The Minden COURIER

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MPS Foundation Finds Home on the Square

CINDY RAMSEY

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on October 21 for the Minden Schools Foundation building on the south side of the square in Minden. Having a dedicated space of their own will allow the Minden Schools Foundation to better fulfill their mission of forging partnerships among the schools, community, and alumni to give Minden students and faculty the resources to excel.

"We really think this space is going to give us some really great partnerships with those three entities. Before we didn't have a space to invite people to stop by and learn what we're doing and how they can do to help us out," Minden Schools Foundation President Kirk Ramsey said.

The Minden Schools Foundation is connected to the school, but they are also a separate entity. In the past, the board met at the high school, but when the building on the square became available, it was an easy decision to pursue their own space.

"I worked with Susan Tunnell and we secured funds from Kearney County Health Services, the Minden Legacy Fund, and our Minden Schools Foundation. With those dollars we went after a matching grant from the Nebraska Community Foundation. We're really excited to have the funds we need to do some operations things and get the building set up for community use," Ramsey said. "The Nebraska Community Foundation loves to hear of spaces that are used by different groups, so it will be the Minden Schools Foundation office, but it will also be a space for the Minden Legacy Fund if they want to have their board meetings there, or for Kearney County Health Services if they want to meet with donors and need a space around the square."

Two of the main goals in securing a storefront location was to make the Minden Schools Foundation more visible in the community and to have a space available for families who need extra help with applying for college, scholarships, and employment.

"We're going to partner with EduationQuest to have

cont. PAGE 3 - MPS Foundation



The Minden Schools Foundation held a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house at their new office location on the south side of the square in Minden. This space will be used to further the Foundation's mission of forging partnerships with the schools, community, and alumni in order to give students and faculty the resources to excel. (Courier photo by Cindy Ramsey)

Weather Forecast

Oct. 30:	69/55	
Oct. 31:	63/52	
Nov. 1:	65/55	
Nov. 2:	62/46	
Nov. 3:	57/44	
Nov. 4:	59/42	
Nov. 5:	58/41	



Daylight Savings Time Ends Nov. 1



PAGES 25 & 26 - State Cross Country

News Briefs

WIC Clinic Dates

To enroll for WIC visit signupwic.com. A screening over the phone is completed before attending your appointment. In person WIC clinics in Kearney County will be held at United Methodist Church in Minden, 340 N. Newell on Monday, November 9; and Monday, December 21.

Wheelchairs, Walkers, Canes and Crutches

Do you have any of these mobility aids not in use?

In low income countries as few as 3% of people have access to the mobility equipment they need. A collection of these items is being gathered to donate to Joni and Friends Wheels for the World outreach. The equipment collected will be restored, hand delivered and customized for children and adults in developing countries, giving each person care, dignity, a Bible, and training on wheelchair use and upkeep. Visit joniandfriends.org/wheels-for-the-world/ to learn more. You may drop off your mobility equipment for donation Monday thru Friday 8am-6pm at the United Methodist Church southwest door now through October 30. If you are unable to drop it off please call or text Delores at 816 882 3115 to arrange pick-up. Thank you for bringing help and hope to a person in need.

Christmas Decorating Grants

The Minden Chamber is proud to offer "Christmas Decorating Grants" to any business in Minden. There are 10, $250 matching grants available. Applications are open and listed on our website at https://www.mindenne.org/links-resources/christmas-decorating-grant/.

A business can come up with a plan on how they are going to INCREASE their decorating for the Christmas season and get up $250 back when they spend $500 or more. Once the application is approved, a business can purchase their new improvements, turn in the receipts, and then get paid back.

The motivation behind this is to not only support the businesses in town, but to also make sure that when visitors come to town, we are truly "THE CHRISTMAS CITY" and having storefronts decorated are a large part of that. For more information contact the Minden Chamber of Commerce office.

Halloween Costume Contest

Grow Hildreth invites kids from birth through 8th grade to join their annual Halloween Costume Contest on Saturday, October 31st at Wilcox-Hildreth Middle School at 5pm. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each age division and door prizes for everyone!

Ladies Night Out

Come enjoy shopping from local stores and vendors during the annual Ladies Night Out on the Square in Minden on Friday, November 13 from 5-8pm. Entertainment and events will be going on at the Minden Opera House. It will be a great night to grab some Christmas gifts.

Halloween Candy Crawl

The Minden Chamber of Commerce will host a Halloween Candy Crawl around the square on Friday, October 30 beginning at 2:30pm. Kids are invited to come dressed up in their Halloween costumes to take part. Participants can start on any of the four corners of the square and walk by businesses to get candy and treats. Parents are asked to please accompany their children. Be sure to bring bags for candy and treats!

Trunk or Treat

JCT 6/10 Cruzerz Car Club is hosting a Trunk or Treat event on October 31st from 6-8pm on the Minden Square. Any decorated or special interest vehicles are welcome. Small prize for best decorated and candy for the kids. Set up starts at 5:30pm. Contact Dwane at 308.293.2584 for more information

Trick or Treat at Bethany Home

Residents love to see all the children dressed up as little ghosts, goblins, princesses, and superheroes. Stop by Bethany Home on Friday, October 30 to show off your costume and receive treats. Nursing Dining Room will be open for trick or treating from 4:30-5:30pm. Come back after supper to trick or treat door-to-door on the Assisted Living side from 6:30-7:30pm.

Fall Carnival

Keep the fall fun going Friday afternoon following the Candy Crawl in Minden with a Fall Carnival from 3:30-5:30pm around the square. Activities will include sack races, three-legged race, mystery feel boxes, balance walk, rolling relay, pumpkin ring toss, scavenger hunt, mummy wrap, and more family fun for all ages. Free will donations appreciated.

Subscribe Today!

Weather Recap

Date	High	Low	Precip.
10/17/26	61	34	-
10/18/26	68	43	-
10/19/26	67	45	-
10/20/26	71	48	.04
10/21/26	74	51	.02
10/22/26	75	53	-
10/23/26	79	61	-

Total Week Precip..... .....0.06

Courier Weekly Deadlines:

Courier Designed Ads need to be requested by the customer by Thursday at 5:00 pm.

Client supplied or pre-designed ads are due on Friday at 4:00 pm.

Community supplied content needs approved by Friday at 4:00 pm.

Legals are DUE on Friday at noon.

Thank you Kearney County for helping us make our paper great!

The Minden Courier

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Letters to the Editor

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from PAGE 1 - MPS Foundation

them come in to talk with families that want to know a little bit more about what opportunities there are post high school. Jeffrey Horner and I met to see how we can support what he does and he's really excited about the opportunity for us to maybe fill some gaps for families and kids that are looking for extra support," Ramsey said.

In support of a much younger population, the Minden Schools Foundation has opened its doors to Wonder & Discovery Learning Studio. The play-based learning group began utilizing the space to provide weekly 90-minute sessions for preschool aged children earlier this month.

"We really want it to be a space that people see other people going in and out of and not just a space that sits there, so we're really excited about that," Ramsey explained.

The space itself is decorated with students' artwork and photos of past activities at Minden Public Schools. Gently used Whippet apparel is available for free thanks to some generous donations from local families.

The Minden Schools Foundation office certainly allows for several new opportunities, but the Foundation is hopeful it also helps to grow some of their programs that are well established.

"We think it's going to enhance some of the things we've done so far like our Purple White Night, our classroom grant program, and our staff appreciation banquet," Ramsey said. "We did a partnership with the FFA for the greenhouse and right now we're partnering with the Minden Beef Boosters so if we need to have meetings or need to meet with potential donors, this space will be available for that."

Hours for the office are still a work in progress, but the Minden Schools Foundation welcomes families to stop by their location between Fringe Salon and McBride Realty on the south side of the square. Another great way to connect with the Foundation and learn what the board is doing is to follow Minden Schools Foundation on Facebook.

"It talks a lot about what we're doing and how donation dollars are being used. Our goal is not to be a bank, but to get that money back into the schools. Our classroom grant program is a big example of that," Ramsey said.

Potential donors, alumni, or anyone who wants to make an appointment with the Minden Schools Foundation is encouraged to contact Ramsey at 308-379-3780. The Foundation asks families to keep them in mind during estate planning with legacy fund opportunities.

"It's a great way to give back to the kids. We can set up a fund and direct it however the family wants," Ramsey explained. "We just got a nice anonymous donation of $5,000 for the music program. We have some great alumni and people in the community that want to give back."

The Minden Schools Foundation presents the Friend of MPS Award during its annual Purple White Night fundraiser event to honor individuals or families who have made significant contributions or service to the district. In the past three years, Andy Tomsen, Orlan Grams, and Dick and Sally Phillips have been recognized with this honor.

In recent years, the Minden Schools Foundation has evolved from a quiet, underutilized asset into a thriving organization. The new office will bring visibility to the group allowing them to continue their mission well into the future.

"I'm very proud of the way the board has taken some risks and is thinking about what we can do for our community and for the kids," Ramsey said.



The Minden Schools Foundation has legacy fund opportunities available to guarantee gifts benefit the area or activity the donor chooses. One such gift of $5,000 was recently presented to the Band program (above). Potential donors, alumni, or anyone who would like to make an appointment with the Foundation can contact Kirk Ramsey at 308-379-3780. Or scan the QR (bottom left) to make a donation and learn how your generosity can help support education in Minden. (Courtesy photos)



Candidates Vie for Three Seats on School Board

Voters will have five options to fill three seats on the Minden Public Schools Board of Education during the 2026 General Election. Candidates include incumbent Rusty Rhynalds and non-incumbents Lindsay Buechler, James Faber, Ann M. Madsen, and Mary Stewart. All candidates were provided a questionnaire to complete to help share their platform with Minden Courier Readers. The following are the responses that were received.

LINDSAY BUECHLER, 42



Why is it important to you to be in public office?

Our family moved to Minden in 2019, and we fell in love with the size, warmth, and strong sense of community right away. With a daughter in 11th grade and a son in 1st grade, I experience our schools daily from both ends of the K-12 journey. Serving on the board is my way of giving back to a district that has given our family so much, while helping ensure every student and teacher has the support they need to thrive.

What critical issues do you see facing your office or board during your term, if elected?

A major focus will be navigating our district's growth thoughtfully, especially as we prepare for the completion of the new elementary school. The board needs to make sure that transition goes smoothly, that we maximize the new space, and that we continue to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. Along with facilities, recruiting and retaining great educators will always be a top priority so our classrooms stay strong.

What changes/issues do you intend to bring to the forefront, if elected?

I really want to focus on early childhood education and post-graduation readiness. Finding preschool spots in Minden is a huge challenge right now for working families. High-quality early learning offers an incredible return on investment for kids and our whole community, and the new elementary building gives us a great chance to increase that capacity. Additionally, having worked across higher education for over a decade-spanning trade schools, community colleges, and four-year universities-I want to ensure our students have clear pathways into trades, college, or the workforce.

What are your thoughts on this issue, with respect to the office or board you are running for?

Education works best when we look at the full picture, from early childhood all the way to adulthood. Addressing our preschool shortage sets kids up for success from day one, which pays dividends throughout their school years. At the same time, life after graduation isn't one-size-fits-all. The board should help bridge the gap between our schools and real-world opportunities, making sure our students leave Minden confident and ready for whatever next step they choose.

Why should people cast a vote in your favor in November?

You will get a dedicated, approachable, and practical voice on the board. As a parent with kids in both elementary and high school, I have a personal stake in our schools every single day. Paired with my professional background in high education, I understand how school systems operate and what skills students need for the future. I care deeply about this town, our families, and our staff, and I would love the chance to serve our community.

ANN M. MADSEN, 70



Why is it important to you to be in public office?

One of the most important roles of a school board member is to be a voice between the community and the decisions being made within our school system. As a grandparent with grandchildren in our schools, I have a deeply personal connection to the future of our school district. I care about the opportunities our students have today and the kind of school system we leave for the generations who come after them. I also understand that our community has concerns about the budget, personnel, and communication, and I believe those concerns need to be heard.

What critical issues do you see facing your office or board during your term, if elected?

Communication is especially important to me. There are times when I believe our community could benefit from having more information about the decisions being made and reasons behind them. I would like to help build a stronger connection between our schools and the community so families and taxpayers have a clearer understanding of what is happening within our school system and the opportunities available to help our students succeed.

What changes/issues do you intend to bring to the forefront, if elected?

I have been a part of our school system for over 40 years, which has allowed me to see the dedication and hard work that go into making our schools successful. Over the years, I have built relationships with many of the individuals who work within our schools and have gained a genuine understanding of the challenges and decisions that happen behind the scenes. This experience has given me a unique perspective and a deep appreciation for the people who work so hard on behalf of our students and our community.

What are your thoughts on this issue, with respect to the office or board you are running for?

I have had the opportunity to see firsthand how our schools operate and to know many of the people who work within the system. This experience has given me a different perspective and a good understanding of what goes on behind the scenes.

Why should people cast a vote in your favor in November?

I am running for the school board because I want to make a meaningful difference in our community. I intend to ask tough questions, listen closely to the community, and provide independent, active oversight on behalf of our families and students. My background-both my experience working within the school system, my deep roots in agriculture, and as a local taxpayer-gives me a unique perspective. I want to use that experience to keep our school district transparent, accountable and focused on what matters most: our students, and responsible, efficient use of our taxpayers' dollars. I would be honored to earn your vote and represent our community.

RUSTY RHYNALDS, 42
INCUMBENT, 14 YEARS



Why is it important to you to be in public office?

I have never had a real interest in holding a "public office". What I have always been interested in is our youth and ensuring they get a good public education in our community. As a father of three MPS students, I realize how important public education is.

What critical issues do you see facing your office or board during your term, if elected?

Our board is currently working on several very important issues, including keeping the Elementary School Project on time and on budget. Maintaining a proper budget while assuring a good educational environment for our students and staff.

What changes/issues do you intend to bring to the forefront, if elected?

I will continue to have the hard conversations regarding school funding, budgets, and our community's needs.

What are your thoughts on this issue, with respect to the office or board you are running for?

Minden is a great community and a wonderful place to raise a family. I give huge credit to our school system and community for that. Our teachers and MPS staff do an outstanding job.

Why should people cast a vote in your favor in November?

Throughout my years on the school board I have always maintained an open-door policy, and I will continue to do so. I always welcome any patron to contact me with a question, comment or concern. I will continue to put in the time, do the research, and be available when needed. This is not an easy volunteer job and requires a large time commitment. GO WHIPPETS!

MARY STEWART, 61



Why is it important to you to be in public office?

I have generations of families invested in Minden Public Schools, and I care deeply about the continued success of our school and community. Serving on the Minden School Board would give me the opportunity to represent our community and contribute to decisions that affect our students, families, staff, and taxpayers.

What critical issues do you see facing your office or board during your term, if elected?

Every school board faces important issues, and I believe open communication about the past, present, and future is essential. One concern facing Minden Public Schools is finances, particularly as rising costs continue to affect families, businesses, and the school district. I believe it is important to listen to community members, understand their concerns, and bring those concerns to the board.

What changes/issues do you intend to bring to the forefront, if elected?

I also believe our community needs to be informed about the growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. As technology continues to change, I would encourage thoughtful discussion about the district's expectations for AI and how those expectations are communicated to students, families, and staff.

What are your thoughts on this issue, with respect to the office or board you are running for?

Minden Public Schools' mission is "to equip students with the academic and social skills necessary to be successful citizens." I believe that mission should remain at the center of the decisions made by our school board.

Why should people cast a vote in your favor in November?

As a longtime Minden resident, I would bring a strong commitment to our community and its schools. I would work to support a safe, positive learning environment for students while also supporting the faculty and staff who serve them each day. I would greatly appreciate your consideration and your vote for the Minden School Board.



Get to Know Your Candidates for Tri-Basin NRD, CNPPID, and Minden Airport Authority

Voters will choose between two possible representatives for the Tri-Basin Natural Resource District Subdistrict 6 Director position during the 2026 General Election. Candidates include incumbent Andrew Stade and non-incumbent Colby Emal. All candidates were provided a questionnaire to complete to help share their platform with Minden Courier Readers. The following are the responses that were received.

ANDREW STADE, 45
Incumbent - Board appointed on November 19, 2025



Why is it important to you to be in public office?

I value the local responsibility that Nebraska's unique NRD system gives people in managing and protecting their natural resources and want to contribute through my service on the Tri-Basin NRD board of directors. To me, serving means helping meet the needs of our community while ensuring that future generations have the land and water they need to thrive. I have been fortunate to serve alongside individuals from earlier generations and learn from their experience. I feel a responsibility to put that knowledge to work and carry their commitment towards stewardship forward.

What critical issues do you see facing your office or board during your term, if elected?

One critical issue is maintaining a reliable water supply for our farms and communities, both now and for future generations. That means protecting groundwater supplies and looking for practical opportunities to replenish our aquifer. An important development to follow is Nebraska's Perkins County Canal project, which is intended to protect the state's water rights under the South Platte River Compact. Protecting Nebraska's share of that water could help support future aquifer recharge efforts. My focus would be on working with other water partners to evaluate those opportunities carefully and make responsible decisions about our long-term water supply.

What changes/issues do you intend to bring to the forefront, if elected?

If elected, I intend to emphasize practical ways to conserve and strengthen groundwater supplies, including opportunities for aquifer recharge. I also want to support efforts that help farms use water more efficiently while protecting the resources our communities depend on.

What are your thoughts on this issue, with respect to the office or board you are running for?

I want to keep local experience and input at the forefront of my decisions. Listening to farmers, landowners, and community members helps me understand how those decisions affect the people I serve. Having benefited from the knowledge of previous generations, I believe we should carry those lessons forward while remaining open to new ideas and better tools.

Why should people cast a vote in your favor in November?

I bring roots, practical experience, and a deep commitment to serving our community. I am a Minden High School graduate and a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. As a fifth-generation farmer with 26 years of farming experience, I understand firsthand how much agriculture and our communities depend on careful stewardship of our land and water. My 12 years as secretary of the North Dry Creek Drainage District and my service on the Tri-Basin NRD board have helped me develop leadership skills and working relationships. Those experiences have taught me the importance of listening, working with others, and thinking through the long-term effects of our decisions. I am optimistic about our future and what was as a community can accomplish together. My love for agriculture and sense of duty to this community are why I serve. I would be honored to have your vote and the opportunity to continue that work.

Voters will choose two representatives from three possible candidates for the Minden Airport Authority position during the 2026 General Election. Candidates include incumbents Ed Sheen and Brent Stewart and non-incumbent Scott Jacobsen. All candidates were provided a questionnaire to complete to help share their platform with Minden Courier Readers. The following are the responses that were received.

SCOTT JACOBSEN, 65



Why is it important to you to be in public office?

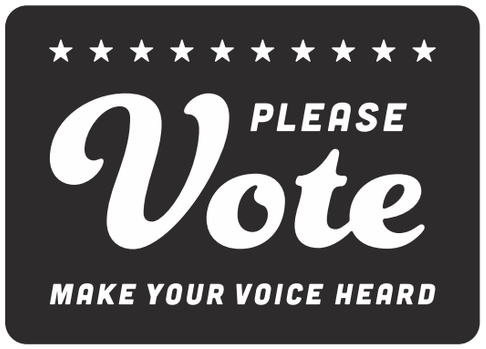
To be a public servant and serve the interests of the community I live in.

