

A new lease on life

After surviving a cancerous brain tumor, a Lincoln artist focuses on giving discarded items new purpose. **Living**

Omaha World-Herald

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LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1885

Bank is at heart of debate over federal role

Midlands firms among beneficiaries of Export-Import Bank, which critics call a boondoggle

By JOSEPH MORTON
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Shipping millions of dollars worth of popcorn to an overseas buyer is a risky proposition. Nebraska-based Preferred Popcorn can't be completely sure it's going to get paid, so the company turns to a relatively obscure federal program to insure those shipments. The U.S. Export-Import Bank provides loans, guarantees and insurance to help customers in other countries buy U.S. products. Last year, it facilitated \$37 billion in export sales. "From our vantage point, it certainly appears like a very good program that is good for our country," said Norman Krug, Preferred Popcorn's CEO and co-owner. But now the bank is at the heart of the latest Capitol Hill fight over the role of government in assisting the business sector. Proponents view the bank as

See Bank: Page 2

Ebola keeps killing as West Africans shun doctors

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KOLO BENGOU, Guinea — Eight youths, some armed with slingshots and machetes, stood warily along a dirt road, the path to the village of Kolo Bengou. The deadly Ebola virus is believed to have infected several people in the village, and the youths were blocking the path to prevent health workers from entering. "We don't want any visitors," said their leader, Faya Iroundouno, 17, president of Kolo Bengou's youth league. "We don't want any contact with anyone." The others nodded in agreement. Singling out the international aid group Doctors Without Borders, Iroundouno continued, "Wherever those people have passed, the communities have been hit by illness."

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INSIDE

A new kind of gathering place for former Pella Lutheran

An Omaha photographer is converting the church at 41st and Farnam Streets into an event center run by a caterer. **Money**

Omaha weather

Today's forecast: Page 6B

High: 78 Low: 57

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SEX TRAFFICKING: A NEW MOTHER STRUGGLES TO BREAK FREE FROM HER PIMP

A DETECTIVE SAW A DIAPER ON THE FLOOR AND ASKED THE PROSTITUTE: WHERE IS THE BABY?



MATT MILLER/THE WORLD-HERALD

After years of prostitution and living in motels, Leigh — her middle name — got her first apartment with the help of an Omaha police officer and a victim specialist working for the FBI. Leigh's good news-bad news situation? A promotion and raise at work mean she can't keep the subsidized apartment.

WHAT BABY, ANSWERED THE WOMAN, NAMED LEIGH. THE 34-YEAR-OLD TRIED TO ACT UNFAZED; THIS WAS HER SEVENTH PROSTITUTION BUST IN 12 YEARS. BUT IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SHE'D BEEN CAUGHT AS A MOTHER. HER SON WAS JUST 18 MONTHS OLD. AND THOUGH LEIGH COULD STAND THE HUMILIATION OF BEING CAUGHT, THE HASSLE OF GOING TO JAIL, THE LECTURE FROM COPS ABOUT HOW SHE SHOULD STOP DOING THIS, SHE COULDN'T STOMACH THE PROSPECT OF LOSING HER SON. WHERE IS THE BABY?

ERIN GRACE

COLUMNIST

Leigh said nothing about the curly-haired boy riding around Omaha that very minute with a man who took Leigh to "dates" in various cities, gave her quotas and lined up strangers. She said nothing about a man who required this of her even in her ninth month of pregnancy. This man had a criminal record. He was wanted in another state on pandering charges. If she squealed on him, who knows what would happen to her son? Where is the baby? Leigh kept her mouth shut. She hoped silence would mean she'd see her son soon enough, after she paid her fine and did her time.

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In 2000, just before she turned 22, Leigh became a prostitute. She did it for two reasons: She was homeless. And she was hungry.

The story continues on Page 4

THE TWO-PART SERIES: Traditionally seen as criminals, many prostitutes now are seen as victims, held against their will and forced to do as they're told. Law enforcement and community groups are stepping in to help.

PART ONE ON OMAHA.COM: A Bellevue teen is pulled into prostitution overnight