

Bronco wins

HC men, women victorious at Midland.

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Call for unity

After surviving recall by narrow margin, Omaha mayor ready for fresh start.

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“The entire notion of public notices was built on the reliability and accountability of newspapers. Once you print it, it is there forever. It cannot be updated with a timestamp.”

- Brook Curtiss, owner of the Plainview News

A fight for the right to know

NEWSPAPER OFFICIALS TURN OUT IN FORCE AGAINST PROPOSED CHANGE IN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICES

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LINCOLN — Nebraska newspaper publishers and owners testified against a legislative bill here Wednesday that could potentially push public meeting notices out of newspapers and onto the Internet.

The seven representatives with newspapers from Omaha to Benkelman testified before the Nebraska Legislature's Government, Military and Veteran Affairs Committee on LB444.

The bill, introduced by Sen. Bill Avery of Lincoln, would allow city, county and other public bodies to publish their meeting notices online rather than in newspapers.

According to existing state statute, "Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting by a method designated by each public body and recorded in its minutes."

Generally this means organizations will place a short notice in the local newspaper and post a paper copy of the agenda in the city hall, county courthouse or other public building.

The proposal Avery introduced late Wednesday afternoon would add to the existing statute the following language: "Methods of providing such notice shall include, but not be limited to, publication in a

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The Legislature's Government, Military and Veteran Affairs Committee Wednesday heard testimony on a bill that could potentially push public meeting notices out of newspapers and onto the Internet.

BRENT McCOWN/Tribune illustration

Rose out in Clay Co.

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CLAY CENTER — By a vote of 2-5 here Tuesday, the Clay County Board of Supervisors chose not to renew the contract of Emergency Manager Bob Rose, who has been in the position for 31 years.



Rose said in an interview this morning that he was not given a reason for the decision and the supervisors hadn't communicated with him about the issue prior to the meeting.

"Absolutely not," he said.

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River flood watch set

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Residents and businesses located near the Platte River are being asked to watch for an increased flood risk.

The National Weather Service Wednesday issued a hazardous information outlook for areas along the river.

Cindy Fay, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Hastings, said a few factors have come together to cause the action.

River channels in areas of Hall County are already ice jammed or frozen over, causing water flow to be restricted. Fay said the river has been more full than usual since the area is coming out of a drought. Even though the river levels in the Platte remain below flood stage, she said it could change.

Warmer weather caused the possible flood situation as snow and ice has melted, adding water to the river.

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Jean Reinhardt shares her childhood memories of growing up near Mullen with Alcott fourth-grader Kiera Tennant-VanWinkle Wednesday at The Kensington.

BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

When I was in school ...

ALCOTT STUDENTS INTERVIEW KENSINGTON RESIDENTS ABOUT GOOD OL' DAYS

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How have schools changed over the last century or so? The young and old students chattering away inside the Kensington dining room Wednesday intended to find out.

This afternoon visit was the third Alcott Elementary fourth-graders have made to The Kensington retirement home this year. Students interviewed Kensington residents who volunteered for the activity, first gathering their Thanksgiving memories, then Christmas

memories, and now school memories. School safety measures, certainly, have evolved over the years.

"When we were in high school, we had fire drills," said Iola Saddler, 89. "We had a fire escape on the side of the building, so the girls always went down first — we slid down this big tube and got outdoors — and then the boys followed. Well, I guess there were two boys that went first and they caught us as we came out, so we didn't fall in the gravel out there."

Saddler graduated from Kenesaw High School, attending a three-story brick building that has since been torn down. High school classrooms were upstairs, while first through eighth grades were combined two grades per classroom on the first floor. The basement held class-

rooms like home economics, shop and gym, Saddler said.

After graduating from Kenesaw, Saddler returned to teach there; at District 57, north of the Hastings airport; at District 12 south of Juniata; and at Maxwell.

While Alcott fourth-graders Brittany Ramos, Amber Buck and Emily Gartner talked with Saddler, across the room their classmates Josiah Bronson, Grant Benway and Trevor Cox were interviewing Druella Hohnstein, 86. The boys were surprised by some of the things Hohnstein said about school.

"They had to bring their lunch and we don't have to, because they make it for us and give it to us. That's what I thought was really interesting," Josiah said.

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Weather

Lo: 25
Hi: 52

Becoming mostly sunny and warmer Friday.



Art by Meghan Brandt, 7, Dresher Lutheran School

PACKERS TIE

CHICAGO — A Chicago man who was fired for wearing a Green Bay Packers necktie to his job at a car dealership is going back to work selling Chevrolets — but not for the same place.

Nation

Thirty-four-year-old John Stone of Chicago's South Side says he's starting work today at Chevrolet of Homewood. He decided to take the new job even though the manager of Webb Chevrolet in Oak Lawn relented and offered him his old one back.

Stone says he was offered the new job Tuesday as he was being interviewed on television about his firing. Chevrolet of Homewood general manager Guy Cesario says Packers fans called promising to buy new cars from Stone if he's hired.

The Associated Press

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