



Big Ten continues to have answers for Frost, leaving NU to ponder after another loss. *Sports*

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NATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Scores for math and reading slip in Nebraska

State scores, still higher than the nation's, had been rising or holding steady in previous years

By JOE DEJKA
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Nebraska's math and reading scores slipped this year on a national test that gauges the country's academic progress over the long haul.

Fourth grade math fell for the first time since 2000 on the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Also dipping were eighth grade math and fourth grade and eighth grade reading.

The declines since 2017 ranged from two to five points on a 500-point test. So they didn't plunge. And Nebraska's scores were higher than the nation's in each subject and grade.

But the slide follows a period when scores had been generally rising or holding steady. Having two academic subjects in both tested grade levels move down is a situation worth keeping an eye on.

The nation, by comparison, saw a slight rise in fourth grade math, while eighth grade math and reading in both grades were lower.

"Yeah, our scores are dipping," said John Witzel, president of the Nebraska State Board of Education, "but then again the whole trend in the United States is dipping. We just happen to be at the top of the dip."

He said the overall trend during the past decade has been positive. The state has programs in the works, including the recently adopted Nebraska Reading Improvement Act and an added emphasis on equity in education, aimed at trying to close the achievement gap, he said.

"We are cognizant of the fact that there are outside issues that we all have to work with," such as student mental health and family poverty, he said.

The poverty rate of students

See Scores: Page 2



KAYLA WOLF/THE WORLD-HERALD

CHANGES AFOOT AT KIEWIT PLAZA, AN OMAHA 'CLASSIC'

By CINDY GONZALEZ
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

After nearly 60 years in the same hands, Omaha's Kiewit Plaza has a new owner that plans to reposition the 15-story building as a place for fresh and techie businesses seeking a fit in the hip Blackstone District.

Of course, certain things at 3555 Farnam St. are golden and won't be

not only will keep his Berkshire Hathaway corporate headquarters in the high-rise, but will expand onto a second floor.

New owners hope that Stan Docekal's old-school barbershop will stick around. He's the merchant who has kept Buffett's lid looking dapper for decades.

Two other small-business tenants

See Kiewit Plaza: Page 2

Hospitals, fearful of falls, do harm by keeping older patients in bed

KAISER HEALTH NEWS

Dorothy Twigg was living on her own, cooking and walking without help until a dizzy spell landed her in the emergency room. She spent three days confined to a hospital bed, allowed to get up only to use a bedside commode. Twigg, who was in her 80s, was livid about being stuck in a bed with side rails and a motion sensor alarm, according to her cousin and caretaker, Melissa Rowley.

"They're not letting me get up

out of bed," Twigg protested in phone calls, Rowley recalled.

In just a few days at the Ohio hospital, where she had no occupational or physical therapy, Twigg grew so weak that it took three months of rehab to regain the ability to walk and take care of herself, Rowley said. Twigg repeated the same pattern — three days in bed in a hospital, three months of rehab — at least five times in two years.

See Falling: Page 3

Helping long after flood

Event at the Omaha zoo helps families affected by spring floods as their needs change with the season. **Midlands**

Weather
 High: 50 Low: 30
 Partly sunny Details: 4A

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U.S. has acquired just 16% of land needed for Trump's border wall

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Trump administration has acquired just 16% of the private land in Texas it needs to build the president's border barrier, casting doubt on his campaign promise to complete nearly 500 miles of new fencing by the end of next year, according to the latest construction data obtained by the Washington Post.

And of the 166 miles of border barrier the U.S. government is planning to build in Texas, new

construction has been completed along just 2% of that stretch a year before the target completion date, according to the construction data. Just four miles of the planned border wall in Texas is on federal land — the 162 remaining miles lie on private property.

Faced with intense pressure to meet Trump's 500-mile campaign pledge, administration officials have instead prioritized the lowest-hanging fruit of the barrier

See Border wall: Page 3



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