



Whippets and Wildcats Return to Competition

CINDY RAMSEY

Cheerleaders spread school spirit and support athletes at sporting events throughout the school year. On February 20, it was the Minden and Axtell varsity cheerleaders turn to be cheered on as they competed in the NCA State Cheer Championships at the Heartland Events Center in Grand Island.

The Whippets reentered the competitive cheer scene this year after taking a couple of years off. They warmed up with a performance in Gretna in December. Last month the team competed at UNK where they took fourth in their Game Day division and were awarded best choreography.

"I truly think the biggest motive for rejoining competitions was the fact that we wanted to see an active program shift in this sport," Minden Coach Grace Lee-Bowen said. "Cheerleading is normally recognized as a sideline sport, but it's so much more than that. Cheerleaders across the country work countless hours for their competitions and other games and we wanted to bring that to Minden High School."

The Minden varsity cheer squad competed in the Class C1 Small Squad Game Day competition at the state championships. With the recent return to competitions, the Whippets were pleased with their eighth place finish in the event.

"For this being their first year, it went really well. We were all nervous, but that didn't stop them from doing amazing," Lee-Bowen said. "State is a whole different environment than what we're used to, but we brought it all to the mat. We made a great first impression, but it gave us room to grow throughout the next years."

Overcoming nerves and putting their best foot forward, the Whippets look forward to building on the momentum this season set.

"Next year we plan to attend multiple competitions. We will have our own little 'season' so to speak. I'm looking forward to seeing how expanding this team's experience will ultimately grow the program and give them a different view on what it means to be a cheer-



The Minden varsity cheer team has returned to competitive cheerleading this year. The Whippets completed their season at the NCA State Cheer Championships at the Heartland Events Center in Grand Island on February 20. The team earned eighth place in the Class C1 Small Squad Game Day category. Team members included Tynlie Struss, Jocelyn Zerr, Addison Horine, Miles Heath, Amelia Tira, Brooke Carr, and Tessa Morey. Coaches are Grace Lee-Bowen and Brenna Bules. (Courtesy photo)

Weather Forecast

Feb. 27:	68/28	
Feb. 28:	39/13	
Mar. 1:	35/17	
Mar. 2:	40/22	
Mar. 3:	47/24	
Mar. 4:	48/27	
Mar. 5:	53/32	



News Briefs

Candidate Filings

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

Filed candidates as of February 20, 2026:

Scott Jacobsen, Minden Airport Authority, Non-Incumbent
Lindsay Buechler, Minden School Board, Non-Incumbent
Mary Stewart, Minden School Board, Non-Incumbent

Husker Quilt Raffle

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

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

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

Community Meal Fundraiser

St. John Lutheran Church's Daycare will host a community meal on Sunday, March 1 from 11:30am-1:30pm at Wilcox Lions Hall. Pulled pork, cheesy potatoes, and desserts will be served. Freewill donations will be accepted with proceeds to be used for new playground equipment at the new daycare location.

Wilcox-Hildreth Music Department Mattress Fundraiser

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

Republican Convention

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

The 2026 Kearney County Convention serves many important functions for the Republican Party. Local party officials will be elected, and the selection of delegates and alternates to the NEGOP State Convention will occur. The voting delegates at the convention are those who registered at <https://secure.anedot.com/negop/delegate-form-2026> before the March 1 deadline.

Minden Legacy Fund Community Visioning Session

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

Spring Plant Sale

Minden Post Prom/7-8 Washington DC Trip Annual Spring Plant Sale is underway. The sale ends April 5th. Please contact Lisa Clapper or use the QR code to view the catalog and place your order online. 'Bonus Buys' are available for online orders only. Online orders are encouraged. Be sure to note the student or 'post prom' as the seller. With every purchase you are supporting a great organization!

Pick up will be at Kearney County Fairgrounds on April 22. Do not wait to order as some items can run out.



Weather Recap

Date	High	Low	Precip.
2/14/26	85	79	.17
2/15/26	90	81	.03
2/16/26	93	81	.02
2/17/26	91	81	.02
2/18/26	91	80	-
2/19/26	92	80	-
2/20/26	92	80	-
Total Week Precip.....			0.24

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phone:
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address:
P.O. Box 379
520 North Minden
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Cindy Ramsey
Editor / News
cindy.editor@gmail.com

Carrie Conner
Office Manager
carrie@syndicatepub.com

Ashley Bebensee
Sales
ashleyb@syndicatepub.com

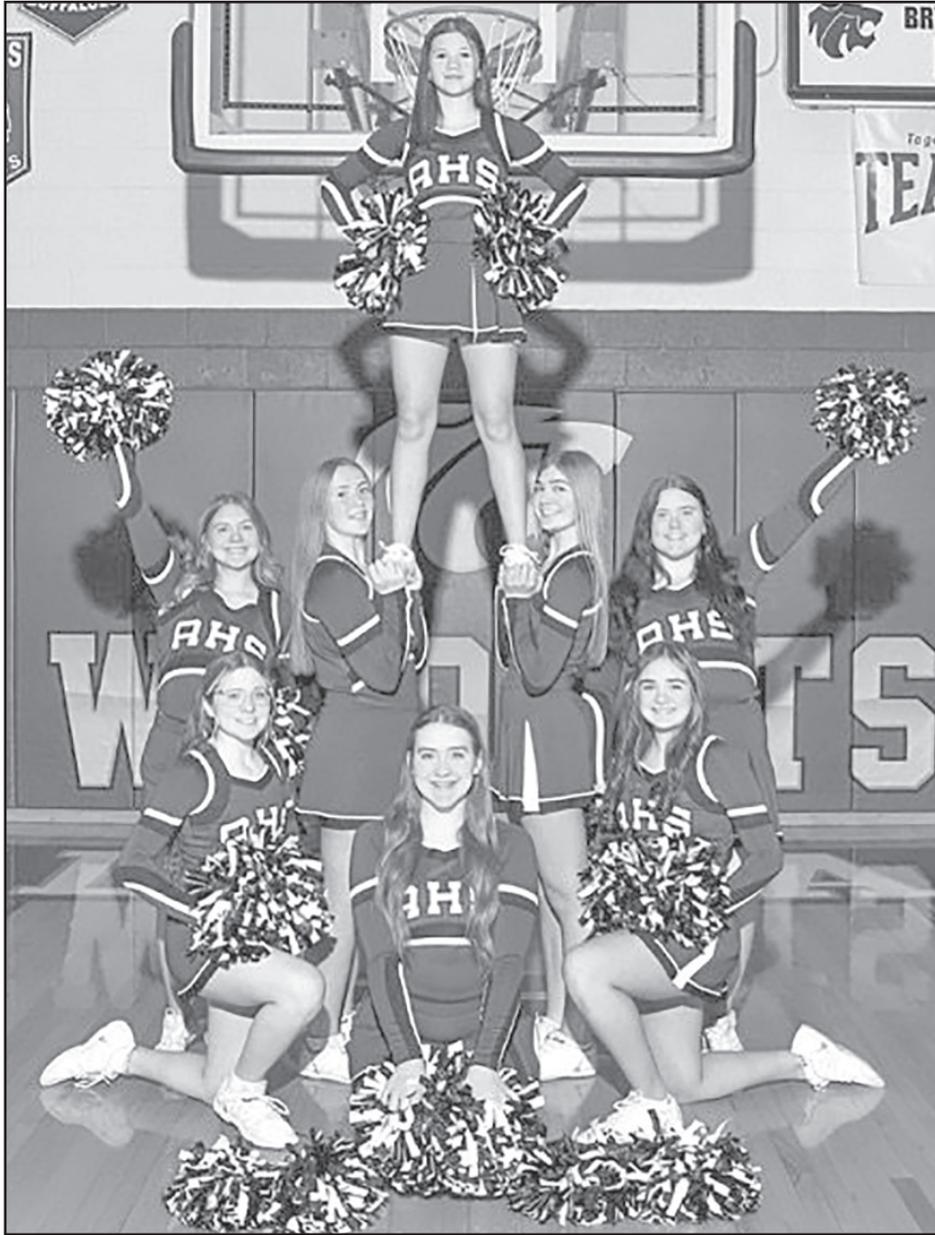
Phil Serrone
Sports
phil@syndicatepub.com

Roger Hansen
Sports
mindencourier@gmail.com

themindencourier.com

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from PAGE 1 - State Cheer



After a decade away from competitive cheer, the Axtell cheer team returned to the NCA State Cheer Championships on February 20. The Wildcats earned fourth place in the Class D Traditional Tumbling and Stunting category. Team members are Morgan Hawkins, Bristol Thorell, Stephanie Cederburg, Amelia Halvorsen, Jerzey Ramirez, Brylee Rabe, Solara Quigley, and Samantha Vinchattle. Head Coach: Chloe Bertrand. Assistant Coach: Laurel Thorell. Student Manager: Marley Thorell. (Courtesy photo)

leader," Lee-Bowen said. "Overall, I'm beyond proud of the commitment and dedication the whole team has made to this season. They've exceeded expectations and done an amazing job. Here's to next season!"

Axtell rejoined competitive cheer following an even longer break. The Wildcats' last appearance at the state cheer competition was in 2016.

"We decided to join the state competition again this year because our team includes girls who have experience in competitive cheerleading. We are also a young team with no seniors, two juniors, one sophomore, and five freshmen. The team voted to attend this year," Axtell Head Coach Chloe Bertrand said.

A fairly new coaching staff also played a part in the choice to compete at state.

"I have been coaching at Axtell now for four years and this was my assistant, Laurel Thorell's, second year helping coach at Axtell. Laurel is the Axtell Dazzlers, Wilcox-Hildreth Dazzlers, and Holdrege Paragons coach. She brought a lot of experience and

expertise to the table with competitive cheer," Bertrand explained.

Wanting to compete in the Traditional Tumbling and Stunting category, the team had to present to the school board and administration to garner permission and ensure they had the proper insurance to support the decision. The school board voted yes and the team was on their way to participate.

"Our team performed phenomenally at state cheer," Bertrand said. "For a lot of our girls, this was their very first time competing in a cheerleading performance outside of halftime shows. We put in a lot of early morning and late night practices throughout the school year and it really paid off. Since we are a small school and have girls participating in various extracurriculars, we worked around several sports and other clubs to make this happen. Our girls stayed dedicated and really put in the work to have a successful state cheer experience. Their state performance was their best performance yet which worked in our favor."

Despite the decade away from competition, the Wildcats' hard work earned them a fourth place finish in the Class D Traditional Tumbling and Stunting category. The squad did well coming away with zero deductions to their performance. This success has them eager for the future.

"We are planning on returning to the state competition next year to compete in Traditional Tumbling and Stunting again. We've thought about also competing in the Game Day category in the future, but next year we want to focus on what we have experience in," Bertrand said.

The Wildcats hope to build their cheerleading program for next year.

"We presented to our school board, and will for a second time before tryouts, about allowing us to have twelve girls total on our cheer team rather than eight," Bertrand said. "This would allow us to put up more build groups, be more creative with dance pieces, and bring more overall energy and spirit to our routines and sidelines."

With the ambition and dedication displayed by both the Minden and Axtell cheer teams this year, there is sure to be no shortage of school spirit in the future.

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Commissioners Discuss Board Appointments

CINDY RAMSEY

With the recent attention received by the Planning and Zoning Commission for alternative energy regulations, more people are expressing interest in serving on volunteer boards in the county. The Kearney County Board of Commissioners discussed board appointments and this rising interest during the February 17 regular meeting.

Commissioner Jason Sinsel stated he has been asked how to know when board appointments are open and how to get on these boards. He suggested advertising when terms are ending and also looking at removing inactive board members and replacing them with others who have expressed interest.

County Attorney Melodie Bellamy has suggested advertising these openings in the past to provide a larger pool of candidates. She also advised the commissioners can remove any appointed board members who aren't attending a majority of meetings at any time. Bellamy suggested creating an application that would allow interested individuals to provide their contact information and the boards they are interested in serving to the commissioners for consideration. This application could be available online and in the courthouse. Submissions could be kept on file and used to fill vacancies as they arise. The board will revisit advertising next month.

Highway Superintendent Joe Anderson informed the board the City of Minden is on board to once again split the cost of the County Cleanup. The tentative dates for the event will be May 4-8 during business hours at the County Road Department. The board approved the cleanup dates.

Several public hearings were held during the meeting. The first was for an administrative subdivision for Melvin and Becky Anderson. Zoning Administrator Carrie Favinger explained the subdivision would separate 5.01 acres that includes a house from the remainder of the parcel. The hearing was closed with no other comments given and the board adopted a resolution for the administrative subdivision.

Next was a series of hearings to vacate and reestablish administrative subdivision lines for Dean and Mary Jo Schwenka and Colin and Mary Schwenka. Favinger explained the purpose of these hearings and accompanying resolutions is to vacate the existing subdivision in order to redraw the lines. The new subdivision would separate the house and shop from the grain bins and farmground in order to sell the land with the house.

Once the board was assured the new subdivision wouldn't result in any landlocked parcels, they proceeded quickly with the hearings and adopting the subsequent resolutions to vacate the existing subdivisions and establish the new subdivision lines.

The board revisited a potential no-build easement with Royal Engineered Composites. The intent of the easement is to ensure a 60-foot clear space between buildings to eliminate the need for a firewall in Royal's upcoming expansion project. The County has granted Royal an equipment and access easement already. Changes to building code initiated the request for this no-build easement. Dave Arnold from Royal attended the meeting to present a proposed draft for the agreement.

The board was a bit torn on proceeding. The easement would essentially be giving up the use of County property for the financial benefit of another entity with no benefit to the County. On the other hand, the ground in question is not really usable for the County. The board also questioned if denying the easement would hinder progress and economic development. The board debated asking for compensation for the easement as a solution.

Concerns about where the 60-foot clearance line falls made all these considerations irrelevant. The map shown to the board shows the clearance line inside the existing County shop building. If this is the case, there is already a building in the way and the easement can't be granted. Action on the easement was tabled to allow for the

distance to be checked by Royal with a certified survey.

In other business the board: Approved February 3 minutes. Approved bills and claims. Approved January 2026 Clerk of District Court fee report. Approved signing mowing contract. Approved floodplain ordinance changes to be sent to NE Department of Water, Energy and Environment and FEMA.

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Whippets Divide Forces for Feb. 21 Competitions

CINDY RAMSEY

The Minden Speech team split up for competition on February 21 with varsity members returning to Grand Island for the Viking Voice Meet and the novice squad heading to Loup City for the Red Raider Invite. Both teams fared well with the varsity team taking fourth place in their meet behind York, Grand Island Central Catholic, and Aurora.