What critical issues do you see facing your office or board during your term, if elected?

I don't see any critical issues, but I do see the potential for growth because of the expansion of Royal and a possible new hospital (KCHS).

What changes/issues do you intend to bring to the forefront, if elected?

I don't see any changes that need to be brought to the forefront. I just want to help guide the Airport Authority if there is growth as Minden grows.



What are your thoughts on this issue, with respect to the office or board you are running for?

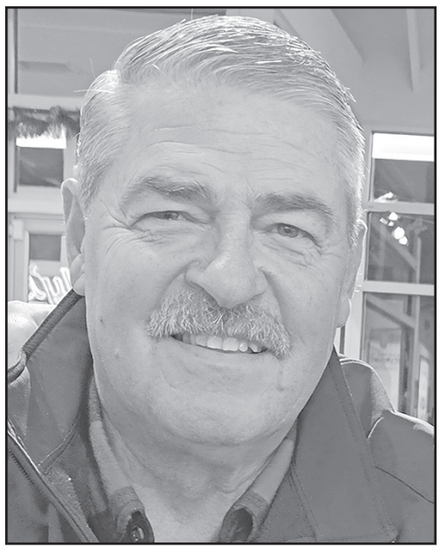
To help be a positive impact to the community I serve and to help Minden grow and help the Airport Authority serve in a positive way.

Why should people cast a vote in your favor in November?

I am a retired Air Force Pilot and a Southwest Airlines Pilot. I still teach for Southwest Airlines. I have been in aviation my entire adult life and I think my experience would be a valuable asset to the Minden Airport Authority and my community.

Voters will choose between two possible representatives for the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District Board of Directors during the 2026 General Election. Candidates include incumbent Dudley Nelson and non-incumbent Dale Blum. All candidates were provided a questionnaire to complete to help share their platform with Minden Courier Readers. The following are the responses that were received.

DALE BLUM, 65



Why is it important to you to be in public office?

CNPPID was created to deliver irrigation water, generate electricity, provide recreation, provide groundwater recharge, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. By serving on this board, I will have to opportunity to represent Kearney County and directly address community needs.

What critical issues do you see facing your office or board during your term, if elected?

There are many issues facing this board, but three of the top issues are interstate water rights and resource disputes, civil infrastructure and asset management, and strategic resource allocation and budget adjustments.

What changes/issues do you intend to bring to the forefront, if elected?

I am fully committed to truly listening to our community so that I can represent our shared values and interests in the absolute best way possible. My focus will always remain entirely on independent, objective decision-making that serves the best interests of my constituents.

What are your thoughts on this issue, with respect to the office or board you are running for?

On a board like CNPPID, decisions made about complex issues must be guided by a commitment to look at the facts independently, collaborate transparently with all board members, and weigh how every choice impacts our water users so that we reach the most balanced, objective solution possible.

Why should people cast a vote in your favor in November?

I am ready to bring my business acumen, agricultural background, and deep respect for our water infrastructure to the CNPPID board, ensuring a reliable and sustainable future for Central Nebraska's irrigators and communities.

DUDLEY NELSON, 72
Incumbent 28 years



Why is it important to you to be in public office?

I have a lot of experience and knowledge.

What critical issues do you see facing your office or board during your term, if elected?

Repairing the face of the dam at Lake McConaughy and water supply.

What changes/issues do you intend to bring to the forefront, if elected?

Protecting irrigation water stored in the lake.

What are your thoughts on this issue, with respect to the office or board you are running for?

Water in the lake belongs to our surface water irrigators.

Why should people cast a vote in your favor in November?

I have served for 28 years and I have a lot of knowledge.

Letter to the Editor

Nebraska Initiatives 440 and 441 were advanced by out-of-state gaming entities under the claim of large property tax relief. However, the fine print indicates that this claim relies on a ten-year projection rather than a guaranteed outcome, and the anticipated tax reductions from previous casino promises in our state have failed to materialize.

Of greater concern is that these initiatives would turn every phone into a potential casino, thereby effectively establishing widespread gambling with a distinct appeal to youth. When athletic competition is tied to wagering, student-athletes become vulnerable to coercion or to harassment from disgruntled bettors. These initiatives also introduce the risk of institutional corruption.

Gambling should not be enshrined within our state constitution. Therefore, vote against Initiatives 440 and 441.

Sincerely,
Delores Farlin

Dome Will Shine Green

CINDY RAMSEY

The Kearney County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 20. The first appointment for the meeting was a public hearing for an administrative subdivision.

Zoning Administrator Carrie Favinger told the board the application was submitted to separate five acres of the property to build a house. The administrative subdivision meets all guidelines, requirements, and criteria necessary. With no further comments the hearing was closed. The board approved a resolution for the administrative subdivision.

Veteran Services Officer Phil Heun asked the board to consider participating in Operation Green Light 2026 by illuminating the courthouse dome in green light from November 4th through November 11th in support of veterans. The board approved the resolution to participate.

Highway Superintendent Joe Anderson presented the County's snow plan. The plan is the same as last year with salting reserved for approaches to major intersections and plows waiting to go out until snow is done falling. The board approved the snow plan as presented.

Anderson also reported to the board the proposed agreement for the Wilcox maintainer shed isn't ready yet. There is still some work being done on the terms and language in the agreement before it will be ready for consideration.

In other business the board: Approved October 6 minutes. Approved bills and claims. Authorized County Clerk Jenni Lupkes to act as Kearney County voting representative at NACO Annual Conference.

The Kearney County Board of Equalization also met on October 20. The board approved minutes from the August 18 meeting. County Assessor Jennifer Pittner informed the board there are two TERC appeals; hearing dates have yet to be set. The board reviewed fiscal year 2026-2027 levies before approving the levies as presented. The board then entered executive session to discuss possible litigation. Upon reentering open session, the meeting was adjourned.



2026 Nebraska Manufacturer of the Year



Royal Engineered Composites has been named the 2026 Nebraska Manufacturer of the Year by the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

This award is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and expertise of the company's employee-owners. From manufacturing flight-critical components to pushing the boundaries of aerospace innovation right here in Minden, every single team member played a role in making this achievement possible.

More information will be shared at the Chamber's Manufacturing Summit on October 29th. (Courtesy photo)



Council Sets Cemetery Rules in City Code

CINDY RAMSEY

An agenda item relating to cemetery rules and policies prompted members of the public to share their concerns and frustration regarding the topic during the October 19 Minden City Council meeting.

During public comment, Vicki Struss shared with the council that vases on her family's memorials in Minden cemetery were damaged by groundskeepers despite being placed where the rules require. This is the first time there has been a problem since they were placed in the 1950s. Struss told the council she is frustrated with the lack of resolution for the damage. She asked the council to consider setting procedures for the maintenance of the cemetery, how to report damages, and how reparations will be handled.

Councilwoman Teresa Sumstine spoke on behalf of a resident who asked for accountability and care at the cemetery going forward.

The council had several other matters to consider before tackling cemetery policies. A public hearing was opened to take public comment on the 2025 economic development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Lori Ferguson from South Central Economic Development District explained this was the third or fourth grant the City has applied for and been granted on behalf of Royal Engineered Composites. CDBG grants are only available to municipalities meaning the business can't apply on their own requiring the partnership with the City.

Royal used the matching grant to purchase new equipment to expand production capacity. This expansion created 23 new jobs. The project met all criteria necessary.

Royal Engineered Composites President Dave Arnold spoke on behalf of the company and employees. He thanked the council for their assistance in making this expansion possible. Arnold stated these opportunities allow the community to grow. With no further comments the hearing was closed.

During a final walkthrough of the 7th Street paving project, an area of concern was identified on the west end where the pavement meets gravel. The concern that when it rains the area would wash out was confirmed one week after the walkthrough. A change order extending the pavement by 22-feet, adding storm drain inlets on each side of the street, and adding a culvert into the existing storm drainpipe was proposed to minimize the wash out. The council approved the change order in the amount of $34,673.40 for these improvements.

The City recorded assessments on a property on N. Hubbard Avenue for nuisance abatement and vacant property registration. Recently the out of state property owner paid these assessments and informed the City of their intention to fix up and sell the property. The council approved the release of the $600 assessment for nuisance abatement and $750 for vacant property and the issuance of payments to the Kearney County Clerk for filing fees.

Finally arriving at the topic of the evening, the council was informed rules and regulations were never in the City's code. Ordinance 1332 would rectify this oversight by adding a 'Rules and Policies' section to the cemetery city code. Although this doesn't directly address the concerns heard during public comment, adopting the ordinance allows the public to formally submit requested changes and supports the enforcement of the policies.

In the coming months, staff will be reviewing the cemetery policies and bringing more sections to add to this section of the code. Citizens with specific concerns are encouraged to report them to the City so a resolution can be found. They will continue to work with City staff in an effort to improve.

Ordinance 1332 was approved. The three readings were waived and the ordinance was adopted by title.

In other business the council: Approved October 5 minutes. Approved bills and claims. Approved excused absence of Mayor Larry Evans. Approved September 2026 treasury report to be filed for audit. Approved September 2026 budget report. Approved employee appreciation $50 meat bundles from Midwest Meats and Chamber Bucks in the amount of $100 for full-time and $50 for part-time.

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Cade Craig, MD
Shannon Kuehn, APRN
Kaitlyn Carlson, APRN
Diane Jackson, APRN
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Samantha Rogers, APRN
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Do You Remember

Ninety Years Ago — 1936

A full page ad graced the front of the Courier, saying "A vote for President Roosevelt, Norris and Binderup is a vote toward the development of the Tri-County -- Assistance to Agriculture and Conservation of our Natural Resources. Kearney County has benefited under this Administration and will continue to benefit! So vote for all three on Tuesday, Nov. 3."

Minden High School was hosting a Friday afternoon carnival with side shows, boxing, candy, hamburgers, fortune telling, and a fun house.

Eighty Years Ago — 1946

Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Hagerty, former owners of the Minden Cabin Camp, announced the opening for their new grocery store at 224 North Hubbard Avenue. The store was situated in the Hagertys' residence until conditions permitted them to build.

Miss Betty Lee Etzelmiller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Etzelmiller, a student at Hastings College, was chosen as one of the homecoming queen's attendants at the Hastings College Homecoming celebration.

Seventy Years Ago — 1956

Long awaited rain gave new life to winter wheat hopes in the county as weatherman Jim Jensen reported that .60 inch fell in the area Monday night. Only .40 inch had fallen in the area since the last appreciable rain early in September.

Included among 102 girls who pledged sororities at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn. was Jane Wells, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee R. Wells of Axtell. Wells, a sophomore Elementary Education major pledged to the Alpha Phi Sorority.

Sixty Years Ago — 1966

A final count of the life-saving coins collected in Minden by boys and girls who trick-or-treated for UNICEF's Halloween program totalled at $202.95. This money is used to help less fortunate children around the world.

Over 150 local citizens were present Wednesday evening at the Minden Country Club to attend the banquet rally of the Democratic Party.

Elections were coming up – on the county ticket, Adrian M. Maxon, Democrat, was facing William A. Weidenbach, Republican for the County Clerk seat; Lyle B. Olson, Democrat was running against Alfred Bienhoff, Republican for the Kearney County Sheriff position.

Fifty Years Ago — 1976

The Minden Optimist Club put on a "Spook House Show" at City Hall, scaring children with vampires, wicked witches, monsters and a mummy.

Thirty-seven runners from Minden went to Hastings on Oct. 30 to compete in the District A.A.U. Cross Country meet. Of these runners, 19 qualified for the State meet. Among the winners of the age groups were Brady Jacobsen in 9 and under, and Cheryl Sumstine in the 14-15 age group.

Forty Years Ago — 1986

Duplicate Bridge winners for the week were Bea Grass and Billie Pahl in first; Francis Holsten and Marjorie Wendell in second; Don and Elaine Stumpff in third and Deloris Cavanaugh and Judy Mitchell in fourth. There were five tables in play.

Donald E. Wommer of Minden is the owner of seven Polled Hereford cows, which have been named Benchmark Dams by the American Polled Hereford Association.

Thirty Years Ago — 1996

Ashley Fritz and Kasey Loschen were crowned queen and king during Hildreth High School's Homecoming festivities. Other members of the court were Shanna Loschen, Raquel Lienemann, Randall Adam and Nathan Fuerst.



2016 — The Kearney County Health Services Health Fair drew a large number of area residents. The event boasted over 20 vendors from various health and wellness fields, discounted lab work, a free will donation breakfast, car seat check, an inflatable walk-through 'Super Colon', and a medication take back.

Minden's Kelly Throener placed seventh to earn her first career State Cross country medal. Throener ran the Kearney course in 16:53, a season best for the freshman.

Twenty Years Ago — 2006

Minden residents met with City officials to air their grievances with an ordinance banning trailers from being parked on City streets that was passed in March. Officials devised a proposition to be presented to the rest of the City Council that would satisfy citizens and serve to keep traffic hazards to a minimum.

The Axtell football team breezed through the first round of the Class D-1 state football playoffs. The Wildcats defeated the Creek Valley Storm 56-19.

Area soybean yields were considered excellent while corn yields were down slightly from the previous year. A two week delay in harvesting due to weather was believed to be responsible for the less than stellar corn yields.

Ten Years Ago — 2016

Minden senior Tysen McDowell engineered and oversaw the construction of a new storage shed at Augie Nelson Field for his Eagle project. The building holds equipment and materials needed at the field for the Minden Optimist Club.

Minden Boy Scout Troop 199 joined members of the Tree Board in planting 10 trees on the west side of Chautauqua Park. The trees came from ReTree Nebraska as part of the Plant it Forward campaign. The initiative intends to plant 1 million trees over 10 years and is funded by Nebraska Environmental Trust.

The Axtell Lady Cats concluded its 2016 regular season traveling to Kenesaw for the Kenesaw triangular with the Blue Devils and Blue Hill Bobcats. Axtell entered subdistricts with another winning streak as the Lady Cats won two more and moved their record to 24 wins and 3 losses entering subdistrict play.

Calendars and Menus

Minden Public Schools

MENUS:

Friday, Oct. 30: BREAKFAST: Egg bites, cereal; LUNCH: Stuffed crust pepperoni pizza

Monday, Nov. 2: BREAKFAST: Scrambled eggs & sausage, cereal bar; LUNCH: Chicken & waffles, hot honey

Tuesday, Nov. 3: BREAKFAST: Fruit & yogurt parfait; LUNCH: Super nachos

Wednesday, Nov. 4: BREAKFAST: Muffin, yogurt & fruit; LUNCH: Sliced ham, macaroni & cheese

Thursday, Nov. 5: BREAKFAST: Breakfast burrito, fruit; LUNCH: Chicken fajita bowls, rice

Friday, Nov. 6: BREAKFAST: Cheese omelet, cereal & fruit; LUNCH: Tater tot casserole, dinner roll

o-o-o

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Oct. 30: V FB NSAA 1st Round Playoffs; FFA Chapter Fundraiser

Saturday, Oct. 31: FFA Chapter Fundraiser; V VB NSAA District Finals

Sunday, Nov. 1: FFA Chapter Fundraiser

Monday, Nov. 2: FFA Chapter Fundraiser; PP Chanticleer Drama Festival @ Ord, 8 a.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 3: FFA Chapter Fundraiser; Picture Retakes, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 4: FFA Chapter Fundraiser; Blood Drive, 8 a.m.; VB NSAA Championships, 1 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 5: FFA Chapter Fundraiser; 8th grade Girls BB vs. Wood River, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 6: ACT Test Registration deadline; FB NSAA Playoffs Quarterfinals; FFA Pathways to Careers Conference; FFA P2C Conference, 8 a.m.; State VB Championships @ Pinnacle Bank Arena, 1 p.m.

Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools

MENUS:

Friday, Oct. 30: BREAKFAST: Donuts; LUNCH: BBQ rib on a bun

Monday, Nov. 2: BREAKFAST: Breakfast round; LUNCH: Cheese pizza

Tuesday, Nov. 3: BREAKFAST: Pancakes; LUNCH: Crispitos

Wednesday, Nov. 4: BREAKFAST: Tornados; LUNCH: Bosco stix

Thursday, Nov. 5: BREAKFAST: Breakfast pizza; LUNCH: Beef & noodles

Friday, Nov. 6: BREAKFAST: Banana bread; LUNCH: BBQ beef on a bun

o-o-o

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Oct. 30: FBLA/FFA Food Drive Ends; FB NSAA 1st Round Playoffs; PK-6 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 31: NSAA VB District Finals

Monday, Nov. 2: FFA Officer meeting, 7:45 a.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 3: JH FFA meeting, 11:40 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 4: NHS meeting, 11:40 a.m.; MTSSA Team meeting, 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 5: 7-12 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.; NSAA State VB Championships @ Pinnacle Bank Arena, 9 a.m.

Friday, Nov. 6: NSAA FB Quarterfinals; PK-6 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.; NSAA State VB Championships @ Pinnacle Bank Arena, 10 a.m.

Axtell Community School

ACTIVITIES:

Saturday, Oct. 31: NSAA VB Sub-State

Monday, Nov. 2: NO SCHOOL; PP @ Gothenburg Triangular

Wednesday, Nov. 4: NSAA State VB Tournament @ Lincoln; Elementary QB @ Southern Valley, 1 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 5: NSAA State VB Tournament @ Lincoln

Friday, Nov. 6: NSAA State VB Tournament @ Lincoln; FFA Pathways to Careers Conference

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, Nov. 2: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, dinner roll, fruit and dessert

Tuesday, Nov. 3: Baked steak, baked potato, carrots, muffin and fruit

Wednesday, Nov. 4: Soup, sandwich and dessert

Thursday, Nov. 5: Meatballs, cheesy mashed, beets, bread and fruit

Friday, Nov. 6: Hot roast beef over mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw, fruit and dessert

RYDE Transportation For All Ages

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

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

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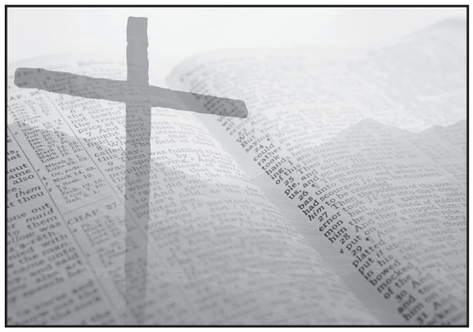
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The Good Word

By PMA Julie Schmidt

All Hallows' Eve

"Double! Double! Toil and Trouble!" You may remember those words from the Halloween movie Hocus Pocus or from the old movie of the same name starring Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen alongside Cloris Leachman. For you more scholarly types, you will recognize the words actually come from the line "Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn and cauldron bubble", a famous spell recited by the Three Witches in William Shakespeare's play Macbeth. This is the week we celebrate Halloween. Maybe "celebrate" is not the word you would use for the ancient holiday. It is associated with darkness and scary things. I am reminded of all the movies associated with Halloween, most much more frightening than Hocus Pocus. There is The Shining and A Nightmare on Elm Street. Watch out for Freddy!

