



Lewis Central standout Thomas Fidone picks Huskers over Hawkeyes and LSU. *Sports*



Lincoln officer trying to serve arrest warrant is critically injured in shooting. *Midlands, Page 3A*

Omaha World-Herald

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CASINO GAMBLING

State high court will decide if voters will get a say on initiative. **Page 4A**

Medical pot is closer to ballot but not there yet

Nebraska secretary of state will rule on initiative's legality today, and a court challenge appears certain

By PAUL HAMMEL
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

LINCOLN — A petition drive to allow Nebraskans to vote on legalizing medical marijuana has submitted more than enough valid signatures to qualify for the fall ballot.

But whether the issue gets placed before voters on Nov. 3 is still up in the air and will probably, in the end, be decided in court, just like another controversial initiative that would allow a vote on legalizing casino gambling in the state.

Nebraska Secretary of State Bob Evnen said Wednesday that he hopes to decide by Thursday morning whether the medical marijuana initiative, in his opinion, passes legal muster to be placed on the ballot. But, he added, he also anticipates an immediate court challenge to his ruling.

"I would expect by the afternoon someone will have filed something," Evnen said.

State Sen. Adam Morfeld of Lincoln, a co-chair of Nebraskans for Medical Marijuana, the group seeking to put the issue on the ballot, said that "everything

See Marijuana: Page 4

ERNST ADDRESSES CONVENTION

The Iowa senator calls Trump a staunch ally of farmers. **Page 8A**

Pence defends police, says 'you won't be safe' under Biden

BALTIMORE (AP) — Republicans aggressively defended law enforcement on the third night of their convention, as the nation faced renewed tensions following the police shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man in Wisconsin, that sparked protests in a state that could decide the fall election.

Vice President Mike Pence, the evening's featured speaker, seized on the national reckoning over racial injustice to argue that Democratic leaders are allowing lawlessness to prevail in cities from coast to coast. He and others described cities wracked by violence, though protests in most locations have been largely peaceful.

"The American people know we don't have to choose between supporting law enforcement and standing with African American neighbors to improve the

See Convention: Page 8

CORONAVIRUS CASES

	Infections	Deaths
Nebraska	32,727	386
Iowa	58,280	1,071
U.S.	5,821,195	179,695

*As of 9 p.m. Wednesday

Privately funded \$101 million attraction, with exhibits developed by San Francisco's Exploratorium, is expected to entertain and inspire kids and adults



GLEAMING SCIENCE CENTER WILL ADORN RIVERFRONT

By HENRY J. CORDS
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

A new jewel is coming to Omaha's riverfront.

Ground will be broken this fall for a privately funded \$101 million science museum that backers hope will rank among the nation's best.

Architects' renderings of the new science center show a sizable glassy structure on city parkland at Lewis & Clark Landing, with views of downtown, the Missouri River and the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge.

The community leaders behind the project hope the new science center will become a family-friendly and fun entertainment destination when it opens in 2023 — filling a longtime void in the city's cultural amenities. But more

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ANNA REED/THE WORLD-HERALD

The science center, at this spot at Lewis & Clark Landing, is expected to open in 2023. At top are renderings of the STEM-focused center, which will have "Kiewit" somewhere in its name. "It's going to be incredible," said Rachel Jacobson of Heritage Services.

Teen arrested in killings in Wisconsin

His Facebook page, which includes a photo with an assault rifle, shows his support of police

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — A white, 17-year-old police admirer was arrested Wednesday after two people were shot to death during a third straight night of protests in Kenosha over the police shooting of a Black man, Jacob Blake.

Kyle Rittenhouse of Antioch, Illinois, was taken into custody in Illinois on suspicion of first-degree intentional homicide.

The two people were killed Tuesday night and a third was

STANDING AGAINST INJUSTICE

Players from NBA, MLB and other leagues boycott games. **Sports**

wounded in an attack apparently carried out by a young white man who was caught on cellphone video opening fire in the street with a semiautomatic rifle.

"I just killed somebody," the gunman could be heard saying during the rampage that erupted just before midnight.

The officer who shot Blake was identified as a seven-year veteran of the Kenosha Police Department, the Wisconsin Department of Justice said Wednesday.

Officer Rusten Sheskey shot Blake, 29, while holding onto his

See Kenosha: Page 2



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jacob Blake, with second cousin Andria-Jo Watkins. Blake was shot multiple times by police Sunday. The shooting has prompted protests in Wisconsin and elsewhere.