Varsity medal winners were: Frank Kovacs, 2nd Place, Humorous Prose; Frank Kovacs, 3rd Place, Persuasive; Car-



son Wright, 3rd Place, Extemp; Isabelle Martin, 6th Place, Entertainment; Rebbeca Lempka, 7th Place, Persuasive; Arabella Reed, 8th Place, POI; Carson Wright and Frank Kovacs, 11th Place, Duet Acting; Emory Porter, 12th Place, Poetry; Arabella Reed, 13th Place, Humorous Prose; Jonathan Althouse, 16th Place, Humorous Prose; Miles Heath, 17th Place, Poetry; Natali Uribe, 18th Place, Poetry

Novice medal winners were: Hallie Hartman, 1st Place, Humorous Prose; Hallie Hartman, 1st Place, Extemporaneous; Steven Rhodes, 3rd Place, Extemporaneous; Steven Rhodes, 4th Place, Entertainment

The Whippets will complete their regular season on February 28 at the Holdrege Invitational.

A public performance showcase will be held on Tuesday, March 3 at Minden High School beginning at 7pm. Everyone is invited to attend this free evening of entertainment to see what the kids have been working on all season.

On March 9, the district team will head to McCook for SWC. The Whippets will compete at districts in Aurora on March 16. Any event placing third or better at the district meet will qualify for the Class B State Meet on Saturday, March 28 in Kearney at Horizon Middle School.



The Minden Varsity Speech team competed at the Viking Voice Meet at Grand Island Northwest on February 21. Several Whippets earned medals at the competition including Carson Wright (above) and Rebbeca Lempka (left). (Courier photos by Arabella Reed)



The Axtell Speech team pose at the conclusion of the Elm Creek Invite on February 21. (Courtesy photo)

Wildcats Begin Speech Season Loud and Clear

CINDY RAMSEY

The Axtell Speech team kicked off their season at the Minden Invitational on February 14. The Wildcats brought home medals in eight events from the 24-school meet. Axtell finished 7th in the team sweeps in varsity and 9th in novice.

Varsity medal winners were: Isaiah Sinachack and Elijah Sinachack, 5th Place, Duet Acting; Aubrey Vinchattle, 6th Place, Entertainment; Elizabeth Pfeil, 8th Place, POI; Harley Pittz, Sophia Havranek, Brooklyn DeJonge, Coben Hill and Connor Strolberg, 11th Place, OID.

Novice medal winners were: Samantha Vinchattle, 2nd Place, Persuasive; Emma Hall, Brecklyn Delaney, Micah Houchin, Caleb Hall and Barrett Thorell, 2nd Place, OID; Emma Hall, 4th Place, Informative; Krystal Fickenscher, 6th Place, Persuasive

On February 21, the Wildcats took on the Elm Creek Speech Invite. Axtell earned 3rd place as a team out of 22 schools. The team brought home seven event medals including four gold medals.

Varsity medal winners were: Isaiah Sinachack and Elijah Sinachack, 1st Place, Duet Acting; Sophia Havranek, 1st Place, Serious Prose; Elizabeth Pfeil, 1st Place, POI; Harley Pittz, Sophia Havranek, Brooklyn DeJonge, Connor Strolberg and Coben Hill, 6th Place, OID; Emma Hall, 6th Place, Informative

Novice medal winners were: Samantha Vinchattle, 1st Place, Persuasive; Krystal Fickenscher, 4th Place, Persuasive

The Wilcox-Hildreth Speech team also attended the Elm Creek Speech Invite. Kaylan Ogier was the sole medal winner for the Falcons earning 4th place in varsity Poetry.

The Wildcats and Falcons will compete once again on February 28 at the Holdrege Speech Invite.

City Approves Patient Transfer Services Agreement

CINDY RAMSEY

An advanced life support transfer services agreement between the City of Minden and Kearney County Health Services is expected to provide benefits and opportunities to all parties involved. The Minden City Council approved the agreement during the February 17 regular meeting.

Third party patient transfer services are scarce in the area which often results in long wait times of 2-8 hours. The Minden Volunteer Fire Department is willing to take on this service with volunteers being paid for their time as an independent contractor.

Minden Fire Chief Tom Brown told the council the MVFD has done these transports before on an emergency basis. This agreement would allow the department to also provide non-emergency transports to facilities in the Tri-Cities area.

This arrangement provides better patient transfer wait times for KCHS benefit-

ing both the facility and patients. Volunteer EMS can get paid for these services and it creates an opportunity for the MVFD to generate revenue through insurance reimbursements.

The council also took action on a couple pieces associated with the CDBG grant for the Royal Engineered Composites expansion project. Lori Ferguson from SCEDD told the council the City has been awarded \$810,000 from NDED to assist Royal in an expansion project that will create 23 new jobs. Once certain criteria is met, half the loan will be forgiven while the remaining half is repaid to SCEDD to be used in its revolving loan fund. This is the fourth time Royal has been awarded a CDBG grant for an expansion project.

As the grant recipient, the City must adopt procurement standards and code of conduct that reflect the requirements of the CDBG program. The City must also approve a fair housing action that basically creates awareness in the community by informing the public who to contact if they feel they have been discriminated against. The council approved the adoption of both items as discussed.

The final piece of business for the evening was payment in the amount of \$18,411 to Nielsen Contracting LLC for the K Road public paving improvements. This is the second payment on the project. All that remains of the project is seeding which will be done this spring. Once that work is complete and the final payment is issued, the cost will be assessed to the adjacent property owners. The payment and certificate of payment were approved.

In other business the council: Approved February 2 minutes. Approved bills and claims. Approved excused absence of Councilwoman Alyssa Schneider. Approved January 2026 treasury report. Approved January 2026 budget report. Approved payment to Rembolt Ludtke LLP in the amount of \$4,408.50 for legal services.

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High School Students of the Month



WILCOX-HILDRETH

Name: Aubree Overholser
Grade: Senior
Activity: Choir
Achievements: Superior Rating in Choir, FFA Officer, NHS Officer, One Act State Qualifier
Challenges she/he has overcome: Student has persevered within the band program
What attributes does the student have that helped her achieve success: Kind, Dedicated
Future plans: Attend University of Nebraska at Kearney for Elementary Education and become a second-grade teacher



AXTELL

Name: Blake Sonnenfeld
Grade: Senior
Activity: Robotics
Achievements: 10th individual ranking at the Hol-drege robotics competition. Ninth in skills and 3rd in the finals.
What attributes does the student have that helped him achieve success: Blake is a focused task-oriented student. It was his first competition and despite early failures he worked through the problems and found solutions.
Future plans: Blake plans on attending CCC Be-atrice and study agriculture.



MINDEN

Name: Natali Uribe **Grade:** Senior **Activity:** FCCLA
Achievements: Vice President (11th grade), President (12th grade)
Outside of FCCLA Achievements: A Honor Roll (All 4 years), National Honor Society (11th and 12th), Gold Laurel (All 4 years), National Society of High School Scholars honor
What attributes does the student have that helped her achieve success: Natali demonstrates leadership and public speaking skills throughout her involvement in school. She has a strong work ethic and is always willing to lend a helping hand throughout the school year. She has always been a bright source of energy that promotes FCCLA to future members, while also answering any questions that they might have about the organization.
Future Plans: Attend UNK next fall to major in Early Childhood Education





Extension News - Horticulture

By Elizabeth Exstrom, M.S.

**Central Nebraska Extension Horticulture Educator
and Certified Arborist**

Winter Wildlife Leaves Its Mark on Landscapes

This winter's temperatures have been a rollercoaster. In just a few weeks, we went from warmer-than-average to subzero cold conditions. These rapid temperature swings are tough on people, but they can be just as hard on our landscapes—and the wildlife that lives in them.

Even when snow covers the ground, some critters stay busy. Rabbits, for example, have been hard at work munching on landscape plants throughout the winter. Rabbits typically feed on pencil-sized branches and leave behind a clean, angled cut at about 45 degrees. They can also strip bark from the base of trees and shrubs, sometimes as high as three feet off the ground. While cottontail rabbits may look cute, heavy feeding can cause serious damage or even kill young plants.

To prevent rabbit damage, fencing is one of the most effective options. Focus on protecting plants that rabbits seem to favor. The fence should be at least two feet tall and buried about one foot into the ground to prevent rabbits from digging underneath.

"Oh deer." These larger herbivores can also cause noticeable damage to landscapes. Unlike rabbits, deer leave torn or jagged edges on twigs where they browse. Deer damage can occur from ground level up to six feet high. In addition to feeding damage, deer can harm trees through a behavior known as buck rub. Male deer rub their antlers against small-diameter trees to remove the velvet coating that forms as antlers grow. This rubbing can scrape off bark and damage the water-conducting tissues of the tree. Severe buck rub damage can completely girdle a tree and eventually kill it. If you notice signs of deer activity, consider fencing or protecting valued trees and shrubs.

Voles can be more difficult to detect during winter, but their damage becomes obvious once the snow melts. Voles are small, short-tailed rodents that create narrow runways—about one to two inches wide—between the turf and snow cover. When the snow disappears, these runways look like a maze zigzagging across the lawn. In these areas, turfgrass is clipped very close to the crown of the plant. In most cases, lawns recover on their own in spring. If damage is heavy, overseeding can help restore affected areas.

Voles can also feed on the inner bark of trees and shrubs, much like rabbits. Severe feeding can kill young plants. If damage is discovered, allow the wounds to remain open to the air. Avoid using tree wraps, wound dressings, or paints, as these can slow healing rather than help it. Voles are also known for stealing and eating bulbs. If your tulips fail to emerge this spring, voles may be to blame.

What's black with white stripes and notorious for its smell? The skunk. While skunks don't feed on landscape plants, they can damage turf while digging for insects. Skunks are most active from dusk to dawn, and we are approaching their peak mating season. During this time, males may travel several miles in search of females, often crossing roads and wandering through landscapes.

Winter wildlife has been busy snacking and exploring. As temperatures warm, take time to inspect your landscape for damage and protect vulnerable plants. And when it comes to skunks, give them space—mating season will soon pass.

Elizabeth Exstrom is a Horticulture Extension Educator with Nebraska Extension in Hall County. For research-based gardening information, contact Elizabeth at elizabeth.exstrom@unl.edu, visit huskerhort.com, or follow HuskerHort on Facebook and Twitter.

Plant Problems

RITA BRHEL

Q: The warm weather in February definitely got me in the gardening mood! Now that it's turned cold, I'm thinking of trying my hand at starting vegetable seeds indoors. Is now too early to do this?

A: February's warm streak put many of us in a gardening mood! Starting seeds indoors can help quell that urge to get into the garden too early. But we want to make sure we're timing indoor seed-starting, so our plants are at the right size and growth stage when they can be safely transplanted outside. We still have three months until we're past the average last frost date for south-central Nebraska: April 29-May 12. Cool-season crops can be planted before the last frost but not earlier than mid-April; warm-season crops cannot withstand any frost. The first step in figuring this out is to purchase your seed packets; on the back of each packet, there should be instructions on when and how to start your seeds indoors. Generally, seeds are started 6-8 weeks ahead of anticipated transplanting outdoors. But some seedlings, such as watermelon, grow much faster than others and don't need to be planted as early as, say, tomatoes. The seed packet will help you with this. General guidelines for when to start common vegetable seeds indoors are: late February-early March—cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower; mid-March—pepper, eggplant; late March—tomato; late April—muskmelon, watermelon, squash, cucumber.

Q: I purchased some packets of vegetable seeds during that warm spell we had in February but forgot to get them out of my car before it snowed. Did I just kill my seeds?

A: Seeds are quite cold-tolerant while they are in dormancy (before they begin germination). Some seeds—such as asparagus, parsnips, rhubarb, perennial onions, leeks, and parsley—even need exposure to freezing temperatures to germinate properly. Even seeds that do not require cold exposure can withstand freezing temperatures as long as the seeds are completely dry. Seeds that are moist, damaged, or starting to germinate are much less cold-hardy. The seeds in your purchased seed packets should be okay, but if you're concerned, consider a germination test to check seed viability. To do this: 1) Place 10 seeds on a damp paper towel; 2) Fold the paper towel so that the seeds are in the middle; 3) Place the paper towel with the seeds in a plastic bag and seal it; 4) Place the plastic bag in a warm spot such as on top of a warm vent or on top of a refrigerator; 5) Check every few days to see if the seeds have germinated; refer to your seed packet about when to expect your seeds to germinate. What results are you looking for with a germination test? If 100% of your seeds germinated (all 10 seeds), plant as you planned. If 70-90% of your seeds germinated (7-9 seeds), sow a little heavier than recommended. If 60% or less of your seeds germinated (0-6 seeds), the rest of the seeds in the seed packet are unlikely to germinate well and it may be better to purchase a new packet of seeds. Once you determine that your seeds are viable, store your seed packets someplace dry and dark indoors with low humidity and stable temperatures such as a kitchen cupboard or closet until you're ready to plant them.

Q: This Valentine's Day, my husband gave me a gorgeous bouquet of roses. My grandma always said to throw a penny in the bottom of the vase to help my flowers last longer. Is there any truth to this old-wives tale?

A: That depends on the penny! What reduces the life of a bouquet of cut flowers is fungal and bacterial growth. Copper is a natural fungicide, so a copper penny can help extend the life of a vase of flowers. But not all pennies contain copper. Pennies made before 1983 contain copper, but pennies made after 1982 contain zinc instead. Zinc doesn't have the same anti-fungal effect as copper. If you don't have a cache of old pennies on hand, there are other options. Many cut flowers come home with a packet of commercial floral preservative, which contains both plant food and disease inhibitor. If your roses didn't come with preservative, there are several homemade recipes to choose from: 1) Half water and half carbonated lemon-lime drink; 2) 1-1/2 teaspoons of sugar per 1 quart of water; and 3) a few drops of bleach (1 teaspoon bleach per 1 gallon of water), taking care not to use too much bleach as this will harm the flowers. These homemade options will not work as well as commercial floral preservative if you have the choice, but they'll give you a few more days to enjoy your roses.

Rita Brhel lives in Fairfield, has a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is a certified Master Gardener, and coordinates the Horticulture Program at Adams County's Nebraska Extension office in Hastings. Have a horticulture question? Contact your County Extension office to get connected with your local Nebraska Extension horticulturist.

