The Minden COURIER

VOL 137 ISSUE 19 10.22.2026 40 PG $2

Bringing Community Together at 52 Taphouse

CINDY RAMSEY

52 Taphouse is more than a store serving craft beer, seltzers, and wine, it's a space for community and connections. Less than one year after its grand opening, the taphouse is bringing people together for its biggest event yet during Oktoberfest on October 24.

As the name would imply, 52 Taphouse serves a wide range of craft beer, seltzers, and wine, but one important note is that each of these spirits are made in Nebraska. The wine served at 52 Taphouse comes from Mac's Creek Winery & Brewery in Lexington. Most of their craft beer comes from their own brewery, Upper Room Brewery in Kearney, but they also source from other Nebraska brewers. Staying as local as possible, they have worked with Lost Way Brewery in Holdrege, First Street Brewing in Hastings, and Thunderhead Brewing in Kearney and Axtell. Whether you purchase a pint, a growler for repeat customers, or some canned beverages to take home, you're sure to enjoy what 52 Taphouse has to offer.

"When we did our survey, one of the big things Minden and the surrounding communities wanted was a place for live music and to bring in food trucks, so we've been doing that consistently," Kirk Ramsey said. "We have a little stage at the front of our space that is perfect for our live acoustic music."

The taphouse serves Miss Cindi's homemade pizza and pretzels and often has a food truck outside its doors. Every Wednesday is a pizza and beer combo for $15. Patrons are also welcome to bring in their own food to enjoy.

"This came to fruition because we wanted it to be built on connection and conversation as a modern, welcoming space to enjoy quality drinks made right here in Nebraska. We want our community and the surrounding communities to know this is a community space," Ramsey said.

52 Taphouse is a family friendly establishment with a corner of games for kids. The establishment has played

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52 Taphouse on the southwest corner of the square in Minden is bringing the community together one pour at a time. Besides serving locally made craft beer, seltzers, and wine, the shop welcomes patrons to use their space for gatherings of all kinds. 52 Taphouse and HQ will host an Oktoberfest celebration on October 24. (Courtesy photo)

Weather Forecast

Oct. 23:	76/58
Oct. 24:	69/49
Oct. 25:	56/50
Oct. 26:	62/50
Oct. 27:	64/50
Oct. 28:	65/50
Oct. 29:	63/46



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News Briefs

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.

Oktoberfest at 52 Taphouse

52 Taphouse invites everyone to celebrate Oktoberfest on the square in Minden on October 24. Beginning at 12pm, the event will include food trucks, customizable shirts, live music, trivia, cornhole, stein holding competition, and Star Wars cameos.

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.

Benefit Fundraiser

In May 2026, Jeff Ironshell was diagnosed with stage IV colorectal cancer that has metastasized. Since his diagnosis, he has spent much of the last few months in and out of the hospital while undergoing treatment. A benefit fundraiser has been organized to benefit Jeff and his family as they continue this fight.

The benefit will be held on October 24 at JB's Sports Bar & Grill, 302 East Avenue in Holdrege beginning at 5pm. The event will include a pulled pork meal, a silent auction until 8pm, and DJ/music provided by RockOut Karaoke at 9pm. Donations are welcome. A venmo account has been set up for those who would like to donate, but are unable to attend.



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. Set up starts at 5:30pm. Contact Dwane at 308.293.2584 for more information

Subscribe Today!

Weather Recap

Date	High	Low	Precip.
10/10/26	86	64	-
10/11/26	88	66	-
10/12/26	88	60	-
10/13/26	59	49	-
10/14/26	58	45	.15
10/15/26	56	47	.35
10/16/26	53	42	-

Total Week Precip..... .....0.50

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

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

Minden Courier is published weekly by BC Publishing, LLC, 520 N. Minden Ave., Minden, NE 68959.
Periodicals Postage paid at Minden, Nebraska, 68959 and at additional mailing offices.
USPS Publication Number 350640. Copyright BC Publishing © 2026
Postmaster: Send change of address to: Minden Courier - PO Box 379 - Minden, NE 68959

from PAGE 1 - 52 Taphouse

host to several class reunions, a 1st birthday, a 70th birthday, a wedding proposal, a meeting space for several different organizations, and is already booked for graduation. If a cold beverage and good conversation aren't enough to draw in patrons, 52 Taphouse also holds trivia and bingo events each month for a little more fun.

"I love the fact that people are not on their phones. They're talking, they're laughing, they're just having a great time, and that's what we really wanted to see for Minden-a space for people to come together and just enjoy each other's company," Ramsey said.

This was especially true for Whippet and Husker watch parties this fall. 52 Taphouse encouraged people to come down and enjoy the games with $5 specials on beer and seltzers. For home games, the taphouse came to be known as the 5th quarter location staying open for fans to stop in after the competitions.

"We want it to be a place for people to come and enjoy," Ramsey said.

The taphouse is making its own connections with the Minden High School Life Skills program. A short visit with the teacher in charge of the program resulted in weekly visits from the students to help clean the shop and build skills.

"It's been so fun to see them. They do tables and windows and mirrors and floors," Ramsey said. "We're going to possibly do a Circle of Friends luncheon and also maybe meet with some other area Life Skills students. It's a work in progress."

Whippet fans can show their spirit by shopping at the Whippet Shop in 52 Taphouse, a partnership between the taphouse and Double Play Apparel. Partnerships with other area businesses have allowed the taphouse to build a patio expanding the space to be enjoyed by patrons. Banners are displayed on the patio recognizing Double Play, Blades for Men, Benson Tree Service, Mission Plumbing, eXp Realty, McBride Realty, Lieske, Lieske, & Ensz, Holdrege Dental, Shane Schmidt Construction, Jones Group, Rhynalds Auction, and Kearney County Health Services for their generous donations to the project.

"Without their support, the patio wouldn't have come to fruition so we really appreciate their donations," Ramsey said.

The patio will be especially beneficial on October 24 when 52 Taphouse partners with HQ to host Oktoberfest from noon to 11:00 p.m. During the event there will be food trucks, live music, Just Teesing customizable shirts, trivia, cornhole, stein holding competitions, face painting, and Star Wars cameos.

The Oktoberfest celebration is a great reason to stop by 52 Taphouse to see what makes it a community hotspot, but there are plenty of opportunities to stop in. The taphouse is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Fridays 3:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m., and Saturdays 1:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. If there are any activities in town, be sure to stop by afterwards for a drink and a chat as the shop tends to stay open late if patrons are there. Follow 52 Taphouse on Facebook for more details about the upcoming Oktoberfest event, specials, and future activities to watch for at this community area.

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.

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School Board Approves Fund Transfer for Bus Purchase

CINDY RAMSEY

The October 12 meeting of the Minden Public Schools Board of Education was another short one. The board got to business quickly approving the consent agenda including September 14 minutes, financial reports, and expenditures and claims for payment.

During administrator reports, East Elementary Principal Sandy Pohl gave a quick shout out to the 'big kids' who have been spending so much time at East Elementary helping the younger students with a variety of activities.

Superintendent Jim Widdifield gave a presentation on the Computer Science & Technology Education at MPS. All K-3 students receive 10 hours of instruction per year at each grade level. Middle school instruction includes Media Skills courses for 4th and 5th grade students, Keyboarding Applications for 6th grade students, Digital Foundations for 7th grade students, and Media Literacy for 8th grade students. High school students have several opportunities available, but all sophomore students must complete an introductory computer science course. This information will be submitted to the Nebraska Department of Education next month.

A resolution for the 2027-28 capacity limits for Policy 5006 was approved. This is done every year in October. The capacity limit numbers are based on the usable square footage and number of available instructors.

The final agenda item was consideration of reallocating depreciation funds for the purchase of a new coach bus. The purchase of a new bus was approved at the September 14 meeting. A portion of the depreciation funds were denoted for transportation costs. The board approved the reallocation of $60,000 within the depreciation fund for the bus purchase.

The next regular meeting of the school board will be on November 9 at 7pm in the MHS Media Center.

172 Husker Undergrads Receive Stipends for Research Projects

PRESS RELEASE

LINCOLN, NE (10/14/2026)-- The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has awarded stipends to 172 Husker undergraduates to participate in research with a faculty mentor during the fall and spring semesters.

Nebraska's Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experience Program supports undergraduates to work with faculty mentors in research or creative activities. Students receive stipends of $3,600 to engage in intensive research or creative activity for 10 hours per week. The students' projects span academic disciplines including engineering, chemistry, modern languages and literatures, psychology, art and art history, architecture, special education, and fisheries and wildlife.

UCARE participants will present posters on their research and creative activities during Student Research Days, April 6, at the Nebraska Union.

Applications for the 2027-28 UCARE program open Nov. 4, with a deadline of Feb. 3. For more information and to apply, visit https://go.unl.edu/2rpt.

Following is a list of area students by hometown who received 2026-27 UCARE awards, with their year in school, academic major(s), faculty mentor and mentor's department or unit.

Axtell: Tyler Hanson, junior, biochemistry, mentor Oleh Khalimonchuk, Department of Biochemistry, and Nebraska Center for Redox Biology

For the full list of fall and spring UCARE recipients, visit https://go.unl.edu/3409.

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.

FFA Students of the Month



Wilcox-Hildreth

Name: Kaleb Johnson **Grade:** Senior
Supervised Agricultural Experience: I have a Placement Supervised Agricultural Experience where I work for Riddle Co. as a hired farmhand.
Involvement in the chapter: I recently competed at the Southwest Land Judging Contest. I am looking forward to this year's Fall and Spring District Career Development Event Contests.



Axtell

Name: Samantha Vinchattle **Grade:** Sophomore
SAE: Samantha works at Thunderhead for her Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) where her main responsibility is maintaining a clean facility.
Involvement in the chapter: Samantha joined FFA as a seventh grader and has continued to be a member as a high school student. So far this year she has attended Husker Harvest Days and District Land Judging. Samantha is a very active member and participates in chapter meetings and activities. She plans to continue her involvement throughout the year in fundraising, contests, and other activities.
Recent successes: Samantha competed in District Land Judging at the start of October. She earned a blue ribbon. She is looking forward to competing in more contests this year.



Minden

Name: Levi Burchell **Grade:** Sophomore
SAE: Tractor Restoration
Involvement in the chapter: Levi is always willing to help and participate in FFA events and activities. This year, Levi organized an FFA float for the Minden Homecoming Parade, which he pulled with a tractor he restored. He has also helped with Farm Safety Day. At the beginning of October, Levi competed in Land Judging.
Recent successes: At the Area Land Judging Contest, Levi finished 84th.

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2026 Minden Bandfest Results

PRESS RELEASE

Minden welcomed approximately 1325 students representing 39 school marching bands during the 36th Annual Minden Bandfest on October 17th sponsored by the Minden Chamber of Commerce. For many bands, the parade is their final marching event of the year, while for the field bands, it is a chance for them to get some final feedback before going onto the NSBA state competitions on October 24th.

Judging the event were Dave Klein of Kearney, Paul Ramp of Friend, and Janet Palmer of Holdrege. Bands were scored in three areas: Music (40 points possible), Marching (30 points possible), and General Effect (30 points possible). Bands earning 80 points or more were awarded Superior ratings., 60 to 79 points scored an Excellent rating, and 40 to 59 points earned a Good rating. All bands receiving a Superior received a trophy.

Results from the 2026 Minden Bandfest competition are as follows:

JUNIOR HIGH — Superior: Wilcox-Hildreth, Arapahoe-Holbrook, Blue Hill, Faith Christian, Palmer, Holdrege, and Minden.

CLASS D — Superior: Elm Creek, Kenesaw, Chambers, Litchfield, Eustis-Farnam, Medicine Valley, Wilcox-Hildreth, Arapahoe-Holbrook, Axtell, SEM, Loup City, and Bertrand. Excellent: Pleasanton.

CLASS C — Superior: St. Paul, Amherst, Sandy Creek, North Platte Catholic, Centura, Hastings St. Cecilia, Ord, Gibbon, Alma, and Wood River. Excellent: Superior.

CLASS B — Superior: Broken Bow, Kearney Catholic, Holdrege, Adams Central, and Minden.

CLASS A — Superior: McCook and York.

FIELD COMPETITION — Superior: Hershey, Kearney Catholic, Holdrege, and McCook. Excellent: Superior, Adams Central, Minden, and York.



WILCOX-HILDRETH MIDDLE SCHOOL



MINDEN HIGH SCHOOL

Check out page 40 for more photos from Minden Bandfest 2026. Visit www.themindencourier.com for even more photos from the event.









Physical Symptoms of Breast Cancer

PRESS RELEASE

The World Cancer Research Fund International reports that breast cancer is the second most common cancer across the globe, and the number one cancer in women. Nearly three million new cases of breast cancer in women are diagnosed across the globe each year.

Breast cancer poses a notable threat to women's health, but research and resulting advancements in treatment have made the disease more treatable than ever. Women also can play a part in ensuring better outcomes in relation to breast cancer by educating themselves about the disease, including its warning signs. The MD Anderson Cancer Center notes that most changes to the breast are a byproduct of hormonal cycles or conditions that are not as formidable as breast cancer. So women should not jump to any conclusions when spotting such changes. However, the MDACC recommends women visit their physicians if they notice any of the following signs and symptoms of breast cancer.

· Lump: The MDACC notes that a lump in the breast or armpit is the most common symptom of breast cancer. Echoing assertions made by the MDACC, the American Cancer Society notes that most breast lumps are not cancerous. The ACS indicates a lump that is a painless, hard mass with irregular edges is more likely to be cancer, though cancerous lumps also can be soft, round, tender, or even painful. The lack of uniformity regarding cancerous lumps is one reason why it pays for women to be extra cautious and immediately report any abnormalities in the shape and feel of their breasts to their physicians.

· Swelling: The ACS notes that some women with breast cancer will experience swelling of all or part of a breast even if they do not feel a lump.

· Dimpling: The MDACC reports that women with breast cancer may notice dimpling or puckering on the breast. According to the ACS, the dimpling can sometimes make the breast look like an orange peel.

· Nipple retraction: The National Cancer Institute notes that nipple retraction occurs when a nipple turns inward into the breast or lies flat against the breast. Though nipple retraction can be a sign of breast cancer, the NCI notes that's not necessarily the case for all women. Some women experience nipple retraction due to aging, breastfeeding, injury, infection, surgery, or certain conditions of the breast.

· Changes to the skin around the breast: The ACS notes some women with breast cancer experience redness on the skin around the breast or on the nipple. Additional changes may include dry, flaking or thickened skin around the breast and nipple.

· Discharge from the nipple: The Mayo Clinic notes that it's normal to experience discharge from the nipple while pregnant and during breastfeeding. However, fluid coming out the nipple when a woman is not pregnant or breastfeeding could be a symptom of breast cancer.

· Additional symptoms: The MDACC notes scaliness on the nipple that sometimes extends to the areola is another warning sign of breast cancer. The ACS also reports that swollen lymph nodes under the arm or near the collar bone can indicate that breast cancer has spread even before the original tumor in the breast has been felt.

Breast cancer is a formidable yet treatable disease. Women who recognize any signs and symptoms associated with breast cancer are urged to contact their physicians immediately.











Dena Beck Receives Above and Beyond Award

PRESS RELEASE

KEARNEY - Dena Beck of Minden was honored by the Buffalo County Community Partners Board of Directors with the Above and Beyond Award in recognition of her exceptional leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to strengthening Nebraska communities through innovative child care and community development initiatives.

Dena R. Beck, M.S., is currently the Regional Navigator for the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce, leading regional economic development initiatives across Nebraska. Current Role at the Nebraska Chamber. Since July 2024, Dena Beck has served as a Regional Department of Economic Development and Governor Pillen's office. As part of the 6 Regions, One Nebraska initiative, she coordinates collaborative efforts among six regional teams, acting as the primary liaison between community members and resource providers. Her work focuses on fostering economic growth, supporting recovery from COVID-19, and leveraging each region's unique assets to strengthen statewide communities.

As a passionate advocate for Nebraska families and communities, Dena has played a pivotal role in advancing the Child Care Champion project, helping communities understand and embrace innovative solutions to the state's child care challenges. Her ability to communicate the project's impact with passion and purpose has generated referrals, sparked interest among stakeholders, and inspired engagement from communities across Nebraska and beyond.

Dena has tirelessly traveled throughout Nebraska and outside the state to share the Child Care Champion model's success. Through presentations, community meetings, and one-on-one conversations, she has educated others about the importance of community-driven strategies as a powerful response to Nebraska's childcare crisis. Her enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment have helped take a strategy developed in Buffalo County and bringing it to life across an entire region, creating opportunities for more communities to engage, collaborate, and benefit from the work.

