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SPORTS



Newcomers, returners shine at NU scrimmage.
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NEWS BRIEFS

REGION

Toxic algae at Willow

PIERCE — The state has issued a health alert for harmful algal blooms, also known as toxic blue-green algae, at Willow Creek Reservoir in Pierce County.

Samples taken earlier this week at Willow Creek Reservoir measured above the threshold of 8 parts per billion of total microcystin, which is a toxin released by certain strains of blue-green algae.

When a health alert is issued, signs are posted to advise the public to use caution, and designated swimming beaches are closed during the alert. Recreational boating and fishing are permitted, but the public is advised to use caution and avoid exposure to the water, particularly avoiding any activity that could lead to swallowing the water.

Pets also should not get in the water or drink from the lake. People may use the public areas for camping, picnics and other outdoor activities.

Weekly sampling has been conducted at 55 public lake sites since the first week of May. Swanson Reservoir in Hitchcock County, Glenn Cunningham Lake in Douglas County and Iron Horse Trail Lake in Pawnee County have been removed from the health alert.

The lakes will continue to be monitored weekly through the end of September. Sampling results for toxic algae and bacteria will be updated every Friday.

The state's monitoring is conducted at public lakes with swimming beaches and high public activity. Toxic algae may also be present in other lakes in Nebraska that are not tested, so visitors should use caution if they see signs of algal blooms.

NATION

Hunting and archery

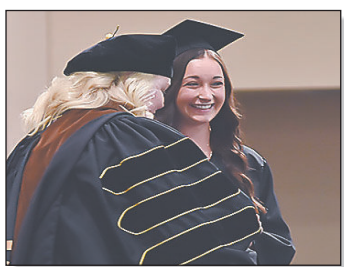
U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer is urging the president and his administration to withdraw its plans to block funding for elementary and secondary schools with hunting and archery programs.

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No Trump at debates

Former President Donald Trump confirmed that he would be skipping Wednesday's first Republican presidential primary debate — and others as well.

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College students earn paramedic, PTA degrees.
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137th year, No. 94



Community advocate

Telling local stories is our bread and butter

By KATHRYN HARRIS
kharris@norfolkdailynews.com

When Andi Mortland needed something close to a miracle, she turned to her local newspaper.

In early 2021, the Norfolk woman was looking for a way to raise roughly \$17,000 to pay for Rocket, a specially trained seizure-response dog that would serve as a companion — and potential lifesaver — for her then-9-year-old son, Gunner Hemenway.

A story about the family's efforts appeared in the Jan. 19, 2021, edition of the Norfolk Daily News. About 10 days later, a follow-up story shared the family's good news: The entire amount they needed had been raised, and Gunner would soon have Rocket by his side.

"I believe it was within like five days of the article that we were able to get all of the funds raised," she said.

Her reaction to the article's response: "Amazing."

Serving as an advocate for the community — telling local stories about local people, local organizations and local causes — is one of the main roles of a hometown newspaper. It's a role that's recognized nationwide by entities like the American Library Association (ALA), which encourages its members to be in contact with their local newspapers.

Why? Because local newspapers want to provide the kind of coverage their readers consider important.

"People are always going to want to know what's going on in their backyard and in their own communities," said Katy Ruth Camp, a reporter with the Marietta Daily Journal in Georgia.

Camp spoke on behalf of the relationship between local newspapers and libraries in a video for the ALA after the Daily Journal's coverage of the partnership between the Cobb County Library and a program called Vision to Learn.

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Protect the Pillar

Awaken, Educate, Motivate

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- DAY 2
THE FOURTH PILLAR
- DAY 3
NEWS DESERTS
- TODAY
COMMUNITY ADVOCATE
- DAY 5
LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE
- DAY 6
DEBATE SHARPENS TRUTH
- DAY 7
TRUSTED, RELIABLE NEWS
- DAY 8
LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

ONLINE EXTRA

The Protect the Pillar series, to date, may be found by scanning the QR code or going to www.norfolkdailynews.com

Covering 59 schools in our quarter of the state

By JAY PRAUNER
jprauner@norfolkdailynews.com

Ever wonder just how many counties, communities and schools are covered by the Norfolk Daily News?

If you happen to have a map of Nebraska handy, get it out. It will help demonstrate the geographical breadth of this newspaper's coverage area.

Nebraska consists of 93 counties with a population of nearly 2 million people. The Daily News considers 23 of those counties (25% of the state) in its coverage area.

Trips to the area's western-most counties — Holt, Boyd, Rock, Keya Paha, Brown and Cherry — take a little bit of a commitment, while the remaining 17 are within an hour's drive of Norfolk. Those counties are Wheeler, Boone, Antelope, Knox, Pierce, Madison, Platte, Colfax, Stanton, Wayne, Cedar, Dixon, Dakota, Thurston, Burt, Cuming and Dodge.

Of course, the development of the internet and websites means Daily News content is no longer only accessible to Northeast and North Central Nebraskans. Digital subscriptions have made it easy to provide local content across the nation and in many parts of the world.

Diving deeper, there are 368 high schools in Nebraska, 59 of which the Daily News has the privilege of reporting on. Yes, that's a lot of high schools to keep track of, but it's also among the many reasons why the Daily News continues to attract readers.

It's part of the Daily News' longtime
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Fans enjoy new event, features at Thunder by the River event

By LARAYNE TOPP
regional@norfolkdailynews.com

WISNER — For four to five days, a mobile community sets up in the park bordering the Elkhorn River at Wisner.

Little boys play Frisbee in the shade of tall cottonwoods, camping families grill hot dogs and sit around on lawn chairs, while semi-trucks — long ones — arrive loaded with tractors and pickup trucks.

But later in the day, those camping families pack the bleachers, hollering and cheering as those same tractors and pickup trucks roar down the track, diesel smoke and thunder alike charging the night skies.

This year marks the 21st year for Thunder by the River, known as the Beef State's ultimate national truck and tractor pull. Although the event is

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PHOTOS BY LARAYNE TOPP/CORRESPONDENT

SMOKE AND THUNDER filled the skies at Thunder by the River at Wisner, known as the Beef State's ultimate national truck and tractor pull. Tractors and both two-wheel and four-wheel trucks competed from as many as 10 states.

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Sunny and hot
Wind: SSW 16

WEDNESDAY
104 76
Mostly sunny
Wind: SW 16

16 pages \$1.00



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