Confusion over testing

New CDC guidance on who should be tested for COVID-19 creates confusion. **Page 9A**

Flowers forever

Dry your summer flowers for an everlasting bouquet. **Living, Page 8B**

Weather

High: 97 Breezy and hot Low: 74 Details: 4A

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Kenosha: Conservative website interviewed alleged gunman before shooting

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shirt after officers first unsuccessfully used a Taser and as Blake leaned into his vehicle during an incident Sunday, the agency's press release said.

State agents later recovered a knife from the driver's side floorboard of the vehicle, the release said. A search of the vehicle found no additional weapons.

No charges were announced and the state's Department of Investigation was continuing its work.

In the wake of the Tuesday killings, Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers authorized the sending of 500 members of the National Guard to Kenosha, doubling the number of troops. The Governor's Office said he is working with other states to bring in additional National Guard members and law officers.

"A senseless tragedy like this cannot happen again," said the governor, a Democrat. "I again ask those who choose to exercise their First Amendment rights please do so peacefully and safely, as so many did last night. I also ask the individuals who are not there to exercise those rights to please stay home and let local first responders, law enforcement and members of the Wisconsin National Guard do their jobs."

In Washington, the Justice Department said it is sending in the FBI and federal marshals in response to the unrest. The White House said up to 2,000 National Guard troops would be available.

The dead were identified only as a 26-year-old Silver Lake, Wisconsin, resident and a 36-year-old from Kenosha. The wounded person, a 36-year-old from West Allis, Wisconsin, was expected to survive.

"We were all chanting 'Black lives matter' at the gas station and then we heard, boom, boom, and I told my friend, 'That's not



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A protester among sheriff's deputies Tuesday night in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Anger over the Sunday shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by police has spilled into the streets for several nights.

fireworks," 19-year-old protester Devin Scott told the Chicago Tribune. "And then this guy with this huge gun runs by us in the middle of the street and people are yelling, 'He shot someone! He shot someone!' And everyone is trying to fight the guy, chasing him and then he started shooting again."

Scott said he cradled a lifeless victim in his arms, and a woman started performing CPR, but "I don't think he made it."

According to witness accounts and video footage, police apparently let the gunman walk past them and leave the scene with a rifle over his shoulder and his hands in the air as people in the crowd were yelling for him to be arrested.

As for how the gunman managed to leave the scene, Sheriff David Beth portrayed a chaotic, high-stress situation, with screaming, chanting, nonstop radio traffic and people running all over — conditions that he said can cause "tunnel vision" among law officers.

Rittenhouse was assigned a public defender in Illinois for a hearing Friday on his transfer to Wis-

consin. In Wisconsin, anyone 17 or older is treated as an adult in the criminal justice system.

Much of Rittenhouse's Facebook page is devoted to praising law enforcement, with references to Blue Lives Matter, a movement that supports police. He also can be seen holding an assault rifle.

Other photos include those of badges of law enforcement agencies, including the Chicago Police Department. All of the badges have a black line across them — something police officers typically do with black tape when an officer is killed in the line of duty.

In a photograph posted by his mother, he is wearing what appears to be a blue law enforcement uniform as well as the kind of brimmed hat that state troopers wear.

The sheriff told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that militia members or armed vigilantes had been patrolling Kenosha's streets in recent nights, but he did not know if the gunman was among them. However, video taken before the shooting shows police tossing bot-

tled water from an armored vehicle to what appear to be armed civilians walking the streets. And one appears to be the gunman.

"We appreciate you being here," an officer is heard saying to the group over a loudspeaker.

Before the shooting, the conservative website The Daily Caller conducted a video interview with the suspected gunman in front of a boarded-up business.

"So people are getting injured, and our job is to protect this business," the young man said. "And part of my job is to also help people. If there is somebody hurt, I'm running into harm's way. That's why I have my rifle — because I can protect myself, obviously. But I also have my med kit."

Sam Dirks, 22, of Milwaukee said he had seen the gunman earlier in the evening, and he was yelling at some of the protesters. "He was definitely very agitated. He was pacing around, just pointing his gun in general. Not necessarily at anyone specifically," Dirks said.

Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, who is Black, said in an

interview with the news program "Democracy Now!" that the shootings were not surprising and that white militias have been ignored for too long.

"How many times across this country do you see armed gunmen, protesting, walking into state capitols, and everybody just thinks it's OK?" Barnes said. "People treat that like it's some kind of normal activity that people are walking around with assault rifles."

