

2008 Hyundai Entourage
 List: \$30,171
 Sale: \$24,960
 Rebate: \$4,000
 Stock #59750
New Sale Price: \$20,960
You Save: \$9,211
 While Supplies Last
TD Dinsdale HYUNDAI

Moeller resigns

Adams Co. supervisors slated to accept treasurer's letter.
 Page A5

Weekend
Tribune
 SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS

16 pages <http://www.hastingstribune.com> Saturday, Jan. 3, 2009 Home delivered 29 cents Newsstands \$1

Tribland experiencing a 'baby boomlet'

RISE IN BIRTHS
 FOLLOWS NATIONAL
 TREND

CHARIS UBBEN

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A large increase of births between 2007 and 2008 shows that Hastings and the surrounding area is keeping up with a national baby "boomlet."

Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital recorded 733 births for 2008, 48 more than the 685 recorded in 2007. The hospital

recorded 716 births in 2006 and 696 in 2005.

Total U.S. births rose from 4,265,996 in 2006 to 4,315,000 in 2007 in a preliminary report released last January. In 2006, Nebraska had 26,733 live births, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. National numbers for 2008 births have not yet been released.

An Associated Press story said that births in 2006 were the highest they had been since 1961, near the end of the "baby boom" created when soldiers

returned from World War II and started their families.

This recent increase has not yet been nearly as lengthy as the sustained baby boom, which lasted from 1946-1964, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Consequently, it has been dubbed a boomlet.

Jean Rutledge is the director of maternal care and child nursing at MLMH. Though new to the hospital this summer, she has spent 28 years working with obstetrics in Alabama and

Tennessee. Rutledge said the number of births in a town is dependent on industry, to some extent, and on the mindset of parents.

Local industry keeps young people around to have their babies in a town, she said.

"Fifty (births) is a good jump from last year. It shows that the community is growing," Rutledge said.

On average, half the births at MLMH are to Hastings residents, Rutledge added. The hospital

Please see BOOMLET/page A7



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

The number of births at MLMH rose by 48 from 2007 to 2008, following a national increase, dubbed a "baby boomlet."

PREVIEW: 101ST NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE



BJ FICTUM/Tribune

District 32 State Sen. Russ Karpisek of Wilber talks with another senator, Annette Dubas of Fullerton, while waiting for results of a committee chairmanship vote on the opening day of the 100th Nebraska Unicameral Jan. 3, 2007, in Lincoln. Dubas and Karpisek will return to the Capitol Wednesday for the start of the new Legislative session.

Money on the mind

TRIBLAND SENATORS SAY
 BUDGET WILL BE NEB.
 LEGISLATURE'S BIGGEST ISSUE

SHAY BURK

sburk@hastingstribune.com

There's no doubt in the minds of Tribland's five state senators that the budget will be the biggest issue faced by the Nebraska Legislature during the 2009 session.

"The biggest thing is obviously the budget. The budget basically trumps everything," said Sen.-elect Galen Hadley of Kearney. "It limits what we

can do with new and existing programs."

Hadley and Dennis Utter of Hastings will be the two newest senators in the area, having been elected to their positions in November 2008, along with 15 other new senators across the state. The Tribland's three veteran senators are Russ Karpisek of Wilber, Annette Dubas of Fullerton and Tom Carlson of Holdrege.

The 2009 session of the 101st Legislature is scheduled to convene 10 a.m. Wednesday at the state Capitol in Lincoln. The economy is just one of the major issues the Legislature will address in this 90-day session.

In interviews with each of the sena-

tors earlier this week, the national economy and the state's budget dominated the conversations.

"It's nice that we have a cash reserve, unlike some states," Carlson said. "And although I wasn't part of the Legislature back in the early 2000s, it would be a nightmare to get back in that place."

Nebraska is one of only a few states not facing a budget crisis this year. In fact, the state is sitting on a \$590 million cash reserve. But the state government does face serious budget shortfalls going into the next several years.

Please see MONEY/page A6

Kearney County fatality accidents puzzle officials

NDOR EXAMINING
 INTERSECTION

TONY HERRMAN

therman@hastingstribune.com

KEARNEY COUNTY — Two nearly identical fatality traffic accidents at the intersection of U.S. Highway 6/34 and Nebraska Highway 10 here have law enforcement and traffic agencies wondering how to prevent future deaths and injuries.

Melinda Rasmussen Bunger, 24, of Kearney was pronounced dead at the scene following a collision reported at 6:50 p.m. Wednesday.

According to a news release from the Kearney County Sheriff's Office, Bunger was southbound on Highway 44 in a 2007 Toyota Corolla when her car col-

lided in the intersection with a westbound 2009 Kenworth truck driven by 40-year-old Robert Hunt of Elm Creek.

Restraints were in use by both drivers, the Sheriff's Office said.

On the morning of Dec. 12, 2008, 51-year-old Leland Cyr of Aurora was killed when the car he was driving southbound on Highway 44 collided with a westbound semitrailer truck on U.S. 6/34 driven by Kevin Kober, 33, of Roseland.

Cyr was pronounced dead at the scene of that accident. Kober was uninjured.

"I tell you, it's extremely troubling," said Kurt Vosburg, District 7 engineer for the Nebraska Department of Roads, whose jurisdiction includes Kearney County. The highway junction

Please see ACCIDENTS/page A6

Wall Street enjoys upbeat start to 2009

TIM PARADIS

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street started 2009 with a big rally Friday as investors, brushing aside a disappointing report on manufacturing, sent the Dow Jones industrials up more than 250 points and to their first close above 9,000 in two months. All the major indexes shot up more than six percent for the week.

The market lived up to the hopes of many analysts that it would have a fresh start in the new year after a horrific 2008. But many traders were also waiting to see how the market fares next week; they're cognizant of the fact that post-holiday volume was light and

therefore Friday's trading might not be the best indicator of market sentiment.

Still, the market held to its recent pattern of taking bad economic news in stride, a pattern that began to emerge after it touched multiyear lows on Nov. 20.

"Over the last month you've started to see a change in sentiment and this certainly advances that," said Carl Beck, partner at Harris Financial Group in Richmond, Va.

The Institute for Supply Management said its manufacturing activity index fell to the lowest level in 28 years in December. The ISM, a trade group of purchasing executives,

Please see UPBEAT/page A6

Family reopening Courtyard restaurant at Imperial Mall

NEW OWNERS SAY THEY'LL
 PROVIDE A FAMILY-FRIENDLY
 RESTAURANT

JOHN HUTHMACHER

johnh@hastingstribune.com

If you build it, they will come. That's what Central Community College culinary arts major Brandy Geist has heard dozens of times over the last few years while hosting community events with the school's culi-

nary arts club.

And it was part of the reason why Geist and her parents, Dana and Dave Reicks of Red Cloud, have decided to make a go at reopening the Courtyard restaurant, 3001 W. 12th St., in the Imperial Mall.

The new restaurant, The Courtyard Grill and Bar, is expected to open sometime in March or April, depend-

Inside

New clothing store opening downtown.
 — Page A5

ing on how quickly things progress. The facility, which has been vacant since mid 2006, doesn't figure to change much in appearance, save the addition of four big-screen televisions and the application of some major elbow grease.

"It was too nice of a bar to just sit there," Dana said. "You've got plenty of parking, so no problem there. It's a very nice atmosphere, and just too good to pass by."

Please see COURTYARD/page A7



JOHN HUTHMACHER/Tribune

Courtyard Grill and Bar owners Dave and Dana Reicks and daughter Brandy Geist, take a breather from cleaning their future restaurant site at the Imperial Mall.

Weather

Hi: 30
Lo: 12

Temperatures falling through today. Winds increasing to 30 mph.



Art by Miranda Warner, 8, Lincoln Elementary

DRUNKEN TEEN

BISMARCK, N.D. — Police get calls about drunken drivers all the time, but rarely do they come from the alleged offender.

A 17-year-old girl in Bismarck called 911 on New Year's Eve "to report herself driving under the

Nation

influence," police Lt. Randy Ziegler said. "I've never heard of such a thing happening, and neither has anyone here."

The girl told authorities her location shortly before midnight Wednesday and officers found her in a parked car near downtown, Ziegler

said. She failed a sobriety test and was arrested for failing to have control of her vehicle while intoxicated.

The girl, whose name was not released because of her age, was not cited for drunken driving, Ziegler said.

The Associated Press

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VOL. 104, No. 79 ©2009, THE SEATON PUBLISHING CO., INC. HASTINGS, NEBRASKA

Obituaries

GREGG S. JOHNSON

Kearney resident Gregg S. Johnson, 51, died Wednesday, December 31, 2008, at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney.

Memorial services are 10:30 a.m. Monday, January 5, 2009, at First Presbyterian Church in Kearney with the Rev. Eldon Wells officiating. There will be no visitation. O'Brien - Straatmann Funeral Home of Kearney is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be given to the family, to be designated later.

Condolences may be sent to osafh.com.



Johnson

Gregg was born April 12, 1957, in Lexington, KY, to Don and Wilma (Maruska) Johnson. He graduated from Hastings High School and attended Central Community College in Hastings. On September 6, 1980, he married Jocelyn Toon in Hastings. He farmed in the Geneva, Fair-

mont and Kenesaw areas and owned a wallpapering and painting business in Hastings and Kenesaw. They moved to Kearney in 1994. For the past 15 years, his talents have been valued by Johnson Imperial Homes, where he was proud to develop business properties and family homes for the community.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Kearney. He held memberships in Elks, Kiwanis, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever and his highly regarded membership in the Snake River Falls Sportsman Club. His love for his children led him to volunteer in youth soccer and baseball programs. He loved the outdoors and spent many hours hunting, fishing and boating with his family and friends.

Survivors include his wife of Kearney; sons, Curtis of Fremont and Alex of Kearney; daughter, Casey of Rapid City, SD; brother, Tom and wife Vicki of Lincoln; and sister, Terri Wickham and husband Tom of Ayr, NE.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

VIRGIL R. PICKERING

Hastings resident Virgil R. Pickering, 92, died Thursday, January 1, 2009, at Perkins Pavilion, Good Samaritan Society-Hastings Village.

Services are 11 a.m. Monday, January 5, 2009, at First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Alan Davis officiating. Burial will be in Parkview Cemetery in Hastings. Visitation is 12 noon-9 p.m. Sunday with the family present from 6-8 p.m. at Brand-Wilson Funeral Home and one hour prior to services Monday at the church.

Memorials may be given to First United Methodist Church, Hastings, NE.

Condolences may be sent to www.brandwilson.com.



Pickering

Virgil was born September 11, 1916, to Ross M. and Iva S. (Swartz) Pickering in Steele City, NE. In 1920, he moved with his family to Minden, NE, where he attended school and graduated from high school in 1935. While in high school, he was active in basketball, football and track. In 1939, he started working for Southern Nebraska Rural Public Power in Minden, NE. In 1940, he moved to Grand Island, NE. On October 12, 1940, he married Viola A. Koch and they made their home in Grand Island, NE. In May 1948, he was transferred by the company to Hastings, NE. He retired in February 1979.

He was a 50 plus year member of the First United Methodist Church, Hastings, NE, where he had held several offices, as well as being an usher for 25 years plus. He was a member of the U.C.T., past Red Cross Board Member, and a Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital volunteer and delivered Meals on Wheels from 1979 to 2004.

He liked camping and had traveled with the family coast to coast with a trailer. Since retiring, he and his wife spent about 10 years in the winter either in Texas or Arizona. He also was nominated for the Sunshine Award given by KOLN TV by his granddaughter Teresa.

He is survived by his wife, Viola of Hastings, NE; four daughters, Beverly Ochsner and husband Ron of Sutton, NE, Lois Hultine and husband Don of Hastings, NE, Marcia Hinrikus and husband Jerry of Salina, Kansas, and Bonnie Malcolm and husband Andrew of Columbus, NE; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; one sister, Opal Swartz of Endicott, NE.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Doyle; and one sister, Lucille Gifford.

MELINDA L. BUNGER

Kearney resident Melinda Lea Bunger, 24, died Wednesday, December 31, 2008, as a result of a traffic accident near Minden.

Services are 10 a.m. Monday, January 5, 2009, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hildreth with the Rev. Sylvia High Karlsson officiating. Burial will be in Emmanuel Lutheran Cemetery south of Hildreth. Visitation is 3-5 and 7-8 p.m. Sunday at Craig Funeral Home in Minden.

Thieves hit gallery

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Thieves stole works by Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse and others from a Berlin gallery over the New Year's holiday, police said Friday.

More than 30 works — worth an estimated euro180,000 (\$250,000) — were stolen, apparently between Wednesday afternoon and lunchtime Thursday, police spokeswoman Claudia Schweiger said. The art work was taking from the Fasanengalerie, a private gallery near western Berlin's central shopping district.

HEATHER LOCKLEAR

PLEA BARGAIN

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Heather Locklear has evaded DUI charges by pleading guilty to a lesser offense.

A court official in Santa Barbara says an attorney for the actress entered a no contest plea to a misdemeanor reckless driving charge in court Friday.

Locklear was given three years of informal probation, will pay a fine and attend a driver's education program, said Lee Carter, Santa Barbara senior deputy district attorney.

Tests revealed no alcohol in Locklear's system following her September arrest, but prosecutors charged her in November with driving under the influence of prescription drugs.

Locklear's attorney, Blair Berk, declined to comment Friday.

The actress, whose credits include "Dynasty," "Melrose Place," did not appear.

BIRTHDAYS

Record producer Sir George Martin is 83. Actor Robert Loggia is 79. Actor Dabney Coleman is 77. Journalist-author Betty Rollin is 73. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Bobby Hull is 70. Singer-songwriter-producer Van Dyke Parks is

66. Musician Stephen Stills is 64. Rock musician John Paul Jones (Led Zeppelin) is 63. Actress Victoria Principal is 59. Actor-director Mel Gibson is 53. Actress Shannon Sturges is 41. Jazz musician James Carter is 40. Contemporary Christian singer Nichole Nordeman is 37. Actor Jason Marsden is 34. Actress Danica McKellar is 34. Actor Nicholas Gonzalez is 33. Singer Kimberley Locke ("American Idol") is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lloyd is 23. Actor Alex D. Linz is 20.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The human body is the best picture of the human soul."

— Ludwig Wittgenstein,

Austrian philosopher (1889-1951)

The Associated Press

FACT OF THE DAY

In 2000, evidence that liquid water flowed on Mars was discovered, supporting the theory that life could exist on the Red Planet..

NUMBER OF THE DAY

683,478 -- estimated population of the state of Alaska in July 2007 -- about triple the population at the time it attained statehood.

Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Travolta's son dies after hitting head

JUAN MCCARTNEY

The Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas — John Travolta's teenage son, Jett, died in the Bahamas after falling ill and hitting his head at his family's vacation home, police said Friday.

A house caretaker found Jett, 16, unconscious in a bathroom late Friday morning. He was taken by ambulance to a Freeport hospital, where he was pronounced dead, according to a statement from chief police superintendent Basil Rahming.

The teenager had last been seen going into the bathroom on Thursday and had a history of seizures, according to the statement. Police said they are planning an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

Another police spokeswoman, Loretta Mackey, said Jett apparently hit his head on the bathtub.

A spokeswoman for Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport said she could not release any information because of privacy concerns.

Jett was the oldest child of Travolta and his wife, actress Kelly Preston, who also have an 8-year-old daughter. The family arrived on a private plane Tuesday and had been vacationing at their home in the Old Bahama Bay resort community.

"The Travolta family has become like family to us at Old Bahama Bay and we extend our deepest sympathies to them," said Robert Gidel, president of Ginn Resorts, the property's owner.

Tribland

Adams County Judge Jack Ott Monday sentenced Cameron B. Gray, 23, of 314 N. Bellevue Ave. to one year of probation with a review for 30 days in jail for theft by unlawful taking on April 13, 2007. Gray pleaded no contest on June 27, and prosecutors reduced the charge from burglary and dropped a second charge of theft. Theft by unlawful taking, value \$201-499, is a Class 1 misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

30-percent off regular price current season men's and ladies clothing at Gary Michael's -Adv.

93-percent of United Way's goal has been met. Please make your contribution today. 421 North Kansas, 462-6600. -Adv.

Ambassador Alan Keys guest speaker, February 19, banquet. 463-7726, details/reservations. -Adv.

Begin 2009 getting organized. Need help? Home, business, PCs. No room, space is hopeless or helpless. Peace by Piece, 402-984-1113. -Adv.

Adams County Judge Jack Ott Monday sentenced Matthew L. Horton of 1040 S. Wabash Ave. No. 311 to 90 days in jail for theft by unlawful taking on May 17, 2007. Horton pleaded no contest on June 27. Theft by unlawful taking, value \$201-499, is a Class 1 misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

For your convenience, the Hastings Tribune has a drive-up payment box in our north parking lot. This may be used for subscription and advertising payments. -Adv.

Free Texas Hold'em Poker League starts a new quarter for 2009...January 7, every Wednesday, 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. Win a seat at The Horseshoe, cash prizes! Vincent Michael's. -Adv.

It was reported Wednesday that two doors owned by Back Rib Lounge, 2727 W. Second St., were damaged and alcohol was taken from the business.

Hastings Family Planning offers affordable women's health care. Stay healthy. Call for appointment, 463-5687. -Adv.

Huge sale on Christmas items. Bath Bliss Gifts, 536 West 2nd Street. -Adv.

Jacobi Carpet One New Year's Sale. Make 2009 your home's best year ever with great pricing and three years interest free financing now thru January 31st. 3rd/Denver. -Adv.

A vehicle reportedly driven by Linsey R. Burk of Beaver City Wednesday rolled and struck a guide wire at DLD Road and Osage Avenue.

LifeHouse at the Mall. Look us up on line! lifelifehouse.org -Adv.

Long-term Care Educational Forums January 8, noon and 7:00 p.m. at Ellerbrock-Norris Insurance Agency, 2203 Osborne Drive West. 463-2461 reserve a spot today. All welcome -Adv.

It was reported Wednesday that a 37-year-old Hastings man was cited for shoplifting at Russ's Market, 611 N. Burlington Ave. The value of items taken was \$36.20.

A vehicle reportedly driven by Jesse D. Vap of Edgar Wednesday struck a parked vehicle owned by Eleanor F. Stueck of Red Cloud and a parked vehicle owned by Daniel D. Bogan of 1115 W. Sixth St. at 318 N. Greenhouse Court.

Save 15-percent off Good Neighbor Pharmacy products when purchased in Allen's Pharmacy. -Adv.

It was reported Wednesday that an unknown motorist left Uncle Neal's Country Convenience Store, 734 S. Burlington Ave., without paying for \$27 in fuel.

The Hastings Tribune delivery deadlines are 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning. If you have delivery problems please call 402-461-1221 or 1-800-742-6397. -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Robb A. Rutt of Kenesaw and Dale J. Juranek of 206 E. Sixth St. collided Thursday at 1921 W. Second St.

We buy cars. Jackson's Car Corner, Inc. 463-0688. -Adv.

A parked vehicle owned by Avis, Omaha, reportedly was struck Thursday by a hit-and-run driver at 415 N. Saunders Ave.

Youngsters, bring your favorite adult to "Oh Yeah! It's Kool-Aid Time" for Preschool Playday at Hastings Museum, January 6, 10:00 a.m. and January 10, 10:00 a.m. Call 1-800-508-4629, option zero for reservations. -Adv.

A parked vehicle owned by Scott T. Sell of 623 S. Boston Ave. reportedly was struck Wednesday by a hit-and-run driver on E Street near Boston Avenue.

Your Health is Our Concern! GNLD (Neo-Life) Food Supplements, Chi-Machine, Hot House and Magnetics. Snitker Enterprise, 462-8585. -Adv.

JEANETTE M. KNIGHT

Hastings resident Jeanette M. Knight, 63, of 735 East 2nd Street, died Thursday, January 1, 2009, at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital.

Memorial services are 1:30 p.m. Monday, January 5, 2009, at First Christian Church Disciples of Christ with the Rev. Dr. Judith Allen officiating. There will be no viewing or visitation. Livingston-Butler-Volland Funeral Home and Cremation Center is in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to American Cancer Society or to the family.

Condolences may be sent to www.lbvfh.com.



Knight

Jeanette was born March 5, 1945, in Marysville, Kansas, to Ermal and Kathleen (Cooper) Cosman. She moved with her family to Hastings, Nebraska, in 1962, and graduated from Hastings High School in 1963. She attended Hastings College and in 1966, she began working for Dutton Lainson as a bookkeeper and later in the factory and retired in 2008. She was a member First Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Queen and past Queen of Daughters of the Nile and Eastern Star Acacia Chapter #39.

Jeanette was preceded in death by her parents.

Survivors include daughter and son-in-law, Tracy and Dan Hedlund of Orleans, NE; grandchildren, Mitchell Hedlund, Eric Hedlund, Cheyenne Hedlund, Brittany Hedlund all of Orleans, NE; brother, Ronald Dale Cosman of Hampton Beach, VA.

MARIE W. FINNIGSMIER

Former Kenesaw resident Marie W. Finnigsmier, 92, died Thursday January 1, 2009, at Mary Lanning Hospital in Hastings.

Services are 2 p.m. Monday, January 5, 2009, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kenesaw with the Rev. Paul Duffy officiating. Burial will be in Kenesaw Cemetery at Kenesaw. Visitation is 5-9 p.m. today, noon-9 p.m. Sunday at Jackson-Wilson Funeral Home in Kenesaw and one hour prior to services at the church.

Memorials may be given to St. Paul's Lutheran Scholarship Fund and Kenesaw Public School Scholarship Fund both in Kenesaw.



Finnigsmier

Marie was born January 31, 1916, to Fred and Louise (Eigbrett) Stichweh in Kenesaw, Nebraska. She was baptized March 12, 1916, and confirmed April 1, 1928, both at Zion Wanda Lutheran Church in Holstein. She went to grade school in Adams County, District #38 and Zion Lutheran School in Wanda TWP. She graduated from Kenesaw High School in 1933 and graduated from Concordia College in

Seward, NE, and University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colo. She taught school in Adams County Rural School Districts 44, 56, and 68; First Lutheran School in Knoxville, TN; Zion Lutheran School in Hastings, NE; Holy Cross Lutheran School in Wichita, KS.; Kenesaw Junior High School Kenesaw, NE. She retired from Kenesaw Junior High School in 1978 after a total 43 years of teaching. She married Gilbert Finnigsmier June 4, 1971, at Zion Wanda Lutheran Church in Holstein. Gilbert died October 18, 2003. She lived on the farm until 2005, when she moved into The Kensington in Hastings. She lived there until her death.

She has one sister, Audrey Schukei of Kenesaw; and one brother, Freddie Stichweh of Tempe, AZ; many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; three sisters, infant sister, Alta Stichweh, Caroline Lepin; two brothers, Orville and Lawrence Stichweh.

She was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kenesaw; member of Eternal Life Lutheran Church in Mesa, AZ, from 1978 to 1999; Hastings Retired Teachers Association; and Nebraska Retired Teachers Association.

LYLE G. 'STUB' GLEASON

Former Red Cloud and Guide Rock resident Lyle Gene "Stub" Gleason, 76, of Concordia, Kan., died Thursday, January 1, 2009, at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita, Kan.

Services are 11 a.m. Monday, January 5, 2009, at First United Methodist Church in Concordia, Kan., with the Rev. Sandra

Moore officiating. Burial will be in Red Cloud Cemetery at Red Cloud. Visitation is 2-4 p.m. Sunday with the family receiving friends at Simonson-Williams Funeral Home in Red Cloud and 8:30 until services Monday at the church.

Memorials may be given to the Harry Hynes Hospice.

Tribland five-day forecast

Art by Miranda Warner, 8, Lincoln Elementary



WINDY TODAY
High: 30 Low: 12
Temperatures falling through the day. Winds increasing to 30 mph.



PARTLY CLOUDY SUNDAY
High: 28 Low: 16
Wind: North 20-25 mph
Clearing through the day.



SUNNY MONDAY
High: 35 Low: 20
Warming. Mostly sunny, but turning partly cloudy at night.



PARTLY CLOUDY TUESDAY
High: 38 Low: 18
Turning clear toward the evening.



SUNNY WEDNESDAY
High: 37 Low: 20
Mostly clear.

Historians battle Wal-Mart over site

STEVE SZKOTAK
The Associated Press

LOCUST GROVE, Va. — Wal-Mart wants to build a Supercenter within a cannonshot of where Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant first fought, a proposal that has preservationists rallying to protect the key Civil War site.

A who's who of historians including filmmaker Ken Burns and Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough sent a letter last month to H. Lee Scott, president and CEO of Wal-Mart Stores Inc., urging the company to build somewhere farther from the Wilderness Battlefield. "The Wilderness is an indelible part of our history, its very ground hallowed by the American blood spilled there, and it cannot be moved," said the letter from 253 scholars and others.

Wal-Mart and its supporters point out that the 138,000-square-foot store would be right behind a bank and a small strip mall, a full mile from entrance to the site of the 1864 clash that left thousands dead and

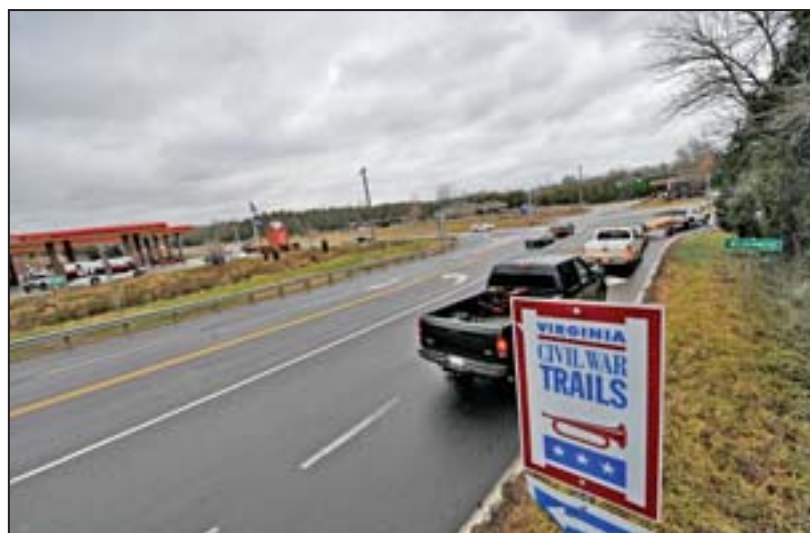
hastened the war's end.

Local leaders also want the \$500,000 in tax revenue they estimate the big box store will generate for rural Orange County, a gradually growing area about 60 miles southwest of Washington.

"In these economic times, the fact that Wal-Mart wants to come into the county is an economic plus," said R. Mark Johnson, a tire shop owner and chairman of the county's board of supervisors. "This is hardly pristine wilderness we're talking about."

Grant's Union troops were headed to Richmond on May 4, 1864, when they confronted Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. The Battle of the Wilderness involved more than 100,000 Union troops and 61,000 Confederates. The fighting, according to National Park Service estimates, left more than 4,000 dead and 20,000 wounded.

Some 2,700 acres of the Wilderness Battlefield are protected as part of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. Preservationists regularly square off



TRACY A. WOODWARD/AP

A view from the Salem Church Battlefield is seen Dec. 10 in Fredericksburg, Va. Wal-Mart wants to build a Supercenter within a cannonshot of where Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant first fought, a proposal that has preservationists rallying to protect the key Civil War site.

against developers in Virginia, where much of the Civil War was fought.

This dispute, however, has stirred an outcry similar to the one in 1994 over The Walt Disney Co.'s plans to

build a \$650 million theme park within miles of the Manassas Battlefield. The entertainment giant bowed to public pressure and abandoned the project.

Muslims around the world protest Israel's assault on Hamas

REBECCA SANTANA
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Thousands protested Friday against Israel's air offensive targeting Hamas at demonstrations in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe and South America.

Similar protests have been held daily across the Middle East since Israel launched the bombing campaign last Saturday. But these gatherings held mostly after Friday prayers were larger — mainly because Friday prayers are a traditional gathering opportunity for Muslims — and seemed to be more far-reaching in the number of countries where protests occurred.