The holiday of Halloween has evolved dramatically over the years. Now we look forward to cute little kids coming to our doors saying those familiar words, "Trick or treat". Of course, we are prepared with a large bowl of snack-size candies. The costumes have evolved as well, depicting Disney characters, princesses, and superheroes. We also have fun events during daylight hours. Minden will have a "Candy Crawl on the Square" Friday afternoon and Saturday evening a Trunk or Treat.

The origins of Halloween are very different than the Halloween we celebrate today. The name Halloween is derived from All Hallows' Eve; the evening preceding All Hallows' Day or "holy persons" day. Christians know this day as All Saints' Day. On November 1 we remember those who have died in the last year and others we miss who have died in years past. They did not die as saints because their lives were anything close to perfect, but because of the grace of God they have been redeemed through the death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Ancient people believed the barrier between our world and the world of ghosts and spirits got thin on the night before All Saints' Day. They believed the dead wandered around in the darkness. To appease the souls of death, people would set out gifts of food for hungry spirits and also for protection and good fortune. The world was a mysterious place.

We still have many mysteries in this world today, but we do not have to be afraid of dead spirits wandering our neighborhoods on Halloween. As Christians we give thanks for those who have gone before us. Their legacy of faithfulness can inspire us in our faith journeys. We do not need to be afraid of death. Darkness does not overcome us because we live in the light of Christ. God is with us in life and in death. Through the grace of God we are given the promise and gift of salvation. The only spirit we encounter is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is indeed mysterious, but guides us, comforts us and protects us.

Enjoy Halloween. Have fun with the kids. We do not need to fear the incantation, "Double! Double! Toil and Trouble!"

Happy Halloween,
Parish Ministry Associate Julie Schmidt
Bethany Home Chaplain

Operation Christmas Child Drop-Off Locations Open Nov. 16-23

PRESS RELEASE

Nebraska, Oct. 12, 2026—Volunteers are preparing to collect Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, Nov. 16 – 23. Nearly 5,000 drop-off locations will open across the country in November, and shoebox packers can find their local drop-off locations across Nebraska.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering gift-filled shoeboxes to children including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster. Operation Christmas Child hopes to reach 12.8 million children in 2026 with the hope of Jesus.

Shoebox packing is fun for individuals, families and groups! Find a step-by-step guide on the How to Pack a Shoebox webpage. The project partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God's love to children in need.

"Shoebox gifts may seem simple, but they have an eternal impact. Each box is an opportunity to tell a boy or girl in need about the true meaning of Christmas," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "I've delivered these boxes around the world, and I never get tired of seeing the joy that they bring—even in the midst of disasters, war, and poverty."

Empty decorative shoeboxes are available at Minden E-Free Church. Before stopping by the church, please contact Jacque Stadler at 308-530-7254 or Jacque.Stadler@gmail.com. You are also welcome to fill any standard-size shoebox or small plastic tote.

A donation of $10 per shoebox is critical to cover shipping of the boxes, plus printing of Bible-based materials for the children. If you'd prefer to make a monetary donation vs. filling a shoebox, please send it to MEFC, 1310 West 1st St, Minden NE 68959 (checks payable to Samaritan's Purse with OCC in the memo line).

You can drop off filled shoeboxes at Minden E-Free Church during National Collection Week as follows:

- Mon, Thur and Fri, Nov. 16, 19 and 20 @ 3:30pm – 5:30pm
- Tue, Nov 17 @ 11:30am – 1:30pm
- Wed, Nov 18 @ 4pm – 6pm
- Sat, Nov 21 @ 10am – 12pm
- Sun, Nov 22 @ 11am – 1pm
- Mon, Nov 23 @ 10:30am – 12:30pm

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 244 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 175 countries and territories.

Quilts on Display at Bethany Lutheran Church in Minden









The Bethany Lutheran Piece Corps of Minden had their hard work on display in the church last week with 114 quilts covering the pews. The Church Club kids also put together school kits for Lutheran World Relief. The quilts and school kits have been packed up and are ready to ship out to relief efforts overseas. (Courier photos by Carrie Conner)



Church Directory

Axtell

Bethany Lutheran
903 25 Road
BethanyAxtell.org
(308) 743-2597
Marcia Dorn, Pastor
Sunday, Nov. 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, Nov. 1: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.

Keene Evangelical Free
662 F Road
308-743-2611
Matthew Snell, Pastor
Sunday, Nov. 1: Worship service, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 4: Evening Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran, LCMC
104 E. Fifth St.
Craig Richardson, Pastor
Sunday, Nov. 1: Sunday School/Juice & Donuts, 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion, 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 4: High School Youth Supper, 6 p.m.

Campbell

St. Anne Catholic
Father Adam Sparling, Pastor
Sunday, Nov. 1: Mass, 8 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran
360 So. Stewart
(402) 756-8552
Greg Volsky, Vacancy Pastor
Sunday, Nov. 1: Worship, 9:30 a.m. with Sunday school to follow

United Westminster Presbyterian
Broad and Main Street
Mark A. Diehl, Pastor
Sunday, Nov. 1: Worship, 10 a.m.

Funk

Fridhem Lutheran
401 Lake Street
Daren Popple, Pastor
Sunday, Nov. 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, Nov. 1: Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Family Catholic Mission Parish
287 Jefferson Street
Father Evan Winter
Sunday, Nov. 1: Mass, 8:30 a.m.

Hildreth

Trinity Lutheran
502 Sanders Avenue
Caroline Schenk, Pastor
Sunday, Nov. 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, Nov. 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, Nov. 1: Worship service, 9 a.m.

Minden

Bethany Lutheran
437 E. Fourth St.
Don Hunzeker, Pastor
Julie Schmidt, Parish Ministry Associate
Thursday, Oct. 29: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m.
Saturday, Oct. 31: Walking, 8 a.m.; Daylight Savings Time Ends
Sunday, Nov. 1: Contemporary Worship, 8:30 a.m.; Blended-Traditional Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Holy Communion at both services; FROG Youth at Bethany, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 3: Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 4: Christmas Program Practice, 5 p.m.; Wednesday Night Supper, 6 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 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, Nov. 1: Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 11 a.m.

First Christian Church Disciples of Christ
444 N. Brown Ave.
Come grow with us!
Call (308) 832-2693
Sunday, Nov. 1: Worship service, 9:30 a.m.; Church Family 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, Nov. 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, Oct. 31: Mass, 5:30 p.m., confessions before Mass
Sunday, Nov. 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, Oct. 30: Breakfast & Prayer, 7 a.m.
Sunday, Nov. 1: Sunday School/Adult Bible Study, 9 a.m.; High School Youth, 9:15 a.m.; Worship/Communion, 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 4: JYM Basic, 3:45 p.m.; Communion, 6:30 p.m.; JYM Advanced, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 5: Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 6: Breakfast & Prayer, 7 a.m.

United Methodist
340 N. Newell Ave.
Kayla M. Mangrich, Pastor
Thursday, Oct. 29: Prayer Time, 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 1: Sunday School,9 a.m.; Worship, 10 a.m.; Youth Group @ BLC, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 5: Prayer Time, 1 :30 p.m.

Westminster United Presbyterian
109 N. Colorado
Gary Smith, Pastor
Sunday, Nov. 1: Worship & Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.; Communion 1st Sunday
Wednesday, Nov. 4: Fellowship Friends, 1:30 p.m.; Youth Club, 3:45 p.m.; Confirmation Class, 5 p.m.

Wilcox

St. John's Lutheran
102 S. Stockton St.
Kenton Birtell, Pastor
Sunday, Nov. 1: Worship, 9:30 a.m.
Holy Communion every other Sunday

United Methodist
203 S. Sapp St.
Candance Miller, Pastor
Sunday, Nov. 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, Nov. 1: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Wednesdays: Awana & Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.
Bible Studies during the week. Check our Facebook page.

" There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear" - 1John 4:18

Obituaries

Gregory S. Jorgensen, 71 - Minden Resident



Gregory S. Jorgensen, 71, of Minden, passed away on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at Bethany Home in Minden. Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 2, 2026, at Minden United Methodist Church with Rev. Kayla Mangrich officiating. The service will be streamed to the church's YouTube page. Private family inurnment will be held prior to services at the Minden Cemetery. A memorial book signing with family present will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at Craig Funeral Home in Minden. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Greg's honor are kindly suggested to Minden United Methodist Church, Bethany Home in Minden, or to the family for future designation. Arrangements are under the care of Craig Funeral Home in Minden.

Gregory Scott Jorgensen was born on February 24, 1955, in Minden to Perry and Dolores (Krueger) Jorgensen. He grew up in the Minden area and attended Minden High School graduating with the class of 1973.

Greg played offensive guard for the Nebraska Cornhuskers from 1973 to 1977, serving as co-captain in his final season and earning Second-Team All-American honors. In 1978, he was drafted by the New York Giants but chose instead to return to Nebraska that fall as a graduate assistant, continuing his connection to the university and the football program that meant so much to him.

In January 1979, Greg married Sharon, and together they returned to his hometown of Minden to pursue his passion for farming and begin raising their family. Greg was a pioneer in no-till farming practices and land conservation, always committed to caring for the land and preserving its resources for future generations. He served on the board of the Natural Resources Districts (NRD), where he advocated for farmers and responsible water management. He also served on the board of the Minden Co-op for Stauffer Seed. In addition to his work in crop production, Greg took great pride in his cow-calf operation, which he continued to enjoy until his retirement.

Beyond farming, Greg cherished the time he spent with friends and family. Over the years, he enjoyed golf, trips to Lincoln to cheer on the Huskers in football and basketball, and trips to St. Louis to watch his beloved Cardinals play baseball. Greg and Sharon shared a love of traveling with friends, but some of their most treasured journeys were those spent supporting their children and grandchildren in their sporting endeavors.

Each fall, they made the trip to Omaha to watch Scot play football for UNO, building lasting friendships and a wonderful community with fellow parents along the way. As grandparents, they continued that tradition, traveling countless miles to cheer on their grandsons on the football field and their granddaughters on the golf course. Greg was immensely proud of his children and grandchildren—not only for their many accomplishments, but, most importantly, for the people they became. Their successes and the lives they built brought him tremendous joy and were among his greatest sources of pride.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Sharon Jorgensen of Minden; daughter, Emily Fuchs and husband, Scott of De Pere, WI; son, Scot Jorgensen and wife, Katie, of Minden; grandchildren, Hank Fuchs, Jack Fuchs, Gus Fuchs, KayLynn Jorgensen, Macy Jorgensen, and Samantha Jorgensen; brother, Jeff (Helena) Jorgensen; sisters, Kim (Paul) Winkelbauer, Lori (Greg) Kallenbach, and Lisa (Mike) Peters; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, extended relatives and close friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Perry and Dolores Jorgensen; parents-in-law, Thomas and Virginia Keating; an infant brother; and brother-in-law, Michael Keating.

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

LaVonne "Vonnie" Sanders, 85



LaVonne "Vonnie" Sanders, 85, passed away October 11, 2026 surrounded by all three of her children. She was born on February 24, 1941, and lovingly adopted by Bertha and Leland Fritz as an infant. She was raised primarily in Upland, Nebraska, and graduated from Minden High School in 1958.

In 1961, LaVonne married Gary Sanders. Together, they raised three children: Jodene (Doug) Schliefert, Joanette Worster, and Jerel (Tim) Sanders. A dedicated homemaker and secretary for Gary's business. LaVonne worked tirelessly until they parted ways in 1995.

LaVonne moved to Lincoln and worked for the Blood Bank in their support office. In 2010 LaVonne relocated to Austin, Texas to be close to her son Jerel.

LaVonne made frequent trips back to Nebraska to visit her beloved grandchildren and great grandchildren: Megan (Lance) Wilson, Porter & Maren Wilson; Courtney (Marshall) Siebke, Layna Siebke; Tessa (Matt) Konen, Bradlea, Sawyer & Quinn Konen and Tanner (Bailey) Johnson, Callen Johnson. One of her final joys was taking a ride in a 1979 Lincoln Continental, just like the one she used to own, reminiscing about cherished memories from the past.

LaVonne will be fondly remembered for her incredible talent in the kitchen, her love of gardening – especially her vibrant flower beds and her fiery, spicy personality that left a lasting impression on everyone she met. Always dressed to the nines and as trendy as an elder woman could be, she took pride in her style and presence. She treasured life's simple joys, like enjoying a bowl of ice cream before bed, eating corn on the cob, sipping coffee on the porch and sharing lengthy phone calls with her children, grandchildren and friends.

Her family will forever treasure the memories of Vonnie's vibrant spirit, warmth, unmistakable personality and love. Through she will be deeply missed, the memories she created and the love she shared will live on in the hearts of those who knew her.

There will be no service. Private family services will be at a later date. Inurnment will be held at the Minden Cemetery. Memorials in Vonnie's honor are kindly suggested to the family for future designation. Craig Funeral Home in Minden is assisting the family. Tributes and memories can be shared with the family at www.craigfunerals.com.

APPLICANTS WANTED

The Kearney County Road Department will be accepting applications for a Full-Time Sign Tech / Equipment II Operator.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have general knowledge of heavy equipment and road maintenance procedures. Job entails road sign installation and maintenance, operating heavy equipment, trucks, tractors and other road equipment on and off the road surface and other road maintenance operations. Office and computer skills will be required to manage inventory and associated paperwork.

Class B CDL is required, Class A is preferred. Benefit packages include health insurance with cost share for family, dental, vision and life insurance, retirement, vacation, sick leave, and paid holidays. The starting wage is proportionate to experience.

Application and detailed job description can be picked up and returned to the Kearney County Road Department at 1124 East 9th Minden, Nebraska until September 17th, 2026, or until position is filled.

Kearney County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Veteran's Preference applies to this position.

Minden Trick-or-Treat Trail

Friday, October 30

Candy Crawl on the square starting at 2:30pm followed by Fall Festival

Bethany Home
Nursing Dining Room 4:30-5:30pm
Assisted Living (door-to-door) 6:30-7:30pm



Saturday, October 31

Highlights of noted map locations:

Trunk or Treat on the Square 6-8pm

Merry-go-round, Area51, and Inflatable decorations

Hot Dogs, Chips, Pokemon Cards, Play Doh, and LOTS of Candy

HAVE A Safe & Happy HALLOWEEN



CORNHUSKER AGRONOMICS, INC
CROP SOLUTIONS

HIGHSTREET
Insurance and Financial Services

KEARNEY COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES

McCann-Carpenter Dental, L.L.C.
Marse McCann-Carpenter, DDS
309 N Minden Ave
(308) 832-1010

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MINDEN

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

STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES FOR GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 3, 2026 - PAGE 1

LEGAL NOTICE OF MEASURES TO BE VOTED UPON AT THE GENERAL ELECTION OCCURRING ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026
BALLOT TITLE AND TEXT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE LEGISLATURE
BALLOT TITLE AND TEXT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY INITIATIVES PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 1

A vote FOR will amend the state constitution to increase the term limit for state legislators from two consecutive four-year terms (eight years) to three consecutive four-year terms (12 years).

A vote AGAINST will not amend the Nebraska Constitution, so the current limit of two consecutive four-year terms will remain in effect. State legislators will continue to be ineligible for office in the Legislature for four years after serving two consecutive terms.

A constitutional amendment to change the limit on legislative terms from two consecutive terms to three consecutive terms.

◯ For

◯ Against

PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

INITIATIVE MEASURE 440

BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR INITIATIVE MEASURE 440

A vote "FOR" will amend the Nebraska Constitution to authorize the enactment of laws to allow persons located within Nebraska to place sports wagers through an Internet-based platform when offered by an authorized gaming operator conducting games of chance within a licensed racetrack enclosure in Nebraska.

A vote "AGAINST" means the Nebraska Constitution will not be amended in this manner.

Shall the Nebraska Constitution be amended to authorize the enactment of laws allowing persons located within Nebraska to place sports wagers through an Internet-based platform when offered by an authorized gaming operator conducting games of chance within a licensed racetrack enclosure in Nebraska?

◯ For

◯ Against

TEXT OF PROPOSED INITIATIVE MEASURE 440

(underscored language indicates added language, ~~strike through~~ indicates language being removed)

OBJECT STATEMENT: The object of this petition is to amend the Nebraska Constitution to state that laws may be enacted allowing sports wagers to be placed within the State of Nebraska through an Internet-based platform offered by an authorized gaming operator.

TEXT: Article III, section 24, of the Constitution of Nebraska shall be amended as shown:

(1) Except as provided in this section, the Legislature shall not authorize any game of chance or any lottery or gift enterprise when the consideration for a chance to participate involves the payment of money for the purchase of property, services, or a chance or admission ticket or requires an expenditure of substantial effort or time.

(2) The Legislature may authorize and regulate a state lottery pursuant to subsection (3) of this section and other lotteries, raffles, and gift enterprises which are intended solely as business promotions or the proceeds of which are to be used solely for charitable or community betterment purposes without profit to the promoter of such lotteries, raffles, or gift enterprises.

(3)(a) The Legislature may establish a lottery to be operated and regulated by the State of Nebraska. The proceeds of the lottery shall be appropriated by the Legislature for the costs of establishing and maintaining the lottery and for the following purposes, as directed by the Legislature:

(i) The first five hundred thousand dollars after the payment of prizes and operating expenses shall be transferred to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund;

(ii) Forty-four and one-half percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be transferred to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund to be used as provided in the Nebraska Environmental Trust Act;

(iii) Forty-four and one-half percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be used for education as the Legislature may direct;

(iv) Ten percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be transferred to the Nebraska State Fair Board if the most populous city within the county in which the fair is located provides matching funds equivalent to ten percent of the funds available for transfer. Such matching funds may be obtained from the city and any other private or public entity, except that no portion of such matching funds shall be provided by the state. If the Nebraska State Fair ceases operations, ten percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund; and

(v) One percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be transferred to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund.

(b) No lottery game shall be conducted as part of the lottery unless the type of game has been approved by a majority of the members of the Legislature.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit (a) the enactment of laws providing for the licensing and regulation of wagering on the results of horseraces, wherever run, either within or outside of the state, by the parimutuel method, when such wagering is conducted by licensees within a licensed racetrack enclosure or (b) the enactment of laws providing for the licensing and regulation of bingo games conducted by nonprofit associations which have been in existence for a period of five years immediately preceding the application for license, except that bingo games cannot be conducted by agents or lessees of such associations on a percentage basis.

(5) This section shall not apply to any law which is enacted contemporaneously with the adoption of this subsection or at any time thereafter and which provides for the licensing, authorization, regulation, or taxation of all forms of games of chance when such games of chance are conducted by authorized gaming operators within a licensed racetrack enclosure, including sports wagering through the Internet if the person placing the sports wager is located within the State of Nebraska at the time the wager is placed.

PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

INITIATIVE MEASURE 441

BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR INITIATIVE MEASURE 441

A vote "FOR" will enact statutes allowing persons located within Nebraska to place sports wagers through an Internet-based platform when offered by an authorized gaming operator conducting games of chance within a licensed racetrack enclosure in Nebraska or the operator's platform provider, and regulating such sports wagers.