"Energizing and engaging were the words I would use for Dena, from the first time I had met her. She had heard about our work in creating a champion childcare model to increase the number of childcare providers and she wanted to give the same opportunities to more rural communities in Nebraska. Every challenge we faced along the way, Dena broke down those barriers with new ideas or new partners. She is very passionate about folks in central Nebraska and strives to make our communities better. Thank you for introducing us to new partners, new funders, new ideas and recognizing our work is meaningful to other rural communities." Says Community Partners CEO Denise Zwiener.

Those who work alongside Dena consistently highlight her extraordinary ability to bring people together around a shared vision. Alexandra Dillon, Central Region Early Learning Connection Grant Manager at ESU 10, noted Dena's remarkable influence on the Child Care Champion initiative.

"Dena's ability to communicate with passion and purpose about the Child Care Champion project kept referrals coming and ignited interest among community stakeholders across Nebraska. She tirelessly traveled throughout the state and outside of the state to share the model's success, and with every presentation and conversation, she continued to educate others about the importance of this strategy as a powerful response to Nebraska's childcare crisis. Dena's enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment have helped turn an innovative idea into a strategy that communities can see, understand, and embrace."

Dena's impact extends beyond projects and programs. Her genuine care for people and commitment to helping others succeed have made her a trusted connector and leader throughout the state.

The Above and Beyond Award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication to improving communities through service, collaboration, leadership, and innovation. Through her tireless advocacy, relationship-building, and commitment to helping communities thrive, Dena Beck exemplifies the spirit of this award and the values it represents.

Buffalo County Community Partners is a non-profit organization that identifies concerns impacting the well being of area residents, addresses concerns by collecting and evaluating data, and facilitates conversations among experts and impacted parties. They are uniquely positioned to do this work because they invest time to build connections and increase access to the necessary resources and experiences to achieve solutions. Find more at www.bcchp.org or contact us at (308)865-2284 or info@bcchp.org.

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Do You Remember

Ninety Years Ago — 1936

Theodore Binderup, of Newark, is becoming famous in two states, Nebraska and Kansas, as a breeder of Belted Hampshire hogs. As a result of exhibiting in county, district and state fairs in these states, he has won enough ribbons to fill a shoe box.

Chairman A.I. Petersen, of the American Legion Armistice Day committee was delighted with the splendid cooperation he received from the businessmen of Minden and the schools of the county in making preparation for a celebration and parade that will eclipse any held since that spontaneous celebration on Nov. 11, 1918. Forty-four firms have already offered their enthusiastic support of the parade, which will open the day's exercises.

Eighty Years Ago — 1946

The Girl Scouts Troop II met Oct. 21 at City Hall with 14 members present. Marlene Anderson served refreshments; later, the troop played games and sang two songs.

S. Sgt. Ethan Hofgaard, son of Rev. and Mrs. A. Hofgaard, completed training and graduated from the Air Training Command School. While attending this Air Force school, he received instruction in the "Flux Gate Compass" and various technical operations vital to the maintenance of the country's aircraft.

Seventy Years Ago — 1956

Gene Johnson and Bob Randall of the Minden Fire Department attended the yearly Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's Association Convention held in Fremont this week.

Local markets for the week saw wheat at $2.05; yellow corn, $1.25; soy beans, $2.00; milo, $2.00; eggs, 22¢; and cream, no. 1, at 61¢.

"The Fastest Gun Alive," starring Glenn Ford, Jeanne Crain and Broderick Crawford, was playing at the Minden Theatre this week. Next week's show was to be "Safari," featuring Victor Mature and Janet Leigh.

Sixty Years Ago — 1966

Ground was broken at Norman for the new Faith Lutheran Church to be located on the lot just north of the old church site, the Falun Lutheran, which burned to the ground in June after being struck by lightning.

The Axtell Wildcats defeated Hildreth at AHS's homecoming football game. At half-time, Nancy Oline was crowned Homecoming Queen and a dance was held at the school gym after the game.

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Fifty Years Ago — 1976

As a part of the celebration of National Hot Lunch Week, the students of Wilcox Schools invited their grandparents for a lunch date last week. Music during the lunch period was provided by Mr. Heiderman, who played his accordion. He was accompanied by his wife on piano.

Airman Mark T. Cavanaugh, son of Mrs. Delores M. Cavanaugh of Minden, has graduated with honors at Sheppard AFB, Texas, from the U.S. Air Force technical training course for air craft loadmasters.

Forty Years Ago — 1986

Hildreth maintained its number one ranking in Class D-2 volleyball with a 15-8, 15-0 win over the Campbell Cardinals. Leading in serves was Amy Hinrichs with 14 of 17 with six aces and 14 points. Shelly Hogeland was seven of seven with five aces and five points.

Students at Norman Schools participated in an egg drop. Norman school board president Harold Johnson had the honors of dropping all of the packages to the ground from the Norman Elevator. The container that held the last egg to break was a coffee can which was packed with straw and cotton balls.

Thirty Years Ago — 1996

The Minden High School Marching Band was one of 20 to take to the streets of Minden during the annual Bandfest. The parade and field competition drew large crowds. The Minden High School Band, under the direction of Phil Fahrlander, received superior ratings for its effort on the street and on the field.

Arlen Osterbuhr of Minden was the newly elected president of the University of Nebraska at Kearney Alumni Association. Osterbuhr, Class of 1984, was elected at the association's annual board of directors meeting, which was held in conjunction with UNK homecoming activities. Bob Beran of Minden, also Class of 1984, is a new board member.

Twenty Years Ago — 2006

Minden Junior Alvaro Sanabria captured the Class C boys individual champion title at the 2006 Nebraska State Cross Country Championships. He was only the second Whippet in school history to win a state cross country championship.

The family of the late Bob Jacobsen of Minden presented a check to the Minden Park and Recreation board during their regular meeting. The check for $6,000 was to be used for a new piece of playground equipment called a slidetopia for Chautauqua Park.

Darla Haight of Minden was presented the Nebraska Para Educator of the Year award. The contest was put on by Every Child Prepared for Tomorrow to recognize the role played by para educators in the classroom.



2016 — Cole Schwenka hauls his pumpkin back to the bus during an East Elementary visit to Nielsen Pumpkin Patch.

Ten Years Ago — 2016

A fourth place team finish for the Minden boys at the State Cross Country Meet was lower than what they aspired to achieve but for Aidan Wheelock his individual state championship put an emphatic close to an outstanding season. All-in-all it was a good year for the Whippet boys as they won one invitational, were second in two others and took first in the SWC and district meets.

Highlighting nearly a decade of working together in Tanzania, The Rev. Dr. Fredrick Shoo, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), visited Mosaic in Axtell to sign a formal memorandum of understanding with Mosaic and plant a commemorative tree to mark the occasion.

Five candidates ran for three seats on the Minden Public Schools Board of Education: Patrick Burchell, Kenneth Carpenter, Craig Grams, Richard Jacobsen, and Katherine Sinsel. On the Minden City Council ticket, incumbent Teresa Sumstine faced off with Kevin Krull for North Ward while South Ward incumbent Lathan Thompson faced off with Roger Jones.

Calendars and Menus

Minden Public Schools

MENUS:

Friday, Oct. 23: BREAKFAST: Oatmeal bar, boiled egg; LUNCH: Bosco stick, marinara sauce

Monday, Oct. 26: BREAKFAST: Mini waffles, string cheese; LUNCH: Smothered burritos

Tuesday, Oct. 27: BREAKFAST: Cinnamon roll, boiled egg; LUNCH: Chicken pasta, breadstick

Wednesday, Oct. 28: BREAKFAST: Pancakes, sausage; LUNCH: Sloppy Joes, chips

Thursday, Oct. 29: BREAKFAST: Breakfast sandwich; LUNCH: Chicken, potatoes, gravy & corn bowl

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

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Oct. 23: FFA Chapter Fundraiser; National FFA Convention; V Girls XC State Championships @ Kearney Country Club, 12:30 p.m.; V Boys XC State Championships @ Kearney Country Club, 1:30 p.m.; V FB vs. Lexington, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 24: FFA Chapter Fundraiser; National FFA Convention; State Bandmasters Marching Competition

Sunday, Oct. 25: FFA Chapter Fundraiser

Monday, Oct. 26: FFA Chapter Fundraiser; V VB State NSAA Subdistricts

Tuesday, Oct. 27: FFA Chapter Fundraiser; V VB State NSAA Subdistricts

Wednesday, Oct. 28: FFA Chapter Fundraiser; V VB State NSAA Subdistricts

Thursday, Oct. 29: FFA Chapter Fundraiser

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

Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools

MENUS:

Friday, Oct. 23: BREAKFAST: Banana bread; LUNCH: Beef pizza

Monday, Oct. 26: BREAKFAST: Muffins; LUNCH: Popcorn chicken

Tuesday, Oct. 27: BREAKFAST: Breakfast sandwich; LUNCH: Beef enchiladas

Wednesday, Oct. 28: BREAKFAST: Breakfast nuggets; LUNCH: Hot ham & cheese

Thursday, Oct. 29: BREAKFAST: Ham bar; LUNCH: Chicken fried steak

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

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Oct. 23: PK-6 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.; NSAA Class D XC State Championships @ Kearney Country Club, 12 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 26: NSAA V VB Subdistricts; World Language Concert @ Holdrege, 9:20 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 27: NSAA V VB Subdistricts; Student Council meeting, 11:40 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 28: FBLA Leadership Retreat, 8 a.m.; Elementary QB @ Holdrege, 1 p.m.; Student Supports Team meeting, 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 29: 7-12 Team meeting, 7:45 a.m.

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

Axtell Community School

MENUS:

Friday, Oct. 23: BREAKFAST: Pancakes; LUNCH: BBQ rib sandwich OR Oriental chicken salad

Monday, Oct. 26: BREAKFAST: Waffles; LUNCH: Ham & cheese melt OR Chef salad

Tuesday, Oct. 27: BREAKFAST: Cereal, string cheese; LUNCH: Chicken tortilla soup OR Ham sub

Wednesday, Oct. 28: BREAKFAST: Oatmeal bake, yogurt; LUNCH: Chicken & waffles OR Crispy chicken salad

Thursday, Oct. 29: BREAKFAST: Hot chocolate bread, yogurt; LUNCH: Cook's Choice

Friday, Oct. 30 : BREAKFAST: Pancakes; LUNCH: Halloween Dinner: Goooolash with broomstick, alien eyes, watching you brownies

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, Oct. 23: National FFA; State XC Championships @ Kearney Country Club; FB vs. Cambridge, 2 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 24: One Act dress rehearsal, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, Oct. 26: VB @ Districts

Tuesday, Oct. 27: VB @ Districts

Wednesday, Oct. 28: One Act school performance, 8:15 a.m.; Elementary QB @ Holdrege, 1 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 29: One Act community performance, 7 p.m.

Community Services

Dinner Menus

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

Monday, Oct. 26: Chicken fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, dinner roll, fruit & dessert

Tuesday, Oct. 27: French onion steak, hash brown casserole, green beans, muffin & fruit

Wednesday, Oct. 28: Philly steak & cheese sandwich, French fries, pea salad, fruit & dessert

Thursday, Oct. 29: Pork roast, mashed potatoes, gravy, beets, dinner roll & fruit

Friday, Oct. 30: Halloween Dinner

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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Church Directory

Axtell

Bethany Lutheran
903 25 Road
BethanyAxtell.org
(308) 743-2597
Marcia Dorn, Pastor
Sunday, Oct. 25: Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship, 10 a.m.; Worship with Holy Communion, 10:45 a.m.
Worship will be recorded and posted on our website at BethanyAxtell.org.

First Presbyterian
406 A Avenue
Pastor Doodle Harris
Sunday, Oct. 25: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.

Keene Evangelical Free
662 F Road
308-743-2611
Matthew Snell, Pastor
Sunday, Oct. 25: Worship service, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 28: Evening Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran, LCMC
104 E. Fifth St.
Craig Richardson, Pastor
Sunday, Oct. 25: Sunday School/Juice & Donuts, 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion, 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 28: High School Youth Supper, 6 p.m.

Campbell

St. Anne Catholic
Father Adam Sparling, Pastor
Sunday, Oct. 25: Mass, 8 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran
360 So. Stewart
(402) 756-8552
Greg Volsky, Vacancy Pastor
Sunday, Oct. 25: Worship, 9:30 a.m. with Sunday school to follow

United Westminster Presbyterian
Broad and Main Street
Mark A. Diehl, Pastor
Sunday, Oct. 25: Worship, 10 a.m.

Funk

Fridhem Lutheran
401 Lake Street
Daren Popple, Pastor
Sunday, Oct. 25: Sunday School, 9:20 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Communion offered 1st & 3rd Sunday each month

Heartwell

God's Lighthouse, Full Gospel
God's Lighthouse, Full Gospel
Sunday, Oct. 25: Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Family Catholic Mission Parish
287 Jefferson Street
Father Evan Winter
Sunday, Oct. 25: Mass, 8:30 a.m.

Hildreth

Trinity Lutheran
502 Sanders Avenue
Caroline Schenk, Pastor
Sunday, Oct. 25: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Holdrege

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
112 W 11th Ave
402-208-7277
Sunday, Oct. 25: Sacrament meeting, 10 a.m.
To schedule an appointment with the missionaries for either a gospel lesson and/or for any other service call or text (402) 452-1992
Visitors welcome

Macon

Zion Lutheran
Located 1 mile west of Macon, 1503 31st Road, (Franklin)
Marcia Dorn, Pastor
Sunday, Oct. 25: Worship service, 9 a.m.

Minden

Bethany Lutheran
437 E. Fourth St.
Don Hunzeker, Pastor
Julie Schmidt, Parish Ministry Associate
Thursday, Oct. 22: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m.
Saturday, Oct. 24: Walking, 8 a.m.
Sunday, Oct. 25: Contemporary Worship, 8:30 a.m.; Blended-Traditional Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Healing services at both services; FROG Youth at Methodist Church, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 27: Piece Corps Quilting, 1 p.m.; Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 21: Church Club, 5 p.m.; Wednesday Night Supper Club, 6 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 29: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m.
Stay connected with our website, Bethanyminden.org

Evangelical Free
1310 W. First St.
Tom Barnes, Lige Reed, Pastors
Sunday, Oct. 25: 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, Oct. 25: 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, Oct. 25: 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. 24: Mass, 5:30 p.m., confessions before Mass
Sunday, Oct. 25: Mass, 10:30 a.m.; (in Spanish at 12:30 p.m.); confessions before Mass

St. Paul Lutheran
206 N. Colorado
Rev. William Zwick
Friday, Oct. 23: Breakfast & Prayer, 7 a.m.
Sunday, Oct. 25: Church Council Chat, 8:30 a.m.; Sunday School/Adult Bible Study, 9 a.m.; High School Youth, 9:15 a.m.; Worship/Communion, 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 28: JYM Basic, 3:45 p.m.; Communion, 6:30 p.m.; JYM Advanced, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 29: Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 30: Breakfast & Prayer, 7 a.m.

United Methodist
340 N. Newell Ave.
Kayla M. Mangrich, Pastor
Thursday, Oct. 22: Prayer Time, 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 25: Sunday School,9 a.m.; Worship, 10 a.m.; Youth Group, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 29: Prayer Time, 1 :30 p.m.

Westminster United Presbyterian
109 N. Colorado
Gary Smith, Pastor
Sunday, Oct. 25: Worship & Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.; Deacon meeting, 10:45 a.m.; Communion 1st Sunday
Wednesday, Oct. 28: PW Circle, 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship Friends, 1:30 p.m.; Youth Club, 3:45 p.m.; Confirmation Class, 5 p.m.; Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

Wilcox

St. John's Lutheran
102 S. Stockton St.
Kenton Birtell, Pastor
Sunday, Oct. 25: Worship, 9:30 a.m.
Holy Communion every other Sunday

United Methodist
203 S. Sapp St.
Candance Miller, Pastor
Sunday, Oct. 25: Worship, 9 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday every month

Wilcox Community
106 W. Detroit St.
Craig Cedar, Pastor
Affiliated with Evangelical Free Church of America
Sunday, Oct. 25: 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

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." - Deuteronomy 31:6

Obituaries

Scott A. Maxon, 70 - Minden Resident



Scott A. Maxon, 70, of Minden, passed away on Thursday, October 15, 2026 at Bethany Home in Minden. Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Minden with Rev. Donald Hunzeker and PMA Julie Schmidt officiating. The service will be streamed to the church's YouTube page. Private family burial 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 Monday, October 26, 2026 at Craig Funeral Home in Minden. Memorials in Scott's honor are kindly suggested to the family for future designation. Arrangements are under the care of Craig Funeral Home in Minden.

