025-26 school year. Detailed minutes of the meeting are available in the superintendent's office.
JANUARY 2026 - GENERAL FUND CLAIMS - CenturyLink, \$459.32; Minden Exchange Bank, \$35.20; Wright Express Fleet Services, \$328.97; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp., \$1,227.68; Blue Cross Blue Shield, \$195,741.22; Credit Management Services, Inc.,

\$492.39; Fiduciary Trust Company, \$500.00; Horace Mann Life Insurance Company, \$1,275.00; Madison National Life Insurance Co., Inc., \$2,579.37; Minden Exchange Bank & Trust Co., \$9,209.80; Minden Public Schools, \$113,576.62; Mps Payroll, \$142,519.09; Mps Payroll NE Income Tax, \$20,215.78; Amazon Capital Services, Inc., \$402.08; American Recycling, \$60.00; Anderson, Julie M, \$24.00; Antelope Sprinkler Systems, \$410.00; Aurora Cooperative, \$4,008.90; Black Hills Energy, \$13,495.06; City Of Minden, \$42,020.59; Clearly, \$824.14; Colorado/West Equipment, Inc., \$370.12; Companion, \$129.00; Cummins Sales and Service, \$786.35; DAS State Accounting - Central Finance, \$402.63; Eakes Office Solutions, \$1,757.41;


Educational Service Unit #10, \$219.95; Educational Service Unit #11, \$26,594.67; Elan Financial Services, \$278.58; Electronic Systems, Inc., \$264.40; Engineered Controls, Inc., \$1,692.50; Fifth Street Printing, \$55.00; Home-town Leasing, \$3,855.49; Integrated Security Solutions, \$480.00; JW Pepper & Son, Inc., \$89.29; Mason's Market, \$371.85; Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc., \$190.74; McGraw Hill School Education, \$280.02; Menards - Kearney, \$117.90; Mid-States Automation & Control, Inc., \$8,553.00; Minden Hardware, \$305.35; Napa Auto Parts, \$310.04; NE Rural Community Schools Association, \$100.00; Nebraska Safety Center, \$125.00; Novus Windshield Repair, \$75.00; Omnify Benefits, \$140.80; One Source,


\$116.50; Perry, Guthery, Haase & Gessford, P.C., L.L.O, \$1,890.00; Presto-X Company, \$203.40; Protex Central, Inc., \$355.00; Richard Widdifield, \$2,861.58; Sardo Bus & Coach Upholstery, \$229.25; Schindler Elevator Corporation, \$286.11; Sparq Data Solutions, Inc., \$2,700.00; Spracklin Chiropractic, \$100.00; Syndicate Publishing, LLC, \$506.28; Verizon Wireless, \$37.40; Village Uniform, \$1,527.01; Widdifield, James T, \$327.43; Woodward's Disposal Service, Inc., \$62.50; January Net Payroll - \$451,799.33; Subtotal - \$1,059,952.09; LUNCH FUND CLAIMS - Sysco, \$7,944.81; Apple Acres Orchard, \$405.00; LinPep-Co Partnership, \$1,193.20; Midwest Meat Company, \$406.98; Village Uniform, \$359.79; Midwest Restaurant Supply, LLC, \$1,848.83;

Mason's Market, \$52.20; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp., \$52.12; Blue Cross Blue Shield, \$4,991.47; Madison National Life Insurance Co., Inc., \$48.63; Minden Public Schools, \$2,226.01; Mps Payroll, \$2,442.35; Mps Payroll NE Income Tax, \$271.1; January Net Payroll - \$11,088.24; Subtotal - \$33,330.77; BUILDING FUND CLAIMS - Rasmussen Mechanical Service, \$45,660.00; Ziemba Roofing Company, \$70,787; Subtotal - \$116,447.00; TOTAL CLAIMS - \$1,209,729.86
Jan 22, 2026
(169) znez

Keep Informed.
It's Your Right
to Know

KEARNEY COUNTY TREASURERS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2025-DECEMBER 31, 2025					
	BALANCE	RECEIPT	DISBURSEMENT	TRANSFER	BALANCE
STATE FUNDS	\$180,820.90	\$1,083,231.16	\$1,073,509.59	\$0.00	\$190,542.47
GENERAL FUNDS	\$7,957,574.03	\$4,086,366.07	\$4,980,962.85	\$519,766.78	\$7,582,744.03
MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS	\$120,635.61	\$377,139.25	\$263,150.88	\$0.00	\$234,623.98
FIRE FUNDS	\$7,358.13	\$230,378.90	\$125,582.26	\$0.00	\$112,154.77
SCHOOL FUNDS	\$545,487.37	\$7,227,673.56	\$4,918,404.59	\$0.00	\$2,854,756.34
CITY AND VILLAGE FUNDS	\$43,394.83	\$907,460.85	\$814,226.86	\$0.00	\$136,628.82
SPECIAL FUNDS	\$0.01	\$105,163.32	\$15,968.79	\$89,194.53	\$0.01
TOTALS	\$8,855,270.88	\$14,017,413.11	\$12,191,805.82	\$430,572.25	\$11,111,450.42
Accounts Receivable..... \$15.00					
Credit Cards & Online Registrations..... \$3,382.15					
CASH STATEMENTS					
Total Deposits in the Bank \$2,323,820.09					
INVESTMENTS					
Certificate of Deposit & Money Market Accounts... \$8,356,462.48					
Cash & Checks on hand..... <u>\$427,770.70</u>					
TOTAL..... \$11,111,450.42					
Unpaid claims of the County as certified by the County Clerk \$0.00					
I, Jody A Payne, Treasurer of Kearney County Nebraska, do hereby certify this semi-annual statement to be correct to the best of my knowledge & belief					
Subscribed and sworn to me the 8th day of January, 2026					
zneZ					