A vote "AGAINST" means no such statutes will be enacted.

Shall statutes be enacted that: (1) Allow persons located within Nebraska to place sports wagers through an Internet-based platform when offered by an authorized gaming operator conducting games of chance within a licensed racetrack enclosure in Nebraska or the operator's platform provider; and (2) Regulate such sports wagers?

◯ For

◯ Against

TEXT OF PROPOSED INITIATIVE MEASURE 441

(underscored language indicates added language, ~~strike through~~ indicates language being removed)

OBJECT STATEMENT: The object of this petition is to enact a statute allowing sports wagers to be placed within the State of Nebraska through Internet-based platforms offered by an authorized gaming operator, or its contracted platform provider, and regulate such sports wagers.

TEXT: AN ACT relating to gaming; to amend section 9-1102, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 9-1103 and 9-1110, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to allow an authorized gaming operator or its platform provider to conduct sports wagering by means of an Internet-based platform under the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act; to define and redefine terms; to harmonize provisions; to provide an operative date; to provide severability; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 9-1102, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

9-1102 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and to the full extent permitted by the Constitution of Nebraska, including amendments to the Constitution of Nebraska adopted contemporaneously with the enactment of the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act, the operation of games of chance is permitted only by authorized gaming operators within licensed racetrack enclosures as provided in the act, including, but not limited to, the offer of sports wagering through an online sports wagering platform by such authorized gaming operators.

Sec. 2. Section 9-1103, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is amended to read:

9-1103 For purposes of the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act:

(1) Authorized gaming operator means a person or entity licensed pursuant to the act to operate games of chance within a licensed racetrack enclosure;

(2) Authorized gaming operator license means a license to operate games of chance as an authorized gaming operator at a licensed racetrack enclosure, including operating sports wagering through an online sports wagering platform if the person placing the sports wager is located within the State of Nebraska at the time the sports wager is placed;

(3)(a) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (b) of this subdivision, authorized sporting event means a professional sporting event, a collegiate sporting event, an international sporting event, a professional motor race event, a professional sports draft, an individual sports award, an electronic sport, or a simulated game; and

(b) Authorized sporting event does not include an instate collegiate sporting event in which an instate collegiate or university team is a participant, a parimutuel wager, a fantasy sports contest, a minor league sporting event, a sporting event at the high school level or below regardless of the age of any individual participant, or any sporting event excluded by the commission;

(4) Collegiate sporting event means an athletic event or competition of an intercollegiate sport played at the collegiate level for which eligibility requirements for participation by a student athlete are established by a national association for the promotion or regulation of collegiate athletics;

(5) Commission means the State Racing and Gaming Commission;

(6) Designated sports wagering area means an area, as approved by the commission, in which sports wagering is conducted within a licensed racetrack enclosure;

(7) Dollar amount collected means the total dollar amount wagered by players of games of chance less the total dollar amount returned to such players as prizes;

(8) Game of chance means any game which has the elements of chance, prize, and consideration, including any wager on a slot machine, table game, counter game, or card game, a keno lottery conducted in accordance with the Nebraska County and City Lottery Act, or sports wagering conducted in accordance with section 9-1110. Game of chance does not include any game the operation of which is prohibited at a casino by federal law;

(9) Gaming device means an electronic, mechanical, or other device which plays

STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES FOR GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 3, 2026 - PAGE 2

a game of chance when activated by a player using currency, a token, or other item of value;

(10) Gross gaming revenue means the dollar amount collected by an authorized gaming operator from operation of all games of chance within a licensed racetrack enclosure as computed pursuant to applicable statutes, rules, and regulations less the total of (a) all federal taxes, other than income taxes, imposed on the operation of such games of chance and (b) the amount provided to players by an authorized gaming operator as promotional gaming credits, but only to the extent such promotional gaming credits are redeemed by players to play one or more games of chance being operated by the authorized gaming operator;

(11) International sporting event means an international team or individual sporting event governed by an international sports federation or sports governing body, including sporting events governed by the International Olympic Committee and the International Federation of Association Football;

(12) Licensed racetrack enclosure has the same meaning as in section 2-1210;

(13) Limited gaming device means an electronic gaming device which (a) offers games of chance, (b) does not dispense currency, tokens, or other items of value, and (c) does not have a cash winnings hopper, mechanical or simulated spinning reel, or side handle;

(14) Online sports wagering platform means an integrated system of hardware, software, or applications, through which an authorized gaming operator, on its own or through its contracted platform provider, operates, conducts, or offers sports wagering through the Internet to persons located within the State of Nebraska at the time the sports wager is placed;

(15) Platform provider means a sports wagering services provider that has a contract with an authorized gaming operator to provide an online sports wagering platform;

(16) ~~(14)~~ Prohibited participant means any individual whose participation may undermine the integrity of the wagering or the sporting event or any person who is prohibited from sports wagering for other good cause shown as determined by the commission, including, but not limited to: (a) Any individual placing a wager as an agent or proxy; (b) any person who is an athlete, a coach, a referee, or a player in any sporting event overseen by the sports governing body of such person based on publicly available information; (c) a person who holds a paid position of authority or influence sufficient to exert influence over the participants in a sporting event, including, but not limited to, any coach, manager, handler, or athletic trainer, or a person with access to certain types of exclusive information, on any sporting event overseen by the sports governing body of such person based on publicly available information; or (d) a person identified as prohibited from sports wagering by any list provided by a sports governing body to the commission;

(17) ~~(15)~~ Promotional gaming credit means a credit, token, or other item of value provided by an authorized gaming operator or its platform provider to a player for the purpose of enabling the player to play a game of chance;

(18) ~~(16)~~ Racing license means a license issued for a licensed racetrack enclosure by the commission; and

(19) ~~(17)~~ Sports wagering means the acceptance of wagers on an authorized sporting event by any system of wagering as authorized by the commission. Sports wagering does not include (a) placing a wager on the performance or nonperformance of any individual athlete participating in a single game or match of a collegiate sporting event in which a collegiate team from this state is participating, (b) placing an in-game wager on any game or match of a collegiate sporting event in which a collegiate team from this state is participating, (c) placing a wager on the performance or nonperformance of any individual athlete under eighteen years of age participating in a professional or international sporting event, or (d) placing a wager on the performance of athletes in an individual sporting event excluded by the commission.

Sec. 3. Section 9-1110, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is amended to read:

9-1110 (1) The commission ~~may~~ shall permit an authorized gaming operator to conduct sports wagering. Any sports wager shall be placed (a) through an online sports wagering platform by a person who is located within the State of Nebraska at the time the sports wager is placed or (b) in person or at a wagering kiosk in the designated sports wagering area at the licensed racetrack enclosure. A parimutuel wager in accordance with sections 2-1201 to 2-1218 may be placed in the designated sports wagering area at the licensed racetrack enclosure. An individual employed and authorized to accept a sports wager may also accept a parimutuel wager.

(2) A floor plan identifying the designated sports wagering area at the licensed racetrack enclosure, including the location of any wagering kiosks, shall be filed with the commission for review and approval. Modification to a previously approved plan must be submitted for approval at least ten days prior to implementation. The area shall not be accessible to persons under twenty-one years of age and shall have a sign posted to restrict access. Exceptions to this subsection must be approved in writing by the commission.

(3) The authorized gaming operator shall submit controls for approval by the commission, that include the following for operating the designated sports wagering area at the licensed racetrack enclosure:

(a) Specific procedures and technology partners to fulfill the requirements set forth by the commission;

(b) Other specific controls as designated by the commission;

(c) A process to easily and prominently impose limitations or notification for wagering parameters, including, but not limited to, deposits and wagers; and

(d) An easy and obvious method for a player to make a complaint and to enable the player to notify the commission if such complaint has not been or cannot be addressed by the sports wagering operator.

(4) An authorized gaming operator using a server to host an online sports wagering platform shall use a server that is located within the State of Nebraska. An authorized gaming operator may conduct sports wagering through no more than two online sports wagering platforms operated by platform providers. The authorized gaming operator and its platform providers shall submit controls for approval by the commission that fulfill the requirements set forth by the commission for operating an online sports wagering platform. The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for sports wagering through an online sports wagering platform on or before June 1, 2027.

(5) ~~(4)~~ The commission shall develop policies and procedures to ensure a prohibited participant is unable to place a sports wager or parimutuel wager.

(6) ~~(5)~~ Beginning on the implementation date designated by the Tax Commissioner pursuant to subsection (1) of section 9-1312, prior to the winnings payment of any sports wagering winnings as defined in section 9-1303, an authorized gaming operator or its platform provider shall check the collection system to determine if the winner has a debt or an outstanding state liability as required by the Gambling Winnings Setoff for Outstanding Debt Act. If such authorized gaming operator or its platform provider determines that the winner is subject to the collection system, the operator shall deduct the amount of debt and outstanding state liability identified in the collection system from the winnings payment and shall remit the net winnings payment of sports wagering winnings, if any, to the winner and the amount deducted to the Department of Revenue to be credited against such debt or outstanding state liability as provided in section 9-1306.

Sec. 4. This act becomes operative on January 1, 2027.

Sec. 5. If any section or provision of this act is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or otherwise void or invalid for any reason, such determination shall not affect the validity of the act as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so determined to be unconstitutional or otherwise void or invalid.

Sec. 6. Original section 9-1102, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 9-1103 and 9-1110, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, are repealed.

PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

INITIATIVE MEASURE 442

BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR INITIATIVE MEASURE 442

A vote "FOR" will amend the Nebraska Constitution to provide: (1) Schools must expressly designate each athletic team or sport as one of the following based on biological sex: (a) Males, men, or boys; (b) females, women, or girls; or (c) coed or mixed; and (2) Athletic teams or sports designated for females, women, or girls shall not be open to students of the male sex. The amendment would apply to all athletic teams or sports sponsored by public schools or postsecondary educational institutions, and private schools or educational institutions whose athletic teams or sports compete against public schools or institutions.

A vote "AGAINST" means the Nebraska Constitution will not be amended in this manner.

Shall the Nebraska Constitution be amended to provide: (1) Schools must expressly designate each athletic team or sport as one of the following based on biological sex: (a) Males, men, or boys; (b) females, women, or girls; or (c) coed or mixed; and (2) Athletic teams or sports designated for females, women, or girls shall not be open to students of the male sex? The amendment would apply to all athletic teams or sports sponsored by public schools or postsecondary educational institutions, and private schools or educational institutions whose athletic teams or sports compete against public schools or institutions.

◯ For

◯ Against

TEXT OF PROPOSED INITIATIVE MEASURE 442

(underscored language indicates added language, ~~strike through~~ indicates language being removed)

OBJECT STATEMENT: The object of this petition is to amend the Nebraska Constitution to establish constitutional protections for sex-separate athletics to ensure equal access to athletic opportunities for females.

TEXT: Article VII of the Constitution of Nebraska shall be amended by adding a new section 16 as shown:

Art. VII §16. Equal access to athletic opportunities for females.

(1) Schools must expressly designate each athletic team or sport as one of the following based on biological sex: (a) Males, men, or boys; (b) females, women, or girls; or (c) coed or mixed.

(2) Athletic teams or sports designated for females, women, or girls pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall not be open to students of the male sex.

(3) For purposes of this section, "schools" shall mean interscholastic, intercollegiate, and intramural athletic teams or sports that are sponsored by a common school of this state, a public postsecondary educational institution of this state, or any school or institution of learning in this state not owned or exclusively controlled by the state or a political subdivision thereof whose athletic teams or sports compete against a common school or public postsecondary educational institution of this state.

(4) This section shall be self-executing, but legislation may be enacted to facilitate its operation. If any part or parts of this section are found to conflict with federal law or the Constitution of the United States, this section shall be implemented to the maximum extent permitted by federal law and the Constitution of the United States. Any provision held invalid shall be severable from the remaining portions of this section.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert B. Evnen
Secretary of State
(Publish three times, weeks of Oct. 11, Oct. 18, and Oct. 25)

ZNEZ

Nebraska Cooperative Council Annual Meeting and Hall of Fame Induction November 18

PRESS RELEASE

KEARNEY, NE--The 81st Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Cooperative Council will be held on Wednesday, November 18th as well as the induction of two individuals into the Nebraska Cooperative Council Cooperative Hall of Fame.

The Council's Board of Directors implemented the NCC Cooperative Hall of Fame in 1999 as a way to recognize individuals who, through their service and leadership, have impacted the cooperative system in Nebraska.

On November 18th, the Council will induct Jim Chism and Bruce Favinger into the Nebraska Cooperative Council Hall of Fame.

Jim Chism ... In recognition of a distinguished career dedicated to strengthening Nebraska's agricultural cooperative system, Jim Chism served Frenchman Valley Farmers Cooperative from 1982 to 2012, advancing from feed sales to General Manager and CEO through leadership grounded in integrity, service, and vision. Under his direction, the cooperative expanded significantly through strategic mergers, infrastructure investment, enhanced member services, and innovative financial programs that strengthened long-term patron equity and working capital.

A steadfast advocate for farmer-owned cooperatives, Jim championed strong local control while embracing thoughtful growth to meet changing agricultural needs. His leadership extended beyond his cooperative through service on the Nebraska Cooperative Council Board of Directors from 2003 through 2012, including five years as Chair, where he worked to protect and advance the cooperative business model at the state and national levels.

Respected for his humility, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to members, employees, and rural communities, Jim Chism leaves a legacy of cooperative excellence that continues to benefit Nebraska agriculture.



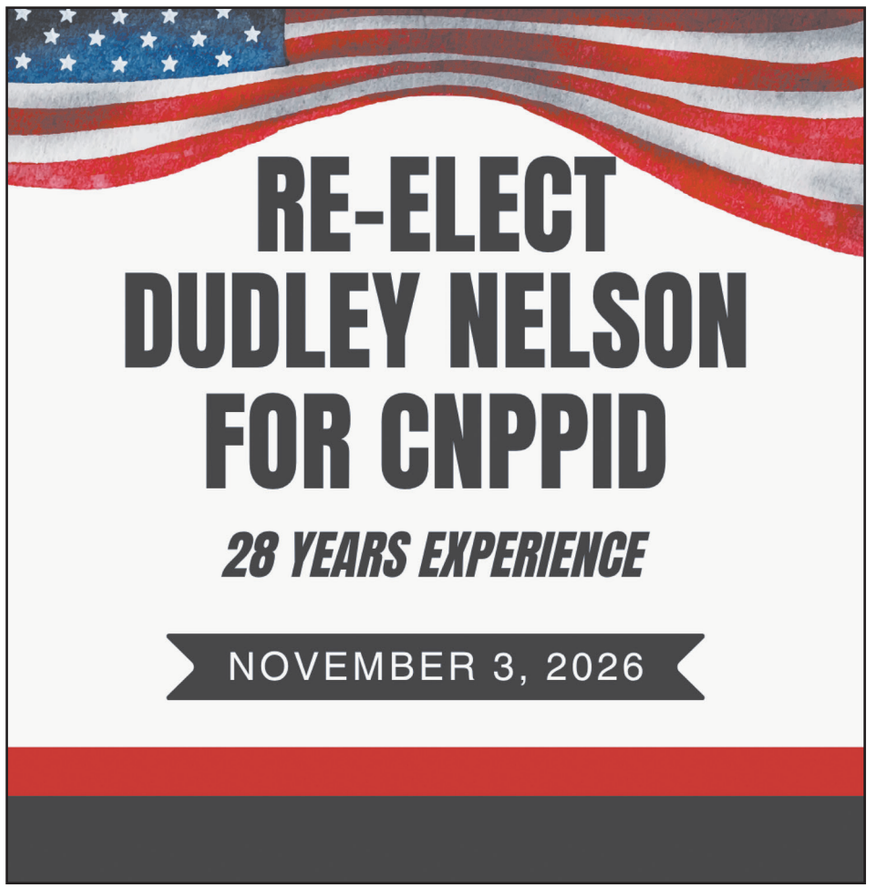
BRUCE FAVINGER

Bruce Favinger ... In recognition of a lifetime of distinguished service to Nebraska agriculture and the cooperative system, Bruce Favinger leaves a legacy of visionary leadership, integrity, and collaboration. For more than three decades, he served on local and regional cooperative boards, including as Chairman of Heartland Co-op and Cooperative Producers, Inc. (CPI), helping guide strategic mergers that strengthened farmer-owned cooperatives and enhanced opportunities for agricultural producers across Nebraska.

A steadfast believer in the cooperative principle of "Cooperation Among Cooperatives," Bruce fostered unity among producers, cooperatives, employees, and communities. His leadership was instrumental in the growth and success of CPI and in advancing the agricultural cooperative movement statewide through service on the Nebraska Cooperative Council Board of Directors and numerous Council committees.

Bruce was also a champion of agricultural innovation, cooperative education, and public advocacy, representing Nebraska agriculture at both the state and national levels. His commitment to service extended beyond agriculture through leadership in community and educational and civic organizations.

For his enduring contributions to Nebraska cooperatives, agriculture, and rural communities, Bruce Favinger is honored with induction into the Nebraska Cooperative Council Hall of Fame.





The Minden COURIER
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Small Town Elections are Important

HEIDI KOLBECK-URLACHER, CENTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS

For weeks, candidate ads have dominated television viewing. Text messages and phone calls are nonstop. Yard signs are popping up like my late season tomatoes.

Much of this messaging is for candidates who will serve in Washington, D.C., or in the State House. While that part of the ballot is important, the most direct and immediate impact on your daily life comes from elections on the local level.

In small towns, people who are elected to the city council, school board, county board, and other local entities make decisions with a big impact. Decisions like the quality of the roads you drive on or the water you drink, what curricula is covered in school, when the pool is open during the summer, and how your tax dollars are spent.

Your voice matters. Your vote matters.

In our rural communities, often a small number of voters end up choosing local leaders. Sometimes the numbers come down to a single digit. These leaders will make decisions on that pothole, new fire truck, snow removal, or county road maintenance.

Before Nov. 3, take a look at the ballot. Sample ballots could be found on the county website or you can find them in your local newspaper. Ask questions. Listen to what candidates say. Look at what they have done.

You don't need to know everything about every candidate. You don't need to personally know everyone who is running. You just need to pay attention.

On election day when you fill in those circles, keep in mind this is your vote. It doesn't belong to your neighbor. It doesn't belong to your family. You matter.

Make voting a priority this year.





For the Record

Kearney County District Court

Tyler S. White, Minden vs. Alexis N. White, Beaverton, Michigan; dissolution of marriage, 10-13-26

Minden Machine Shop, Inc., Minden vs. Big John's Auto, Inc, alias Pony Express Ford, Minden; miscellaneous-civil, 10-16-26

Kearney County County Court

Cody J. Rogers, Minden, COUNT I: drive on shoulder of highway, fine $25; COUNT II: fail to use seatbelt, fine $25; COUNT III: fail to use child passenger restraint, fine $25, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Sporer, 8-29-26

Miguel A. Arredondo, Livingston, Texas, speeding 21-35 MPH County/State, fine $300, Kearney County Sheriff Officer Luft, 10-4-26

Geoffrey T. Espich, Porter, Indiana, speeding 11-15 MPH County/State, fine $125, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Evans, 8-9-26

Jeremy M. Root, Hastings, overweight on axle or group of axles, fine $25, Nebraska State Patrol Officer Wroblewski, 9-18-26

Jaime Abarca, Jr, Kearney, speeding 21-35 MPH County/State, fine $300, Kearney County Sheriff Officer Struss, 8-21-26

Elhadji E. Thiam, Columbus, Ohio, violate stop or yield sign, fine $75, Kearney County Sheriff Officer Seals, 9-18-26

Minden Fire & Rescue

10-20-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to E. 4th Street for a fall.