In Wisconsin, it is legal for people 18 and over to openly carry a gun, with no license required.

Witness accounts and video indicate the shootings took place in two stages: The gunman first shot someone at a car lot, then jogged away, fell in the street, and opened fire again as members of the crowd closed in on him.

A witness, Julio Rosas, 24, said that when the gunman stumbled, "two people jumped onto him, and there was a struggle for control of his rifle. At that point during the struggle, he just began to fire multiple rounds, and that dispersed people near him."

"The rifle was being jerked around in all directions while it was being fired," Rosas said.

In the incident on Sunday, Blake, 29, was shot, apparently in the back, as he leaned into his SUV, with three of his children seated inside. Kenosha police have said little about what happened other than that they were responding to a domestic dispute.

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden posted a video saying he had spoken with Blake's parents and other family members.

"What I saw on that video makes me sick," Biden said. "Once again, a Black man, Jacob Blake, has been shot by the police in broad daylight, with the whole world watching."

Science: Exhibit space equals 1½ football fields, spread over two floors

Continued from Page 1

than that, they hope it will inspire children's interest in science, math, engineering and technology, helping to fill a critical need for workers in those STEM fields.

"We believe this innovative community space will have a powerful and lasting influence on fueling our city's workforce development," said Bruce Grewcock, chairman of Omaha's Kiewit construction company.

Grewcock led planning for the project on behalf of Heritage Services, the influential Omaha philanthropy organization that has been behind numerous major civic projects in Omaha over the past three decades. Heritage is tapping donors to raise all of the money for the science center.

While the project will join the ranks of what are generically known as science museums, Heritage officials like to refer to the new facility as a "science center" because its exhibits won't be static. Instead, they'll be designed to be hands-on and interactive and feature the latest technology.

Most science museums around the country have followed this trend, often referring to themselves as science centers or discovery centers, with missions to unlock curiosity and make science accessible to all.

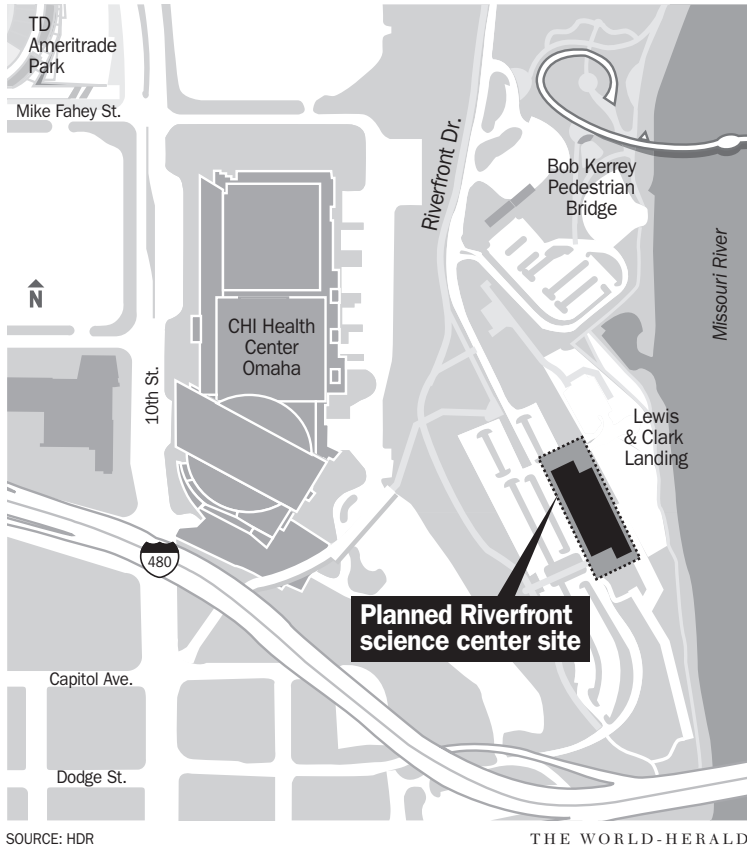
To help ensure that the Omaha center does rank with the country's best, Heritage has partnered with one of the nation's premier science museums to develop the center's exhibits and programming.

San Francisco's Exploratorium, along the waterfront in the heart of that city, is routinely ranked among the nation's top handful of science museums. Exploratorium officials currently working on exhibits for the Omaha center they say will be state-of-the-art while also reflecting the unique culture and history of Omaha and the region.

"It's going to be incredible," said Rachel Jacobson, president of Heritage Services.

