

Creighton lost its first game with Marquette, but CU is on a roll ahead of the rematch.

Sports



Police seek to buy new cruiser cameras with automated license plate readers.

Midlands

# Omaha World-Herald

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024 WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES OMAHA.COM



Rachael Wagner, second from left, explains a robotic surgery device to undergrads Victoria Nelson, left, and David Ryan, center, and to UNL professor Shane Farritor, right.

CRAIG CHANDLER, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

## Surgical robot developed by UNL team goes to space

JULIE ANDERSON  
World-Herald Staff Writer

It's been a long journey already, but a space-worthy version of a miniaturized surgical robot invented by a University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor and others has finally blasted into space.

The robot, named MIRA, for Miniaturized In vivo Robotic Assistant, launched at 11:07 a.m. Tuesday from Florida's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station aboard a Northrop Grumman Cygnus cargo spacecraft bound for the International Space Station. The Cygnus was carried by

a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

"The launch went perfectly, and MIRA is on its way," Shane Farritor, a UNL engineering professor and one of the device's inventors, said Tuesday. He and his family traveled to Florida to attend the launch, as did Rachael Wagner, the project's engineering lead, and her family.

The Cygnus is scheduled to dock with the space station 40 hours after the launch. Once aboard the space station, plans call for space-MIRA to perform a surgical simulation sometime within the next 30 days, said Farritor, chief tech-

nology officer for Virtual Incision, the Lincoln startup company he co-founded to bring the miniature robot to the commercial market.

"We're just at the beginning of our adventure here," he said.

The device will be the first surgical robot on the space station. The experiment, called a technology demonstration, will be among just a few tests of remote surgery tasks conducted in space so far.

"We want to show this kind of thing is feasible," Farritor said in an interview before the launch.

Please see **ROBOT**, Page A2

## Hearing on school bill spurs verbal sparring

Lawmaker proposes \$1,500 state-funded accounts for private, parochial students

ERIN BAMER  
World-Herald Bureau

LINCOLN — Students at private and faith-based schools in Nebraska would be able to get a \$1,500 state-funded savings account for educational needs under a bill that prompted a contentious hearing Tuesday.

Legislative Bill 1386 drew support from private school families and officials who said that it's important to ensure that families can choose the education options that their children need. But it also prompted opposition from those who said the law would damage public schools.

At one point, the hearing before the Legislature's Education Committee turned into a verbal sparring match between committee members and one of the people testifying against the bill.

LB 1386 follows last year's passage of major education funding and "school choice" proposals. Lawmakers approved a bill that guarantees every public school at least \$1,500 per student in "foundation aid" from the state. Another bill, LB 753, provides tax credits for donations to scholarship funds for private and parochial schools — a controversial measure that is subject to a voter referendum in November.

LB 1386 would extend the idea of a basic level of state funding to students at private schools. It would establish education savings accounts with \$1,500 for students attending private or parochial schools — money that could be used to cover various costs such as tuition, textbooks, tutoring and

Please see **SAVINGS**, Page A2

## New strip club prompts proposed ordinance

CHRISTOPHER BURBACH  
World-Herald Staff Writer

A new strip club in a shopping plaza at 180th and Q Streets has inspired a city ordinance designed to increase the city's ability to crackdown on business owners whose establishments cause neighborhood problems.

City Councilman Don Rowe proposed the ordinance. The council is scheduled to have a public hearing on it Tuesday, Feb. 6.

Rowe said the ordinance does not target Club180, the bring-

your-own-bottle club that opened around Christmastime last year at 18101 R Plaza. It's in the former Two Fine Irishmen restaurant space.

Nor does the proposed ordinance endeavor to prevent performers from going the full monty. That appears to be beyond the city's power, Rowe said, although there is some question about whether the club might need some type of liquor license.

The ordinance was prompted by

Please see **STRIP CLUB**, Page A2



CHRIS MACHIAN, THE WORLD-HERALD

The Omaha City Council is considering an ordinance inspired by neighborhood concerns about a strip club that recently opened in the space formerly occupied by the restaurant Two Fine Irishmen, 18101 R Plaza.

### Transfers opposed

Gov. Pillen's plan to transfer money for a property tax cut draws opposition. **Midlands**

### Class size limits

A Nebraska lawmaker wants to set "manageable" class size limits for schools. **Midlands**

### Weather

High: 58 Low: 37  
Mostly sunny, mild Details: A8

### Index

Classifieds ..... C5&6 Obituaries ..... B4  
Comics ..... B6 Puzzles ..... B5  
Money ..... A6 What to watch ..... A7

20 PAGES • \$3.00



Downsizing or Moving To Senior Living?

# Make Your Move Easier With FREE Moving & Organizing Labels

Visit [www.FreeMovingLabels.com](http://www.FreeMovingLabels.com)