10-21-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to N. Brown Avenue for a personal illness.

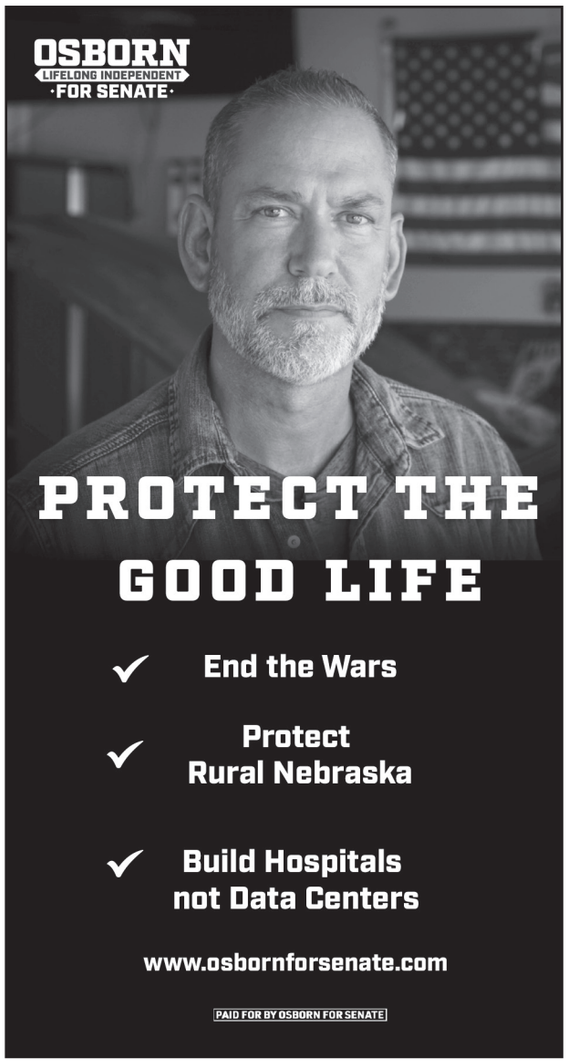
Axtell Fire & Rescue

10-19-26—The Axtell Emergency Unit was dispatched to transfer patient having severe abdominal pain to KCHS in Minden.

Kearney County Sheriff

10-17-26, A vehicle driven by Sandra S. Kothe, Blue Hill, was traveling eastbound on Highway 50A, when a deer entered the roadway from the north. Kothe applied the brakes but still struck the deer with the driver's side headlight. Estimated damage: $250. The deer didn't make it.

10-19-26, A vehicle driven by Kurtis Robert Mann, Kearney, was eastbound on W Road when it hit a washboard and was sucked in to the westbound ditch, causing the vehicle to roll onto its top. Estimated damage: $20,000.








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OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM
WEEK #10 (Nov. 7)

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Tie-Breaker: Nebraska @ Illinois (Fri. Nov. 6) (Circle Winner)

Points: _____

OFFICIAL RULES:

1. Find the games in the advertisements. Select a winner for each game and enter that team beside the corresponding advertiser in the entry blank provided.
2. Tie-Breaker: Circle the team that you believe will win between the two provided. For the tie-breaker points, write down your predicted amount of points FOR BOTH TEAMS (i.e. one team scores 7, the other 3, you will mark down 10 points in total).
3. Bring the Official Entry Blank to the Minden Courier office (520 N. Minden Ave. - Minden) or send to the "Minden Courier Football Contest" c/o Minden Courier P.O. Box 379 Minden, NE 68959. Send just the entry blank. **Entries must be dropped off by 4pm or postmarked by the Friday before the weekly games are played.**
4. One entry per person per week, please.
5. Decisions regarding the outcome of the contest are FINAL.
6. Staff members of The Minden Courier are not eligible to enter the contest.
7. Prize money will be mailed, or available for pick up, the week following the contest.
8. Must be 18 or older to enter.
9. No photo copies.

PRIZES: ONE TIME ONLY JACKPOT: Every perfect weekly entry will be saved for a chance to win $100 at the end of the contest in its entirety. **FIRST PLACE:** $25 awarded weekly. **SECOND PLACE:** $15 awarded weekly.

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SPORTS



Winds Propel Cat and Falcon Runners at State

ROGER HANSEN

Axtell's boys team plus Emma Hall from Axtell and Alex Klatt-Terabelian of Wilcox-Hildreth earned the right to compete at the 2026 State Cross Country Meet at the Kearney Country Club on October 23 in 70 degree temps but quite windy conditions.

The Cat boys finished 12th out of 18 teams. Scores: Doniphan-Trumbull 26, Tri-County 28, McCool Junction 43, Cornerstone Christian 48, Ponca 49, Hemingford 55, Ord 58, Homer 75, Bloomfield-Wausa 78, Creighton 106, Gordon-Rushville 112, AXTELL 127, Nebraska Christian 132, Arcadia-Loup City 154, East Butler 161, Perkins County 168, Amherst 176, Shelton 198

Individual 'D' boys' winner was Colton Ham of North Platte St. Pat's at 16:01. For Axtell: Sophomore Micah Houchin (42nd, 18:29, 2nd time at State), sophomore Kyler Kolbo (78th, 19:24, 2nd time at State), junior Felix Lopez (89th, 19:35, 2nd time at State), freshman Oscar Clausen (100th, 19:49), sophomore Chase Nickel (108th, 20:04).

For Wil-Hil: junior Alex Klatt-Terabelian (50th, 18:40, 2nd time at State). 133 boys ran.

The 'D' champion girls' team was McCool Junction for the third year consecutive year, Nebraska Christian and Crofton were second and third, respectively.

The individual girls' winner was Leah Dawson of McCool Junction at 19:35. Axtell senior Emma Hall was 107th at 24:53 and at State for the third time. 125 girls ran.

A pretty cool thing for Emma (and her family) was that she was one of a handful of runners from last year pictured on the cover of the 2026 State Meet program.


OSCAR CLAUSEN


FELIX LOPEZ


KYLER KOLBO

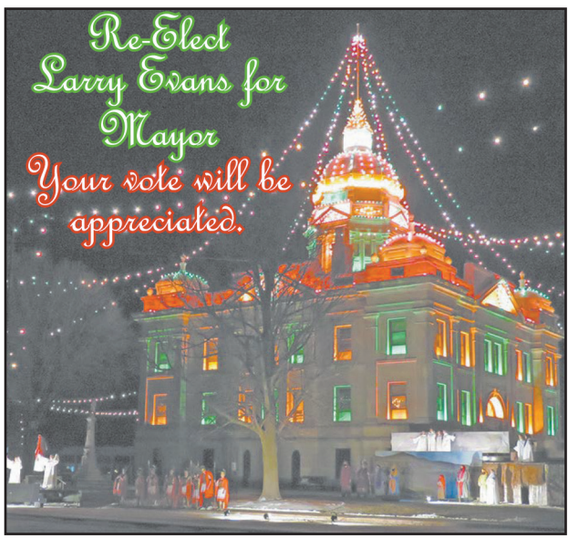

MICAH HOUCHIN


CHASE NICKEL


ALEX KLATT-TERABELIAN


EMMA HALL





Minden Girls Third at State

ROGER HANSEN

The 2026 cross country season is in the record book and both of the Minden girls' and boys' teams finished the year by competing at the State Meet at the Kearney Country Club on October 23 in very windy conditions and temps in the 70s.

The Whippet girls finished off an excellent season (their finishes were 1st, 2nd, 1st, 1st, 2nd, 5th, 2nd, 2nd and 3rd) coming in third in Nebraska in Class C. Team scores: Chase County 44, Gothenburg 45, MINDEN 54, Adams Central 64, Columbus Scotus 104, Milford 123, Norfolk Catholic 136, Ft. Calhoun 137, Wayne 148, Auburn 166, Arlington 178, Yutan 183, Lincoln Christian 190, Kearney Catholic 211, Plattsmouth 286

The individual winner in 'C' was Scout Bell of Gothenburg at 19:24. Senior Alexa Warner earned her second state medal (she was 11th in 2024) by placing 8th at 19:55. In 2023 she missed a medal by one place getting 16th and in 2025 she placed 32nd. She has had high finishes in almost all of her races the past four years. Previous multi-year state medalists were Tracy Rehtus (4 times), Kelly Throener (4), Erin Reidel (2), Jena Hansen (2) and Jessie Hurt (2).

Also running for the Whippets at State were freshman Regan Johnson (22nd, 19:55), freshman Gemma Fritson (25th, 21:04), sophomore Adelyn Whitten (30th, 21:17, 9th at State in '25), freshman Emerson Kuehn (35th, 21:30) and junior Aclynn Osterbuhr (64th, 22:17, second time at State). 115 girls ran.

Minden's boys were 11th out of 15 teams. Team scores: Lincoln Christian 19, Holdrege 51, Elkhorn Mount Michael Benedictine 85, Gothenburg 93, Ft. Calhoun 102, Aurora 108, O'Neill 119, Norfolk Catholic 123, Wayne 163, Plattsmouth 179, MINDEN 199, Sidney 204, Milford 217, Yutan 232, Syracuse 236.

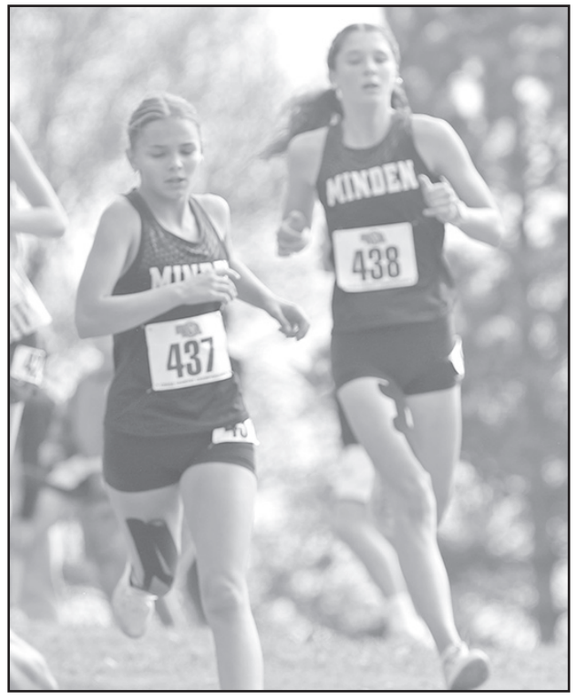
Individual boys' winner was Trevin Opp, Lincoln Christian at 16:13.

For Minden, four-time state qualifier senior Gage Thull was 27th at 18:04. He had an excellent '26 season. Additionally running were junior Isaac Reed (52nd, 18:28, 3rd time at State), senior Trystan Sharkey (90th, 19:23, 4th time at State), junior Seth Jacobitz (98th, 19:47), freshman Blake Boudreau (11th, 20:42) and senior Holt Aschenbrenner (115th, 22:01, 2nd time at State).

116 boys ran.



ALEXA WARNER



GEMMA FRITSON

REGAN JOHNSON



ACLYNN OSTERBUHR



EMERSON KUEHN



ADELYN WHITTEN



BLAKE BOUDREAU



ISAAC REED



TRYSTAN SHARKEY



HOLT ASCHENBRENNER



SETH JACOBITZ



GAGE THULL

Dawgs Display Dominance in Recent Win

ROGER HANSEN

Minden finished off its best regular season since 2011 defeating Lexington 42-14 at Kuper Field on October 23.The Whippets enter the playoffs with an 8-1 record and on a four-game win streak. The Dawgs won their first four, lost to Adams Central, then won the final four.

That 2011 team was the last Minden squad to win a playoff game, winning three contests and advancing to the semi-finals before bowing out with a loss to Norfolk Catholic and finishing the season 11-1.

Minden stopped Lexington on the Minutemen's first possession after they had executed a successful fake punt. On their next snap, Bo Lutkemeier recovered a fumble, setting up the Whippets at the Lex 35. Logan Verbeck eventually ran in from the 11 and with Aaron Banuelos booting the PAT Minden was ahead 7-0 at 5:34.

Lexington's first two punts of the game, one at the end of the opening period and the other a few minutes into the second quarter, were six yards and one yard.

The Whippets got on the board again with 0:40 to go in the second period when Parker Hatch hit Turner Schmidt in stride for a 36-yard scoring toss. Banuelos' kick put Minden up 14-0 at halftime.

Andrew Runions picked off Lexington on the second play of the third quarter and four snaps later Verbeck scored again, this time on an eight-yard run. Banuelos' PAT kick upped the advantage to 21-0 at 9:37.

The Minutemen benefitted from a tipped pass to get points on a 56-yard play at 8:33 of the third. The ensuing PAT moved the score to 21-7.

The Whippets took only four plays to strike again when Hatch maneuvered and sped down the field for a 55-yard TD. Banuelos' kick upped the score to 28-7 at 6:33.

The fourth quarter found Lexington scoring on a nine-yard pass, plus the PAT kick, at 9:20 making it 28-14.

Minden then got another TD soon after Turner Schmidt's 51-yard return of the Minutemen's kickoff. Lutkemeier got into the end zone out of the Whippets' short-yardage power formation from the three. Banuelos made it five-for-five on PATs to push the margin up to 35-14 at 6:05.



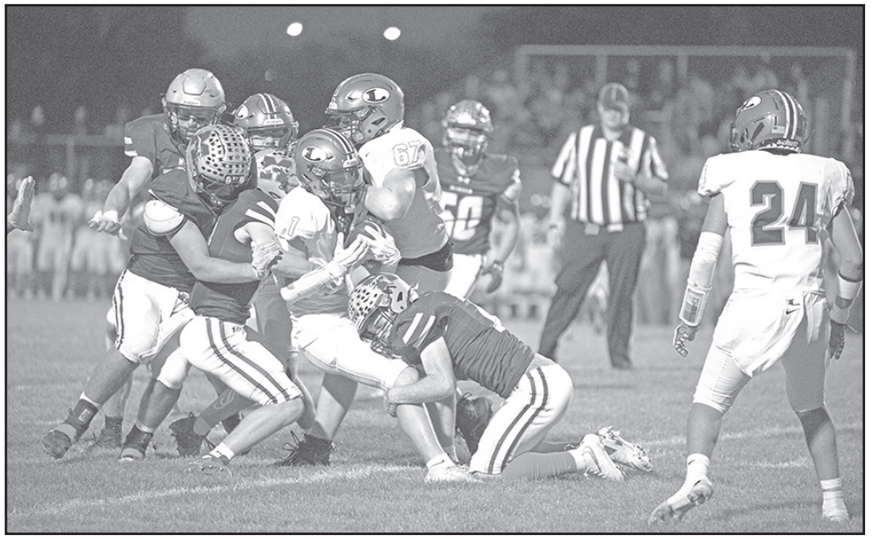
Hatch went long distance again for the game's final points on the first play following a Verbeck interception. The 44-yard sprint at 4:36 and Banuelos completing a perfect night on conversion kicks set the score at 42-14.

Minden ran for 347 and passed for 36 for 383 yards. Lexington unofficially ran for 73 and passed for 160 to total 233 yards.

RUSHING: Another night of big games for Verbeck (19-180, 2 TDs) and Hatch (17-173, 2 TDs). Others: Lutkemeier 3-14, 1 TD: T. Schmidt 1-4; Cole Schwenka 1-4; Camdon Schmidt 1-0; Kyler Wilson 1-(-9). Two carries for -19 yards were attributed to no one (team losses)

PASSING: Hatch 1-5, 36 yds., 1 TD

RECEIVING: T. Schmidt 1-36, 1 TD



The Minden football team dominated Lexington 42-14 at home on October 23. (above) The Whippets work as a team to stop Lexington's ball carrier. (left) Turner Schmidt makes a good catch. (Courier photos by Tim Hudson)

TACKLES (solos-assts): Kanin Heath 6-7, Lutkemeier 6-3, Cohen Schmidt 7-0, Banuelos 6-0, Cael Smith 4-1, Verbeck 3-2, T. Schmidt 3-1, Schwenka 2-0, Morgan Johnson 1-1, Ryker Foutch 1-1, Hatch 2-0, Drew Seiler 2-0, Matt Dixson 0-1, Lukas Labenz 1-0, Runions 0-1

TACKLES FOR LOSS: Cohen Schmidt 2, Heath 2, Smith 1, Lutkemeier 1, Labenz 1, Dixson 1

SACKS: Cohen Schmidt 1-4 yds., Heath 1-4 yds.

INTERCEPTIONS: Runions 1-18 return, T. Schmidt 1-4

FUMBLE RECOVERY: Lutkemeier 1

PUNTS: Lutkemeier 2-29.0 ave; Garrett Hartman 1-55

KICKOFF RETURNS: T. Schmidt 1-51

CONVERSION KICKS: Banuelos 6 for 6

Lexington	0	0	7	7-	14 (2-7)
Minden	7	7	14	14-	42 (8-1)

M- Verbeck, 11 run (Banuelos kick)

M- T. Schmidt, 36 from Hatch (Banuelos kick)

M- Verbeck, 8 run (Banuelos kick)

L- 56 pass (kick)

M- Hatch, 55 run (Banuelos kick)

L- 9 pass (kick)

M- Lutkemeier, 3 run (Banuelos kick)

M- Hatch, 44 run (Banuelos kick)

The 10th seeded Whippets round-of-16 opponent will be 7th seeded Lincoln Christian (7-2) on October 30 in southeast Lincoln off of 84th street. The Crusaders losses were to Lincoln Lutheran and Syracuse. Their best wins were over playoff qualifiers Wahoo and Auburn. The winner advances to the quarterfinal round to play the winner of Alliance (5-4) and Boys Town (9-0) on November 6. Site to be determined.

The Whippets were last in the playoffs in 2022, when they were eliminated by Boone Central in the first round in a 6-4 season.

Trojans Flatten Wildcats

ROGER HANSEN

Axtell's season came to a close with a windy afternoon home game vs. Cambridge on October 23. The visiting Trojans topped the Cats 42-14 to end Axtell's record at 1-8. The 18-player squad included no seniors, two juniors, nine sophomores and seven freshmen.

Junior Nick Dahl had another commendable game, getting 83 yards on 22 carries with one TD plus having a hand in 20 tackles.

Sophomore Carter Hardenbrook was a standout in this game as well as he also soloed or assisted on 20 tackles, made one sack, recovered two fumbles and had one reception for 42 yards.



