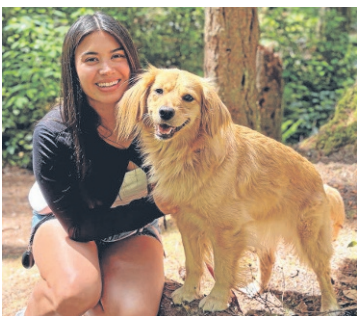


FREMONT TRIBUNE

WEEKEND EDITION

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PAGE B1



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PAGE B10

Saturday, July 11, 2026

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A matter of life and death

Methodist Fremont
launches lung cancer
screening program

DAVID GOLBITZ
Fremont Tribune

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States behind heart disease and recent studies have shown that individuals in more rural areas have a higher mortality rate than those in urban centers, but a new cancer screening program at Methodist Fremont Health is trying to make big city care available to those in smaller communities.

“We started a lung cancer program here in Fremont about six, eight weeks ago,” said Dr. Adam Wells, a Methodist pulmonologist. “Part of that is, we got a brand new clinic space with our own nurse navigator, and we started doing a lung cancer screening program here.”

What that means for patients is that they don’t have to travel into Omaha or Lincoln from rural Dodge County just to get a CAT scan.

“It saves a ton of time,” Wells said. “We have people coming to us from West Point here because it’s so much closer than driving all the way to Omaha or Lincoln to get seen.”

Having a lung cancer screening is itself a

relatively quick process, Wells said.

“What’s so nice about our screening program is, you can literally just pull up the cancer center here, walk in the door, get the CAT scan and leave,” he said. “We send you a time, here’s where it is. You show up, go back to work or do it on your way to work, and it’s so easy because then you don’t have to see a doctor either. We just call you.”

To get a lung cancer screening, your primary care physician might call in a referral, but Wells said that if you meet the criteria for the screening program, you can just call up and schedule an appointment, no referral needed.

That criteria includes people age 50 or

older that have smoked the equivalent of one pack of cigarettes a day for 20 years or more.

“It’s what we call 20 pack years, which is basically a pack a day for 20 years or two packs for 10 years,” Wells said. “Then you meet the criteria and you just come in and once a year we do your scan. We call you back next year and say, ‘hey, remember you did this a year ago? We’re gonna do it again.’”

For people who are at risk of getting lung cancer, catching the cancer early is literally a matter of life and death.

“If you get caught late when you start

Please see **SCREENING**, Page A7

EXPO EXCELLENCE



RACHEL GEORGE PHOTOS, FREMONT TRIBUNE

Max Snodgrass of Dodge County shows his fall yearling Jersey at the Fremont 4-H Expo on Thursday, July 9, 2026.



Journee Drapeau of Dodge County shows his Holstein at the Fremont 4-H Expo on Thursday, July 9, 2026.



Elijah Hoffman of Dodge County shows his summer yearling Holstein at the Fremont 4-H Expo on Thursday, July 9, 2026.

Lawmakers, state employees union, critical of Pillen memo

ANNA KLEIBER
Lincoln Journal Star

The executive director of Nebraska’s largest public employees union said Gov. Jim Pillen’s Wednesday memo ordering all state agencies to reduce spending by 5% and freeze hiring for most positions will not only hurt state employees but also the Nebraskans they serve.

“From my perspective, everybody wants an efficient government. I hope every Nebraskan shares in that. But efficiency doesn’t mean cutting. Efficiency means finding ways to do things better, said Justin Hubly, executive director of the Nebraska Association of Public Employees. “I have not heard the part from the governor’s office about how we’re going to work together to do better.”

Hubly said Nebraska has already seen “drastic cuts” in state government, noting that many agencies are short staffed and turnover is still over 20% for state positions.

“The same amount of work is happening, but with fewer employees to do it. The people that suffer when that happens aren’t just the employees, it’s our fellow Nebraskans,” he said.

Hubly’s comments come after Pillen issued a memo Wednesday directing state agencies, boards and commissions to “exercise fiscal restraint” pertaining to travel, hiring, membership dues, implementation of technology upgrades and equipment purchases.

Additionally, Pillen encouraged state entities to look for additional savings, including through eliminating redundant processes and services, consolidating duties and proposing statutory changes to reduce regulatory burdens and reduce programs that are underperforming.

While Pillen said he was pleased with the progress made to rein in government spending, he said there is more work to be done to “run government like a business and embrace the innovation and change that is necessary to shrink the size of government.”



Hubly

Please see **PILLEN**, Page A7

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