

The future's so bright ...

Nebraska gymnastics coaches and athletes all are optimistic for next year and the future of the program as this season closes. PAGE 6

Rock 'n' roll legends

The magazine is as famous as the faces it boasts. Rolling Stone's 30-year cover anniversary tour is at the Nebraska Union until Thursday. PAGE 9

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DAYS OF THUNDER

Storms possible, high 65. Cloudy tonight, low 45.

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It's a dog's life



SARA WRIGHT DOESN'T LET overcast skies stop her from playing a game of fetch with her two dogs, Tetley, a bull mastiff, and Willie, a boxer, Monday afternoon at Pioneers Park. Weather forecasts call for continued cloudy skies for the rest of the week.

SANDY SUMMERS/DN

Senators, friends remember Hruska

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Senior staff writer

Roman Hruska, a former Republican U.S. senator, had a hand in a lot of judicial legislation in this country. He was respected by Democrats and Republicans alike and known for his staunch conservatism.

"He was quite a guy," said former Gov. Charles Thone. "He truly believed that public service was a trust, and he was a hard worker. My oh my, oh my, I never saw anyone who could work as hard as he did."

Hruska died Sunday at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha, where he was recovering from a hip injury several weeks ago. He was 94.

Thone, who was Hruska's administrative assistant in the 1950s, knew Hruska as a friend

and a colleague.

"We usually had the same philosophy and approach to things in government," Thone said.

Former Democratic Gov. Frank Morrison may have held different political philosophies than Hruska, but that did not affect the 50-year friendship he had with Hruska.

"We were on different sides of a number of issues during our time, but I always admired him," said Morrison, who is 93. "He was an effective spokesman for his point of view."

Friends and colleagues especially admired Hruska's work on federal judicial reform.

Hruska, a David City native, held a seat on the Judiciary Committee, which allowed him a significant role in judicial reform, Thone said.

"He had his fingerprints on all of the legislation regarding the whole area of federal judicial improvement," Thone said.

Hruska had a role in the institution of laws such as the Omnibus Crime and Safe Streets Act of 1968 and the Bail Reform Act.

Hruska served on the Douglas County Board from 1944-1952.

He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1952, but resigned from that post in 1954 to finish out the remaining four years of the term of the late U.S. Sen. Hugh Butler. He served in the Senate until his retirement in 1976. An Omaha federal courthouse under construction is named after him.

After retirement, Hruska practiced law and remained active in the Republican party, advising Republican candidates.

"He was sharp until the very end—mentally sharp," Thone said. "He stayed very interested in government, both in Nebraska and the federal scene."

Week to honor victims' rights

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior staff writer

In a week commemorating the rights of crime victims to be heard, some victims say they have been silenced.

On Monday, state and law enforcement officials recognized those who worked with crime victims and their families at a ceremony in the Capitol rotunda to mark the start of National and Nebraska Victims' Rights Week.

"Initially the only right victims had

was to be silent," said Lt. Gov. Dave Maurstad as he proclaimed April 26-30 Victims' Rights Week.

"Now victims have the right to be heard at every critical step of the process."

But Audrey Lamm, who tried to address the Nebraska Pardons Board on behalf of her mother's killer in January, said some victims, such as her family, had been denied.

"I think it is important to remind people that there is a contingency of victims that have been ignored by the system," Lamm said. "We've become

victims not only of crime, but of the system put there to help us."

At the ceremony, Attorney General Don Stenberg honored Terri Dawn Stroud, 24, with the Crime Victims' Rights Award for her testimony against Mike Morosin at a March Pardons Board hearing.

"It is never easy to recognize the suffering of those who are victimized by crime, but it is uplifting to be able to recognize the strength and courage of those who work diligently to protect

Please see **Victim's** on 3

Legislature

New farmer income tax bill advances to final round

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Staff writer

To reverse the trends of population loss and the decline of the small farmer in rural Nebraska, the state must encourage beginning farmers to go into business, Sen. Roger Wehrbein said Monday.

The Plattsmouth senator successfully urged senators to advance LB630, which would provide income tax credits for farmers who rent their land to beginning farmers and ranchers. Although some senators called the bill a quixotic attempt to reverse the inexorable trend toward corporate farming, the Legislature advanced the bill to the final round of debate.

"It's not OK to say the rural areas can continue to lose population."

BOB WICKERSHAM
Harrison senator

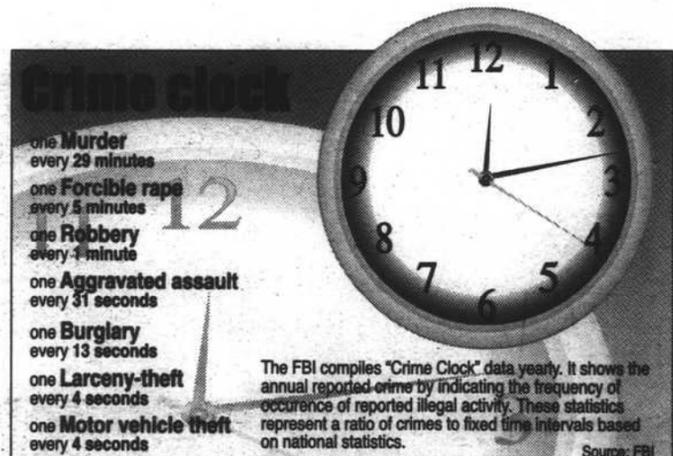
farms that could outbid those beginners.

The start-up costs for land and machinery, often in the range of \$500,000 to \$1 million, simply make it too difficult for beginning farmers to buy their own land, Wehrbein said. A rental arrangement, he said, would allow beginning farmers to continue a successful farming operation, acquire new assets and possibly buy the land eventually.

"If you want the population of rural Nebraska to stop losing people or be repopulated, you've got to have young farmers going into business, or we truly will have a totally industrialized agricultural economy," he said.

To be eligible for the tax credits, farm owners would have to enter a three-year rental agreement with a farmer who qualified as a beginner. At the end of three years,

Please see **FARM** on 3



JON FRANK/DN