The Israeli offensive has killed more than 400 Palestinians and sparked outrage among the Arab public. Israel says its offensive is aimed at silencing Hamas rockets.

In Tehran, a crowd of about 6,000 stretching for a half-mile (kilometer) marched from prayers at Tehran University to Palestine Square, chanting "Death to Israel" and "Death to America" and burning Israeli flags.

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki warned Israel that entering Gaza "by land will be the biggest mistake of the Zionist regime."

Iran is a major backer of Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, giving it millions of dollars. The U.S. and Israel accuse Iran of giving weapons and rockets to Hamas, though Tehran denies arming Hamas.

In Egypt, authorities clamped down hard to prevent protests Friday. Hundreds of riot police surrounded Cairo's main Al-Azhar Mosque, where a rally had been called, and scuffled with would-be protesters, keeping most

from approaching.

Police also arrested 40 members of the opposition Muslim Brotherhood that called for protests.

More than 3,000 people marched in the northern Sinai city of el-Arish.

Many governments in the Arab world such as Egypt have been wary about protests at home over Israel's Gaza assault lest the protests spiral out of control.

In Jordan, police fired volleys of tear gas and scuffled with protesters who tried to reach the Israeli Embassy in Amman. A few of the protesters threw stones at police, but the security forces dispersed the group, arresting several.

About 30,000 Jordanians gathered at a stadium in Amman shouting their support for Gaza and calling for the abolition of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed in 1994.

More than 10,000 Muslims marched through Indonesia's capital Jakarta to protest the ongoing bombing raids in Gaza, aiming fake missiles labeled "Target: Tel Aviv, Israel" at the U.S. Embassy.

Protests were also held after Friday prayers in other cities in the world's most populous Muslim country, in what was the largest turnout since Israel began the operation.

In the Afghan capital of Kabul, about 3,000 people gathered outside a prominent mosque, according to police estimates. Men in the crowd threw stones and shoes at an effigy of President George W. Bush.

Dozens of demonstrators gathered in the Philippines capital Manila, carrying placards saying Israel is a "butcher of children."

In Turkey, Israel's closest ally in the

region, some 5,000 people denounced the Israeli raids outside a mosque in Istanbul, burning Israeli and U.S. flags and reciting funeral prayers for the victims.

In Syria, some 2,000 marched in a Palestinian refugee camp in Damascus, carrying Palestinian flags and chanting "jihad will unite us."

Syrian President Bashar Assad talked with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Friday and called on the U.N. Security Council to adopt a resolution forcing Israel to immediately halt its Gaza offensive, Syria's official news agency SANA reported.

In Sudan, thousands marched in downtown Khartoum, urging Muslims to jihad and denouncing Israel and America.

Protests erupted as well in the Palestinian territories.

Muslims removed from flight get AirTran apology

BRIAN WESTLEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — AirTran Airways apologized Friday to nine Muslims kicked off a New Year's Day flight to Florida after other passengers reported hearing a suspicious remark about airplane security.

One of the passengers said the confusion started at Reagan National Airport just outside Washington, D.C., when he talked about the safest place to sit on an airplane.

Orlando, Fla.-based AirTran said in a statement that it refunded the passengers' air fare and planned to reimburse them for replacement tickets they bought on US Airways. AirTran also offered to take the passengers back to Washington free of charge.

"We apologize to all of the passengers — to the nine who had to undergo extensive interviews from the authorities and to the 95 who ultimately made the flight," the statement said. "Nobody on Flight 175 reached their destination on time on New Year's Day,

and we regret it."

AirTran said the incident was a misunderstanding, but the steps taken were necessary.

Two U.S. Muslim advocacy groups, however, were critical of the airline's actions. The Muslim Public Affairs Council called on federal officials Friday to open an investigation. And the Council for American-Islamic Relations filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Transportation, saying "It is incumbent on any airline to ensure that members of the traveling public are not singled out or mistreated based on their perceived race, religion or national origin."

Bill Adams, a DOT spokesperson, said the department thoroughly investigates discrimination complaints but would not comment further.

One of the Muslim passengers, Atif Irfan, said the family probably would not fly home

with AirTran because members had already booked tickets on another airline, but appreciated the apology.

"It's definitely nice to hear," he said.

Irfan said when he boarded the flight Thursday, he mentioned something to his wife and sister-in-law about having to sit in the back. His sister-in-law replied that she believed the back of the airplane was the safest, but Irfan believed it was better to be by the wings.

"She said, 'Yes, I guess it makes sense not to be close to the engine in case something

happens,'" Irfan recalled Friday. "It was a very benign conversation."

Shortly after taking their seats, members of the group were approached by federal air marshals and taken off the plane, Irfan said. They stood in the jet bridge connected to the airport and answered questions while other passengers exited and glared at them.

Irfan said he thought he and the others were profiled because of their appearance. The men had beards and the women wore headscarves, traditional Muslim attire.

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2009 has to be better

Scrapps Howard News Service

The year 2008 in the United States will be remembered for two events: the near magical election of our first African American president and the domino-like collapse of Wall Street. Unfortunately, the year is likely to be remembered more for the latter than the former and 2008 could go down as one of those financial watersheds like 1929 or 1933 or, if we're lucky, 1982.

The year began promisingly with an impressive field of presidential candidates, was quickly winnowed down. John McCain made a miracle comeback to take the Republican nomination. He lost the presidential race but only after running an honorable and spite-free campaign. His gracious and inspiring concession speech should be archived with America's great political documents.

Democrats Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton went on to wage our history's longest and most expensive and, for political junkies, enthralling race for their party's nomination. Perhaps the nation was too transfixed by that contest to truly digest an ominous portent of the carnage to come when investment bank Bear Stearns failed in March. The rot had actually set in much earlier. Economists now date the start of the recession to December, 2007.

In July, as the nation vacationed and the two parties prepared for their conventions in Denver and Minneapolis, IndyMac becomes the largest thrift ever to fail. The Republican convention featured the introduction of the charming and at times alarming Sarah Palin. It was also notable that the deeply unpopular George Bush and Dick Cheney, the sitting Republican president and vice president, came up with barely plausible excuses not to attend their own party's convention.

Obama accepted the Democratic nomination in a tightly scripted outdoor stadium appearance that led to comparisons, not always favorably so, to a rock star. He will be inaugurated president to unrealistically high hopes and expectations, not only here but abroad as well. Taking the oath of office may be the last easy task he faces.

He takes office without the American public's usually incorrigible — but, one hopes, resilient — optimism. A Zogby poll found that only 43 percent of Americans think 2009 will be a better year for them than 2008 and only 40 percent believe that babies born in 2009 will have a better quality of life than preceding generations.

Let's hope the nation's spirits recover along with the economy in 2009. We should say goodbye to 2008 with a dose of Auld Langsyne but good riddance is more like it.



Yesterday

2008 — Stan Sheets of Superior published his three-volume history of Superior, "The First 100 Years," which he had been working on for 15 years.

1999 — Williams Drilling Co. was operating out of temporary offices at Belvidere after a Christmas afternoon fire caused more than \$100,000 damage.

1989 — The Hastings Public Library had been awarded a 60-volume set of "The Library of America," of which 38 volumes had already been published.

1979 — Sen. Richard Marvel of Hastings was elected speaker of the 86th Nebraska Legislature by a vote of 49-0. He had served in the unicameral for 24 years.

Gross-ery shopping with dirty carts

There was a story on the news the other night about some grocery stores installing mini-car washes to wash their shopping carts after each use.

At first I thought it was an extravagant and silly idea. But when the reporter pointed out that toddlers in diapers sit in the exact same spot where I usually put my apples and avocados, I saw the wisdom of the idea.

When I told people about the cart washer, it seemed that it was pretty common knowledge among most shoppers that grocery carts are the modern plague carriers and not to touch one without wearing gloves and then throwing the gloves away.

I never noticed it before, but now I see diapered toddlers sitting in the carts all the time. What could possibly go wrong? They never leak. And small kids like to lick and bite things. It's a natural part of growing up. It makes them immune to common bugs in our culture.

But now that I realize that sticky stuff I feel every now and then may not be the



Jim Mullen

dried up soda I thought it was, but baby saliva or more. I wonder if a simple cleaning is enough? Maybe I should only shop at places that steam-clean their carts. Maybe they should be sterilized like surgical instruments in a hospital. And then zapped with germ-killing X-rays.

I'm not asking supermarkets to take any more precautions than I do at my own home. I'm proud to say you could eat off my kitchen floor. If you don't mind having cat hair, top soil and dust bunnies in your food. Of course, I don't expect that level of cleanliness from a public place with hundreds of people pushing dirty carts around all day.

But now that I watch shoppers' behavior from a germ-spreading point of view, I am not sure simply sterilizing the carts is enough. I've seen small children lick apples and then put them back. I've seen adults wipe their noses and then go back to pushing a cart. I don't want to sound like

Howard Hughes, I'm not germophobic, and I'm certainly not wealthy. But I am grosso-phobic.

One customer put a package of bloody meat on the bottom of a cart and it left a red trail all over the floor of the grocery store. I know because I was that shopper.

I shouldn't have put the 40-pound container of cat litter on top of it. I didn't notice it until they said, "Clean up in aisle one, two, four and seven."

I was in aisle seven looking for the mess when I realized it was me. By then it had stopped leaking. I quickly moved to aisle eight. I put the roast back in the meat case and got another one. People can be so disgusting. I know because I am one.

I should have left the meat at the end of the checkout counter the way most people do, and one of the store staff could have restocked it seven hours later.

I was just too embarrassed.

Jim Mullen is the author of "It Takes A Village Idiot: A Memoir of Life After the City." Contact him at Jim_Mullen@entertainmentweekly.com.

Pointers on choosing the White House dog

Since the election, Barack Obama apparently doesn't care whom he offends. In an interview with ABC's Barbara Walters, the president-elect insulted her dog, a Havanese named "Cha Cha."

"It's like a little yappy dog?" Obama asked. "It, like, sits in your lap and things? It sounds kind of like...a girly dog."

Never mind that our normally articulate leader sounds as if he's, like, seen too many "Beavis and Butthead" episodes; he speaks for men everywhere. A Havanese is one of those shrill, rodent-like creatures a certain kind of woman likes to carry around in her purse and baby-talk.

Cha-Cha, Boo-Boo, Tu-Tu, the names alone make you want to light out for the territory like Huckleberry Finn.

Ignoring wife Michelle's admonition that he lives in "a house full of girls," Obama announced, "We're gonna have a big, rambunctious dog."

Excellent. In the spirit of Christmas, then, a bit of unsolicited advice. See, like most newspaper columnists, I know a little bit about many things, but not very much about anything. About dogs, however, my expertise is renowned for several blocks around. Which is apparently how I came to consult with Hillary Clinton about choosing a White House dog — the only time anybody named Clinton ever asked my advice about anything.

Back then, our Little Rock home was about six blocks from Hillary's mother's. One afternoon in 1997, the first lady showed up at our door with her Secret Service entourage wanting to talk dogs.

She met our ebullient golden retriever, Big Red, the most irrepressible creature God ever made. We had six or seven other dogs at the time, mostly beagles, but it was the retriever who made an impression — along



Gene Lyons

with my neighbor's Golden Suzy, who wandered over for a sniff and a pat.

I used to say about Big Red that if he wasn't wet, cold and hungry, he was happy. Then I spent a scary winter afternoon rescuing him from the Arkansas River. He'd plunged in pursuing ducks and then couldn't handle the current. Even half-drowned with icicles hanging from his fur, however, Red remained in fine fettle, eagerly anticipating dinner.

The problem with goldens, I advised Hillary, otherwise perfect for an energetic, outgoing fellow like her husband, was their tropism for mud. Everywhere Red slept, he left a crime scene outline in dirt on the floor. Somehow, I suspected that wouldn't make a dog popular with her or the White House staff. A Labrador retriever would have the same indefatigable personality, along with a slick coat that sheds dirt like an otter's.

Thus Bill Clinton's lab, "Buddy," who proceeded to love the rascal through the next couple of years when just about everybody else was fed up with him. On my one White House visit in 2000, I was introduced to Buddy. And a fine, robust fellow he was. The highlight of my trip, actually.

When it comes to big and rambunctious, it's hard to beat a lab.

For Obama and his house full of girls, however, compromise may be necessary. Whatever the choice, pundits will assess its symbolic meaning. Professional dog trainers and amateur psychoanalysts are already circling. One fool wrote that Obama exhibits a "frat boy-like need to reinforce his heterosexuality ... as if he thinks others might be questioning his masculinity."

Sigh. To paraphrase what Freud said about cigars, sometimes a dog is just a dog.

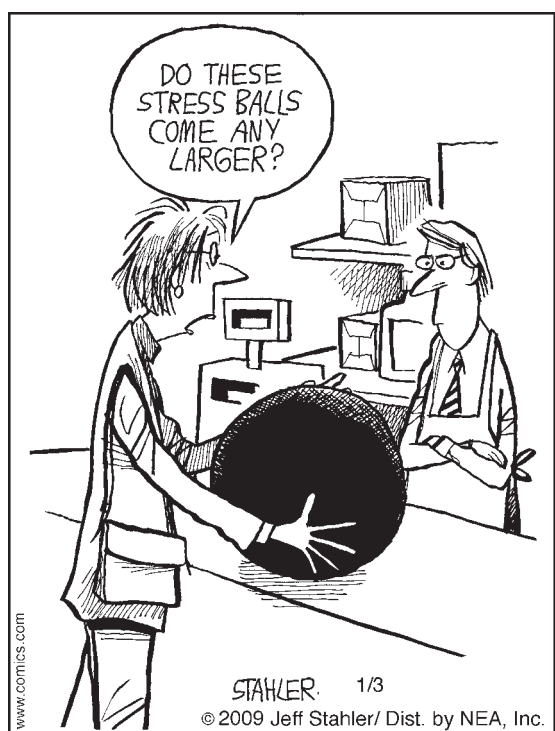
One thing President Bush got right is that two dogs are easier than one. It would be tempting to suggest two beagle puppies, cute and energetic enough to win the girliest girl's heart without tempting Dad to call Terminus.

But this is no time for halfhearted measures. The bold, presidential choice lies elsewhere in the hound class: a brace of basset hounds, one of each gender; large, occasionally rambunctious dogs which are also quite short. The Obama women won't be toting bassets in their purses. My basset Fred stands 12 inches at the shoulder and weighs 75 pounds. His consort Beverly's more petite, but when she clambered into his lap for a Yuletide photo op, Santa gave an audible grunt.

The symbolic meaning of bassets is they make you laugh every day. The contrast between their woebegone countenances and roguish personalities is endlessly diverting. Nor will they be biting reporters. Spirited basset sumo wrestling matches are as rough as it gets. No basset has ever participated in a fatal human attack, a distinction only beagles share.

Nor, to my knowledge, has a basset hound ever won an AKC obedience trial. Bred for persistence and cooperativeness in tracking game, bassets are as stubborn and benign as cows. No point in hiring obedience experts. "Dog Whisperer" Cesar Millan couldn't keep them off the Oval Office couches. Otherwise, the basset world-view comports perfectly with White House life: There can never be too many guests at the party; big, slurpy kisses for all.

Gene Lyons is a columnist for the Arkansas-Democrat-Gazette. He can be reached by e-mail at genelyons2@sbcglobal.net.



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Finally: Awesome medical advice

Finally, medical advice I can follow without fear of hard-to-live with repercussions, such as giving up chocolate or experiencing sore muscles.

Take a nap. What a deal.

Not only does this just-released research justify what I often yearn to do after lunch; it tells me a nap improves my memory.



Joyce Ore

Remembering why I am at the grocery store standing next to calves' liver is a good thing.

This news beats my doctor telling me that my backache will go away if I simply lose those extra 20 pounds that keep me warm in the winter-time. It is better than being told that 30 minutes of intense exercise is good for my overall well-being or that eating too much sugar will cause my face to wrinkle, teeth to fall out and feet to go flat.

I've waited most of my adult life for someone to tell me to take a nap. Now I am learning that while a nap is good for me, it also will help me become creative, solve my problems, think of new ideas and see the big picture. I don't know what the difference is between the small picture that I see and the big one that politicians and CEOs view. It must be a little like comparing the big screens in IMAX theaters with the 13-inch television in our bedroom.

No doubt, this great napping advice is true. I read it in a newspaper, then heard it on the late-night talk shows. How can it not be true? The other reason it must be true is research, and not just on mice or monkeys, but on real people like college students. All of this was reported by a cognitive neuroscientist at one of his professional meetings. Coming up with a creative professional title like that probably took a lot of napping.

I don't pretend to understand all the mumbo jumbo involved, but I like the bottom line. Just take a nap.

Joyce Ore, of Hastings, is a columnist for the Tribune. Contact Joyce at 402-461-7327 or jore@alltel.net.

Calendar

HASTINGS

- ◆ **Sunday Sundaes**, 2-3 p.m. Sunday, College View Assisted Living, 1100 N. Sixth Ave. Open to public ages 55 and older.
- ◆ **Free Community Meal**, 5 p.m. Sunday, Crossroads Center, 702 W. 14 St. Volunteers also welcome.
- ◆ **Alateen**, 5:15 p.m. Sunday, 521 S. St. Joseph Ave.
- ◆ **Al-Anon**, 8 p.m. Sunday and 8 p.m. Monday, First United Methodist Church; and noon Monday, The Kensington.
- ◆ **Alcoholics Anonymous**, noon and 8 p.m. Sunday; and noon, 5:15 and 8 p.m. Monday, 521 S. St. Joseph Ave.
- ◆ **Mary Lanning Cancer Support Group**, 7-8 p.m. Monday, Morrison Cancer Center, north end of MLMH campus.
- ◆ **Narcotics Anonymous**, 8 p.m. Monday, 401 N. Lincoln Ave.
- ◆ **Overeaters Anonymous**, 5-6 p.m. Monday, Mary Lanning Medical Center basement.
- ◆ **Gamblers Anonymous**, 6:30 p.m. Monday, Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital Education Building basement, Room D.
- ◆ **Chorus of the Plains**, 7:30 p.m. Monday, ballroom of Kensington. Barbershop style music open to men of all ages.

Lotteries

WINNING NUMBERS

Friday
Kansas Pick 3 3-4-6
Nebraska Pick 5 8-18-19-26-30
Jackpot: \$62,000
Nebraska Pick 3 3-9-7
MyDaY 9-30-72
2by2 Red 6-23, White 11-15

Supervisors to accept Moeller's resignation

EMBATTLED
TREASURER'S LAST DAY
TO BE MONDAY

SHAY BURK
sburk@hastingstribune.com

The Adams County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to accept the resignation of Treasurer Julia Moeller one day after her last official day in office. Moeller originally submitted a letter of retirement to the board in November 2008, stat-

ing that she planned to retire Jan. 5.

The board then approved that retirement date request.

However, at the Dec. 16 meeting, Adams County Clerk and Election Commissioner Chris Lewis notified the board that legally Moeller, an elected official, cannot retire. To leave an elected office, she must resign.

In an interview with the Tribune on Dec. 17, Moeller said she would do whatever is necessary to comply with the requirements. She turned in her letter

of resignation Friday.

Moeller also told the Tribune Friday that she still plans on leaving office officially on Monday.

If for any reason Moeller does not resign as planned, a recall election will be conducted to determine if she should be removed from office.

Petition circulator Marvin "Butch" Hughes started circulating petitions with the help of 75 volunteers just after the November general election and presented the county board

with 4,000 signatures Dec. 2. Just 3,080 signatures were needed for the election slated to be conducted Jan. 27.

According to Nebraska law, if Moeller chooses to leave office at least 16 days prior to the election, the recall election can be canceled.

If she leaves office any time after the 16-day limit, the county still will be required to conduct the election, which would cost about \$25,000.

With the Jan. 5 date Moeller has stated, there would be 22

days between her leaving and the election, meaning there would be time for the election to be canceled.

Moeller is being charged in district court with tax evasion, official misconduct in office and abuse of public records stemming from the licensing of a motor home in Texas without paying the associated taxes in Nebraska.

The board meets 9:30 a.m. Tuesday in the Adams County Courthouse board room, 500 W. Fourth St.

Please see MOELLER/page A7



AMY ROH/Tribune

Bill Gordon (right) and Jason Juraneck of Ace Rent-To-Own load furniture for a customer Friday outside of the store.

In-store credit gains popularity

STORES SAY RECESSION
HELPING BUSINESS

SHAY BURK
sburk@hastingstribune.com

With the current state of the economy, some people are trying to avoid using their credit cards because of poor credit scores.

For some businesses, like furniture and appliance rental and purchase stores, the financial crisis is actually a business benefit as more people are purchasing items using in-store cred-

it programs.

At Ace Rent to Own, 1040 W. Second St., manager Rex Baker said high gas prices, like were seen this summer, can have a toll on a business.

However, he said the current national financial issues haven't had the same impact because his business doesn't base its financing on a person's credit score.

"You can come in and purchase something sort of like buying something with credit card, without the credit cards," Baker said.

At Rent to Own, a person makes payments to the store and owns the product when the last payment is

made.

But as with any other credit plan, there is interest, so the sooner the purchase is paid off, the more a consumer saves.

At Rent to Own, Baker said he doesn't need a credit score to give a line of credit. Instead, he just needs a contact number for friends, family or neighbors to reach you about payment issues.

"It's pretty simple," he said. "It just takes a few minutes to fill out an application. And this is the only way some people can go get a sofa or loveseat."

Please see CREDIT/page A7

Hastings man bringing 'Ragz' to downtown

WISCONSIN NATIVE
USING INHERITANCE
MONEY TO LAUNCH
CLOTHING STORE

JOHN HUTHMACHER
johnh@hastingstribune.com

A Madison, Wis. native is bringing big city clothing to small town Hastings.

Bryan Gatling, the great-grandson of Gatling Gun inventor Richard Gatling, opened the doors of his Urban Ragz store this morning at 838 W. 2nd Street, on the corner of Second Street and Burlington Avenue.

The 1,500-square-foot store carries a large selection of distinct attire and accessories featuring name-brand merchandise pop-

ular with high school and college-aged consumers.

Store inventory includes shoes, belts, hats, shirts, sweat-shirts, jackets and accessories.

For Gatling, 30, the venture represents his first go-around in the clothing store realm. Fashion-conscious by nature, he spent many an hour during his college years perusing the vast selection of clothing sold at the multiple clothing stores in his hometown.

After moving to Hastings a few years back to pursue work in the construction industry, he noticed there were few stores offering the mainstream youth fashion choices he enjoyed back home.

And so, after receiving a sizable inheritance from his grandfather, he has decided to put his business degree from the

University of Wisconsin to work. His hope is to eventually grow the one-store, one-man operation into a chain of franchise stores. As he sees it, the niche market is definitely ripe for hip and happening threads for young adults.

"With the prices that I'm selling these clothes at, it'll be pretty big," he said. "My 10-year plan is to have a few stores and maybe move to Italy."

In addition to carrying the freshest fashions for teens and young adults from the East and West coast garment scenes, Urban Ragz will offer skateboards and other accessories in the spring to accommodate the local skate crowd.

Please see RAGZ/page A7



JOHN HUTHMACHER/Tribune

Bryan Gatling poses in front of merchandise at his new store, Urban Ragz, on Friday afternoon. The store, which opened this morning, specializes in clothing and accessories geared toward teenagers and young adults.

Goodfellows support remained strong

WILL VRASPIR
wvraspir@hastingstribune.com

Even with the economic downturn, local philanthropy seemed to remain strong through the 2008 Goodfellows campaign.

Galen Quick, Goodfellows coordinator, said 2008 was one of the better years for the annual program as far as donations of money and toys.

"I was quite surprised due to the state of the economy," Quick said.

The Goodfellows campaign served 239 families, providing about 500 boxes with food and gifts. Each box came with enough supplies to feed a family for about two weeks, along with a gift for each child.

"I think it's fantastic that we're

helping families in need, especially around the holidays when they need it the most," he said.

He said recipients of the program seemed to be thankful for the gifts and food during the season.

"Everyone that I talked to was very grateful," Quick said. "They were overwhelmed that we could do this for them around the holidays."

Volunteers from schools, businesses and other organizations in the area helped assemble, pack and deliver the boxes with food and toys to the needy families.

Participating businesses included: Allen's Shopping Center, Bank of Doniphan, Dollar General,

Gibraltar Packaging Group Inc., Hastings Federal Credit Union, Kmart Store, Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Roger's Inc., Sara Lee Bakery Group and Woodward's Disposal Service.

Other organizations that participated included: Adams County Fairgrounds, Hastings Food Pantry, Hastings Noon Sertoma, Hastings High School DECA club, Hastings Middle School, Hastings Senior High, Hawthorne Elementary School, Hometown Variety, Lincoln Elementary School, Lincoln Federal Savings Bank, Morton Elementary School, Tier One Bank, Watson Elementary School, Wells Fargo Bank and Zion Lutheran School.



Donations

Gloria Karr	\$25.00
Happy Birthday Jesus	\$65.00
In loving memory of Merle & Cheryl from Marlyce & family	\$50.00
In honor of my grandchildren. Grandma Smartie	\$100.00
Floyd & Phyllis Marian	\$25.00
George & Sandy Landgren	\$100.00
In memory of Meriam Dygert from Larry and family	\$100.00
From a friend	\$500.00
Total to date	\$16,483.44

Money: Budget main issue for senators

Continued from page A1

The state of Nebraska faced a similar situation in the early 2000s and has since built up the cash reserve.

State law requires that the state have a budget cushion equal to at least 3 percent of total planned spending during the two-year budget cycle.

In a survey by The Associated Press, four of the five senators said they would favor dipping into the cash reserve rather than increasing taxes to address possible shortfalls in revenue.

"I think we need to look at using those," Hadley said. "They're rainy-day funds, and it's a rainy day."

Utter, who will represent District 33, which includes all of Adams County, said he would support dipping into the cash reserve as long as the Legislature first looks at possibly cutting expenses anywhere possible.

"If that's just impossible, then that's what the reserve is for," he said.

Karpisek and Dubas said considering use of the reserve will be important; however, they both said the Legislature needs to be careful how much of the funds are used.

"With the cash reserves, what is the best way? How much should we use? How much should we hold on to? I think those will be very important questions to answer," Dubas said.

SAFE HAVEN

In addition to asking questions about the budget, the Legislature also will likely be dealing with the consequences of the safe haven law adopted in 2008 and the fallout of that law.

During the 2008 session, the Legislature adopted a safe haven law that would allow for children of any age to be dropped off at Nebraska hospitals without the parents facing criminal charges.

More than 30 children were dropped off at Nebraska hospitals, including several from out of state, with none being infants.

A special session was called

by Gov. Dave Heineman in November to address the safe haven law. At that time, the Legislature voted to change the law to only allow for children 30 days old and younger to be dropped off under the safe haven law.

Utter said the Legislature definitely will need to discuss what services are available to those children not covered by the safe haven law and to their parents through the Department of Health and Human Services.

"I think first we have to identify whether or not there are existing programs that are available to assist those folks. If there are, how do you make them accessible for folks," Utter said. "Before you create new programs, you need to see if there's existing programs to help those people."

Carlson said he knows the safe haven issue will be a big one during the upcoming session. He just hopes the Legislature looks carefully at the whole issue.

"I said in the special session that I'm not comfortable with spending more dollars through HHS until we're sure the dollars we're spending are being used the best way," he said. "I want to make sure dollars we're spending are spent best before we put more dollars in it."

Dubas said she likely will introduce several bills related to the safe haven issue to address the children no longer covered by the law.

"We learned there are some things working out in the regions, so how do we support the regions to get the best care to everyone especially the children," she said.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Each year, the senators introduce hundreds of bills relating to all issues in the state.

Each of the veteran senators have found their areas of interest and have bills they hope to introduce in those areas. This is just a glimpse into a few of those possible bills.

Karpisek, who represents District 32 including Fillmore, Thayer, Saline and Jefferson counties, hopes to introduce a

bill to create a revolving loan fund to help businesses that are opening or hoping to expand.

Karpisek, who owned a meat market in Wilber before selling it this fall, said it often was difficult for him to secure loans for his business.