Scott Alan Maxon was born on May 6, 1956 in Minden, Nebraska to Adrian "Snowy" M. and Eleanor V. (Becander) Maxon. He grew up in Minden and attended Minden High School, graduating with the class of 1974. He grew up riding dirt bikes and playing in the junk cars behind Maxon Motors which later became Auto Way Bowl where he spent a lot of time as well. Scott found a passion for playing guitar at a young age, which led to his involvement in multiple bands as well as writing/recording several of his own songs. He was a member of the United Methodist Church.

Following his high school graduation, Scott worked for Morton Buildings. He later obtained his real estate license and became a real estate broker from 1989 to 2016. He also worked in the grocery business for close to 29 years. In August of 1989, Scott was united in marriage to Julie Consbruck and the couple were blessed with two boys, Brandon and Blake.

Scott was later united in marriage to Christine Delaine (Edwards) on July 14, 2002. With this union, he became a stepfather to Devon, Danae, and Dane. He was a devoted husband to Delaine to the very end. Scott and Delaine owned and operated Max N Dee's Spirits for many years.

Scott was a loyal friend to many and truly enjoyed practical jokes. He was a humble entertainer and a fun father. He loved spending time with his children and took pride in protecting the people he loved. He also enjoyed motorcycles.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife Delaine of Minden; son, Brandon and wife, Ege Maxon of Minden; stepchildren, Devon, Danae, and Dane of the St. Louis area; brother, Howard and wife, Colleen Maxon of Minden; sister, Kelly Mills of Minden; niece, Brooke (Mills) and husband, Joe Lundeen; nephews, Paul Maxon, Luke Maxon, and Spencer Mills; as well as a host of extended relatives and close friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Snowy and Elly Maxon; son, Blake Maxon; brother-in-law, Lon Mills; niece, Ann Mills; and nephew, John Maxon.

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

Thomas "Tom" A. Christy, 90 - Gibbon Resident





Thomas "Tom" A. Christy, 90, of Gibbon, passed away October 16, 2026 at the Central Nebraska Veterans Home in Kearney. Memorial services will be held 11:00 am, October 24, 2026 at the Gibbon Baptist Church. Military Rites will follow the service at the church. Visitation with the family will be from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, October 23, 2026 at the Gibbon Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Gibbon Baptist Church or Victoria Creek Cemetery. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services is in charge of local arrangements.

Tom was born on April 17, 1936, in Milburn, Nebraska to Henry and Irene (Daily) Christy. He grew up near Anselmo and graduated from Anselmo High School in 1954.

Tom entered the Army in 1959 and served for six years.

Tom married Barbara Allen on May 26, 1963 in Mullen, Nebraska. Three children, Michael, Kimberly, and Gayle joined this union. They lived in Mullen where he worked as a meat cutter. Tom managed grain elevators in Western, Nebraska then Lincoln until moving to Minden in 1979. He retired in 1993; they moved to Kearney and then Gibbon.

Throughout the years Tom was active in the American Legion, V.F.W., Lions Club, and the Gibbon Baptist Church.

Tom loved spending time with his family and attending his grandchildren's activities, baking, cooking, horses, fishing, and Husker athletics.

Tom is survived by his wife Barbara Christy of Gibbon, children, Michael Christy of Kearney, Kimberly (Kevin) Hynes of Kearney, Gayle (Bart) Keller of Falls City, NE, grandchildren Kaelin Hynes of Omaha, Korbin (Kelsey) Hynes of Kearney, Addison Keller of Falls City, Aliza Keller of Falls City, Jacek Christy of Kearney, great grandson, Atlas Hollens of Falls City, sister, Lynn Dora Mitchell of San Jose, CA, brothers, Marvin (Kathy) Christy of Minden, NV, Richard (June) Christy of Lincoln, NE, special friend, Rusty Rhynalds of Minden, NE, many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Tom was preceded in death by his brothers, Bill, Roger, and Michiel Christy.

Nadine Marie Beck, 89



Nadine Marie Beck of Springfield, Missouri, passed away peacefully on October 12, 2026, at the age of 89. She was born on July 4, 1937, in Hastings, Nebraska, to Harold and Marie Cowan. Nadine attended Hastings College, where she met the love of her life, Harold "Hilly" Beck. The couple married on August 19, 1956, in Omaha, Nebraska, and shared nearly 70 years of marriage before Hilly's passing earlier this year.

Nadine lived a life devoted to her faith and family. She loved her husband, her children, her grandson and his wife with all her heart, and cherished every moment spent with them. Her unwavering faith guided her throughout her life, and her loved ones find peace in knowing she is now reunited with her beloved husband in the presence of her Lord and Savior.

She is survived by her daughters, Christy Boston and Julie Beck; her grandson, Brett Boston, and his wife, Irene; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold "Hilly" Beck; her parents, Harold and Marie Cowan (née Work); her brother, James Cowan; and her sister, Mary Gunthert.

Graveside services will be held in Upland, Nebraska, on Saturday, October 24, at 10 am.

We are so thankful for the tender care our mom received from St. Croix Hospice and The Manor at Elfindale.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7-8

She is now at peace.

Donlyn "Donny" R. Space, 85 - Minden Resident



Donlyn "Donny" R. Space, 85, of Minden, passed away on Friday, October 16, 2026, at Kearney County Health Services. Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 23, 2026, at Minden United Methodist Church with Rev. Kayla Mangrich and PMA Julie Schmidt officiating. The service will be streamed to the church's YouTube page. Private family inurnment with military honors will be held prior to services at the Minden Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Memorials in Donny's honor are kindly suggested to the Minden American Legion or Bethany Home in Minden. Arrangements are under the care of Craig Funeral Home in Minden.

Donlyn "Donny" Ray Space was born on May 12, 1941, in rural Franklin County to Leland V. and Ruby A. (Anderson) Space. He grew up in the Upland area, graduating from Upland High School with the class of 1959. Donny entered the United States Army National Guard where he faithfully served for six years as a sharpshooter.

He was united in marriage to Sandra K. Gilgen on February 17, 1974, in Minden and to this union, one son, Dustin, was born. The family made their home in Minden where he worked in the construction business for many years, building and remodeling several homes in the area. He was also a manager for Minden Lumber and Concrete.

Donny was a member of Minden United Methodist Church, the Elks Club and the Minden American Legion where he was a member for almost 60 years. He enjoyed attending dances with Sandy, bowling, completing Sudoku puzzles, and watching Husker sports and golf. Donny liked taking trips to the farm to help Dusty. He was eternally young at heart and enjoyed fixing things, even after moving to Bethany Home.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Sandra Space of Minden; son, Dusty Space and wife, Karen, of Minden; granddaughters, Brinn Space and special friend, Blake Reeser, and Halle Space and special friend, Brycen Schwenka; brothers, Gayle Space of Imperial and Royce Space and wife, Carolyn, of Sanger, TX; sister-in-law, Tammy Burke and husband, Tim, of Gretna; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, extended relatives and close friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sisters, Roma (Leonard) Anderson and Sherryl (Richard) Swartz; and brother, Darrel Space.

Tributes and memories can be made at www.craigfunerals.com.

Gary D. Ziems, 77 - Minden Resident



Gary D. Ziems, 77, of Minden, passed away on Monday, October 12, 2026, at his home. Memorial services were held at on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Minden with Rev. William Zwick officiating. The service was streamed to the church's YouTube page. Inurnment with military honors was held later that day at the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island. There was no visitation. Memorials in Gary's honor are kindly suggested to the family for future designation. Arrangements are under the care of Craig Funeral Home in Minden.

Gary Dean Ziems was born on March 19, 1949, in McCook to Albert and Esther (Nussbaum) Ziems. He grew up in the McCook and Holdrege area, attending Holdrege High School, where he wrestled and ran cross-country; graduating with the class of 1967. Gary was also proud to have become an Eagle Scout.

He entered the United States Army and was honorably discharged in 1968. He was fortunate to go on a Veterans Honor Flight to Washington D.C. and was presented with a Quilt of Valor. Gary was so proud that he served his country during the Vietnam War.

Gary was united in marriage to Sue Christensen on September 17, 1971, in Holdrege and to this union two children were born: Scott and Kristen. The family made their home in Holdrege, where he was employed at Allmand Bros. Gary started a concrete business and worked for Royal Engineered Composites in Minden for many years.

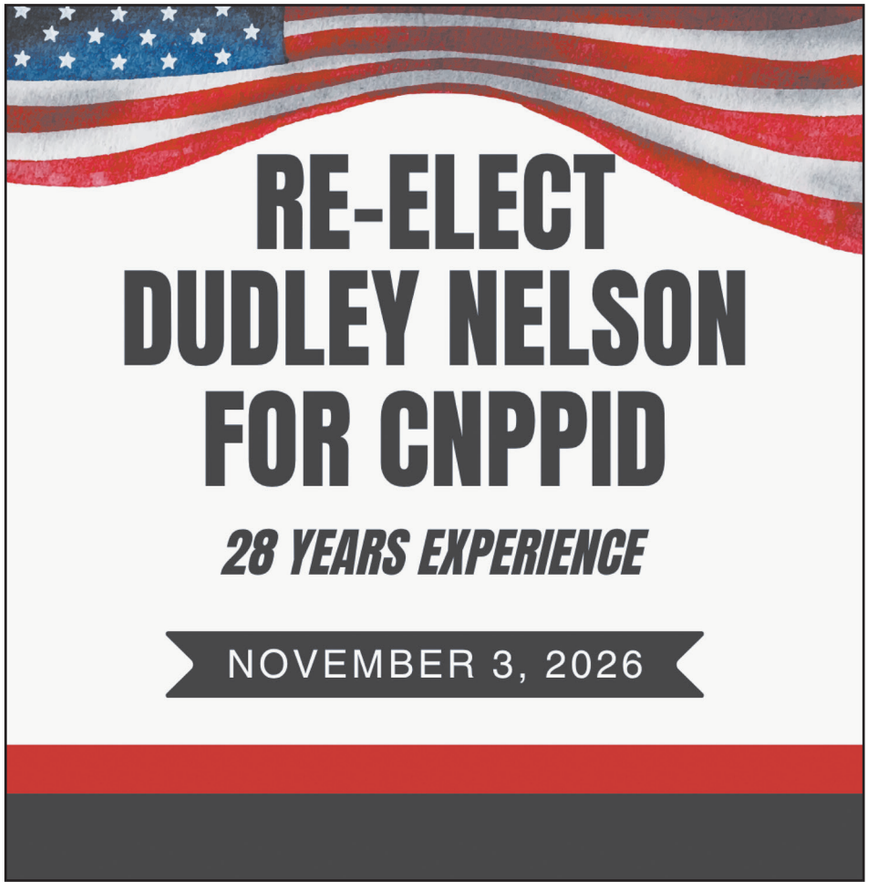
He was a member of Mt Calvary Lutheran Church in Holdrege and most recently, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Minden. Gary served as a church trustee and Sunday school teacher. He served two terms on the Holdrege City Council, and coached wrestling in Loomis for many years. Gary was a loving and involved father; never missing their activities and coaching many of his children's sports including boys and girls' football, wrestling, basketball, baseball and softball. Gary was grateful for receiving the kidney transplant that gave him 23 years of continued life.

Gary and Sue spent 10 winters at their home away from home in south Texas, their happy place. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping; and was an avid Husker sports fan and reader. Gary also built many wooden toys for his grandchildren. Faith, family, and country is how Gary lived his life, and he showed this through his kindness, leadership and steady presence.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Sue of Minden; son, Scott (Laurie) Ziems of Kearney; daughter, Kristen (Ryan) Wilson of Meridian, ID; grandchildren, Asher (Grace) Wilson, Tate (Taylor) Wilson, Perry Wilson, Hunter (Ashleigh) Ziems, Cooper Ziems (Maci Kalsbeck), Brittanie Ziems, Izzy Ziems, Kasey Ziems, Patrick Ziems, Micah Ziems, Finn Ziems, McKenzie Ziems, and Sawyer Ziems; great-grandchildren, Brooks and Jude Wilson, Blake and Rory Wilson, and Hudson Ziems; sisters-in-law, Marlene Ziems and Polly Ziems; brother-in-law, Steve (Char) Christensen; as well as a host of extended relatives and close friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; parents-in-law, Don and Alice Christensen; grandson, Gaven Wilson; sister, Sheryl Porter; and brothers, Steve Ziems and Keith Ziems.

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



Breast cancer

is the most common form of non-skin-related cancer in women and the second-leading cause of women's cancer deaths in both the United States and Canada

Sources: American Cancer Society, Canadian Cancer Society

CORNHUSKER AGRONOMICS, INC
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KEARNEY COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES

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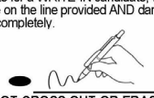
Sample Ballot - General Election - November 3, 2026

Sample Ballot, General Election, November 3, 2026

Kearney County, Nebraska

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER

1. TO VOTE, YOU MUST DARKEN THE OVAL COMPLETELY (●).
2. Use a black ink pen to mark the ballot.
3. To vote for a WRITE-IN candidate, write in the name on the line provided AND darken the oval completely.



4. DO NOT CROSS OUT OR ERASE. If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

UNITED STATES SENATORIAL TICKET

For United States Senator
Six Year Term
Vote for ONE

- Pete Ricketts — Republican
- Mike Marvin — Legal Marijuana NOW
- Robin Richards — Nebraska Working People
- Chuck Conboy — America First
- Dan Osborn — By Petition
- _____

CONGRESSIONAL TICKET

For Representative in Congress
District 3 - Two Year Term
Vote for ONE

- Adrian Smith — Republican
- Becky Kelly Stille — Democratic
- David J. Else — Legal Marijuana NOW
- Macey Budke — Nebraska Working People
- Mark Cohen — By Petition
- _____

STATE TICKET

For Governor and Lt. Governor
Vote for ONE

- Jim Pillen, Governor / Joe Kelly, Lt. Governor — Republican
- Lynne Walz, Governor / Ben Steffen, Lt. Governor — Democratic
- Rick Beard, Governor / Keenya Barnes, Lt. Governor — Legal Marijuana NOW
- Brett Lindstrom, Governor / Michael Picard, Lt. Governor — America First
- _____
  Governor

State of Nebraska

STATE TICKET

For Secretary of State
Vote for ONE

- Scott Petersen — Republican
- Sarah J. Slattery — Democratic
- Paul Rumbaugh — Nebraska Working People
- Bob Krist — America First
- _____

For State Treasurer
Vote for ONE

- Joey Spellerberg — Republican
- Daniel Ebers — Democratic
- _____

For Attorney General
Vote for ONE

- Mike Hilgers — Republican
- Jocelyn Brasher — Democratic
- _____

For Auditor of Public Accounts
Vote for ONE

- Mike Foley — Republican
- John Knight — America First
- _____

COUNTY TICKET

For County Assessor
Vote for ONE

- Jennifer Pittner — Republican
- _____

For County Attorney
Vote for ONE

- Melodie Bellamy — Republican
- _____

For County Clerk
Vote for ONE

- Jenni Lupkes — Republican
- _____

For Clerk of the District Court
Vote for ONE

- Lisa Betty — Republican
- _____

For County Treasurer
Vote for ONE

- Jody A. Payne — Republican
- _____

Publication Ballot

COUNTY TICKET

For County Sheriff
Vote for ONE

- Cody R. Struss — Republican
- _____

For County Commissioner
District 1
Vote for ONE

- Jason Sinsel — Republican
- _____

For County Commissioner
District 3
Vote for ONE

- Robert Swanson — Republican
- _____

For County Commissioner
District 5
Vote for ONE

- Brent Stewart — Republican
- _____

For County Commissioner
District 7
Vote for ONE

- Heath Hofstetter — Republican
- _____

For County Surveyor
Vote for ONE

- _____

For Public Defender
Vote for ONE

- Shon T. Lieske — Republican
- _____

NONPARTISAN TICKET

For Member of the State Board of Education
District 7
Vote for ONE

- Elizabeth Tegtmeier
- _____

Judge of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court - Six Year Term
Shall Judge Dirk V. Block be retained in office?

- Yes
- No

Judge of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court - Six Year Term
Shall Judge Thomas E. Stine be retained in office?

- Yes
- No

Kearney County, Nebraska

NONPARTISAN TICKET

Judge of the District Court
District 10 - Six Year Term
Shall Judge Morgan R. Farquhar be retained in office?

- Yes
- No

Judge of the County Court
District 10 - Six Year Term
Shall Judge Michael P. Burns be retained in office?