Sophomore Landon Powers was a versatile three-way player all season doing the quarterbacking, playing steady defense and handling the kicking/punting chores

TOTAL OFFENSE-Axtell: 77 rushing, 48 passing, 125 total. Cambridge: 297 rushing, 42 passing, 339 total

RUSHING: Dahl 22-83, 1 TD; Powers 9-(-6)

PASSING: Powers 3-10, 48 yds, 1 TD, 1 int.

RECEIVING: Hardenbrook 1-42, Nolan Wells 1-3, 1 TD; Barrett Thorell 1-3

TACKLES (solos-assts): Dahl 4-16, Hardenbrook 6-14, Powers 1-8, Luke Abbott 0-9, Samuel Kindschuh 2-6, Connor L'Heureux 3-4, Logan Strolberg 0-5, Thorell 2-3, Luke Samuelson 0-5, Mick Pfiel 0-3, Grayson Bray 0-3

TACKLES FOR LOSS: L'Heureux 2, Hardenbrook 1, Kindschuh 1,

SACKS: L'Heureux 1, Hardenbrook 1

FUMBLE RECOVERIES: Hardenbrook 2

KICKOFFS: Powers 3-35.7 ave.

PUNTING: Powers 6-22.0 ave.

Cambridge	6	22	6	8-	42 (7-2)
Axtell	0	0	6	8-	14 (1-8)







The Axtell football team made a valiant effort in the final regular game of the season but still fell to Cambridge 42-14 on October 23. Pictured clockwise from above: Nick Dahl runs the ball while his teammates make space. Samuel Kindschuh and Connor L'Heureux work together to take down the Cambridge ball carrier. Carter Hardenbrook gets under the ball for a good pass. Mick Pfiel puts his weight into tackling the Trojan ball carrier. (Courier photos by Kimberly Powers)

Falcons Head Into Postseason on a High Note

ROGER HANSEN

Wilcox-Hildreth's gridders completed the regular season portion of the schedule on a four-game winning streak, the capper a 44-24 win over South Loup on Thursday, October 22 at Hildreth. The Falcons go into the postseason with a 6-3 record.

This was an odd time-of-possession contest as through three quarters Wil-Hil held a 38-0 lead yet had only run 13 offensive plays up to that time. The Bobcats ran a lot of plays and had possession of the ball considerably more than the Falcons but two factors were in play--1) Wil-Hil's scoring plays were from 25 yards out or more which did not require many snaps of the ball, plus there was a punt return TD thrown in; 2) the Falcons defense bent a bit but didn't break in those first three quarters, so all of South Loup's offensive possessions went for naught.

Wil-Hil rushed for 120 and passed (very accurately and efficiently) for 190 to total 310 yards. South Loup ran for 339 and passed for 34 for a 373 total

RUSHING: Drew Blank 5-83 yds., 2 TDs (25 and 30 yards); Landon Lienemann 5-23; Sutton Strong 1-7, Kyler Masters 1-4, Mikah Eiley 1-1; Kaden Schriner 2-1; Damien Campbell 2-1, 1 TD (1 yard)

PASSING: Blank 5-5, 139 yds., 2 TDs (75 and 30 yards); Lienemann 5-6, 51; **one pass of 15 yards not accounted for**

RECEIVING: Luke Lush 3-89 yds., 1 TD (75 yards); K. Masters 3-59; Kip Johnson 3-28, 1 TD (30 yards); Rylan Lush 1-22; Kaleb Johnson 1-7;

TACKLES (solos-assts): K. Masters 5-4, Kleb Johnson 5-3, Gavin Ironshell 4-4, Kip Johnson 1-7, Schriner 4-2, Jaxon Guthrie 4-2, Blank 1-4, Dax Knaus 3-1, Drake Ritner 3-1, Campbell 2-1, Strong 1-2, Lienemann 1-2, L. Lush 1-0, W. masters 1-0, Micah bell 1-0, Eiley 0-1, Cole Ortgeisen 0-1

TACKLES GFOR LOSS: Kaleb Johnson 1

SACKS: Kaleb Johnson 1

FUMBLE RECOVERIES: Lienemann 1, Strong 1

KICKOFFS: K. Masters 5-49.0 ave., W. Masters 1-35

PUNTS: L. Lush 1-55

PUNT RETURNS: L. Lush 1-50, 1 TD

SCORING: Blank 2 TDs; L. Lush 2 TDs, 1 conversion reception; Kaleb Johnson 1 TD, 1 conv. rec.; Campbell 1 TD; K. Masters 2 conversions (1 run, 1 reception)

South Loup 0 0 0 24- 24 (4-5)

Wil-Hil 32 6 6 0- 44 (6-3)

The 11th seeded Falcons will travel to sixth seed Creighton (7-2) in the opening D2 playoff round at 5:00 pm on October 30. Creighton is in southern Knox County about 40 miles east of O'Neill and use a Bulldog as a mascot.

Their losses have been to Laurel-Concord-Coleridge and Elkhorn Valley and their best win was over Neligh-Oakdale.

The Wilcox-Hildreth/Creighton winner will play the winner of Laurel-Concord-Coleridge (8-1) and Bruning-Davenport-Shickley (6-3), aka BDS, on Friday, November 6.

The top seed in the D2 bracket is Shelby/Rising City (9-0) and seeded second is earlier-in-the-season foe North Platte St. Pat's (9-0). Another 2026 foe, Loomis (9-0) is seeded fourth. Previous opponent Bertrand (6-3) is also in the bracket as the 15th seed.

The Falcons were in the playoffs in 2025 and also in 2023 so this senior class has been to the postseason three times.



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Athlete of the Week

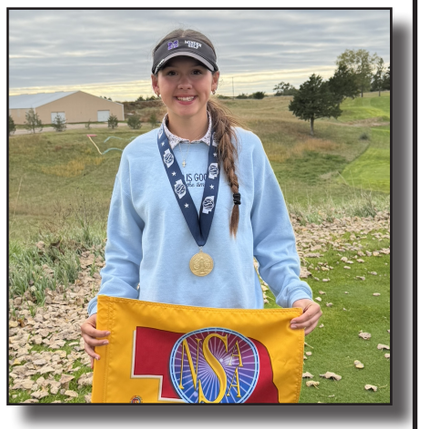
MACY JORGENSEN - GIRLS GOLF

School - Minden High School **Grade -** Sophomore

Achievements: Macy had a fantastic freshman season placing at every regular-season tournament and helping her team to a SWC, district, and state championship. Individually, she placed 2nd at SWC, 5th at districts, and was the State runner-up. She had the perfect season this year taking 1st place at every regular-season event and going on to be the individual champion for conference, districts, and state. She broke our 9-hole record with a 31, our 18- hole record with a 67, and tied our 2-day state tournament record with a 143.

Challenges: After joining a very talented veteran team last year, we asked a lot out of Macy this season. She quickly became a leader for the young golfers and worked to push her teammates while also reaching her highest potential.

Attributes: Macy's work ethic is second to none. She has spent countless hours on the course perfecting every skill that matters in the game of golf. More importantly, Macy has worked on the mental side of the game. She has learned to make smart choices, keep her cool, and trust her skills.



We are so proud of what Macy has accomplished, and we can't wait to see what she and the team can do next year!

- Coach Whitney Maulsby

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Lady Whippets Claim Fourth Place at SWC

ASHLEY BEBENSEE

The Minden Whippet volleyball team took home fourth place last week at the Southwest Conference Tournament.

After defeating the Cozad Haymakers, the Whippets fell to Gothenburg and Holdrege. They ended the week with a record of 13-18.

On Oct. 19, Cozad initially overtook Minden in the first set 25-17, but the Whippets came swinging back with a reverse sweep 25-13 and 25-20.

Junior Aly Cederburg led in attacks and blocks, with 13 kills and five blocks. Sophomore Olivia Armstrong put up the most assists with 13. Junior Kaleigh Carr had a solid game with five aces, eight kills and seven digs. Junior Bailee Fries was also strong at the net, putting up five blocks.

Individual stats for Minden vs. Cozad

Kills: Aly Cederburg 13, Kaleigh Carr 8, Reagan Carey 2, Josa Ciemnoczolowski 1, Victoria Hansen 1

Assists: Olivia Armstrong 13, Hansen 9, Malayna Emery 1, Carr 1

Aces: Carr 5, Hansen 3, Ruby Rhynalds 1, Emery 1

Digs: Carr 7, Carey 7, Cederburg 7, Emery 6, Armstrong 5, Hansen 3, Lexie Anderson 2, Sophia Birkestrand 1, Ciemnoczolowski 1

Blocks: Cederburg 5, Bailee Fries 5, Carr 2, Ciemnoczolowski 2, Emery 1

Minden put a valiant fight through five sets, but it wasn't quite enough to take down Gothenburg in round two of the tourney.

The Whippets claimed the first set 25-16, but the Swedes stormed back winning sets two and three, 25-14 and 25-17. The Whippets pushed the game to set five when they claimed the fourth set 26-24. In the deciding set, Gothenburg squeaked past Minden with a final score of 15-12.

Amstrong and Junior Victoria Hansen put up 15 set assists apiece. Cederburg was the strong arm for the Whippets with 15 kills and eight blocks. Carr led the defense with 19 digs.

Individual stats for Minden vs. Gothenburg

Kills: Cederburg 15, Carr 8, Carey 3, Ciemnoczolowski 2, Fries 2, Emery 2, Tatum Delira 1

Assists: Armstrong 15, Hansen 15, Cederburg 1

Aces: Rhynalds 4, Armstrong 2, Birkestrand 2, Hansen 2, Carr 2, Emery 1

Digs: Carr 19, Emery 15, Cederburg 12, Hansen 9, Carey 8, Armstrong 5, Birkestrand 4, Ciemnoczolowski 2, Rhynalds 1

Blocks: Cederburg 8, Ciemnoczolowski 6, Fries 3, Carr 3, Emery 2, Carey 1, Rilynn Johnson 1

With the loss to Gothenburg, Minden went on to play for the third-place spot Oct. 20 against Holdrege. Despite defeating the Dusters the previous week, Minden was swept by Holdrege in three sets 25-20, 27-25 and 25-13.

Carr and Hansen were the defensive specialists with eight digs each. Cederburg put down 15 kills, and Hansen had 14 set assists.

The Whippets were to play at subdistricts Oct. 26-27 at Kearney Catholic High School in Kearney.

Individual stats for Minden vs. Holdrege

Kills: Cederburg 15, Carr 11, Emery 3, Carey 1, Ciemnoczolowski 1, Fries 1

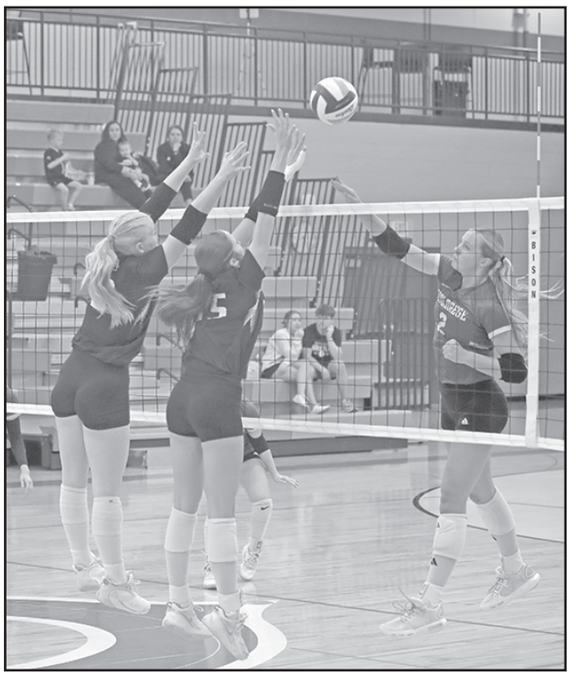
Assists: Hansen 14, Armstrong 12, Emery 1, Carr 1

Aces: Hansen 2, Rhynalds 1, Armstrong 1

Digs: Carr 8, Hansen 8, Emery 6, Fries 4, Cederburg 4, Carey 3, Armstrong 1

Blocks: Cederburg 3, Ciemnoczolowski 2, Fries 1





The Minden volleyball team competed in the SWC tournament at Cozad on October 19-20. The Whippets ended the tournament in fourth place. (above) Malayna Emery and Bailee Fries attempt a block. (left) Aly Cederburg powers the ball over the net. (Courier photos by Susan Fries)

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Wildcats Claw Out Win Against Silver Lake

ASHLEY BEBENSEE

The Axtell Wildcats ended their regular season Oct. 20 at the Silver Lake Triangular. The volleyball team split the triangular, falling to Exeter-Milligan/Friend but overcoming Silver Lake.

The tough EMF team defeated Axtell in two sets, 25-18 and 25-14. Freshman Adelyn Wells was the attack leader with five, and junior Leah Stritt had eight digs. Freshman Hadley Most put up seven set assists.

Individual stats for Axtell vs. EMF

Kills: Adelyn Wells 5, Morgan Hawkins 4, Leah Stritt 1, Ashlynn Nelson 1, Ari Nickel 1

Aces: Hadley Most 1

Blocks: Nelson 1, Hawkins 1

Digs: Stritt 8, Most 5, Jerzey Ramirez 5, Nelson 3, Wells 3, Solara Quigley 2, Mina Schilling 2, Hawkins 1

Assists: Most 7, Quigley 3, Nelson 1, Schilling 1

In game two of the triangular, Axtell rallied to beat the host team, Silver Lake, in two sets 25-15 and 26-24.

Junior Leah Stritt hit double digits at the net with 10 kills. Senior Ashlynn Nelson was the defensive leader with 10 digs, and freshman Hadley Most had 15 successful set assists.

Axtell ended their regular season with a record of 9-19. They were seeded at No. 4 in subdistricts. They were set to take on No. 5 Southern Valley Oct. 26 at Red Cloud High School.

Individual stats for Axtell vs. Silver Lake

Kills: Stritt 10, Nelson 5, Wells 4, Most 3, Hawkins 2, Bristol Thorell 1

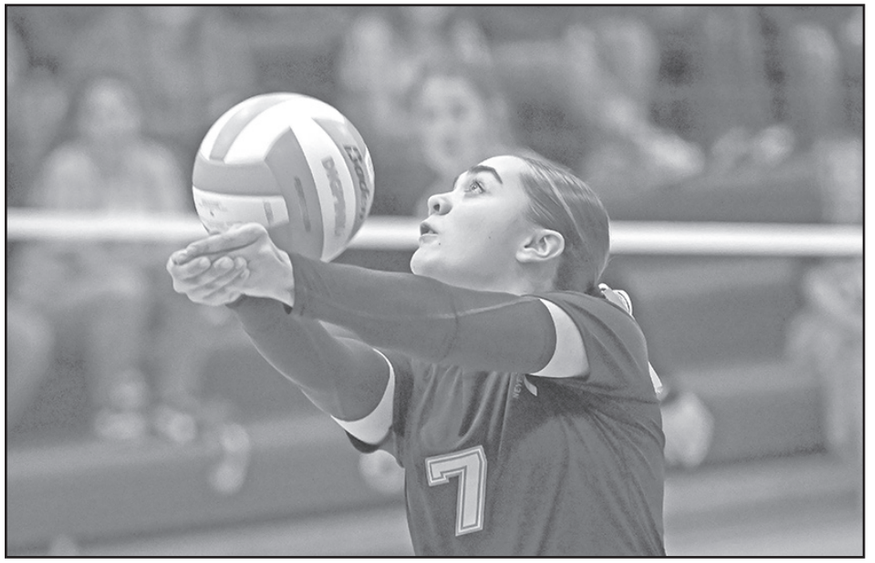
Aces: Nelson 3, Hawkins 3, Stritt 1

Blocks: Most 1, Hawkins 1

Digs: Nelson 10, Stritt 9, Ramirez 6, Wells 5, Quigley 4, Hawkins 4, Schilling 4, Brooklyn Dejonge 3, Most 3

Assists: Most 15, Quigley 9, Ramirez 1



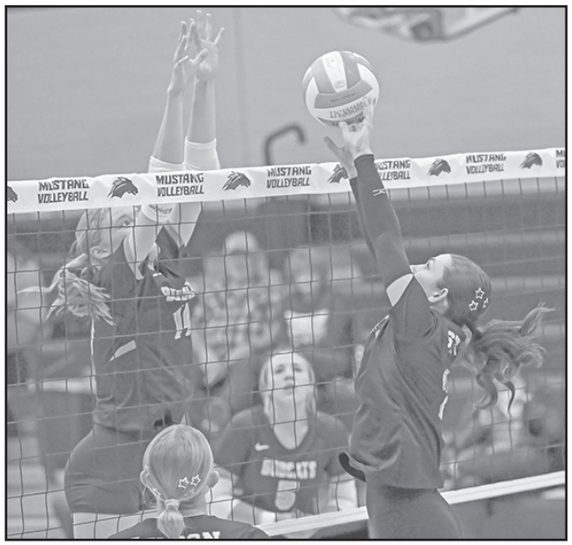


This week's Market Report is sponsored by:



For the week ending Oct. 24, 2026.

Nebraska Weekly Grain Prices, Omaha-Council Bluffs
US No. 2 Yellow Corn: $4.25 -$4.41
US No. 1 Soybeans $11.60-$12.06
Steers – Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt./Actual Wt.)
Weight Range – 550-597; Avg. Weight – 573; Price Range – $435-$474; Steady to $9 higher
Heifers – Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt./Actual Wt.)
Weight Range – 500-549; Avg. Weight – 522; Price Range - $368-$475; Steady to $3 lower





The Axtell volleyball team ended its regular season splitting games at the Silver Lake Triangular on October 20. Pictured top to bottom: Ashlynn Nelson and Amelia Halvorsen go up to block. Solara Quigley gets a dig. Morgan Hawkins makes a block at the net. (left) Leah Stritt tries to tip the ball past her opponent. (Courier photos by Rachel Hawkins)

Wil-Hil Ends Historic Season With Victories

ASHLEY BEBENSEE

The odds were in the favor of the Wilcox-Hildreth Falcons last week. The volleyball team swept the Sumner-Eddyville-Miller triangular on Oct. 19 and defeated Southern Valley on Oct. 22.

The Falcons easily overtook the S-E-M Mustangs in two sets 25-17 and 25-23.

Junior Camryn Bunger led the Falcons in kills with ten. Freshman Elsie Donley had the most digs with 12, and freshman Georgia Guthrie set up 17 successful assists.

Individual stats for Wil-Hil vs. S-E-M

Kills: Camryn Bunger 10, Ellie Blank 6, Madison Sheen 3, Kinley Hansen 2, Elsie Donley 1

Aces: Georgia Guthrie 1, Bunger 1, Blank 1, Donley 1

Blocks: Guthrie 1, Donley 1

Digs: Donley 12, Elin Patterson 11, Guthrie 8, Sheen 7, Blank 6, Bunger 5

Assists: Guthrie 17, Hansen 1, Donley 1

The Falcons surpassed Pleasanton in three sets to be crowned the triangular champions. Wil-Hil took the first 25-19, but the Bulldogs managed to beat the Falcons back on set two 25-14. However, the Falcons seized the victory in set three with a score of 25-17.

Senior Madison Sheen had a strong game with eight kills and 16 digs. Donley continued to show her prowess in stopping opponents with five blocks. Guthrie led the team with 24 assists.