"I could get 80 percent [of the loan guaranteed] through the USDA and the bank wanted 90 percent backed. And I couldn't get another 10 percent backed," he said.

So Karpisek is hoping to introduce a bill to allow for the state to give people a 10-percent loan guaranteed to give business owners that 90 percent guaranteed loan.

He said the bill will all be based on the status of the state budget.

Carlson said he hopes to extend a program he introduced in 2007 to remove vegetation from stream beds for another two years.

"We've done a wonderful job on the Republican. We need to finish that and put some emphasis on the Platte," he said of the two rivers.

The law gives funds to help remove vegetation from river beds that are soaking up the water before it gets to fields and other places where it's needed.

Carlson said the original bill sunsets in July 2009, so he hopes to up it for another two years.

Dubas said she is planning to put a lot of focus on renewable energy, especially with the directives that likely will come down from the federal government with the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama.

According to his Web site, www.change.gov, Obama's goal is to ensure 10 percent of the nation's electricity comes from renewable sources by 2012, and 25 percent by 2025. The more important goal, impacting Nebraska, is the possible implementation of a cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050.

Dubas said Nebraska, with its public utilities, already has some of the lowest utility rates in the country, but that could change with the adoption of a

cap-and-trade program.

She said the Legislature needs to seriously look at updating the state's utilities without jeopardizing the public utility aspects. For that reason, she would like to invest more money into research and development.

For the first-year senators, introducing bills can be intimidating and difficult as they don't always know the issues yet.

"I'm not carrying any specific bills right at this moment. I'm not going to the Legislature with a handful of bills to introduce," Utter said. "I think the best government always turns out to be the least government, and the least bills that can be introduced and dealt with appropriately is better for the people of the state."

Utter said he still may introduce some bills, but as of Tuesday he didn't have any bills in mind.

"I think I'm more concerned about state spending and how we're going to match the spending and the revenue," he said.

Hadley, the other newcomer, said he had a few ideas for bills but said the only thing he really planned to focus on was working to help get the mentally ill and developmentally disabled more of a voice in the Legislature.

As they get ready for the session, the two freshmen said they're excited.

"You approach it with mixed emotions, I'm sure," Utter said. "As a freshman senator, you're venturing off into the unknown, but at the same time, you're anxious to get the process started and see where it takes you."

Hadley said he's thankful for all the help he's received already from people who are trying to educate him on the issues.

And all that is leaving him feeling a little overwhelmed.

"I really am," Hadley said. "The amount of mail is overwhelming."

"There's no doubt this is going to be a very interesting session and a very challenging session," Utter said.

Accidents: Fatalities at intersection puzzle officials

Continued from page A1

is between Minden and Axtell. "Both the district office and the safety commission in Lincoln have looked at the intersection and are unable to pinpoint any reason."

The intersection includes 17 lights and stop signs both north and south of U.S. 6/34. Highway 44 includes rumble strips to warn drivers of the oncoming intersection.

"It's a modern intersection with lighting and adequate stop signs, but it's certainly a concern to us," said Capt. Chris Kolb of the Nebraska State Patrol.

Kearney County Sheriff Scott White said he did not want to comment for this story because he believes the intersection's design is a state issue, not a county issue.

"It's up to (NDOR) to make opinions," he said.

The NDOR Safety Committee — composed of traffic engineers from both the Department of Roads and Federal Highway Administration — discussed the intersection during its December meeting and will discuss it again when the committee meets later this month.

"It's really a good resource for something like this," said Vosburg, whose office is in McCook.

Committee members look at details surrounding the accident like direction of travel and pavement condition to try to pinpoint what's causing the accidents.

"We'll see what the safety committee comes up with," Vosburg said.

He has visited with representatives from the State Patrol and Kearney County Sheriff's Office, asking for input about what may have caused accidents at the intersection.

The highways are connected by ramps, allowing motorists to turn right from U.S. 6/34 onto Highway 44 and also right from Highway 44 onto U.S. 6/34 without using the actual perpendicular intersection. South of U.S. 6/34, Highway 44 becomes Kearney County Road 25.

The recent accidents have resulted in the intersection having higher visibility for the State Patrol.

"It's certainly on our radar screen, and we'll increase our presence there," Kolb said.

By that, Kolb said, he means having officers posted at the intersection more often to determine if motorists are just not obeying traffic regulations or if there are other causes of the accidents.

He said there are two elements to proceeding at an intersection.

"First you have to stop, then you have to wait for traffic to clear before proceeding," he said.

Whatever the cause for the accident, Vosburg said, he doesn't believe it's a lack of visibility.

"The highway junction has good sight distance — we wouldn't normally see these types of accidents," he said. "We want to see what's causing it and then take measures to prevent those."

The Kearney Area Ag Producers Alliance ethanol plant has a physical connection to the intersection because it is just about a half-mile east of there, on the south side of U.S. 6/34.

The plant also has an interest in the intersection because it lost an employee there. Cyr was a maintenance mechanic for KAAPA.

Chuck Woodside, chief executive officer of KAAPA Ethanol Fuels, said the intersection definitely is a point of conversation at the plant and in the community.

"I had a discussion this morning with one of the Axtell volunteer firefighters about what kind of things could be done," he said.

In the past, he said, it's been difficult to get NDOR's attention about the level of danger involved at the intersection.

He said he thinks the ramps connecting the highways may be part of the problem because drivers waiting on Highway 44 see oncoming traffic and think vehicles will turn off U.S. 6/34 and onto the ramp.

"Three years ago I thought they were going to do away with (the ramps), but enough people got involved they decided to keep them," Woodside said. "I don't know if those are part of the problem or not. I don't know if some additional markings would help or not."

According to obituary information submitted to the Tribune Friday, Bungler, the victim in Wednesday's accident, grew up in Franklin and graduated from Franklin High School in 2003. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in May 2007 and married her husband, Ben, that July.

Survivors include her husband of Kearney; her parents, Steve and Sheri Rasmussen of Franklin; her twin sister, Melissa; her mother-in-law, Diana Bungler of Hildreth; and grandparents, Glen and Marilyn Rasmussen and Rhodell and Joyce Jameson, all of Minden, and Hilda Bungler of Hildreth.

Funeral services are 10 a.m. Monday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hildreth.

Upbeat: Wall Street starts 2009 with gains

Continued from page A1

said its manufacturing index fell to 32.4 in December from 36.2 in November. Economists polled by Thomson Reuters had expected a reading of 35.5; a figure below 50 indicates contraction.

"We like to see the markets shrug off the bad news. That typically is a sign that we're forming a bottom," said Eric Thorne, an investment adviser at Bryn Mawr Trust.

Todd Leone, managing director at Cowen & Co., cautioned against reading too much into Friday's advance and said the first full week of the new year should provide insight into investor sentiment for 2009.

"The first five days are usually very telling," Leone said. "I'm not sure we'll be up or down." He said an advance in stocks Friday wasn't a surprise as some investors start the year by wading into the market. He said selling is more likely to occur next week.

The Dow rose 258.30, or 2.94 percent, to 9,034.69, finishing the week up 6.1 percent. The blue chips last closed above 9,000 on Nov. 5, when they stood at 9,139.27.

The Dow, the oldest of the big market indexes, fell 33.8 percent in 2008, its worst performance since 1931, during the Great Depression.

Like the Dow, broader stock indicators also advanced for the third straight session. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 28.55 percent, or 3.16 percent, to 931.80, its highest close since Nov. 5. The Nasdaq composite index rose 55.18, or 3.50 percent, to 1,632.21.

For the week, the S&P 500 finished up 6.8 percent, while the Nasdaq rose 6.7 percent.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 6.37, or 1.28 percent, to 505.82.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by about 5 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came

to a light 1.04 billion shares.

Bond prices fell as investors took on riskier assets including stocks. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 2.40 percent from 2.22 percent late Wednesday.

The yield on the three-month T-bill, considered one of the safest investments and in great demand since the credit markets seized up in September, fell to 0.07 percent from 0.08 percent Wednesday.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

Light, sweet crude rose \$1.74 to settle at \$46.34 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Thorne contends 2009 could be a strong year for Wall Street because most investors are so shaken from the sell-off in 2008, which erased six years of gains in stocks. Market bottoms often emerge because investors are so pessimistic or because stocks seem incapable of making any sustained recovery.

"A bottom isn't formed in one day or even in one month but probably over several months," he said. "Expectations

are extremely low for the economy, for corporate earnings and for the stock market itself."

From Nov. 20 to the end of 2008, the Dow advanced 16.2 percent, while the S&P 500 rose 20 percent.

"We're very confident that the \$9 trillion that is in cash right now will look to find a home in better-performing assets," he said, referring to the amount of money invested in conservative but low-yielding areas like money market funds. Yields on safe investments like Treasuries have fallen to virtually nil as investors have clamored for safety and surrendered hopes of even earning a return on their money.

Next week brings a flurry of economic readings and potentially early comments from companies on their 2008 results and 2009 forecasts.

Traders will be anxiously awaiting a Labor Department report next Friday on December employment. A month ago, Wall Street showed newfound resiliency in the face of a bad reading on what is typically the most important economic report of the month. Stocks initially sagged but finished with

big gains Dec. 5 after the government reported that employers slashed a larger-than-expected 533,000 jobs in November. Investors were hoping the report would prompt Washington to take broader steps to shore up the economy.

"The employment numbers will almost undoubtedly be very ugly. What will be interesting to see is what the market's reaction will be to those numbers," Thorne said. "We're also very interested to see what the corporate earnings reporting season will be like."

Harris Financial's Beck said the earnings reports could be a turning point for the market. "People expect earnings to be really bad. If they come out and they're not quite as bad, you could see this momentum in the market continue," he said. "If they come out even worse than expectations, that could be a major set back."

Stocks overseas also began the new year with a rally. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 2.88 percent, Germany's DAX index jumped 3.39 percent, and France's CAC-40 increased 4.09 percent. Markets in Japan were closed for a holiday.



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Local

PLANNING
AND ZONING

The Adams County Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled to consider a conditional use permit to allow for livestock to be pastured within the village limits of Prosser.

According to the application, Michael and Michelle Matthews are hoping to pasture 17 head of livestock on a 27-acre parcel in Prosser.

This is a permitted use according to the county's zoning regulations; however, according to village ordinance, the owners must acquire a conditional use permit to harbor the animals there.

According to notes from the planning department, adjacent land to the north, south and west is primarily agricultural land while land to the east is residential in nature.

The property currently is zoned R-2 urban residential.

The commission meets 6 p.m. Monday at the City Building, 220 N. Hastings Ave.

State

BEATRICE TROUBLES
LINCOLN

Gov. Dave Heineman wants to spend \$17 million more on the troubled Beatrice State Developmental Center over the next three years and study whether it should be privatized.

He says the spending plan he announced Friday would help correct problems at the center so it can retain \$29 million in annual federal support. The money is in jeopardy because the federal government has decertified the center.

The state is getting the federal money while it appeals the decision.

The center for developmentally disabled patients has repeatedly run afoul of federal standards. Investigations uncovered about 200 cases of alleged neglect and abuse from late 2006 to late 2007.

Heineman's plan is part of the budget proposal he'll release later this month.

PEPPER DRINK

BEATRICE — A woman arrested for mixing pepper into a glass of water may also lose her job at a private home for the developmentally disabled in Beatrice.

Linda Timmons, CEO of Mosaic, said Friday the Omaha-based company's still finishing up its investigation. But Timmons says if the allegation's true, the suspended employee will be fired.

Beatrice police arrested the woman Tuesday on suspicion of felony abuse of a vulnerable adult after Mosaic reported the incident.

Police say the employee mixed pepper into a water glass a resident of the home later drank. The 52-year-old woman who drank the pepper water had been known to drink from other people's glasses.

Timmons says the water laced with pepper didn't cause any lasting injury.

BARBS PROTECTED

LINCOLN — The Nebraska Supreme Court has upheld a decision in favor of an Omaha police officer who was fired for making inflammatory remarks in a union newspaper.

In 2005, police officer Kevin Housh was fired for writing an opinion piece that was sharply critical of city and police officials. Housh was later reinstated, but the police union said the city had interfered with the rights of union members to engage in protected labor speech.

The state Commission on Industrial Relations agreed but on appeal the state high court asked the commission to reconsider its decision.

The commission ruled that the comments did not constitute flagrant misconduct, and the high court upheld that decision in its ruling released on Friday.

The Associated Press

Courtyard: Family reopening restaurant

Continued from page A1

"This is what I want to do," the 25-year-old Geist said. "So I thought, 'What more perfect opportunity than to help establish a restaurant from the ground up and help my parents?' They're tapping me as their No. 1 resource for everything."

What will be different about the new restaurant — the owners say — is its menu offerings and overall customer service. Over the lunch hour, the family-friendly menu will include a hot meat buffet bar featuring a variety of offerings — pulled pork, smoked turkey, chicken brisket, and other meats smoked fresh over a hickory wood smoker on the premises.

Additional lunch offerings will include a rotating selection of daily specials, such as chicken fried steak, meatloaf, beef and noodles, and others. The half-pound Angus beef hamburgers on the menu will be cooked to order, not "out of a box or off a truck," Dana said.

For dinner, the restaurant will assume a more formal destination feel, with candles and

cloth napkins completing the transformation. Smoked baby back ribs, steaks, seafood and prime rib will accompany the selection of smoked meats on the lunch menu, with a generous selection of wines and other drinks available from the full bar.

But even with all its added evening charm, the restaurant remains committed to its family-friendly focus, Dana said.

"We're going for more of a family neighborhood bar and grill type thing," she said. "We want it to be casual family dining where children are welcome. What we're serving is going to be halfway between a Whiskey Creek and an Applebee's."

For the Reickses, the restaurant venture represents their first experience as business owners, but second go-around in the food service business. Both worked at the South Bar and Grill in Red Cloud in 1989-90.

Neither the slumping economy nor the diminished occupation of businesses in the Imperial Mall the past two years has dampened the cou-

ple's optimism toward the new business venture.

"We thought about it, but I'll tell you what, everybody in Hastings goes out and eats," Dave said. "They did a survey not long ago, and everybody in Hastings wanted a good place to go eat. And that's what we're going to supply them. We're excited about getting it going."

The hope — Dana said — is that the restaurant becomes a magnet for pulling in new business to the largely vacant mall, she said.

"So far, I think I might have started a trend," she said. "Since I've come out here, I know there are several businesses that are coming out here. I'm not at liberty to say what they are, but there are a couple of them that are coming out."

Marian Turner, event coordinator and interim manager at the mall, confirmed Wednesday that at least one new tenant is expected to sign a lease to occupy space in the mall in the coming months. Additional discussions with potential tenants are ongoing, she said.

"I have a couple new tenants, but nothing is signed, so I'm not free to talk about it," Turner said. "I'm pretty sure that one more tenant will be in the mall and we're working with a second one. I do have hopes."

Regardless, Turner said, she expects the restaurant to generate a following of its own.

"I believe they are going to have a nice place," she said. "People have really missed having a nice restaurant out here. As walkers and other people see them working, they say how happy they are to see that it's going to open again."

The Reicks' plan is to host a "soft opening" a few weeks before the grand opening to help generate word-of-mouth publicity. A wine and cheese tasting occasion also is in the works. Already, dozens of mall walkers have expressed interest in the restaurant, Dana said. And that, she said, is encouraging.

"You've got to have the community support you," she said. "It will work if the community will come out and support us."

Boomlet: MLMH records birth increase

Continued from page A1

also tracks parents coming in from Grand Island and the surrounding area. A sample of November showed 20 mothers from Hastings, eight from Grand Island and seven more from the surrounding area.

The rise is not due to multiple births, either, Rutledge said. Those have remained fairly consistent, with 10 in 2007 and 11 in 2008.

Young parents also seem to be returning to the bigger-family mindset, Rutledge said. For the first time since 1971, the National Center for Health Statistics reported that the average number of children per household increased in 2006 to 2.1, an increase of 3 percent and the largest gain in more than 50 years.

"They're going back up a little bit," Rutledge said of family sizes. "It's just a

way of thinking... I see them getting bigger. I don't see that dropping down now."

Reasons for the boomlet are different from the original baby boom. Unlike the 1940s, '50s and '60s, Hispanics accounted for nearly one-quarter of all U.S. births in 2006. An increased Hispanic population within the U.S. has meant a blending of two fertility rates. Overall, Hispanics have a fertility rate 40 percent higher than that of the U.S., so their increased presence in the country has led to an increased U.S. fertility rate.

The national teen birth rate was also up one year ago, for the first time in 15 years. MLMH Healthy Beginnings director Susan Danehey said this fall that the local number of teen moms tracked is growing as well. As of early September, the Healthy Beginnings program had 35 teen mothers enrolled in its parenting

programs, as opposed to 20 at the same time in 2007.

Nationally, every 40.6 births per 1,000 were to mothers, ages 15-19, in 2006. Of those 40, only 23.7 were first births for the mother.

Experts believe births are up in part because of a decline in contraceptive use, drop in access to abortion in some states, poor education and poverty, the AP reported.

This could also be related to the fact that U.S. soldiers have been deployed overseas to Iraq and Afghanistan, Rutledge added, as in the original baby boom. War times often cause people to appreciate their families more, she said.

The U.S. also experienced a boomlet around 1990, when U.S. births were above 4.1 million for two straight years. They dropped to about 3.9 million in the mid-1990s, for an unknown reason.

Credit: Economy leads to popularity for in-store financing

Continued from page A5

Rent to Own carries furniture, appliances and electronics of various name brands including Panasonic, Sony and LG.

Rent-A-Center, at 3609 Cimarron Plaza, Suite 140, is the same type of store that uses in-store credit and carries computers, electronics, appliances and furniture, featuring brands like HP, Ashley, Philips, Sony, LG and Serta.

According to the store's Web site, there is no credit check and the buyer does not need credit to purchase any of the store's items.

No one at the corporate office could be reached for comment Friday.

Video Kingdom of Hastings has also seen an increase in business using their credit program.

Store owner and manager Ken Winfrey said customers fill out a credit application and are qualified for up to a certain credit amount.

"A lot of people are using credit, which I think is a good sign for the economy," Winfrey said. "I think it's a strong sign since people think they're going to have a job in two or three years to pay for it."

In the last several weeks, Winfrey said his store has had an interest free for 36 month sale, which has been very popular on the store's more expensive items.

"Our business is the strongest it's ever been, but a lot of people are using credit," he said.

He said people are using credit to purchase larger items like the flat panel televisions.

Recession: Midwest economy will worsen

Continued from page A5

Trade numbers remained weak in December with a record low export index of 27.5. That's down from November's 36.8. The import index climbed to 43.8 in December from November's record low of 38.6.

"The global economic slowdown is putting significant downward pressure on exports, just as the U.S. economic recession is curbing imports," Goss said.

Other components of December's overall index were:

◆ New orders fell to 26.8 from November's 30.4.

◆ Production slid to 29 from November's 35.4.

◆ Inventories at 37.3, down from 45.

◆ And delivery lead time at 47.4, down from 50.2.

Goss and the Creighton Economic Forecasting Group have conducted the monthly survey since 1994.

The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began to formally survey its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions. The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group uses the same methodology as the national survey.

Ragz: New clothing store opens

Continued from page A5

For customers on a budget, Gatling will buy and sell gently worn clothing to enable even financially-strapped students to dress well.

"I know when I was in college, I couldn't always afford to go out and buy a \$40 pair of jeans," he said. "If the kids need a little extra cash, they can come in and I'll buy their gently used clothing. I'm just trying to help a small town keep the economy going."

Already the store has captured the attention of many youthful passers-by in the downtown area, Gatling said.

"Every day I've been down there, people have stopped me and asked me to hurry up and open," he said. "They were trying to get me to open before Christmas, but I just wasn't ready."

In addition to its official opening today, the store will celebrate a grand opening and be featured in a series of local television spots in the coming weeks.

Tentative store hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until permanent hours are decided upon, he said.

For information, call 402-705-9572.

Moeller: Treasurer resigns

Continued from page A5


The board also will:

- ◆ Open bids for the 2009 asphalt overlay projects.

- ◆ Consider an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Roads for overhead lighting at the intersection of Roseland Avenue and U.S. Highway 6.

- ◆ Consider reappointment of members to the grievance committee.

- ◆ Authorize the chairman to sign a resolution for employee recognition.
- ◆ Have a closed session regarding Pam Bourne to discuss personnel and possible litigation.



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Amid political change, troops prepare for Iraq

KIMBERLY HEFLING
The Associated Press

FORT DIX, N.J.— Over his holiday leave, 1st Sgt. Lewis Walls will put a ring on his new bride's finger, hold their baby boy one last time, and then report back to deploy to Iraq.

Even as signs point toward the winding down of U.S. involvement in the Iraq war, there's been no slowing in the deployment schedule for Walls and more than 4,000 other members of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

They'll be assuming their positions in Iraq around the same time that President-elect Barack Obama takes the oath of office on Jan. 20. Later, if things go according to plan under a newly ratified U.S.-Iraqi security agreement, they will be among the troops moving out of Iraq's urban areas by June 30 — a major step toward withdrawing U.S. troops from the country by 2012.

The changing political landscape has prompted questions among the troops about what's ahead. But there's a resigned acceptance, too, that when it comes to the Iraq war, the one certainty is that there is uncertainty.

"Every deployment is different and you can prepare for different things

and try to situate them the best you can, but you never go into it looking too far forward," Walls, 38, of Browns Mills, N.J., said in an interview at Fort Dix, where the soldiers were packing equipment and firing their final rounds at a shooting range.

Walls, an Iraq war veteran who also served in the 1991 Persian Gulf War and in Somalia, planned to marry his fiancée, a fellow soldier, over the holidays. Combined, the two have five children they will leave behind with grandparents when they deploy.

The deploying troops make up the largest contingent from the Pennsylvania Guard to deploy to a combat zone since World War II. They are from the Guard's 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, which is the Army's only Guard unit to have the high-tech Stryker vehicles. The soldiers were pulled from more than 40 armories from Philadelphia to Erie.

For the last three months, they were in intense training at Camp Shelby, Miss., and at Fort Polk, La. They then flew to Fort Dix for a final stop before deploying.

The estimated 40 percent of the soldiers who have already served in Iraq

and Afghanistan have been told the situation in Iraq is different and the emphasis on the upcoming deployment will be less on combat, and more on supporting the Iraqis as they take the lead to get basic government services running, said Col. Marc Ferraro, 44, of Cherry Hill, N.J., the brigade commander.

A "troop surge" ordered by President George W. Bush has been credited with decreasing violence in Iraq in the last year. Iraq, however, remains an unstable and dangerous country with daily bombings and other violence.

There's "a big difference in the mindset in what you would've done in '06 or '07 compared to what you do now," Ferraro said. "Keeping in mind, though, that at the drop of a dime, that could always change."

Staff Sgt. Aaron Leisenring, 30, a member of the Guard from West Chester, Pa., who deployed to Afghanistan in 2002 with an active Army unit, said he's noticed the emphasis more now on the culture and language in Iraq.

"We're just kind of trying to gain new skills as a soldier that not a lot of us are used to having," Leisenring said.



MATT ROURKE/AP

First Sgt. Lewis Walls, 38, of Browns Mills, N.J. with the the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, is seen before target practice at Fort Dix, N.J., Dec. 19. The 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, scheduled to deploy to Iraq makes up the largest contingent from the Pennsylvania Guard to deploy to a combat zone since World War II.

Sgt. Charles Fassano, 23, a union steamfitter from Philadelphia who already did one deployment to Iraq, said even though he's been told Iraq has sta-

bilized, it's difficult to comprehend. "I think that's something I'm going to have to see and find out for myself," Fassano said.

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Excel 2007 Basic	Feb. 2	8:30-5:30
Access 2007 Basic	Feb. 3	8:30-5:30
Dreamweaver Basic	Feb. 4 & 11	6:00-10:00
Office 2007 NEW FEATURES	Feb. 4	8:30-5:30
Adobe Acrobat Basic	Feb. 5	8:30-5:30
Word 2007 Basic	Feb. 5	8:30-5:30

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Business Review

Leadership Development Series to be offered at CCC

Central Community College will be offering a seven-session leadership development series on leading and motivating in early 2009 at its Hastings and Grand Island campuses.

The Hastings class will meet from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays from Jan. 22 through March 5.

The Grand Island class will meet from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays from Feb. 17 through March 31.

- Topics will include:
- Leadership principles
 - Understanding personalities
 - Effective communication skills
 - Leadership and trust
 - Team building
 - Conflict resolution
 - Situational leadership

Class size is limited so preregistration is required to reserve a space. The cost is \$500, which includes materials, certificates and refreshments. For more information or to preregister, contact Susan Carlson at CCC in Grand Island at (308) 398-7527; toll-free at 1-877-222-0780, ext. 7527;



Central Community College offers training in leadership development in early 2009 at Hastings & Grand Island Campuses.

or by e-mail at scarlson@ccneb.edu.

Central Community College offers training in leadership development, computer technology, indus-

trial technology, environmental health and safety, welding technology, and command Spanish. Interested businesses can request the training be cus-

tomized to meet their specific needs and can arrange to have the classes taught onsite for their convenience. Contact CCC for more information.

YMCA offers large span of services

You probably thought the days of businesses or organizations offering "something for everyone" were over. Living in this fast-paced, rapidly-changing world, it seems impossible that mother, father, brother, sister and grandparents could find something to fit the scope of their entire family's needs. If you think it seems impossible, the team at the Hastings Family YMCA encourages you to visit their facilities.

The Hastings Family YMCA has served the Hastings community since 1881 and features two locations. The YMCA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

The YMCA is an organization truly unique to the community because of the huge range of services, programs and the types of individuals served including infants, children, teenagers, adults, seniors and families. No one is denied participation at the YMCA due to inability to pay and the YMCA has a scholarship program in place.

Sports are one component of the YMCA, featuring sports leagues for youth and adults. YMCA Sports also features basics programs for

youth and camps. Each year, thousands of youth participate in activities such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, tennis, flag football and more.

Another major component of the Hastings YMCA is health and wellness. The YMCA provides fitness classes including kickboxing, yoga, pilates, step aerobics, Zumba and group cycling. Other wellness services include Kids Body and Mind, personal training and weight management.

The YMCA Aquatics features pools in both facilities. Group, private and semi-private swimming lessons are offered and the YMCA strives to promote water safety. Water fitness classes are also available and feature specialized arthritis classes. Scheduled lap swimming, water walking and rec swim is also available.

Childcare is another important aspect of the YMCA. Preschool, after-school care, Summer Fun Club and Childwatch is all available at the YMCA. The Preschool will soon be introducing a new family reading program called Reading Express.

Family strengthening is also a key component of the YMCA. Programs such as



A child participates in the YMCA aquatics program.

parent-child Preschool Playdates; Parents' Night Out; family Adventure Guides; Middle School bus-ing; and more are offered to enrich the lives of the families in the community.

Senior activities are also offered by the YMCA and include Active Older Adults; senior cards and bingo on Tuesdays; and other specialized senior programming.

The YMCA also partners

with other local non-profits and makes their facilities available for these organizations' use.

The Hastings Family YMCA encourages all community members to become engaged in their YMCA. Become a member and become a part of the YMCA family—you will be building a stronger, healthier you and a stronger, healthier Hastings community.

Snead helps Ole Miss rip Tech

JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

DALLAS — There were backflips across midfield, 50-yard dashes carrying oversized flags and a team-wide sprint to the student section. Ole Miss waited five years to feel this good and the Rebels were going to enjoy every second of it.

A season of revival that already included an upset at the Swamp culminated Friday with a 47-34 victory over No. 8 Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl, sending No. 20 Mississippi into the offseason with a six-game winning streak and the anticipation of how coach Houston Nutt will build on his terrific debut year.

"I wish we could keep this team and bring it back," Nutt said. Then, turning to some

seniors next to him, he barked, "You can't leave!"

Seconds later, he was so giddy that he told Cotton Bowl officials, "We'll make the announcement we'll come back next year, right now. Let's go!"

To understand the excitement, appreciate how far this program has come: from 3-8 last season, winless in the SEC and bowl-less since 2003 (back when Eli Manning was a senior) to 9-4 and likely to grab a season-ending ranking in the teens.