Calendars and Menus

MINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MENUS:

Friday, Feb. 27: BREAKFAST: Long John, string cheese; LUNCH: Broccoli cheese soup, popcorn shrimp
 Monday, Mar. 2: BREAKFAST: Scrambled eggs, cereal; LUNCH: Loaded chicken pasta
 Tuesday, Mar. 3: BREAKFAST: Muffin, cottage cheese; LUNCH: Spaghetti, breadstick
 Wednesday, Mar. 4: BREAKFAST: Cinnamon roll, string cheese; LUNCH: Sub sandwich, chips
 Thursday, Mar.5: BREAKFAST: Breakfast sandwich; LUNCH: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes
 Friday, Mar. 6: BREAKFAST: Bagel, cream cheese; LUNCH: Bosco stick, marinara

0-0-0

ACTIVITIES:

Saturday, Feb. 28: SP @ Holdrege, 8 a.m.
 Monday, Mar. 2: Kearney Middle School Honor Band; Start of Spring Practice; Minden HS Quiz Bowl Invite, 9 a.m.
 Tuesday, Mar. 3: FFA CDE Contests @ CCC Hastings; SP Public Performance, 7 p.m.
 Friday, Mar. 6: ACT Test Registration

AXTELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

ACTIVITIES:

Saturday, Feb. 28: SP @ Holdrege Invite; Robotics @ Nebraska Christian, 8 a.m.
 Monday, Mar. 2: NO SCHOOL-Staff Inservice; Start of Spring Activities; FFA Alumni/Supporters meeting, 5:30 p.m.
 Tuesday, Mar. 3: FFA Spring CDEs (HS only)

WILCOX-HILDRETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MENUS:

Friday, Feb. 27: BREAKFAST: French toast; LUNCH: Fish sandwich
 Monday, Mar. 2: BREAKFAST: Granola bar; LUNCH: Chicken fried steak

Tuesday, Mar. 3: BREAKFAST: Cinnamon roll; LUNCH: Sloppy Joes
 Wednesday, Mar. 4: BREAKFAST: Biscuits & gravy; LUNCH: Hot dogs
 Thursday, Mar. 5: BREAKFAST: Donuts; LUNCH: Lasagna
 Friday, Mar. 6: BREAKFAST: Stuffed hash browns; LUNCH: Chicken strips OR Fish

0-0-0

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Feb. 27: 7-12 Choir National Anthem @ Tri-Storm game, 7 p.m.
 Saturday, Feb. 28: Boys District BB Finals
 Sunday, Mar. 1: FBLA Report Project deadline; FBLA Ribbon Activity deadline
 Monday, Mar. 2: Boys District BB Finals
 Tuesday, Mar. 3: Boys District BB Finals; 7-12 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.; FFA Spring CDEs @ CCC Hastings, 8 a.m.; Student Council meeting, 11:40 a.m.
 Wednesday, Mar. 4: National Honor Society meeting, 11:40 a.m.; MTSS-A, 3:50 p.m.
 Thursday, Mar. 5: PK-6 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.
 Friday, Mar. 6: FCA meeting, 12 p.m.; District Special Education meeting, 2:45 p.m.; End of 3rd Quarter, 4 p.m.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Dinner Menus

Meals served at Minden Community/Senior Center (Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska), 403 N. Colorado Avenue, at noon. Please call 308-832-2139 the day before the dinner with your reservations. All meals are served with coffee, water, and milk. Menu are subject to change. Join us.
 Monday, Mar. 2: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy,

3 bean salad, dinner roll, fruit & dessert
 Tuesday, Mar. 3: Swiss steak, baked potatoes, winter blend, muffin & fruit
 Wednesday, Mar. 4: Pancakes, sausage, salad, fruit & dessert
 Thursday, Mar. 5: BBQ pork sandwich, potato salad, baked beans & fruit
 Friday, Mar. 6: Meatloaf, cheesy mashed, beets, bread, fruit & dessert

RYDE Transportation For All Ages

RYDE Transit offers public transportation for all residents of Minden and Kearney County, Monday thru Friday – 8:00am to 5:00pm. Service is available to Minden and all of Kearney County, and out of town trips to Kearney, Holdrege, Hastings, and Grand Island. Please call at least 24 hours in advance for a ride.
 RYDE Transit provides transportation for medical care, therapy, education, jobs, and shopping for individuals of all ages.
 Call 308.832.2139 to schedule your ride. Public Transportation is easy to ride, and open to everyone.

What's your story?
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 Contact Cindy
 308.832.2220 | cindy@syndicatepub.com




Happy Birthday!

Please wish this Minden sports fan a Happy 85th Birthday on Wednesday, March 4!

Cards can be sent to Joe Hultquist
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 Minden, NE 68959

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Do You Remember

Eighty Years Ago — 1946

The Minden High School basketball team whopped the Curtis Aggies 53-23 in a game that was expected to be a very close game.

Ten boys received Boy Scout honor badges. Tenderfoots were Gary Nelson, Gary Christensen, Allen Jorgensen, Roger Lewein, Billy Nichol and Clark Sorensen. Receiving second class ratings were Jimmy Bang and Alan Fredricks. First class rates were given to Donald Peterson and Jack Lewis.

The Minden High School band, including 42 musicians, held a concert wearing their new band uniforms for the first time.

Seventy Years Ago — 1956

Merle Meyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Urban Meyer, received a research grant from the state of Washington to study "life stress and emotional reactions in patients with pulmonary tuberculosis as compared with patients with cardiac diseases."

Elected for the Kearney County Extension Service were Rodney Christensen, Wendell Muller, Glen Bruce and Kenneth Holsten.

Alfred Winholtz of Axtell was one of 13 corn champions honored by the South Platte Chamber of Commerce.

Sixty Years Ago — 1966

Axtell and Wilcox met in a Fort Kearny Conference clash with Axtell upsetting the unbeaten Eagles 52-49.

Big Dollar Days at Wolfe's Market advertised 12 cans dog food, \$1; 10 rolls tissue, \$1; grape juice 6 for \$1.

Nearly 200 people attended the Minden Woman's Club buffet supper to raise funds for an undecided community improvement project.

Fifty Years Ago — 1976

James Milton was commissioned in the United States Army as a second lieutenant and was assigned to military intelligence.

Greg Olson, a senior at Minden High School, was notified of his acceptance to sing with the Young Nebraskans.

Forty Years Ago — 1986

Marvin Mangers, manager of Harold Warp Pioneer Village Foundation, reported that the village had 97,000 visitors in 1985 which included 571 visitors from outside the United States.

Robert and Hazel Craig were honored with an open house for their 50th anniversary at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Don and Jan Egenberger.

Janelle Harms of Hildreth shot two free throws with 22 seconds left in the first game of the girls' basketball sub-district meet, defeating Wilcox 37-35. In the second game, Hildreth won the sub-district title, defeating Class D-2's rated team Bladen.

Thirty Years Ago — 1996

As a result of the settling of the Title IX Lawsuit, girls' fast-pitch softball would be offered at Minden High School beginning in the Fall of 1996 for a minimum of four years and longer if sufficient interest was demonstrated.

Minden students Aaron Betty, Kati Lovegrove, Matt Wall and Detlef Dierks were notified their artwork would be on display at the State Capitol Show at the state office in Lincoln.

Minden qualifiers for the state wrestling meet were David Liakos, Kendall DeJonge, Shawn Schukar and Brent Johnson. Axtell qualifiers were Dustin Ludeke, Phil Larson, John Gilbreath and Adam Sandburg.

Twenty Years Ago — 2006

Axtell sophomore Justin Swedburg placed sixth at 171 pounds in Class D at the Nebraska State Wrestling Tour-



2016 — The Minden Whippet Dance Team took center stage at halftime of the final home basketball game of the 2015-16 season. Team members were Jenna Denney, Lily Steen, Janessa Madsen, Jenae Boudreau, Leah Boudreau, Suzie Hoffman, Jacyl Horner and Shana Schoone.

nament. His record for the year was 32-3.

Kearney County received \$15,616 from NIRMA as part of a \$1 million dividend issued to 72 Nebraska counties.

Melanie Lantis spoke about diabetes at Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska Minden Head Start during February Family Night. She finished her presentation with a demonstration of the blood sugar check and insulin injection.

Ten Years Ago — 2016

Minden Public Schools received a \$2,500 donation from America's Farmers Grow Communities sponsored by the Monsanto Fund and directed by local farmers Dean and Mary Jo and Collin and Mary Schwenka of Adams County. The donation helped fund equipment for the new high school.

Two Minden East Elementary students had their art work hung in the Nebraska State Capitol. Magaly Macias, a third grader, and Cody Jensen, a second grader, were featured for Youth Art Month Feb. 28 through March 12.

Three area wrestlers competed in the 87th annual Nebraska State Wrestling Championships in Omaha at the CenturyLink Center. Tysen McDowell of Minden and Hunter Stratman and AJ Skaggs of Axtell made their first appearance at the state meet. McDowell made it to the third round consolation but was unable to wrestle in this round after suffering a fractured cheek bone in the prior match. McDowell had to end his junior campaign with a mark of 33 wins and 17 losses. Stratman ended his junior campaign with a state berth and a record of 21 wins and 12 losses. Skaggs finished his sophomore season with a record of 20 wins and 6 losses.

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Church Directory

Axtell

Bethany Lutheran

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

Marcia Dorn, Pastor

Sunday, Mar. 1: 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, Mar. 1: 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, Mar. 1: Worship service, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 4: Evening Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran, LCMC

104 E. Fifth St.

Craig Richardson, Pastor

Sunday, Mar. 1: Donuts & Juice, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion, 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study, 12:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 4: Lenten Supper, 6 p.m.; Worship, 7 p.m.

Campbell

St. Anne Catholic

Father Adam Sparling,
Pastor

Sunday, Mar. 1: Mass, 8 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran

360 So. Stewart
(402) 756-8552

Greg Volsky, Vacancy Pastor

Sunday, Mar. 1: Worship, 9:30 a.m. with Sunday school to follow

United Westminster Presbyterian Broad and Main Street

Mark A. Diehl, Pastor

Sunday, Mar. 1: Worship, 10 a.m.

Funk

Fridhem Lutheran

401 Lake Street

Daren Poppo, Pastor

Sunday, Mar. 1: 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, Mar. 1: Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Family Catholic Mission Parish

287 Jefferson Street

Father Evan Winter

Sunday, Mar. 1: Mass, 8:30 a.m.

Hildreth

Trinity Lutheran

502 Sanders Avenue

Caroline Schenk,

Pastor

Sunday, Mar. 1: 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, Mar. 1: 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, Mar. 1: Worship service, 9 a.m.

Minden

Bethany Lutheran

437 E. Fourth St.

Don Hunzeker, Pastor

Julie Schmidt, Parish Ministry Associate

Thursday, Feb. 26: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m.
Saturday, Feb. 28: Walking, 8 a.m.

Sunday, Mar. 1: Contemporary Worship, 8:30 a.m.; Blended-Traditional Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Holy Communion at both services
Tuesday, Mar. 3: Piece Corps Quilting, 1 p.m.; Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 4: Church Club, 5 p.m.; Wednesday

Night Supper Club, 6 p.m.; Lenten Service, 6:45 p.m.; Confirmation following Thursday, Mar. 5: 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, Mar. 1: 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, Mar. 1: 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, Mar. 1: Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship Coffee 10:30 a.m.

Communion served 2nd Sunday each month

Saint John The

Baptist Catholic

628 N. Garber

Father Evan Winter

Saturday, Feb. 28: Mass, 5:30 p.m., confessions be-

fore Mass

Sunday, Mar. 1: Mass, 10:30 a.m.; (in Spanish at 12:30 p.m.); confessions before Mass

St. Paul Lutheran

206 N. Colorado

Rev. William Zwick

Friday, Feb. 27: Breakfast & Prayer, 7 a.m.

Sunday, Mar. 1: Bible Study/Sunday School, 9 a.m.; High School Youth, 9:15 a.m.; Worship/Communion, 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 4: JYM 5th, 5 p.m.; Lent Supper, 5:30 p.m.; Lent Service, 6:30 p.m.; JYM 6th-8th, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 5: Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Mar. 6: Breakfast & Prayer, 7 a.m.

United Methodist

340 N. Newell Ave.

Kayla M. Mangrich,

Pastor

Thursday, Feb. 26: Prayer Time, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, Mar. 1: Worship, 10 a.m.; Confirmation, 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 4: Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 5: Prayer Time, 1:30 p.m.

Westminster United Presbyterian

109 N. Colorado

Sharon Rees, Pastor

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

Wilcox

St. John's Lutheran

102 S. Stockton St.

Kenton Birtell, Pastor

Sunday, Mar. 1: Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion every other Sunday

United Methodist

203 S. Sapp St.

Candance Miller,

Pastor

Sunday, Mar. 1: 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, Mar. 1: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m.

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

Bible Studies during the week. Check our Facebook page.

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Obituaries

Patricia "Patti" K. Luebbe, 80 - Columbus Resident



Patricia "Patti" K. Luebbe, 80, of Columbus, Nebraska, died Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at her home in Columbus, Nebraska.

The funeral service was held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at First United Methodist Church in Columbus. Visitation was held on Friday and Saturday at Gass Haney Funeral Home at the church. In lieu of flowers, stones, plaques, etc., memorials are suggested to the family for a future scholarship fund to be set up in memory of Patti. Private family burial took place prior to the service on Saturday. The funeral service was broadcast live on Gass Haney Funeral Home Facebook page.

Patricia K. Luebbe, lovingly known as Patti, was born on May 8, 1945, to Dr. Harlan R. and Donita W. (Gillaspie) Wiggins in Chicago, Illinois. Shortly after her birth, the family moved to Minden, Nebraska, where Patti and her younger sisters, Sherri and Leslie, enjoyed what she always described as "the best childhood." She carried a lifelong love for Minden—cheering proudly, "Minden, purple and white, fight fight!"—and spoke often of her treasured friends from the Minden Maids 4-H group. Some of her most cherished memories came from riding along with her father on large-animal veterinary calls, moments she held close her entire life.

Patti attended the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and later Kearney State College, where she studied education. During this time, she met the love of her life, Richard "Dick" Luebbe. They were married on August 10, 1968, in Minden and celebrated afterward with family and friends in Grand Island.

The couple began their married life teaching in Kearney, before moving to Columbus in 1971 when Dick accepted a teaching and coaching position at Columbus High School. Together, they built a beautiful life rooted in love, adventure, and deep devotion to family. They welcomed three children—Jeff (Heidi), Andy (Angie), and Cathy (Fili) Sanchez—who were the pride and joy of Patti's life.

