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# Omaha World-Herald

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## Apology or restitution may get UNL off blacklist

Professor says university may have to make 'gesture' of some kind to instructor who lost job after 2017 incident

By RICK RUGGLES  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's effort to get off a national academic blacklist might involve apologizing to or compensating former graduate student-instructor Courtney Lawton.

Lawton lost her teaching post at UNL in 2017-18 after she was ac-

cused of harassing a conservative student who was recruiting for the group Turning Point USA.

An American Association of University Professors representative, Hans-Joerg Tiede, said Tuesday in an email that one option being discussed to get UNL off the censure list "is redress, which may or may not be in the form of remuneration."



Courtney Lawton

But Tiede clarified that statement Wednesday by saying, "Redress is not the same as remuneration. In some cases, redress has been in the form of an apology or awarding of emeritus status." The organization doesn't, "as a matter of policy, require remuneration in order to lift censure and doesn't negotiate any remuneration" for

the faculty member involved.

Kevin Hanrahan, UNL's Faculty Senate leader, said conversations with the AAUP have indicated that the group may expect restitution or a "gesture" of some kind from the university to Lawton.

"I'm not sure exactly what they have in mind," he said.

Most important to the AAUP appears to be changing or clarifying university bylaws so there is no confusion about how to handle

See UNL: Page 2

### PHONE SCOURGE

## Carriers and states make pact to fight robocalls

A dozen carriers pledge new technology targeting the spam calls, which hit 4.7 billion in July alone

THE WASHINGTON POST

Twelve of the country's largest telephone companies on Thursday pledged to spot and block robocalls, part of an agreement brokered between the industry and 51 attorneys general to combat the growing telecom scourge.

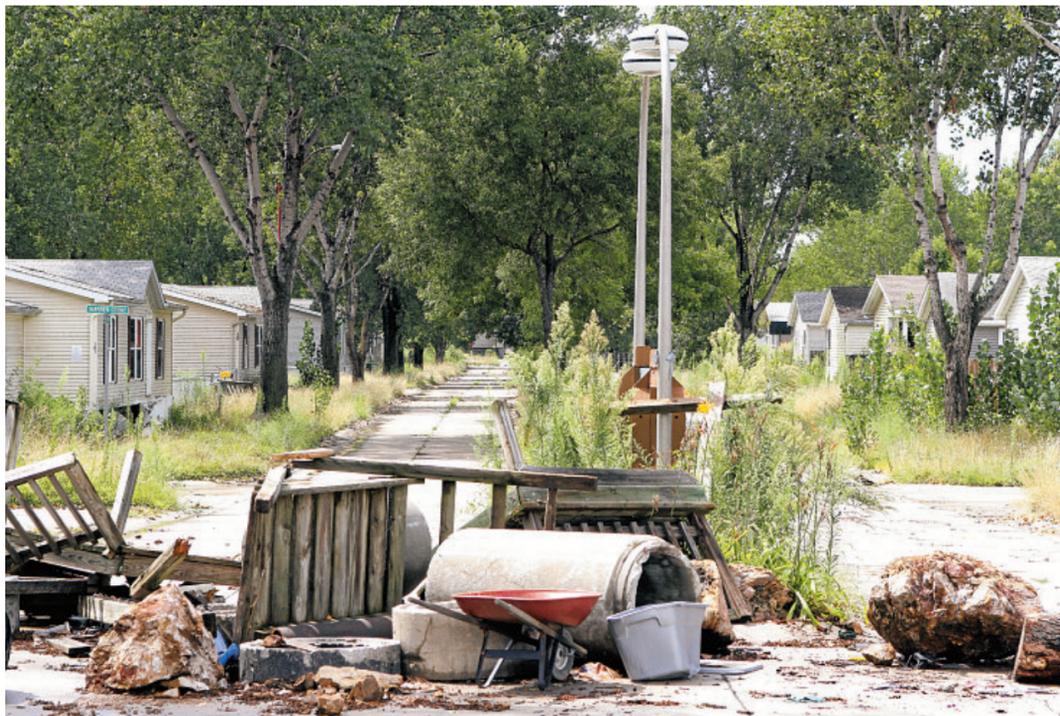
The new effort commits a wide array of companies in the absence of regulation to improving their defenses and aiding law enforcement in its investigations into illegal spam calls, which rang Americans' phones an estimated 4.7 billion times in July alone.

