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SPORTS



Panthers open season with doubleheader loss.
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NEWS BRIEFS

REGION

Love for Lemon

Luci Koinzan of Neligh loves horses and has five of her own that she'd do anything for.

The 15-year-old got a chance to prove that this summer with a registered dun quarter horse gelding named Lemon that was attacked by a mountain lion in the pasture where he was being kept.

Fortunately for Lemon, he was in the pasture next to the family's ranch house, so Luci saw his injuries right away and they were able to rush him to an emergency horse veterinarian in Ord that morning.

The mountain lion wasn't found, but neighbors' trail cam footage has captured mountain lions in the area. Lemon's injuries were consistent with how a mountain lion would attack its prey.

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Felony theft charge

An Iowa man has been charged with felony theft after he allegedly cashed in on a down payment for a construction project in Madison County but never did the job.

County Judge Michael Long signed an arrest warrant on Thursday for Jeremy Lawson, 47, of Bloomfield, Iowa, who was charged on Wednesday by the Madison County Attorney's Office with one count of theft by deception (\$5,000 or more).

In May, a woman told an investigator with the Madison County Sheriff's Office that she believed she was a victim of theft, according to an arrest affidavit.

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'Miracle pictures'

Nearly 30 years have passed since a man from Aurora, Colorado, found a random roll of film while visiting Cherry Creek Park in the Denver area.

The "miracle pictures," taken during the 1993 World Youth Day in Denver, were returned by the man at a Catholic church.

Last weekend, a group that attended that 1993 World Youth Day gathered to mark the 30th anniversary of the event.

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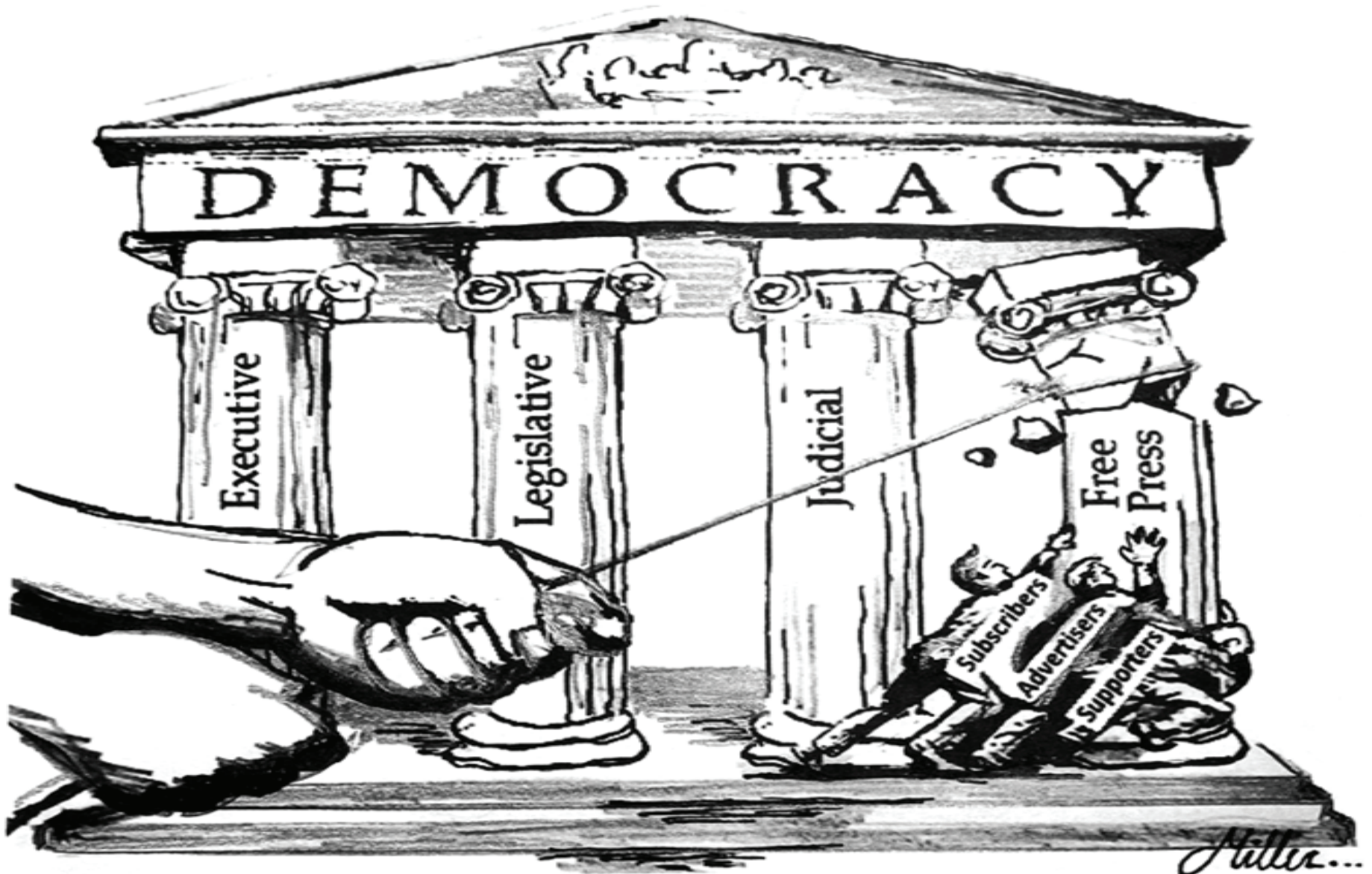
Meet six more new teachers in Norfolk.