Patti dedicated herself wholeheartedly to creating a warm and joyful home filled with traditions, celebrations, and countless memories. Many in the community remember her as the beloved teacher of Little Learners Preschool, which she ran from

the basement of their Prairie Lane home for 13 wonderful years. She later taught at District 84 and eventually retired from Columbus Middle School. Her nurturing spirit, patience, and creativity touched the lives of generations of children and families.

A true enthusiast of life, Patti was always on the go—cheering at her children's and later her grandchildren's activities, hosting gatherings for football games and holidays, planning celebrations for birthdays and showers, and embracing any occasion that brought people together. She poured her heart into holiday decorating and made every season magical. Every year, friends looked forward to receiving the "Lovely Luebbe" Christmas card, a warm and cheerful glimpse into the family she loved so dearly. Patti often said, "You make memories when you travel," a motto she lived by. She found immense joy in planning annual trips for all 18 family members, whether to Disney, Breckenridge, or other favorite destinations, creating lasting memories that her family will hold close forever.

Patti found immense joy in friendship and community. She belonged to numerous women's and couples' clubs and organizations—including Columbus Women's Club, Alpha Delta Kappa National Teacher Sorority, and PEO. She loved playing bridge and pitch and often served as an officer in the groups she participated in. Patti was also a faithful member of First United Methodist Church, where she enjoyed serving on committees and giving her time and talents.

Her upbeat, positive nature made her a natural leader and a joy to be around. Above all, Patti will be remembered for her radiant spirit—kind, optimistic, encouraging, and always ready to help. Her greatest joy in life was her family, especially her ten cherished grandchildren, who adored their loving, energetic, and endlessly supportive grandmother.

Patti leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, generosity, and joy. She will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to know and love her.

Patti is survived by: Husband – Richard "Dick" Luebbe of Columbus, Nebraska; Sons – Jeff (Heidi) Luebbe and Andy (Angie) Luebbe both of Columbus, Nebraska; Daughter – Cathy (Fili) Sanchez of Kearney, Nebraska; Grandchildren – Aspen, Ean, and Eastyn Luebbe of Columbus; Gracie, Maggie, Sadie, and Henry Luebbe of Columbus; Samson, Benjamin, and Libby Sanchez of Kearney; Sisters – Sherri (Al) Friedman of Duluth, Georgia and Leslie Hogan of Tampa, Florida; Many cousins, nieces, and nephew.

Patti was preceded in death by: Parents – Dr. Harlan R. and Donita W. (Gillaspie) Wiggins; In-laws – Carl and Lorraine Luebbe.

The family would like to thank the wonderful caregivers, medical professionals, physical therapists, and friends who supported Patti throughout her illness.

Condolences may be sent to www.gasshaney.com

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 <p style="font-size: small;">PENDING 1461 S. Lexington - Hastings Commercial Property</p>	 <p style="font-size: small;">\$229,500 501 A Ave. - Axtell 3 Bed, 1 Bath, 3 car det. garage</p>	 <p style="font-size: small;">PENDING 911 S. Hastings Ave. - Hastings 4 Bed, 2 Bath, 1 car garage</p>	 <p style="font-size: small;">\$325,000 775 Brewster St. - Minden 4 Bed, 3 Bath, 4 car garage</p>

Dee & JoAnn Shoemaker Auction

Saturday, March 7th, 2026 - 9:00 A.M.

Location: Johnson Center - 509 W. Main St., Alma, NE

Featured Items: Chrysler Minivan, Large Variety of Shop Tools, Antiques, Collectibles, Furniture & Household!

Selling: 2006 Chrysler Town & Country Touring minivan, 3.8L V6, silver, grey leather, miles at listing: 209,525, Vin. #: 2A4GP54L36R796926; Large assortment of power & hand tools (several name brand); Craftsman 20" drill press 2hp (floor model); Grizzly G0842 wood lathe; Dimensional lumber (some exotic wood); Grandfather, Cuckoo, mantel & carved kitchen clocks; Hurricane style lamps; Assorted glassware; Decorative egg collection; Costume jewelry; Pocketknife collection; Walking canes; Accordion; Trumpet; Tuba; Guitar; Violins; Antique oak rockers; Oak parlor table; Oak 4-Drawer dresser w/ mirror; Lane cedar chest; Metal yard chairs & Small kitchen appliances. **Plus much more!**

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Bowling Standings

Monday Maniacs 2-9-26

Team Standings:	W	L
Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm	13	7
Minden Exchange Bank & Trust	10	10
Budget Heating & Air	9	11
Children First Daycare	8	12
High Individual Game: Denise Smith, 185; Ashley Osterbuhr, 170; Ashley Osterbuhr, 162		
High Individual Series: Denise Smith, 468; Ashley Osterbuhr, 452; Janet Kile, 400		
High Team Game: Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 423; Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 419; Budget Heating & Air, 395		
High Team Series: Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 1163; Children First Daycare, 1051; Budget Heating & Air, 1030		

Classey Lassies 2-12-26

Team Standings:	W	L
Skye's The Limit Salon	20	12
Upland Bar & Grill	19	13
Aurora Coop-Keene	18.5	13.5
Platte River BBQ	16	16
Dobish Dumpsters	15	17
Pony Express Ford	15	17
Split Happens	13.5	18.5
Larson Bros Construction	11	21
High Individual Game: Kasey Welch, 181; Deb Cavanaugh-Dorn, 179; Sheila Schoone, 179		
High Individual Series: Kasey Welch, 523; Deb Cavanaugh-Dorn, 502; Cori Malone, 438		
High Team Game: Larson Bros Construction, 437; Aurora Coop-Keene, 432; Dobish Dumpsters, 413		
High Team Series: Aurora Coop-Keene, 1231; Larson Bros Construction, 1179; Upland Bar & Grill, 1092		

Sunday Mixed 2-15-26

Team Standings:	W	L
Flinstones	41	19
Bowling Stones	37	23
Travelers	32.5	27.5
3 Chicks & A Stick	32	28
Lucky Dogs	29.5	30.5

Awana Grand Prix



Awana Grand Prix was held at the Wilcox Community Church on Wednesday, February 18, 2026. Guest speaker was Heather Swanson talking about the challenges in life and some favorite verses, Philippians 4:13 and Proverbs 3:5,6. Grades 2-6 competed for speed and design. Parents were also given an opportunity to race. It was a fun evening with popcorn, corn dogs, chips and pop.

Speed results: 1st- Benjamin Mahorney, 2nd- Jax Harrold, 3rd- Enoch Murray
 Design results: 1st- Leighton Latter, 2nd- Benjamin Mahorney, 3rd- Enoch Murray
 Judge's Choice: Kobie Guthrie

High Individual Game, Men: Bryon Sazama, 183; Marty Misek, 178; Travis Araujo, 177
 High Individual Game, Women: Laurie Wright, 172; Sheila Schoone, 159; Betty Smith, 158
 High Individual Series, Men: Bryon Sazama, 485; Marty Misek, 477; Randy Durand, 452
 High Individual Series, Women: Betty Smith, 440; Amber Misek, 436; Laurie Wright, 419
 High Team Game: Flinstones, 584; Bowling Stones, 571; 3 Chicks & A Stick, 562
 High Team Series: Bowling Stones, 1666; Travelers, 1607; Flinstones, 1598

Minden Unified Association 2-19-26	W	L
Team Standings:		
First Bank	94.5	65.5
Joyce Farms	88	72
APEX	63.5	80.5
Miller Body	63	97
High Individual Game: Kevin Reed, 212; Carson Blum, 199; Shawn Nelson, 195		
High Individual Series: Kevin Reed, 555; Shawn Nelson, 545; Shaun Johnson, 510		
High Team Game: Joyce Farms, 669; Miller Body, 628; First Bank, 626		
High Team Series: Joyce Farms, 1935; Miller Body, 1843; First Bank, 1761		

Contact Us

Let us know about any questions, concerns or ideas you may have!

SPORTS



Bunger Brings Home Program First State Medal Lady Falcons and Whippets Give Their All at State

PHIL SERRONE



State wrestling was held for the girls division this past week and did not disappoint as a program first occurred for the Wilcox-Hildreth Lady Falcons. The two day event was held at the CHI Health Center on Feb. 17-18.

Camryn Bunger (30-16) completed a fantastic first season earning the first medal in program history for Wilcox-Hildreth. She placed sixth overall with a record

of 3-3 on the week including one decision and two pin-falls. Elin Patterson (27-8) got the Lady Falcons off to a great start securing the first state victory in program history when she secured a majority decision win in the second round. As a team, the Lady Falcons finished 54th overall with a team score of 12 points.

In the Class B bracket, the Lady Whippets had two wrestlers compete but unfortunately did not bring back a medal this year. Minden tied for 67th place with a team score of three points.

Victoria Hansen (21-13) picked up a majority decision victory 12-3 in her first round matchup. She was later defeated in the next two rounds to end her season. Marlie Petersen (24-16) gave her all in her two matchups but lost due to pinfall in both.

Congrats to the Lady Falcons and Lady Whippets on a fantastic season. The sky is the limit for both programs as the all state qualifiers will be back next season with their respective teams.

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

135: Victoria Hansen started off with a majority decision victory 12-3 over Cheloha of Fort Calhoun then was pinned by Peters of Central City in 1:51 then lost by majority decision 1-11 against Mundorf of Valentine

140: Marlie Petersen opened with a pin loss against Bolles of Wayne in 1:14 then was pinned by Young of Falls City in 1:16

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

115: Elin Patterson opened with a pin loss against Wiseman of Adams Central in 1:37 then won by majority decision 20-8 over Ruskamp of Arlington then lost by decision 6-9 against Tramp of Palmyra



Two Wilcox-Hildreth and two Minden girl wrestlers competed at state on Feb. 17-18 at the CHI Health Center in Omaha. The Lady Falcons made program history bringing home their first state medal. Pictured: (above) Wil-Hil's Camryn Bunger is all smiles after earning the first state medal (6th place) in program's history. (left) Minden's Victoria Hansen battles for hand position in her match with Dakota Cheloha from Fort Calhoun. (Courier photos by Stacie Pistulka)

135: Camryn Bunger started with a pin loss against Pietrzak of Wood River in 3:09 then pinned LaPorte of Chadron in 2:53 then pinned Welling of Hemingford in 1:57 then won by decision 12-10 over Cheloha of Fort Calhoun then was pinned by Peters of Central City in 2:36 then was pinned by Mefford of Battle Creek in 1:30 to place sixth overall

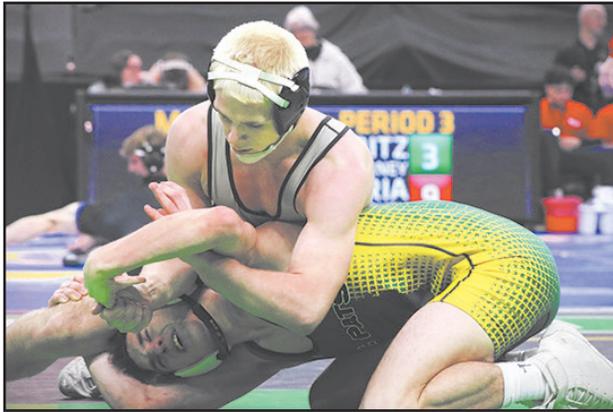
Congratulations
on your retirement!

**Jeanne Jons will be retiring after
50 years from 4th Street Salon.
Come wish her well on her
retirement!**

Friday, Feb. 27
9am - Noon

Falcons and Whippets Collect Medals at State

PHIL SERRONE



What a way to end the season! Multiple members from the Wilcox-Hildreth and Minden boys wrestling teams secured a spot on the podium at state wrestling. The big event was held throughout three days on Feb. 18-21 at the CHI Health Center in Omaha.

In the Class C bracket, the Whippets picked up a 14th place finish with a team score of 45.5.

Leading the way for the Whippets were juniors Cael Smith (29-5) and Evan Lutkemeier (17-1) as the pair brought home bronze medals after placing third overall. The pair combined for four pinfalls, four decisions and one total fall victory to finish 9-2. What a great way to end the season for a duo that has been dominant each time stepped onto the mat.

Minden's Byron Kring (28-16) did not place at the event but did finish 2-2 including one pin and one decision victory. Parker Hatch (28-16) secured a pin in his first round match but was defeated in his next two matchups to end his week in Omaha.

In the Class D bracket, the Falcons earned a 20th place finish behind a team score of 29 points.

Brody Patterson (43-4) has been one of the best wrestlers in the state all season long and this past week proved exactly that as he collected a silver medal after placing second overall. He won three matches with two being majority decisions while another decision in the third round. It was the final round that was the heart-breaker as he lost by one point 6-7.

Gavin Ironshell (38-15) earned a medal after a sixth place finish as he finished the week an even 3-3. All three of Ironshell's victories came by way of decision. Cauy Twohig (33-13) and Jacob Jezbera (39-11) did not place at the event but Twohig did pick up a majority decision 10-1 victory to kick off the event.

Congratulations to all wrestlers this season on a fantastic year. For returning wrestlers, we look forward to seeing how you build upon this success next season!

