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## INSIDE



Carter leaving Nebraska for job at Ohio State.  
See pages 2 and 9

## NEWS BRIEFS

### REGION

#### Juveniles charged

Two 14-year-old boys were formally charged by prosecutors on Monday with a plethora of crimes, including three felonies each.

The first juvenile was charged with aiding and abetting unlawful discharge of a firearm at an inhabited dwelling, aiding and abetting the use of a firearm to commit a felony and aiding and abetting unlawful possession of a firearm at a school.

The second teenager was charged with felony offenses of unlawful discharge of a firearm at an inhabited dwelling, use of a firearm to commit a felony and unlawful possession of a firearm at a school.

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#### Business expansion

District Table & Tap is expanding to another main street as owner Andrew McCarthy recently announced the business had taken over space at 135 S. Main St. in West Point that formerly housed the Bohemian Duck and would be opening District Table & Tap-West Point in the next few weeks.

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### NORFOLK

#### Downtown study

Despite efforts to improve the appeal of downtown Norfolk, the area still fits the blighted and substandard designation.

But that's not necessarily bad news.

Having an area declared as blighted and substandard is the first step in a generalized redevelopment plan. The updated study is needed for economic development to pursue specific grants targeting the downtown area.

See page 12

### SPORTS

#### Football predictions

The fall sports season's first football predictions column is highlighted by nine games featuring teams from the Northeast and North Central Nebraska coverage area, in addition to the college football game of the week, Navy vs. No. 13 Notre Dame.

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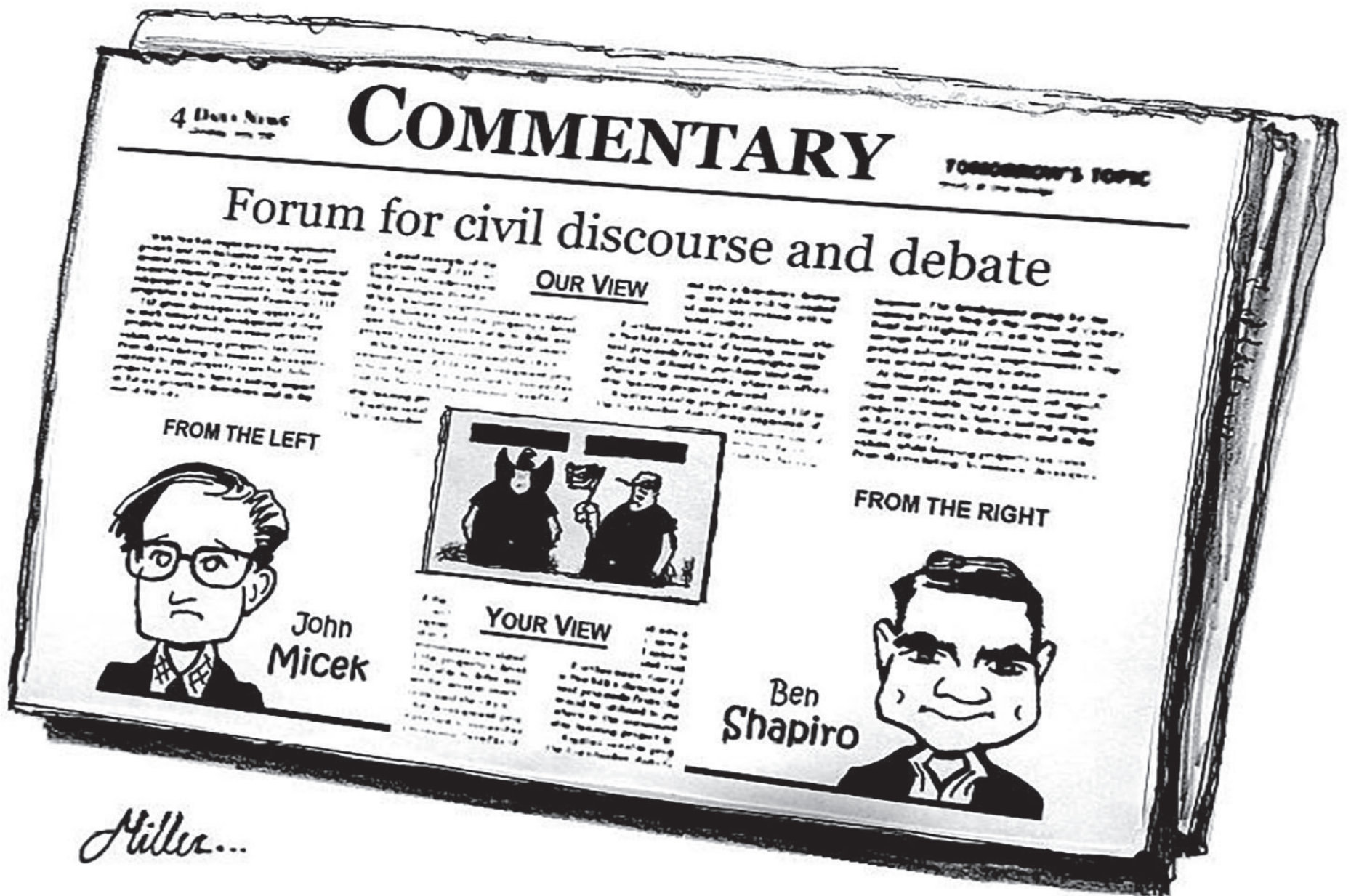
New officer sworn in, two others promoted.