- Yes
- No

Central Community College
For Board of Governors - District 2
Vote for ONE

- Rita Skiles
- _____

Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
For Board of Directors - Subdistrict 3
Vote for ONE

- Brian Bergstrom
- _____

Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
For Board of Directors - Subdistrict 5
Vote for ONE

- Joel Grams
- _____

Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
For Board of Directors - Subdistrict 6
Vote for ONE

- Andrew Stade
- Colby J. Emal
- _____

Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
For Board of Directors - At Large
Vote for ONE

- Jeffrey Ryan
- _____

Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District
For Board of Directors
Kearney County Subdivision - Six Year Term
Vote for ONE

- Dudley L. Nelson
- Dale D. Blum
- _____

Southern Public Power District
For Board of Directors
Subdivision 2 - Six Year Term
Vote for ONE

- Joel W. Kuehn
- _____

State of Nebraska

NONPARTISAN TICKET

Educational Service Unit No. 9
District 1
Vote for ONE

- Debra J. Adams
- _____

Educational Service Unit No. 10
District 5
Vote for ONE

- Marilyn Bohn
- _____

Educational Service Unit No. 10
District 7
Vote for ONE

- Ronald H. Tuttle
- _____

Educational Service Unit No. 11
District 5
Vote for ONE

- Bill Gilbreath
- _____

Educational Service Unit No. 11
District 9
Vote for ONE

- Galen Kronhofman
- _____

SCHOOL TICKET

For Axtell School District 50-0501
School Board Member
Vote for up to THREE

- Ty Fickenscher
- Jeff Halvorsen
- Sara Wells
- _____
- _____
- _____

For Minden School District 50-0503
School Board Member
Vote for up to THREE

- James A. Faber
- Rusty Rhynalds
- Lindsay Buechler
- Mary Stewart
- Ann M. Madsen
- _____
- _____
- _____

Publication Ballot

SCHOOL TICKET

For Wilcox-Hildreth School District 50-0001
School Board Member
Vote for up to THREE

- Teresa Carey
- Kert W. Hansen
- _____
- _____
- _____

For Kenesaw School District 01-0003
School Board Member
Vote for up to THREE

- Jessika Benes
- Areial McNeil
- Taylor Jacobitz
- _____
- _____
- _____

For Silver Lake School District 01-0123
School Board Member
Vote for up to FOUR

- Alan Bonifas
- Leon Lutkemeier
- Eric Parr
- Bill Johnson
- Jennifer Himmelberg
- Jason Konen
- Adam Sidlo
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

For Gibbon School District 10-0002
School Board Member
Vote for up to THREE

- Jodi Bendfeldt
- Jon Ewoldt
- _____
- _____
- _____

VOTING PRECINCT LOCATIONS

Lowell/Eaton
Heartwell Community Center
205 Main St, Heartwell

Newark/Blaine/Logan
Fort Kearny Visitors Center
1020 V Road on Hwy 50A

Hayes/Sherman
Minden Senior Center
402 N Colorado Ave, Minden

Liberty/Lincoln/May/ Cosmo/Grant
United Methodist Church
340 N Newell, Minden

Mirage
Axtell Community Hall
419 Main St, Axtell

Oneida
Wilcox Village Hall
107 Sapp St, Wilcox

Minden North
Kearney County Courthouse
424 N Colorado Ave, Minden

Minden South
Minden Fire Hall
325 N Colorado Ave, Minden

Minden Center
United Methodist Church
340 N Newell, Minden

Sample Ballot, General Election, November 3, 2026

Kearney County, Nebraska | State of Nebraska | Publication Ballot

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER

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3. To vote for a WRITE-IN candidate, write in the name on the line provided AND darken the oval completely.



4. DO NOT CROSS OUT OR ERASE. If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

SCHOOL TICKET

For Kearney School District 10-0007 School Board Member Vote for up to THREE

- Paul Hazard
- Drew Blessing
- Kyle McCartney
- Marty Albrecht
- Byron D. Hansen

For Shelton School District 10-0019 School Board Member Vote for up to THREE

- Dana D. Tompkin
- Abby Carman
- Sarah Rolfsmeyer
- Patricia Wiehn
- Sonja Warren

CITY TICKET

For Mayor of City of Minden Vote for ONE

- Larry Evans

For Minden City Council North Ward Vote for ONE

- David Bunger

For Minden City Council South Ward Vote for ONE

- Ron Keen

CITY TICKET

For City of Minden Airport Authority At Large - Six Year Term Vote for up to TWO

- Brent Stewart
- Ed Sheen
- Scott Jacobsen

VILLAGE TICKET

For Axtell Village Board of Trustees At Large Vote for up to TWO

- Eric Gustafson
- Shanda Blank

For Heartwell Village Board of Trustees At Large Vote for up to THREE

- Lori Wittwer
- Garry L. Wittwer
- Chris Hopkins

For Norman Village Board of Trustees At Large Vote for up to THREE

- Skye Beckman
- Dawn Thompson

For Wilcox Village Board of Trustees At Large Vote for up to TWO

- Kent Norman
- John Carey

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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

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

Initiative Measure 441

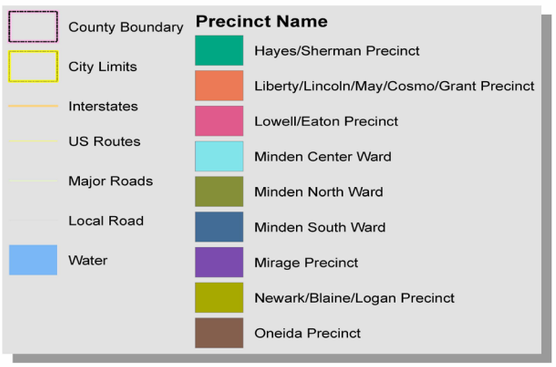
A vote "FOR" will enact statutes allowing persons located within Nebraska to place sports wagers through an Internet-based platform when offered by an authorized gaming operator conducting games of chance within a licensed racetrack enclosure in Nebraska or the operator's platform provider, and regulating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

Last day for in-person voter registration: Friday, October 23, 2026. The Election office will be open until 6 p.m.



Kearney County, Nebraska

PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

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

I, Jenni Lupkes, Kearney County Clerk, do hereby Certify that the foregoing is true and correct composite of the sample ballots for the Tuesday, November 3, 2026 General Election to be held in the precincts of Kearney County Nebraska.

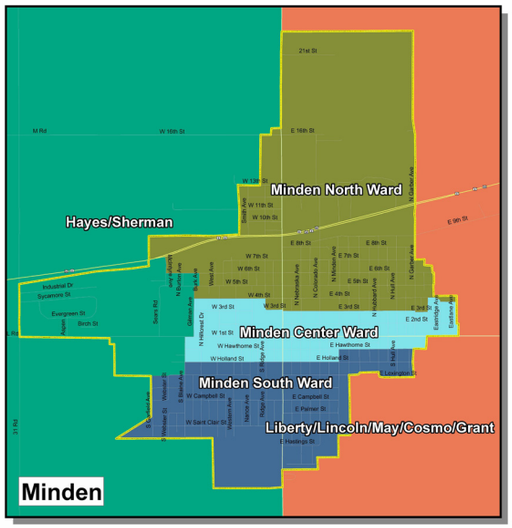
Not all of the races will appear in every precinct and the names on the ballots will appear in different rotations.

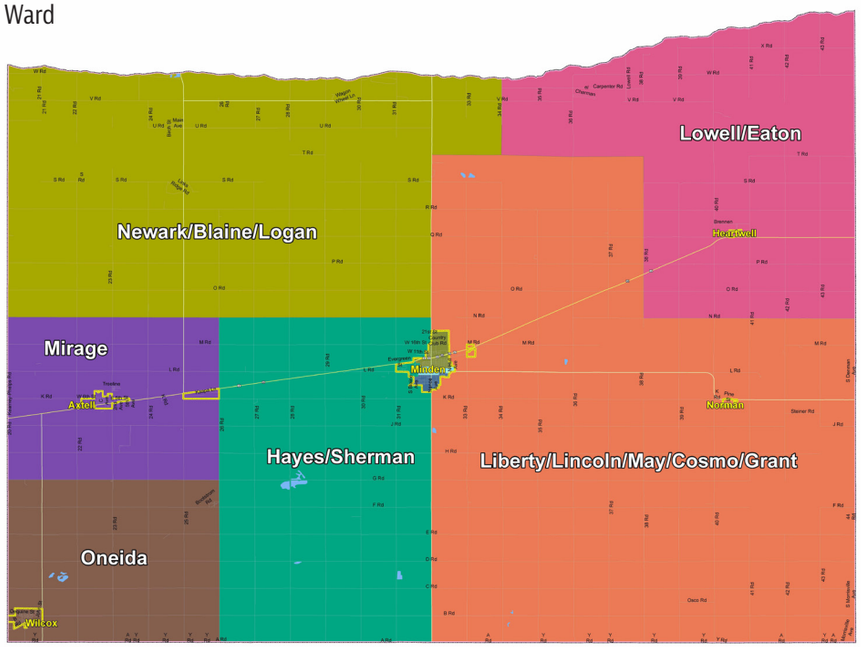
Witness my hand and official Seal this 22nd day of October, 2026.

/s/Jenni Lupkes
Kearney County Clerk
Minden, Nebraska 68959

Commissioner Districts

District 1 - Lowell, Eaton, Liberty, Lincoln, May, Cosmo, Grant
District 2 - Newark, Part of Blaine, Logan
District 3 - Hayes, Sherman, Oneida, Part of Minden
District 4 - Mirage, Part of Blaine
District 5 - Minden South Ward District 6 - Minden North Ward
District 7 - Minden Center Ward





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

Minden Police Report

Calls for Service

October 7

0110 - 500 Block S. Blaine Ave., 72 hr tag

0641 - 6th St. and Brown Ave., Dog at Large

1256 - 300 Block N. Hubbard Ave., Suspicious Vehicle

October 8

No Calls

October 9

0224 - Outdoor Classroom, Suspicious Vehicle

2130 - 1st St. and Ridge Ave., Motorist Assist

2134 - 1st St. and Blaine Ave., Traffic Stop

2145 - 100 Block E. St. Clair St., Traffic Stop

2352 - 13th St. and Brown Ave., Traffic Stop

October 10

0210 - 300 E. Hwy 6, Business Check

0548 - 700 Block N. Brown Ave., Suspicious Subject

0700 - 500 E. Hawthorne St., Check Welfare

1823 - 600 Block S. Brown Ave., Traffic Stop

1947 - 11th St. and Brown Ave., Traffic Stop

2304 - 1st St. and Brown Ave., Traffic Stop

2333 - Hwy 6 and 31 Rd, Agency Assist

October 11

0159 - Hwy 6, Traffic Stop

0407 - 500 Block W. 1st St., Unit Call

1621 - 900 Block E. 2nd St., Property Dispute

2111 - 800 Block E. 2nd St., Unit Call

October 12

0833 - 200 Block E. 5th St., Death Investigation

October 13

0203 - 100 Block E. St. Clair St., 72 hr Tag

0740 - 1st St. and Blaine Ave., Traffic Stop

0753 - 100 Block W. 6th St., Motorist Assist

0756 - 6th St. and Brown Ave., Traffic Stop

0838 - Hwy 6 and 31 Rd, Traffic Complaint

1305 - 700 Block S. Nebraska Ave., Check Welfare

For the Record

Marriage License

Carson Daymian Glenn, 24, Minden & Harley Alania Anderson, 25, Minden; 10-13-26

Minden Fire & Rescue

10-8-26—The Minden Fire & Rescue was dispatched to 40 Road for a combine fire.

10-9-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to Bethany Home for a personal illness.

10-9-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to W. 3rd Street for football standby.

10-9-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to KCHS for a transport.

10-10-26—The Minden Fire & Rescue was dispatched to 29 Road & G Road for a combine fire.

10-11-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to Bethany Home for a personal illness

10-11-26—THE Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to 16th Street for the state golf sendoff.

10-11-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to 2nd Street for a personal injury.

10-14-26—The Minden Fire & Rescue was dispatched to Highway 6 & 10 for a vehicle fire.

10-14-26—The Minden Emergency Unit was dispatched to W. 1st Street for difficulty breathing.

Kearney County Sheriff

10-12-26, A vehicle driven by Jason S. Nickel, Minden, was traveling northbound on 27 Road, when a deer entered the roadway from the east. Nickel struck the deer with the right front fender, launching the deer and causing minor body damage to the vehicle. The deer came to an uncontrolled final rest on the east edge of the roadway, approximately 35 feet from the point of impact. Nickel contacted law enforcement to report the collision and left the scene to await law enforcement arrival at their residence. Estimated damage: $300.





Legal Notices

NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

CITY OF MINDEN, NEBRASKA

Notice is hereby given that the City of Minden, Nebraska, will receive sealed bids for the purchase of one (1) new HX30A vacuum excavator with jib boom and trailer, meeting or exceeding the following specifications.

Bid Opening: October 29, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. Central Time

Location: Minden City Hall, 325 N. Colorado Avenue, Minden, Nebraska

EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

The equipment bid shall include the following specifications and components:

· Manufacturer/Model: Ditch Witch HX30A vacuum excavator or equivalent

· Debris Tank: 800-gallon capacity

· Water Tank: 400-gallon capacity

· Filtration System: Cyclonic separator

· Boom: Jib boom configuration

· Hose and Tooling: 3-inch

· Reverse Flow: Yes

· Controls: Right-hand traffic configuration

· Digging Lance: Prospector digging lance with 48-inch extension and fitting

· Trailer: VT24 800-gallon heavy trailer

· Trailer Jack: Hydraulic

· Additional Equipment: Wired asset tracker and trailer tongue toolbox

· Hydraulic Oil: Standard

· Water Heater: Not required

· Color and Decals: Standard color with English decals

The bid shall include all equipment, accessories, delivery, installation, and other costs necessary to provide the complete equipment package. Bidders shall identify the manufacturer, model, purchase price, delivery schedule, warranty, and any exceptions to the specifications.

BID SUBMISSION

Sealed bids must be received at Minden City Hall, 325 N. Colorado Avenue, Minden, Nebraska, prior to the scheduled bid opening. Bids shall be clearly marked "HX30A VACUUM EXCAVATOR BID" on the outside of the envelope.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the date, time, and location stated above.

The City of Minden reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive informalities or irregularities, and accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the City. Any questions, please contact City of Minden at (308) 832-1820.

Oct 22, 2026

(82) znez

NOTICE

VILLAGE OF WILCOX

MINUTES

OCTOBER 13, 2026

The Village of Wilcox Board of Trustees met in regular session on October 13, 2026. Notices of the meeting were posted at the Town Hall, Cornerstone Bank, Post Office and High Street Insurance. Agendas were mailed to each member of the Village Board. Chairman Gardels called the meeting to order and noted the Open Meeting Act. Trustees present: Gardels, Norman, Nash, Johnson and Adam. Others in attendance were C. Latter, J. Cluver, R. Carey and D. Walker. The minutes of the September 8, 2026 meeting were read and approved as read. The treasurer's report was reviewed. Motion by Norman with second by Johnson to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried with all voting in favor. The following claims were presented for payment: Minden Courier 95.71; Great Plains Com. 450.77; DW&S 1380.00; Verizon 157.57; NE Dept of Rev (Quarterly) 614.21; NE Dept of Rev. (Recycle) 25.00; Dana F. Cole 1100.00; One-Call Concept 38.55; Cline-Williams 3552.00; Hometown Leasing 105.16; Stewarts Tree Service 5200.00; Ty Town 1200.00; Cornerstone Ins. Group 450.00; Wilcox Utiities Dept. 825.02; Black Hills 97.64; USA BlueBook 53.71; SPPD 840.00; Village of Axtell 500.00; NPPD 684.49; NPPD 27,092.54; SPPD 2336.84; Dutton-Lainson 277.47; JD Financial 17.36; SCS 4369.25; Vestis 131.40; Visa 23.29; L Construction 7568.74; CPI 819.08; Council 175.00; Salaries 6446.46; EFTPS 1730.12; NYLife 1135.09; NE Dept of Rev (sales tax) 536.69; Transfers 1649.41; USDA Loans 42,117.00. Motion to approve all claims for payment was made by Adam with second by Nash. Motion carried. The Delinquent utility report was not available for review. Nuisance properties: Motion and clean-up was done at 202 E. Detroit St and 203 N. Briggs St. and was billed to the owners. If not paid liens will be placed on these properties. Documents are being prepared to petition the District Court to approve an inspection warrant. Food Pantry – In making repairs at the Food Pantry, black mold was discovered and after rain a leak was found. A claim was turned into LARM. All black mold has been removed. Utility billing – Continued contact with gWorks and Tantalus to get corrections made and to get billing running. Hopefully ongoing support will be received. Several water meters will need to be checked and /or changed. As well as, more Tantalus meters installed. Clerk has been contacted by Civic Plus regarding their billing program. Building permits #431 and #432 – R. Perry Construction building two new spec houses on Noxon St. property. These applications were reviewed and both have been approved by the Planning Commission and now submitted to the Village board for final approval. Motion by Adam to approve building permits #431 & #432. Second given by Nash. Motion carried with all members voting in favor. Building permit application #433 – Wilcox Fire Dept would like to place one temporary storage container on the industrial lot in the 200 block of S. Main St. An addition to the application was made later requesting two more containers with roof or cover over both. Motion by Nash with second by Johnson to approve the permit for one storage container only, excluding the two containers with cover until more information is received. The Fire Dept. must submit another application for the two containers with cover. C. Latter and J. Kluver of South Central Sanitation presented price increase starting in 2027 for garbage pickup. The new rates charged to the Village will increase from $17.70 per toter to $18.00 starting February 1, 2027 and ending January 31, 2030. Contract was reviewed. Motion by Adam with second by Nash to approve the contract with SCS accepting the price increase. Motion carried. Contract was signed. No information was received regarding the village website. The board reviewed the Agreement for the Provision of Limited Professional Services with Miller & Associates regarding the watermain loop at West Addition. Motion by Norman with second by Adam to accept agreement. Motion carried. Document signed. The board discussed a suggested increase in insurance coverage for the Food Pantry and contents of the Town Hall. We will not increase coverage at this time. Information was reviewed from NPPD regarding their electric rate increase for Wilcox of 9.7% starting in 2027. Our rates to residents will be discussed at the November meeting. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:
Melinda Ferree
Village Clerk
APPROVED: Brad Gardels, Chairman
Wilcox Village Board of Trustees