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

144: Byron Kring started with a majority decision 11-4 victory over Watkins of Raymond Central then was pinned by Hasbrouck of Cozad in 2:09 then pinned Sawicki of Doniphan-Trumbull in 2:09 then lost by majority decision 1-18 against Thomsen of Pender

175: Parker Hatch started off with a decision win 5-1 over Schnebel of Battle Creek then lost by decision 2-4 against Wells of Broken Bow then was pinned by Peralta of Madison in 4:39

190: Cael Smith opened the tournament with a majority decision victory 17-1 over Johnson of Centennial in 2:57 then won by decision 6-0 over Fitzke of Logan View then was pinned by Divis of David City in 5:51 then won by decision 11-4 over Kuehler of Pierce then won by majority decision 10-1 over Fitzke of Logan View to earn third place overall

285: Evan Lutkemeier started off with a pin victory over Alarcon of Tri County in 1:38 then lost by decision 2-7 against Simons of Centura then pinned Simpson of Falls City in 2:34 then won by decision 4-1 over Krueger of Pierce then pinned Baum of Broken Bow in 2:23 then pinned Heiderman of Battle Creek in 1:33 to place third overall

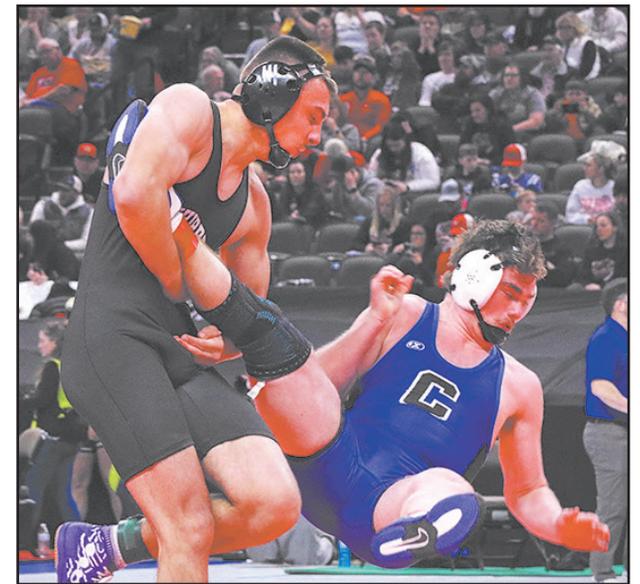
Here are the following results for each Wilcox-Hildreth wrestler at their respective weight class:

138: Brody Patterson opened with a majority decision win 12-2 over Deeds of North Platte St.Patrick's then won by majority decision 10-1 over Steffen of Guardian Angels Central Catholic then won by decision 9-5 over LaDeaux of Creighton then lost narrowly by decision 6-7 against Dawe of Burwell to place second overall

144: Cauy Twohig opened with a majority decision victory 10-1 over Kessler of Mullen then lost by decision 7-8 against Beavers of Elm Creek then was pinned by Freeman of Loomis in 1:57

165: Gavin Ironshell lost his opening round due to disqualification against Wurdinger of Stanton then won by decision 4-3 over Steffen of Guardian Angels Central Catholic then won by decision 3-2 over Brown of Burwell then won by decision again by the same score 3-2 over Veik of Elgin/Pope Johnson then was pinned by Perks of Cambridge in 4:24 then was pinned by Collins of North Platte St.Patrick's in 4:27 to place sixth overall

190: Jacob Jezbera opened with a pin loss against Fjell of Shelby-Rising City in 3:35 then lost by decision 10-13 against Allen of Crawford



The Minden and Wilcox-Hildreth boys wrestling teams found success at the state tournament on Feb. 19-21 in Omaha. Pictured: (above) Minden's Cael Smith gets a takedown against Lane Johnson from Centennial. (left) Brody Patterson locks in a half nelson while pushing his opponent to the mat. (Courier photos by Stacie Pistulka)

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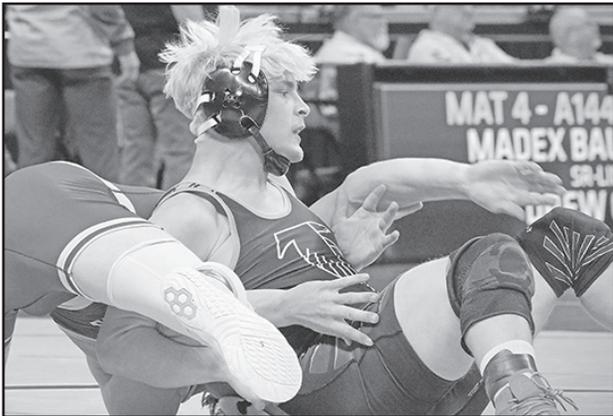
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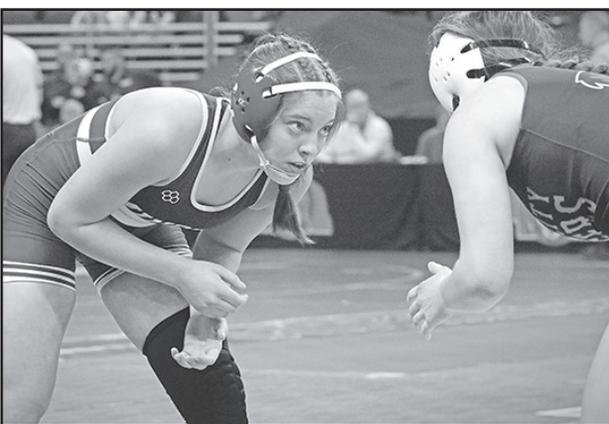
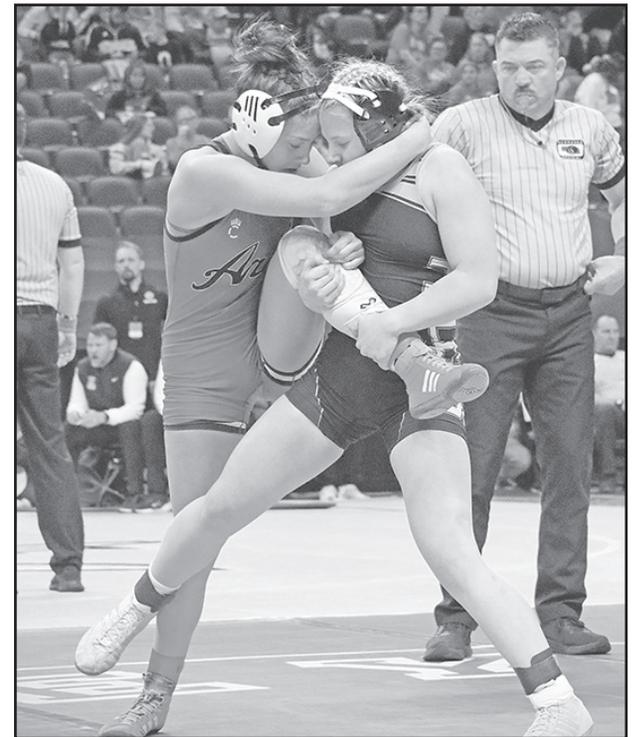
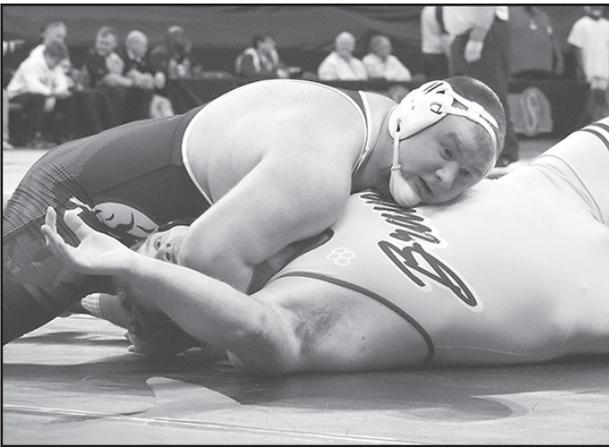
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NSAA State Wrestling 2026



Minden and Wilcox-Hildreth were represented at the NSAA 2026 State Wrestling Championships by four boys and two girls each Feb. 17-21 at the CHI Health Center in Omaha. Pictured clockwise from above: Minden's Byron Kring works from the top position in his opening round match against Devin Watkins from Raymond Central. Wilcox-Hildreth coaching staff cheer on the Falcons throughout the event. Wil-Hil's Elin Patterson looks to shoot a single leg takedown. Wil-Hil's Camryn Bunger keeps her opponent grounded. Minden's Marlie Petersen squares up against her opponent Gabi Young from Falls City. Minden's Parker Hatch attempts to move his opponent's back. Falcon Cauy Twohig attempts to keep his opponent grounded. Wil-Hil's Jacob Jezbera awaits the ref's whistle to fight back to his feet. Falcon Gavin Ironshell sprawls on the ground for leverage back to his feet. Whippet Evan Lutkemeier secures a pin. (Courier photos by Stacie Pistulka)



Dawgs Withstand Tiger Fourth Quarter Assault

ROGER HANSEN

Minden's regular season ended on a positive note as the Whippets survived a furious fourth quarter comeback attempt by Hastings High in Minden's 70-68 win at Hastings on January 20.

The Whippets played a favorable first three quarters, opening up a 54-36 lead. Then in the fourth period the Tigers got hot from long distance cutting an 18-point Whippet lead down to two. Minden made a free throw with 21 seconds remaining to go ahead by three. Jackson Armstrong stole Hastings' inbound pass, was fouled and made one FT pushing the lead to four and the Whippets held on.

It wasn't like Minden could not score in the fourth (16 points) but the Tigers scored a bunch. Coach Blum credited his team for hitting FTs well during the final quarter.

The Whippets were 19-42 (5-16 on 3s) for 45% from the floor and 27-40 (67%) shooting FTs. They had 8 offensive and 23 defensive rebounds, 15 assists, 2 steals and 11 turnovers.

Hastings was 22-55 (9-35 on 3s) for 40% on FGs and 15-23 on FTs. They turned the ball over 7 times.

Traelin Christensen put up 20 points, 6 rebounds and 2 assists on the stat sheet. Luke Grollmes had 16 points, 6

rebounds and 2 steals and Luke Craig got 14 points, 4 rebounds and 4 assists. Landon Bules' solid effort included 9 points, 9 rebounds and 8 assists plus going 7-7 on FTs. Cole Schwenka scored 8 and Armstrong had 3 points and 2 rebounds. Ambrose Bloomfield snared 3 rebounds.

Minden	17	18	19	16-	70 (13-9)
Hastings	14	8	14	32-	68 (1-19)

WHIPPETS- Christensen 20, Grollmes 16, Craig 14, Bules 9, Schwenka 8, Armstrong 3



Left to right: Landon Bules prepares for action. Luke Grollmes and Landon Bules guard a Hastings player. Jackson Armstrong lines up a free throw. (Courier photos by Arabella Reed)

Wildcats Keep Pushing Til the End

ROGER HANSEN

Axtell's boys finished the regular season competing at Southern Valley on February 20 and the homestanding Eagles were victorious over the Cats 63-19.

Southern Valley posted leads of 40-9 at halftime and 58-12 through three quarters.

The Cats were 7-35 (1-16 on 3s) for 20% on FGs and 4-15 on FTs. They had 9 offensive and 16 defensive rebounds, 3 assists, 4 steals and 22 turnovers.

Warren Myers had 9 points and 3 rebounds, Reece Hunt got 3 points and 2 rebounds and Nolan Wells also scored 3. David Sonnenfeld had 6 rebounds and Easton Bergstrom got 4 rebounds and 2 blocks. Landon Powers and Carter Lorenz each grabbed 4 rebounds.

Axtell	5	4	3	7-	19 (1-21)
S. Vall.	23	17	18	5-	63 (5-17)

CATS- Myers 9, Wells 3, Hunt 3, Bergstrom 2, Sonnenfeld 1, Lorenz 1



Micah Houchin looks to deliver a bounce pass. (Courier photo by Phil Serrone)

Falcons Close Regular Season With Victory

PHIL SERRONE

It was a cause for celebration on Feb. 20 as the Falcons boys basketball team honored their seniors before a home crowd while also capping the night off with a victory. The team hosted Giltner/Harvard.

The Falcons got out to a fast start in the contest ending the first quarter on a 19-8 run. Wilcox-Hildreth continued to score double digits over the next three quarters with output of 13, 10 and 12 points. When the final whistle was blown, it was the Falcons standing tall by a score of 54-42.

Sophomore Landon Lienneman was on fire beyond the arc leading the scoring charge with 22 points including six made three pointers. Luke Lush showed some nice touch throughout the matchup finishing with 15 points. Thomas Donley added eight points while Kaleb Johnson contributed six points.

The Falcons had their first round of subdistricts against Franklin High School on Feb. 23 at Overton High School. If victorious, the team will have had a rematch against Overton on Feb. 24 where Wilcox-Hildreth will attempt to avenge a one-point loss from two weeks ago. If successful, the final round will be held on Feb. 26 against the winner of Loomis/Elm Creek. We will have a full recap from subdistrict action in next week's paper!

Here are the following stats from Wilcox-Hildreth vs Overton (only points were provided):

Points: Landon Lienneman 22, Luke Lush 15, Thomas Donley 8, Kaleb Johnson 6, Drew Blank 3



Wilcox-Hildreth boys basketball team celebrated 'Senior Night' on Feb. 20 with a victory over Harvard/Giltner by a score of 54-42. Pictured clockwise from left: Kaleb Johnson looks for a passing lane. Thomas Donley jumps into the air for the opening tip-off. Cody Schriener aims to retain possession. Drew Blank shoots a jump shot in front of a defender. Luke Lush follows through on his shot for a three point attempt. (Courier photos by Shaina Johnson)



Dusters Take Down Whippets in Subdistricts

ROGER HANSEN

The Minden girls' season concluded in the C1-9 sub-district on February 17 played at Malcom. Holdrege up-ended the Whippets 37-16 and the book was closed on a 13-9 campaign.

Seniors Myla Emery, KayLynn Jorgensen and Lauren Starkey were part of a program that for the past four years compiled a sterling 78-21 record (19-5, 20-4, 26-3, 13-9).



Emery, a four-year starter, finished as the number seven all-time career scorer for Minden girls' basketball amassing 1,238 points. Those ahead of her are Brooke Kissinger-1,851, Taylor Kissinger-1,751, Ja-

mie Kissinger 1,590, Rebecca Stewart- 1,310, Hallie Bauer- 1,301 and Mattie Kamery- 1,247.

As for the contest vs. Holdrege, the old adage 'a lid on the basket' may be apropos. The Whippets were getting good looks but nothing was falling, especially in the first half as Minden's lone point before halftime was a free throw. Things improved somewhat in the second half. Holdrege was not lighting it up either, in part due to some good defense by the Whippets.

Minden was 6-39 (1-13 on 3s) for 15% on FGs and 3-10 on FTs. There were 5 offensive and 22 defensive rebounds, 4 assists, 5 steals and 16 turnovers.

Emery finished with her ninth double-double of '25-'26 getting 10 points and 10 rebounds. Jorgensen scored four points and dished 2 assists, Kaleigh Carr had 7 rebounds and 2 steals, Adelyn Whitten grabbed 5 rebounds and Riley Eden got 2 rebounds.

