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High-five goes to Huskers



NIKOS FRAZIER, THE WORLD-HERALD
A win for the Huskers, and a win for the fans? A record crowd got to see five sets of volleyball between in-state rivals Tuesday night at the CHI Health Center. In the end, No. 1 Nebraska survived 18th-ranked Creighton 25-17, 21-25, 25-18, 24-26, 15-9. The Huskers have won all 24 matches against the Bluejays, but the teams have gone to five sets three of the past four years. See more from the match in Sports and on Omaha.com/sports

Urban core plan adds affordable housing

Council OKs up to \$50M in funding that would also pay for enhanced bikeways

HENRY J. CORDES
World-Herald Staff Writer

The city’s plan to boost and re-vitalize Omaha’s urban core now includes not only building the \$421 million streetcar, but also putting tens of millions of dollars into constructing affordable housing and improving bikeways.

The Omaha City Council on Tuesday voted 6-0 to formally amend the urban core plan first adopted in 2022 to authorize up to \$50 million in bond funding for affordable housing and enhanced bikeways.

All those initiatives would be funded through tax-increment financing, in which the would-be increased property tax dollars generated through the redevelopment of blighted properties in the urban core can be used to fund infrastructure related to the new development.

The administration of Mayor John Ewing is pushing a companion plan to immediately put \$40 million of those additional TIF funds into incentivizing construction of new affordable homes and apartments within the urban core.

The council and members of the public during a hearing Tuesday broadly supported the Ewing administration’s efforts as a small step toward meeting the severe shortage of affordable housing that has gripped both Omaha and the nation.

The \$40 million will “help with the housing crisis we have and start to turn the tide on affordable housing,” said City Councilman Danny Begley.

\$20M in property tax relief announced

Pillen says it will come from gambling revenue, other funds

JOSH REYES
World-Herald Staff Writer

Gov. Jim Pillen announced Tuesday that Nebraska property owners will split \$20 million in tax relief, saying he would continue to “put all our efforts into getting the crippling property tax crisis fixed for Nebraskans.”

Over the last decade, property tax collections across Nebraska to support public schools, city and county governments, as well as natural resources districts, fire districts and townships have ballooned by more than \$2 billion to \$5.3 billion total. Pillen has sought ways to relieve property taxes and called the crusade his top priority.

The relief announced Tuesday comes from increased gambling revenue and unused cash in the state’s Property Tax Credit Cash Fund and School District Property Tax Credit Fund, according to a press release.

Gambling receipts this year



MATTHEW MUELLER, THE WORLD-HERALD
Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen has announced \$20 million in property tax relief, pledging to continue working on reforms to the state’s system.

show the state will see much higher gambling revenues than last year.

Casino gambling this year through the end of July has generated more than \$141.5 million in revenue and \$28.3 million in taxes, with \$19.8 million slated for property tax relief.

In all of 2024, the revenue was \$145.6 million, taxes were \$29.1

shortfalls — about \$400 million this year and an expected \$311 million next year.

The proposal advanced through one vote but didn’t have the support to overcome a filibuster. Bostar, a Democrat, pulled the proposal rather than risk an unsuccessful vote. Republicans who fought Bostar’s proposal argued that the ill effects of increased problem gambling would outweigh potential financial gains for the state.

Pillen, a Republican, has indicated he’s open to expanding gambling. He has said he doesn’t like sports betting, but people are doing it anyway without the state making any money from it.

He also made reference in his press release to his past efforts to pass tax reforms in the Legislature that have fallen short.

“We still have work to do with our senators,” Pillen said. “Due to ideological beliefs and special interest groups, the Legislature has unfortunately failed to deliver true and meaningful property tax relief.”

Please see TAX RELIEF, Page A2

Bird flu case detected
The first known case of avian influenza in Nebraska dairy cattle has been detected. **Midlands**

Fuentes remembered
South Omaha native Paco Fuentes is remembered for his work with the Boys & Girls Club. **Midlands**

Weather

High: 82
Shower, t-storm


Low: 65
Details: A12

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