Oct 22, 2026
(178) znez

FARMLAND AUCTION
1,298.81 ACRES M/L IN HALL COUNTY, NE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 | 10:00 AM
Boulder Flatts | 4058 Enterprise Avenue | Grand Island, NE 68803
The Grand Island Farm Portfolio represents a rare opportunity to acquire a significant amount of land in Nebraska's Central Platte Valley. The portfolio will be offered in 10 tracts ranging from development ready land within the Grand Island City limits to productive irrigated farmland. The tracts can be purchased individually or in any combination.
Located immediately west of Grand Island, the portfolio includes 1,298.81 total acres with approximately 1,183.02 tillable acres, making the offering nearly 95% tillable.
Grand Island, NE
The Baxter Enterprises
TheBaxterEnterprises.com
Steve Bruere | 515.222.1347 | NE LIC 20170640
Chris Scow | 402.480.4387 | NE LIC 20070639
PEOPLES COMPANY
INTEGRATED LAND SOLUTIONS
PeoplesCompany.com
Listing #19643

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

Bethany Home
Loving Care with a Spiritual Touch
(308) 832 - 1594 • bethany-home.net
515 West First Street, Minden, NE 68959

NOTICE

AXTELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026 6:45 PM AXTELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL LIBRARY

The board reserves the right to move agenda items to accommodate the flow of the meeting. 1. Call meeting to order, roll call. Present: Bette Dimon, Jeff Halvorsen, Matt Strolberg. The LB 399 (Americanism Committee) meeting is called to order on October 14, 2026 at 6:46 PM, in the Axtell Community School Library. 2. Open meeting law is posted and recognized. 3. Publication of Meeting-notice was provided according to policy. 4. Recognition of guests and request for public comment. 5. Discussion Items Review Policy 8153 Policy No. 8153 - Standing Committee on American Civics Internal Board Policies - Organization. It shall be the policy of Axtell Community Schools that the Committee on American Civics shall consist of three members appointed by the Board President. The Committee shall meet at least twice per year. One of the responsibilities of this committee will be to examine recommended social studies textbooks and report findings based on this examination to other members of the Board of Education. The Committee shall take all other steps to ensure compliance with Nebraska law. It shall further be the policy of Axtell Community Schools that the Committee on American Civics shall review all major proposals prepared by the Superintendent of schools and instructional staff for adoption of new textbooks, development of new instructional programs, revision of existing instructional programs, modification of established graduation requirements, and other related matters. After the review is completed, the Committee on Curriculum and Americanism will make a recommendation to the full Board of Education about approval or adoption of the matter under consideration. Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-724. Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-520. Presentation by Mr. Nelson Overview of New Elementary Social Studies Curriculum. 6. Information Items. 6.a. Next Committee Meeting in April TBD. 7. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn at 6:53 PM. This motion, made by Bette Dimon and seconded by Jeff Halvorsen, Passed. Bette Dimon: Yea; Jeff Halvorsen: Yea; Matt Strolberg: Yea. Yea: 3, Nay: 0.

AXTELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026 7:00 PM AXTELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL LIBRARY

The board reserves the right to move agenda items to accommodate the flow of the meeting. 1. Call meeting to order, roll call. Present: Linda Almquist, Kurt Behrhorst, Bette Dimon, Ty Fickenscher, Jeff Halvorsen, Matt Strolberg. The regular meeting is called to order on October 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM, in the Axtell Community School Library. 2. Open meeting law is posted and recognized. 3. Publication of Meeting-notice was provided according to policy. 4. Recognition of guests and request for public comment. 4.a. Annual Computer Science Education Status Report Tara Smith Christina Eustler. 5. Approval of minutes of the Budget Hearing and Tax Hearing from September 16th and minutes from the Regular Meeting from September 16th. Motion to approve minutes of the Budget Hearing and Tax Hearing from September 16th and minutes from the Regular Meeting from September 16th. This motion, made by Ty Fickenscher and seconded by Jeff Halvorsen, Passed. Linda Almquist: Yea; Kurt Behrhorst: Yea; Bette Dimon: Yea; Ty Fickenscher: Yea; Jeff Halvorsen: Yea; Matt Strolberg: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0. 6. Discussion and action of district financial reports. Motion to approve financial reports as presented. This motion, made by Jeff Halvorsen and seconded by Matt Strolberg, Passed. Linda Almquist: Yea; Kurt Behrhorst: Yea; Bette Dimon: Yea; Ty Fickenscher: Yea; Jeff Halvorsen: Yea; Matt Strolberg: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0. 7. Discussion and action of district claims. Motion to approve district claims as presented. This motion, made by Linda Almquist and seconded by Bette Dimon, Passed. Linda Almquist: Yea; Kurt Behrhorst: Yea; Bette Dimon: Yea; Ty Fickenscher: Yea; Jeff Halvorsen: Yea; Matt Strolberg: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0 8. Administrative Reports 8.a. Craig Lorenz, Principal 1. Red Ribbon Week 2. Ready to Stand 3. IPG 4. First Quarter Review. 8.b. Dr. Chelsea Feusner, Superintendent. 9. Discussion Items. 9.a. Board Committee Reports 1. Negotiations Committee Report 2. Labor Relations Report. 9.b. State Conference Update. 9.c. Superintendent Evalutation. 9.d. JAG Program - Mr. Lorenz & Dr. Feusner. 10. Action Items. 10.a. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the Option Enrollment Resolution as presented by the superintendent. Motion to approve the Option Enrollment Resolution as presented by the superintendent. This motion, made by Ty Fickenscher and seconded by Jeff Halvorsen, Passed. Linda Almquist: Yea; Kurt Behrhorst: Yea; Bette Dimon: Yea; Ty Fickenscher: Yea; Jeff Halvorsen: Yea; Matt Strolberg: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0. 10.b. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve policy 2420 and 5011 (2nd reading of policy). Motion to approve policy 2420 and 5011 (2nd reading of policy). This motion, made by Matt Strolberg and seconded by Jeff Halvorsen, Passed. Linda Almquist: Yea; Kurt Behrhorst: Yea; Bette Dimon: Yea; Ty Fickenscher: Yea; Jeff Halvorsen: Yea; Matt Strolberg: Yea; Yea: 6, Nay: 0. 10.c. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the resignation of Mrs. Jenn DeBord as stated in her submitted letter. Motion to approve the resignation of Mrs. Jenn DeBord as stated in her submitted letter. This motion, made by Ty Fickenscher and seconded by Kurt Behrhorst, Passed. Linda Almquist: Yea; Kurt Behrhorst: Yea; Bette Dimon: Yea; Ty Fickenscher: Yea; Jeff Halvorsen: Yea; Matt Strolberg: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0. 10.d. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the request from the Axtell Education Association (AEA) for recognition as the exclusive bargaining unit for the 2027-2028 contract year teacher negotiations. Motion to approve the request from the Axtell Education Association (AEA) for recognition as the exclusive bargaining unit for the 2027-2028 contract year teacher negotiations. This motion, made by Linda Almquist and seconded by Matt Strolberg, Passed. Linda Almquist: Yea; Kurt Behrhorst: Yea; Bette Dimon: Yea; Ty Fickenscher: Yea; Jeff Halvorsen: Yea; Matt Strolberg: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0. 10.e. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve Brittney Anderson as the elementary coordinator for the remainder of the 26-27 school year. Motion to approve Brittney Anderson as the elementary coordinator for the remainder of the



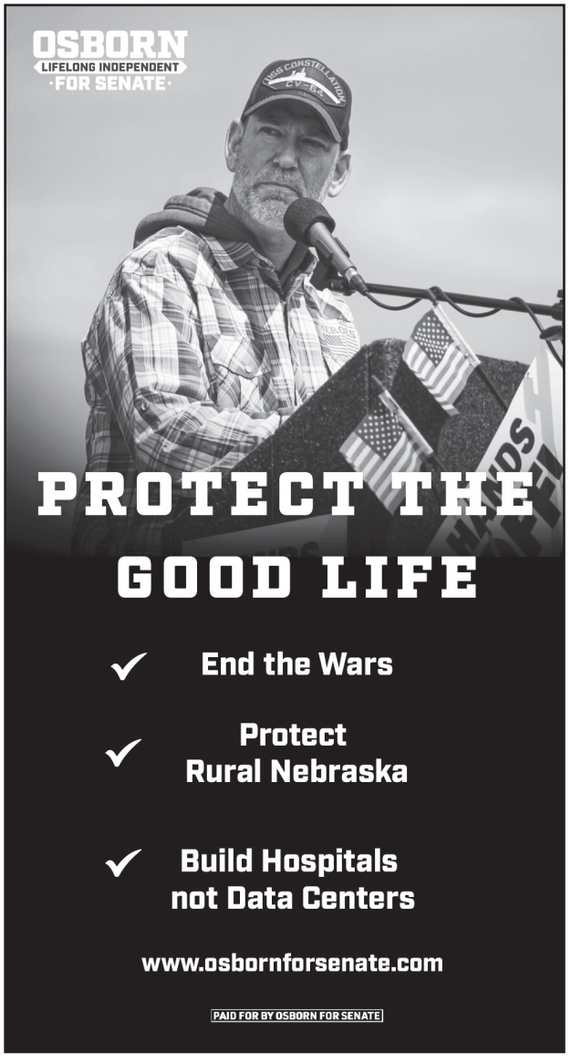


26-27 school year. This motion, made by Ty Fickenscher and seconded by Linda Almquist, Passed. Linda Almquist: Yea; Kurt Behrhorst: Yea; Bette Dimon: Yea; Ty Fickenscher: Yea; Jeff Halvorsen: Yea; Matt Strolberg: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0. 10.f. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to keep policy 8200 and 4608 and delete policy 6220 and 4021. Motion to keep policy 8200 and 4608 and delete policy 6220 and 4021. This motion, made by Jeff Halvorsen and seconded by Bette Dimon, Passed. Linda Almquist: Yea; Kurt Behrhorst: Yea; Bette Dimon: Yea; Ty Fickenscher: Yea; Jeff Halvorsen: Yea; Matt Strolberg: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0. 11. Information Items. 11.a. Next board meeting will be Monday, November 9th at 7pm. 12. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn at 8:09 PM. This motion, made by Linda Almquist and seconded by Bette Dimon, Passed. Linda Almquist: Yea; Kurt Behrhorst: Yea; Bette Dimon: Yea; Ty Fickenscher: Yea; Jeff Halvorsen: Yea; Matt Strolberg: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0.

Fund: 01 GENERAL FUND: AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES 784.56; BAND SHOPPE 290.55; BLACK HILLS ENERGY 536.73; BOYS TOWN PRESS 1,409.90; CENTRAL STATES SAFETY & DRIVER TRAINING, LLC 650.00; COACH MASTERS INC 562.38; COOPERATIVE PRODUCERS INC 6,414.40; CUMMINS INC. 6,067.10; DUG'S SHOP 3,952.41; E&E TURF INC 568.00; EAKES OFFICE PLUS 11,002.79; ENTERPRISE ELECTRIC 75.00; ESU #10 2,184.31; ESU #11 1,352.02; ESU COORDINATING COUNCIL 7,022.25; FAMILY PHYSICAL THERAPY & SPORTS CENTER 5,441.50; GO PHYSICAL THERAPY 13,725.90; HAMILTON LONG DISTANCE 1,551.98; HIRERIGHT LLC 317.35; HOLDREGE SOFT WATER SERVICE, INC 189.50; HOMETOWN LEASING 2,866.38; JOURNEYED.COM INC 500.00; JW PEPPER & SON,INC 42.00; KAT'S KORNER MARKET 96.37; KEARNEY COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES 215.00; KEARNEY HUB 683.39; KEARNEY WINNELSON CO 335.57; KINDSCHUH CONSTRUCTION, CO 100.00; KSB SCHOOL LAW 1,500.00; LANDMARK IMPLEMENT CARQUEST 58.62; LARSEN'S ACE HARDWARE 37.96; LOCKMOBILE, THE 718.85; LUNCH FUND 1,235.38; MENARDS-KEARNEY 177.07; MID-STATES AUTOMATION & CONTROL, INC 2,559.00; MINDEN COURIER, THE 164.91; MISSION PLUMBING LLC 112.00; NATM 60.00; NEBRASKA COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS 500.00; NEBRASKA.GOV 865.00; NEVCO SPORTS, LLC 98.90; NMEA 75.00; OMNIFY BENEFITS 350.00; ONE SOURCE 88.00; OVERHEAD DOOR OF KEARNEY 123.00; PERRY GUTHERY HAASE & GESSFORD,PC,LLO 4,492.00; PLAY THERAPY SUPPLY 209.99; PRO BUILDING SUPPLY, INC 18.90; PYE-BARKER FIRE & SAFETY 1,555.00; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC 300.00; REK ENTERPRISES, L.L.C. 26.59; RELIABLE PEST CONTROL SERVICES, INC 68.00; REVOLVING CASH ACCOUNT 375.20; SCHUMACHER FENCING, LLC 950.00; SHAPE NEBRASKA 100.00; SNELL SERVICES, INC 810.81; SOUTH CENTRAL SANITATION 410.71; SOUTHERN POWER DISTRICT 10,940.73; SPRACKLIN CHIROPRACTIC 100.00; STATE OF NEBRASKA 1,173.19; TIME MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS 171.00; TOBII DYNAVOX 199.00; ULINE 1,270.62; UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-KEARNEY 400.00; UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN 147.00; VILLAGE OF AXTELL 1,081.93; VISA 737.72; Vendors Listed: 67; Total: 103,199.42; October Payroll: 456,540.15; Total: 559,739.57. Fund: 10 COOPERATIVE FUND: ACTIVITY FUND 226.00; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES 384.44; CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS 114.99; FAMILY PHYSICAL THERAPY & SPORTS CENTER 140.00; KAT'S KORNER MARKET 54.33; LUNCH FUND 65.76; RELIABLE PEST CONTROL SERVICES, INC 55.00; REVOLVING CASH ACCOUNT 1.00; Vendors Listed: 8; Total: 1,041.52; October Payroll: 24,875.17; Total: 25,916.69.

Oct 22, 2026

(390) znez







NOTICE

MINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Agendas for the October 12, 2026 meeting of the Board of Education were posted locally. Included in the notification were the time, place, date, and items on the agenda. Notice of the meeting was published in the paper. The board approved minutes from the meeting held September 14, financial reports, claims against the General Fund, 2027-28 capacity limits for Policy 5006, and reallocation of funds for bus purchase. Detailed minutes of the meeting are available in the superintendent's office.

