



In 2003, Tom Kropp's Lopers won 30 games, but he lost a battle far more important. *Sports*

Nebraska Balloon & Wine Festival
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Sunday World-Herald

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OMAHA.COM



Matt Regalado, a 14-year-old Type 1 diabetic, attaches a sensor to monitor his glucose level. The sensor sends the information to the family's smartphones.

Teen's diagnosis spurs insulin bill

Dad calls Fortenberry to say prices are 'not acceptable'; proposal aims to lower them by as much as two-thirds

By JULIE ANDERSON
 WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

TEKAMAH, Neb. — Rod Regalado wasn't expecting anything out of the ordinary when he took his then-13-year-old son, Matt, to the doctor for a sports physical.

Matt wanted to play basketball at Tekamah-Herman High School. The physical was routine.

But after that September visit, the doctor's office called. Matt's blood sugar levels were elevated. That triggered another test,

followed by a call the next day advising Regalado to take his son to Children's Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha. Right away.

Matt stayed for three days. He was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, a condition in which the person's immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas.

The diagnosis and the high costs that go along with it were the catalyst for legislation offered last week by Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, R-Neb., that would limit the price

of insulin for the roughly 7.5 million Americans who depend on insulin. That includes almost 1.6 million Americans who, like Matt, have Type 1 diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association. The bill is co-sponsored by Rep. Angie Craig, D-Minn.

Before he could take his son home, Regalado had to buy insulin and other supplies at an estimated cost of \$700.

"It was really spendy," he said. "But I didn't care. I would have given them everything just to get him out of there. I just wanted to get him home."

See *Insulin*: Page 6

Experts grasp for clues amid virus's silent spread

Scientists focus on role of asymptomatic carriers in transmitting disease that has proved hard to control

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One of the great mysteries of the coronavirus is how quickly it rocketed around the world.

It first flared in central China and, within three months, was on every continent but Antarctica, shutting down daily life for millions. Behind the rapid spread was something that initially caught scientists off guard, baffled health authorities and undermined early containment efforts — the virus could be spread by seemingly healthy people.

As workers return to offices, children prepare to return to schools and those desperate for normalcy again visit malls and restaurants, the emerging science points to a menacing reality: If people who appear healthy can transmit the illness, it may be impossible to contain.

"It can be a killer, and then 40% of people don't even know they have it," said Dr. Eric Topol, head of Scripps Research Translational Institute. "We have to get out of the denial mode because it's real."

Researchers have exposed the frightening likelihood of silent spread of the virus by asymptomatic and presymptomatic carriers. But how major a role seemingly healthy people play in swelling the ranks of those infected remains unanswered — and at the top of the scientific agenda.

The small but mighty coronavirus
 See *Virus*: Page 2

CORONAVIRUS CASES

	Infections	Deaths
Nebraska	24,174	316
Iowa	41,780	826
U.S.	4,177,847	146,460

*As of 10 p.m. Saturday

Nebraska eateries are allowed to be full, but most are far from it



NO END IN SIGHT FOR STRUGGLING RESTAURANTS

By BETSIE FREEMAN
 WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Jack and Mary's restaurant, known for its fried chicken, occupies more than 8,000 square feet in a strip mall near 114th Street and West Dodge Road. It's one of the larger dining rooms in Omaha.

Last year, the 45-year-old eatery averaged 2,200 diners per week, keeping more than 30 employees busy and putting all that space to good use, said owner Kip Oetter.

But these days, he faces the possibility of permanently closing as the coronavirus pandemic persists.

"With what's going on now, I'm



Hand sanitizer sits at each table at Le Voltaire, where customers like Lynne and Dean Jessick of Omaha, at top, have their temperatures checked as they enter.

ANNA REED/THE WORLD-HERALD

lucky if I have 200 people in the door each week," he said. "We have a lot of square footage, and our lease is expensive."

His revenue is down \$400,000 from this time last year.

The demise of iconic Omaha restaurants such as the Flatiron Cafe and the 100-year-old Dundee Dell underlies the uncertainty and angst Oetter and his fellow restaurateurs face each day.

Nationwide, 60% of the restaurants that have shut down since March have closed permanently, according to a Yelp.com report released Wednesday.

See *Restaurants*: Page 4

Back-to-school spending

Consumers plan to spend record amount as they buy laptops and computer accessories. **Midlands**

Urban Outfitters on move

Clothing retailer is relocating from the Saddle Creek complex to Village Pointe. **Money**

Details add 'curb appeal'

Pay attention to special touches that can make your home stand out, experts say. **Living**

Weather

High: 91 Low: 68
 Thunderstorms
 Details: 10A

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