

FREE CONCERTS ALL WEEKEND LONG!
The Ultimate 90's Party on Friday at 9PM
Tribute to Heart and Pat Benatar together for one show on Sat. at 9PM
PLUS MANY MORE OF YOUR FAVORITE BANDS & MUSICIANS!

- Ethnic Dance & Fire Spinning Performers
- KidZone from Magic to Exotic Animals
- Rides and Family Fun
- Beer & Wine Gardens

TASTE OF OMAHA
 FRI. 5PM-11PM
 MAY 29 - 31 SAT. 11AM-11PM & SUN. 11AM-8PM
Returns to the Riverfront!

Fiber, PinnacleBank, Jose Cuervo, Coca-Cola, CAMBRIA Omaha Downtown

Omaha World-Herald

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026

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NIKOS FRAZIER PHOTOS, THE WORLD-HERALD

Lexington fans cheer before the Class B boys soccer championship game against Gretna at Creighton University's Morrison Stadium in Omaha on Wednesday. Many Lexington residents have struggled since the Tyson Foods plant closed, but the success of the soccer team was a bright spot.

Soccer team gave Lexington something to cheer for

Losing Tyson plant shook the city, but residents take pride in what young athletes accomplished

NAOMI DELKAMILLER
Flatwater Free Press

Orange flooded the concourse the minute the gates opened. Supporters filed into the stands at Creighton's Morrison Stadium. Immediately, flags donned with large letter "L's" for Lexington started to unfurl through the crowd.

"I think this is the one," said Artemio Munoz, who helped establish the Lexington High School boys soccer team in 1999. Munoz wore a sweatshirt emblazoned with every player's name and number — including his son's.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Minutemen were getting ready to



Lexington head coach Joel Lemus embraces Ulises Vasquez-Donis after the team lost to Gretna 8-2 in the Class B championship.

play in the boys soccer state championships against Gretna. The weekend before, Lexington beat Schuyler, last year's state champs. The 2-0 upset secured Lexington its fourth finals appearance in the

last decade, a state title run that felt different — more crucial — to the team's coach, its players and town residents.

Please see LEXINGTON, Page A2

Ricketts: 'Set process' is needed for Trump fund

BEN DOODY

World-Herald Executive Editor

Sen. Pete Ricketts on Friday expressed conditional support for a \$1.8 billion fund that the Trump administration wants to use to compensate people it says have been victimized by "weaponization and lawfare."

Ricketts was in attendance Thursday at a meeting with acting Attorney General Todd Blanche where GOP senators are reported to have expressed significant concerns about the fund, which the Department of Justice is launching as part the settlement of a lawsuit that Trump had filed against the Internal Revenue Service.

The conversations surrounding the DOJ fund prompted Senate Republicans to delay a vote on a \$72 billion package that would fund ICE and the Border Patrol for three years.

The New York Times reported that "dozens of Republican senators vented their anger and concern about the president's fund" to Blanche, who served as Trump's personal attorney before joining the justice department.

A Ricketts spokesperson confirmed to The World-Herald that Ricketts attended the meeting with Blanche and the GOP caucus' weekly luncheon, where senators discussed the proposed fund.

The spokesperson told The World-Herald in a statement that Ricketts "does not support the government targeting American citizens based on political disagreements."

"He believes we should turn the page on this pattern," the spokesperson continued. "The Trump Administration seeks to compensate all Americans — Republicans or Democrats — who believe they were unfairly targeted by the government."

But the spokesperson added that "this fund should not be available to anyone who has attacked law enforcement or broke the law. Any effort like this must be carried out with a set process and full transparency."

Please see RICKETTS, Page A2

In quarantine, people learn about state

Officials provide update on passengers who were on hantavirus-stricken ship

JULIE ANDERSON
World-Herald Staff Writer

Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen marked Day 12 of quarantine for 18 travelers evacuated from a hantavirus-stricken cruise ship with an update about their stay

in Nebraska, which already has included navigating a tornado warning and a lesson on fossil mammals.

Other Nebraska icons they may get to learn about next include Runzas, Omaha Steaks and sand-hill cranes.

Pillen said in a media briefing Friday that he has "incredible empathy" for the travelers. He also thanked the team at the

National Quarantine Unit on the University of Nebraska Medical Center campus and others in the community who have cared for the former passengers and made them welcome.

"Who does not want to be home and be with your families," he said, "but our team is doing everything ... to make them comfortable."

But Pillen also emphasized

that the travelers remain under quarantine and reiterated that his administration, the UNMC team and their federal partners "are 100% lockstep with making sure people stay here until the appropriate time." He was joined at the briefing by NU President Dr. Jeffrey Gold as well as state and federal health officials.

Please see QUARANTINE, Page A2

Huskers weather delay

NU softball had to wait out a weather delay, but opened super regional play with a win. **Sports**

Weather

High: 76
Mostly cloudy
Low: 53
Details: A10

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WALT DISNEY ARCHIVES PRESENTS

HEROES & VILLAINS

THE ART OF THE DISNEY COSTUME

THE MAGIC OF DISNEY COSTUMING OPENS MAY 23

OPENING WEEKEND EVENTS

Sat 5/23, 11AM Guided Tour of *Heroes & Villains* Exhibition

Sun 5/24, 1PM Matinee at the Museum, *Cinderella* (2015) ON THE BIG SCREEN!

More family-friendly activities at: DurhamMuseum.org

Exhibition is curated by the Walt Disney Archives. Maleficent, Maleficent (2014); Belle, Beauty and the Beast (2017). Courtesy of the Walt Disney Archives, © Disney.