OCTOBER 2026 - GENERAL FUND CLAIMS – CenturyLink, $462.55; Minden Exchange Bank, $34.45; Wright Express Fleet Services, $1,515.91; Blue Cross Blue Shield, $201,650.77; Credit Management Services, Inc., $410.50; Fiduciary Trust Company, $2,000.00; Horace Mann Life Insurance Company, $1,450.00; Madison National Life Insurance Co., Inc., $2,633.77; Minden Exchange Bank & Trust Co., $8,491.78; Minden Public Schools, $108,943.29; Mps Payroll, $147,037.62; Mps Payroll NE Income Tax, $19,229.97; Principal Life Insurance Company, $1,220.06; Amazon Capital Services, Inc., $910.99; Apptegy, Inc., $6,720.00; Aurora Cooperative, $6,585.44; Bill's Plumbing, $135.59; Black Hills Energy, $3,937.05; Buffalo Outdoor Power, $110.00; Cash-wa Distributing Co., $654.80; City Of Minden, $33,810.73; Clearfly, $921.82; Communications Engineering, Inc., $24,249.00; Cornerstone Electric, $1,598.17; Cummins Sales and Service, $630.27; Dana F. Cole & Company, LLP, $6,050.00; DAS State Accounting - Central Finance, $321.20; Eakes Office Solutions, $2,639.36; Educational Service Unit #10, $766.80; Educational Service Unit #11, $1,098.67; Elan Financial Services, $155.31; Embassy Suites, $555.00; Engineered Controls, Inc., $1,743.75; ESU Coordinating Council, $10,402.40; Family Physical Therapy & Sports Center, P.C., $4,115.00; Heartland Refrigeration, LLC, $4,500.00; Hometown Leasing, $3,855.49; Jim's OK Tire Minden, LLC, $80.00; Journey Ed.com, Inc., $500.00; JW Pepper & Son, Inc., $293.98; Livestockjudging.com, $300.00; Mason's Market, $171.72; Mid-States Automation & Control, Inc., $14,145.00; Minden Courier, $136.01; Minden Hardware, $183.00; Mps Lunch Fund , $75,000.00; Napa Auto Parts, $261.10; NCSA, $190.00; Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science, $339.00; Nebraska Central Equipment, $1,788.64; Nippon Sanso Matheson, $923.85; Omnify Benefits, $140.80; One Source, $253.00; Pearson Clinical Assessment, $1,116.57; Perry, Guthery, Haase & Gessford, P.C., L.L.O, $3,648.00; Pony Express Ford, $769.72; Presto-X Company, $221.70; Protex Central, Inc., $345.00; Pye-Barker Fire & Safety, $312.63; Raptor Technologies, LLC, $2,875.79; Schindler Elevator Corporation, $286.11; School Fix, $36.95; Shane Schmidt Construction, Inc., $250.00; Verizon, $173.85; Verizon Wireless, $160.04; Village Uniform, $852.41; Widdifield, James T, $268.12; Woodward's Disposal Service, Inc., $62.50; WT Cox Subscriptions, $24.15; October Net Payroll - $487,741.57; Subtotal - $1,205,399.62; LUNCH FUND CLAIMS – Sysco, $11,939.11; US Foods, $9,359.10; Cash-wa Distributing Co., $12,625.62; Mason's Market, $28.67; LinPepCo Partnership, $1,740.15; Henry Schein, Inc., $97.41; Village Uniform, $313.97; Blue Cross Blue Shield, $4,463.52; Madison National Life Insurance Co., Inc., $49.06; Minden Public Schools, $2,371.40; Mps Payroll, $3,560.99; Mps Payroll NE Income Tax, $447.24; Principal Life Insurance Company, $49.32; October Net Payroll – $15,999.26, Subtotal - $63,044.82; BUILDING FUND CLAIMS – BD Construction, Inc./Kearney, $381,824.94; TOTAL CLAIMS - $1,650,269.38.

Oct 22, 2026

(137) 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

Keep Informed.







NOTICE

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been organized under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act, the following-named limited liability company: COLBY FAMILY HOLDINGS, LLC. The street and mailing address of the initial designated office is 1150 33 Road Minden, Kearney County, Nebraska 68959. Harold P. Colby, Jr., is the initial agent at such address for purposes of service of process. The limited liability company commenced on September 24th, 2026, and shall have perpetual existence.

Dated: September 24, 2026

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

Oct 8, 2026
Oct 15, 2026
Oct 22, 2026
(40) znez

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

CERTIFICATE OF ORGANIZATION OF WONDER & DISCOVERY LEARNING STUDIO, LLC

The undersigned, in order to form a limited liability company for the purposes hereinafter set forth, and in conformity with the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Companies Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§21-117, et seq., does hereby make this written certificate as follows:

ARTICLE I
NAME

The name of the limited liability company shall be Wonder & Discovery Learning Studio, LLC.

ARTICLE II
INITIAL DESIGNATED OFFICE

The street and mailing address of the initial designated office of the limited liability company in the State of Nebraska is 1636 27 Rd. Minden, NE 68959

ARTICLE III
REGISTERED AGENT & OFFICE

The name and mailing address of the limited liability company's registered agent in the State of Nebraska is LDM Business Services, Inc., 10306 Regency Parkway Drive, Omaha, NE 68114.

ARTICLE IV
INTERNAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNANCE

The regulation and governance of the internal affairs of the limited liability company are set forth in the Operating Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Certificate of Organization as of the 28th day of September, 2026.

/s/ Phillip T. Sanberg
Phillip T. Sanberg, Organizer

Oct 8, 2026
Oct 15, 2026
Oct 22, 2026
(52) znez

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OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM
WEEK #9 (Oct. 31)

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Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

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Kearney County Health Services _____

L.T. Pedley Drug _____

Husker Irrigation _____

Bethany Home _____

Sargent Irrigation _____

Fill-N-Chill _____

Budget Heating & Air _____

Pony Express Ford _____

Phelps Memorial Health _____

Tie-Breaker: Washington @ Nebraska (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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Jorgensen Caps Perfect Season with State Title

ROGER HANSEN

A perfect season! Macy Jorgensen completed her undefeated 2026 sophomore season with the crown jewel--a state championship.

Playing in warm weather on Monday, October 12 and much cooler temperatures on Tuesday, October 13 at the Lake Maloney Golf Club near North Platte, she accomplished what four other Minden girls' golfers before her also did, which was win the individual class gold medal.

The Whippets actually have seven individual titles--Jan Houston (1979 and 1980), Kristen Kosch (2002 and 2003), Kara Suchsland (2024), KayLynn Jorgensen (2025) and now Macy (2026).



Macy Jorgensen was able to capture the individual gold medal in all 14 of her tournaments this fall. She took home SWC, district, and state championships! Macy is now Minden's third girls state golf champion in a row. KayLynn Jorgensen won in 2025, and Kara Suchsland won in 2024. Minden is sitting in 2nd place for most individual state champions in Nebraska girls state golf history with 7 champs. (Courier photo by Carrie Conner and courtesy photo)

Macy was one stroke back after the first day at one-under par 71, but her even par 72 on day two was ample enough to finish three strokes ahead of Daleni Knust of West Holt.

Macy's Monday card: 4-5-4-4-3-4-4-4-3 (35), 2-5-4-5-6-3-4-3-4 (36)=71

Tuesday's line: 4-3-4-3-5-4-5-4-4 (36), 3-4-4-3-5-5-4-4-4 (36)= 72-143

A model of consistency! Her 143 two-day total was one stroke off the Class C record. She was the class runner-up in '25.

The school record holder for nine holes and 18 holes, and with a hole-in-one earlier in the fall tossed in, the '26 season was quite a ride.

Coming in behind Macy were Knust 70-76-146, Alyvia Harless, Bridgeport 73-79-152 and Delainey Phillips, Aurora 82-75-157

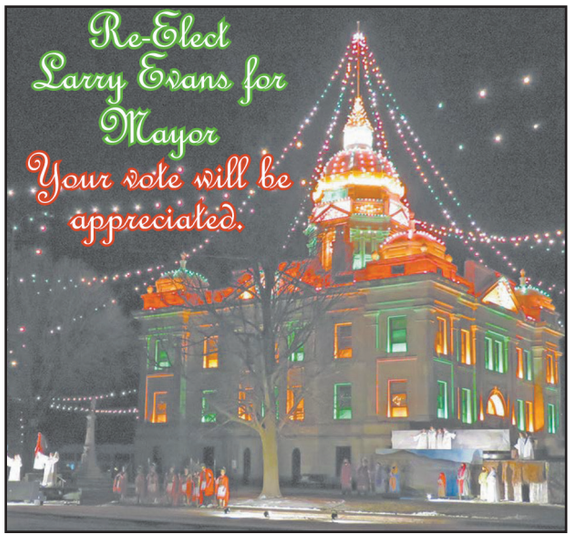
The top four team scores were: West Holt 674, Columbus Scotus 709, Aurora 730, GICC 742. The Whippets' team did not qualify this year.

There was some notariety statewide given the back-to-back championships for KayLynn and Macy.

Her coaches, Whitney Maulsby and Callie Whitten, and parents, Katie and Scot Jorgensen, can be rightly proud, as is the Minden community.







Stars Fall Under Strong Whippet Offense

ROGER HANSEN

Minden took care of business against Kearney Catholic in downing the Stars 35-0 on October 16 at KC's artificial turf field. The Whippets ascended to 7-1.

Minden got into the end zone on its first possession. Parker Hatch and Logan Verbeck took turns chewing up ground yards with Hatch scoring on an 18-yard run. Aaron Banuelos kicked the PAT so at 6:54 in the opening period the Whippets were up 7-0.

The first time Minden got the ball in the second quarter Hatch culminated a six-play, 56-yard drive with a 38-yard TD run. Banuelos was again good on the conversion spiking the lead to 14-0 at 8:41.

After the Dawgs' defense continued to allow KC to move the ball with very limited success, Verbeck sprinted 66 yards for a TD and with Banuelos' PAT tacked on Minden was on top 21-0 at 4:20 before half.

KC's best chance to score came with a couple of minutes left in the second but a 47-yard field goal attempt was off the mark.

The Whippets then moved the ball a little over 60 yards operating their 2-minute offense as time in the half ran out with Minden in control 21-0.

The Whippets first possession of the third quarter was somewhat sloppy and they fumbled the ball away on third down. After a four-and-out for the Stars, however, Hatch went 71 yards for a TD on Minden's first play. The PAT was blocked but the lead mushroomed to 27-0 at 8:33.

The scoring in the contest wrapped up at 3:22 of the third when Bo Lutkemeier went in from the three and then also ran for the two-point conversion hiking the score to 35-0. From this point on the rest of the game, a running clock was in effect.

Minden ran for 412 yards and passed for 62 to total a whopping 474 yards. Unofficially, the Stars ran for 38 and threw for 94 to total 132.

RUSHING: Led by the two-headed monster of Hatch and Verbeck, Hatch ran 16 times for 188 yards and three TDs while Verbeck had 10 carries for 150 yards and one TD. Others: Ryker Foutch 8-55, Lutkemeier 3-14, 1 TD, Turner Schmidt 1-2, Andrew Runions 1-2, Camden Schmidt 1-1

PASSING: Hatch 5-9, 59 yds. 0 ints.; Cole Schwenka 1-1, 3 yds.

RECEIVING: Schwenka 4-43, Turner Schmidt 1-16, Runions 1-3

TACKLES (solos-assts): Verbeck 8-2, Kanin Heath 2-4, Schwenka 3-1, Cael Smith 3-1, Cohen Schmidt 2-1, Lutkemeier 3-0, Turner Schmidt 0-3, Jaxson Pasbrig 2-0, Banuelos 2-0, Lukas Labenz 1-1, Runions 1-0, Foutch 1-0, Camdon Schmidt 0-1, Dalton Pasbrig 1-0, Garrett Hartman 1-0, Drew Seiler 1-0, Kellen Conyers 0-1

TACKLES FOR LOSS: Schwenka 1, Verbeck 1, Cohen Schmidt 1, Banuelos 1, D. Pasbrig 1, Smith 1

KICKOFF RETURNS: Morgan Johnson 1-11

PUNT RETURNS: Hatch 1-31, Turner Schmidt 1-11

PUNTING-no punts

Minden	7	14	14	0-	35 (7-1)
K. Cath.	0	0	0	0-	0 (0-8)

M- Hatch, 18 run (Banuelos kick)
M- Hatch, 38 run (Banuelos kick)
M- Verbeck, 66 run (Banuelos kick)
M- Hatch, 71 run (kick blocked)
M- Lutkemeier, 3 run (Lutkemeier run)

The Whippets host Lexington (2-6) in the regular season finale on October 23 at 7:00. The Minutemen beat Beatrice 34-33 last Friday.

Minden slid a bit in playoff points from last week, now holding down the ninth spot in a tie with Wahoo.





The Minden football team overpowered Kearney Catholic 35-0 on October 16. (above) Matt Dixson makes a clean hit on the Stars quarterback. (below) Parker Hatch manuevers around a Kearney Catholic defense player that is held back by his teammate. (left) Cole Schwenka positions himself to make a catch. (Courier photos by Tim Hudson)



Bobcats Come Out on Top of Cat Fight

ROGER HANSEN

Axtell was topped by Blue Hill 70-12 at Blue Hill on October 16 falling to 1-7 on the season.

The Cats totalled 158 yards of offense--130 running and 28 passing. Blue Hill ran for 442 and threw for 75 to total 517.

RUSHING: Nick Dahl 19-96; Landon Powers 18-30; Carter Hardenbrook 2-4, 1 TD; Luke Abbott 1-0

PASSING: Powers 4-9, 28 yards, 1 TD, 1 int.

RECEIVING: Nolan Wells 2-15; Luke Samuelson 1-10, 1 TD; Hardenbrook 1-3

TACKLES (solos-assts): Dahl 4-8, Powers 4-7, Barrett Thorell 3-6, Mick Pfeil 3-5, Abbott 4-2, Logan Strolberg 0-4, Samuelson 0-4, Samuel Kindschuh 1-1, Hardenbrook 0-2, Wells 0-12, Grayson Bray 0-1

TACKLES FOR LOSS: Thorell 2, Powers 1

PUNTING: Powers 5-35.8 ave.

KICKOFFS: Powers 3-47.0 ave.

KICKOFF RETURNS: Abbott 5-11.0 ave.; Powers 2-4.0 ave.; Pfeil 1-(-1)

Axtell	12 (1-7)
B. Hill	70 (5-3)

The Cats play their final game of the season at home on October 23 hosting Cambridge (6-2) for a 2:00 start. *Note the Time*. The Trojans lost to Pleasanton 34-8 last Friday.



The Axtell football team dropped its October 16 contest to Blue Hill. Pictured: Luke Abbott tries to stay out of a Bobcat defense player's grip. (Courier photo by Kimberly Powers)

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

MICAH HOUCHIN - CROSS COUNTRY

School - Axtell Community School
Grade - Sophomore
Achievements in past seasons and this season - Freshman state qualifier, Wilcox-Hildreth Invite Champ, Conference runner-up.
Attributes that have led to his success: Works extremely hard and has high expectations of himself.
Micah has high goals that he is chasing. State will be an opportunity for him to meet one of those goals. - *Coach Joe Philippi*



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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

DREW BLANK - FOOTBALL

Grade: Junior
Achievements: Drew had a great sophomore season last year with 2,000 total yards on offense and finished second on our team in tackles. He worked hard throughout the offseason to get bigger, faster and stronger. After getting injured in the first game of this season, Drew had to wait to get back on the field. Since returning, he has thrown for 7 touchdowns and rushed for 3 more. He is also completing nearly 75% of his passes.
Challenges he has overcome: Drew has had to deal with the frustration of getting injured early in the season and missing time on the field. He has been eager to get back out there and compete with his teammates. It has been great to see him return and make an impact right away.
Attributes: Drew has a great work ethic and is committed to getting better. He spent a lot of time in the weight room this offseason and was one of the students who rarely missed a day of summer weights. That dedication has helped him improve as a player on both sides of the ball.
Additional Comments: Drew loves the game of football. He doesn't care who gets the credit. He just wants to compete, help his teammates and win games. He puts in the work and does what he can to help the team succeed. We are glad to have him back on the field and look forward to what he can do the rest of the season. - *Coach Luke Glenn*



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Falcons Crush Vikings 60-28

ROGER HANSEN

Wilcox-Hildreth again boosted its playoff chances with a 60-28 win over Bertrand on October 16 in Hildreth to move to 5-3.

The Falcons ran for 309 and passed for 110 for a stellar 419 yards of offense.

RUSHING: Drew Blank 17-164, 4 TDs; Kyler Masters 5-70; Damien Campbell 5-49, 1 TD; Dax Knaus 2-10, Kaden Schriner 2-8; Landon Lienemann 1-4; Sutton Strong 1-2, 1 TD; Kip Johnson 4-1; Luke Lush 1-1

PASSING: Blank 2-5, 82, 2 TDs

RECEIVING: K. Masters 1-42, 1 TD; L. Lush 1-40, 1 TD: Rylan Lush 1-28

TACKLES (solos-assts): K. Masters 7-6, Campbell 1-5, Blank 1-4, Kip Johnson 3-2, Schriner 2-2, L. Lush 1-2, Kaleb Johnson 0-3, Gavin Ironshell 0-3, Lienemann 1-0, Strong 0-1, Knaus 1-0, Drake Ritner 1-0

TACKLES FOR LOSS: Blank 3, Kaleb Johnson 1, Campbell 1, Ironshell 1

SACKS: Campbell 1, Ironshell 1

INTERCEPTIONS: L. Lush 1

FUMBLE RECOVERIES: William Masters 1

KICKOFFS: K. Masters 7-46.1 ave.; W. Masters 2-40.0 ave.

