

Huskers start Big Ten play with Illinois road trip

The Grand Island

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NEW LIFE FOR GRAND ISLAND VETERANS HOME

Partners present proposal for redevelopment

By Austin Koeller
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The public was able to get its first look at a proposed redevelopment plan for the former Grand Island Veterans Home campus Thursday night.

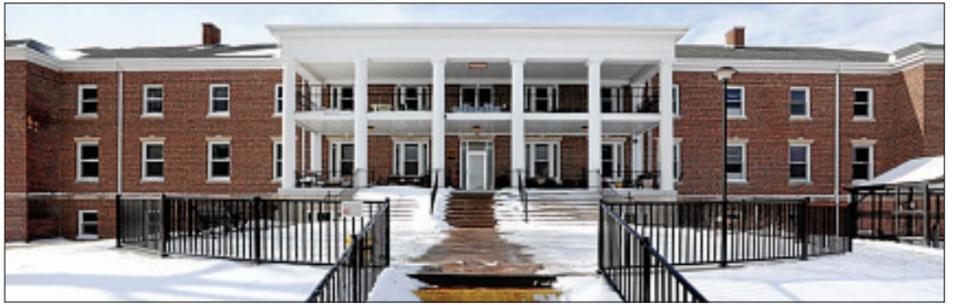
The Nebraska Department of Administrative Services—Building Division hosted a public meeting at City Hall regarding requests for information and/or proposals in redeveloping the site.

Amber Brannigan, administrator for the state building division, said the White Lotus Group, a real estate development firm out of Omaha, was unanimously se-

lected by the redevelopment team to present their proposal for the redevelopment of the campus, in conjunction with Chief Construction, O'Connor Enterprises and architectural firm DLR Group.

Brannigan said a redevelopment team made up of representatives from the city of Grand Island, Hall County, economic development and the state of Nebraska selected the four partners' redevelopment proposal due to the amount of work they plan to put into the campus and "the boxes that were checked when the proposal was submitted."

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The Pershing building at the intersection of American Avenue and Old Glory Road at the Grand Island Veterans Home at 2300 W. Capital Ave.

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Grand Island Fire Department Shift Commander Bryan Stutzman (left) and firefighter/paramedic Lonnie Mitteis stand together in the bay at Station No.1 in Grand Island. Wednesday was the first full day back to work for both men after undergoing cancer treatments.

Cancer behind them, two Grand Island firefighters return to duty

By Jeff Bahr
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Running into a burning house is one kind of bravery. Battling cancer is another.

Grand Island firefighters Lonnie Mitteis and Bryan Stutzman, both 58, returned to work Wednesday after missing significant time due to cancer.

Mitteis, a firefighter-paramedic, had been gone nine months while he was tackling bladder cancer. Stutzman, who had prostate cancer, was gone eight weeks.

For Mitteis, who learned of his bladder cancer Jan. 8, what was the low point?

"Oh, it was the chemo, by far," he said.

Not being able to do anything was tough. "When you're used to going and going and going and literally, it takes everything you've got to get out of the chair to go to the restroom, it wears you out," Mitteis said, adding that he was sick.

"I didn't believe it was possible to be that sick."

Saying chemo is terrible isn't enough. "It's horrible," he said. He started chemo in the middle of January. For the next three months, he had three days when he "actually felt like a human being."

Along the way, Mitteis gained some humility because he saw cancer patients who were a lot sicker than he was.

On May 20, a surgeon in Omaha took "my bladder and my prostate and he built me a new bladder out of 60 centimeters of my small intestine. It's called a neobladder."

Mitteis is "extremely happy" to be at back at work.

"I really didn't think this would ever happen," Mitteis said. "When I first found out I was sick, I thought my career at the Fire Department was over. I really did."

Stutzman, a battalion chief, had his prostate removed.

It's hard to get a phone call tell-

ing you that you have cancer, Stutzman says. "You never think it's going to happen to you, and when you get that call it sends you to some dark places. You think the worst," he said.

People who have their prostate removed sometimes find it "messes with your head," he said.

"There's a possibility of a lot of side-effects with surgery like that. Luckily, I haven't had them. But that's all you think about," he said.

In December 2017, Grand Island firefighter Jedd Bohlender, only 49, died of pancreatic cancer.

"We just lost Jedd to cancer," Stutzman says. His co-workers "just watched him waste away. So you see that and you hear the word 'cancer' is in you," you're going to fear the worst, he said.

He had different treatment options. But he decided to go with surgery after talking to a cancer doctor. His niece, who's a registered nurse, works for the doctor.

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"When I first found out I was sick, I thought my career at the Fire Department was over. I really did."

Lonnie Mitteis, Grand Island firefighter-paramedic

Whistleblower probe tests Republicans' alliance with Trump

By Lisa Mascaro and Laurie Kellman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One Republican hadn't read the whistleblower's complaint. Another called President Donald Trump's conversation with the Ukraine leader "thin gruel" for any impeachment effort. A third said the whole thing was "blown way out of proportion."

And yet, as more details emerged about what the president said and the efforts to shield it from view, Republicans were straining Thursday under the uncertainty of being swept up in the most serious test yet of their alliance with the Trump White House.

The quickly moving events caught Republicans off stride. While Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stayed silent throughout the day, other Republicans easily defended the president and some simply shrugged it off.

"It's just the president being President Trump," said Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis.

But amid the jumble were signals, ever so slight, that the tumult of the Trump presidency may have entered a new phase for the party that's being defined, enthusiastically for some, reluctantly for others, by his tenure.

"We owe people to take it seriously," Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., a onetime Trump rival who is now member of the Intelligence Committee.

"Right now, I have more questions than answers," he said. "The complaint raises serious allegations, and we need to determine whether they're credible or not."

Others past and potentially future presidential hopefuls, Sens. Mitt Romney of Utah and Ben Sasse of Nebraska, also voiced cautious concern in recent days with the same term: "troubling."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the president engaged in nothing short of a "cover-up" as Democrats turned their laser focus on the Ukraine matter as central to their impeachment probe. Thursday brought striking new revelations about the extent to which the White House sought to "lock down" Trump's call.

One certainty was that Congress and the White House are now squaring off for a rare, if not historic, impeachment investigation that will consume both sides and deepen the political divide ahead of the 2020 election.

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Nancy Pelosi



Mitch McConnell



Donald Trump



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