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## INSIDE



Meet six more new teachers in Norfolk.  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

### NORFOLK

#### Ricketts campaign

U.S. Sen. Pete Ricketts made it official Wednesday, launching a campaign to win election to the Senate seat he was appointed to fill by his successor as governor.

Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen tapped Ricketts, a two-term governor, to succeed Sen. Ben Sasse in January after Sasse resigned to become president of the University of Florida.

Ricketts touted his business and government experience during a campaign stop in Norfolk on Wednesday afternoon.

"Nebraska is what America is supposed to be," Ricketts said. "We have the values that our founders demonstrated when they created this country. We have the courage, the grit. We're willing to sacrifice. We are resilient."

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#### Narcotics arrests

Nebraska State Patrol investigators, with the assistance of the Norfolk Police Division, have arrested three people in a narcotics investigation.

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#### Dismissal sought

The City of Norfolk has filed a motion to dismiss claims alleged in a lawsuit brought earlier this year by former League Associate of Risk Management employee Randall Peters.

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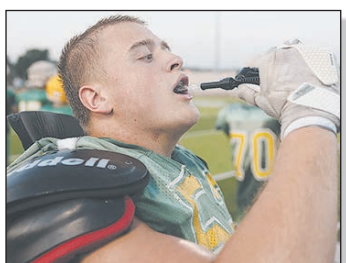
### REGION

#### 20 Below writers

The Daily News is looking for high school students to write for its 20 Below section this school year. For those who enjoy writing, this would be a great opportunity as it looks great on college applications and résumés.

Students who write for 20 Below have the opportunity to write about current events and topics. The articles are mainly opinion pieces and are not news articles, therefore conducting interviews is not required. 20 Below starts next month and runs throughout the school year.

Students who would like to join 20 Below should email Neija Muminovic, the 20 Below coordinator, at nmuminovic@norfolkdailynews.com, or call the Daily News at 402-371-1020.



Should games not start until September?  
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137th year, No. 97



Miller...

# Trusted, reliable news

## Longtime customers share personal views

By SHERYL SCHMECKPEPER  
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It's true — Dave Busskohl enjoys reading the comic strips in the Norfolk Daily News. Zits is one of his favorites.

But he doesn't stop there. The president of Allied Tour and Travel in Norfolk appreciates many of the paper's features, including its local news and sports coverage, as well as columns on the Commentary page.

"I read about every section," he said. "Sports ... obits. I like local news (because) I really like to know what's going on in the community. I hope people appreciate the importance of that."

That's the task facing many community newspapers today — continuing to serve longtime subscribers and advertisers while attracting new ones, too. If readership and advertising support declines, a newspaper's future can be in jeopardy.

Busskohl grew up reading newspapers, including the Daily News and the Omaha World-Herald, both of which were delivered to his family's doorstep. He remembers how much fun it was for him and his friends to discover their name or picture in the paper for an accomplishment of some sort.

"It was a major treat," he said. As an adult, Busskohl has been a subscriber for 40 years. He prefers the tactile experience of holding the actual newspaper as opposed to reading a digital version because it's "easier to get lost or miss things on a digital device," he said.

Still, he recognizes the value of offering both formats. It's important to accommodate readers' preference, he said.

Regardless of whether people choose the print or digital  
►Please see CUSTOMERS, page 6

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- DAY 5 LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE
- DAY 6 DEBATE SHARPENS TRUTH
- TODAY 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)

## Social media credibility depends on how it's used

By AMBER FEHRS  
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If the goal is to find a trusted source of reliable, accurate news, social media probably isn't the place to turn to.

Sure, there are responsible news sites found on various social media platforms — often published by mainstream newspapers and other media outlets — but then there are sites like what state Sen. Bruce Bostelman of Grand Island unfortunately relied on last year.

The Nebraska Legislature made national news in March 2022 when the senator repeated to his colleagues a social media-fueled rumor that some students who identified as cats in Nebraska were being provided with litter boxes by their schools.

The litter box claim was thoroughly debunked. But not soon enough. Articles on Bostelman cropped up in national publications like The Washington Post, and one video of his comment on the floor of the Legislature received more than 300,000 views, according to NBC.

The strange rumor originated online, with Michigan and Iowa social media groups seeing the claims about "cat-students" and litter boxes before it spread to Nebraska, according to The Washington Post.

The rumor made its way to Norfolk, too. It was prevalent enough that Jami Jo Thompson, Norfolk Public Schools superintendent, felt it important enough to issue a public statement: "Norfolk Public Schools

►Please see CREDIBILITY, page 6

## Johnson Park project receives \$2 million grant from state

By JON HUMPHRIES  
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City officials announced this week that Norfolk had been selected to receive a grant of up to \$2 million to be allocated toward the completion of the Johnson Park restoration project.

The grant was awarded by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. City council members voted unanimously to approve the agreement with the state.

Nate Powell, the city director of parks and recreation, provided council members with an overview of the grant.

"This is an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, part of the State of Nebraska Rescue Plan Act of 2021," Powell said. "This grant did not require an application, and there are no matching funds required."

Powell said Norfolk Mayor Josh Moenning

### Funding for Johnson Park

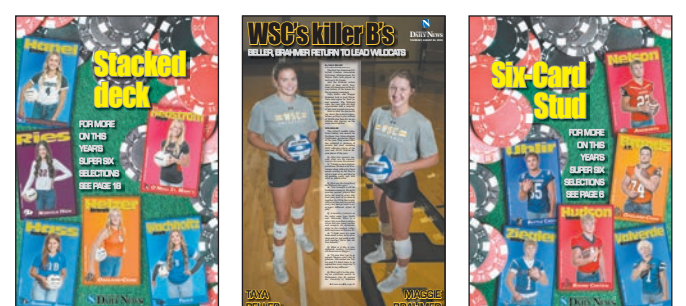
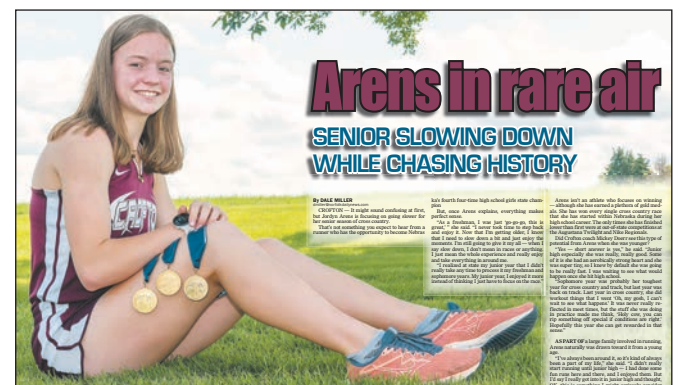
Here's a breakdown of how the grant funds would be utilized in the Johnson Park restoration project:

- \$265,000 for the ice-skating rink.
- \$425,000 for the splash pad.
- \$275,000 for the pedestrian bridge.
- \$60,000 for signs.
- \$50,000 for landscaping.
- \$325,000 for the playground facility.
- \$100,000 for gatehouse improvements.
- \$300,000 for concession stand, restroom and sport-court.

and state Sen. Robert Dover were instrumental in obtaining the grant funding.

"The funds will be for the Johnson Park project, and these funds get us over the finish line

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FALL SPORTS PREVIEW SECTION IN TODAY'S PAPER.

FIND OUR APP HERE

FRIDAY  
**90 63**  
Partly cloudy  
Wind: NNE 12

SATURDAY  
**83 59**  
Partly cloudy  
Wind: NNE 10

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