Jody A Payne
Kearney County Treasurer


Jenni Lupton
Kearney County Clerk

NOTICE VILLAGE OF WILCOX MINUTES

JANUARY 13, 2026

The Wilcox Village Board of Trustees met in regular session on January 13, 2026. Notices for the meeting were posted at the Wilcox Town Hall, Cornerstone Bank, Post Office and High Street Insurance. Agendas were mailed to each member of the Village Board. Chairman Gardels called the meeting to order and noted the Open Meetings Act. Trustees present: Gardels, Norman, Nash, Johnson. Absent: Adam. Others in attendance were: R. Carey, M. Latter, T. Gardels. The minutes of the December 9, 2025 meeting were read and approved as read. The treasurer's report was reviewed. Motion by Norman with second by Nash to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried. The following claims were presented for payment: Syndicate 87.12, Great Plains Com 375.29, Verizon 157.59, J. Payne Kearney Co. Treas. 557.96, NE Dept of Rev. (Quart) 647.00, DW&S 700.00, One-Call Concept 23.78, Hometown Leasing 106.49, NE Public Health Env. Lab 380.00, Wilcox Utilities Dept. 717.03, NeRWA 250.00, Municipal Supply 182.56, SPPD 344.56, JD Financial 50.03, M. Harms 3300.00, SPPD 2180.04, NPPD 13,992.68, Larsen's ACE 19.24, SCS 4380.65, Vestis 176.25, B. Melroy 113.54, CPI 289.76, Visa 145.90, Central Dist Health 136.00, Council 145.00, Salaries 5881.91, EFTPS 1616.42, NYLife 1103.31, NE Dept of Rev. 1301.31, Transfers 1582.75. Motion to approve all claims for payment was made by Johnson with

second by Norman. Motion carried. The board reviewed the two delinquent utility accounts. Nuisance properties were reviewed. The Wilcox Planning Commission presented the two building permit applications inspected and approved by them at the Planning Commission meeting of January 13, 2026. #419 - K. Pinkal - Chain link Fence. #421 - C. Johnson - Breezeway. Motion by Nash to approve both applications #419 and #421. Second given by Johnson. Motion carried. Review of Water/Sewer updates at 310 N. Noxon St. will be discussed when more information is received. The drainage study report will be available prior to the February 10, 2026 meeting. Ord. #689, regarding shipping containers in residential areas will be discussed when ordinance is completed. Ord. #690 - Living in campers/R.V.'s was reviewed. The board would like some changes made to this ordinance. At this point the Village Board moved to the Community Development Agency (CDA) Agenda. Res. #05-2026CDA - to approve a purchase agreement for the sale of certain real property legally defined as Lots 7, 8, 9, Block 6, Einsels Addition, to St. John's Lutheran Church. Motion by Johnson with second by Nash to approve Res. #05-2026 CDA. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Resolution and Real Estate Purchase Agreement were signed by Chairman. CDA meeting adjourned. The Village Board of Trustees continued with Committee Reports. Clerk reported on Durable's estimate on heat/AC unit, and new fiber optic phone lines

at Town Hall through Great Plains. B. Johnson reported on meter box repair at Food Pantry and moving electric lines for the new GPC tower to be built. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

/s/Melinda Ferree

Melinda Ferree

Village Clerk

APPROVED:

Brad Gardels, Chairman

Wilcox Village Board of

Trustees

Jan 22, 2026

(132) 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@graylawnebraska.com
Its Attorneys

Jan 8, 2026

Jan 15, 2026

Jan 22, 2026

(35) znez

NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Kearney County Joint Planning Commission will be held the 26th day of January @ 6:00 pm in the Assembly Room of the Kearney County Courthouse in Minden, of Kearney County Nebraska. The following is scheduled: Presentation and information regarding solar and wind generation systems to the commission and attending public for the consideration of regulation changes. Questions or comments may be directed to the County Zoning Administrator's Office at 308-832-2795. An agenda for this meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the office of the Zoning Administrator. The agenda may be modified prior to such meeting.

