

THE COLUMBUS Telegram

Lakeview grad helps welcome Frost in Lincoln

Jeff Lake played with new head coach in 1990s. **PAGE B1**



Scotus mock trial team takes second at state

Shamrocks make strong case at La Vista event. **PAGE A3**



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Recycling still up in air

City officials will look at options following request for proposals

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COLUMBUS — The city will look for a new provider willing to offer residential recycling in Co-

lumbus before a decision is made on the program's future.

Columbus City Council members decided Monday night to request proposals from businesses interested in providing residential recycling so they can determine whether the best move is to contract with another company, continue the program as a city-run service or end it for good.

Interim Public Works Director Chuck Sliva said a Lincoln company has expressed some interest in taking on the local service, but there are obstacles to clear.

One issue is whether a company would be willing to accept glass and plastics.

"The markets have just fallen out and it's hard to move the product," Sliva said of those

recyclables.

Shred Monster, which previously contracted with the city to offer residential recycling here, stopped taking certain plastics (Nos. 3-7) after its processor quit accepting the materials. These types of recycled plastics are mainly sent to China, which will soon stop importing the materials.

Shortly after making that move,

Shred Monster decided to end its recycling agreement with the city instead of renegotiating the deal at what would have likely been a reduced payment to reflect the change in services.

Shred Monster, which primarily focuses on document shredding and has a few commercial

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COURTESY PHOTO

U.S. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, left, visits with Lanette and Larry Stec at Erstwhile Farm in rural Columbus last month. Arrangements were made for sweet corn grown on the Stecs' farm to be served to King Abdullah II of Jordan when Fortenberry met with him in Washington, D.C.

Sweet corn fit for king

Produce from local farm sent to dignitary during his visit to US

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COLUMBUS — Produce grown at Erstwhile Farm has fed many people.

The organic vegetables, pasture-raised pork, chicken and eggs that Lanette and Larry Stec have on their rural Columbus farm are sold year-round to hungry customers. Some of the products have been featured in stores and on menus in Omaha, Lincoln, Columbus and out of state.

Recently, even royalty got a taste of the sweet corn produced by the couple.

King Abdullah II of Jordan was served Erstwhile Farm sweet corn during a visit to the United States last month. The sampling was coordinated by the Nebraska

Sustainable Agriculture Society and U.S. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry's office when the congressman met with Jordanian Ambassador to the United States Dina Kawar, who traveled to Nebraska in November.

The king was in Washington, D.C., and expressed an interest in corn with a meal, so arrangements were made to have him try some Nebraska-grown corn while he was in the United States.

Erstwhile Farm was contacted because the operation is a member of the society and has a commercial kitchen used to prepare and store sweet corn throughout the year.

Lanette Stec sifts corn kernels inside the kitchen at Erstwhile Farm in this file photo. Corn grown on the rural Columbus farm was recently served to King Abdullah II of Jordan.

TELEGRAM FILE PHOTO



Please see **CORN**, Page A2

Body likely missing woman

Foul play suspected in Sydney Loofe case

RILEY JOHNSON
Lincoln Journal Star

CLAY CENTER — Dozens of investigators spent hours Tuesday combing roadside ditches and the edges of cornfields in southeastern Clay County, searching for evidence in the death of Sydney Loofe a day after remains believed to be hers were found in the area.

A Nebraska State Patrol helicopter circled above while investigators marked locations a half-mile apart or more.

Loofe, 24, disappeared nearly three weeks ago. Her mother reported her missing Nov. 16 after she missed work in Lincoln.

For the first time Tuesday, law enforcement officials said they found evidence of foul play in the case. But they provided no further details on what might have happened. An autopsy has been ordered.

"We are indeed conducting a very thorough investigation to ensure we can provide an accurate account of what happened to Sydney," said Randy Thyse, special agent in charge of the FBI field office in Omaha, during a news conference in Lincoln.



Loofe

Please see **BODY**, Page A2

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