

Discoverers
off to up and
down start
to new year

SPORTS, B1



Golden Globe
predictions:
Who will
win Sunday?

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ARTHUR H. TRICKETT-WILE, JOURNAL STAR

Sen. Jared Storm of David City listens to colleagues during the opening day of the 2nd session of the 109th legislature on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026, in the legislative chambers of the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln.

115 bills introduced as session opens

ANNA KLEIBER
Lincoln Journal Star

A bill introduced Wednesday by Sen. Megan Hunt of Omaha would restore a work requirement exemption for some Nebraskans in the federal food assistance program.

The bill was among 115 introduced on the first day of the legislative session.

The bill (LB734) would allow the state Department of Health and Human Services

to request a federal waiver for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program work requirements so “vulnerable groups are not punished by rigid work requirements that don’t reflect their lived reality,” Hunt told the Journal Star.

The legislation follows new federal rules that reclassified veterans, homeless individuals and young adults who aged out of foster care as able-bodied adults without dependents, or ABAWDs, in late

2025, subjecting them to stricter eligibility requirements.

To qualify for SNAP, a program that provides monthly benefits to low-income individuals and families to use to purchase eligible food items, ABAWDs must work or volunteer in the community at least 20 hours a week or 80 hours per month, according to DHHS.

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A VIGILANT EYE

East Central Health District talks measles

County now at four confirmed cases, immunization clinic Jan. 9

JARED BARTON
Columbus Telegram

With two more cases of measles reported in Platte County this week, bring the total to four, The East Central District Health Department in Columbus held a clinic

Monday for the MMR vaccine.

A second is scheduled for Jan. 9 at Ag Park from 4 to 7 p.m. The vaccine targets illnesses including measles, mumps and rubella.

The four confirmed cases are confined to one household, but those who attended the Christmas Eve service at Shell Creek Baptist Church or who were in the Columbus Community Hospital emergency

department on Dec. 29, 2025 between 2 and 6:30 a.m. are urged to self-monitor for symptoms including fever, runny nose, cough and rash.

Molly Pofahl, chief public health officer with the East Central District Health Department, said those who think they may have measles are encouraged to call 402-562-7500.

“We’re encouraging people to come

forward if they are unvaccinated. If they are fully vaccinated, we’re just encourage them to self monitor for any symptoms, and if any symptoms do develop, to go ahead and give us a call,” Pofahl said.

If one suspects they have measles, Pofahl said, they are urged to call their doctor and let them know, but cautioned not to walk

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