Minden 1 0 9 6- 16 (13-9)

Holdrege 6 9 13 9- 37 (21-3)

WHIPPETS- Emery 10, Jorgensen 4, Eden 2



The Lady Whippets fell to Holdrege in the C1-9 subdistricts on Feb. 17 at Malcom. Pictured: (above) Coach Allie Prosocki gives direction to KayLynn Jorgensen. (left) Duster defense leaves Jorgensen looking to pass. (Courtesy photos)

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

CHEYENNE LIEB - BASKETBALL

School - Wilcox-Hildreth Public School

Grade - Senior

Achievements in past seasons and this season:

Tied the school record for most made three's in a single game (6 vs. Axtell this year)

- School record for most made three's in a single season (40 this year--broke her own record of 29 she set last year--accomplished this feat despite the team having to forfeit two games this year, and Cheyenne missing 2.5 games because of injury)

- School record for most made three's in a career (81 -- beats Michaela Hinrichs' record of 79)

Challenges she has overcome: Cheyenne played through a nagging hip injury that she suffered in early January against Elm Creek that caused her to miss the 2nd half of that game. She did not play in our next two games the following week in the hopes that we would get her healthy enough to come back and play. Her hip injury never really went away, but she managed to practice and play through the pain.

Attributes that have led to her success: Cheyenne is always the last girl to leave the gym the last two seasons after practice. Cheyenne had a routine at the end of every practice where she had to make five consecutive free throws, and three consecutive three pointers from five different spots around the floor. Cheyenne also got a ton of extra shots up during summer open gyms. No doubt this work ethic and extra reps developed her into the shooter that she is. - Coach Cody Whipkey



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

JERZEY RAMIREZ - WRESTLING

School - Axtell Community School

Grade - Freshman

Achievements this season -

Freshman Jerzey Ramirez had a solid season, consistently placing in her weight class. She led the way at the Fillmore Central Invite with three pin-fall victories and a third-place finish individually, with the team finishing 10th overall. Ramirez continued to have a strong showing at the Franklin and Axtell invites, finishing second at both meets. She narrowly missed punching her ticket to state, coming up one match short after finishing districts 3-2. Ramirez capped off her season with a record of 21-12.



Lady Wildcats' Season Ends in Subdistrict Play

ROGER HANSEN

Axtell's girls' season came to an end at the D1-9 subdistrict on February 17 as the number one seed and host Elm Creek downed the Cats 71-21. Axtell closes at 8-14.

The Buffaloes had defeated the Cats twice previously and played like the seventh ranked team in class D-1.

Emily Danburg was one of three seniors whose basketball career is completed. She led the Cats in this contest with eight points, averaged 13.3 points for the season and scored 726 points in her four years. She had two 30+ point games and 3 other 20+ point games in her time on the Cats' squad.



Senior Maddie Wells scored 3 in this game and was a regular contributor for three years. Her high scoring game this year was 14.

Nicole Arner was the third senior.

Junior Morgan Hawkins added six points against Elm Creek.

Axtell's four-year record of 26-62 had seasons of 9-12, 3-19, 6-17 and 8-14. The past two seasons produced more wins than the previous season indicating progress being made. Three starters and the top two subs off the bench will return for next



Axtell girls basketball had their season ended in the first round of subdistricts against top-seeded Elm Creek on Feb. 17. The final score of the game was 21-71. Pictured clockwise from above: Leah Stritt drives baseline with the defense draped all over her. Emily Danburg fights to a loose ball. Morgan Hawkins looks for a passing lane. (Courier photos by Phil Serrone)

season.

Axtell 8 7 0 6- 21(8-14)

E. Crk. 24 24 15 8- 71(20-4)

CATS- Danburg 8, Hawkins 6, Wells 3, Leah Stritt 3, Ashlynn Nelson 1

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For the week ending February 21, 2026.

Nebraska Weekly Grain Prices, Omaha-Council Bluffs

US No. 2 Yellow Corn: \$4.09-\$4.18

US No. 1 Soybeans \$10.66-\$10.73

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

Weight Range - 700-748; Avg. Weight - 727; Price

Range - \$390.50-\$437.50; Average Price - \$418.86

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

Weight Range - 650-698; Avg. Weight - 672; Price

Range - \$375-\$417; Average Price - \$397.07



Lady Falcons Season Ends at Subdistricts

PHIL SERRONE

It was a tough season for the Lady Falcons of Wilcox-Hildreth but the team never gave up throughout the year and always showed maximum effort no matter what the scoreboard read. The Falcons ended at 0-23.

Wilcox-Hildreth traveled to Loomis High School on Feb. 17 and were defeated by a score of 20-57.

Closing out the first quarter, the Lady Falcons kept the score close with a deficit of four points by a score of 6-10. Unfortunately, the team was limited to three points in the second quarter while the Lady Wolves

surged with 15 points.

A huge 26 point outburst to kick off the second half put Loomis comfortably in the driver's seat towards victory. Another three point output in the fourth quarter did not help things for the Lady Falcons as Loomis secured the win with ease.

Cheyenne Lieb led the scoring charge for the Lady Falcons with six points, three rebounds and three steals in what was her final game of her career. Kinley Hansen was not too far behind her teammate finishing with five points, six rebounds, one assist and one steal. Allegra Johnson and Chloe Johnson added three points each.

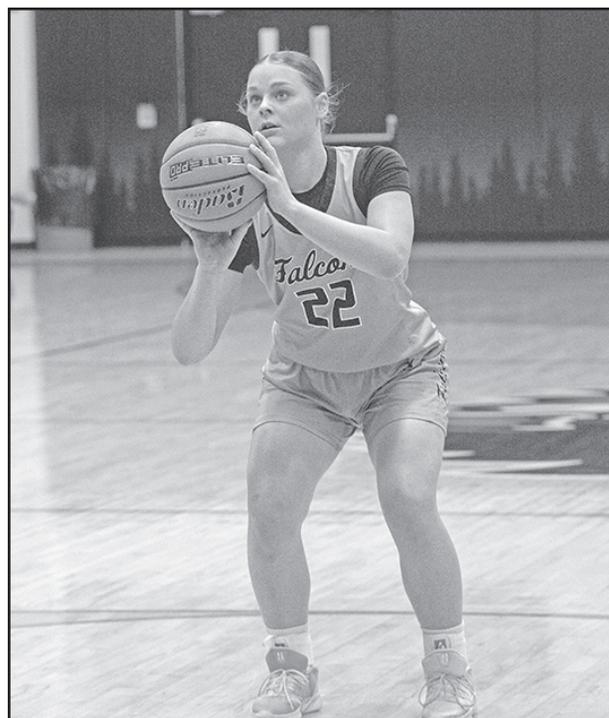
Despite their record, the Lady Falcons showed grit all season long and deserve congratulations on never giving up. Best of luck to seniors Kaylan Ogier, Kamryn Russell and Lieb as they move into the next chapter of their lives!

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

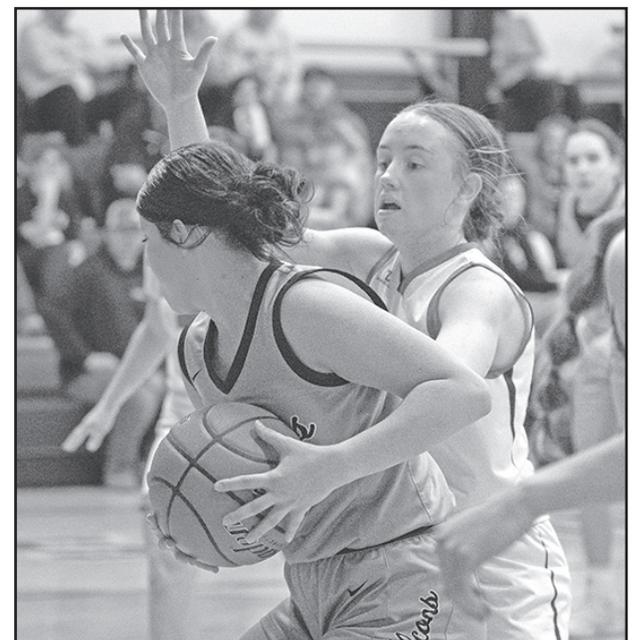
Points: Cheyenne Lieb 6, Kinley Hansen 5, Allegra Johnson 3, Chloe Johnson 3, Kaylan Ogier 2, Kamryn Russell 1
Rebounds: Hansen 6, A.Johnson 4, Lieb 3, Ogier 2, Russell 1

Assists: C.Johnson 1, Hansen 1

Steals: A.Johnson 5, Lieb 3, Hansen 1, Ogier 1, C.Johnson 1



The Lady Falcons basketball team had their season ended in the first round of subdistricts on Feb. 17 against Loomis High School. The final score of the game was 20-57. Pictured clockwise from above: Chloe Johnson fights for a rebound. Kaylan Ogier looks to pass the ball baseline. Kinley Hansen lines up her free throw attempt. Cheyenne Lieb aims to keep possession of the ball. Allegra Johnson performs a jump stop while heading towards the basket. (Courier photos by Shaina Johnson)



Legal Notices

NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Kearney County Board of Zoning Adjustment on the 9th day of March 2026; 7:00 pm. at the Courthouse in the Assembly Room of the Courthouse in Minden, of Kearney County Nebraska to hear public comments on:

· An application for Variance from Zoning Regulation 5.27 Minimum Lot Requirements: To allow for a lot less than the required 5 acres.

Questions or comments may be directed to County Zoning Administrator 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
308-832-2795

Feb 26, 2026
(33) znez

NOTICE

The Axtell Village Board met Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 7:00 in the Axtell meeting room for their

regular monthly meeting. Upon roll call the following were present: Eric Gustafson, Marcus Anderson, Landon Walz, Linda Soderquist, Josh Beck and Utility Supt. Jason Stoddard. Chairman Gustafson opened the meeting under the open meetings act and read the public forum statement. Josh Beck then read the oath of office and was installed as a village trustee. Motion by Walz, second by Anderson to approve January 12, 2026 minutes. Passed unanimously. Motion by Anderson, second Soderquist to approve January 26, 2026 minutes. Passed unanimously. Motion by Anderson, second Walz to approve January 31, 2026 treasurers report. Passed unanimously. Steve Nelson and Brad Lundeen were present to give an update on the Veteran's Memorial. The board talked about placement and responsibilities, and preparing a memorandum of understanding. The clerk will contact the attorney to see if Mosaic has signed property agreement. Veterans Board will meet and report back to the Village at the March meeting. Chairman Gustafson opened the 1 & 6 public hearing. Jason presented a map he had prepared as one had not been

received from engineer. Motion by Walz, second Beck to approve resolution approving plans as submitted. Passed unanimously. Chairman Gustafson closed the hearing. Eric discussed a meeting he and the clerk had with Suzanne Brodine of Olsson Associates and outlined the plans the board should take to utilize funding. The board plans to meet with the Community Foundation and work on a Capital Projects Fund. The board talked about the upcoming pool season and expectations. Motion by Anderson, second Beck to hire Andrea Runge as pool manager for the 2026 season. Passed unanimously. Lifeguards will be hired at the March meeting. Motion by Soderquist, second Anderson to approve Jeremy Fusner building permit. Passed unanimously. Motion by Walz, second Beck to approve Colby L'Heureux building permit for 901 A Avenue. Passed unanimously. Motion by Anderson, second Beck to approve Colby L'Heureux building permit for 800 D Avenue. Passed unanimously. Motion by Soderquist, second Walz to approve

Shawn Barry building permit. Passed unanimously. Jason then gave his monthly maintenance report. Motion by Soderquist, second Walz to approve monthly claims. Passed unanimously. Motion Anderson, second Beck to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Passed unanimously. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2026. Bills approved: Salaries 9,400.58, BOKF 75,898.75, Carquest 55.98, CPI 165.07, American Electric 9.57, Minden Hardware 18.49, Municipal Supply 1,676.94, NE Dept. of Health 15.00, Plumbing & Heating Wholesale 24.18, South Central Sanitation 6,919.18, Winnelson 36.23, Black Hills 840.62, Chase 161.34, DWEE 40.00, Jones Group 8,918.75, NE Rural Water 300.00, NT&T 309.08, Vicki Nelson 29.00, One Call 38.41, ProTex 439.00, SPPD 3,413.00, Spectrum 180.00, 58.95 & 170.63, Syndicate 15.54, Two Rivers 200.00.
Feb 26, 2026
(120) znez

Keep Informed.
It's Your Right
to Know

March Classes at



Herbs for Healing Teas-NEW!
Monday, March 2, \$45

French Basics
Tuesdays, March 3-31, \$59

Plan to Plant
Thursday, March 5, \$45

Beginning Painting-Abstracts
Saturday, March 7, \$49

Digestive Wellness-NEW!
Monday, March 16, \$29

Knitting Basics
Mondays, March 16-April 6, \$59

Adobe Photoshop
Tuesdays, March 17-31, \$49

Poetry Prompts-NEW!
Wednesday, March 18, \$29

Beginning Painting-Female Form
Saturday, March 21, \$49

Welcome to Medicare
Monday, March 23, FREE

Protect the Pollinators
Thursday, March 26, \$29

Focaccia Bread Art
Monday, March 30, \$45

Buttercream Blooms
Tuesday, March 31, \$49

All classes are at the NEW
Holdrege Center, 424 West Ave.

Scan to Register



Call to Register

308-338-4072

Equal Opportunity Institution

Register In-Person

424 West Ave.
Downtown
Holdrege

NOTICE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

CALL ORDER: 700
CONTRACT ID: 71307
STATE PROJECT NO.
AFE-G054

LOCATION: DISTRICT 7 -
2026 PAINT STRIPING
IN COUNTIES: CHASE,
DUNDY, FRANKLIN, FRONTIER,
FURNAS, GOSPER, HARLAN,
HAYES, KEARNEY, PERKINS,
PHELPS, RED WILLOW, HITCHCOCK

The Nebraska Department of Transportation will receive sealed bids in Room 109 of the Central Office Building at 1500 Nebraska Parkway in Lincoln, until 1:30 PM on March 12, 2026. At that time the bids will be opened and read.

Bids will be opened and the bid totals will be read via Webex. The Webex information will be available on the BidX Letting webpage a minimum of 2 days prior to the opening, and can be found by selecting the applicable letting from: <https://www.bidx.com/ne/>

lettings Plans, specifications, and additional letting information may be found at the Nebraska Department of Transportation's Web Site at <http://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/business-opp/hwy-bridge-lp/>.
Feb 26, 2026
Mar 5, 2026
(41) znez

NOTICE REGISTRATION OF TRADE NAME

Trade Name: O'Fahey's
Name of Applicant: Fahey Investments, LLC
Address: 1869 42 Rd Heartwell, NE 68945
Applicant is: Limited Liability Company
If other than an Individual, state under whose laws entity was formed: Nebraska
Date of first use of name in Nebraska: 1/1/2026
General nature of business: General Contracting
/s/ Spencer Fahey
Spencer Fahey
Feb 26, 2026
(18) znez

Fort Kearny Board Meets

The Fort Kearny Preservation, Restoration and Development Board will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 12, 2026 in the Assembly Room of the Kearney County Courthouse in Minden.

