

NP man makes dream come true with bus-turned-RV



Stephen Barkley / The North Platte Telegraph

Himlen, a school bus that found new life as a recreational vehicle thanks to Lars Paulsen, sits on a street in North Platte. The RV is painted green in honor of Paulsen's late wife, and its name means "heaven" in Swedish.

A little piece of 'himlen'

By **CLAYTON ANDERSON**
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For North Platte resident and former Menards manager Lars Paulsen, the time was now to turn a dream into a reality by turning a school bus into a fully functional recreational vehicle.

Paulsen knew he wanted an RV, but seeing a school bus turned into an RV on the interstate and watching YouTube vid-

eos convinced him to reconstruct a school bus.

His own health scares and the loss of his wife, Lori, at age 52 in a motorcycle accident also convinced him that it was time to do the project.

After his wife died, he had a triple aortic rupture, which he said has a 10% survival rate. He had a major stroke a couple of months later and was flown during a blizzard to Denver. His

heart later gave out, causing him to have a triple bypass surgery and have an internal defibrillator put in.

Paulsen said he used to talk his wife's ear off about wanting an RV, and after she died he knew that it was time to put his plans into action. So he bought a bus, and he and his friend Richard Jepsen put together the RV from

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Stephen Barkley / The North Platte Telegraph

The living room has a sink with running water, a couch that turns into a bed, bench seating, two stove burners, a mini fridge and storage.

"This bus is like heaven that you can take everywhere."

— LARS PAULSEN, NORTH PLATTE RESIDENT, ABOUT THE SCHOOL BUS HE TURNED INTO AN RV

Opponents of Sandhills projects file lawsuits

2 groups make new pushes against NPPD's R-Project, wind farm

By **TODD VON KAMPEN**
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Two lawsuits filed last week have launched fresh legal assaults by foes of further wind-energy development in the Nebraska Sandhills.

A state district judge Monday will hear Preserve the Sandhills' request for an injunction effectively blocking Cherry County commissioners from voting Tuesday on a 19-turbine wind farm west of Kilgore.

That request was made July 5, the same day opponents of the Nebraska Public Power District's "R-Project" transmission line filed a federal lawsuit to vacate the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's June 12 approval of the power line's environmental permit.

Preserve the Sandhills, joined by rural Valentine landowner Charlene Reiser-McCormick, seeks to disqualify Commissioners Martin DeNaeyer of Seneca and Tanya Storer of Whitman from "hearing, discussing, considering, influencing or voting" on the Kilgore-area wind project.

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Poverty simulation sheds light on struggles

By **JOB VIGIL**
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One family's breadwinner lost his job and applying for assistance did not go smoothly in one scenario in a poverty simulation exercise on Thursday.

Euwanda Jennings, University of Nebraska Extension educator for Douglas-Sarpy counties, conducted the simulation with local volunteers to demonstrate how families in poverty face mountains each day just to meet their basic needs.

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South-central communities brace for yet another round of flooding

WOOD RIVER (AP)— More communities in south-central Nebraska braced Thursday for flooding from the rain-swollen Wood River.

Several streets in Gibbon were already covered in water, and flooding also was forecast for communities downriver to the east: Shelton, Wood River and Alda.

Shelton Fire Chief Jason Wiehn said there was minor basement and road flooding on the north side of town, and a city park was covered as well.

Warnings were issued after up to 9 inches of rain fell during storms that struck Buffalo, Daw-

son, Frontier, Gosper, Kearney and Phelps counties overnight Monday. Floodwater entered several communities, including Kearney, where several people were stranded in their homes or vehicles. One woman died Wednesday after water swept away her vehicle and rolled it over in Cozad.

The Hall County emergency management coordinator, Mindy Osterman, said the river crests are expected to be higher this time than in March, when drenching storms hastened snowmelt and caused widespread, devastating flooding in much of eastern Nebraska.

But she expected the flooding — if it occurs as expected — will be different this time.

"This time everything's opened up, the ground's not frozen," Osterman said. Officials have had time to fill sandbags and prepare other barriers, and plans have been firmed up for evacuations in advance of flooding instead of during it.

Officials have "done everything they absolutely can" to avoid or at least limit flood damage, she said.

Wood River officials recommended residents affected by the March flooding to evacuate now.



The Associated Press

An airboat used by rescue personnel moves along Highway 30 and Union Pacific tracks west of Pawnee Road on Wednesday as Gibbon is covered with floodwaters.

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HIGH: 96 LOW: 65
 Sunny today, then a chance of storms in the evening. Find our full five-day forecast on page A8.

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► **LOTTERY**
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