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137th year, No. 92



The Fourth Pillar

A free press essential to Founding Fathers

By JERRY GUENTHER
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In 1787 — only a little more than 10 years after the United States was created — statesman Thomas Jefferson shared this thought: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

His words speak to the important role the news media play in a democratic society, so much so that when the three pillars of America's democratic government — the executive, legislative and judiciary branches — are identified, a fourth usually also is included.

A free press — guaranteed in the First Amendment of the U.S. Bill of Rights — is democracy's Fourth Pillar, or Fourth Estate as it's also referred to. Think about it: The only private enterprise identified by the Founding Fathers as important in safeguarding freedom is the news media.

The First Amendment simply states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The amendment gives the press the right — on behalf of American citizens — to freely share information, to promote transparency in government, to hold government leaders accountable and much more.

From the birth of the nation, Americans have embraced the ideal of a free press — and still do today.

Norfolk Mayor Josh Moenning said the free press continues to play a crucial role in keeping tabs on government proceedings, the governing process and the public's interactions with government officials.

"From Watergate to stories like the water (quality) issue in Flint, Michigan, media have played a driving role in uncovering corruption and exposing mismanagement," Moenning said.

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Newspaper in print, or online, crucial resource

By JERRY GUENTHER
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"Well, all I know is what I read in the papers."

It's been about 100 years since humorist Will Rogers is said to have uttered those words. For Allen Beermann, they still fit.

Beermann, a former Nebraska secretary of state and the retired head of the Nebraska Press Association, said he still reads five newspapers a day but finds himself longing for the heyday of the print industry.

He can't help but notice that many printed newspapers have become smaller in size — both in physical dimensions and number of pages. More importantly, some rarely cover government meetings, which were once the bread-and-butter for attracting readers and served as an important accountability check on elected officials.

He said a growing number of cities are now without a newspaper. Some daily newspapers now have cut back their printing schedule.

Beermann said older readers who have lost their daily newspapers know what they lost. So, he wants to make sure that residents of communities and regions still served by a quality publication like the Daily News realize how fortunate they are.

"Do they have time to look up the natural resources district or all these local subdivisions on their smartphones and find out when their meetings are going to be?" Beermann asked. "When it is in my newspaper, it is right there on my lap."

It is difficult, he said, for many people to realize everything a good daily newspaper provides — beyond news content and serving as a check on the government.

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Norfolk man sentenced to prison for assault

By AUSTIN SVEHLA
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MADISON — A Norfolk man who repeatedly assaulted a woman and opted not to cooperate with arresting police officers will spend most of the next 2 years in prison.

Cristian Santana-Gregory, 39, was sentenced by District Judge James Kube on Thursday to 5 years in prison for attempted second-degree assault, first-degree false imprisonment and obstructing a police officer.

Santana-Gregory, who was given credit for 190 days already served in jail, must serve 2½ years of his sentence before being released.

The Madison County Attorney's Office, in exchange for Santana-Gregory pleading guilty in June, reduced the assault charge and dismissed charges of terroristic threats and third-degree domestic assault,

"I learned that I can't control what other people think and say, but I can control two things — the way I react and my emotions."

CRISTIAN SANTANA-GREGORY



that he took her phone and left.

The victim said Santana-Gregory struck her head with a cellphone, giving her a laceration. Santana-Gregory also grabbed the victim's face and pulled it in a downward motion, she said, causing her teeth to cut her inner cheek.

Furthermore, Santana-Gregory pushed the victim against a wall and into a bathtub. Police found blood marks inside the residence consistent with the victim's story.

Santana-Gregory was located by Norfolk police driving the victim's vehicle on Riverside Boulevard. An officer made contact with Santana-Gregory in the parking lot of a gas station, where he said that he and the victim had gotten into an argument but that he left the apartment to avoid escalation of the argument. The feud did not turn physical, he had alleged.

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