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137th year, No. 96



# Debate sharpens truth

## Thorough discussion yields best solutions

By AUSTIN SVEHLA  
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When a community loses its newspaper, one of the most significant impacts is the loss of a venue for healthy debate and civil discourse.

Lots of opinions, of course, fly on social media, but many are misinformed or vitriolic in tone. What's lacking is the work of newspaper editors to provide a well-reasoned and thoughtful place for the exchange of ideas and opinions.

"Newspapers have long been a reliable way of getting information," state Sen. Robert Dover of Norfolk said. "They (newspapers) educate the public on things many people might not be aware of, but they also allow readers to have a voice and express their opinions on important matters in the community."

That's especially important in society today when people are limited in the time they have available to stay informed. "Everyone is busy — taking their kids to school, going to work, going to their children's activities, making dinner and volunteering in the community — but they still want to be informed," the lawmaker said. "People have the right to be informed. The newspaper gives that to them."

### 'THE ESSENCE OF DEMOCRACY'

A key component of the Norfolk Daily News is the newspaper's Commentary page, which includes editorials on local, state and national topics, commentary from nationally syndicated columnists and guest officials, and letters to the editor. The page serves as a marketplace for readers to share their opinions, allowing them to participate in civic engagement.

The Commentary page exists to help foster debate and to

►Please see **DISCUSSION**, page 8

Protect the Free Press

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- DAY 5 LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE
- TODAY 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](http://www.norfolkdailynews.com)

## Daily News features differing viewpoints

By JERRY GUENTHER  
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For those seeking editorials and opinion columns that are informative, thought-provoking and encourage vigorous, respectful debate, the Commentary page in the Daily News — both in print and online — is the place to turn to.

It's helpful to do so because many would agree that thorough debate is essential to finding the best solutions for the issues that arise — whether locally or nationally.

The Daily News has a history of publishing the work of columnists who represent both conservative and liberal points of view, as well as some who might be best described as "middle-of-the-road" in their writing.

Along with guest columns by some of Nebraska's elected officials, the Commentary page — both in print and online — provides a way for individuals to reflect on a variety of viewpoints.

The columnists also serve as a complement to the editorial viewpoint expressed by the Daily News at the top of the Commentary page.

The Daily News may best be described as conservative on political and social issues, but its editorials are primarily designed to spur discussion and further thought among readers, whether located in Nebraska or across the nation.

Readers may express their opinions, too, in letters published as part of the popular

►Please see **VIEWPOINT**, page 8

# Former transit manager alleges 'torture, abuse' in county jail

By AUSTIN SVEHLA  
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MADISON — Jeffrey Stewart, the former general manager of North Fork Area Transit, made a series of allegations about his treatment in the county jail on Tuesday during a court hearing in which he pleaded to reduce his bail amount.

County Judge Donna Taylor denied Stewart's request and left bail in his felony theft case at \$500,000.

Matthew Headley, Madison County's public defender, argued for a reduction in bail, saying that Stewart, 32, would like to be able to work to retain a private attorney, as well as address his worsening health.

After Taylor left Stewart's bail as

is, Stewart spoke — against the advice of Headley.

The former transit manager, who is accused of misusing around \$740,000 in NFAT funds, told Taylor he had been subjected to torture and abuse since being taken to the Madison County Jail in mid-July.

Stewart's complaints about his treatment in jail centered on the alleged lack of mental health medications he had received since being incarcerated, as well as his inability to receive proper medical treatment for a gout diagnosis.

"I would just like to go on record stating this jail did not provide adequate medical attention. I had

►Please see **COUNTY JAIL**, page 8



AUSTIN SVEHLA/DAILY NEWS

**JEFFREY STEWART**, the former general manager of North Fork Area Transit, appears in court on Tuesday on a felony theft charge.

## Norfolk man waives hearing over alleged child sexual assault

By AUSTIN SVEHLA  
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MADISON — A Norfolk man charged with sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl at a salvage yard had his case bound over to Madison County District Court on Tuesday after waiving his right to have a preliminary hearing in county court.

David Perrin, 62, had charges of first-degree sexual assault of a child and enticement by electronic device bound over by County Judge Donna Taylor.

After Perrin waived his right to a preliminary hearing, county public defender Matthew Headley asked Taylor to reduce Perrin's bail to \$25,000 or \$50,000. County Judge Michael Long previously set Perrin's bail at \$250,000.

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