Husker football aims to turn around fortunes in November, a historically bad month for NU. SPORTS



Peru State professor brings her paintings to Omaha for a sweet, dessert-themed art show. MIDLANDS, PAGE A3

Omaha World-Herald

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CHRIS MACHIAN, THE WORLD-HERALD

It wasn't just television ads that drove people a little crazy this year. There were also mailers, emails and text messages. Lots and lots of text messages.

Omaha voters celebrate end of political advertising

Commercials, mailings and texts bombard people 'ad nauseam'

MARJIE DUCEY
World-Herald Staff Writer

Welcome back, suddenly enticing pizza commercials. Christmas ads in early November? Bring them on.



Miller

To the relief of millions of Americans, the political advertisements, mailings, texts and emails are mostly over now that the midterm elections have been decided.

After voting Tuesday, some Republicans and Democrats alike in Omaha shared their distaste at the deluge — and the tone — from candidates this political cycle.

"Oh, God, can't wait," Ann Miller said when she was asked about television ads coming to an end.

"Absolutely disgusting," is how Brian Carlin summed them up, saying that the people in the ads sometimes sounded like the fighting of his three children in the living room. "At the end of the day stop telling me what your opponent is, what is bad about them. Tell me what you stand for. I think that should be a rule that they do that."

Josh Javorsky said the ads made him feel sad. "It boils down to essentially name calling."

Even U.S. congressman Mike Flood had an opinion.

"Watching the fourth quarter of a Husker game is hard enough without having political ads at every TV timeout," he said.

Political parties spent $11.87 billion on advertising, according to the group AdImpact. Republicans, who lost control of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, spent the most at $5.45 billion. Democrats followed at $5.02 billion.

Two winning campaigns from Tuesday's election who ran a lot of ads — for Republican Gov. Jim Pillen and for Democrat Rep.-elect Denise Powell — had no immediate comment on them ending for the season.

Please see **ADS,** Page A2

Danner, Martinez, Powell make history

Glass ceilings shatter as Nebraska joins national wave of election firsts

GRACE LEWIS
World-Herald Staff Writer

Tuesday's election brought a series of historic firsts to Nebraska, where voters elected the state's first Latina member of Congress, Douglas County's first Black woman as county attorney and the county's first Latino sheriff.

Democrats Denise Powell, Makayla Danner and Mark Martinez won races that broke through longstanding barriers to representation in Nebraska politics.

Powell, who defeated Republican Brinker Harding to represent Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District, is the first Latina elected to Congress in the state and will be the first woman to represent the district. She also is the first Democratic woman elected to the U.S. House from Nebraska, and the second overall.

The first, Republican Rep. Virginia Smith, served from 1975 to 1991, according to government records.

"There were some historic wins all over the country yesterday, which was really exciting," Powell said. "I'm happy to be a part of a string of firsts all over this country. It's a huge, huge honor."



CHRIS MACHIAN, THE WORLD-HERALD

Makayla Danner is the first Black woman to be elected as Douglas County attorney.

On the local side, not only is Danner the first Black woman to be elected Douglas County attorney, but she'll also be the first person of color and the first woman to serve in the post. Until her election, every Douglas County attorney has been a white man.

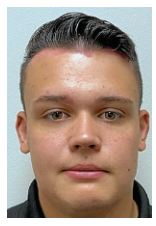
Please see **FIRSTS,** Page A2

Investigator: Ex-deputy covertly took girls' photos

Nolan Dudik is charged with receiving, possessing child pornography

DAN CRISLER
World-Herald Staff Writer

A former Douglas County sheriff's deputy covertly took photos of female students at the Omaha-area high school where he worked as a school resource officer, used artificial intelligence to generate nude images of underage girls and women, and downloaded child sexual abuse images of infants, a Nebraska State Patrol investigator testified in federal court this week.



Dudik

Nolan Dudik, 24, made his first court appearance Wednesday in Lincoln after federal prosecutors unveiled two charges of Dudik having received and possessed child pornography.

Douglas County Sheriff Aaron Hanson fired Dudik in May following an internal investigation into the allegations. Hanson said in a Facebook video last week that Dudik has since been stripped of his law enforcement certification.

Dudik joined the Sheriff's Office in June 2023 and graduated from the academy in November 2023. He was assigned to the Uniformed Services Bureau in March 2024 before moving to Westview High School near North 156th and Ida Streets as a school resource officer in July 2025.

He had no disciplinary history prior to the investigation, a Sheriff's Office spokesperson previously said.

Jason Halouska, the State Patrol investigator, testified Wednesday he interviewed Dudik last December after verifying that Dudik had allegedly saved child sexual abuse images on his cloud storage account.

Dudik also allegedly saved an AI-generated nude image of a female colleague to his cloud storage. Halouska further alleged Dudik had saved around 13,500 images depicting child sexual abuse — including around 5,000 covert photos and videos Dudik had allegedly taken of high school girls. Most of those images were allegedly stored in an encrypted app on Dudik's phone.

The images Dudik allegedly took depicted girls in school settings. Halouska testified the images were taken from either behind the girls or underneath desks. The images focused on the girls' rear ends or genital areas, Halouska said. The State Patrol investigator added Dudik also allegedly downloaded about 90 images, which showed a female student, from school security cameras to his phone.

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Swift superfan

Omaha creator of the Taylor Swift Fan Club Frank Uryasz has died at 96, leaving a legacy of joy. **Midlands, Page A3**

Weather

High: 51 • **Low:** 34
Partly sunny • **Details:** A14

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