The age to begin regular
screenings for colon cancer:

45

Get a colon cancer screening FIT kit sent to you!
Scan the code or call TODAY to get a FIT kit!



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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Nebraska Colon Cancer Screening Program 800-532-2227 | <https://preventionmatters.ne.gov/>

NOTICE**CITY OF MINDEN****COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

The City Council of the City of Minden, Nebraska, met on February 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in regular session in the Council Chambers, pursuant to advance notice of said meeting simultaneously transmitted to all members of the Council and to the public as shown by the copy thereof posted in the Minden City Hall, Outside the Minden City Hall, First Bank & Trust Co., Minden Exchange Bank & Trust Co., and the Post Office. A copy of the notice is on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Council Members Present: Bunger, Sumstine, Yant, and Schneider. City Officials Present: Evans, Krings and Jordan. Absent: Olson. Approved Bills and Claims: A. Christensen--Training \$70.00, A. Eschliman--Training \$21.00, B & S Painting & Powerwashing--Repairs \$496.80, Black Hills Gas Holdings, Llc--Utilities \$1,214.86, Bound Tree Medical Llc--Supplies \$1,147.74, Business World Products Of Hastings, Inc--Supplies \$46.32, Capital One--Supplies \$1,846.57, Ccmobl Inc--Cleaning \$577.80, City Of Hastings--Fees \$254.25, City Of Hastings--Scales--Membership \$1,000.00, Coby Bryant--Repairs \$183.25, Core & Main Lp--Supplies \$3,922.05, Eakes Inc--Supplies \$1,022.56, Great Plains Communications--Phone/Internet \$1,077.71, Great Plains Communications--Phone/Internet \$100.78, Hawkins Water Treatment--Chemical \$3,779.32, Hd Supply Facilities Maintenance Ltd--Supplies \$76.95, limc--Membership \$330.00, lsw--Supplies \$78.40, J.

Hlavinka--Training \$62.00, K&K Auto Repair Inc--Repairs \$267.43, Ke Co Treasurer--Fees \$6,033.33, Kt Diesel & Equipment--Repairs \$1,114.88, Landmark Implement Carquest--Supplies \$340.55, Landmark Implement Inc--Supplies \$26.72, M. Raffaelli--Cleaning \$196.88, Minden Exchange Bank & Trust C--Financing \$6,050.40, Minden Utility Dept.--Utilities \$4,770.56, Municipal Supply-Nebraska--Supplies \$2,843.05, Ndee--Training \$275.00, Ne Water Environment Assoc--Training \$1,100.00, Nphe--Fees \$18.00, Olson Associates--Tech/Engineering \$3,662.77, Police Chief's Association Of Nebraska--Membership \$120.00, Pony Express Ford--Repairs \$89.35, Presto X Co.--Maintenance \$178.18, Revenue Bond Payment Account--Fees \$2,000.00, Revenue Bond Payment Account--Fees \$8,950.00, Revenue Bond Payment Account--Fees \$2,525.00, Saylor Screenprinting Llc--Uniforms \$461.75, Siteone Landscape Supply Holding, Llc--Supplies \$55.14, Subsurface Solutions--Maintenance \$1,252.30, Syndicate Publishing, L.L.C.--Fees \$234.34, T. Holsten--Training \$70.00, United Parcel Service, Inc--Fees \$15.52, United States Postal Service --Fees \$691.66, Verizon Wireless--Phone/Internet \$769.58, 1-23-26 Payroll \$68,051.99. Items Approved: Consent Agenda--Schneider motioned to approve the consent agenda and Bunger seconded. Voted aye: Bunger, Sumstine, Yant, and Schneider. Agreement with Miller & Associates for the Leadership Community Recertification Process for \$5,500— Sumstine motioned to

approve the agreement with Miller & Associates for the Leadership Community Recertification Process for \$5,500 and Schneider seconded. Voted aye: Bunger, Sumstine, Yant, and Schneider. Resolution directing the sale of surplus property with a fair market value of less than \$5,000— Bunger motioned to approve Resolution 1829 directing the sale of surplus property with a fair market value of less than \$5,000 and Yant seconded. Voted aye: Bunger, Sumstine, Yant, and Schneider. Selection of bid for a shelter at Chautauqua Park— Yant motioned to approve the Morton Buildings to install a park shelter at Chautauqua Park in the amount of \$34,985 and Schneider seconded. Voted aye: Bunger, Sumstine, Yant, and Schneider. Non-Action Items: Council Announcements. Public Forum. Yant motioned to adjourn at 6:13 p.m. and Bunger seconded. Voted aye: Bunger, Sumstine, Yant, and Schneider.

Abbey Jordan, City Clerk
A complete transcript of the council minutes is available at the City Clerk's office and online at minden-nebraska.org.
Feb 26, 2026
(156) znez

NOTICE**WILCOX-HILDRETH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY FEBRUARY 16,
2026 - 7:00 PM**

**POSTING LOCATIONS:
MINDEN COURIER**

POSTING DATE: 2/5/2026

FRANKLIN CHRONICLE

POSTING DATE: 2/4/2026

CONFERENCE ROOM-

**WILCOX 404 SAPP STREET
WILCOX, NE 68982-0190**

1. Call to Order. Roll Call. 2. Announce location of posted Open Meetings Act. 2.A. Pledge. 3. Consent Agenda. Motion by Alan Casper, seconded by Chris Stuehm, to approve the consent agenda. Motion Passed. Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0. 3.A. Approval of Agenda. 3.B. Approval of minutes of Regular January 19, 2026 Board Meeting. 3.C. Approval of Claims. 3.D. Financial Report. 4. Visitors and communication from the public. 5. Action Items. 5.A. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the resignations of Melissa Myers and Emilie Kelley. Motion by Teresa Carey, seconded by Ryan Knaus, to approve the resignations of Melissa Myers and Emilie Kelley. Motion Passed. Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0. 5.B. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the school calendar for the 2026-2027 academic year. 5.C. Discuss, Consider and take all necessary action to approve the ESU Master Service Agreement for the 2026-2027 academic year. Motion by Kert Hansen, seconded by Alan Casper, to approve the ESU Master Service Agreement for the 2026-2027 academic year. Motion Tabled. Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0. 6. Discussion Items. 6.A. Financial Literacy Report. 7. Administrator Report. 7.A. Superintendent Report. Superintendent Patterson

reported: 1. School Finance Update. 2. Board Retreat Reminders. 3. Reminders to Board Members that Tuesday, February 17 is the deadline to run for office. 7.B. Principal Report. Glenn Reported: Attendance Updates. Americanism Act Update. Muhlbach Reported: Winter MAP Data. Evaluations. 8. Next Board Meeting: 8:00 am Monday, March 9, 2026, Regular Board Meeting and Board Retreat in the Wilcox Conference Room. 9. Adjourn. Motion by Ryan Knaus, seconded by Teresa Carey, to adjourn meeting at 7:24 p.m. Motion Passed. Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0.

Checking Account ID 1 Fund Number 01 GENERAL FUND: Alma Public School 25.00; Amazon Capital Services, Inc. 87.22; Black Hills Energy 11,413.41; BTS Communications Phone Vendor 54.00; Capital Sanitary Supply Co, Inc. 1,738.59; Carolina Biological Supply Company 930.76; Carter Electric 483.60; CEHS Business Center 600.00; Clearlyfly 97.39; Cooperative Producers Inc 3,395.88; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance E-Rate/Charter 317.87; Eakes Office Solutions 487.00; Eiley, Veronica 48.00; Family Medical Specialties Medical Provider 149.00; Family Physical Therapy & Sports Center 364.70; Franklin County Chronicle 210.68; Fritz's Market 12.96; Furbly's Plumbing 285.00; Great Plains Communications 292.61; HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, Ltd. 2,707.27; Hometown Leasing Copy Machine Lease Company 894.00; J.W. Pepper & Son, Inc. 173.78; Kat's Korner

Market 105.25; Kidwell, Inc 6,297.50; KSB School Law PC LLO 77.00; Larsen's Ace Hardware 97.94; Matheson Tri-Gas Inc 150.68; Matter-Hackers 2,480.03; Menards - Kearney 92.12; Mid-America Research Chemical 1,073.71; Minden Public School 50.00; NASB 4,091.00; Nebraska Department of Environmental and Energy 40.00; OneSource The Background Check Company, LLC Background Check Company 19.00; Overton Public School 130.00; Presto-X Company Pest Control 117.44; Protex Central, Inc. 1,397.99; Quadient Finance USA, Inc. 500.00; Quadient Leasing, USA, Inc. 474.37; Rahmann, Brian Caterer 480.00; Raynor Garage Doors of Ce. Ne., 258.00; S & W Auto Parts 459.98; Syndicate Publishing Newspaper 119.84; University of Nebraska at Kearney 255.00; Village Of Hildreth 1,816.43; Village Of Wilcox 2,522.61; VISA 3,015.77; Wage Works 128.75; Wayne State College 50.00; White Auto Glass Inc 559.94; Woodward's Disposal Service 55.00; Yanda's Music And Pro Audio 132.99; Fund Number 01 51,817.06; Checking Account ID 1 51,817.06.

Feb 26, 2026
(172) znez

Scandinavian
Mutual Insurance Company

Erin Pittz, Agent

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

NOTICE

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

Notice is hereby given that the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education of the Wilcox-Hildreth Public School, a.k.a Kearney County School District No. 50-0001 of Kearney County, Nebraska will be held on the 9th day of March, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. in the Wilcox-Hildreth Conference Room in Wilcox. An agenda for such meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the office of the Superintendent.

By: Board of Education
Wilcox-Hildreth Public School

Feb 26, 2026
(24) znez

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NOTICE

**DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE
AND SPECIAL
ASSESSMENT NOTICE
KEARNEY COUNTY,
NEBRASKA**

Notice is hereby given that on March 2, 2026, the same being the first Monday in March, the undersigned County Treasurer will offer for sale all real estate including lands and town lots as described on the Tax Lists of Kearney County, Nebraska, for delinquent taxes, interest and costs as allowed by law for the tax year 2024 and prior years. All lands and lots appearing in this list and all land and lots previously advertised will be subject to Tax Sale at the Kearney County Courthouse Assembly Room Minden, Nebraska, starting Monday, March 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., and continuing until said taxes have been sold or paid. The amounts in this list are BASE AMOUNTS ONLY. Interest and penalties WILL be added to the

day that actual payment is made. Per new State Statute 77-1818 (2), additional administrative notification fees of \$150.00 will be added as well.

This is NOT a foreclosure sale of lands and lots but a SALE OF TAXES ONLY as required by law.

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

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

PP-Designates a Partial Payment on taxes

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

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

801100: *** CO, KINGSTON, DOUGLAS E. & CHER-

ITY A. 103 N BURR S.16' OF LOT 5 & ALL LOT 6 BLOCK 2 ORIGINAL TOWN-WILCOX, \$1,168.20

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

401400: BECK, ZACHERY & ALEXANDRIA 212 N BROWN NORTH 2' LOT 7 Y ALL LOT 8 BLOCK 2 ORIGINAL TOWN-MINDEN, \$1,654.32

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

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

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

431500: *** BECKMANN,

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

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

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

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

493200: EBERLE, DAVID PAUL 243 S RIDGE LOT 6 BLOCK 7 PEARSON'S ADDITION-MINDEN, \$678.04

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

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

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

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

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

205000: PP STADLER, JOHN ALL NW 1/4 EXCEPT TRI COUTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT 8-6-15 HAYES 156.90 ACS., \$3,621.73

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

219900: PP, STADLER, JOHN NE 1/4 ON EITHER

SIDE OF RAILROAD 28-6-15 HAYES 159.03 AC., \$3,537.09

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TOTAL \$63,197.27
Feb 12, 2026
Feb 19, 2026
Feb 26, 2026
(214) znez

50TH ANNIVERSARY
IN-STORE PARTY THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 7

Every Shoe in Stock on SALE
Sale Runs March 4-15

Shoes for running, walking, cross training, track spikes, leisure & much more

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NOTICE VILLAGE OF WILCOX MINUTES FEBRUARY 17, 2026

The Wilcox Village Board of Trustees met in special session on February 17, 2026 holding a public hearing. Notices of the public hearing were posted at the Wilcox Town Hall, Cornerstone Bank, Post Office and High Street Insurance. As well as, published in the Minden Courier. Agendas were hand delivered to the each member of the Village Board. Chairman Gardels called the meeting and public hearing to order and noted the Open Meetings Act. Trustees present: Gardels, Norman, Nash, Johnson and Adam. Others in attendance were D. Fecht and R. Carey. The purpose of this hearing is to review the request of Cooperative Producers Inc. to subdivide two tracts of land. The Wilcox Planning Commission approved this request in public hearing earlier this same evening and is recommending it for final passage by the Village Board of Trustees. The floor was opened to any comments from the public. No public comments were received. Resolution #691 approving the subdivision of two tracts of land in part of Block Fourteen (14), Original Town of Wilcox and part of the Southwest Quarter (SW¼) of the Northeast Quarter (NE¼) of Section Thirty-one (31), Township Five (5) North, Range Sixteen (16) West of the 6TH P.M., Kearney County, Nebraska. Resolution #691 was read by title. Motion was made by Nash to approve Resolution #691, second was given by Johnson. Motion carried with the following vote:

Ayes – Nash, Johnson, Norman, Adam. Nays – None. Abstain – Gardels. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Melinda Ferree

Village Clerk

APPROVED:

Brad Gardels, Chairman
Wilcox Village Board of Trustees

Feb 26, 2026
(69) znez

NOTICE REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA FEBRUARY 17, 2026 - 9:30 A.M.