It's also worth noting those four losses were by a combined 19 points.

Better still, the surge to this warm-fuzzy finish began when the Rebels were 3-4 and smarting from consecutive losses after their road upset of then-No. 4 Florida.

"It's ... togetherness. That's something we haven't had in the past couple of years," said Dexter McCluster, a 5-foot-8 bundle of moves and speed who ran 14 times for 97 yards and a touchdown, and caught six passes for 83 yards. "Coach Nutt came in ... and got us on the right track and got us to believe. 'One heartbeat' has been something we've been stressing all year. We never gave up on that."

Although two All-American linemen and a big-play receiver are headed for the NFL, the program seems to be in good hands. The stars of this game — McCluster, quarterback Jevan Snead, and corner/punt returner Marshay Green — are all coming back.

Please see TECH/page B3



DONNA MCWILLIAM/AP

Texas Tech coach Mike Leach watches from the sideline as his team plays Mississippi during the second quarter of the Cotton Bowl Friday in Dallas. Mississippi won, 47-34.

LAWRENCE-NELSON HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT

L-N rallies past Kenesaw to remain perfect



AMY ROH/AP

Above: Lawrence-Nelson's Jaycee Jacobitz (left), Brittany Miller and Kelsey Biltoft (44) celebrate their 37-36 win over Kenesaw Friday at the Lawrence-Nelson Holiday Tournament. Right: Kenesaw's Deidra Heier and Lawrence-Nelson's Kelsey Biltoft go after a loose ball in Friday.

GENE RAY
sports@hastingstribune.com

NELSON — Lawrence-Nelson's two post players meant double trouble for Kenesaw Friday night in a battle of unbeaten girls basketball teams. Kelsey Biltoft and Mackenzie McCartney combined for 32 points, leading the Class D-2 No. 7 Raiders to a 37-36 win over C-2 No. 8 Kenesaw in an opening round game of the Lawrence-Nelson holiday tournament.

"We didn't have an answer for them," Kenesaw coach Frank Jesse said. "We tried man-to-man, a sagging zone. And their guards were still able to get the ball into them."

Biltoft, a 6-foot-0 freshman, scored seven of her game-high 21 points in the final period when the Raiders rallied from 10 points down.

McCartney, a senior, popped in six of her 11 points during the rally as L-N improved to 6-0.

"Biltoft is so big, she just shot over the top of our girls and McCartney just worked so hard and found herself in good position," Jesse said.

The Raider pair scored all 13 of L-N's first half points, as their teammates continually dumped the ball into them near the bucket. Biltoft continued to light up the scoreboard in the third quarter by tallying eight of her team's nine points.

Please see L-N/page B2



Wilcox-Hildreth shakes off rust to down Harvard

RYAN MURKEN
rmurken@hastingstribune.com

NELSON — Forget about working out some of the kinks from the holiday break. The Wilcox-Hildreth girls basketball team practically had to start over from scratch.

Playing their first game in 21 days, the Falcons overcame a late Harvard rally and held on for a 46-41 victory over the Cardinals in the opening game of the

Lawrence-Nelson holiday tournament Friday.

The win was the first game for Wilcox-Hildreth since a 59-41 loss to Alma on Dec. 12 and improved the Falcons to 4-1 on the season, while Harvard dropped to 3-3 with the loss.

"The girls had gotten sick and tired of playing against each other in practice," Wilcox-Hildreth coach Shawn Woolen said. "It was nice to finally play another team and it's great to get

a win out of it."

Sophomore Michaela Hinrichs scored 11 of her game-high 13 points in the second half, and junior Emma Vavricka scored six of her 10 points after halftime as the Falcons held off a late Harvard charge.

The 5'11" Hinrichs also grabbed 22 rebounds as Wilcox-Hildreth held a 52-35 rebounding advantage over the Cardinals.

"We talked a lot about boxing

them out and going after the ball on offense," Hinrichs said. "We practiced rebounding a lot over the last few weeks."

Wilcox-Hildreth did show some rust from their long layoff.

The Falcons had 32 turnovers, committed 17 fouls and shot 33 percent from the field, but ended the game on a 7-4 run to earn the win and come within two victories of matching their season total from all of last year.

Please see W-H/page B2

9-4 Nebraska looks to ride momentum next season

ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

LINCOLN — Nebraska coach Bo Pelini's rebuilding job at Nebraska isn't done, but it appears the foundation is set after four straight wins to finish the season, including the gritty Gator Bowl victory over Clemson.

The Cornhuskers' 9-4 record in Pelini's first season marked a four-win improvement over the final year of the Bill Callahan regime.

"Now we just have to keep it going and pick up that torch that the seniors left and keep running with it," Pelini said.

If the Huskers can find a capable

replacement for quarterback Joe Ganz, they'll be positioned to continue their rise in the Big 12. They'll go into the spring also needing to develop a couple new starters on the right side of the offensive line and a big-play receiver or two and to shore up some spots on defense.

The offense will return six players who started the 26-21 Gator Bowl win, and the defense will bring back seven if star lineman Ndamukong Suh follows through with his plan to forgo the NFL draft.

The schedule toughens in 2009. All four nonconference opponents, including three from the Sun Belt

Conference, finished .500 or better.

The Huskers open against Motor City Bowl winner Florida Atlantic (7-6), then play Louisiana-Lafayette (6-6) before traveling to Atlantic Coast Conference and Orange Bowl champion Virginia Tech (10-4). Tech beat the Huskers 35-30 in Lincoln in September.

Nonconference play wraps up against Arkansas State, which, like Louisiana-Lafayette, wasn't invited to a bowl even though it was eligible with a 6-6 record.

The Big 12 portion of the schedule has Nebraska playing at Missouri and hosting Texas Tech and Oklahoma.

The positive vibes around the program follow a tumultuous period a year ago when the program was beginning a coaching — and cultural — transition.

Callahan, who had no ties to Nebraska and came from the NFL, brought a pro football mentality that was foreign to the program. Pelini's first task after four seasons of Callahan was to resurrect the old-school Nebraska way established by Bob Devaney and fostered by Tom Osborne. Pelini welcomed back former players who had been shunned by the previous staff, and he

Please see NU/page B3

Gill puts Buffalo football on map with bowl berth

JOHN WAWROW
The Associated Press

TORONTO — For someone accustomed to big games and who won three national titles with Nebraska as an assistant coach, Buffalo head coach Turner Gill was unable to contain his excitement in the days leading up to the International Bowl.

"Hello, ladies and gentlemen! Live at Rogers Centre ..." Gill announced, before breaking into a laugh as his players prepared for practice at the downtown Toronto domed stadium.

Yes, the Bulls have finally arrived, and the irrepressibly upbeat coach wanted to be sure everyone on either side of Lake Ontario heard about it.

Having produced one of the most unlikely turnarounds in college football this season, Gill has the Mid-American Conference champion Bulls (8-5) — a team that won a total of 10 games from 1999 to 2005 — preparing to make their bowl debut against Big East upstart Connecticut (7-5) on Saturday.

By national standards, this game is about as far removed as it could be from a BCS title matchup, and as foreign as the Canadian turf it will be played upon.

From the Bulls' perspective, however, it's like the Rose, Orange and Sugar bowls rolled into one because it is the program's first and Gill's first after only three seasons as a first-time head coach.

"This is special," Gill said. "It makes for a special unique place in my heart and hopefully a lot of people's hearts because this is a very, very special year for a lot of people."

Connecticut is just as new to the Division I-A ranks, making the jump in 1999, the same year as Buffalo. But that's where the similarities end.

UConn benefited from a wealth of resources courtesy of its successful basketball teams. The name recognition helped smooth the transition for a football program now making its third bowl appearance in the past five seasons. The Huskies also feature the nation's leading rusher in Donald Brown.

Things have gone so well for Connecticut that this season is regarded as a disappointment. The team hoped to collect its second consecutive Big East title, but foundered down the stretch in losing five of its last seven games.

"Everybody says, 'Disappointing,'" Huskies coach Randy Edsall said. "Are you disappointed because you set your goals so high for yourself? Yes. But I mean, there's still so much that we've accomplished and that's part of our problem. We've gotten to where we are so quickly."

No one's complaining in Buffalo. With little money or athletic tradition, the Bulls suffered through one double-digit losing season after another before Gill arrived to provide direction and instill confidence.

This has been very much a season of firsts at Buffalo.

The Bulls won the MAC championship game by beating previously undefeated Ball State, Buffalo's first win over a ranked opponent. The Bulls registered their first winning season since going 8-3 in 1996 as a Division I-AA program, while also winning five in a row for the first time since 1986.

And their high-powered offense, revolving around the triple threat of quarterback Drew Willy, running back James Starks and receiver Naaman Roosevelt, has set numerous school records, including most points (404). Those three players alone have combined to set 14 single-season marks.

"People thought it was impossible," Roosevelt said of the Bulls' turnaround. "They laughed at me and made fun of me when I told them that I was going to UB. But now it's a decision that I'm happy with."

The Huskies will present a tough test with a defense that's ranked 10th in the nation in fewest yards allowed (281 per game). The offense features Brown, the Big East offensive player of the year who's averaging 151.83 yards a game and has matched a single-season school record with 17 touchdowns.

The only question regarding Brown is whether this will be his last college game. After vowing last month that he would return for his senior season, Brown is mulling whether to apply for the NFL Draft in April.

Please see BUFFALO/page B2

Basketball

NBA Standings

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Eastern Conference Atlantic Division, Southeast Division, Central Division, Western Conference Southwest Division, Northwest Division, Pacific Division, Friday's Games.

Minnesota at Chicago, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m. New Orleans at Denver, 8 p.m. Sunday's Games Orlando at Toronto, 11:30 a.m. Cleveland at Washington, Noon. Detroit at L.A. Clippers, 2:30 p.m. Dallas at Memphis, 3 p.m. Boston at New York, 5 p.m. Portland at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m. Prep Boys Results Dundy County 76, Maywood 48 Archbishop Bergan Tournament Archbishop Bergan 75, Douglas County West 50 Ekhom Mount Michael 45, Nebraska City Lourdes 38 Cedar Rapids Tournament Burwell 67, Elgin 51 Cedar Rapids 55, Rising City 29 Hawks Holiday Tournament West Holt 48, Omaha Roncalli 32 HTRS Tournament Humboldt/Table Rock-Stearner 64, Lewiston 35 Sterling 46, Pawnee City 40 Lawrence-Nelson Tournament Lawrence-Nelson 46, Kenesaw 42 Wilcox-Hildreth 55, Harvard 46 Lincoln Lutheran Tournament Fairbury 42, Louisville 32 Lincoln Lutheran 66, Raymond Central 52 Lyons-Decatur Tournament Bancroft-Rosalie 55, West Point Central Catholic 50 Lyons-Decatur Northeast 64, Homer 60, OT Malcolm Tournament Centennial 55, High Plains Community 36 Tri County 50, Malcolm 45 McCool Junction Tournament McCool Junction 68, Meridian 61 Metro Conference Tournament Championship Omaha Bryan 60, Bellevue East 48 Northeast C.C. Tournament Lutheran High Northeast 57, Norfolk Catholic 50 Pope John Tournament Hartington Cedar Catholic 53, Humphrey St. Francis 40 Wynot 50, Pope John 40 St. Paul Holiday Tournament Boone Central 71, Gothenburg 48 St. Paul 57, Ord 33 Syracuse Tournament Syracuse 69, Auburn 44 Wilber-Clatonia 67, Johnson County Central 50 Prep Girls Results Maywood 59, Dundy County 44 Sargent 44, Ansley 40 Wausa 55, Gayville-Volin, S.D. 14 Cedar Rapids Tournament Burwell 67, Elgin 23 Cedar Rapids 49, Rising City 47 Hawks Holiday Tournament Lutheran High Northeast 41, Norfolk Catholic 37 West Holt 42, Omaha Roncalli 42 HTRS Tournament Lewiston 47, Humboldt/Table Rock-Stearner 23 Sterling 53, Pawnee City 42

Lawrence-Nelson Tournament Lawrence-Nelson 37, Kenesaw 36 Wilcox-Hildreth 46, Harvard 41 Lincoln Lutheran Tournament Fairbury 41, Lincoln Lutheran 22 Louisville 49, Raymond Central 36 Lyons-Decatur Holiday Tournament Bancroft-Rosalie 55, West Point Central Catholic 40 Homer 42, Lyons-Decatur Northeast 39 Malcolm Tournament Centennial 55, High Plains Community 42 Malcolm 65, Tri County 52 Metro Conference Tournament Championship Omaha Marian 53, Millard North 46 Pope John Tournament Hartington Cedar Catholic 52, Humphrey St. Francis 38 Wynot 55, Pope John 48 St. Paul Tournament Gothenburg 46, Boone Central 40 Ord 42, St. Paul 37 Syracuse Tournament Johnson County Central 52, Wilber-Clatonia 30 Syracuse 42, Auburn 15

Liberty Bowl At Memphis, Tenn. Kentucky 25, East Carolina 19 Sugar Bowl At New Orleans Utah 31, Alabama 17 Saturday, Jan. 3 International Bowl At Toronto Connecticut (7-5) vs. Buffalo (8-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN2) Monday, Jan. 5 Fiesta Bowl At Glendale, Ariz. Texas (11-1) vs. Ohio State (10-2), 7:30 p.m. (FOX) Tuesday, Jan. 6 GMAC Bowl Mobile, Ala. Tulsa (10-3) vs. Ball State (12-1), 7 p.m. (ESPN) Thursday, Jan. 8 BCS National Championship At Miami Florida (12-1) vs. Oklahoma (12-1), 7 p.m. (FOX)

Pacific Division W L OT Pts GF GA San Jose 28 4 5 61 128 87 Phoenix 19 15 5 43 102 110 Anaheim 19 15 4 42 107 107 Dallas 16 15 5 37 107 123 Los Angeles 15 16 6 36 95 102 Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss. Friday's Games Carolina 2, St. Louis 1 New Jersey 4, Montreal 1 Atlanta 4, Vancouver 3, 50 Columbus 6, Colorado 1 Phoenix 5, N.Y. Islanders 4 Philadelphia at Anaheim, 10 p.m. Saturday's Games Buffalo at Boston, Noon Florida at Pittsburgh, Noon Calgary at Nashville, 2 p.m. Ottawa at Toronto, 6 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Washington, 6 p.m. Carolina at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m. Detroit at Minnesota, 7 p.m. Columbus at St. Louis, 7:30 p.m. Dallas at Edmonton, 9 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at San Jose, 9:30 p.m. Philadelphia at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m. Sunday's Games Florida at Montreal, 1 p.m. Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 4 p.m. Calgary at Chicago, 6 p.m. Ottawa at New Jersey, 6 p.m. Phoenix at Anaheim, 7 p.m. Minnesota at Colorado, 7 p.m. Dallas at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

Football

NFL Playoff Schedule

Wild-card Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 3 Atlanta at Arizona, 3:30 p.m. (NBC) Indianapolis at San Diego, 7 p.m. (NBC) Sunday, Jan. 4 Baltimore at Miami, Noon (CBS) Philadelphia at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m. (FOX) Divisional Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 10 San Diego, Indianapolis or Baltimore at Tennessee, 3:30 p.m. (CBS) Minnesota, Arizona or Atlanta at Carolina, 7:15 p.m. (FOX) Sunday, Jan. 11 Philadelphia, Arizona or Atlanta at N.Y. Giants, Noon (FOX) San Diego, Indianapolis or Miami at Pittsburgh, 3:45 p.m. (CBS) Conference Championships Sunday, Jan. 18 AFC TBD, (FOX), 2 p.m. NFC TBD, (CBS), 5:30 p.m. Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 1 Tampa, Fla. AFC vs. NFC, 5 p.m. (NBC) Friday, Jan. 2 Cotton Bowl At Dallas Mississippi 47, Texas Tech 34

Hockey

NHL Standings

Eastern Conference Atlantic Division W L OT Pts GF GA N.Y. Rangers 23 13 3 49 107 107 New Jersey 22 12 3 47 113 95 Philadelphia 20 10 7 47 126 114 Pittsburgh 19 15 4 42 120 114 N.Y. Islanders 12 23 4 28 102 141 Northeast Division W L OT Pts GF GA Boston 29 5 4 62 141 84 Montreal 21 10 6 48 109 95 Buffalo 18 15 5 41 109 109 Toronto 15 17 6 36 116 137 Ottawa 13 17 5 31 83 100 Southeast Division W L OT Pts GF GA Washington 25 11 3 53 131 115 Carolina 19 15 5 42 102 114 Florida 16 15 5 37 93 104 Atlanta 13 21 5 31 114 142 Tampa Bay 10 17 10 30 89 117 Western Conference Central Division W L OT Pts GF GA Detroit 25 7 5 55 138 109 Chicago 20 8 7 47 127 94 Columbus 18 16 4 40 102 104 Nashville 17 17 3 37 91 109 St. Louis 14 21 3 31 107 130 Northwest Division W L OT Pts GF GA Calgary 22 11 4 48 115 110 Vancouver 21 15 4 46 115 105 Colorado 19 18 1 39 104 113 Minnesota 18 16 2 38 92 84 Edmonton 17 16 3 37 101 111

Transactions

Baseball American League BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with Josh Bard on a one-year contract. National League ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Announced the resignation of chief executive officer Jeff Moorad. Promoted team president Derrick Hall to chief executive officer. Agreed to terms with 1B Tony Clark on a one-year contract. FLORIDA MARLINS—Agreed to terms with RHP Scott Proctor on a one-year contract. Hockey National Hockey League BUFFALO SABRES—Assigned C Nathan Gerbe to Portland (AHL). CALGARY FLAMES—Assigned LW Brett Sutter to Quad City (AHL). OTTAWA SENATORS—Assigned F Ilya Zubov to Birmingham (AHL). SAN JOSE SHARKS—Recalled D Derek Joslin from Worcester (AHL). Reassigned F Jamie McGinn to Worcester.

Tribland SATURDAY

College Men's Basketball: Northwestern at Hastings College... 4 p.m. College Women's Basketball: Northwestern at Hastings College... 2 p.m. College Wrestling: Hastings College at Dana Open... 8 a.m. Area Schedule Prep boys basketball Harvard, Kenesaw, Wilcox-Hildreth at Lawrence-Nelson Holiday Tournament Shickley at McCool Junction Post Holiday Tournament Prep girls basketball Harvard, Kenesaw, Wilcox-Hildreth at Lawrence-Nelson Holiday Tournament Shickley at McCool Junction Post Holiday Tournament

Saturday's TV broadcasts

College Football Noon, International Bowl, Buffalo vs. Connecticut ESPN2 College Men's Basketball Station 11 a.m., Pittsburgh at Georgetown ESPN 1 p.m., Tennessee at Kansas ESPN 2 p.m., Chaminade at Dixie State ALT 3 p.m., N.C. State at Florida CBS 7 p.m., Creighton at Illinois State FSN College Women's Basketball Station 11 a.m., LSU at Connecticut CBS 11 a.m., Tennessee at Rutgers CBS 3 p.m., Washington State at Washington FSN NBA Basketball Station 7:30 p.m., Minnesota at Chicago WGN NFL Football Station 3:30 p.m., Playoffs, Atlanta at Arizona NBC 7 p.m., Indianapolis at San Diego NBC Prep Football Station Noon, All-American Bowl NBC

Saturday's radio broadcasts

College Men's Basketball Station 12:45 p.m., Tennessee at Kansas KICS (1550 AM) 12:45 p.m., Tennessee at Kansas KXPN (1460 AM) 1 p.m., Maryland Eastern Shore at Nebraska KLIQ (94.5 FM) 4 p.m., Northwestem at Hastings College KHAS (1230 FM) College Women's Basketball Station 2 p.m., Northwestem at Hastings College KHAS (1230 FM) NFL Football Station 3 p.m., Atlanta at Arizona KICS (1550 AM) 3 p.m., Atlanta at Arizona KXPN (1460 AM) 6:45 p.m., Indianapolis at San Diego KICS (1550 AM) 6:45 p.m., Indianapolis at San Diego KXPN (1460 AM)

Sunday's TV broadcasts

College Men's Basketball Station 12:30 p.m., Evansville at Indiana State FSN 1 p.m., Cincinnati at Marquette ALT 2:30 p.m., UCLA at Oregon FSN 3 p.m., Portland State at Northern Arizona ALT 3:30 p.m., Kentucky at Louisville CBS 4:30 p.m., Boston College at North Carolina FSN 6:45 p.m., Virginia Tech at Duke FSN 9 p.m., Arizona at Stanford FSN NFL Football Station Noon, Baltimore at Miami CBS 3:15 p.m., Philadelphia at Minnesota FOX Prep Football Station 7 p.m., All-American Game ESPN

Sunday's radio broadcasts

NFL Football Station 11:30 a.m., Baltimore at Miami KICS (1550 AM) 11:30 a.m., Baltimore at Miami KXPN (1460 AM) 3:15 p.m., Philadelphia at Minnesota KICS (1550 AM) 3:15 p.m., Philadelphia at Minnesota KXPN (1460 AM)

Nation

UTAH BEATS NO. 4 ALABAMA NEW ORLEANS

Coach Nick Saban and the Alabama players repeatedly said the Sugar Bowl will be a key to how this team will be remembered. If true, that's bad news for the No. 4 Crimson Tide. Down to its third-team left tackle, Alabama's offensive line uncharacteristically struggled and its normally stingy defense was victimized by quarterback Brian Johnson and No. 7 Utah in a 31-17 Sugar Bowl loss Friday night. Alabama (12-2) couldn't summon up the physical, feisty style that led to a perfect regular season and the absence of All-America left tackle Andre Smith clearly hurt.

Alabama faced its biggest deficit of the season after falling behind 21-0 in the first quarter. Alabama had no answer to the spread, no-huddle offenses of Florida and former Utah coach Urban Meyer in the Southeastern Conference championship game or the Utes (13-0) in the Sugar Bowl.

This time the beleaguered offensive line was also vulnerable to a quick, aggressive defense. Smith, the Outland Trophy winner, was home in Birmingham after being suspended four days before the game for alleged dealings with an agent. Replacement Mike Johnson, normally a starting guard, left with an injured right ankle in the first quarter and didn't return.

David Ross took his normal spot. Right tackle Drew Davis switched sides and freshman John Michael Boswell replaced him. A line that Utah coach Kyle Whittingham had said was the key to Alabama's offense was suddenly a weak spot. Alabama's John Parker Wilson was sacked eight times and harried into two interceptions and a fumble. All-Southeastern Conference tailback Glen Coffee was held to 36 yards rushing.

And Brian Johnson picked Alabama apart early to push Utah to a 21-0 lead, only the second time all season that Alabama has been down after the first quarter. The nation's No. 3 defense allowed 150 yards in that quarter after coming into the game giving up 257 a game.

The biggest play for Alabama was Javier Arenas' 73-yard punt return for a touchdown to make it 21-10 in the second quarter. Wilson's 4-yard touchdown pass to Coffee cut into the lead early in the third, but Alabama didn't score again.

Before the game, Saban had emphasized the importance of winning.

The Associated Press

Jets interview Callahan for coaching vacancy

DENNIS WASZAK JR. The Associated Press NEW YORK — The New York Jets met with assistants Bill Callahan and Brian Schottenheimer on Friday for the team's coaching vacancy, kicking off the first round of interviews as they seek a replacement for the fired Eric Mangini.

New York Giants defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo will interview with the Jets on Saturday. He had meetings about the Cleveland and Detroit openings on Thursday, and will also talk to Denver on Saturday. The Jets had no other interviews scheduled as of Friday night, and it appeared recently fired Broncos coach Mike Shanahan and former NFL coach Marty Schottenheimer were not on the team's immediate radar.

Shanahan told the NFL Network

during an interview scheduled to air this weekend on "NFL GameDay Morning" that he plans to wait two weeks before speaking with another team and for the right situation before returning to coaching.

The Jets have received permission to speak with Baltimore defensive coordinator Rex Ryan, but won't be able to meet with him until the Ravens' season is over or during the bye before the Super Bowl, if they make it.

The Ravens play at Miami in the playoffs on Sunday.

Similarly, the Jets wouldn't be allowed to offer Spagnuolo a job until the Giants' season ends. The NFC's top-seeded team has a first-round bye in the playoffs. Spagnuolo, 49, has become a popular candidate because of the Giants' success on defense the

last two seasons.

Jets owner Woody Johnson has made it clear he prefers to keep football, business and coaching duties separate, so a candidate wanting complete control would be less likely to be hired. Any coach the Jets hire would have to fit into that structure, which might have a major effect on the team's interest in Shanahan.

Shanahan was fired by the Broncos on Tuesday after going 146-91 over 14 seasons, including the playoffs, and was also the team's executive vice president of football operations.

Callahan joined Mangini's staff last offseason after he was fired as coach at Nebraska. He was 27-22 in four seasons with the Cornhuskers, and went 17-18 in two seasons with

the Raiders. He led Oakland to the Super Bowl in 2003, becoming the fourth rookie head coach in NFL history to do so, eventually losing to Tampa Bay.

Brian Schottenheimer has been the Jets' offensive coordinator the last three seasons after serving as quarterbacks coach from 2002-05 under his father, Marty, at San Diego.

Ryan, in his fourth season leading the Ravens defense, has also served this season as assistant head coach to John Harbaugh. Ryan is the son of former NFL coach Buddy Ryan, and is the twin brother of Oakland defensive coordinator Rob Ryan.

Rex Ryan was a candidate for the Ravens job after Brian Billick was fired last season, and interviewed for the vacant Miami and Atlanta jobs last season.

W-H: Hinrichs leads Falcons past Harvard

Continued from page B1

"It's been almost 25 days since our last game, so for as bad as we played to still get the win is great," Woolen said. "We have changed the culture a little bit and we are getting on pace to set ourselves up for the whole year and it's going pretty good right now."

Harvard, which is one win away from matching their season win total from last season, had its chances Friday, but was doomed by a 14-of-32 performance from the free throw line.

The Cardinals trailed 22-15 at halftime after converting on 5-of-19 free throw attempts in the first half.

"What killed us was our first-half free throws," Harvard coach Jami Williams said. "We were 5-of-19 in the first half at the free throw line and we shoot free throws every day at practice, so that is frustrating."

Wilcox-Hildreth led by as many as 10 points in the third quarter and led by nine at 39-30 with 7:10

left in the game before Harvard rattled off seven straight points to cut the lead to two with 3:46 left.

Harvard junior Alyssa McDowell started the 7-0 run with a conventional three-point play and Kristan Pelotte followed with a three-point-er before freshman Michelle Hachtel cut the lead to 39-37 by hitting one of two free throws.

"We had chances to win, we were getting the calls, we were getting to free throw line and we were forcing turnovers," Williams said. "We had the game going the way that we wanted."

Vavricka stopped the run with a basket with three minutes left and junior Brandi Brummer pushed the lead to 43-37 less than 40 seconds later with a follow-up basket.

Wilcox-Hildreth then put the game out of reach with three straight points by junior Samantha Johnson on a free throw and a break-away layup with 24 seconds left in the game.

"A team in the past, who knows,

we might have ended up losing this game," Woolen said. "So many things have changed this year. If we get hit in the mouth we are going to come right back and hopefully make a run right back at you."

Johnson and Logan Farley each added nine points for Wilcox-Hildreth as the Falcons played 10 different players and had seven players score Friday.

McDowell led Harvard with a game-high 14 points and also grabbed a team high nine rebounds despite being plagued with foul trouble for much of the game.

Kristan Pelotte and freshman Alison Engle each added nine points for Harvard while Engle grabbed eight rebounds and Pelotte had seven boards.

"I'm proud of my girls," Williams said. "We have a young team and they fought and they scrambled and they did a good job. We just didn't do enough of the little things."

Wilcox-Hildreth will now take on

Class D-2 No. 7 Lawrence-Nelson in today's championship game at 5:15 p.m.

Lawrence-Nelson defeated Class C-2 No. 8 Kenesaw 37-36 Friday in the other opening round game and enter today's final with a record of 6-0.

"We are definitely looking forward to tomorrow," Woolen said. "If we can put together a good game tomorrow against a good team, I think we will open some people's eyes."