The new science center does not yet have a formal name, but "Kiewit" will definitely be a part of it.

The Omaha construction compa-



ny is making a "very significant" donation for the project, Jacobson said, and will also serve as the construction contractor. In addition, several charitable foundations with Kiewit ties are making sizable donations for the project, including Omaha's Peter Kiewit Foundation, the family foundation of former Kiewit Chairman Walter Scott Jr. and Grewcock's family foundation.

Not all of the money for the center has been raised, but Jacobson said Heritage is confident that the fund drive will be completed. That's why Heritage is looking to break ground by late October or early November.

The \$101 million that Heritage is raising includes construction costs, exhibit design and fabrication, and one year of operating expenses — plus an endowment that will provide for the future sustainability of its operations.

The facility will feature 82,000 square feet — about the same total

area as 1½ football fields — spread over two floors. Omaha-based HDR is serving as lead architect and engineer on the project.

Because the museum will be built on city parkland, the Omaha City Council next week will be asked to approve a long-term lease agreement with Omaha Discovery Trust, the new nonprofit formed by Heritage that will develop and operate the science center.

The museum will be at Lewis & Clark Landing in the area of the long-defunct Rick's Cafe Boatyard restaurant. It's north of I-480, east of the CHI Health Center and south of the National Park Service's Midwest region headquarters and the Kerrey bridge.

Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert called the museum a perfect complement to the ongoing \$300 million revitalization of the city's downtown and riverfront parks, \$250 million of which is being funded by private donors. The museum will bring the total value of

the riverfront facelift to over \$400 million, with nearly 90% of those dollars from the private sector.

Stothert said the project shows the importance of the Omaha philanthropic and business communities and is a tribute to the engineering heritage built in Omaha by companies like Kiewit. But she also hopes it will encourage Omaha's young people to become the city's next generation of engineers and scientists.

"I am thrilled with this project," Stothert said. "It's really, really positive for Omaha."

Plans for The RiverFront — the name given to the parks overhaul — show the science center integrated into Lewis & Clark Landing, next to a destination children's playground. Other nearby attractions include a boardwalk, sports fields, a renovated marina and an urban beach.

The science center's origins also can be traced to that park redevelopment project.

When the philanthropists behind The RiverFront project were considering the kinds of amenities they wanted to see, they began to consider types of attractions that could be used all months of the year. A science museum came into focus. And it's not surprising.

When looking at Omaha's range of cultural destinations and tourist attractions, from arenas to arts centers to museums and the zoo, a science museum has long been a gap. Most of the other major cities in the Midwest — Des Moines, Kansas City, Wichita, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Oklahoma City, Denver and Chicago — have science museums.

Kiewit and Grewcock, who serves on the board of directors of Heritage, became interested in the idea and led Heritage efforts to study and develop it. Heritage officials traveled all over the country looking at different science museums.

Of all they saw, "they were especially excited about the Exploratorium," Jacobson said. When they then learned that the Exploratorium has a global consulting division, the Omaha group decided to contract with it to develop the exhibits and programming for the

Omaha center.

Among the Exploratorium's many unique features are a Tactile Dome, where visitors feel their way through total darkness; a station where kids can make bubbles big enough to hold their parents; and an "anti-gravity" mirror that makes viewers appear to fly.

And it's not just for kids. Silva Raker, senior business director of global collaborations for the Exploratorium, said nearly two-thirds of the visitors to the San Francisco museum are adults. For example, it runs an adults-only program on Thursday nights, covering topics like the science of humor or transit technology — and even the science of drink mixing.

She said the idea that a science museum experience can spark an interest in STEM careers is real. A research study once found that those who end up in such careers often have a learning experience by the time they're in middle school that sparks and excites them.

Silva and Heritage officials were not yet ready to tip their hands on the specific features of the Omaha exhibits, but Silva said they would be "engaging and fun and interesting and beautiful." The Omaha project is among the biggest the Exploratorium has ever taken on, she said.

"I'm super-excited about it," Silva said. "I think some of the things we are doing here are going to set a new bar for marrying the universal aspects of STEM with an incredible natural history and a community that's ready to engage."

Jacobson said the science center during the week will partner with schools and be a resource for students and teachers. But it will also be the kind of place kids will want to go on the weekends.

She said it's hoped that the center's wide reach in the community will ultimately boost interest in STEM careers among historically underrepresented groups like girls and children of color.

Said Jacobson: "The range of learning that will happen there is really exciting."

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