Under the agreement, the 12 carriers have agreed to implement call-blocking technology, make anti-robocall tools available for free to consumers and deploy a new system that would label calls as real or spam.

Known by its acronym, STIR/SHAKEN, the technology takes aim at a practice known as spoofing, in which fraudsters mask their identities by using phone numbers that resemble those that they're trying to contact in a bid to get victims to pick up and surrender their personal information.

Signing the pledge were larger mobile carriers, such as AT&T, Comcast, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon, which already have said they would implement such

See Robocalls: Page 2



REECE RISTAU/THE WORLD-HERALD

Debris clutters a street and overgrown vegetation surrounds the homes in the condemned community of Paradise Lakes, which was covered by floodwaters in March. The owner has told the City of Bellevue that he can't afford the cost of demolishing the homes.

### AFTERMATH OF FLOODING

## Paradise Lakes homes won't be torn down until next year

By REECE RISTAU  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

For more than five months — through rain and hail, humidity and wind — the condemned community of Paradise Lakes has sat largely untouched, a lingering, eerie reminder of spring's devastating flooding.

And despite previous plans by the City of Bellevue, most of the community's 195 modular homes won't be torn down until 2020.

The Bellevue City Council voted to condemn the community earlier this summer.

At the time, the city told residents that they had until the end of July to take action on removing their homes. The remaining structures were ex-

pected to be razed by a city-hired company in early August. Jim Ristow, Bellevue's city administrator, said officials are now taking a cautious approach moving forward because they don't want taxpayers to be on the hook for the estimated \$1.2 million needed for demolition.

Paradise Lakes' owner, Howard "Howdy" Helm, has told the city that he can't afford the cost of demolition.

"He's not a willing participant in the demolition," Ristow said. "He just expects us to take it down."

If the city moves ahead with demolition, it would then place a lien on the land, which Helm would have to repay if he wanted control.

But Ristow said there are concerns that the city would not recoup its money.

"The way for him to pay the lien back is to sell the property, and we're not sure there's a pathway there," Ristow said.

Helm is trying to sell the land, Ristow said — a spray-painted "4 Sale" sign sits outside the property.

The World-Herald has not been able to reach Helm for comment.

See Paradise Lakes: Page 2

### SEPT. 7 GAME

## Rocky Mountain high ticket prices for NU visit to Colorado

By KELSEY STEWART  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Colorado is making Husker fans pay.

Tickets to the Sept. 7 game in Boulder are the highest-priced single-game tickets Colorado has ever sold, said David Plati, the university's sports information director.

The athletic department is expecting to bring in about \$2 million in single-game ticket sales for the game, he said.

"We know Nebraska fans," Plati said. "Where there's a will, there's a way. They will find a way to invade your stadium."

Individual tickets for the game, which are sold out, range in price from \$110 to \$225. Tickets on the lower end of the price range are for seats in the end zones. The higher-priced seats are near

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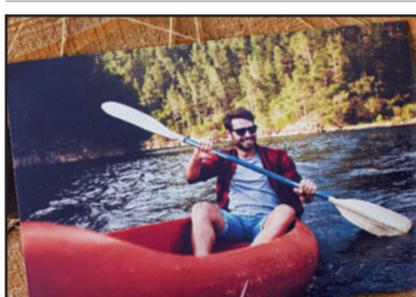
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Medication keeps mom from breastfeeding, so she turns to social media for help. *Living*

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The slogan may not be "for everyone," but the U.S. Travel Association likes it. *Midlands*

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