Harvard (3-3)..... 7 8 11 15 - 41 W-H (4-4)..... 13 9 12 12 - 46 Wilcox-Hildreth (46) Emma Vavricka 3-6 4-5 10, Michaela Hinrichs 6-17 0-13, Melina Lyons 0-1 0-0 0, Callie Guthrie 1-5 0-0 2, Morgan Farley 0-1 0-0 9, Samantha Johnson 3-8 3-4 9, Hannah Artz 0-0 0-2 0, Logan Farley 4-10 1-5 9, Brandi Brummer 1-6 0-1 2, Melissa Guthrie 0-0 1-2 1, Team 18-54 9-19 46.

Harvard (41) Alison Engle 2-10 5-9 9, Alyssa Pelotte 1-6 0-4 2, Alyssa McDowell 6-13 2-3 14, Kristan Pelotte 2-12 4-6 9, Tori Wheeler 0-1 0-2 0, Michelle Hachtel 1-4 2-5 4, Dani Kroger 1-1 1-3 3, Team 13-47 14-32 41. Three-point field goals - WH 1-7 (Brummer 0-2, C. Guthrie 0-3, Hinrichs 1-2), H 1-5 (Engle 0-1, A. Pelotte 0-1, K. Pelotte 1-2, Wheeler 0-1). Rebounds - WH 52 (Hinrichs 22), H 35 (McDowell 9). Turnovers - WH 32, H 23. Total fouls - WH 17, H 12. Fouled out - H (A. Pelotte, McDowell). Technicals - None.

L-N: Post duo helps keep Raiders perfect

Continued from page B1

Biltoft scored what proved to be the winning basket with 40 seconds. She banked in a layup with 40 seconds left for the game's final points. Her bucket resulted from an in-bounds play along the Raider sideline.

Kenesaw had more chances on offense, the biggest in the closing seconds with the Blue Devils taking the ball out along their offensive baseline. Megan Adams missed a shot near the top of the key as time ran out.

The Blue Devils could muster just one field goal to go along with three free throws in the fourth quarter.

The drought came after Kenesaw held a 31-21 advantage at the end of the third quarter.

Biltoft and McCartney took control of the Raiders' comeback.

"I knew that's where we would

have strength," Lawrence-Nelson coach Cathy Biltoft said. "We are very strong in the (post) position. The guards worked very hard to get the ball in. We had some good lob passes in there. I know that if we get the ball in down low it's going to be going in toward the hoop. We are looking to score when we get the ball on the blocks."

The L-N post players' big scoring night about equaled their combined per-game scoring average this season, coach Biltoft said.

Kenesaw sped to an eight-point lead in the second quarter, going on a 9-2 run that started with 3:25 left in the first quarter and ending a minute into the second period. Two consecutive layups resulting from stolen passes highlighted the outburst.

Jill Kroll stole a Raider pass and went in for a fast-break layup to

give Kenesaw a 9-4 advantage. Four seconds later, Deidra Ground scored a layup after she stole another pass.

But Kenesaw had their first of two major scoring droughts beginning midway in the second quarter that lasted until Kroll's two free throws a minute after halftime.

Kroll scored a team-high 17 points. Deidra Ground contributed 11 points. The two combined to score 16 of Kenesaw's 17 first-half points.

Kenesaw wanted the scoring to be in the 50s because of its up-tempo style.

"When shots don't fall, it doesn't matter what tempo you are playing," Jesse said. "It was a low-scoring game, but still we had the lead up until the end."

Neither team shot well from the floor. Kenesaw made just one basket in 10 first-quarter tries, while L-N

went 2-for-11 in the opening period. Kenesaw closed the game 11-for-42 in bucket attempts. L-N made 16 shots from the floor out of 36 tries.

L-N dominated the rebounding. The Raiders grabbed 38 boards compared to the Blue Devils' 22. Biltoft and McCartney hauled down 10 apiece.

Kenesaw's record slipped to 5-1. Kenesaw (36) Brianna Bittfield 0-3 0-0 0, Courtney Harpham 0-2 0-0 0, Deidra Heier 0-3 0-0 0, Jill Kroll 4-6 7-8 17, Megan Adams 0-5 1-3 1, Hannah Artz 0-0 0-2 0, Logan Farley 4-10 1-5 9, Brandi Brummer 1-6 0-1 2, Melissa Guthrie 0-0 1-2 1, Team 18-54 9-19 46.

Lawrence-Nelson (37) Jaycee Jacobitz 0-7 0-0, Brittany Miller 1-4 1-1 3, Kristin Druick 1-2 0-2 2, Chelsea Stemper 0-1 0-0 0, Mackenzie McCartney 5-8 1-4 11, Kelsey Biltoft 9-12 3-6 21, Beth Menke 0-1 0-2 0, Marissa Kovanda 0-1 0-0 0. Totals: 16-36 5-15. Kenesaw (5-1)..... 7 4 9 16 - 37 Lawrence-Nelson (37) Three-point goals - WH 3-14 (Bittfield 0-1, Kroll 2-3, Adams 0-3, Uden 0-4, Ground 1-3), L-N 0-1 (Jacobitz 0-1). Rebounds - K 22 (Uden 6), L-N 38 (McCartney 10, Biltoft 10). Turnovers - K 14, L-N 19. Personal fouls - K 16, L-N 15. Fouled out - none. Technicals - none.

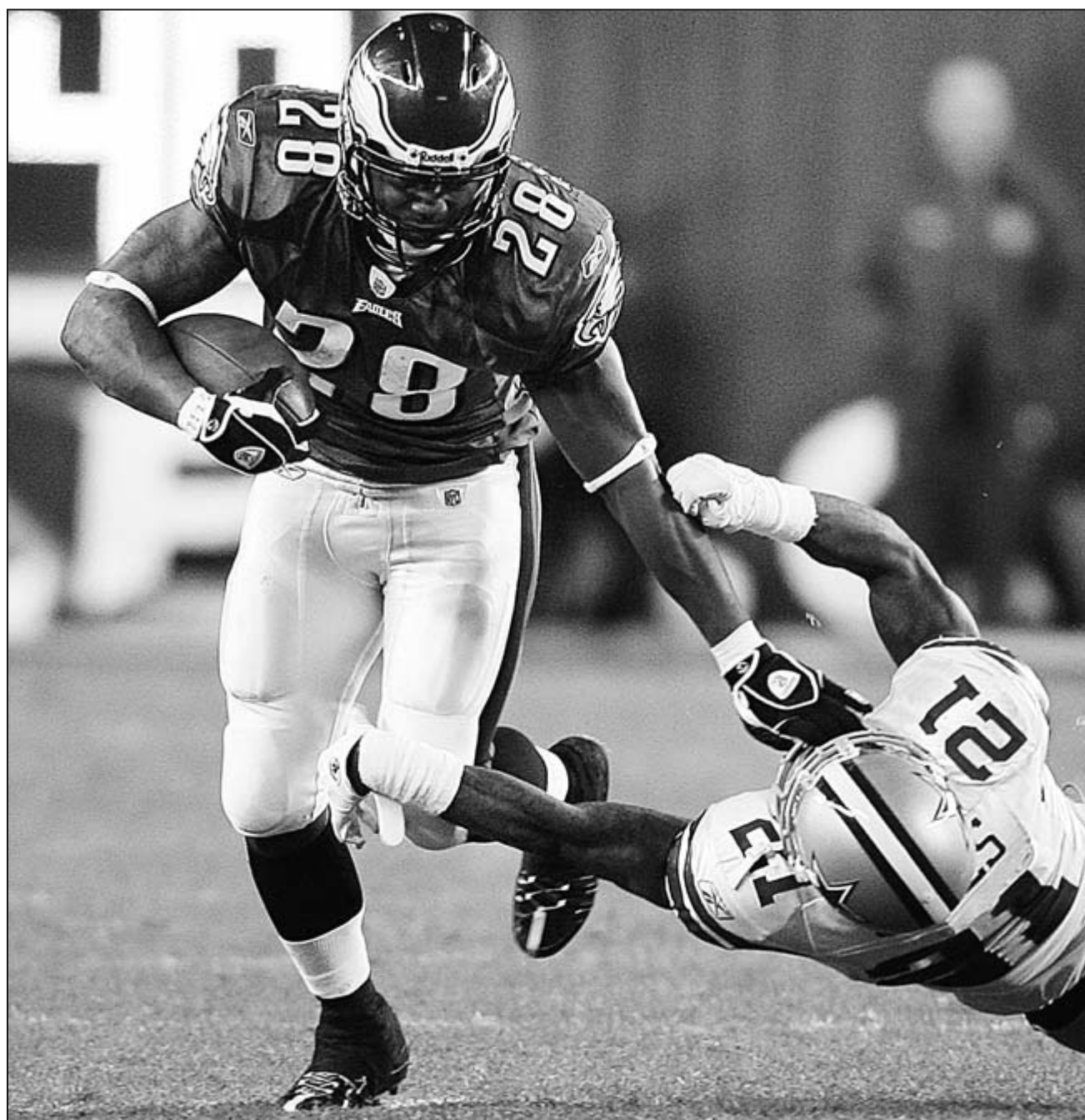
Buffalo: Gill leads Bulls

Continued from page B1

"I'm not worried about next year. I'm not worried about a week from now. I'm just worried about Buffalo right now," said Brown, who has 1,822 yards rushing.

Edsall has counseled Brown on his future, but won't say which way the player is leaning. What's clear is the impact the running back has had on the Huskies and on recruiting.

"I tell kids, you come to UConn and can accomplish anything you want to accomplish because he's proven that," Edsall said. "I told our team after practice that we need more guys that are like Donald Brown because to me, Donald Brown's a great one."



TOM MIHALEK/AP

Philadelphia Eagles running back Correll Buckhalter (28) breaks away from Dallas Cowboys cornerback Adam Jones in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game Dec. 28 in Philadelphia.

Buckhalter still going strong for Eagles

DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Like any Eagles running back, Correll Buckhalter is used to a break in the action. Usually, the pause comes when Philadelphia coach Andy Reid calls 16 straight passing plays and relegates the backfield to blockers, short-gain receivers or sideline watchers.

This time, it was an interruption in Buckhalter's explanation why the Eagles should remain committed to the running game.

"Every time you run the ball, you're not going to get 20, 30 yards right off the break," the former Nebraska Cornhusker said. "Sometimes you're going to get 2 or 3 yards, but..."

"Yeah, Buck!" shouted his eavesdropping locker stall neighbor, Brian Westbrook. "Tell 'em the truth!"

Buckhalter nodded and laughed, then picked up where he left off, "you've got to stay with it and eventually those 2 or 3 yards are going to turn into a 40- or 50-yard run."

No one can stick with things quite like Buckhalter, who has persevered through an injury-plagued career to become Westbrook's steady backup.

When the Eagles play Sunday at Minnesota in a divisional playoff game, the often-underutilized Buckhalter's numbers might prove as valuable as any contribution they get from Westbrook, Donovan McNabb or Brian Dawkins.

The career numbers prove that if Buckhalter touches the ball, the Eagles will likely win.

Call it a big bang for their Buck.

He averaged 4.9 yards per carry this season and his 4.5 career average is tied

for fifth on the team's career list. When Buckhalter gets at least six touches (receptions and/or carries) a game, the Eagles are 5-1 this season. Philadelphia is 2-5-1 when he gets fewer than six.

After running for 2,522 yards at Nebraska from 1997 to 2000, Buckhalter rushed for a team rookie record 586 yards in 2001. He had a career-high nine TDs in 2003 as part of the "three-headed monster" with Duce Staley and Westbrook.

Buckhalter's 369 yards rushing this season were the most since 2003, and the 6-foot back thinks his numbers would spike if offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg called his number more than a handful of plays a game.

"In my mind, I'm always thinking I can contribute at a high level," he said. "Why not think like that?"

Buckhalter's once-blossoming career hit a detour when he missed three of four seasons with serious injuries to both knees. He missed all of the 2004 and 2005 seasons with a torn tendon in his right knee and sat out the 2002 season with a torn ligament in his left knee.

He never quit, the Eagles never gave up on him and now he's one of the longest-tenured players on the team.

His knees took a beating, but his confidence rarely did.

Buckhalter, who set career highs this year in receptions (26), yards (324) and receiving touchdowns (2), showed how valuable he is in Philadelphia's 44-6 playoff-clinching win over Dallas on Sunday. He had 122 yards of total offense, including a career-best 59-yard reception. His total number of touches? Thirteen.

The stunner came in Philadelphia's 10-3 loss two weeks ago at Washington, when Reid and

Mornhinweg called a whopping 16 straight passing plays.

Buckhalter had only one carry and two receptions in that one, a week after he averaged 9.2 yards a carry in a win over Cleveland. Westbrook had only 12 carries (he had 33 for 131 yards in a win last month at the Giants) and the two backs rightly wondered why they were ignored in the game plan.

Buckhalter, who missed two games this year with a knee injury, declined to say this week that a few more carries in key situations might have made a difference against the Redskins.

"Whenever we go into a game and we've lost and I really haven't had a chance to play, I always think about if I would have had an opportunity what I could have done," he said.

He had only two carries and no receptions in the dreadful 13-13 tie at Cincinnati.

Buckhalter's career high came in 2001 when he ran for 134 yards against Arizona. He rushed for 93 yards and a touchdown on 18 carries and had seven catches for 85 yards in a win at San Francisco, when Westbrook was out with an injury.

Not surprisingly, Buckhalter believes more of a mix in the playcalling with Westbrook against the Vikings gives the Eagles a better chance at victory.

"I think it keeps him fresh and it keeps the defense honest," Buckhalter said. "It gives them two running backs that they've got to worry about."

The Vikings haven't seemed to worry much about any running back this season. They were No. 1 against the run, allowing only 76.9 yards on the ground per game with no 100-yard rushers.

The Eagles might have to buck that trend to press on in the playoffs.

NU: Huskers hoping to build on 9-4 record

Continued from page B1

preached passion and work ethic. He also renewed the emphasis on the walk-on program.

The 2008 Huskers were not significantly more talented than in 2007, if at all, but their higher level of effort was apparent, even when they were getting blown out by Missouri and Oklahoma.

Nebraska got off to a 3-3 start but won six of its last seven games and clearly was playing its best football at the end.

"We had a long way to go when we first got together," Pelini said. "You try to institute a different type of culture, get everybody on the same page, develop trust, build relationships between the players and coaches — which I think is No. 1 — and that doesn't happen overnight."

Pelini said the turning point of the season was the 37-31 overtime loss at Texas Tech, which was ranked No. 7 at

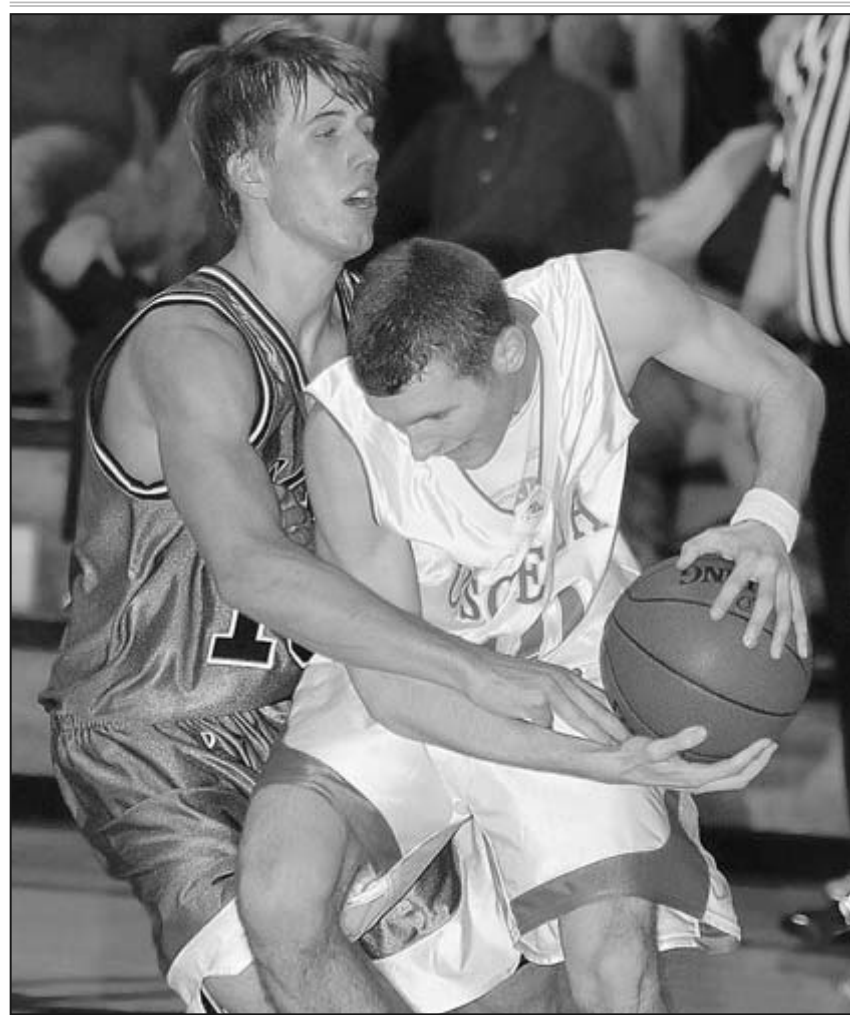
the time. The Huskers outgained the prolific Red Raider offense and held almost a 21-minute advantage in time of possession. The Huskers lost when Jamar Wall intercepted Ganz in overtime.

"When we walked off that field, I don't think there was a guy in that locker room who didn't feel like we were a better football team than the team we lost to that day," Pelini said. "I think at that point, the team started coming together and realized how good we could be."

Three weeks later the Huskers were hammered 62-28 at Oklahoma to an Oklahoma team that scored at least 58 points in each of its last six games on its way to next week's meeting with Florida for the national championship.

"There were some bumps along the road, and you're going to have that, especially the first year together," Pelini said. "But no one ever panicked, no one ever pointed fingers."

Tribland basketball roundup



BJ FICTUM/Tribune

Shickley's Luke Schweitzer (left) tries to steal the ball from Landon Hayes (10) of Osceola in the final seconds of regulation Friday at the McCool Junction Post-Holiday Tournament. The Longhorns forced an overtime and advanced to the tourney championship game with the 47-45 win.

Wilcox-Hildreth 55, Harvad 46

NELSON — The Wilcox-Hildreth boys basketball team defeated Harvad 55-46 Friday in the opening round of the Lawrence-Nelson holiday tournament.

Matt Nelson led Wilcox-Hildreth with a game high 20 points while Thomas Gardels added 12 points for the Falcons and Tyler Guthrie chipped in with nine points.

Armando Mendoza and Derek Worman each scored 11 points to lead Harvad.

Wilcox-Hildreth (2-3)..... 15 13 12 15 — 55
Harvad (0-6)..... 12 15 10 9 — 46

Wilcox-Hildreth (55)
Matt Nelson 20, Tyler Guthrie 9, Brandon Gardels 2, Chad Bergstrom 4, Thomas Gardels 12, Kirk Harms 3, Alex Jurgens 5

Harvad (46)
BNolby Gabriel 2, Ivan Medrano 4, Seth Ross 9, Gage Marshall 9, Armando Mendoza 11, Derek Worman 11

Lawrence-Nelson 46, Kenesaw 42

NELSON — The Lawrence-Nelson boys basketball team defeated Kenesaw 46-42

Friday in the opening round of the Lawrence-Nelson holiday tournament.

Garret Svoboda and Drew Cassell each scored nine points to lead Lawrence-Nelson while Steven Schroer and Ryan Schroer both added seven points for the Raiders.

Jeremy Shurigar scored a game high 13 points to lead Kenesaw while Brandon Stevens and Evan Bender each chipped in with eight for the Blue Devils.

Lawrence-Nelson (6-0)..... 8 17 16 5 — 46
Kenesaw (3-2)..... 16 9 4 13 — 42

Lawrence-Nelson (46)
Steven Schroer 7, Andy Peterson 5, Gage Bliffot 5, Garret Svoboda 9, Drew Cassell 9, Ryan Schroer 7, Zach Ault 4

Kenesaw (42)
Brennan Burling 3, Matt Cline 5, Brandon Stevens 8, Evan Bender 8, Brody Rossow 3, Jeremy Shurigar 13, Kade Clark 2

Shickley 47, Osceola 45

MCCOOL JUNCTION — Shickley defeated Osceola 47-45 in overtime Friday evening in the opening round of the McCool Junction post-holiday tournament. No other information was available.

Tech: Rebels down Raiders in Cotton Bowl

Continued from page B1

In the final Cotton Bowl played in the stadium of the same name, the Red Raiders (11-2) converted a pair of early turnovers into a 14-0 lead. A team that stumbled on its way to the Big 12 and national championship games, then got left out of the BCS entirely, appeared to be channeling the disappointment against the SEC's fourth-best team, according to the polls.

But Snead led the Rebels to touchdowns on their next three drives. A field goal on the following series put Ole Miss ahead for the first time, just before halftime. Once Green returned an interception 65 yards for a touchdown and a 10-point lead early in the third quarter, the Rebels wouldn't be denied. By game's end, fans were chanting "S-E-C! S-E-C!" a message that came across loud and clear as schools from these leagues — No. 1 Florida and No. 2 Oklahoma — meet next week for the national title.

Even with time running out, Tech remained hopeful because of huge comebacks in its last two bowls. But every time the Red Raiders started to rise, they fell — failing on a fourth-down try after the Rebels missed a field goal, quarterback Graham Harrell getting thrown for a safety following a recovered fumble, then blowing a 2-point conversion and failing to recover an onside kick attempt after their final touchdown.

"They're an incredibly good football team," Tech coach Mike Leach said. "You have to fight very precisely in order to beat them."

The Red Raiders still had the most exciting season in their history, peaking at No. 2 in the poll in mid-November. That's little consolation now, after losing two of the last three games, this one keeping them from a school-record 12th win and dropping them to 0-4 in the Cotton Bowl.

"We would have liked to have finished on a better note," said Harrell, who was 36-of-58 for a

Cotton Bowl-record 364 yards and four touchdowns, and became both the NCAA career leader in touchdown passes (134) and the first player with multiple 5,000-yard seasons.

"It was still a very fun season."

All-American receiver Michael Crabtree caught four passes for a

career-low 30 yards in what might be his last college game. Slowed by an ankle injury sustained in the season finale, and having gotten poked in the eye, he caught a 2-yard pass for Harrell's record-breaking touchdown but also fell on the pass that turned into Green's game-breaking interception.

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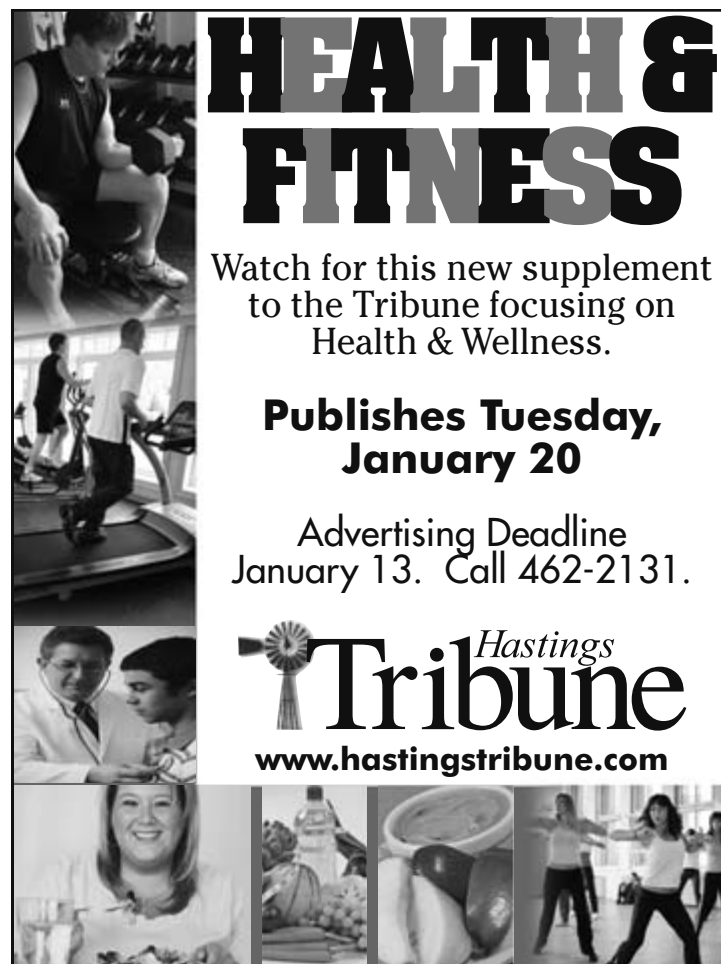
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When desperate, try a falsecard

Here is another excellent defense considered by the International Bridge Press Association jury. It arose during the 2007 Bermuda Bowl in Shanghai. Played 22 times, this was the only North-South pair to reach four spades, pushed there by the aggressive bidding of Irishmen John Carroll (West) and Tommy Garvey (East).



Phillip Alder

West said afterward that he had never seen a 10-point hand he did not like. But he had a safety-valve in that his opening was limited to 16 points. East jumped to four hearts, hoping that his club suit would prove useful.

If you study the layout, you will think that South could not fail to make four spades. But watch what happened.

West led the club ace and continued with the club 10. East overtook with his jack and played a third club, West discarding a heart and dummy ruffing. Declarer cashed dummy's ace-king of spades, then led the diamond king — under which West dropped the 10.

South would have made his contract if he had played a spade to his queen and led a diamond toward dummy, but he was seduced by West's 10 into playing a low diamond from the dummy. East won with his jack and correctly led a fourth club, on which West discarded his diamond ace!

After ruffing with dummy's last spade, declarer couldn't get to his hand to draw West's last trump. The defense took one spade (West's 10), one diamond and two clubs for down one.

If there appears to be no way to defeat a contract, falsecard.

North

- ♠ A K J 8
- ♥ A
- ♦ K Q 7 6 4 2
- ♣ 8 3

West

- ♠ 10 6 2
- ♥ Q 10 7 5 2
- ♦ A 10 3
- ♣ A 10

East

- ♠ K J 8 4
- ♥ J 5
- ♦ K Q J 9 4

South

- ♠ Q 7 5 3
- ♥ 9 6 3
- ♦ 9 8
- ♣ 7 6 5 2

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: Neither

South West	North	East
1♥	2♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	DbL. Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ A

Phillip Alder is a columnist for Newspaper Enterprise Association.

TRIBUNE CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

Oprah donates \$365K to school

DORIE TURNER
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A letter from Oprah Winfrey last week seemed like the world's best Christmas present — until teacher Ron Clark noticed an extra piece of paper flutter out of the envelope.

That's when the Atlanta educator saw the \$365,000 check for the innovative private school he opened in one of the city's poorest neighborhoods in 2007. It was, quite literally, an answer to a prayer.

"We teach school all day and fundraise at night," said Clark, who finds private donors to pay most of the \$14,000 annual tuition for each student. "To have an unsolicited gift come like that is incredible."

Clark surprised his students with the news of the donation Wednesday morning in a gathering at the south Atlanta school. The children, parents and teachers erupted in deafening cheers when he showed off the check.

Several cried at the news. "Everything they learn is enhanced because of the teachers' dedication and creativity," said a tearful Gloria Nesmith, whose son, Cameron, is a fifth-grader at the academy. "And Oprah noticed. I'm just overwhelmed."

The donation, which likely will go to scholarships for students, would pay for 26 children to attend the school for one year, Clark said. The 80-student middle school depends almost entirely on donations to operate.

In her letter, to Clark, Winfrey calls him a role model and applauds the "profound difference you're making with your passion for teaching."

The check was issued by the Oprah Winfrey Foundation, which gave \$4 million to educational programs in 2008, said foundation executive director Caren Yanis.

Clark and his students became overnight stars during the presidential election when a video of the students performing a political rap they wrote grabbed the public's attention on YouTube. The children ended up performing the rap, called "Vote However U Like," on national TV shows including CNN and BET.

Teachers at the school frequently use rapping, dancing and drumming to help students learn.

