

Beatrice boys win York track invite

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Court hears challenge to medical marijuana law

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Tuesday, April 28, 2026

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COMMUNITY

RUNNING AND RIDING



ROB SCHLOTTERBECK, DAILY SUN

A rider in the 20-mile race heads south toward Iron Mountain on South 10th Road during Saturday's First Responders Face Off.

First Responder Face Off races raise funds for causes

ROB SCHLOTTERBECK
Daily Sun editor

Saturday morning was a good time for a run or a ride.

Or, in the case of one editor, a walk with his bicycle up a hill that was just too much.

Saturday was the inaugural First Responder Face Off. Participants could choose from three races: a 5K for runners on the riverside trail, and 10-mile or 20-mile gravel grinders for cyclists on the gravel (and hilly) roads past Iron Mountain to East Linden Road and back. All the courses started and ended at the tabernacle in Chautauqua Park.

There was also a 1-mile fun run for children.

Participants also got to choose which team they were competing for: the police or the firefighters.

BPD's Officer Courtney Brauch said 47 people registered for the event in advance.

"The Police Department has been partnering with the Fire Department in order to put this race together. ... Our unions ... are kind of hosting it, and so that money will go back to ... Project Lifesaver (for the police) and ... Muscular Dystrophy Association (for the firefighters), so two very wonderful causes," she said.

Brauch said the event had support of many people in the community beyond the police and firefighters, including members of the Beatrice High School football team, who were scheduled to help clean up after the event.

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VIEW: To see more photos from Saturday's event, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link.

NEWSVU

White House to discuss security

ANDREW GOUDSWARD AND BLAKE BRITAIN
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The man accused of opening fire at a Washington dinner attended by Donald Trump was charged Monday with attempting to assassinate the U.S. president.

Cole Tomas Allen, 31, of Torrance, California, could face a potential life sentence if convicted.

Allen made his first appearance in Washington federal court two days after authorities said they foiled an attack at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner, an annual black-tie gathering of journalists and politicians.

At the hearing, prosecutor Jocelyn Ballantine said the weapons Allen brought to Washington included a 12-gauge pump-action shotgun and three knives.

"He attempted to assassinate the president of the United States, Donald J. Trump," Ballantine said.

Suspect detained

Allen also faces charges of illegally transporting a firearm across state lines and discharging a firearm during a crime of violence, U.S. Magistrate Judge Matthew Sharbaugh said at a court hearing.

Allen did not respond to the allegations at the brief hearing. He said he had a master's degree in computer science. Defense lawyer Tezira Abe said at the hearing that Allen had no prior arrests or convictions.

Sharbaugh ordered Allen held in custody until at least Thursday, when he scheduled a separate court hearing to consider prosecutors' request that he be detained pending trial.

The incident was another reminder of a rising tide of political violence in the United States in recent years. Conservative political activist Charlie Kirk

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■ **INSIDE:** Pillen says we need to ask why political violence is rising.
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ELECTION 2025

Ricketts visits for campaign stop, turkey hunt

ROB SCHLOTTERBECK
Daily Sun editor

Sen. Pete Ricketts visited Gage County on Saturday, bringing his reelection message to Blue Springs and Beatrice as he seeks his first full term as senator.

He also bagged a turkey and got a good look at a bobcat.

During her introductory remarks at the 402 Sports Bar & Grill, Gage County Supervisor Emily Haxby described the hunt.

"We spent the morning out hunting, a successful hunt this morning," she said. "He was able to get a turkey, and the highlight for me was that we were able to see a bobcat come right up to our blind, which is

really awesome."

"I got a good video," Ricketts said.

After taking the microphone, Ricketts thanked Haxby for her introduction, the hunt and for her work on Board of Supervisors. He also introduced legislative candidates Mark Schoenrock, a Jefferson County commissioner running in District 32, and Cally Ideus, a businesswoman from Filley running in District 30, which includes all of Gage County.

Ricketts then thanked the group of about 25 people "for taking time this afternoon to talk about the important issues that we face as a nation."

Ricketts was appointed to his seat by Gov. Jim Pillen in 2023

when Ben Sasse resigned. Ricketts then easily won a special election in 2024 to complete Sasse's term.

The senator spent some time talking about former President Joe Biden's border policies.

"We saw 10 and a half million people trying to get into the country illegally," he said. "Senate Republicans voted for \$175 billion to help secure the border, and now we have seen that those illegal border crossings are down to a 50-year low."

He highlighted other Senate GOP actions.

"We're also working to pass bills like the Back the Blue Act, which increases the penalties

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ROB SCHLOTTERBECK, DAILY SUN

Sen. Pete Ricketts (right) talks to a group from Adams during his stop at the 402 Sports Bar & Grill in Beatrice on Saturday. The men had been eating in the dining area and stopped by to see the senator.

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