Individual stats for Wil-Hil vs. Pleasanton

Kills: Bunger 8, Sheen 8, Donley 7, Blank 6, Hansen 1

Aces: Patterson 3, Guthrie 2, Bunger 1, Sheen 1, Blank 1

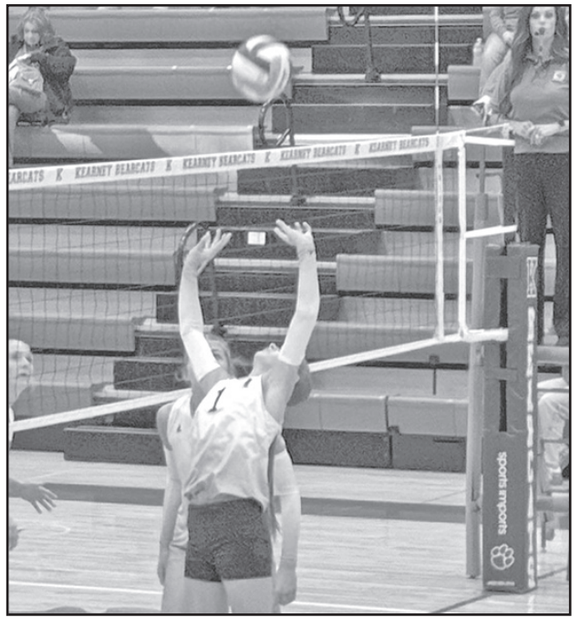
Blocks: Donley 5, Hansen 1

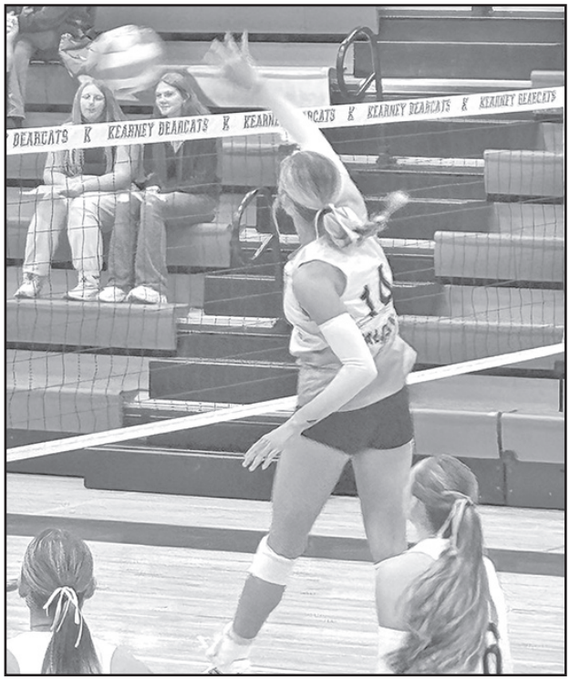
Digs: Sheen 16, Donley 12, Bunger 8, Blank 8, Guthrie 6, Patterson 6, Hansen 3

Assists: Guthrie 24, Bunger 2, Sheen 1, Hansen 1

The Falcons had a stellar senior night Oct. 22 against the Southern Valley Eagles. Wil-Hil swept the Eagles in three sets, 25-18, 25-23 and 25-10.

The team's serving game was on fire with 14 aces, with three apiece from Guthrie, Bunger and Blank. Guthrie was busy on the court with 29 assists and 11 digs. Blank led in attacks with 12 kills.





The Wilcox-Hildreth volleyball team racked up more wins as they closed out the season last week. (above) Elsie Donley powers the ball over the net. (left) Georgia Guthrie sets the ball for her teammate. (Courier photos by Nicky Blank)

Wilcox-Hildreth ended their regular season with a record of 18-11. They were to host sub-districts this week where they were seeded No. 1 and would take on the winner of Overton vs. Bertrand.

Individual stats for Wil-Hil vs. Southern Valley

Kills: Blank 12, Donley 9, Sheen 7, Bunger 6

Aces: Guthrie 3, Bunger 3, Blank 3, Sheen 2, Donley 2, Patterson 1

Blocks: Donley 3, Bunger 1

Digs: Guthrie 11, Bunger 10, Blank 10, Sheen 9, Donley 7, Patterson 6, Hansen 2

Assists: Guthrie 29, Blank 2, Donley 1

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Happy Birthday

Carol Roeder will be celebrating her 90th birthday on Nov. 11, 2026. Her family would like to honor her with a card shower. Birthday wishes may be sent to her at:
396 V Road
Kearney, NE 68845

Bowling Standings

Classey Lassies 10-15-26

Team Standings:	**W**	**L**
Skye's The Limit Salon	21	11
Aurora Coop-Keene	20	12
Pony Express Ford	19.5	12.5
Larson Bros Construction	15	17
Dobish Dumpsters	15	17
Split Happens	14	18
Platte River BBQ	13.5	18.5
Upland Bar & Grill	10	22

High Individual Game:Kasey Welch, 194; Allyson Sinsel, 174; Lizette Howard, 164

High Individual Series: Kasey Welch, 448; Taylor Sikes, 439; Allyson Sinsel, 438

High Team Game: Aurora Coop-Keene, 445; Platte River BBQ, 437; Pony Express Ford, 400

High Team Series: Platte River BBQ, 1177; Aurora Coop-Keene, 1143; Upland Bar & Grill, 1109

Classey Lassies 10-22-26

Team Standings:	**W**	**L**
Skye's The Limit Salon	23	13
Aurora Coop-Keene	22	14
Pony Express Ford	19.5	16.5
Dobish Dumpsters	19	17
Larson Bros Construction	17	19
Split Happens	16	20
Platte River BBQ	15.5	20.5
Upland Bar & Grill	12	24

High Individual Game: Tanna Struss, 178; Sheila Schoone, 170; Linzzy Ellebrecht, 169

High Individual Series: Kasey Welch, 482; Tanna Struss, 477; Linzzy Ellebrecht, 451

High Team Game: Split Happens, 496; Aurora Coop-Keene, 465; Upland Bar & Grill, 430

High Team Series: Split Happens, 1328; Aurora Coop-Keene, 1252; Upland Bar & Grill, 1183

Minden Unified Assoc. 10-22-26

Team Standings:	**W**	**L**
Joyce Farms	139.5	80.5
Miller Body	127.5	92.5
APEX	125	95
First Bank	115.5	88.5
WII Team	87.5	132.5
BYE	62	158

High Individual Game: Kevin Reed, 189; Shaun Johnson, 183; Dustin Schwenka, 179

High Individual Series: Shaun Johnson, 520; Kevin Reed, 487; Dustin Schwenka, 460

High Team Game: APEX, 595; Miller Body, 578; Joyce Farms, 563

High Team Series: APEX, 1681; Miller Body, 1648; Joyce Farms, 1635

Macy Named to Super-State Team

ROGER HANSEN

The Nebraska Coaches Association annually names a 15-girl Golf Super-State team following the state meets.

This year's 'C' champ, Macy Jorgensen, was one of the golfers tabbed for that honor. The Super-State team encompasses girls from all three classes.

Minden Courier Football Contest Week 7 Winners

ROGER HANSEN

Week 8 of the Courier was yet another strenuous week for the pickers.

Bret Weaver of Axtell was the sole entry with four misses and he will be more than happy to claim the $25 first prize.

Nine contestants went 50/50 (5 right, 5 wrong). Pat Duntz of Minden out-conjectured the other eight with his tie-breaker guess of 62. The actual points were quite high--81, Oklahoma State 57-Colorado 24. Pat gets the $15 second prize.

The other seven with 5 misses and their tie-breaker guess: Nesha Danielson, Kearney (59), Kyle Rutt, Campbell (58), Jena Coil, Ralston (57), Derek Ingram, Minden (56), Lisa Fries, Minden (55), Jim Bruening, Minden (54), Corey Ziola, Minden (45) and Don Phillips, Minden (43).

Most missed games: Minnesota over Iowa, Syracuse over North Carolina, Illinois over Oregon, Wisconsin over USC and Arizona State over Kansas State.

There are five contest weeks remaining. We still have just four perfect entries from previous weeks. Any perfect entry goes into our can for a chance at $100 at the end of the season if his/her entry is drawn from the non-hermetically sealed container. Try your luck!

Sports Calendar

Wilcox-Hildreth

Friday, October 30

FB @ Round 1 Playoffs

Saturday, October 31

VB @ District Finals

Thursday, November 5

VB @ State

Axtell

Saturday, October 31

VB @ District Finals

Wednesday, November 4

VB @ State

Thursday, November 5

VB @ State

Minden

Friday, October 30

FB @ Round 1 Playoffs

Wednesday, November 4

VB @ State

*State qualifications have not been determined at time of press

Legal Notices

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 Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., in the Commissioners' 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
Oct 29, 2026
(21) znez

NOTICE

REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA OCTOBER 20, 2026 9:30 A.M.

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Kearney County, NE was held October 20, 2026 at 10:23 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, Robert Swanson and Heath Hofstetter. Absent was James Miller. Also present were Co. Clerk Jenni Lupkes, Joe Anderson Hwy. Supt., Scott White Sheriff, Melodie Bellamy Co. Atty, Carrie Favinger Plan & Zone Admin, Phil Heun VSO, and Cindy Ramsey of the Minden Courier. Detailed Minutes from the Board of Commissioners Meeting, available for inspection at the Co Clerk's Office. The Board of Commissioners took the following action: Approved minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting on October 6, 2026. Approved Bills and Claims. Held a Public Comment. No comments were made. Held a Public Hearing from 10:24 am to 10:27 am on an Administrative Subdivision for Robert S. and Andrea L. Wolfe on a tract of land in SW ¼ NW ¼ 28-8-16. The permit was approved. -Approved the 2025 Snow Plan presented by Joe Anderson Hwy Superintendent. Approved Resolution for Operation Green Light. Reviewed correspondence from District 10 Probation Office. Appointed Jenni Lupkes cast ballot for KC at NACO Annual Convention Dec. 2026. Adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

/s/ Brent Stewart, Chairman
Kearney County
Board of Commissioners
ATTEST:
/s/ Jenni Lupkes
Kearney County Clerk

GENERAL FUND: Melodie Bellamy, Co Atny, Phone/ Dues, 30.00; Bethany Home, Sv, 1,560.00; Comm Action Ptnrshp Mid-Ne, Bus, 1,096.14; Contryman Assoc, Sv, 5,000.00; Dewald Deaver L' Heureux, Sv, 1,381.50; Dier, Osborn, Cox, Sv, 310.50; Eakes Ofc, Su, 272.45; ES&S, Sv, 600.37; First Concord Ben Grp, Self-Fund Ded, 1,540.69; Great Plains Comm, Sv, 138.35; Hall Co Sheriff, Sv, 13.30; Philip Heun, VSO, Train, 300.00; KC Health Sv, Sv, 60.00; KC Road Dept, EM Fuel, 1,491.84; Klein, Brewster, Brandt, & Messersmith, Sv, 529.00; Landmark, Su, 7.18; Lieske, Lieske & Ensz, Sv, 2,387.00; Jenni Lupkes, Co Clerk, Mile, 235.45; Mason's Supermarket, Su, 47.70; Midwest Connect, Su, 390.00; Minden Hrdwr, Su, 87.70; Minden Med Clinic, Sv, 77.56; NACO, Reg, 55.00; Nebraska.Gov, Su, 1.00; Pedley Drug, Su, 19.88; Platte Valley Comm, Sv, 200.00; Region 3 Behavioral Health Sv, 2nd Quarter Co Match, 4,421.03; Soarin Grp, Sv, 3,144.00; St of Ne DAS, Subscript, 132.00; Thomas Stewart, Atny at Law, Sv, 1,233.62; Syndicate Publish, Publ, 144.79; USDA Aphis, General, Sv, 3,014.26; Verizon, Sv, 102.00; TOTAL 30,024.31. ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Auto Glass Experts, Sv, $400.00; Bomgaars, Su, 379.99; Boss Fuels, Su, 10,989.79; Carquest/ Landmark, Su, 966.53; E & E Turf, Sv, 200.00; Eakes Ofc, Su, 115.76; Ed Broadfoot & Sons Sand & Gravel, Gravel, 23,879.44; Fifth Street Printing, Su, 2,425.45; Filtercare of Ne, Sv, 276.85; First Concord Ben Grp, Self-Fund Ded, 50.00; Hansen Int'l Truck, Sv, 6,148.29; J & A Traffic Products, Su, 720.00; J-Spot Sv, Sv, 2,481.85; KC Health Sv, Sv, 70.00; Landmark, Su, 478.33; Lawson Products, Sv, 86.99; Minden Hrdwr, Su, 9.99; NAPA Auto, Parts, 390.38; NMC, Sv, 1,584.39; Share Corp, Su, 162.15; TOTAL $51,816.18. INHERITANCE TAX FUND: Oak Creek Engineering, Su, $2,743.00; TOTAL $2,743.00. JV SVCS AID FUND: Verizon, Phone, $39.93; TOTAL $39.93. COMM FUND: Eakes Ofc, Su, $60.21; First Concord Ben Grp, Self Fund Ded, 1,574.11; Great Plains Comm, Sv, 197.53; Ne Tech & Telecomm, Sv, 629.64; St of Ne DAS Central Finance, Teletype, 30.00; TOTAL: $2,491.49.

Oct 29, 2026
(141) znez

NOTICE

NOTICE OF MEETING KEARNEY COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MINDEN,NE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the Kearney County Board of Equalization will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2026, at 9:25 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners' 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
Oct 29, 2026
(20) znez

NOTICE

MEETING OF THE KEARNEY COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION OCTOBER 20, 2026

A Meeting of the Kearney County Board of Equalization was held on October 20, 2026 at 9:25 a.m. in the Board Room of the Courthouse in Minden, NE. Present were Chairman Robert Swanson and Board Members Brent Stewart, Jason Sinsel, Jeff England, Heath Hofstetter, and Nathan Avery. Absent was Board Member James Miller. Also present were Kearney County Clerk Jenni Lupkes, County Assessor Jennifer Pittner, County Treasurer Jody Payne, Melodie Bellamy Co. Attorney, Scott White Co. Sheriff , Craig Lupkes EM Director, Carrie Favinger Plann & Zone Director, and Cindy Ramsey of the Minden Courier. Detailed Minutes of the Board of Equalization Meeting are available for inspection at the Co. Clerk's Office. The Kearney County Board of Equalization took the following action: Approved the minutes of the Board of Equalization for Aug 18, 2026. Held a Closed Session from 9:37 a.m. to 10:24 a.m. to discuss possible litigation. Reviewed TERC appeals from NE TERC. Set the levies for the political subdivisions of Kearney County, Nebraska for Fiscal Year 2026/2027.

CITY & VILLAGES

Axtell: General	.354437
Bond	.149484
	.503921
Wilcox: General	.444416
Minden: General	.441077
Airport Auth.	.017990
Bond	.079655
Total	.538722
Heartwell: General	.328650
Norman: General	.141247

FIRE DISTRICTS

Axtell: General	.017961
Sinking	.001755
Bond	.022113
Total	.041829
Wilcox: General	.010014
Sinking	.004891
Bond	.020033
Total	.034938
Minden: General	.005607
Sinking	.007357
Total	.012964
Kearney: General	.022053
Sinking	.008667
Bond	.003186
Total	.033906
Gibbon: General	.010101
Hildreth: General	.008441
Sinking	.005594
Bond	.013904
Total	.027939
Campbell: General	.012271
Sinking	.002977
Bond	.030148
Total	.045396
Kenesaw: General	.001874

SCHOOLS

Axtell: General	.594274
Bond 2024	.073533
Spec. Bldg.	.049727
	.717534
Wilcox/Hildreth:	
General	.520781
Spec. Bldg.	.096739
	.617520
Minden: General	.537311
Bond	.092736
Spec. Bldg	.116394
Total	.746441
Adams Central:	
General	.518568
Bond	.053409
Spec. Bldg.	.037712
Total	.609689
Silver Lake: General	.398405
Bond	.029112
Spec. Bldg.	.020906
Total	.448423
Kenesaw: General	.716106
Total	.716106
Kearney: General	.854248
2009 Bond	.045335
2013 Bond	.082036
Spec. Bldg.	.102947
Capital	.021665
Total	1.106231
Gibbon: General	.727836
Bond	.135786
Spec Bldg	.140796
	1.004418
Shelton: General	.892866
Bond	.048243
Capital	.018707
Spec. Bldg.	.088609
Total	1.048425

EDUCATIONAL SERIVCE UNITS

ESU #9: General	.014070
ESU#10: General	.011386
ESU#11: General	.010598

CENTRAL COMM. COLLEGE

Cap. Imp.	.020000

TRI-BASIN NRD

General	.025529

KEARNEY COUNTY AG SOCIETY

General	.003573

KEARNEY COUNTY

General	.149920
Hospital Bond	.026306
Hospital Mnt.	.014181
Commun.	.011323
	.201730

Adjourned the Board of Equalization meeting at 10:25 a.m.

