

Mending  
Huskers  
ready for fall

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Global spider  
experts meet  
at UNL

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# A CALLING TO HELP



JARED BARTON, COLUMBUS TELEGRAM

Columbus Police Chief Bret Strecker and Columbus Police Department's newest officer Christopher McElwain pose for a picture after the Monday Columbus City Council meeting appointing McElwain to the force.

## Newest Columbus police officer enjoys being able to help in times of crisis

JARED BARTON  
Columbus Telegram

Starting in security, working for the Federal Reserve, Christopher McElwain is familiar with several angles of the law enforcement field.

One part of it, however, drives him to keep in it.

"It's the ability to help people," McElwain said. "A big thing about being a police officer is you're helping people in that 1% of their time of need, when they're in crisis, and being able to be a guiding hand to help those people out of that crisis really draws me to the field and makes me want to stay and continue helping people."

Columbus' newest police officer, McElwain comes to Columbus from Omaha, where he graduated from Northwest High School. He has worked in armed security, armed detention, training and more recently at the Federal Reserve Law Enforcement office in Omaha. He had to wait until he was 21 to get a job in law enforcement out

of high school, but was determined to get there eventually.

"When I turned 18, it was something that I've always kind of wanted to do, so I got into the security field first, and then in 2001 I was given the opportunity to join the Federal Reserve law enforcement branch here in the Omaha field office," McElwain said. "So I got to work there for about three, almost four years, and then luckily the Columbus PD was hiring, so I put in an application and got my way through that."

His experience goes beyond simply being in the field and knowing what to do. In 2018, he was part of an emergency situation that reminds him of why he got into this line of work in the first place.

He was working in field training at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, training an officer when they came across a driver who had struck a light pole, their car engulfed in flames.

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## Walz launches platform in bid for governor

JOSH REYES  
Omaha World-Herald

LINCOLN — Lynne Walz, the Democratic candidate for Nebraska governor, unveiled the framework of her platform Wednesday, highlighting early actions she would take and goals to unify Nebraskans and promote Nebraska values.

Walz, a former state lawmaker from Fremont, recalled the exploratory phase of her campaign, during which she stood in front of crowds in cities and towns across the state and wrote down people's ideas and concerns on posters. The enthusiasm she saw was a formative experience for her campaign, Walz said.

"People in Nebraska want to be listened to and to be heard," she said in an interview Monday with The World-Herald. She also said the experience confirmed that more unites Nebraskans than divides them.

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## Ahlman drops out of CD1 race

ANNA KLEIBER  
Lincoln Journal Star

Austin Ahlman has abandoned his independent bid for Nebraska's 1st Congressional District seat after his father's cancer returned and his health rapidly declined, prompting Ahlman to step away from the race to focus on his family.

"The people of Nebraska deserve a candidate who can devote everything to this race. Right now, I cannot do that while also being the son my father deserves," Ahlman said in a press release Sunday.

In a social media post Sunday, Ahlman said his father's cancer returned last month.

"When we launched this campaign in May, my dad was in remission and his

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