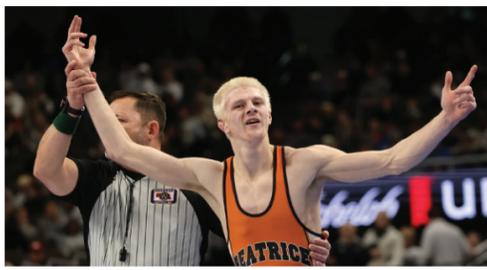


Two Orangemen capture mat championships

PAGE B1



Beatrice man dies in one-vehicle accident

PAGE A3

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

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## Agreement could boost Court project

State would do environmental reviews in bid to streamline process

**ROB SCHLOTTERBECK**  
Daily Sun editor

An agreement between the state of Nebraska and the U.S. Department of Transportation could provide a boost to the Court Street access project.

In a news release, Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy announced Monday that Nebraska had a memorandum of understanding with the Federal Highway Administration for the state to streamline environmental reviews for projects that comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

"Today's agreement removes unnecessary federal red tape — ensuring more major infrastructure

projects are built on time and on budget," Duffy said in the release.

Instead of federal reviews, under the partnership model already agreed to by Texas and Maine, the Nebraska Department of Transportation would do the reviews.

"For decades, bureaucrats have delayed or blocked critical infrastructure projects," Gov. Jim Pillen said in the release. "But today, the Nebraska Department of Transportation can streamline government, accelerate timelines, and increase affordability as we continue to build our state's future."

The Court Street Access and Safety Transformation Project reroutes U.S. 136 from Court to Market Street between Second and Eighth streets.

Please see **COURT**, Page A2

### Court Street master plan concept

The project would move Highway 136 to Market Street to improve safety and access on Court Street.



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### COMMUNITY

## HELPING CEMETERIES



**CHRISTINA LYONS, DAILY SUN STAFF WRITER**

Amid the historic headstones unsightly trash receptacles are chained to trees at Evergreen Home Cemetery and Beatrice Cemetery. The Friends of the Beatrice Cemetery Association is raising funds to replace the barrels.

### Partners assist with design, fundraising for trash collecting

**CHRISTINA LYONS**  
Daily Sun staff writer

The Friends of the Beatrice Cemetery Association with the association's community partners are looking for help as they continue efforts to beautify and improve the cemeteries.

Mitch Deines of the Beatrice Cemetery Association explained that currently large plastic barrels are being used for trash.

"As you drive through the cemetery you will notice that our current trash receptacles are 55-gallon cutoff plastic barrels that are chained to various trees," he said. "They're rather unsightly, obviously, and they don't always stand up. We've been talking for several years about buying some replacements, but it was cost prohibitive

to purchase 40 containers."

Through a shared connection, Randy Kinney with Kinney Manufacturing became involved. He designed a receptacle that was more affordable and could be made in Beatrice for around \$250 each for a total of \$10,000.

Randy's wife, Debby, has family members buried in the Beatrice Cemetery.

"Debby and her mother, who is 94, had done some research and learned that her great-grandfather had homesteaded two different times around Beatrice. He was in the Civil War and only had one arm. He is buried in the Beatrice Cemetery," Kinney said.

His mother was born east of Beatrice.

"It's interesting that both of

our families have ties to Beatrice. Although this is not a project we would typically be involved with because we work with larger manufacturing, we wanted to help. We're excited to be a part of this community," he said.

Janet Byars of the Friends of the Beatrice Cemetery Association said people are interested in the history and stories surrounding the cemetery.

"It's the relationships that make the difference. Articles have been posted with history of the cemetery on Facebook and there are always comments from people with family buried in either the Evergreen Home or Beatrice Cemetery," she said.

Please see **CEMETERIES**, Page A2

### STATE OF THE UNION

## Trump to use speech to sell skeptical voters

**JOSH BOAK AND MICHELLE L. PRICE**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's State of the Union address Tuesday is likely to be a test run of the message Republicans will give to voters in November's elections for control of the House and the Senate.

The president and his party appear vulnerable, with polls showing much of America distrusts how Trump managed the government in his first year back in office. In addition, the Supreme Court last week struck down one of the chief levers of his economic and foreign policy by ruling he lacked the power to impose many of his sweeping tariffs.

Though Trump is expected to focus on domestic issues, his intensifying threats about launching military strikes on Iran over its nuclear program cast a shadow over the address.

Here are a few things to watch as Trump tries to make his case:

### Economy and immigration

Trump swept back into the White House on promises to bring down prices and restore order to immigration in America. Public sentiment turned against him on both issues.

Only 39% of U.S. adults approve of his economic leadership and just 38% support him on immigration, according to the latest Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey.

Those low numbers show the country is still fretting about the costs of groceries, housing and utilities, a problem compounded by Trump's whipsawing use of tariffs. They also show how the public was disturbed by videos of violent clashes with protesters, including of federal agents killing two U.S. citizens.

Since his party passed a massive tax cut bill last year, Trump has yet to unveil major new policy ideas on the economy. In recent speeches, he largely offered the public reruns about his tax cuts, plans to reduce mortgage rates and a new government website for buying prescription drugs.

The Supreme Court ruling against many of Trump's far-reaching global tariffs on Friday and the president vowing to use other means to forge ahead with import taxes will only prolong the economic turmoil over trade and prices.

"I think it makes it even more important that the speech really focus on the economy," said Alex Conant, a Republican strategist.

Please see **TRUMP**, Page A2

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### Inside

Comics	A7	Weather	A8
Classifieds	B8	Local	A3
Nation	A4-A5	Sports	B1



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