



Containing Zebbie

Jason Peter's task in Saturday's 12:30 p.m. game against Texas Tech will be containing Red Raider quarterback Zebbie Lethridge. PAGE 10



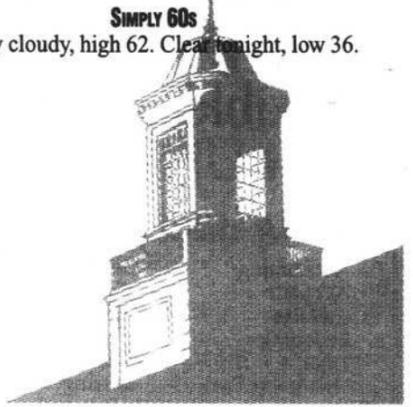
Stayin' alive

Well, you can tell by the way they don't stop, The Samples are here to stay. Back from near dissolution, they'll play Omaha Saturday. PAGE 12

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SIMPLY 60s

Partly cloudy, high 62. Clear tonight, low 36.



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A piece of D.C.



SANDY SUMMERS/DN

U.S. SEN. CHUCK HAGEL addresses University of Nebraska-Lincoln law students Wednesday at the NU College of Law. Hagel talked about the passing of a global warming treaty that could have a major impact on the United States.

Nelson joins foundation

■ The governor and Wendy's pair up for an adoption program.

BY TED TAYLOR
Senior Reporter

Wendy's dad and Nebraska's highest-ranking adoptive father are teaming up to "help children with special needs find special families."

An adoptive father of two, Gov. Ben Nelson Wednesday kicked off NebraskAdopt, a new partnership with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, the state's Wendy's fast-food chain and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Its goal is to promote the need of foster homes for children with special needs.

"No child is unadoptable," Nelson said at a news conference in the Capitol. "This new initiative will help us find families who have room in their hearts for more children."

Special-needs children are those children who have a hard time find-

ing foster families because they are part of a sibling group, have a mental, physical or emotional disability or are older.

Through public service announcements, table signs, tray liners, billboards and bag-stuffers, the 31 Wendy's restaurants throughout the state will help raise awareness of the problem facing these children, Nelson said.

Wendy's also will contribute \$21,000 to help cover the costs for information packets, a toll-free phone number that interested families can call for more information, and any other costs the state might incur in promoting the program.

"We're hoping the toll-free number will ring off the hook," Nelson said.

Nebraska joins Kansas and Iowa as the only states taking part in the initiative.

"This is a proactive way to get people's attention," Nelson said. "And it's an extension of how Dave Thomas feels about families."

Please see **ADOPTION** on 7

Breslow declares run for governor

BY BRAD DAVIS
Assignment Reporter

Election '98

John Breslow said he wanted to be "your candidate for governor" as he announced his candidacy for the top office in Nebraska on Wednesday afternoon.

Breslow, state auditor and a Lincoln businessman, spoke before television cameras and an audience of more than 100 supporters at the office of the Linweld Co.

He gave the same speech he had given 18 times since Monday, when he began his campaign tour in Omaha, said Jerry Hudson, Breslow's director of communication.

Also unveiled at the Lincoln office were Breslow's new television commercials, which will begin airing today throughout the state, Hudson said.

The commercials highlight Breslow's promise to cut state spending by 5 percent each year he is in office, his commitment to "safe streets" and his commitment to family.

Breslow is the owner and chairman of the board of the Lincoln-based Linweld Co., which his father founded. The company sells welding products

and manufactures and sells medical and industrial gases.

Breslow, said he would work to make Nebraska a family-friendly state.

"As governor, I will work to make Nebraska the most pro-family, pro-children, pro-education state in the country."

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate, Breslow said he would lower taxes "without compromising our children's education."

Breslow said streets would be safer for children and all Nebraska residents by enforcing strict penalties for convicted criminals.

"The public needs to know that violent criminals will be given stiff sentences, and that they will serve those sentences — and if that sentence is death, then it must be carried out," Breslow said.

However, Breslow said family involvement in children's lives will more effectively prevent crime "before it happens."

"The best crime prevention involves the family — with a mother and a father — working together to raise their children with the highest moral standards."

Governor, USDA form alliance against E. coli

BY ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

Despite several past policy disagreements, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Gov. Ben Nelson will work together on preventing E. coli contamination and on safe meat-handling public education campaigns, officials announced Wednesday.

Nelson, who criticized USDA procedures after the Hudson Foods beef recall, bantered on some issues with Catherine Woteki, USDA undersecretary for Food Safety, during the afternoon announcement.

But the two leaders agreed on the necessity of the USDA's newly developed inspection process that will begin in January, on the need for meat safety education and on the need for more funding to research new E. coli-fighting technology.

Nelson and Woteki had met earlier Wednesday to discuss recent USDA-required recalls of possibly E. coli-contaminated Nebraska

beef, which Nelson contends "may have been excessive."

Woteki said the USDA did not overreact when it demanded Hudson recall 25 million pounds of frozen ground beef in August, and that the scale of the recall was necessary to protect the public's health.

On Aug. 25, Hudson Foods recalled 25 million pounds of ground beef produced in its Columbus plant that were linked to an E. coli outbreak in Colorado that sickened at least 16 people.

Citing a 1993 E. coli outbreak that sickened 700 and killed three, Woteki said the USDA "headed off the potential for a greater outbreak" through the Hudson recall.

Nelson said he wished to avoid a "point/counterpoint" debate, but thought much of the contaminated beef involved in the recall could have been identified earlier in the distribution process by USDA inspectors.

He also said the USDA should keep in mind where meat has been distributed when making a recall decision.

Meat distributed to fast-food

restaurants is cooked at the correct temperature for the right duration to kill E. coli, he said. Most beef recalled by Hudson had been distributed to Burger King restaurants.

But Nelson praised the USDA for recent efforts to revamp its inspection process.

Woteki said inspectors will better monitor "critical control points" for preventing beef contamination in processing plants and keep a close watch on plants' record-keeping habits. She said Hudson kept poor production records before the recall.

To improve public education on meat safety, the USDA will unveil a new public-private partnership of federal and state agencies' beef industry representatives Oct. 24, Woteki said.

The partnership will sponsor a new logo and a 30-second public service announcement featuring cartoon figures who will instruct how to handle meat safely in homes.

Please see **SAFETY** on 7