Clark, who taught in one of New York City's toughest schools and wrote the best-selling teaching book "The Essential 55," opened the school last year with proceeds from his book and private donations.

ACROSS

- 1 Harry's pal at Hogwarts
- 4 Hit 2004 film with many sequels
- 7 What this puzzle's eight concentric rings (light and dark) represent
- 13 Wooden peg
- 18 Pressed for time
- 20 1968 N.B.A. All-Star Dick
- 22 Adler of Conan Doyle's "A Scandal in Bohemia"
- 23 Georgia's Fort, site of an 1862 surrender
- 24 Malevolent look
- 25 Rubber gasket
- 26 Gratis
- 27 Lincoln Town Car, for one
- 28 Patriots' Day mo.
- 30 Big ox
- 31 Prefix with political
- 32 Dance
- 33 Six-Day War combatants
- 35 Entrance
- 38 Actress Dawn Chong
- 40 "Nascar Now" channel
- 42 Medevac worker
- 43 Way to go
- 44 Dog biscuits and such
- 47 Formulator of the Three Principles of the People
- 52 Gopher-wood construction
- 53 Submarine egress
- 54 Ruination
- 55 Infra's opposite
- 56 King famous for frightening people
- 59 Like some campaign ads
- 62 Pomeranian's bark
- 63 Sic (bibliographical term)
- 64 Elementary particle
- 65 Actress/model Connie
- 68 On land
- 70 Appropriate

center for this puzzle

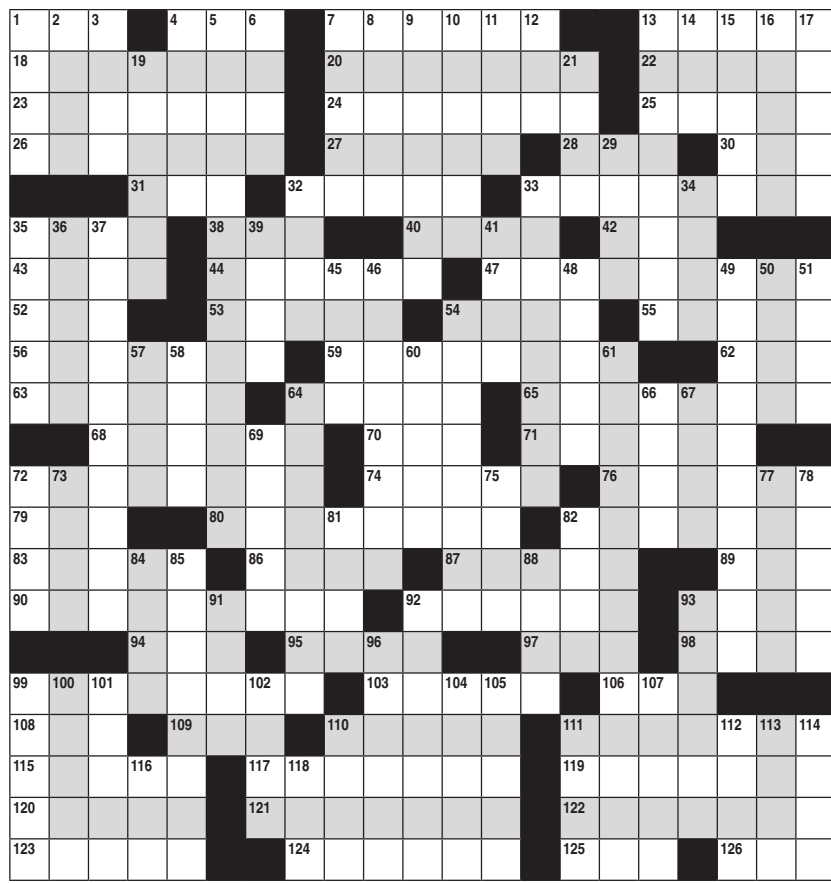
- 71 Frozen food company
- 72 Exterior decorator?
- 74 Beautify
- 76 Let one's anger show
- 79 E-mail address ender
- 80 Treasure sought in "Titanic"
- 82 Heavy metal band?
- 83 Stuck in the mud
- 86 Storm
- 87 No longer working
- 89 Cuff feature
- 90 Satisfies, as baser instincts
- 92 Husband, in Hidalgo
- 93 "911!" (comedy series)
- 94 Fed. purchasing org.
- 95 Long-range weapon, briefly
- 97 According to
- 98 The Auld Sod
- 99 Childhood skin affliction
- 103 Goes around
- 106 Where a pin may be made
- 108 Greenwich Village campus, for short
- 109 Poorly
- 110 Volkswagen model
- 111 BBC panel show regular Phill
- 115 Brand of basketball
- 117 Something it's not always wise to share
- 119 Generally
- 120 Grace ("Jane Eyre" character)
- 121 1960 Bobby Rydell hit
- 122 Electricians
- 123 Ready to play, you might say
- 124 One of these can be found reading counter-clockwise somewhere in each concentric ring
- 125 Behave
- 126 Go down

DOWN

- 1 Philbin's "Live"

co-host

- 2 Responsibility
- 3 Simba's mate in "The Lion King"
- 4 The Everly Brothers' "Wake Up Little"
- 5 Make impossible demands
- 6 Little bit
- 7 Scale-busting
- 8 "Gaspard de la Nuit" composer
- 9 Tack room items
- 10 Veneer patterns
- 11 First-time driver, often
- 12 Porker's pen
- 13 Museum displays
- 14 Yossarian's tentmate in "Catch-22"
- 15 "Mack the Knife" songwriter
- 16 Lassitude
- 17 Pantyhose brand
- 19 Worn out
- 21 Bigelow beverages
- 29 Rodent, to a raptor
- 32 Red food dye source
- 33 All together
- 34 Roman rebuke
- 35 Comprehend
- 36 Trunk in your trunk
- 37 Plays
- 39 Ireland's Islands
- 41 Exam for H.S. jrs.
- 45 Retin-A treats it
- 46 Region near Mount Olympus
- 48 "In a pig's eye!"
- 49 Controversial 1987 exposé by ex-MI5 agent Peter Wright
- 50 Cartman's first name on "South Park"
- 51 Bay Area county
- 54 Oatcakes popular in Scotland
- 57 Discreet attention-getter
- 58 Exclamation in "The Farmer in the Dell"
- 60 Semisoft



cheese from Holland

61 Tunes that might make you want to get out on the floor?

64 Romeo's reckless friend

66 Legal claim on property

67 Writer Ferber

69 Hull scrapers

72 Desk-borrowing worker

73 Top 10 hit for Sarah McLachlan

75 Harvest

77 Nicholas Gage memoir

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81 Ray a k a the Hamburger King

82 Poet's inspiration

84 Sharpness

85 Preordained

88 Bursts open

91 Pedestrian safety feature

92 What Mr. Spock suppressed

93 Leave one's post, possibly

96 Lee with the 1960 #1 hit "I'm

Sorry!"

99 Bungling

100 "Skip to"

101 Hoax

102 stick (trick-or-treater's accessory)

104 Make up

(for)

105 Painter of a Zola portrait

107 In different places

110 Jack's partner in rhyme

111 Cloak-wear-

ing "Star Wars" race

112 Roloids rival

113 Big-screen beekeeper

114 Propelled

116 Miss

118 Domino dot

ANSWERS TO LAST SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

B	I	K	E	R	S	N	A	C	H	O	S	O	R	E	L	O	S	E	R
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Brother accused of embezzling from Cook

RUSSELL CONTRERAS

The Associated Press

WOBURN, Mass. — The half brother of comedian Dane Cook has pleaded not guilty to embezzling millions from the comedian and was ordered held on \$3 million bail.

Darryl McCauley was arraigned Wednesday at Woburn District Court on charges including forgery and larceny. Prosecutors alleged that McCauley, 43, stole the money from Cook while being paid \$12,500 a month to act as business manager for Great Dane Enterprises, Inc.

Judge Joseph Jennings ordered McCauley to document the source of any funds used to meet his bail.

Cook's attorney, Joseph Zwicker, described Cook as "very distraught" about the situation. McCauley's attorney,

Robert Goldstein, said his client is innocent.

"Mr. McCauley denies taking money from his brother without his consent," he said. "He's ready to confront these allegations."

Prosecutors accused McCauley of transferring funds from Cook's business accounts to his personal accounts between July 2007 and December 2008. In one instance, McCauley forged a \$3 million check written from Cook's account to himself, investigators said.

McCauley allegedly used the money to buy four cars, and to take a seven-day trip across the country, during which he rented various cars.

Prosecutors say investigators raided a Maine home McCauley owned and found \$800,000 in cash in a safe.

Assistant Attorney General Rick Grundy also said McCauley talked about opening a restaurant in Ireland. Grundy said investigators have yet to find much of the allegedly stolen money.

McCauley worked with Cook during much of the comedian's early career, selling merchandise at Cook's shows and managing his Web site. Grundy said McCauley worked as an officer with the state Department of Correction before quitting to work for Cook full time.

"Mr. McCauley has been critical to Mr. Cook's success," Goldstein said.

Cook, 36, suspected his brother was stealing from him for some time, prosecutors said. He recently hired a new business manager in California and had been pressuring McCauley to hand over documents. Assistant Attorney General Rick Grundy said investigators were recently tipped off to the scheme by Cook's attorney.

Cook's comedy album, "Retaliation," went double platinum. He has recently appeared in several films, including "My Best Friend's Girl" with Kate Hudson.

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Beyonce videos dominate YouTube

JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

A number of high profile musicians have made enormous dents on YouTube: Soulja Boy, Rihanna, the Jonas Brothers and Chris Brown among them.

But Beyonce is giving them all a run for their money.

Her video for "If I Were a Boy" has been watched by more than 34 million on the video-sharing site. In it, Beyonce imagines life if gender roles were reversed between her and her boyfriend (a fictional boyfriend, alas, not Jay-Z).

This offers the particular thrill of seeing Beyonce as a police officer — which, if it ever happened, would surely cause such a rash of speeding (with the hopes of a ticket from the pop star) that roads would resemble "Grand Theft Auto."

The popularity of "If I Were a Boy" is matched by Beyonce's "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)." That video has yielded at least 22 million views and inspired countless bedroom copycats.

Whereas "If I Were a Boy" is conceptual and has a narrative, "Single Ladies" is simple, imitable and iconic. It's just Beyonce dancing in a black leotard and heels (and a bizarre metal glove), flanked by two similarly dressed female dancers on a plain white studio set.

The video has spawned dozens and dozens of amateur versions, from the mimicking of a toddler named Arianna to more aggressively serious attempts, like that of a 20-year-old North Carolina native who identifies himself as a Staples employee named Chris or "Angel Pariz."

Beyonce has spoken about

how bowled over she is by all the imitations and met some of the dancers. She also joined the "Saturday Night Live" parody of the video with Justin Timberlake and cast members Andy Samberg and Bobby Moynihan. (That video has also been watched by millions online.)

Beyonce and her record label, Sony/BMG, surely hope her latest video, "Diva," also hits a nerve. Released on Dec. 24, it returns the singer to the simple style of her and two dancers in a plain setting — this time an empty warehouse.

It's a grittier and less catchy song, though, and the video hasn't sparked the same attention, drawing less than one million viewers on YouTube so far.

But the popularity of Beyonce's videos only reinforce how important music videos are to the Google-owned YouTube. Many of the most watched videos in YouTube's short history are music videos. (Remember how OK Go's treadmill clip was such a hit in YouTube's infancy?)

Earlier this month, though, videos by artists signed to Warner Music Group began disappearing from the site after contract negotiations broke down between the music company and YouTube. The take-down included many fan-created videos, as well.

It's a somewhat ironic development for a medium — the music video — originally created as an advertisement to sell records (and thus something labels wanted played as much as possible). But as album sales have declined, all revenue streams are more important to labels.

Jazz bassist returns to country roots on CD

CHARLES J. GANS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After a career on modern jazz's cutting edge, bassist Charlie Haden acknowledges being scared before recording his first country music album at Ricky Skaggs' Nashville, Tenn., studio.

But with a little help from family and friends, Haden found he could indeed go home again to his Ozark roots, and even garner a Grammy nomination.

The 71-year-old bassist helped change the shape of jazz a half-century ago as a member of Ornette Coleman's quartet. Now he finds himself nominated for best country instrumental performance — with guitarist Pat Metheny, dobro player Jerry Douglas and pianist Bruce Hornsby — for "Is This America? (Katrina 2005)," a slowly flowing ballad written by Metheny to evoke the sense of sadness and disbelief felt over the government's response to the hurricane.

It's one of the few pieces of contemporary Americana on Haden's new album, "Rambling Boy," that finds him returning to songs made famous by the Carter Family, Hank Williams and other traditional country musicians.

Haden last performed these songs with his parents and siblings as the youngest member of the Haden Family band popular on the Midwest country circuit in the 1930s and 1940s.

Now he's doing them with his wife Ruth Cameron, son Josh, triplet daughters — Rachel, Petra and Tanya, and son-in-law actor Jack Black, as well as Elvis Costello, Vince Gill and Rosanne Cash.

"I've gotten three Grammys and about 15 nominations for jazz recordings ... but this record was very special because it was going back to my country roots and playing these old songs that I used to sing when I was a little kid," said Haden in a telephone interview from his home in Los Angeles.

"My roots have never left me ... because the very first memory I have is my mom singing and me singing with her. At different points in my life I thought about doing something like this, but I was so involved in modern music, it never seemed that it could ever really happen."

The CD includes Haden's first recorded performance — an excerpt from a 1939 Haden Family radio show on which 22-month-old Cowboy Charlie yodels on a gospel tune.



MATT SAYLES/AP

Actor Jack Black (right) and his wife, Tanya Haden arrive at the premiere of "Tropic Thunder" in Los Angeles Aug. 11.

Black discovers his country music DNA

CHARLES J. GANS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jack Black may have been schooled in rock, but now he'd like to sing at the Grand Ole Opry with wife Tanya Haden's family, who recently turned him on to bluegrass music.

The 39-year-old actor-musician energetically sings the traditional tune "Old Joe Clark" on father-in-law Charlie Haden's Grammy-nominated CD "Rambling Boy."

"I wasn't sure what to expect because I haven't recorded or really sung any old songs like that before, bluegrass style, but it came very naturally and I cranked it out in two takes," said Black, who grew up in the Los Angeles area. "There was something in the music that I think struck a chord in my DNA. I think I've got some hillbilly in my roots. ... I'm already practicing my square dancing if we play the Grand Ole Opry."

Black, who recently starred in "Tropic Thunder" and the animated "Kung Fu Panda," had to be a bit tenacious to land a last-minute supporting role when his father-in-law brought the nearly finished

mix to their home so he could hear his wife sing on her own and as part of the Haden Triplets, with sisters Rachel and Petra.

"Tanya's very shy and doesn't think she can sing, so I wanted Jack to hear especially how beautifully she sings 'He's Gone Away,' which I really had to do some talking to get her to sing," said Charlie Haden, the eminent modern jazz bassist who brought his current family together to perform some of the old-style country songs he once sang with his parents and siblings in the popular Haden Family band in the 1930s and '40s.

"Old Joe Clark" was originally intended to be an instrumental, but Black felt it was "a great jam" and asked his father-in-law if there were any lyrics. Haden hastily arranged a studio session so Black could add a vocal track.

"Even though I was already married to Tanya and we had kids, when I was invited to be on the Haden family album, I finally felt like I was truly part of the family," said Black, speaking by cell phone with his wife from their car outside a Los Angeles restaurant. "I've always loved Tanya's family. The

whole family has always been kind of a magical source of mystery."

Black is a self-declared "ham" whose upcoming Judd Apatow/Harold Ramis biblical times comedy, "The Year One," co-starring Michael Cera, is slated for summer release. His wife, a cellist and visual artist, describes herself as "more of a hermit," and recently completed an animated short with music by her sister Petra for the Nick Jr. children's show "Yo Gabba Gabba!"

But on the album, Tanya and her sisters — with their tightly blended harmonies on the Carter Family's "Single Girl, Married Girl" and other songs — really stand out among a lineup that features vocal stars such as Vince Gill, Elvis Costello, Dan Tyminski, Ricky Skaggs and Rosanne Cash.

"We'll just start singing a song and we'll naturally fall into certain harmonies," said Tanya Haden. "When we were little we would spend the night at our grandparents' house on our mom's side, which was really fun for us because we'd share a room and sing in harmony before we went to bed."

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No-till workshops coming

HASTINGS TRIBUNE
tribune@hastingstribune.com

Benefits of no-till farming practices will be discussed in an upcoming set of workshops sponsored by the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District and the University of Nebraska.

No-Till Seminars are planned for Jan. 14 at Saline Center in rural Saline County, Jan. 15 on the Polk County Fairgrounds in Osceola, and Jan. 16 on the Adams County Fairgrounds in Hastings.

All meetings will start 10 a.m. and conclude 3 p.m., with a free lunch served at noon. No fee will be charged.

Speakers include Paul Jasa, extension engineer from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Ray Ward, president of Ward Laboratories Inc. in Kearney; and Keith and Brian Berns, no-till and cover-crop farmers from the Bladen area.

Topics to be addressed include No-Till Equipment, Becoming Successful with No-Till, Using Cover Crops for Fall Grazing, How No-Till Improves Soil Structure and Fertility, and How Cover Crops Can Increase Organic Matter and Soil Carbon.

Education credits will be available for Certified Crop Advisers.

To register, call Linda Martindale in the UBBNRD office in York, 402-362-6601, by Jan. 12.

Markets

Friday's closing local markets

Corn	3.79
Soybeans	9.16
Wheat	3.05
Milo	5.75

Stocks of local interest

The following stocks of local interest were traded today:

	Last	Chg.
BN Santa Fe	78.45	+2.74
Berkshire Hathaway A	99,990.00	+3,390.00
Berkshire Hathaway B	3,323.00	+109.00
ConAgra	16.80	+0.30
Eaton Corp.	51.82	+2.11
Ingersoll Rand	18.82	+1.47
Level 3	0.715	+0.015
McDonald's	63.75	+1.56
PepsiCo	55.97	+1.20
TierOne	4.00	+0.25
Tricon Global Restaurants	32.00	+0.50
Union Pacific	50.13	+2.33
Wells Fargo	30.00	+0.52
Williams Cos.	15.23	+0.75
Wal-Mart	57.18	+1.12

Slump means identity crisis for Vegas

KATHLEEN HENNESSEY

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — This is not just a place people are born and live. Las Vegas is an enterprise.

It is a deal people enter, a set of givens agreed upon: More is better. Biggest is best. To live in Las Vegas is to stake your future on this enterprise — for better or worse.

For the past 20 years, it has been for better. The unemployment rate was minuscule. Gleaming new casinos were built on "old" casinos like so many sandcastles on a beach. Hundreds of neat stucco houses promised a palm tree or a pool or both for nearly everyone with a paycheck.

In Las Vegas, average people are versed in the statistics that impress relatives from back East and testify to the success of this enterprise: 39 million visitors, almost 140,000 hotel rooms, 10 new schools a year. It was a place that not only believed its own hype, but depended on it.

And so, it has been a shock as, quietly and slowly, everything has changed.

Like many U.S. cities, Las Vegas is watching its economy reel. Home values have plummeted. Foreclosures have exploded. Unemployment is the highest it's been in at least 20 years.

For the first time in decades, the population has stopped growing. Casino projects are on hold. Planes full of free-spenders are landing with less frequency. Long the embodiment of American confidence, the city is now in limbo.

In Las Vegas, the economic mess is also an identity crisis.

ELVIS IS IN

"Jackpot Town!" the headline read.

And above it was the smiling face of Jesse Grice. He was just 27, six years into his career as an Elvis impersonator. A young Elvis Presley. A fit, fresh, gold lame Elvis, on the cover of Time Magazine.

As he tells it now, even then in November 1998, he could not believe his luck. He'd loved this town since he was a teenager in Dallas, when his father, a salesman, sold enough Tropicana orange juice to win a trip to Sin City, then returned with tales of the fantasy land in the desert.

By the time Grice arrived in 1993, the fantasy had grown larger. The Mirage — gambling tycoon Steve Wynn's new beacon of luxury — had changed the definition of casino. The era of attractions, of pyramids and tigers and pirates

and mini-European cities, had begun.

And yet, Grice was stunned to find the Elvis market untapped.

"I thought I was in heaven, man," he says in a voice that echoes The King's every inflection, only an octave higher. "Fifteen years ago, if you was going to struggle, this was the town to struggle in."

Grice became a character like the city itself. He held nothing back. He was hungry. He made friends easily and promoted himself with charm. He made lots of money, fast, calling himself Jesse Garon, the name of Elvis' stillborn twin brother. In 1996, Grice bought a Graceland — a 4,000 square-foot rambling ranch with a squat palm tree out front and a kidney bean-shaped pool in back. He paid an ironworker to recreate the gates of Elvis' Memphis mansion.

"Las Vegas was beyond good to me," he says.

After years of seeing his home's value soar, Grice took a gamble, using equity in his house to invest in a downtown bar, hoping for long-term security.

But the gates of Graceland couldn't keep out a developing national recession.

As the bar's business slowed and he started to fall behind on mortgage payments, his Graceland began losing value.

The bank took it back in October. Grice sold his collection of memorabilia on the front lawn. He put the Graceland gates in storage and moved away.

Now, in a city that's also changed, an older, rounder, jumpsuit-era Elvis sips a midday martini in his condominium. His upbeat about living more simply, his new beginning, a new wedding chapel venture.

Still, he now says of the second-chance capital: "I think it's become an unforgiving town. I feel sorry for the fool who comes here to try to make it as an Elvis impersonator or anything else. It's just a tough town all round."

"Look how many years we were up, up, up, and the ride had to end at some point. Well, it just ended."

SOUVENIRS FOR SALE

Lavana Jackson — mother of six, grandmother of 17 — suffers no fools. She peers over the rim of her glasses with a face of sheer disbelief when asked a stupid question.

"We're feeling it. Oh, we're feeling it," she says.

Jackson is surrounded in racks of T-shirts piled with coffee mugs, snow



JAE C. HONG/AP

Elvis impersonator Jesse Grice walks down the Fremont Street Experience while waiting for a music video shoot in Las Vegas Nov. 23.

globes, baseball caps, shot glasses and novelty license plates.

Lots of stuff, no one to buy it.

For the past seven years, Jackson has spent her days among the stuff at Convention Center Souvenirs on the north end of the Las Vegas Strip.

The megaresorts that drove the boom of the past decade — The Mirage, MGM Grand, the Venetian — are about a mile south. Here the clientele is a little rougher around the edges, the hotel rooms less expensive, the minimum bet at the blackjack tables lower.

But all that was changing, the captains of gambling in Las Vegas said a couple years back. There would be so much new development no part of the Strip would be left behind.

Wynn threw down the gauntlet when he opened his sleek \$2.7 billion Wynn Las Vegas in 2005.

It spurred a new wave of one-upmanship, a key impulse in the Las Vegas identity. MGM Mirage Inc. announced its \$9.2 billion CityCenter project and billed it as the largest private construction project ever. Las Vegas Sands, owner of the Venetian, spent \$1.9 billion on its Palazzo. Donald Trump built a taller condominium tower. Wynn built another hotel. The Cosmopolitan, the Fontainebleau, the Plaza, the billion-dollar projects could easily blur together.

Today, one piece of the seemingly boundless expansion stands outside Convention Center Souvenirs. It was to be Boyd Gaming's Echelon project. It

promised 5,000 rooms in six hotels in a complex that would be lush with landscaping and luxury accommodations. All for a mere \$4.8 billion.

The 50-year-old Stardust casino was imploded to make room, and construction rolled along for more than a year and nearly 12 stories — until the credit markets choked. In August, Boyd executives abruptly put the enterprise on hold. Nearly 800 construction workers were left to find new work.

To Jackson it was an outrage.

On her smoke break, she looks out at seven frozen construction cranes hovering over a massive slumbering, concrete skeleton. It sits like a stopper on the flow of foot traffic outside the store.

Her hours have been cut back as business slumps.

"Our hope was that it would start up again, but look at it, it's just sitting there, rusting. At least when the Stardust was there, we made money," she said.

The 52-year-old has lived in Las Vegas and worked on the Strip most of her working life. She's moved away and come back. She got married, had children, left her husband and reunited with him. The constant was Las Vegas.

"In Las Vegas you could always get a job. A woman could take care of her children," she said, shaking the white beads of her corrows in befuddlement. "I don't know what happened, but Vegas is really stressed out. People don't understand it and I don't either because Vegas has never been like this."

UNL to sponsor Crop Production Clinic in Hastings

HASTINGS TRIBUNE
araun@hastingstribune.com

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln will sponsor a Crop Production Clinic in Hastings Wednesday as part of a series to be conducted across the state.

The Wednesday session will begin with registration at the door from 8-8:45 a.m. on the Adams County Fairgrounds, 947 S. Baltimore Ave. The program then will run from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. The registration fee will cover lunch, refreshments and materials.

The clinics are designed to provide

crop producers and agribusiness professionals with information to help them improve their profitability and safety. They will be broader in focus than the Crop Protection Clinics UNL conducted annually from 1974-2008, and are intended to take their place.

The Crop Production Clinics will include content on subjects like irrigation and water management, soil fertility and cropping systems. In addition, private chemical applicators now can re-certify at the clinics for an addition-

al fee.

Besides Hastings, clinics will be in North Platte, Gering, Beatrice, Kearney, York, Norfolk and Fremont. Topics are tailored to meet the needs of cropping systems in different parts of the state.

The clinics will feature presentations from extension specialists and educators on soil fertility, soil water and irrigation management, crop production and disease, and insect and weed pest management.

In addition, the clinics will be the pri-

mary venue for commercial/noncommercial pesticide applicators to renew their licenses in the Ag Plate, Regulatory and Demonstration/Research categories. Representatives of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture will be present to verify attendance.

For more information, contact your local University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension office or call 402-472-1547 or 472-1632 or visit <http://cpc.unl.edu>.

Classified Ads

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We reserve the right to reject, edit or reclassify any advertisement accepted by us for publication.

402-461-1241 800-742-6397

Fax: 402-461-4657

We accept cash, check or money order
VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER or AMERICAN EXPRESS.



Deadlines for Classified Line Ads

RUN DAY	DEADLINE	RUN DAY	DEADLINE
Monday	Noon Friday	Thursday	10 a.m. Wednesday
Tuesday	10 a.m. Monday	Friday	10 a.m. Thursday
Wednesday	10 a.m. Tuesday	Saturday	9 a.m. Friday

If you find an error in your classified ad, please call us before the next day's paper. The Tribune cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Claims cannot be considered unless made within three days from the first date of publication. No allowances can be made when errors do not materially affect the value of the advertisement.

1 Card of Thanks

I would like to thank Dr. Wibbels, and the staff of both Mary Lanning Hospital and Perkins Pavilion for the care you gave my brother, Ivan Heath.

I would also like to thank the employees of Dutton Lainsan and other friends and family.

Donald Heath

We want to graciously thank our many friends and relatives for the lovely cards, and also the phone calls from near and far after the loss of our brother, Duane. May God bless each of you.

Dale and Leola Schroeder

8 Happy Ads



JOHN C. POWERS

Graduated from Southeast Community College in Lincoln on December 17 with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in visual publication! John is the son of Patricia Powers of Hastings and the late Christopher Powers.

TRIBUNE CLASSIFIED It works to sell used items every day. Call 461-1241.

MARLYS HATFIELD

turns 70 on January 8th



Her family invites you to help her celebrate by sending a card or note to: 728 Creighton Hastings, NE 68901

ADVERTISE 16 words for 27 days in the At Your Service section of the Tribune! and 4 weeks in the Encore! for only \$49 monthly. Call (402) 461-1241 for details.

8 Happy Ads

VERNON KRANAU will be 80 years young on January 8, 2009



His family would like to honor him with a card shower. Cards may be sent to: 716 E. 3rd St. Hastings, NE 68901

12 Garage Sales

NORTHSIDE AUTO

16th/St. Joe • 463-8008
www.northsideautoinc.net

DO YOU Want to earn cash for your Handyman services? Advertise in "A t Your Service". Call the Tribune for details. (402) 461-1241.