PUNTING: K. Masters 3-34.3 ave.

KICKOFF RETURNS: Lienemann 1-20, Kip Johnson 1-7

SCORING: Blank 4 TDs, 2 conv. runs; Strong 1 TD; Campbell 1 TD; Kaleb Johnson 2 conv. receptions; K. Masters 1 conv. reception; Ironshell 1 conv. run



Landon Lienemann hands off to Dax Knaus. (Courier photo by Nicky Blank)

Bertrand	28	(5-3)
Wil-Hil	60	(5-3)

The Falcons close the regular season with a Senior Night contest vs. South Loup on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 at Hildreth. The Bobcats (4-4) lost to Loomis 66-30 last Friday.

Wil-Hil is currently 11th in playoff points. The top 16 in points qualify for the playoffs so the Falcons are in a good position for inclusion.

Minden Courier Football Contest Week 7 Winners

ROGER HANSEN

Week 7 of the Courier Football Contest proved to be another toughy. Three contestants were better than all the rest as they were the only ones with three misses.

Corey Ziola of Minden wins the $25 first prize for correctly taking Oregon to beat Nebraska in the tie-breaker. Mark Bertrand of Funk and Doug Carey of Minden both took Nebraska so the points determined second. Mark guessed 51 and Doug estimated 58 giving Mark the edge for the $15 second prize.

Eight entries contained four misses and those were submitted by Lisa Fries, Minden; Bo Hansen, Blair; Nesha Danielson, Kearney; Tony Lunbery, Axtell; Jason Bruening, Upland; Karen Ingram, Upland; Jim Bruening, Minden; and Kyle Rutt, Campbell.

Most missed games were BYU over Notre Dame, Florida over Texas, Tennessee over Alabama and Rutgers over Maryland.

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Falcons Take Fourth at FKC Tourney

ASHLEY BEBENSEE

For the first time in 11 years, the Wilcox-Hildreth volleyball team made it to the semifinal match of the Fort Kearney Conference tournament.

The Falcons took down Sumner-Eddyville Miller in three thrilling sets in their first game of the tourney on Oct. 12, 31-29, 24-26 and 26-24.

Junior Camryn Bunger led in attacks with 19, and freshman Elsie Donley put up five solo blocks. Sophomore Elin Patterson had 12 digs, and freshman Georgia Guthrie set up 21 assists.

Individual stats for Wilcox-Hildreth vs. S-E-M

Kills: Camryn Bunger 19, Elsie Donley 9, Kinley Hansen 4, Georgia Guthrie 2, Madison Sheen 2, Elin Patterson 1

Aces: Donley 2, Hansen 1, Patterson 1, Guthrie 1

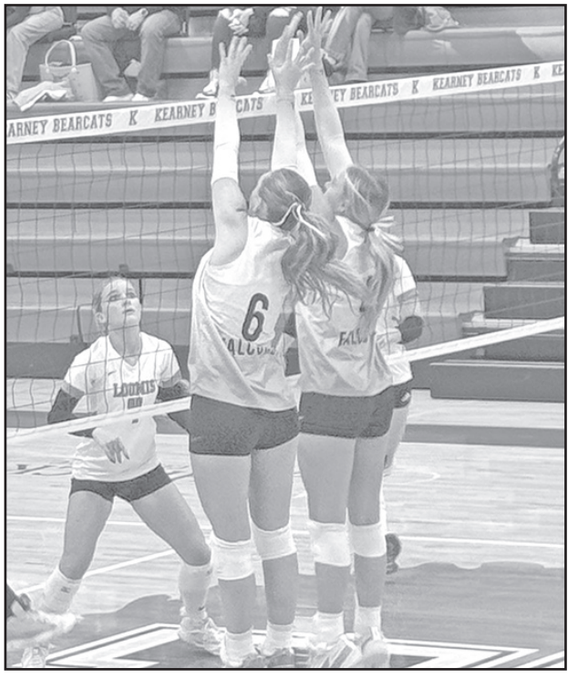
Blocks: Donley 5, Patterson 1, Guthrie 1

Digs: Patterson 12, Donley 11, Guthrie 9, Bunger 9, Sheen 8, Hansen 6, Alexis Garrett 6

Assists: Guthrie 21, Garrett 10, Bunger 1

In the semifinal round on Oct. 13, Wil-Hil took on the No. 1 ranked Amherst. The Broncos proved to be a tough opponent, defeating the Falcons in three sets 25-9, 25-16 and 25-20.

The Broncos limited the number of successful kills for the Falcons, with Bunger putting up the most at five. The team worked hard at defense with 11 digs from senior Madison Sheen, followed closely by Bunger's 10. Guthrie led in assists with 12.



Madison Sheen and Camryn Bunger go up for the block. (Courier photo by Nicky Blank)

Individual stats for Wil-Hil vs. Amherst

Kills: Bunger 5, Sheen 4, Donley 3, Hansen 2, Patterson 1, Guthrie 1

Aces: Guthrie 3, Bunger 1, Patterson 1

Blocks: Donley 3, Bunger 2

Digs: Sheen 11, Bunger 10, Donley 9, Patterson 8, Guthrie 6, Garrett 4, Hansen 3, Ona Wilsey 2

Assists: Guthrie 12, Garrett 2, Bunger 1, Donley 1

In the battle for the third-place spot, Wil-Hil took on the Loomis Wolves for the third time this season. The Falcons battled through three sets with the Wolves, but inevitably were swept in three sets, 25-19, 25-22 and 25-23.

Guthrie continued to be a reliable ball handler for the Falcons with 23 assists. The team had eight aces, led by Elin Patterson's three. Bunger had 13 kills, and Sheen had 11 digs.

The Falcons record now lies at 15-11, and they were to take on S-E-M once again, as well as Pleasanton on Oct. 19.

Individual stats for Wil-Hil vs. Loomis

Kills: Bunger 13, Sheen 7, Donley 7, Guthrie 1, Hansen 1

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

Blocks: Donley 3

Digs: Sheen 11, Guthrie 9, Patterson 7, Donley 6, Hansen 6, Bunger 5, Wilsey 2

Assists: Guthrie 23, Bunger 1

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Sports Calendar

Wilcox-Hildreth

Friday, October 23
XC @ State - Kearney
Monday, October 26
VB @ Sub Districts
Tuesday, October 27
VB @ Sub Districts
Friday, October 30
FB @ Round 1 Playoffs

Axtell

Friday, October 23
XC @ State - Kearney
FB v. Cambridge
Monday, October 26
VB @ Sub Districts
Tuesday, October 27
VB @ Sub Districts
Friday, October 30
FB @ Round 1 Playoffs

Minden

Friday, October 23
XC @ State - Kearney
FB v. Lexington
Monday, October 26
VB @ Sub Districts
Tuesday, October 27
VB @ Sub Districts
Wednesday, October 28
VB @ Sub Districts
Friday, October 30
FB @ Round 1 Playoffs

Axtell Stumbles at FKC Tournament

ASHLEY BEBENSEE

Despite beating Overton earlier this season, the Axtell Lady Wildcats couldn't overtake the Eagles in the first round of the Fort Kearny Conference tournament.

Overton took down Axtell in two sets on Oct. 12, 25-17 and 25-22.

Junior Leah Stritt and senior Morgan Hawkins were the leaders in kills, with four attributed to both. Junior Mina Schilling racked up 10 digs, and freshman Hadley Most was the assist leader with nine.



The Axtell volleyball team had a rough time during the Fort Kearny Conference tournament falling to both Overton and Elm Creek. (above) Morgan Hawkins faces off with an Elm Creek player at the net. (below) Bristol Thorell goes up for a block against Overton. (left) Mina Schilling bumps the ball to keep it in play. (Courier photos by Rachel Hawkins)

Individual stats for Axtell vs. Overton

Kills: Leah Stritt 4, Morgan Hawkins 4, Adelyn Wells 2, Ashlynn Nelson 2, Amelia Halvorsen 2, Bristol Thorell 2

Aces: Wells 1

Digs: Mina Schilling 10, Nelson 9, Stritt 7, Wells 3, Hadley Most 3, Hawkins 2, Thorell 2, Solara Quigley 1

Blocks: No data available

Assists: Most 9, Wells 6, Schilling 1

In Axtell's last round of the competition, the team took on Elm Creek. The Buffaloes stampeded over the Wildcats in two sets, 26-24 and 25-17.

Freshman Adelyn Wells stepped up to put down six kills and had nine digs. Sophomore Solara Quigley assisted the team with eight successful set assists.

The Wildcats record now stands at 8-13, and they were set to compete Oct. 20 in the Silver Lake Triangular.

Individual stats for Axtell vs. Elm Creek

Kills: Wells 6, Hawkins 4, Stritt 3, Most 2, Thorell 1

Aces: Wells 1, Stritt 1

Blocks: Wells 1, Nelson 1, Halvorsen 1, Thorell 1

Digs: Wells 9, Stritt 8, Jerzey Ramirez 8, Most 6, Nelson 5, Hawkins 3, Schilling 3, Halvorsen 2, Quigley 1, Thorell 1

Assists: Quigley 8, Most 6





Bowling Standings

Classey Lassies 10-8-26

Team Standings:	W	L
Pony Express Ford	18.5	9.5
Skye's The Limit Salon	18	10
Aurora Coop-Keene	17	11
Split Happens	13	15
Larson Bros Construction	13	15
Platte River BBQ	10.5	17.5
Upland Bar & Grill	9	19
Dobish Dumpsters	9	19

High Individual Game: Kasey Welch, 192; Amanda Rasmussen, 183; Betty Smith, 177

High Individual Series: Kasey Welch, 507; Betty Smith, 503; Amanda Rasmussen, 482

High Team Game: Split Happens, 489; Upland Bar & Grill, 424; Aurora Coop-Keene, 390

High Team Series: Split Happens, 1359; Upland Bar & Grill, 1228; Aurora Coop-Keene, 1114

Monday Maniacs 10-12-26

Team Standings:	W	L
Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm	21	7
Budget Heating & Air	14.5	13.5
Minden Exchange Bank & Trust	14	14
Children First Daycare	6.5	21.5

High Individual Game: Sherri Merrill, 209; Rendy France, 208; Denise Smith, 179

High Individual Series: Rendy France, 529; Ashley Osterbuhr, 502; Denise Smith, 478

High Team Game: Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 492; Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 465; Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 460

High Team Series: Lieske, Lieske & Ensz Law Firm, 1417; Minden Exchange Bank & Trust, 1087; Children First Daycare, 1019

Minden Unified Association 10-15-26

Team Standings:	W	L
Joyce Farms	125.5	74.5
Miller Body	118.5	81.5
First Bank	115.5	84.5
APEX	114	86
WII TEAM	67.5	116.5

High Individual Game: Shaun Johnson, 212; Aaron Kile, 198; Mark Klabunde, 195

High Individual Series: Kevin Reed, 540; Tyson Sloggett, 510; Shawn Nelson, 489

High Team Game: Joyce Farms, 670; APEX, 603; First Bank, 602

High Team Series: Joyce Farms, 1934; APEX, 1745; Miller Body, 1739

Lady Whippets Take Down Cozad, Holdrege

ASHLEY BEBENSEE

The Minden Whippets volleyball team had a winning week, defeating Cozad and Holdrege.

The Whippets traveled to Cozad on Oct. 13, where they beat the Haymakers in four sets 25-13, 11-25, 26-24 and 25-22.

The team had an incredible 20 blocks, with four each from junior Aly Cederburg, junior Rilynn Johnson, sophomore Josa Ciemnoczolowski, and junior Kaleigh Carr. The Whippets also had 10 aces, with four from junior Victoria Hansen. Hansen also put up the most assists with 17. Cederburg was the leader at the net with 19 kills.

Individual stats for Minden vs. Cozad

Kills: Aly Cederburg 19, Kaleigh Carr 9, Reagan Carey 5, Josa Ciemnoczolowski 4, Malayna Emery 3, Victoria Hansen 2

Assists: Hansen 17, Olivia Armstrong 16, Emery 2, Cederburg 2, Carey 2, Carr 2

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

Digs: Carr 14, Cederburg 12, Emery 10, Carey 8, Armstrong 7, Hansen 4, Birkestrand 2, Johnson 1, Ciemnoczolowski 1, Rhynalds 1

Blocks: Cederburg 4, Johnson 4, Ciemnoczolowski 4, Carr 4, Carey 2, Emery 1, Bailee Fries 1

On Oct. 15, Minden hosted Holdrege and surpassed the Dusters in four sets 25-20, 22-25, 25-22, 25-23.

Cederburg attacked the net with 23 kills and five blocks. Hansen set the team up for success with 26 assists. Carr worked the defense with 14 digs.

With the two wins, Minden's record improved to 12-16 for the season. They will play in the Southwest Conference Championship Oct. 19-20.

Individual stats for Minden vs. Holdrege

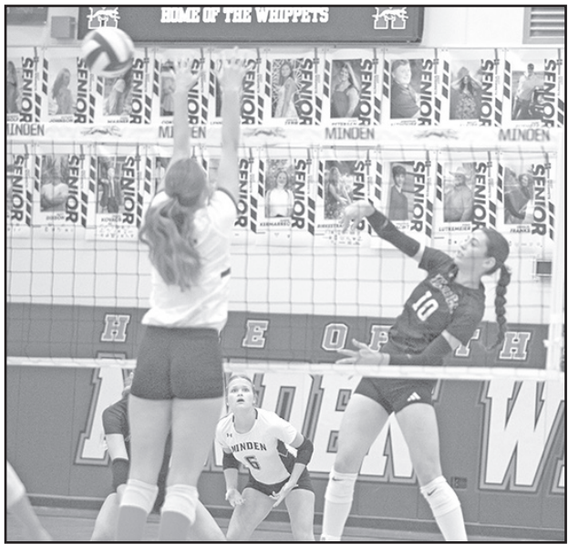
Kills: Cederburg 23, Carr 16, Carey 6, Hansen 2, Emery 2, Ciemnoczolowski 1

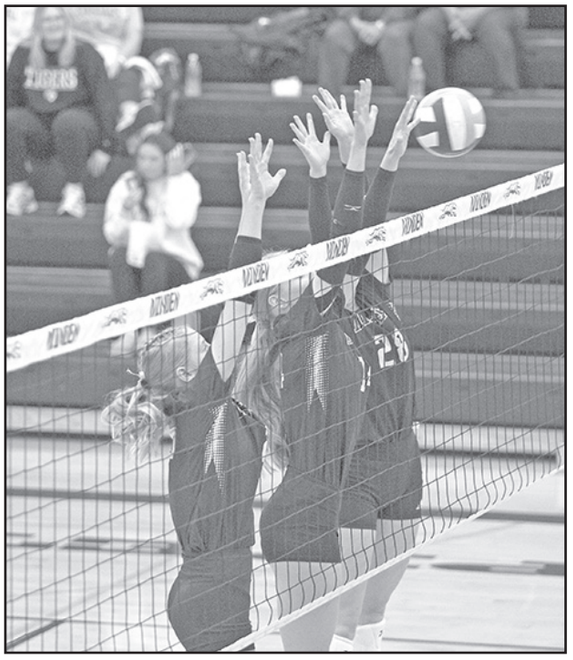
Assists: Hansen 26, Armstrong 16, Cederburg 2, Carr 2, Carey 1

Aces: Hansen 4, Carr 3, Emery 2, Armstrong 1, Rhynalds 1

Digs: Carr 14, Emery 11, Hansen 10, Cederburg 10, Armstrong 9, Carey 8, Rhynalds 2, Ciemnoczolowski 1

Blocks: Cederburg 5, Fries 3, Johnson 2, Carr 1, Ciemnoczolowski 1

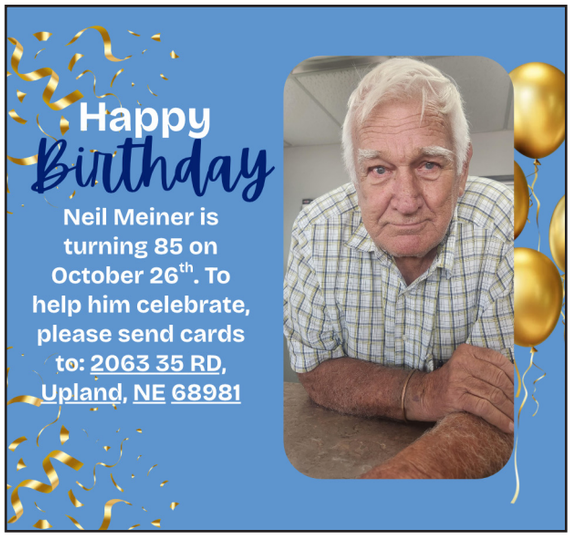




The Minden volleyball team was riding high last week with victories over Cozad on October 13 and Holdrege on October 15. (above) The Whippets form a solid wall blocking a Dusters attempt to score. (left) Reagan Carey spikes the ball past a Holdrege defender. (Courier photos by Tim Hudson)

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Minden Boys and Girls Runners-Up at Districts

ROGER HANSEN

Both the Minden girls' and boys' cross country teams qualified for the state meet having finished second in their respective races at the 11-school C-4 District at Aurora's Streeter Park on October 14. The cool conditions were ideal for running and the times the Whippet runners put up bears that out. All 12 runners achieved a personal best (PB) or a season best (SB).

