

■ **SERVING TIME** North Platte man sentenced to over 2 years for domestic abuse incident in March 2020. **LOCAL, PAGE A3**

**INDIANS DEFEAT ROYALS**

# THE NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH



Five-run seventh inning helps Cleveland win 8-6 on the road. **SPORTS, PAGE B1**

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021

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## Principal recognized for Grand Island work



Job Vigil / The North Platte Telegraph

Jefferson Elementary Principal Jeff Ellsworth interacts with students. Ellsworth received an award from For the Love of Children Committee in Grand Island for his work as principal at the now-closed Chapman Elementary School in the Grand Island Northwest School District.

By **JOB VIGIL**  
jvigil@nptelegraph.com

Jefferson Elementary School Principal Jeff Ellsworth brought an enthusiasm and love for children to his new position in North Platte this school year.

Ellsworth previously served in the Grand Island Northwest School District for 13 years, the last 10 as principal at Chapman Elementary, which closed at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

His service earned him the Love of the Children Award given out by the For the Love of Children planning committee in Grand Island.

“My staff at (Chapman), we’ve had some rocky roads the last four years at Chapman,” Ellsworth said. “We were always on the verge of closure and

just hadn’t had enough (enrollment).”

Ellsworth said he had a great team at Chapman.

“Chapman is a lot like Jefferson, just a lot smaller,” Ellsworth said. “We would just bend over backwards to do whatever we could for those kids.”

His staff at Chapman nominated Ellsworth for the award that is sponsored by Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Grand Island. In a Facebook video, his former staff shared their appreciation of what he did for the students at Chapman.

“I never met a person that cared so much about people,” Lockwood Preschool teacher Kathy Cochnar said in the video. “It didn’t matter who you are, Jeff’s the person who cares

about you.”

The video was shared last week on Facebook. Ellsworth said the last time he checked, it was up to about 5,500 views.

“I’ve got tons of former students in college that have commented on there,” Ellsworth said, “and shared some snippets on there of my career.”

Ellsworth graduated from Gothenburg High School in 1987, then went on to the University of Nebraska at Kearney for his degree.

He and his wife, Sherri, have four children, two boys and two girls.

“This is the first year I have not had one of my own children in my building,” Ellsworth said.

After he was notified that

Please see **WORK**, Page A2

## Two-person rail crew bill could die in Unicameral

Telegraph staff reports

A southeast Nebraska lawmaker has filed a motion to kill the Unicameral’s latest bill that would require the state’s railroads to have at least two-person crews.

State Sen. Julie Slama of Peru moved Wednesday to kill Legislative Bill 486, which remains in the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. She is not a member of that committee.

Omaha Sen. Jen Day sponsored this session’s version of the two-person crew bill, which includes Sens. Mike Groene of North Platte and Tom Brewer of Gordon as co-sponsors.

LB 486 was opposed at its March 1 public hearing by representatives of Nebraska’s two major railroads, Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe.

In unrelated action last week, senators gave 48-0 final approval to a Natural Resources Committee bill that includes the language of two other bills introduced by Venango Sen. Dan Hughes.

LB 507 includes proposals by Hughes adjusting the use of the state’s Water Sustainability Fund (LB 190) and allowing some small irrigation districts along the state’s borders to let nonresident electors vote on district business (LB 191).

## Lincoln County board approves courthouse bid

By **JOB VIGIL**  
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The Lincoln County commissioners on Monday approved a \$231,600 bid from Wayne Dowhower Construction for the second- and third-floor remodel project at the courthouse. Paulsen Inc. of Cozad also bid the project.

Please see **BID**, Page A2



Todd von Kampen / The North Platte Telegraph

## Feeding the first responders

North Platte Police Officer Rory Little accepts free suppers for himself and two other first responders Monday afternoon at Platte River Mall. La Casa del Rios of North Platte donated the food for the event organized by Jernie Barker (second from left), a McDonald Elementary School fifth-grader, for her High Ability Learners class at the school. Jernie raised more than \$1,300 in sponsorships and designed the T-shirt worn by her and her parents, Nikki Naranjo-Barker and Randy Barker (between Jernie and Little). Sponsorship funds and proceeds from T-shirt sales will be donated to the Lincoln County Law Enforcement Memorial in honor of the late Deputy Sheriff Kevin Kennedy, a family friend, Naranjo-Barker said. Holding the “Heroes” sign in the photo is Kay McCuskey of North Platte.

### Majority supports government funding for older adults to age in place

A new AP-NORC poll finds that majorities of Americans favor government support for long-term care, including funding for low-income adults to get care at home and government-administered long-term care insurance.

■ Favor ■ Oppose ■ Neither favor nor oppose

The ability to get some long-term care coverage through a Medicare Advantage or supplemental insurance plan



Government funding for programs to allow more people with low incomes to receive long-term care in their own homes



Tax breaks for consumers who purchase long-term care insurance



A government-administered long-term care insurance program, similar to Medicare



Results based on interviews with 1,117 U.S. adults conducted March 25-29. The margin of error is ±3.7 percentage points for the full sample. Source: AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

## AP-NORC Poll: People think government should help them age at home

By **EMILY SWANSON** and **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A majority of Americans agree that government should help people fulfill a widely held aspiration to age in their own homes, not institutional settings, a new poll finds.

There’s a surprising level of

bipartisan agreement on some proposals that could help make that happen, according to the late March survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Still, Republicans lag Democrats in support of some policies, including the most far-reaching idea: Only 42% of Republicans favor a gov-

Please see **POLL**, Page A2

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**HIGH: 66 LOW: 43**  
Cloudy today, then cloudy in the evening. Find our full five-day forecast on page A8.

► **INSIDE** Business.....A6  
Opinion.....A4 Comics.....B3  
Record.....A5 Classifieds.....B4-6

► **LOTTERY**  
Pick5: 10-11-15-22-29  
2-by-2: R 11-20, W 1-18  
Powerball:  
Next drawing Wednesday

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