Carrie Favinger
Zoning Administrator
01/08/2026

Jan 15, 2026

Jan 22, 2026

(33) znez

NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING KEARNEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held during the regular meeting of the Kearney County Board of Commissioners on the 3rd day of February 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse in Minden of Kearney County Nebraska, Located at 424 N Colorado Ave. The purpose of hearing public comments regarding the following application for an Administrative Sub-

division made by J & P Hoban Ag, L.L.C. Said hearing is for the purpose of Administrative Subdivision application made by J & P Hoban Ag, L.L.C. for, an administrative subdivision further described as: A tract of land being part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4 SE1/4) of Section Thirty-four (34), Township Eight (8) North, Range Thirteen (13) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Kearney County, Nebraska, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast Corner of Section 34 and assuming the East line of the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 34 as bearing N 00°33'27" W and all bearings contained herein are relative thereto; thence on the East line of the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 34, N 00°33'27" W a distance of 1320.10 feet to the Northeast Corner of the said South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 34; thence on the North line of said South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 34, N 89°59'34" W a distance of 214.00 feet; thence leaving the North line of said South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 34, S 00°33'27" E and parallel with the East line of said South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 34 a distance of 1320.17 feet to a point on the South line of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 34; thence on the South line of said Southeast Quarter of Section 34, N 89°59'17" E a distance of 214.00 feet to the place of beginning. Containing 6.49 acres, more or less, of which 1.14 acres, more or less are presently

being used for road purposes on the East and South sides to divide off a parcel of land to sell.

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

Questions or comments may be directed to the Zoning Administrator Office at (308) 832-2795.

Carrie Favinger
Zoning Administrator
January 13, 2026

Jan 22, 2026

Jan 29, 2026

(102) znez

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Two Rivers Public Health Department will be holding its regular Board of Health Meeting on February 3, 2026. The meeting will be held in a virtual manner beginning at 6:00PM with the option of being in person at 516 W 11th Street Suite 108B Kearney NE. Access trphd.ne.gov to find the meeting link. The agenda for this meeting is kept current and available for public inspection at Two Rivers Public Health Department; the agenda may be modified at this meeting.

-s- Jeremy Eschliman
Health Director
888-669-7154

Jan 22, 2026

(22) znez

Subscribe Today!

NOTICE**NOTICE OF
ORGANIZATION OF
MINDEN FITNESS, LLC
A NEBRASKA LIMITED
LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice is hereby given that MINDEN FITNESS, L.L.C., a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The street mailing address of the Company's initial designated office is 19210 Buckeye Road, Gibbon, NE 68840. The initial agent for service of process of the Company is Parker, Gros-sart & Bahensky, L.L.P., 1516 1st Avenue, P.O. box 1600, Kearney, Nebraska 68848-1600.

Jan 15, 2026
Jan 22, 2026
Jan 29, 2026
(22) znez

**NOTICE
NOTICE**

According to Nebraska Department of Education Rule 51; Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs; Wilcox-Hildreth Public School will be destroying personally identifiable information collected, maintained, or used. This information is no longer needed to provide educational services to a child whose records have been retained for five (5) years after their completion of academic requirements at Wilcox-Hildreth Public School. These records will be destroyed on February 13th, 2026, unless Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools receives notification from the individuals or a parent of the individual.

Jan 22, 2026
(26) znez

NOTICE**NOTICE OF
DISSOLUTION OF****A/J TOMSEN FARMS, INC.**

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the undersigned has dissolved a corporation under the laws of the State of Nebraska as follows:

1. A/J Tomsen Farms, Inc. filed its Articles of Dissolution with the Secretary of State on December 16, 2025.
2. The effective date of dissolution is December 31, 2025.
3. Jana Tomsen, President, is authorized to wind up and liquidate the corporation's business and affairs.
4. Any claimant of the corporation shall provide the basis of any claim against the corporation and shall send the claim to: Allison R. Seiler, 5408 Global Drive, P.O. Box 1060, Kearney, NE 68848.
5. Assets, Value; Pivots, Bins, and Buildings, \$367,000.00; Cash, \$263,147.88; Note Receivable, \$230,000.00. Liabilities, Value; Rent, \$50,000.00; Total, \$580,147.88
6. Any creditors of the corporation must submit written claims to the corporation at the following address: 5408 Global Drive, P.O. Box 1060, Kearney, NE 68848. Such claim shall include the claimant's name and address and a basis for the claim against the corporation.
7. Any claim against the corporation is barred unless an action to enforce the claim is commenced within three (3) years from December 16, 2025.

Jan 15, 2026
Jan 22, 2026
Jan 29, 2026
(51) znez

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
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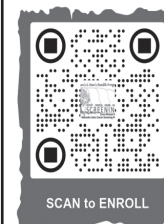
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52 Taphouse Opens



52 Taphouse held a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening celebration on January 15. The space filled with residents excited to see the renovated building and try some brews. The taproom is teaming up with local food trucks to keep food options fresh for customers. (Courier photo by Carrie Conner)



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