/s/ Robert Swanson, Chairman
Kearney County
Board of Equalization
ATTEST:
/s/ JENNI LUPKES
Kearney County Clerk
(SEAL)

Oct 29, 2026
(149) znez

NOTICE

WILCOX-HILDRETH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026 - 6:00 AM
POSTING LOCATIONS: SCHOOL WEBSITE
10/13/2026
CONFERENCE ROOM-WILCOX 404 SAPP STREET WILCOX, NE 68982-0190

1. Call to Order. Roll Call. Motion by Kirk Nelson, seconded by Teresa Carey, to 6:00 am. Motion Passed. Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea; Yea: 6, Nay: 0. 2. Announce location of posted Open Meetings Act. 2.A. Pledge. 3. Consent Agenda. Motion by Kert Hansen, seconded by Alan Casper, 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 September 21, 2026 Board Meeting, budget meeting, and tax request meeting. 3.C. Approval of Claims. 3.D. Financial Report. 4. Visitors and communication from the public Members of the public in attendance: Joe Fouts. 5. Action Items. 5.A. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to recognize the WHEA as the exclusive negotiating body for the 2028-2029 calendar year. Motion by Kirk Nelson, seconded by Ryan Knaus, to to recognize the WHEA as the exclusive negotiating body for the 2028-2029 calendar year. 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 a transfer from the general fund to the nutrition fund in the amount of $318.00 to reimburse the cost of adult meal prices, and $186.30 to reimburse the nutrition fund for the cost of PK milks $127.51 for Kindergarten milk and snacks that are not reimbursable. Superintendent Patterson explained to the board that this agenda item will be included in every meeting from now on. This allows the district to show reimbursements into the nutrition fund from the general fund in an accurate and timely way for the auditors and the state. Motion by Alan Casper, seconded by Teresa Carey, to approve a transfer from the general fund to the nutrition fund in the amount of $475.95, to reimburse the cost of adult meal prices, and $186.30 to reimburse the nutrition fund for the cost of PK milks $127.51 for Kindergarten milk and snacks that are not reimbursable. 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.C. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to revise and or review board policies 3001, 3007, 3010, 3018, 3042, 3043. The Board reviewed each policy, no changes were made. Motion by Teresa Carey, seconded by Chris Stuehm, to revise and or review board policies 3001, 3007, 3010, 3018, 3042, 3043. Motion Passed. 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. Discuss preliminary results of the community facility survey. Superintendent Patterson reviewed the preliminary results of the survey with the board. 98 surveys had been completed as of Friday, October 16th. 6.B. Determine a close date for the public facilities survey. The Board decided to set an end date for the survey for the week prior to the November regular meeting. The survey will close at midnight on Thursday, November 12. 7. Administrator Report. 7.A. Superintendent Report. Superintendent Patterson reported: 1. School Finance Updates. 2. The school district received a $78,000 grant to update equipment in the Hildreth kitchen. 3. Negotiations process and reminder to committee members. 7.B. Principal Report. 8. Next Board Meeting: 7:00PM on Monday, November 16, 2026. 9. Adjourn. Motion by Ryan Knaus, seconded by Alan Casper, to adjourn at 6:23am. 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: Amazon Capital Services, Inc., 1,066.51; Black Hills Energy, 1,807.00; Blick Art Materials, 119.72; BTS Communications, Phone Vendor, 54.00; Capital Sanitary Supply Co, Inc., 1,198.69; Clearfly, 132.49; Computer Hardware, 1,661.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, E-Rate/Charter, 321.20; Eakes Office Solutions, 1,035.47; ESU #11, 8,552.75; ESU Coordinating Council, 10,223.23; Franklin Public School, 25.00; Fritz's Market, 321.50; Go Physical Therapy, 7,517.13; Great Plains Communications, 295.53; HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, Ltd., 70.58; Hometown Leasing, Copy Machine Lease Company, 894.00; J.W. Pepper & Son, Inc., 21.00; KSB School Law PC LLO, 4,121.50; Larsen's Ace Hardware, 12.11; Masters True Value, 97.74; Matheson Tri-Gas Inc, 150.68; McGraw-Hill School Education LLC, 224.60; Minden Courier, Newspaper, 100.78; NCS Pearson, Inc, 2.94; NWEA, 1,312.50; Omnify Benefits, 350.00; S & W Auto Parts, 35.94; Schenk, Darren, 416.00; Time Management Systems, 6.00; Village Of Hildreth, 2,458.68; Village Of Wilcox, 998.87; VISA, 1,391.94; Wilcox-Hildreth Clearing Acct, 50.00; Wilcox-Hildreth Lunch Account, 789.76; Woodward's Disposal Service, 55.00; Yanda's Music And Pro Audio, 453.47; Fund Number 01: 48,345.31; Checking Account ID 1: 48,345.31.

Oct 29, 2026
(203) znez

NOTICE

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF RANDALL E. HORINE, DECEASED PR 25-39

Notice is hereby given that a final accounting and report of administration, a Petition for Complete Settlement, approval of distribution and determination of inheritance tax have been filed and are set for hearing in the County Court of Kearney County, Nebraska, located at 424 North Colorado Avenue, Minden, Nebraska 68959, on Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

Prepared and submitted by:
Michael D. Carper, Bar I.D. #18292
PO Box 924
3915 Avenue N, Ste C
Kearney, Nebraska 68848
Tel: (308)236-2090
Fax: (308)236-0740
Email: mike@mdcarperlaw.com
Oct 22, 2026
Oct 29, 2026
Nov 5, 2026
(29) znez

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NOTICE

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF FRANCES M. LANGE, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. PR26-29

Notice is hereby given that on October 6th, 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 Jodi L. Hinds, whose address is 9421 Lakeview Drive, North Platte, Nebraska 69101, 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 December 15, 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
Oct 15, 2026
Oct 22, 2026
Oct 29, 2026
(40) znez

NOTICE

CITY OF MINDEN COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The City Council of the City of Minden, Nebraska, met on October 5, 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, Yant, and Schneider. Absent: Sumstine. City Officials Present: Olson, Evans, Krings, and Jordan. Approved Bills and Claims: Amazon Capital Services--Supplies $2,340.48, Amgl Cpa's & Advisors--Fees $5,800.00, B&R Stores, Inc--Supplies $12.98, Black Hills Gas Holdings, Llc--Utilities $129.64, Bound Tree Medical Llc--Supplies $667.60, Business World Products Of Hastings, Inc--Supplies $14.31, Capital One--Fees $232.76, Caspian Group, Inc--Fees $2,802.59, Ccmobl Inc--Cleaning $577.80, Central Community College--Training $2,470.00, City Of Hastings--Fees $298.35, Core & Main Lp--Supplies $3,388.85, D. Vitito--Uniforms $295.59, Dier,Osborn & Cox, P.C., L.L.O--Legal $7,627.50, Dinges Partners Group Llc--Supplies $790.11, Eakes Inc--Supplies $193.12, Elliott Equipment Company--Supplies $375.65, Great Plains Communications--Phone/Internet $1,201.12, Great Plains Communications--Phone/Internet $100.78, Hd Supply Facilities Maintenance Ltd--Supplies $95.39, Hersh Digging--Repairs $5,587.60, J. Carter--Repairs $1,299.85, J. Hill--Training $385.00, Jims Ok Tire Minden Llc--Repairs $389.00, Kansas City Life Ins. Co.--Insurance $3,022.50, Ke Co Treasurer--Fees $6,033.33, Kearney Powersports--Supplies $118.85, K. Gracey--Supplies $57.60, K. Anderson--Personnel $100.00, Kelly Supply Company--Supplies $126.99, Kt Diesel & Equipment--Repairs $711.87, Landmark Implement Carquest--Supplies $397.39, League Association Of Risk Management--Insurance $238,283.00, M. Froid--Training $385.00, Mh Equipment Company--Repairs $1,103.14, Mh Logistics Corp--Supplies $494.86, Michael Todd & Company, Inc.--Supplies $961.46, Minden Utility Dept.--Utilities $3,754.65, Municipal Pipe Services Inc--Repairs $8,686.00, Municipal Supply-Nebraska--Supplies $853.24, N. Collins--Training $275.00, Nphe--Fees $514.00, Olsson Associates--Tech/Engineering $29,029.00, Platte Valley Laboratories, Inc--Supplies $276.00, Pony Express Ford--Repairs $462.60, Presto X Co.--Maintenance $185.61, Protex Central Inc.--Maintenance $155.00, Quadient Leasing--Fees $801.78, Rek Enterprises Llc--Repairs $257.89, Revenue Bond Payment Account--Fees $2,525.00, Revenue Bond Payment Account--Fees $8,950.00, Revenue Bond Payment Account--Fees $2,000.00, S. Albers--Repairs $1,230.21, Southern Power District--Utilities $29.01, Southern Power District--Utilities $39.33, S. Tracy--Repairs $187.71, T. Klahn--Training $147.18, The Minden Courier--Printing $252.01, T. Beck--Printing $533.71, Titan Machinery Inc--Supplies $60.85, T. Brown--Training/Supplies/Uniforms $100.00, Tri City Concrete--Repairs $4,790.00, Underground Construction, Inc--New Infrastructure $58,142.93, United States Postal Service--Fees $719.83, Verizon Wireless--Phone/Internet $901.62, Village Cleaners Inc--Uniforms $54.63, Woodward Disposal--Fees $161.80, A. Jordan—Medical $999.96, E. Cline—Dependent Care $576.92, 10-2-2026 Payroll $77,985.06. Items Approved: Consent Agenda—Bunger motioned to approve the consent agenda and Schneider seconded. Voted aye: Bunger, Yant, and Schneider. Ordinance amending Section 2-1 bidding requirements of the Minden Municipal Code, first reading: Yant introduced Ordinance No. 1331 for its first reading. Bunger seconded. Voted aye: Bunger, Yant, and Schneider. Bunger motioned to waive the three readings of Ordinance No. 1331. Schneider seconded. Voted aye: Bunger, Yant, and Schneider. Schneider motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 1331 by title. Yant seconded. Voted aye: Bunger, Yant, and Schneider. Non-Action Items: Council Announcements. Public Forum. Discussion of advanced license plate readers per agenda item request by Logan Ellis. Bunger motioned to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. and Yant seconded. Voted aye: Bunger, 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 mindennebraska.org.
Oct 29, 2026
(170) znez

NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1332

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 31, ARTICLE V, OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF MINDEN, KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA, by ADDING SECTION 31-87 AS THE SAME RELATES TO THE CEMETERY WITHIN THE CITY OF MINDEN, KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Passed and approved this 19th day of October, 2026.

/s/ Larry Evans
Larry Evans, Mayor
ATTEST:
/s/ Abbey Jordan
Abbey Jordan, City Clerk
(SEAL)

Oct 29, 2026
(22) znez

It's Your Right to Know







NOTICE

ORDER BEFORE THE TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In the matter of revising Rules and Regulations for Management and Protection of Land and Water Resources ("management rules") of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (Tri-Basin NRD, or NRD). A public hearing was conducted by the Board of Directors of Tri-Basin Natural Resources District on August 19, 2026, at 1:30 PM at the Regional Engagement Center in Kearney, Nebraska, and all members of the public were allowed to provide oral and/or written testimony regarding the changes to the rules. Written testimony was received from the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment. After the public hearing, the NRD Board of Directors voted to approve the rules revisions as presented.

THE BOARD FINDS THAT:

It is necessary to revise the Tri-Basin NRD management rules to more effectively protect the quality and quantity of groundwater resources within the district. Following is a summary of revisions to the rules:

* Add, remove and revise definitions in Section One- GENERAL DEFINITIONS.
* Simplify and expedite rules enforcement, as described in Section Two- GENERAL PROVISIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.
* Clarify and simplify rules for groundwater quality protection in Section 3- GROUNDWATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS.
* Define setback requirements for protection of domestic wells in Section 4- WELL INTERFERENCE.
* Clarify flowmeter configuration and rules enforcement in Section 6- GROUNDWATER USE DATA ACQUISITION.
* Remove certain provisions related to inter-district transfers in Section 7- GROUND WATER TRANSFERS.
* Revise provisions related to well construction permits and allocation of groundwater use in Phase 3 Groundwater Quantity Management Areas in Section 8- QUANTITY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA RULES AND REGULATIONS.
* Revise rules related to transfers of certified irrigated acres and the process associated with decertification of certified irrigated acres in Section 10- IRRIGATED LAND CERTIFICATION.
* Renumbering of rules, correction of misspellings, statutory references and grammatical errors throughout the document to improve clarity and readability of the rules.

IT IS CONCLUDED THAT:

The Board of Directors, in order to more effectively enforce the Nebraska Groundwater Management and Protection Act, have determined that is necessary to revise the Rules and Regulations for Management and Protection of Land and Water Resources of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District.

Copies of the revised rules and regulations are available during normal business hours at the Tri-Basin NRD Office, 1723 Burlington St., Holdrege, Nebraska. District residents can also read the complete text of the district rules on the Tri-Basin NRD website, www.tribasinnrd.org<http://www.tribasinnrd.org/>, or receive a copy by mail by calling the NRD toll-free number, (877) 995-6688.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Pursuant to approval of a motion by a majority vote of the Tri-Basin NRD Board of Directors on August 19, 2026, directing that these rules be implemented and that this order be published in accordance with the requirements of Nebraska Revised Statute 46-744, the aforesaid rules shall become effective December 1, 2026.

For the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
Todd Garrelts, Chairman
Tuesday, August 19, 2026.

Oct 29, 2026
Nov 5, 2026
Nov 12, 2026
(137) znez

NOTICE

CERTIFICATE OF ORGANIZATION OF SAUNDERS BUILDING COMPANY, LLC A NEBRASKA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has formed a Nebraska Limited Liability Company under the laws of the State of Nebraska, as follows:

1. The name of the limited liability company is: Saunders Building Company, L.L.C.
2. The address of the initial designated office is: 312 West 1st St., Minden, NE 68959
3. The Company's registered agent in Nebraska is Brandon Saunders, and the registered office of said registered agent is 312 West 1st St., Minden, NE 68959. The mailing address of registered agent for service of process and official notices is 312 West 1st St., Minden, NE 68959
4. The general nature of the business to be transacted is any lawful business activity under the laws of the State of Nebraska.
5. The time of commencement of the limited liability company is on or about September 8, 2026.
6. The affairs of the limited liability company are to be conducted by Brandon Saunders and Brodrick Saunders, the Owners.

Shane M. Cochran #24665
COCHRAN LAW, P.C., L.L.O.
P.O. Box 283
Kearney, NE 68848
(308) 224-4110
shane@cochranlawpc.com

Oct 29, 2026
Nov 5, 2026
Nov 12, 2026
(50) znez

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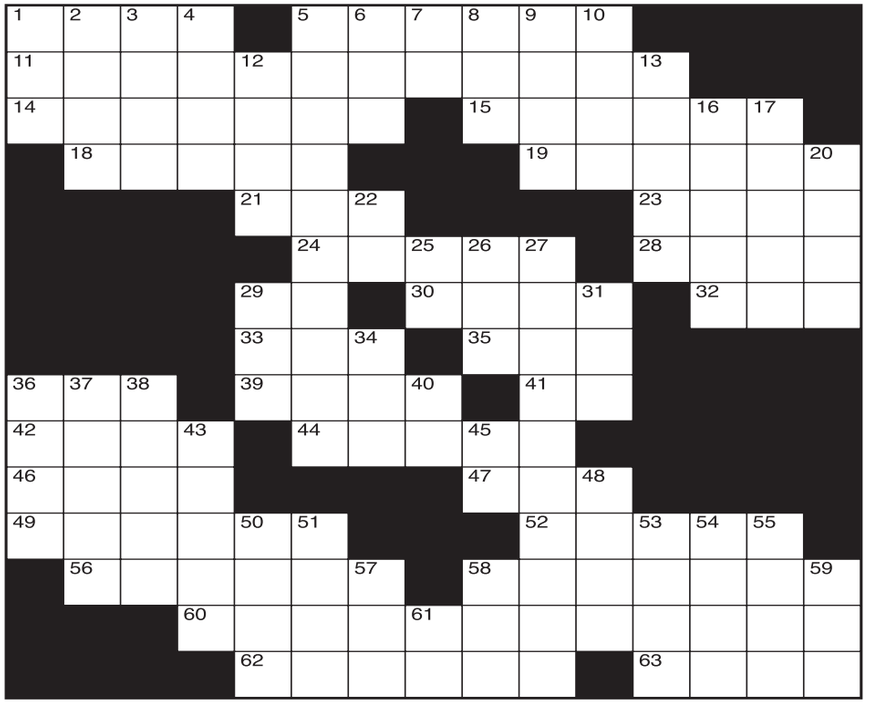
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LOOKING FOR A CAREER, NOT JUST A JOB? First Bank and Trust Company is seeking a friendly, customer-focused Universal Banker to serve our community and help customers achieve their financial goals. Full-Time • Excellent Benefits • Competitive Pay. Apply on Indeed, stop by the bank for an application, or send your resume to P.O. Box 147, Minden, NE 68959.

INTEGRATED WATER PROGRAM SPECIALIST: Tri-Basin and Central Platte NRDs seek an Integrated Water Program Specialist. This position will work one-on-one with producers. Go to tribasinnrd.org or CPNRD.org for full job description and requirements. This is a full-time benefited position. Applicants should send a cover letter, resume and three professional references to tribasin@tribasinnrd.org by November 12th.

BUY IT SELL IT FIND IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. El Dorado High School
5. A sculpture representing a human or animal
11. A type of return
14. Tie the knot again
15. Washington city
18. Hairlike structures
19. Mark used over a vowel
21. Explosive
23. Popular 500 car race
24. Pile up
28. Currency
29. Commercial
30. A minute amount (Scottish)
32. Mass of fish eggs
33. Baseball stat
35. Licensed accountant
36. Japanese classical theater
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood group
42. Assist in wrongdoing
44. Language of Cameroon
46. Grayish-white
47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
49. Microorganism
52. Strong social customs
56. Calm and dependable
58. Congressman
60. Force
62. As a result of this document
63. A main branch of Islam

CLUES DOWN

1. Make a mistake
2. American DJ Rick
3. Fictional Asimov planet
4. Coughed out
5. Singing to one's lover
6. Scotland's longest river
7. One of the six noble gases
8. Body art
9. Two-toed sloth
10. Electronic counter-countermeasures
12. A foolish person
13. Of the wind
16. Mansion
17. Sound
20. English river
22. Business symbol
25. Exclamation of surprise
26. Pouch
27. Individually
29. Satisfaction
31. The bill in a restaurant
34. Japanese delicacy
36. Port in southern Japan
37. Double-reed instruments
38. Center
40. "The Mount Rushmore State"
43. Soldier
45. Indicates position
48. Beauty treatment: __-pedi
50. Nonsense (slang)
51. Republic of Ireland
53. Ballplayers' tools
54. American state
55. Clusters of a fern frond
57. Patriotic women's group
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep
61. Of I

SUDOKU

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Level: Intermediate

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, be especially patient and affectionate towards your loved ones this week. Someone close to you will need your help, and only you can provide it .

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, after many months spent figuring out what you want in life, this week you may finally be able to put a plan of action in motion. Enjoy the ride.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, clear your mind of cobwebs and any other errant thoughts. Right now you need to relax and unwind for a bit. You will feel better after a few days of recharging.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, you have been practical and sensible with your finances. However, this week you may be lured by a flashy purchase. If it is in the budget, then let loose.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, sometimes it is important to go with the flow and learn from others with an easygoing approach. Take time to exhale and unwind.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you may feel refreshed and energized this week . This may pave the way to some new ideas, including a change of scenery or even a new job.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, an unexpected opportunity is presented to you in the days ahead. Give it some thought, but do not hesitate to take advantage of this exciting situation.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, a public gathering in the near future may attract several people, including some you are interested in meeting. Take the first step and introduce yourself.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
It is alright to have some doubts when you are trying something new, Sagittarius. Just don't let those doubts get the better of you and derail your plans.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
An important decision is looming on the horizon, Capricorn. Take some time to look inward as you try to choose the best path to take.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, think about a purchase before you barrel through full steam ahead. Check your accounts and make sure your finances are in check before you buy anything new.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Others appreciate your authenticity, Pisces. Stay true to yourself and you will have no regrets. Encourage others to do the same when they seek your input.

P	A	C	A	■	■	A	S	K	I	N	G	■	■	■
L	O	A	N	■	■	G	I	D	D	I	N	E	S	S
A	R	M	Y	■	■	E	D	■	■	D	U	B	A	I
S	T	E	W	A	R	D	E	S	S	E	S	■	M	A
M	A	R	A	C	A	■	M	A	C	S	■	D	I	M
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10.22.26 SOLUTIONS

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



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Pheasants Forever Youth Mentor Hunt





The Kearney County Chapter of Pheasants Forever held its annual Youth Mentor Hunt on Oct. 24. Volunteers from the chapter and community helped the youth learn about various aspects of hunting after completing the hunters safety course. The students got to shoot trap, hunt behind a dog, learn gun safety such as crossing the fence and even cleaning the pheasant they shot. This year, more than 40 youths participated in the event led by nearly 28 mentors and many additional volunteers.(Courier photos by Cindy Ramsey)