2001 OLDS Aurora: 1-owner, 3.5 V-6, 19/28 mpg, sunroof, all power, heated leather, 86,000 miles. Sharp! \$6,500. 402-469-2856.

20 Automobiles

2004 CHEVY: Extended cab, 4x4, 2500 HD, diesel, loaded, sunroof.....\$16,950
2002 CHEVY: Crew cab, 4x4, 2500 HD, diesel\$14,950
2001 FORD F-350: 4x4, crew cab, 7.31 diesel.....\$12,950
2004 CHEVY Tahoe: 4x4, CLEARANCE.....\$13,950

Above Par Cars

911 W. Highway 6
402-461-3004
aboveparcars.biz

KERSHNER'S AUTO KORNER
AAA AUTO RENTALS, Inc.
www.kershnersautokorner.com

'99 LeSabre: maroon. Sale.....\$5,975
'95 Saturn SL2: blue. Sale.....\$2,475
'91 Cavalier Z24: red. Sale.....\$2,575
'90 Cadillac Seville: maroon. Sale.....\$2,975
220 West South Street
402-461-3161

ANDERSON
1200 Grand Island, NE
402-463-4999

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Check our new website bramblesautosales.com

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dinsdaleauto.com
TD Dinsdale

Hajny's AUTO SALES

2007 CHEVY Cobalt: 2-door, LT, 4-cylinder, automatic, full power, bright yellow, 39,000 miles. Only \$8,950.
2005 CHEVY Impala: 4-door, V-6, full power, 57,000 miles. \$6,650.
463-2636

LOOKING for '67 or '68 Camaro, in any condition, running or not. 460-1848.

Jackson's Car Corner
463-0834

See our selection of FUEL ECONOMY cars at jacksonscarcorner.com

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!
from
Hoskins Auto Sales
We Buy, Sell and Consign Highway 6/Hastings Ave. Hastings, NE 463-1466
Trumbull, NE 743-2255

20 Automobiles

2007 DODGE: 1-ton, crew cab, dually, diesel\$16,500
2006 FORD F-350: Super cab, 4x4, diesel, 78,000 miles\$14,500

Deveny Motors

1013 S. Burlington
402-462-2719

22 2-wheel Drive Pickups

Jackson's Car Corner

See our truck selection at jacksonscarcorner.com

23 4-wheel Drive Pickups

2008 GMC Sierra SLE, Crew, 1500, 4x4, 5,500 miles.

Hi-Line Motors, Kenesaw
402-752-3498
www.hilinemotors.com

24 Sport Utility

2000 FORD EXPLORER: Eddie Bauer edition, loaded, 83,000 miles, good condition, new tires and battery. \$8,000 or reasonable offer. Call 402-984-0853 after 5 p.m.

25 Vans

2003 CHEVY VENTURE: 55,000 1-owner miles, rear air and heat. Exceptional! THE CAR LOT
East Highway 6

36 Travel Trailers & Motor Homes

32ND ANNUAL RV-BOAT SHOW

January 9, 10, 11, 2009
Heartland Events Center
Grand Island, NE
Dykeman's Camper Place

Hastings Motor Sales

Dykeman's Camper Place
A PLACE WHERE WE MAKE IT FUN TO DO BUSINESS
Burlington and Highway 6
Call 463-1338
www.dykemanscamper.com

TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT CO.

RV sales and service. Check us out!!
100 N. Laird, Hastings, NE
402-463-4402

38 Motorcycles & ATVs

2006 HONDA Rancher AT 4x4. Sale Price \$4,500
2006 POLARIS Sportsman 450 4x4. Sale \$3,950
2006 KAWASAKI Brute Force 650 4x4.....\$5,800
PAUL SPADY MOTORS
(402) 462-4105

PLACE YOUR Classified ad today.

Call 461-1241, Tribune for fast, fast results.

48 Business Opportunities

FIRE YOUR BOSS!

Earn the income you deserve. Start a Mini-Office Outlet from home. Computer a must. www.gogloballfromhome.com

50 Employment Agencies

ADVANCE SERVICES

Employment Opportunities
213 S. Burlington
463-6885

51 Professional

CONTROLLER

Hastings area telecommunications company is seeking a Controller. Candidate will have a B.S. degree in accounting or business administration with CPA status and a minimum of 3-5 years experience in accounting with at least 1 year in telephony preferred. This position will oversee the company's financial activities; prepare budgets and feasibility studies, manage department employees in meeting the financial needs of the company and participate as a member of the Executive Team. A complete position description is available at www.gtmc.net

For confidential consideration, please send your resume and salary requirements to:

Human Resources
P.O. Box 97
Blue Hill, NE 68930
or humanresources@glennwoodtelco.net

HAVE LIVESTOCK, farm equipment, or farm land for sale?

Call 461-1241 to advertise your specialty; ask for Joyce.

51 Professional

Human Resources Manager II
#251-72028-1: Grand Island. (Previously opened with a closing date of 10-27-08; applicants who previously applied need not reapply, still being considered.) Provide Human Resources Management support within the Grand Island Veteran's Home - Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services. This is a long-term care facility providing health care services to approximately 190 members with an employee base of 386. In a leadership role, supports recruitment, selection and retention; employee compensation; benefits and payroll; employee relations; management of human resources office/staff, EEO/AA. Conduct investigations and advise management on grievances and discipline. REQUIREMENTS: Prefer a Bachelor's degree in business administration, human resources management, behavioral sciences or related field. Must have experience in human resources management including areas such as: human resources practices and procedures; employee relations including investigation, discipline, grievances, and labor management; employment law; computer applications; mediation and conflict resolution; and affirmative action. Valid Nebraska driver's license or the ability to provide independent authorized transportation. Must complete State application on or before CLOSING DATE: 1/16/09. Apply to www.wr4kneb.org or 301 Centennial Mall South, 1st Floor, P.O. Box 94905, Lincoln NE, 68509 or your local Workforce Development Office. NE State Personnel Special Accommodations Under ADA and/or to Apply call: 402-471-2075 (TDD Calls Only: 402-471-4693)

List your ad, call 461-1241!
ADVERTISE 16 words for 27 days in the At Your Service section of the Tribune and 4 weeks in the Encore! for only \$49 monthly. Call (402) 461-1241 for details.

53 Health Care

MENTAL HEALTH Worker or Med Aide. Every other weekend. All shifts. Call 402-463-6021

54 Office/Clerical

Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital DEPARTMENT SECRETARY: Part-time position 16 hours per week. Four regular days, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Office reception, various clerical duties, excellent communication and customer service skills are required, computer skills are also necessary. Please apply in person in the Human Resource Office or on-line at www.mlmh.org. EOE.

WANTED: OFFICE Manager and office clerk for field office at Whelan Power Plant Build Site. Job to start within next 2-4 weeks. Send resume "As Soon As Possible" to Topp's Mechanical, Inc., 72857 620 Avenue, Tecumseh, NE 68450. No Phone Calls Please.

55 Sales

NOW HIRING
Local Company needs 5 people. \$2400/month. Sales, service and Installation
Call Mr. Carlson 800-240-7681

5 Easy Ways to Place A Classified Ad
-Call 402-461-1241 (voice mail after office hours)
-Stop in: 908 W. 2nd (parking in rear)
-Fax 402-461-4657
-Mail: P.O. Box 788
-E-mail: class@hastingstribune.com
Call for confirmation

Our office is open Monday-Friday, 7:45-5:00 and we're always ready to give you fast, friendly service at affordable rates! So place your ad today!

56 Restaurant

LITTLE JAKE'S Reopening soon. Need immediately. Cooks, wait staff and bartenders. Top pay. Call 984-5121 or 461-4674 for application.

RAY'S CAFE seeking wait staff and cook. Apply in person at 102 N. Denver. 463-2312.
WAIT STAFF and cook: Apply in person 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Los Caporales Mexican Restaurant, 817 E. South St., Hastings. 308-660-2513.

57 Technical & Trade

ELECTRICIANS
Immediate opening for a journeyman electrician or apprentice for job in Hastings. Contact Nissen Electric, 1115 Road B, Hampton, NE 68843, 402-631-7383 or nissenelectric@mainstaycomm.net Attn: Matthew

60 General

ALTER METAL Recycling seeks Heavy Equipment Operator for fast-paced environment. Prior experience preferred. 40+ hours/week, year round. Must be able to work Saturdays and overtime. Benefits include medical, dental, life insurance, 401K, paid holidays. Apply in person at Alter Metal Recycling, 1119 E. 4th St., Grand Island. EOE
List your ad, call 461-1241!

AVON Cash bonuses. Unlimited earnings. Website. Call today, 1-888-462-AVON, extension 25393.

HASTINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS is accepting applications for the following position:

FULL-TIME NIGHT CUSTODIAN School TBD
(Hours are 3:30 to midnight during school and daytime hours during summer and school holidays.)
Interested individuals may submit a letter of application to:
Human Resources Office
Hastings Public Schools
1924 West A Street
Hastings, NE 68901
402-461-7502
EOE
Closing date: Open until filled

60 General

LONG INDUSTRIES, INC. General EPC Contractor
Long Industries, Inc., is currently seeking personnel to staff a large stainless steel piping job in Iowa.

Current Positions Available:
•Superintendents
•Stainless Steel TIG Welders
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•Quality Control
•Helpers
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This is a 1-year job. Schedule is 5-10 hours, Monday-Friday
•Competitive wages, based on experience
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•Recruiter: 903-391-5698, manned 24 hours/day
•Fax resume: 319-366-3105
•Email resume: fieldadm1nadm@longindustries.us

NEW LOCAL OFFICE!!
4-5 Full-time permanent positions open.
5 days/week at \$400/week \$1,000 hiring bonus.
Call to schedule an interview.
402-705-0546

PART TIME - \$300/week
Evening and weekends
Call Mr. Carlson 800-240-7681

Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital PHARMACY TECHNICIAN: Full-time position, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and every 3rd weekend. Candidate would assist Pharmacists in the dispensing and stocking of medications for patient care. High School Diploma or GED required. Certified Pharmacy Technician preferred. Benefits include Health and Dental Insurance, Flexible Spending Account, 401(k) Retirement Plan, Life Insurance and Disability Insurance. Please apply in person in the Human Resource office or apply on-line at www.mlmh.org. EOE.
PREPAY YOUR Classified ads and save 30%.

61 Part Time

COOK FOR assisted living facility, Monday-Friday, 2-3 hours for supper shift. Call 402-463-6021.

62 Child Care

LICENSED DAYCARE in Grand Island has openings for children 18 months and older. Participates in food program. No Title XX accepted. (308)398-2678.

LOVING MOM to help children learn and grow. Fenced yard. In Fairfield. 402-726-2471

70 Pets

FOSTER HOMES needed for rescued boxers. Fence required. Email: boxerrescuer@charter.net

77 Appliances

Your WHIRLPOOL and TOSHIBA Dealer
ROGER'S, INC.
1035 S. Burlington
463-1345

79 Computers

COMPUTER REPAIR: House calls. Reasonable rates. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. 984-8001.

REFURBISHED computers: \$199. Will do repairs. Low rates. 402-984-6191.

94 Miscellaneous

SUPER SINGLE Daybed-style waterbed, Dell Computer, Fast Trac for exercising. All reasonably priced. 402-743-2385.

96 Want To Buy

NEWER washers, dryers, stoves and refrigerators. Working or not. 462-6330.

100 Unfurnished Apartments

1-BEDROOM: Upstairs. Stove, refrigerator, air. \$325. Deposit. Partial utilities included. NO SMOKING/PETS. 402-462-4961.

100 Unfurnished Apartments

1 and 2 BEDROOM: Water and trash paid, offstreet parking. 402-984-7802 or 463-8444 after 5 p.m.
List your ad, call 461-1241!

2-BEDROOM: Appliances, laundry hookups. \$365-\$465. No pets.
Embassy Square
462-4032

2-BEDROOM: Basement, appliances. Utilities paid. Single garage. Deposit. \$500 month. 308-647-6803, leave message.



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1 (800) 669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1 (800) 927-9275.

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Fully furnished, all inclusive unit and unfurnished 2-bedroom unit. No pets. Agent. 463-0843.

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2 and 3 BEDROOM Duplexes: Everyone knows California Pines and South Pines are great places to live. We are currently 100% full. If a move is in your future give us a call and we'll call you when we have an opening. 402-469-0830. www.perryreid.com EHO

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Affordable living for seniors and persons with disabilities. 1-bedroom units. Community center, laundry facilities available. Utilities paid. We are currently 100% full, but if a move is in your future, please stop by 945 West H for an application. We look forward to serving your housing needs.

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Very nice 2-bedroom apartments with appliances, central air/heat, \$495. Garages available, \$40. No pets. 461-4100.

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2- and 3-bedroom units available. Income-based housing. Large living space. Utility allowances. Many refurbished units. No pets. Stop by 945 West H for an application.

101 Furnished Apartments
\$159.95/WEEK
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Fully furnished, maid service. 402-463-2989, 402-926-6252.

102 Duplexes For Rent

LARGE ATTRACTIVE 2-bedroom apartment available in 4-unit complex. All appliances, utilities paid, common area with large yard, patio and off-street parking. \$550/month plus deposit. Licensee owned. 460-1352.

104 Houses For Rent

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(308) 995-2882
EOE

Office Manager
Heritage of Red Cloud has an opportunity for the right person to join our team as the Office Manager. This vital position offers a large variety of duties such as A/P, A/R, account reconciliation, payroll and month end closing. Qualified candidates will have an associates degree or equivalent work experience and knowledge of PC based applications such as Excel and Word. The right person will be detail oriented, accurate, high energy, be able to work independently and as a team member and possess excellent customer service skills. Heritage of Red Cloud offers a family friendly, exceptional work/team environment with excellent benefits and the ability to learn and grow. Qualified individuals may send resumes to:
Administrator
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636 North Locust
Red Cloud, NE 68970
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Hastings Utilities Whelan Energy Center
Auxiliary Operator Relief (4 positions): trains and learns a variety of tasks required to operate a coal fired electrical generation facility. High school diploma or equivalent required; classes in algebra, science and shop helpful. 40 hrs/wk, shift work; \$16.468/hr entry; \$16.468-\$24.110/hr +benefits
Fuel Handler: operates and maintains equipment necessary for receiving, storing and filling silos with coal. High school diploma or equivalent plus one year exp. operating heavy equipment similar to that required for fuel handling and experience with preventative maintenance and lubrication schedules. 40 hrs/wk, shift work; \$20.481/hr entry; \$20.481-\$28.217/hr +benefits
Successful candidates for all positions must reside within 6 miles of city limits. Application testing conducted, without an appt, January 5-9, City of Hastings Personnel, 220 N. Hastings, Hastings, NE 68901; 4 0 2 - 4 6 1 - 2 3 1 3 ; kstill@cityofhastings.org. Application & job descriptions available at www.cityofhastings.org/ employment or in person. EOE.

Director of Nursing
Blue Hill Care Center, a 62-bed SNF located in Blue Hill, NE, is seeking an RN with NE license and strong clinical, management and MDS experience in long-term care. Please apply on-line at www.5sqc.com. EOE. No agencies please.
414 N. Willson St.
Blue Hill, NE
402-756-2080
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2007 FORD FOCUS ZX4
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Sudoku

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

Sudoku grid with numbers 5, 9, 2, 6, 6, 4, 3, 8, 4, 3, 8, 7, 1, 8, 7, 1, 2, 9, 1, 7, 5, 8, 9, 7.

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

Answers grid: 1 6 7 8 4 5 9 2 3, 4 2 5 6 9 3 1 8 7, 3 9 8 1 2 7 4 5 6, 8 4 6 9 3 2 5 7 1, 5 3 9 7 1 4 8 6 2, 2 7 1 5 8 6 3 9 4, 6 5 3 4 7 9 2 1 8, 7 1 2 3 5 8 6 4 9, 9 8 4 2 6 1 7 3 5.

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9-by-9 grid with several numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 contains the same number only once. There is only one solution to each puzzle. The difficulty level of the puzzle increases from Monday to Saturday. Answers to each day's puzzle will appear in the next edition of the Tribune.

Notice

In the County Court of Adams County, Nebraska Estate of THOMAS G. BREWER, Deceased. Estate Case No. PR08-165

Notice is hereby given that on December 22, 2008, in the County Court of Adams County, Nebraska, Glenna R Bengtson, whose address is 4235 North Columbine Avenue, Hastings, Nebraska 68901, was informally appointed by the Magistrate as Personal Representative of the Estate.

Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with said Court on or before March 2, 2009, or be forever barred.

Thomas Hawes Clerk of the County Court P.O. Box 95 Hastings, Nebraska 68902-0095

David H. Fisher, #15052 DUNMIRE, FISHER & HASTINGS P.O. Box 1044 Hastings Nebraska 68902-1044 (402) 463-1383 December 27, 2008, January 3, 10, 2009

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COUNTY OF DOUGLAS) ss.
On this 19th day of December, 2008, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally came Gregory L. Galles, to me known to be the identical person whose name is affixed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged the execution thereof to be a voluntary act and deed.

Witness my hand and notarial seal the day and year last above written.
Donna L. Olson NOTARY PUBLIC
December 27, 2008, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2009

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Alvin's a lifelong learner

It was cold out, and yet my friend Alvin didn't seem discouraged like he usually was this time of year. I asked Mabel what was going on, and she said she didn't know.



Denise Andersen

"Did he get his taxes done already?" I asked Mabel. It would be unheard of for Alvin to have his taxes done early in January. He didn't even start collecting his receipts and organizing his files until February.

Mabel shook her head. "I'm sure he didn't," she said. "You know how he is, dear."

I did know how he was, and I also knew that efficiency was not his best suit. Taxes was usually one of the things that discouraged him.

"Has he planned his garden and ordered all of his seeds?" I asked Mabel.

Mabel didn't think so. Although he usually did that in January, Alvin hadn't so much as looked at a seed catalog.

"He has been doing quite a bit of reading," she said.

Really? That was interesting. I wondered what kind of reading he was doing. Newspapers? Magazines? Murder mysteries?

"Actually, he's been reading a bit of all three," Mabel replied. "He's nearly read all of his farm magazines and even a couple of my women's magazines. He's clipped out articles and put them in a file."

It was the same for the newspapers, Mabel said. She had a whole stack of newspapers ready to take to the recycling center. He had clipped articles out of them and had been studying all of the articles.

Hmmm. That was interesting. Alvin only caught up on his reading when the weather was really bad and there was nothing else to do.

"What about the murder mysteries?" I asked.

Mabel shrugged. "Our daughter Sharon bought a few for him as a Christmas present," she said. "He's actually read two of them already, but those he mostly reads in the evening. The articles he spreads out on the kitchen table and studies, then he puts them all in his folder again."

Hmmm, I thought again. That just didn't sound like Alvin. I supposed I was going to have to ask him why he wasn't all gloom and doom like he usually was this time of year. I didn't really want to, because I didn't want him to sink into a depression just because I asked the wrong question.

I waited until all the guys were at the coffee shop and approached the subject.

He shrugged. It was no big deal, he said, he was just doing a little research.

"Research on what?" Mitch Wilson asked. "Politics? That's all I see in the news these days. It's all politics and more politics."

"Are you learning to cook?" Carl asked. "One of these days you're going to need to know when you've really made Mabel angry and she goes on strike."

Alvin shrugged. "She's done that before," Alvin said, "but she knows I can eat at the sale barn and they make better pie than she does."

We all nodded in agreement, but then again, there weren't many people who could beat the pie at the sale barn.

"So, what are you researching?" I finally asked. I probably wouldn't make much of a

Please see ALVIN/page C2

Guide Rock eatery is Everybody's

TWO COUPLES REOPEN
ESTABLISHMENT LAST CALLED
THE PLANTATION

TONY HERRMAN
therman@hastingstribune.com

GUIDE ROCK — The restaurant formerly known as The Plantation recently reopened here after five years with an emphasis on inclusiveness.

Superior residents Jean and Jeannette Cable opened Everybody's Restaurant & Bar, 325 University St., along with Bobbie and Grove Dalton of Bostwick, in September 2008.

"We looked at this on and off for about two years; it sat vacant for so long," Jean said.

Jean said he liked The Plantation because it was possible to come in from the fields wearing jeans, or wearing a suit, and not feel out of place. This inspired the name Everybody's.

"It's kinda what we wanted it to be, for everybody," he said. "Not too fancy, not too divey, something for everybody."

The building, which is more than 100 years old, was renovated in 1991, operated and closed during a couple of stints over the past 17 years by a few different owners. Most recently the business was closed

in 2003 when the former owner moved to Clay Center, Kan.

With a few exceptions, Jean said Everybody's is identical to The Plantation. The restaurant includes two sides open to each other. One is darker and contains tables and a stage for karaoke or a band; the other has booths for more formal dining.

The bar runs between both sides.

"I like the way that it's actually kinda open between the two," Jean said. "It kinda makes it that if you're running the bar you kinda have to have the restaurant side open. You can't close one side or the other."

The Cables moved to Superior from the Seattle area in 2002.

"We were wanting to move; (Jean) happened to be goofing around on eBay and found the house in Superior that was insanely low compared to what we were used to," Jeannette said.

The family wanted to move to go to a smaller community and also to be more centrally located for Jean's trucking business JMCJ Trucking. He owned the company for 14 years.

"I've got two kids that are just teenagers. I was planning to either buy another truck or do something else," Jean said. "So instead of buying another truck we just sold the one we had and

Please see GUIDE ROCK/page C2



RIC FRANCIS/AP

Samer Naif, a student at the University of California San Diego, connects his laptop to a scintillometer receiver in an alfalfa field near Blythe, Calif.

Laser-beam accuracy

EXPERIMENT AIMED
AT SAVING IRRIGATION WATER

JOHN ROGERS
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Seventy-three years after the invention of the modern sprinkler helped revolutionize farming, lasers may revolutionize it again.

Jan Kleissl and a handful of his students at the University of California at San Diego think technology using laser beams might lead to a better way to conserve the millions of gallons of water sprayed each year on thirsty crops.

He and his team are using a large aperture scintillometer to study how much water crops lose to evaporation and the peak times that water disappears.

The hope is to give farmers a more accurate, up-to-date reading of how efficiently their crops are using water than

current technology allows.

"What's new about our approach is the monitoring side of it," Kleissl said by phone from his office. "We're trying to improve on that."

Some advancements in irrigation have focused on water delivery system — such as sprinklers. But while most farmers are experts at managing their irrigation by sight, recent years' droughts have called for more sophisticated ways to use — and save — water.

Water became an even more valuable commodity in California last year, when a federal judge ordered federal and state agencies to restrict pumping in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to protect the threatened delta smelt, severely cutting the growers' supply.

Further restrictions could result from last month's decision by state fish and wildlife managers to limit pumping to protect another native fish, the longfin smelt.

These shortages are prompting researchers to devise new ways to determine when to irrigate and how much water to use, said Khaled Bali, an irrigation expert for the University of California Cooperative Extension.

"There's not enough water to go around," he said.

San Diego County farmer Bob Polito, who was forced to remove 10 of his 60 acres of citrus and avocado trees from production after last year's pumping restrictions, said high-tech irrigation aids have so far been too expensive. But he said the increasing scarcity of water may force him to invest in technology to monitor his trees' water efficiency.

"Anything that gives you an accurate accounting on that score would be a help to farmers," Polito said.

Researchers also are testing a device that measures the velocity at which sap

Please see IRRIGATION/page C2

Vilsack looks familiar

If conventional leadership and bureaucratic competency had a face, it would look exactly like Thomas J. Vilsack: round as an apple pie, chin disappearing under sagging cheeks, gray-ing (and amply present) hair.



Alan Guebert

President-elect Barack Obama's selection of Vilsack, the two-term (1998-2006) Iowa governor, to lead the U.S. Department of Agriculture is as safe and sound as betting an Illinois governor might be corrupt.

Vilsack's nomination also marks the third, non-farming Midwestern governor in row — first Nebraska's Johanns, then North Dakota's Shafer — to be secretary of agriculture. All are more bank managers than ag innovators.

Indeed, Vilsack is a trial lawyer by training who came to Iowa for love, then got into politics. My only encounter with him came on a sunny, 1997 September day when we both addressed an Iowa Farmers Union meeting. Vilsack was cruising for ag endorsements to boost his bid to succeed then-retiring Gov. For Life, Republican and farmer, Terry Branstad.

As Vilsack spoke, I asked his lone aide if the senator was running as an independent.

Why?

Well, I replied, his campaign literature didn't identify him as either a Republican or a Democrat. So, he must be running either as an independent or a chicken, right — too scared to list his party affiliation. (The aide said "Democrat," then left in a huff.)

Please see GUEBERT/page C2

FACES OF BUSINESS: Brandi Sommer

Scientist takes career detour into sandwich art

JOHN HUTHMACHER
johnh@hastingstribune.com

Whether it's making sandwiches at Jimmy John's or conducting research in a laboratory, life is a science to Hastings resident Brandi Sommer.

Sommer, 26, is an aspiring biochemical researcher who has already had two works published in research journals on the complex topic of glucose enzyme and its effect on prostate cancer. Her work, which is now being continued by others, may one day play a role in helping scientists figure out the complex disease.

"It's neat to see how things work," she said. "It's a lot of work, and you put a lot of time into it just to figure out this little, teeny tiny part. You work with other people who are working on another teeny



AMY ROH/Tribune

Brandi Sommer is working at Jimmy John's until she can return to the classroom to earn her doctorate in biochemistry.

tiny part, and eventually you get a picture of what's really going on. It's just really neat when you can sit back and say, 'I really understand what's happening here.'"

Sommer is a 2004 graduate of University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in biochemistry. She moved to Hastings from Lincoln in 2007 to sup-

port her fiancé, Leif Tobler, in his nursing program studies at Mary Lanning.

Anxious to go back to her own studies, she plans to return to the classroom to begin a five- to seven-year doctoral program studying biochemistry in Lincoln or Omaha within a year or so.

In the meantime, she'll continue to help others perfect their skills as sandwich makers at Jimmy John's.

An employee at the new store since it opened two months ago, Sommer is one of three managers at the store. Promoted just two weeks ago, she says she wasn't sure what to expect when she first applied for work at the new store. Now she finds the job to be both mentally stimulating and challenging.

"We're constantly busy," she said. "To me, that's really cool for a job. I don't like a lot of down time."

And as she has learned through several weeks of trial and error, the art of making a sandwich is a lot more complex than it looks. In her case, the process of putting together a 25-second sandwich took hours of practice — and all the self-patience she could muster — to perfect.

Please see FACES/page C2

Guide Rock: Restaurant reopens

Continued from page C1

bought this place. It's something to keep me home more. It's still long hours, but I'm in my bed every night."

While Jean prepares Everybody's each day before the restaurant opens at 5 p.m., Jeannette home-schools the couple's children: Ryan, 15; and Courtney, 13.

"It definitely is more difficult than it was in the past," Jeannette said. "It requires more time management."

The family's schedule had settled down more in the past month.

"I'm going more smoothly than I thought it would, given the situation," she said.

School each day lasts until 2 to 3 p.m. Jeannette then goes to Everybody's. She said if it weren't for the home schooling she wouldn't see her children much as the owner of a bar.

Everybody's customer base is from a wide area, Jean said, stretching as far north as Grand Island, and well into Kansas to the south.

Prime rib on Fridays is a popular special for the restaurant, which emphasizes steak as an entree.



TONY HERRMAN/Tribune
Jean Cable opened Everybody's Restaurant & Bar in Guide Rock with his wife and another couple in September.

The community's reception of Everybody's has been very strong so far, Jean said — especially since The Barcelona, another Guide Rock restaurant, recently closed.

"Guide Rock really wanted us to open it back up," he said. "The Barcelona was open here for 26 years. It was a breakfast, lunch and dinner place."

Everybody's, which is open 5 p.m. to 1 a.m., offers a full menu until 9 p.m. and burgers and sandwiches till 10 p.m.

Jean said there have been requests to open the restaurant for lunch. While that's a goal, it's difficult with a crew of just five employees.

