

FREMONT TRIBUNE

Tigers run
at state
tennis ends

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New reality
altering state's
prairies

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HIGH PRICE POLITICS



SCOTT STEWART, COUNCIL BLUFFS NONPAREIL

Gasoline prices depend on a multitude of factors, including price and access to crude oil, the cost and capacity for refining oil into gas, the cost of distributing fuel, marketing, taxes, the octane level and blending of ethanol, gas station operating costs and profit, contract lengths and volume, and broader market influences.

Cost of living looms large in Nebraska Senate race

JUAN SALINAS II
Nebraska Examiner

Nebraska U.S. Sen. Pete Ricketts and his top opponent, registered independent Dan Osborn, agree the cost of living is top of mind for voters.

As in nearly all midterm races across the country, Osborn and Ricketts have been trying to convince voters that they also feel the economy's pain. Republicans capitalized on voters' economic anxiety during the 2024 presidential election, but now the GOP could be punished for the same thing.

Polling shows the cost of living is one of voters' top concerns. Trump's Iran war

is about to enter its eighth month and has driven up gas prices and skyrocketed farmers' fertilizer costs.

Osborn hopes to capitalize on it to pull off a prairie upset. Ricketts has highlighted relief provided by the tax cuts and increased child tax credit in President Donald Trump's tax and spending law. Ricketts has also touted his vote for a landmark housing law, saying it "will help reduce housing costs."

Osborn has criticized the tax and spending law, saying it overwhelmingly benefits the wealthy "off the backs of people" losing

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ANGELA WEISS, AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

People shopping for grocery items at a Manhattan supermarket in New York City, where the mayor is planning to open a handful city-operated grocery stores to push back on costs for certain staple items.

Farmers weighing in on Trump's diesel order

TOMER RONEN
Lincoln Journal Star

Lance Atwater puts about 200 gallons into his semitruck every other day as part of his farm operation in south-central Nebraska.

With diesel prices sitting at just over \$6 per gallon last Saturday, according to AAA — compared to \$3.36 at this time last year — that's over \$500 more per fill.

Mark McHargue, the president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau, usually spends between \$15,000 and \$20,000 on diesel at his farm near Central City in a typical year. This year, it'll be closer to \$30,000.

But at a rally held last week in Grand Island, President Donald Trump signed an executive order allowing farmers and truckers to temporarily fill up with red-dyed diesel for highway use, hoping to ease some of that pain at the pump. Trump also announced a deal Friday with Russia to end restrictions on that nation's diesel exports amid its war in Ukraine.



Atwater



McHargue

The moves come shortly after Gov. Jim Pillen issued an executive order making diesel taxes paid while transporting Nebraska-produced agricultural products and livestock on state roads eligible for a refund.

Pillen's order is set to go through Dec. 23. Trump's expires at the end of the year.

Drivers are typically not allowed to use dyed diesel — tax-exempt diesel that is dyed red to distinguish it from regular fuel — other than for off-road uses.

The executive order was also endorsed by Republican Sen. Pete Ricketts, who said, as part of a statement last Tuesday, he appreciates "the administration's willingness to find new ways to bring down costs for our farmers and ranchers during harvest."

McHargue thinks the order will help save him about \$1,000 over the next 90 days, at a time when farmers are already struggling to make a big profit, he said.

"When we're at breakeven and you lose another \$15,000, that eats into your family living budget," he said. "It does make a difference."

Atwater said the order could cut his costs by \$2,000 to \$3,000 a week.

Farmers typically get fuel in bulk, though people can fuel up with dyed diesel at regular truck stops.

For example, Fat Dogs, near the Lincoln Airport, at 1105 W. Bond St., offers

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