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Kearney County, NE was held February 17, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Room of the Courthouse in Minden, NE. Present were Chairman Brent Stewart and Board Members Jason Sinsel, Jeff England, Nathan Avery, James Miller and Heath Hofstetter. Absent was Robert Swanson. Also present were County Clerk Jenni Lupkes, Joe Anderson Hwy. Supt., Scott White Sheriff, Melodie Bellamy Co Attny, Carrie Favinger Plan & Zone Admin Craig Lupkes Emerg Mgmt Director, and Cindy Ramsey of the Minden Courier. Detailed Minutes from the Board of Commissioners Meeting are available for inspection at the County Clerk's Office. The Board of Commissioners took the following action: Approved minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting on February 3, 2026. Approved Bills and Claims. Held a Public Comment. No comments were made. Discussed the manner in which the Board

appoints committee members, the matter was tabled until the next meeting. Met with Joe Anderson, Hwy Supt. to discuss the countywide cleanup. It will be held M-F on May 4-8, 2026 at the County Road Dept. Also spoke with the Board about the maintainer shed in Wilcox, he is still looking for a new location, that matter was tabled to the next Board meeting. Approved the Clerk of the District Court Fee Reports for January 2026. Approved Chairman Brent Stewart to sign the contract with Craig Bros Mow Co., Minden NE - \$110.00/wk for mowing at the Courthouse, bid was accepted at January 20th Board meeting. Held a Public Hearing at 9:44 AM for Administrative Subdivision 29-6-15 NW1/4 Melvin and Becky Anderson; at 9:53 AM to Vacate Administrative Subdivision Dean & Mary Jo Schwenka E ½ NE ¼ 3-7-13; at 10:00 AM to Vacate Administrative Subdivision Colin & Mary Schwenka E ½ NE ¼ 3-7-13; at 10:00 AM for Administrative Subdivision Schwenka 3.3 ac; 10:05 AM for Schwenka E ½ NE ¼ 3-7-13 5.89 ac. Met with Craig Lupkes, Emerg Mgmt Director and Carrie Favinger, Plan Zone and Floodplain Admin to Approve Floodplain ordinance changes to be sent to NE Dept of Water, Energy and Environment and Fed Emergency Management Agency. Met with Dave Arnold, Royal Engineered Composites to discuss a Reciprocal no-Build Easement, Mr. Arnold will work to acquire a certified survey to present the Board, the matter was tabled until a future meeting. Adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m. /s/ Brent Stewart, Chairman Kearney County

Board of Commissioners
ATTEST:
/s/ Jenni Lupkes
Kearney County Clerk
GENERAL FUND: A T & T, Phone, \$394.08; Bethany Home, Sv, 1,440.00; Beyke Signs, Sv, 475.00; Buffalo Co Sheriff, Sv, 18.50; Business World, Su, 239.99; Capital City Transfer Svc, Sv, 983.15; Central Ne Co Assessors Assoc., Dues, 25.00; Central Plains Valuation, Sv, 21,580.00; Clerk of the Dist Court, Sv, 36.00; Comm Action Ptnrshp Mid-Ne, Senlow Bus-Jan 2026, 1,476.91; CSE, Sv/Su, 586.39; Care Assist, Sv, 685.00; Dewald Deaver L'Heureux, Sv, 115.00; Eakes, Su, 119.90; Fifth Street Print, Su, 63.45; First Concord Ben Grp, Fees/Self-Fund Ded, 810.00; Shelly Gibbins, Extension Ofc Mgnr, Su, 22.24; Great Plains Comm, Sv, 138.35; Philip Heun, Veterans Svc, Mile/Lodge, 553.49; Kearney Co Court, Sv, 306.00; Kearney Co Health Svcs, Sv, 60.00; Jeff P. Ensz, Kearney Co Pub Defend, Sv, 1,252.82; Kearney Co Sheriff Fund, Sv, 19.50; Klein Brewster Brandt & Messersmith, Sv, 3,473.00; Lieske, Lieske, & Ensz, Sv, 2,636.09; Lockmobile, Sv, 196.00; Mason's, Su, 163.38; Minden Exchg Bnk, Su, 66.53; Minden Hardware, Su, 60.94; Minden Med Clinic, Sv, 49.86; MIPS, Sv, 8,212.02; NAPA, Su, 258.05; Jody A. Payne, Kearney Co Treas, Mile, 28.57; Pedley's, Sv, 68.87; Phelps Co Sheriff's Ofc, Sv, 81.75; Physicians Laboratory, Sv, 3,175.00; Pony Express, Sv, 97.95; Quality Sound & Comm, Water Rental, 378.00; State of Nebraska DAS – Cent Fin, Sv, 150.00; Thomas Stewart, Attorney at Law, Sv, 300.75; Syndicate Publish, Pub, 114.00; Thomson Reuters-West Publishing, Sv, 132.00; Uni of Ne- Biological Syst, P & Z Present, 193.20;

Verizon, Phone, 102.00; TOTAL \$51,338.73. ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND: Bear Frame & Alignment, Sv, \$9,475.06; Boss Fuels, Fuel, 20,164.26; Carquest/Landmark Implement, Parts/Su, 401.19; Kearney Co Health Svc, Sv, 105.00; Lawson Products, Su, 11.69; Medical Enterprises, Sv, 36.00; Minden Hardware, Su, 92.72; NAPA, Su, 111.07; NCK Quarrier, Su, 2,347.04; Ne Glass Company, Sv, 39.95; Ne Weed Control Assoc., Training, 150.00; NMC, Su, 3,624.87; Road Builders Machinery & Supply, Sv, 4,707.10; Spracklin Chiropractic, Sv, 50.00; Syndicate Publish, Publish, 25.97; Josh Twehous, Equipment Op-

erator, Mile, 237.80; Yant Equipment Company, Su, 1,325.00; TOTAL \$42,904.72. INHERITANCE TAX FUND: Berggren Architects, Dome Project, \$8,820.55; TOTAL 8,820.55. JUVENILE SERVICES AID FUND: Verizon, Phone, \$39.94; Morgan Wicht, JV Svc Aid, Mile, 140.96; TOTAL \$180.90. COMMUNICATIONS FUND: First Concord Ben Grp, Self-Fund Ded, 392.96; Great Plains Comm, Sv, 197.53; Ne Tech & Telecomm, Sv, 648.27; State of Nebraska DAS – Cent Fin, Sv, 30.00; TOTAL \$1268.76.
Feb 26, 2026
(200) znez



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NOTICE**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Kearney County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 10:30 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners room at the Kearney County Courthouse, Minden, Nebraska, for the purpose of presenting the One and Six Year Road Program for Kearney County. The Road Program has been compiled by the Kearney County Board of Commissioners and the Kearney County Road Superintendent as provided by law.

Feb 26, 2026
(20) znez

NOTICE**NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
OF HN POWERSPORTS, LLC**

Notice is hereby given that HN Powersports, LLC (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") is organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The street and mailing address of the Company's initial designated office is 444 Hawthorne Street, Minden, Nebraska 68959. The initial agent for service of process of the Company is Parker, Grossart & Bahensky, LLP, whose street and mailing address is 1516 1st Avenue, Kearney, Nebraska 68845 and post office box number, if any, is PO Box 1600, Kearney, Nebraska 68848.

Dated: February 4, 2026.

Darcy W. Huffman,
Organizer

Dillon M. Noel, Organizer
Parker, Grossart &
Bahensky, L.L.P.,

Attorney for the Company
Feb 26, 2026
Mar 5, 2026
Mar 12, 2026
(29) znez

NOTICE**NOTICE OF
ORGANIZATION OF
COMBOSS FIELDS, LLC**

Notice is hereby given that Comeboss Fields, LLC has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska on February 2, 2026, with its initial designated office located at 534 N. Minden Avenue, P.O. Box 272, Minden, Nebraska 68959, and the agent of the company is Carson K. Messersmith, whose address is 534 N. Minden Avenue, P.O. Box 272, Minden, Nebraska 68959.

Christopher E. Eastep
LeAnn Jardine

Carson K. Messersmith
#27365
KLEIN, BREWSTER, BRANDT
& MESSERSMITH
P.O. Box 272
Minden, NE 68959
(308) 832-2150
Feb 19, 2026
Feb 26, 2026
Mar 5, 2026
(27) znez

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Regular Meeting of the Kearney County Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., in the Commissioner's Room of the Kearney County Courthouse, Minden, NE. An agenda for said meeting is kept continuously current at the office of the Kearney County Clerk. Said meeting is open to the public.

/s/ Jenni Lupkes

Kearney County Clerk
Feb 26, 2026
(21) znez

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

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

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

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

**Statewide Classifieds****ANNOUNCEMENT**

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GET DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-877-688-4784

HELP WANTED

JEFFERSON COMMUNITY Health & Life, Fairbury, Neb., seeking full-time behavioral health therapist for growing program. Requires mental health therapist or family and marriage therapist; 2 years experience; Master's degree preferred. Competitive salary and benefits. Apply online at <https://www.jchealthandlife.org/careers/> For more information contact Sandy Bauer, HR, at 402-729-6850.

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST for Jefferson Community Health & Life, Fairbury, Neb., inpatient and outpatient services. On call requires 30-minute response. Competitive salary, benefits. Apply online at <https://www.jchealthandlife.org/careers/> For more information contact Sandy Bauer, HR, at 402-729-6850.

HOME SERVICES

DOES YOUR basement or crawl space need some attention? Call Thrasher Foundation Repair! A permanent solution for waterproofing, failing foundations, sinking concrete and nasty crawl spaces. FREE Inspection & Same Day Estimate. \$250 off ANY project with code GET250. Call 1-844-958-3431

PREPARE FOR power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-402-899-2584 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

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SUDOKU

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		7						
	1		8	9				
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2							5	3
				4				

Level: Intermediate

Teller Position

Minden Exchange Bank & Trust Co. is seeking a Personable, Reliable, Cheerful, Organized, and Detail-Oriented individual to join our team! We have a full-time Teller position available in Minden, Nebraska. In addition to Teller duties processing transactions, this person will be required to assist with customer service requests, answer phones, greet customers, among other duties as assigned.

Must have HS diploma/GED, ability to use computers, working knowledge of MS Word & Excel, good communication skills. EOE. Full time position with some late afternoon shifts and rotating Saturdays.

Apply in Person or e-mail Letter and Resume to lmathews@mindenexchange.com or mail them to Minden Exchange Bank, Attn: HR Dept. P O Box 179 Minden NE 68959.



Minden Exchange Bank & Trust Co



448 N Minden Ave 308-832-1600
www.mindenexchange.com



727 East First Street • Minden, NE 68959
Human Resources: 308.832.3400 x2727
Email: info@kchs.org

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Hospital

• Acute Care / ER RN - Day Shift, Full Time
\$35-\$45/hr (RN) | \$5/hr Night Shift Differential |
\$7/hr Weekend Night Differential | Up to \$15,000
Sign-On Bonus | Tuition Assistance
Low nurse to patient ratio. Must be able to work in Acute/Med-Surg and Emergency Room settings.

• Cardiac Monitor Tech/Clinical Support Assistant
Full-Time - Evenings
Ensures wellbeing of patient while assisting nursing staff. Observe Telemetry monitoring, complete admissions paperwork, assist in patient transfers process, and ensure that patient care equipment and paperwork is readily available. Be available to answer phone calls and communicate with nursing and ancillary staff.

Competitive wages. Benefit package includes health, dental, vision, life insurance, PTO, discounted medical services, and wellness program, among other great benefits.

Visit www.kchs.org/careers for additional information!

CLUES ACROSS

1. What travelers must do
5. Calendar month
8. Hopefully quickly
12. Once more
14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
15. "Cheers" actress Perlman
16. Astronomy unit
18. Savings vehicle
19. Get your ducks in this
20. Right away
21. Popular sports league
22. Containers
23. Entireties
26. One who wassails
30. Turned-up position
31. Extreme modesty
32. Writing utensil
33. Rewards (archaic)
34. Ancient capital
39. S. American wood sorrel
42. General discomfort
44. Philippine island
46. A witty saying
47. One who summarizes
49. Covered in
50. Mimic
51. Henry was a notable one
56. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
57. Retired NFLer Newton
58. Playground equipment
59. Concept
60. Satisfaction
61. Fishing net
62. Hammer end
63. A father's male child
64. Japanese drink

CLUES DOWN

1. Off-Broadway figure
2. Gelatinous substance
3. Concern
4. "Lick It Up" rockers
5. Serbian river
6. Part of a hat
7. Bowl-shaped drinking vessel
8. Semitic language
9. Utter a shrill cry
10. Long times
11. Animal parts
13. Causing annoyance
17. Amorous talker
24. Attempt
25. Harmonic effects

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13		14			15				
16					17		18			19			
20							21			22			
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49					50			51		52	53	54	55
56					57			58					
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

26. Cost per mile
27. They ___
28. Bitterly regret
29. Not even
35. A way to drop
36. Title of respect
37. World leader
38. Georgia rockers
40. National capital
41. Great Plains people
42. Duck-sized dinosaur genus
43. Architectural recesses
44. Member of U.S. Navy
45. Mountainous
47. Kite bird
48. Sweetheart (archaic)
49. Popular snack made of potato
52. 70s songsters The Bee ___
53. SE China port ___-men
54. Something to fill up character
55. League of Legends character

Local Classifieds

SERVICES

DAYCARE/YEAR-ROUND PRESCHOOL: Home setting, licensed, 31 years experience, great recommendations. 830-0983.



2.19.26 SOLUTIONS

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

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



Romance Scammers Favorite Lies:

“I or someone close to me is sick,
hurt or in jail.”

“I can teach you how to invest”

“I’m in the military far away.”

“I need help with an important
delivery.”

“We’ve never met, but let’s talk
about marriage.”

“I’ve come into some money or
gold.”

**IF YOU HAVENT MET IN PERSON
DON’T SEND MONEY!**

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Minden Exchange Bank
& Trust Co



Minden FCCLA



Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, held every February, provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate CTE students, educators, and programs. CTE plays an important role in preparing high school students for success in college and beyond. As part of CTE Month, the Minden Courier salutes our local FBLA and FCCLA chapters.

Minden FCCLA

The Minden High School FCCLA chapter has 19 members led by first year advisor Britney Heller. The chapter’s goal for the year is to increase member involvement.

Earlier this month members competed in STAR events at the district competition. Kaylie Lawless received a silver medal in Level 2 Fashion Construction and qualified for the state competition.

2025-26 members of the Minden FCCLA are: Natali Uribe (President), Mia Tira (Vice President), Rebbeca Lempka (Secretary), Jaelyn Trew (VP of Public Relations), Annika Soelberg (STCO Representative), Madalyn Morey (District Officer), Benzeth Alarcon, Jolie Buechler, Brooke Carr, Anila Cortez, Hallie Hartman, Miles Heath, Ash Kernick, Kaylie Lawless, Aclynn Osterbuhr, Dayne Porter, Abigail Reith, Hallee Schoone, and Brooklyn Workman.

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FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER workshop

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28TH • 10-11:30AM