Girls' scores: Adams Central 29, Minden 30, Milford 47, Aurora 64, Central City 101, St. Paul 120, GICC 125, David City 142. Malcom, Fairbury and Wilber-Clatonia had runners but not complete teams.

Top individual girl was Amelia Buhlke of Central City at 18:47. All of Minden's runners medalled in the top 15 led by Alexa Warner, 3rd at 19:29 (PB). Following her were Adelyn Whitten, 7th, 19:53 (SB); Gemma Fritson, 8th, 19:56 (PB); Regan Johnson, 12th, 20:14 (PB); Aclynn Osterbuhr, 14th, 20:20 (SB) and Emerson Kuehn, 15th, 20:24 (PB).

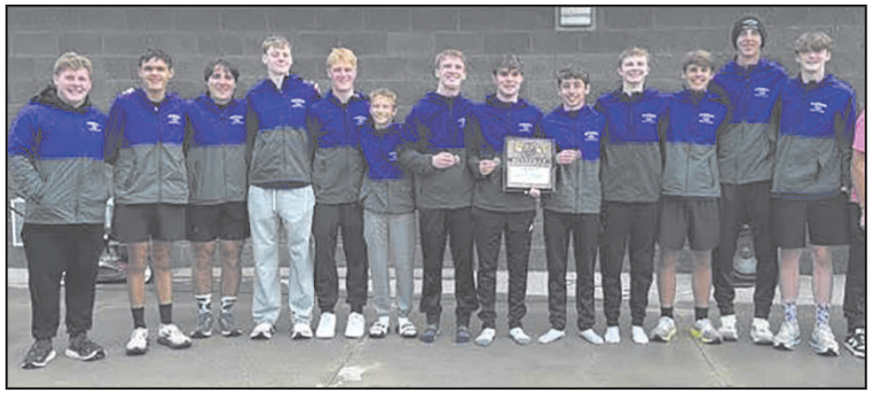
Boys' scores: Aurora 25, Minden 40, Milford 41, Central City 90, Malcom 94, Fairbury 117, St. Paul 125, GICC 125, David City 145, Wilber-Clatonia 164. Adams Central did not have a complete team.

Top individual was Grayson Oswald of Aurora at 16:21. Gage Thull (3rd,17:03,PB) was one of three Whippet medalists. Isaac Reed was 7th at 17:32 (PB) and Trystan Sharkey 9th at 17:35, (PB). Also running for Minden: Holt Aschenbrenner (21st, 18:33, PB), Seth Jacobitz (25th, 18:50, PB), Blake Boudreau (26th, 18:51, PB).

The State Meet is Friday, October 23 at the Kearney Country Club. The Class C girls run at 12:30 while the Class C boys start at 1:30. There are five Class C districts from which the top three teams and top 15 individuals qualify. The field will be made up of 15 teams and approximately 110 individuals.



Minden's girls and boys cross country teams each earned runner-up status at the C-4 Districts at Aurora. The Whippets will run again at the State Meet on October 23 at the Kearney Country Club. (Courtesy photos)







Axtell Boys Dominate Districts at Cambridge

ROGER HANSEN

Axtell's boys' team and one individual each from Wilcox-Hildreth and Axtell qualified out of their district for the State cross country meet. The D5 District was held at Cambridge's Cross Creek Golf Course on October 15. 22 schools participated although some did not have enough runners (minimum of 3 for Class D) for a complete team in either the girls' race or boys' race or both.

The Cat boys' 24 points was well below the other two team qualifiers-- Shelton (36) and Amherst (38). The rest of the boys' scores: Elm Creek 43, Kenesaw 46, Alma 55, Wood River 69, Arapahoe 70, Pleasanton 93, Ravenna 103, Cambridge 103, Maxwell 127.

Individual winner was Yanathan Perez of Wood River at 17:56. Axtell's Micah Houchin was 4th at 18:03, Kyler Kolbo 6th at 18:26 and Felix Lopez 15th at 19:07. Also for the Cats were Oscar Clausen (18th, 19:16) and Chase Nickel (31st, 20:09). Those five will compete at State.

Wilcox-Hildreth's Alex Klatt-Terabelian medalled at 7th at 18:28 and will be the lone Falcon running on Friday. Wil-Hil's Jacob Jezbera was 27th at 19:56. 71 boys ran.

Girls' team scores: Amherst 19, Hi-Line 36, Arapahoe 42, Brady 54, Kenesaw 55, Cambridge 56, Maxwell 70, Pleasanton 74, Axtell 77, Alma 83, Ravenna 97, Shelton 128, Overton 133, Wood River 140.

Girls' top individual was Aysha Neal of Alma at 20:40. Axtell's Emma Hall will go to State having gotten 7th at 21:58. Additionally for Axtell: Adelinn Nickel (37th, 25:11), Ella Lorenz (44th, 26:16), Kayla Abbott (57th, 28:37).

For the Falcon girls Allegra Johnson was 24th at 23:22 and senior Chloe Johnson was 34th at 24:46. 65 girls ran.

In Class D there were six districts. The top three teams and top 15 individuals from each district qualified for the State meet. 18 teams and approximately 120 girls will be racing. The meet is held at the Kearney Country Club with Class D girls running at noon (12:00) and the Class D boys scheduled to start at 1:00.



The Axtell boys cross country team including Micah Houchin, Kyler Kolbo, Felix Lopez, Oscar Clausen, and Chase Nickel won the District D5 title in Cambridge on October 15. Wildcat Emma Hall qualified for the the State Meet individually. Alex Klatt-Terabelian (below) was the lone qualifier from Wilcox-Hildreth. The State Meet will be held at the Kearney Country Club on October 24. (Courtesy photos)



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Let's Hear It For The Bands



Axtell High School Marching Band

The Axtell High School Marching Band has been busy this fall participating in events and competitions across the region. The Wildcats performed at the 2026 State Fair, UNK Band Day, Harvest of Harmony, and most recently at Minden Bandfest.

Last year the Wildcats earned a Superior rating at Minden Bandfest, the highest ranking available. They hoped to replicate the result this year and were successful in that goal.

Members of the 2026 Axtell High School Marching Band are: Drum Major-Brecklyn Delaney; Flute-Laura Bherhorst (section leader), Riley Hill; Clarinet-Rosa Georgiana, Clara Hall, Kennedy Jensen, Charlotte Nicholson, Binzley Walz (section leader); Saxophone-Oscar Clausen, Willow Philippi, Jazmyn Ramirez; Trumpet-Coben Hill (rank leader), Ian Johnson, Elijah Lorenzo, Loron Vinchattle, Samantha Vinchattle (section leader); Trombone-Mick Pfeil (section leader), Sam Nelson; Percussion-Grayson Bray, Levi Johnson (percussion captain), Rush Rahmann; Color Guard-Leanne Ellingson, Gabbi Robinson, Karleigh Smith, Bristol Thorell (color guard captain), Marley Thorell. The band is under the direction of Brock Persson.



Wilcox-Hildreth High School Marching Band

The Wilcox-Hildreth High School Marching Band is proving size does not limit success, capping off a stellar start to their competitive fall season.

Marching with a remarkably small crew of just nine members, every single student is required to perform at a solo level, leaving no room for error or anonymity. That precision paid off in September when the Falcons secured third place in Class D at the 67th annual UNK Band Day Parade in downtown Kearney. The podium finish marks a major milestone for the program, breaking a 10-year drought since the Falcons last placed at the event.

With momentum on their side, the Falcons turned their attention to Minden Bandfest. The band has captured a coveted Superior trophy for the last three consecutive seasons at this event. They were able to keep this tradition alive this year despite missing two members of their Mighty Nine on the day of the competition.

Members of the 2026 Wilcox-Hildreth High School Marching Band are: Tylar Johnson (12-Clarinet), Taylor Ingram (12-Clarinet), Bianca Herfel (9-Trumpet), Landin Braddy (12-Percussion), Craig Bunger (12-Tuba), Jordan Burki (9-Saxophone), Dax Knaus (9-Trombone), Jacob Jezbera (11-Trombone), and Luke Lush (11-Saxophone). The band is under the direction of Elaine Arehart.





Minden High School Marching Band

The Minden High School Marching Band has seen great growth over the last few years and is 59 members strong this year. The Whippets' 2026 field show is titled "Backstage Pass" and features the music of Blink 182, Radiohead, and Green Day.

The Whippets kicked off their competition season at Harvest of Harmony in Grand Island. Hoping to replicate or improve on last year's 3rd place finish in Class B parade marching and Excellent rating in field show, the band was content to earn 6th place in Class B parade marching and Excellent in field show this year. Performing at home in Minden Bandfest, the Whippets repeated their finish from last year with a Superior for parade marching and Excellent for field show. They now turn their attention to the NSBA State Field Marching Competition on October 24 in Kearney. The Whippets aim to exceed their Excellent rating from last season.

Members of the 2026 Minden High School Marching Band are: Patrick Cowling, Steve Rhodes, Jon Althouse, Dalton Pasbrig, Frank Kovacs, Bailey Alkire (Drum Major), Dayne Porter (Drum Major), Luz Lopez, Hope Mason, Abby Hollis, Kassi Fetterolf, Amelia Tira, Autumn Johnson, McKenzie Reith, Hallie Hartman, Stella Birkestrand, Taya Tomsen, Addyson Meyer, Hailey Petersen, Maddy Morey, Ash Kernick, Jack Widdifield, Mason Shirley, Kinsey Morey, Jade Melroy, Zipporah Wilson, Amelia Rupe, Miles Heath, Laynee Joyce, Sawyer Grotrian, Regan Johnson, Zoe Sexton, Josa Ciemnoczolowski, Brielle Boudreau, Caleb Mostrom, Jenna Petersen, Casey Nelson, Zoey Calderon, Gisele Guthard, Kaylie Lawless, Blake Boudreau, Huntley Oberg, Wyatt Gottsch, Grayden Forster, Jaxson Pasbrig, Margot Dimond, Kaden Bock, Tynlie Struss, Jocelyn Zerr, Kinleigh Hudson, Reed Morlang, Andrew Hasbrouck, Hunter Vahl, Anthony Guido. The band is under the direction of Matthew Stubbs.

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A Lifetime of Love

By Shana Schoone

Does Love Flourish in Privacy?

One of my favorite things to do is ask people who have been happily married for a while for marriage advice. This previous week, I had a customer who stayed at the hotel I work at for 10 days on business. Each day, he would come in, eat, and have a drink. We always had great conversations. So on the last day I decided to ask him for his marriage advice. His advice was different from anything I had heard before. "Don't talk about your marriage problems with your single friends. Keep your relationship as private as you can." His explanation for this was that he believed his friends ruined his good relationships in his past by getting in his ear.

His words got me thinking about the sacredness of privacy in our social media age. Years ago, I dated a man, who I posted on social media after my birthday, shouting him out because he made my birthday so special. Shortly after, he broke things off because he was private and I was so public. There was probably more to the story than that, but we don't need to get into it. My point is I have been active on social media for years and have shared many parts of my life. Recently though, I have been questioning this.

If we are all being honest, we get on social media to feel connected. However, I would argue most of the time we leave feeling empty. I have met amazing people through social media, and for that, I am grateful. But it is no joke that most of the time people just share their highlight reel while we sit in our life problems, thinking we are the only one with them. There is little vulnerability and really no intimacy in social media. Meaning no inside jokes, no moments of witnessing someone crying just to you, no falling asleep next to someone, no watching someone eat in real time. We think we know our influencers or our acquaintances, but we don't. We just know what they decide to post. And that's OK. However, that is the reason social media leaves us feeling a little empty.

Circling back to privacy, this is where intimacy resides. In the moments the whole world doesn't have access to. In his book, "The Meaning of Marriage", Timothy Keller wrote, "To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear." Recently, I was visiting an old friend and her husband. I had to leave, but they were about to eat. Her husband mentioned how he is dreading eating with her because she eats one fry at a time and it annoys him. It was the most beautiful thing to me how he knew that about her and loves her despite this odd tiny thing she does. It was intimacy. Something that you wouldn't know about them if you just saw their lives on social media.

Now this has me thinking. While it's beautiful to share our lives, keep people updated, and express ourselves on social media, what would our lives look like if we didn't share everything? Would celebrations be more meaningful like birthday parties, weddings, gender reveals, and one-month updates of our babies? Would we be more present if we weren't constantly taking pictures on vacations just to make sure everyone knew we were there and seemingly enjoying our lives? Would our relationships be more fulfilling if everyone didn't know our business both good and bad? Could we be more fulfilled expressing ourselves through other creative endeavors? Would we be more comforted if we ran to people in real life with our problems instead of our feed? Would we enjoy our lives more if it wasn't around to tell us what everyone else is doing and how we should live our lives?

Ultimately, there is no right or wrong answer. But I do think my customer and my ex are on to something with keeping the sacredness of life alive through more privacy. Because in privacy there is intimacy. And intimacy is where we are able to be fully known and loved. I believe that is the same feeling we are searching for while scrolling and posting on social media.

THAT'S LOVE.

With love always,

Shana Schoone

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- Sensations of the Seine/Normandy — *June 4-12, 2027* — Tour Hosts: Gary & Vonnie Blankers
- Northern Italy 2027 — *Aug. 27-Sept. 4, 2027* — Tour Host: Colleen Sneller
- Douro River Cruise: Spain & Portugal — *Nov. 5-13, 2027* — Tour Hosts: Gary & Vonnie Blankers

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The Minden Courier

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Frivolousness
16. Military arm
17. "Westworld" actor Harris
18. Persian Gulf port city
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Raincoats
27. Lower the light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Lack of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Reduces in size
34. Make an impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. "Layla" singer Clapton
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. "Top Gun: Maverick" actor Powell
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Larry and Curly's pal
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Masses of fish eggs
64. Passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless part of blood
2. Of a main artery
3. Photog's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit "But __"
5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. __ Lang: country singer
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Antelopes
13. One quintillion bytes
14. Japanese lute
15. A type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. Dorm official
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. __ route
30. Upper body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Edible nuts
35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Geological time
38. Of I
40. Northern Utah city
41. They work in the trenches
42. Hammer is one
44. Tall deciduous tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Provokes
51. Home of the NCAA's Flyers
52. Sodium
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not one
57. __ and behold
61. Atomic #21
62. "The Great Lakes State"

SUDOKU

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Level: Intermediate

10.15.26 SOLUTIONS

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

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
This is a great week for you, Aries. You are empathetic and tuned into your surroundings. You might feel warm and friendly to everyone.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, this is a feel-good week for you. Enjoy spending some private moments during which you reflect on the things you want to accomplish.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, sympathy toward a cause or a friend may prompt you to become involved in a charitable organization. You also are interested in learning more from others.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Use the fact that others are noticing you to your advantage, Cancer. You can set good examples by being compassionate and generous to others.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, your desire to expand your world is strong this week. You may renew an interest in travel and begin making progress on some big ideas.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
You are happy to be working behind the scenes, Virgo. However, you might take on a prominent fundraising role or engage in other activities that benefit others.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
This is a popular time for you to converse with others and interact with members of the general public, Libra. You might develop a strong connection to someone new.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you might make a fabulous impression on someone this week. This might compel this person and others to get involved with a cause dear to your heart.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Do something different this week, Sagittarius. You are open for an adventure. Accept invitations to socialize, and use your free time to the fullest.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you are sensitive to the needs of family members right now. You might be on a mission to help someone who needs assistance by researching programs or funding.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, you may have to be especially patient with a loved one who is still trying to process the news you gave them. Everyone deals with things in their own time.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, if you can do something to help others, especially within your professional arena, do not hesitate to do it. Your willingness to assist others will not go unnoticed.



Call, text or email from a merchant asking you to verify your purchase?

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