"Ever since the Barcelona closed, that's what we've been asked," he said. "We get out of here at 2 in the morning usually and it's hard to get up before 10. Down the road, once we get a crew built up, we were thinking about it or if we moved to Guide Rock."

Faces: Scientist practicing sandwich artistry

Continued from page C1

"Yes, there is a science to it," she said. "It's one of those things that if you really do good at it, then you make an amazing sandwich. And if you are not...it takes a lot of practice to get really really good at it."

With nine supervisors from several different locations training at the store during its opening days, Sommer found her scientific mind an asset as she set out to learn the secrets of sandwich making.

"I had five people show me how to do it until I got the hang of it," she said. "You take baby steps. Eventually you stop thinking about it and you make this perfect cut on the bread. And when the bread is good, the rest of the sandwich just turns out awesome."

Sommer said she once was an aspiring computer science major, but that it took just one semester

to figure out that biochemistry was clearly a better career path for her. As the daughter of a research scientist, she remembers spending countless hours in the lab watching her mother, Debbie, work on projects while obtaining her research doctorate.

She believes it was this exposure to advanced scientific studies that helped her to excel in the sciences in both high school and college, she said.

"I would go into the lab and watch her do experiments and thought, 'This is really cool,'" she said.

Thus the leap from changing her major to biochemistry proved a relatively simple transition, she said.

"I took chemistry classes and I liked it a lot," she said. "Then my chemistry professor asked me, 'Why don't you do student research?' And I did student research for almost the entire

time I was in college."

Despite her 50-hour work week at Jimmy John's, she still manages to remain in contact with her former classmates at UNL, assisting them on projects she began while pursuing her degree. What free time she is able to budget into her hectic schedule is usually spent shooting baskets with friends or working on cross-stitching and knitting projects at home.

Her hope is to one day play a role in helping the scientific world figure out the complexities of cancer and how to stop it from killing hundreds of thousands of people each year. Until then, her focus will be on eradicating hunger by making sure her store's sandwiches are the best in the business.

"It's fun," she said. "You meet a lot of people. And everybody is really excited about Jimmy John's because it's new and it's really good food."

Guebort: Vilsack fits mold for ag post

Continued from page C1

As a born-and-baptized middle-of-the-roader, his subsequent election didn't answer my question: he backed just about every idea Big Ag brought to Iowa's golden-domed statehouse even as he publicly worried about rural sustainability, global warming and natural resource conservation.

And he didn't do any of it half-heartedly. He was an all-in supporter of big biotech, big pig, big biofuels and often offered big state money to underwrite bio-ventures. His gung-ho boosterism of "pharming" earned him the Biotechnology Industry Organization's "Governor of the Year" award in 2001.

To sustainable and organic farm and food backers, that was akin to Attila the Hun anointing Vilsack "Pillager of the Year." To the then-growing movement, it was, and remains, an unforgivable wrong step in the wrong direc-

tion for the governor of one of America's leading food states.

It wasn't the wrong step, however, if you had bigger political ambitions, and Vilsack clearly did. Since Iowa has no term limits on its governor, Vilsack could have stayed as long as voters would have him. (His two predecessors, kindly Robert Ray and the forever-boyish Branstad, hung around for 14 and 16 years, respectively.)

But the Potomac bug bit Vilsack and he left to run for the White House despite an already-crowded field of big — really big — hitters. It was a brief affliction whose cure, a steamroller named Barack Obama, pushed him back into private citizenship and public law.

Then Obama called Dec. 17, and the ex-gov is now the secretary-to-be. His confirmation, an almost certain 90-something-to-zero slam dunk, will be squired through the Senate by Ag Committee chair Tom

Harkin, a fellow Democrat and fellow Iowan.

Once installed, though, Vilsack will face two paths to posterity. If he still burns with ambition, he'll take the smooth, well-marked path paved by Big Ag, Big Bio and Big Money because it favors a higher profile and higher office.

If, however, he views his tenure at USDA as the climax of his political career, he might see farmers and food as equals and place both ahead of agbiz's ceaseless quest for profit and unending drive to use government to undermine competition and quality.

That's the path 90 percent of all food producers — and 100 percent of all consumers — want and need Vilsack to take. What remains to be seen is if he is an independent leader or a just of another agbiz chicken.

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Irrigation: Laser technology being tested

Continued from page C1

creeps up trees. When the sap's movement slows, growers would know that the trees need less water and reduce the amount that they use.

Other tests involve using satellite imagery to measure "evapotranspiration" — the amount of water that seeps into the atmosphere from soil surfaces and plants. During periods of slow evapotranspiration — when plants require less water — farmers can cut down on irrigation.

Many farmers already use a formula based on historic evapotranspiration averages gleaned from meteorological data — combined with on-site observations — to devise their irrigation strategies.

But Kleissl's team hopes to give farmers more valuable information by using the scintillometer, which focuses laser beams across a farm field and records fluctuations of the refractive index of air that is caused by such things as changes in temperature and humidity.

What the device sees is similar to the waves in the air that people see emanating from the pavement of a highway on a hot day. But the scintillometer sees those waves in much

greater detail. The hope is farmers can eventually use the lasers to more accurately measure the amount of irrigated farm water lost to evapotranspiration.

His study, which will take at least two years to complete, is unfolding on an experimental farm operated by the University of California. A field about a half-mile long and quarter-mile wide has been planted in alfalfa, a particularly thirsty crop. It is also the crop most commonly found in the Imperial Valley, some 200 miles southeast of Los Angeles, where rainfall averages fewer than 3 inches a year and high temperatures generally exceed 100 degrees for several months of the year.

Surveying half of the field is a scintillometer, while the other half is being farmed and irrigated conventionally.

If the tests show a substantial water savings, Kleissl would like to see scintillometers placed in agricultural areas around the state. He estimates that 10, which he says could cover a wide range of farm areas across California, could be installed for an initial investment of \$500,000 to \$700,000, although that wouldn't include the cost of maintaining and monitoring them.

David Zoldoske, who leads the International Center for Water Technology at California State University, said the scintillometer project shows promise, but would be best used in combination with other technologies that generate and analyze data on plants' water needs.

"It's simply just another way to have good information," he said. "It's like your doctor: If he can measure your pulse and some other things, that really helps him manage your health. It's the same with plants."

Alvin: Neighbor's reading up on farming

Continued from page C1

detective. I think it's faster just asking.

"If you must know," Alvin said, "I've been looking at the latest things going on in farming. I like to follow the latest trends, and if I can find a way to make my farm operation more efficient, I want to know."

That was good enough for me. It's too bad more farmers don't have that attitude. I remember how hard it was to convince some of the guys that no-till was a good idea. It took years to implement that and I could see right away that it made sense.

"So, have you come up with anything?" I asked.

Alvin shrugged. "Maybe, maybe not," he said. "I let you find out in the spring."

Rats, I thought. I hate waiting.

Denise Anderson of Fairbury is a columnist for the Tribune. Contact Anderson at 402-461-1264 or e-mail at tribune@hastingstribune.com.

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Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 — Widerserhen
 - 4 Laptops, briefly
 - 7 Fraud
 - 11 Between pi and sigma
 - 12 Daytime drama
 - 13 Boitano jump
 - 14 Healing
 - 16 Fall to catch
 - 17 Omen seeker
 - 18 Mr. Magoo's nephew
 - 20 Slugger Mel —
 - 21 Discharge gradually
 - 22 Blue Grotto isle
 - 25 Entranced
 - 27 Business mag
 - 28 Spring
 - 30 Venue
 - 34 Poker stake
 - 36 Like good checker
 - 38 Boggy ground
 - 39 Letter starter
 - 41 Camel halts
 - 43 Rumble
- DOWN**
- 1 Orbit segments
 - 2 "No dice!" (hyph.)
 - 3 Roman market-places
 - 4 Gist
 - 5 Cleveland
 - 6 Hurl forth
 - 7 Tiny villages
 - 8 Chemical compound
 - 9 Early moralist
 - 10 Lge. sizes
 - 12 Radio noise
 - 15 Son of Venus
 - 19 Deadly snake
 - 20 Hush-hush org.
 - 23 Fay in "King Kong"
 - 24 Interest amt.
 - 25 Fixes the fight
 - 26 Pub pint
 - 29 Boat implement
 - 31 Conditions
 - 32 Item for a golfer
 - 33 USN officer
 - 35 Made an attempt
 - 37 Sand —
 - 40 Dogma
 - 42 Grad
 - 43 Nintendo hero
 - 44 Very
 - 45 Fencing needs
 - 47 Chances
 - 49 Robin beaks
 - 50 Pesky bug
 - 51 Like custard
 - 52 Carthage loc.
 - 54 King, to monsieur

Answer to Previous Puzzle

T	I	L	T	A	L	F	C	A	S	H
A	L	A	I	L	O	U	Y	U	M	A
B	L	I	P	I	A	N	B	R	U	T
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	T	A	T	E	A	R				
A	L	O	N	E	L	O	B	B	I	E
D	R	U	M	N	E	B	A	R	I	D
D	E	L	I	L	E	O	G	A	P	E
T	A	L	C	Y	O	W	E	Y	E	S

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Happy relationship threatens to go up in smoke

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend, "Jasmine," has been seeing a therapist to deal with serious depression and anxiety issues, and I think she has done well for the most part. I am just upset that she has taken to smoking with her co-workers to deal with stress. I don't like smoking. My mother smokes, and I find it disgusting.



Dear Abby

I hate saying these things to Jasmine because when I do, she takes it personally. We have discussed this more than once, and she insists that my asking her to stop is "being controlling." I can't know what stress she is experiencing because of her emotional problems, but I do know that smoking isn't the solution. I love Jasmine with all my heart, and it's devastating to me to say this, but I can't be with a smoker. Our relationship has been great, but I do not choose to spend my life in a haze of tobacco smoke. I am in college and every day I see kids my age outside freezing their butts off for a smoke because it isn't allowed inside.

Please help me, Abby. This is something I can't compromise on. It's enough that I already have one person close to me who smokes — I don't need another. — ANTI-SMOKER IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ANTI-SMOKER: The fellow students you see freezing their butts off for a smoke aren't doing it because they like it. They are freezing their butts off because they're addicted to nicotine, need their fix and are willing to get it in sub-zero weather if they must.

People who reach for a cigarette when they are feeling stressed regard the cigarette as a "friend" they can hold onto. What they don't realize is the cigarette is holding onto THEM — and occasional smokers become dependent not only on the ritual but also the "drug."

You have a hard choice to make, and so does Jasmine. Perhaps it will be easier if Jasmine does the choosing. Tell her that if you smell tobacco on her hair, skin, breath or clothing, you won't kiss her. If she hasn't quit smoking within 30 days, you'll have your answer.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, kids and I fly to the West Coast once a year for either summer vacation or the holidays. As soon as we arrive, my in-laws take me — "the wife" — to the grocery store to shop for food and expect me to pay half the bill.

Abby, my in-laws are not hurting for money, and I have never understood this bizarre custom. I don't appreciate getting off a long plane flight to go grocery shopping and incur yet another expense after paying for air travel, etc. I wouldn't dream of doing it to them. Everything is always taken care of before they come to visit us.

Would you consider this poor hospitality on their part, or a difference in cultures — East Coast formal versus West Coast casual? I am trying to let it go, but it is getting old. — DREADING NEXT TIME, HAMPTON, VA.

DEAR DREADING: What you have described is not a difference in cultures. Your in-laws may not be hurting for money, but they may be on a budget. Because being taken to the grocery store and asked to pay for half the groceries bothers you, on your next visit have them take their son along so he can have the pleasure. You can't change his parents, so don't let it ruin your visit.

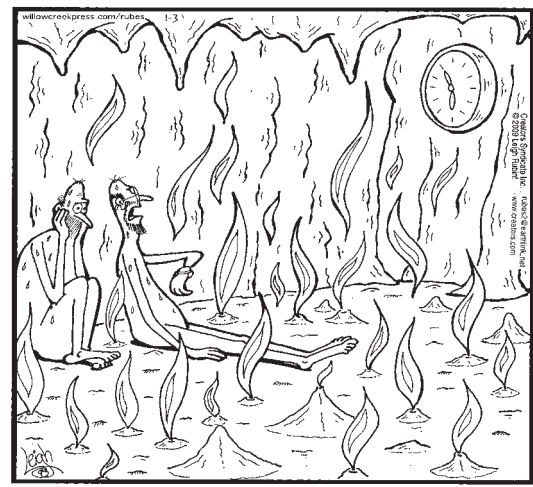
Pauline Phillips, a.k.a. **Abigail Van Buren**, and Jeanne Phillips are columnists for Universal Press Syndicate. Write Dear Abby at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Rubes

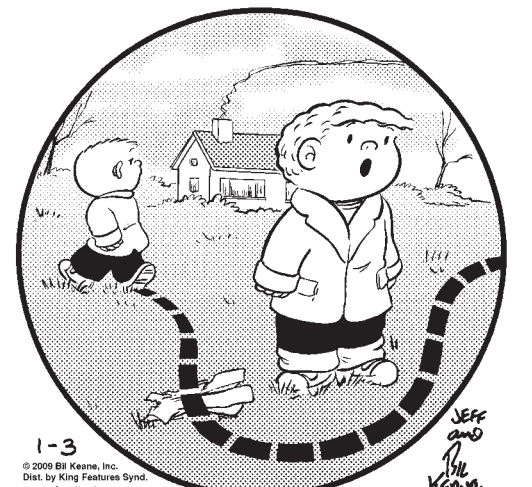
By Leigh Rubin

The Family Circus

By Bil Keane

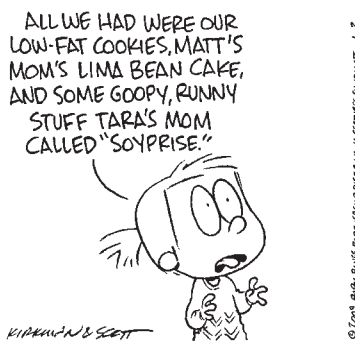


"Can you believe it? That clock is five minutes slow! I know it's a small point, but you'd think the least they could do for us is keep better track of eternity."



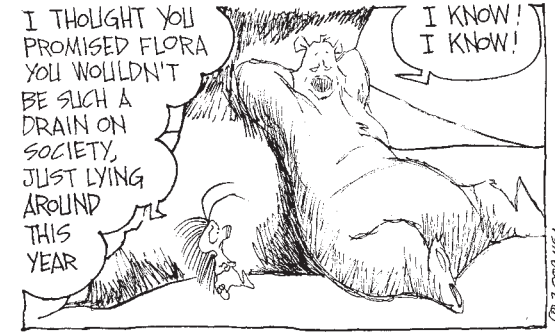
"My paper airplane just got grounded!"

Baby Blues



By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott

Grizzwells



By Bill Schorr

Shoe



By Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



Frank and Ernest



By Bob Thaves

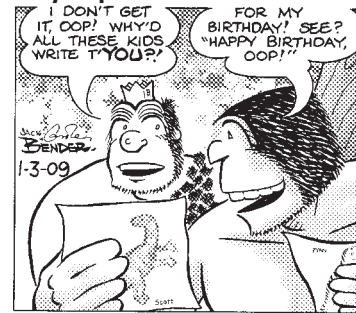
Pickles



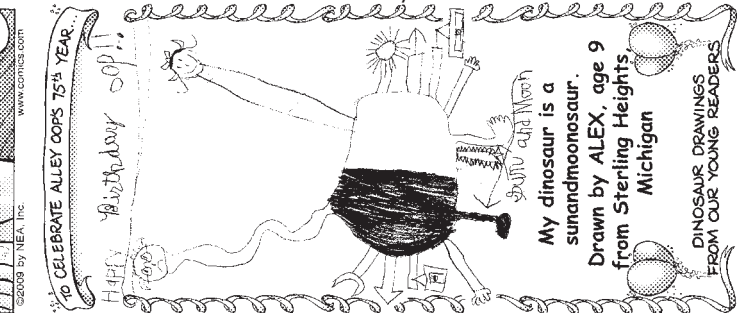
By Brian Crane



Alley Oop



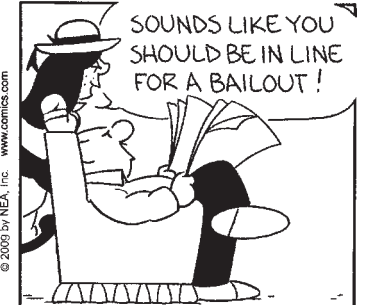
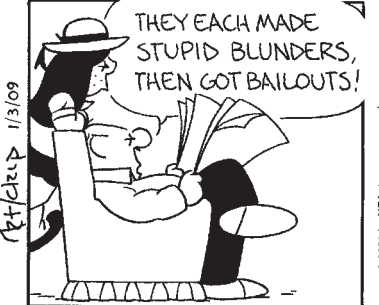
By Dave Graue and Jack Bender



The Born Loser



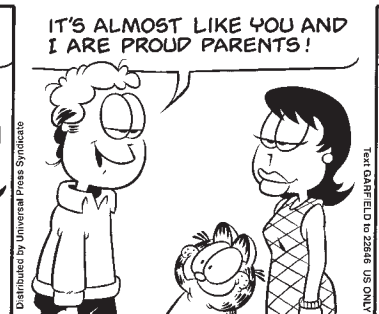
By Art and Chip Sansom



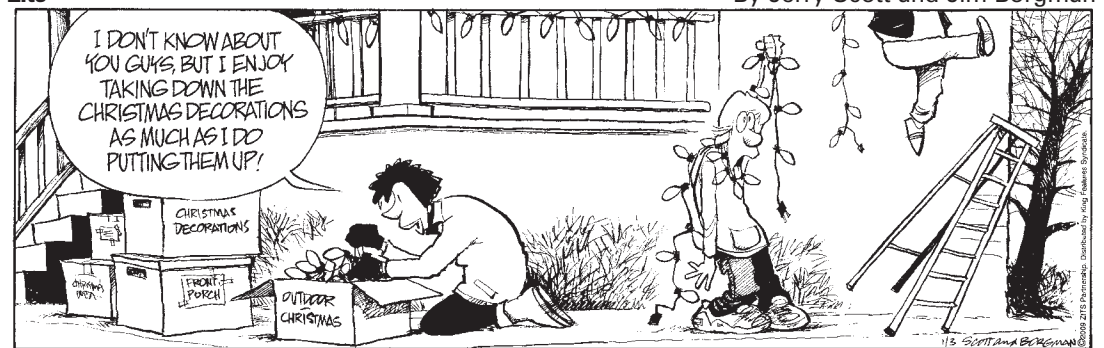
Garfield



By Jim Davis



Zits



By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman

Astrograph

SUNDAY, JAN. 4

The year ahead will offer some excellent opportunities to expand on many of your creative pursuits or endeavors. However, there will be no free rides; you'll have to exert the proper effort to get what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Your leadership qualities will be in full evidence, and you shouldn't have any trouble getting others to follow your lead unless you get too aggressive, in which case they may desert the ranks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — When you allow events to follow their natural inclinations, the results will prove to be quite beneficial. Impatience and impulsiveness are two allies of self-destruction.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Your warm and gracious image will remain intact because you'll keep everything in proper perspective. Your good reputation is a valuable asset, and it isn't likely you'll let anything veer off course.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Don't be too proud to let others do for you what you're unable to do for yourself. With their help, you can climb over barriers that you wouldn't be able to circumvent otherwise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — When working with others, don't hold back on facts that you think are too insignificant to be mentioned. In reality, it might be some small point that wins their support.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Give top priority to projects or issues you classify as being important, because you will be better at handling such tasks than you normally are. Once begun, you won't veer off onto nonessentials.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Be prepared to fire up your reserve rockets if any obstacle threatens to bog you down. Those second efforts may be what it takes to achieve your goals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — If you haven't been satisfied with the status quo for some time, don't wait any longer to start making adjustments. The important thing is to plan your course of action so that you maintain control.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Although you like working alone, you'll do far better in developments that require a team effort. In fact, what you have to offer can put you in a great light with several co-workers.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Once you determine to do something, there will be no stopping you. Even if others in the family want to have a lazy day, they won't keep you from accomplishing your goals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — You'll possess a knack for arranging your schedule in such a manner that you'll be able to enjoy some recreational activities without neglecting your responsibilities. Balance comes from using your smarts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Material or financial gains are possible when betting on some fun diversions, but don't take any outlandish risks. Be satisfied with small gains instead of trying to make a killing.

MONDAY, JAN. 5

In the year ahead, some lessons of the past, which are painful memories, may prove to be your saving grace in handling several difficult situations. The profits from these experiences will put you a few steps ahead of everyone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You can be both prudent and wasteful but, unfortunately, that second definition may reign supreme within you. If you treat material involvements with indifference, you'll pay the piper.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Regardless of how painful it might be to spill the beans about a personal choice that you're ashamed of, be forthright with your companions. You'll win their respect in the end.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Be careful about adopting the ideas of your companions, because what works for them may not work for you. Simply, be yourself.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — If something you can't identify is keeping you from completing a current project, it could be due to a few hidden flaws you would never suspect. Check out the things you trust the most.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Do what needs doing without calling attention to yourself, and you'll encounter far less opposition than you normally might receive. That doesn't mean you shouldn't aim high — just stay in the shade.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Should an old, trusted friend confide in you, pay special attention when involved in idle talk with others. A slip of the tongue could betray the confidentiality placed in you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Clumsiness on your part or falling short of the mark will be traceable to your methods and/or procedures. Working hard isn't the total solution; you must also be smart about your modus operandi.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Wishful thinking could lead you to believe that repeating old, mistaken methods will somehow work out this time. Unfortunately, they'll produce the same sorry ending once again.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Delegating jobs or chores will produce substandard results and you know it. Don't blame others if you end up being disappointed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — You will be held to your word — whether it is in writing or not — so know what you're getting into before you agree to anything of significance. Be sure that you're prepared to do what you say.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Unless you know what you are doing and lay out a game plan, you could end up working hard but with little to show for your efforts. Take the time to draw up a blueprint.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You might get the opportunity to prove to someone special that you are prepared to stand by him or her with all of your resources. But will you be just paying lip service instead?

The 12 days of Christmas

Merry Christmas. No, honest, as in "the 12 days of" from Dec. 25 to Jan. 5. If you doubt the accuracy of this statement, you can head over to the Web site of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. There you will find an interactive calendar that bravely documents the fact that, according to centuries of Christian tradition, the quiet season called Advent has just ended, and the 12-day Christmas season has just begun.

So cease stripping the decorations off your tree and postpone its premature trip to the curb. There is still time to prepare for a Twelfth Night party and then the grand finale on Jan. 6, when the feast of the Epiphany marks the arrival in Bethlehem of the magi.



Terry Mattingly

"You would be amazed how hard it was to find information on the World Wide Web about all of this," lamented Joe Larson, the USCCB's director of digital media. "We wanted to link to sites that would help tell Catholics what we believe about these seasons and why we do what we do — or what we are supposed to do — during Advent and Christmas."

"What we ended up with is definitely not a finished product, but we'll expand it in the future. We got the ball rolling this year."

The materials gathered at www.usccb.org/advent do not, at first glance, appear to be all that rebellious. The Web site contains pull-down menus providing scriptures, prayers, meditations and biographies of the saints whose feasts are celebrated during these seasons. Note that the feast of St. Nicholas of Myra — yes, that St. Nicholas — was back on Dec. 6. Another page suggests family movies for the seasons, some obvious (think "The Nativity Story") and some not so obvious (think "Ernest Saves Christmas").

The Christmas season has always been complicated. Many early Christians celebrated the birthday of Jesus on May 20, while others used dates in April and March. Most early believers, however, emphasized the Jan. 6 feast of the Epiphany.

Then, sometime before 354, Christians in Rome began celebrating the Feast of the Nativity on Dec. 25, which created tension with the Eastern churches that were using different dates. In 567, the Second Council of Tours established Dec. 25 as the nativity date, Jan. 6 as Epiphany and the 12 days in between as the Christmas season — the liturgical calendar's biggest party.

The problem, of course, is that Advent now clashes with the 30-something or 40-something days of the secular season — called "The Holidays" — that begins with the shopping-mall rituals of Thanksgiving weekend. For most Americans, Christmas Day is the end of "The Holidays," even though it is the beginning of the real Christmas season.

While many Christians still observe Advent — especially Anglicans, Lutherans and other mainline Protestants — some older Roman Catholics may remember when the guidelines for the season were stricter. In Eastern Orthodoxy, the season is still observed by many as "Nativity Lent." "In a pre-Vatican II context, Advent looked a lot like Lent," noted Father Rick Hilgartner, associate director of the USCCB's Secretariat of Divine Worship. "It was the season you used to prepare for Christmas, the way Lent helps you prepare for Easter."

Today, it's even hard for priests to follow the rhythms of the church's prayers, hymns and rites, he said. Hilgartner said he tries to stay away from Christmas tree lots and shopping malls until at least halfway through Advent. He accepts invitations to some Christmas parties, even though they are held in Advent.

Now that it's finally Christmas, he feels a pang of frustration when he turns on a radio or television and finds that — after being bombarded with "holiday" stuff for weeks — the true season is missing in action.

"It would be different, of course, if we all lived in a monastic community and the liturgical calendar totally dominated our lives," said Hilgartner. "Then we could get away with celebrating the true seasons, and we wouldn't even whisper the word 'Christmas' until the start of the Christmas Mass. But the church doesn't exist in a vacuum, and we can't live in a cultural bubble."

"But it's good to try to be reasonable. It's good to slow down, and it's good to celebrate Christmas, at least a little, during Christmas. It's good to try."

Terry Mattingly is a columnist for Scripps Howard News Service. Contact Mattingly on-line at www.tmattnet.



DOUGLAS C. PIZAC/AP

Cheddar cheese is made at the Mormon church's Welfare Square facility Aug. 11 in Salt Lake City. "We like to call it the best food money can't buy," said Jim Goodrich, who oversees the production on the church's 13-plus acre site. Everything is free as a safety net for those in need.

Mormon well-served in hard times

JENNIFER DOBNER

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Bishop's Storehouse looks like any other grocery store at first glance: The shelves are neatly lined with canned goods and the smell of fresh bread wafts through the aisles.

But there are no cash registers. The fruits and vegetables, just-made cheeses and milk are free — a safety net for those in need provided by the 13 million members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"We like to call it the best food money can't buy," said Jim Goodrich, who oversees the storehouse and other facilities on the church's 13-plus acre Welfare Square.

Mormons may be among the country's best prepared to weather the current economic hard times. Since the Great Depression, church leaders have preached a

doctrine of self-reliance and selflessness, calling on members to plan for their own future while tending to the needs of others.

"It's a critical component of our theology," said Bishop David Burton, a senior church administrator who oversees the faith's worldwide welfare and humanitarian services programs.

Members are encouraged to squirrel away a few months' worth of living expenses and stock a one-year supply of emergency food. Church handouts, classes and a Web site describe how to prepare, store and cook with emergency food supplies so nothing goes to waste.

Each month, members skip two meals and give the money they would have spent on food to church welfare programs, paying for the commodities, clothing, job training and other services made available to the needy.

The church also works in partnership with

other faith traditions and local social service agencies to share surplus commodities and support services.

Goodrich's Welfare Square is the heart of the program. Founded in the 1930s, the square is home to a cannery, milk and cheese processing facility; a 16-million pound grain elevator; and a bakery, storehouse, thrift store and employment center, all of which are run mostly by volunteers serving church missions.

Over the years, the safety net has extended worldwide to include farms, orchards, dairies and cattle ranches that provide the raw material for the commodities harvested, processed and packaged at church facilities.

Each product carries the "Deseret" label — a Book of Mormon word that is a synonym for honeybee and a metaphor for the industriousness of church members.

Please see MORMON/page C5



DOUGLAS C. PIZAC/AP

Customers pick out needed food items at the Mormon church's Bishop's Storehouse facility Aug. 11 in Salt Lake City. The outlet seems like any other grocery store at first glance. But there are no cash registers here. Everything is free as a safety net for those in need.

Mormon: Church well-served in hard times

Continued from page C4

"What we see today is the product of 60 years of inspired leadership and a lot of hard work," Burton said. "I can't tell you the cumulative investment, but it's minor in terms of the cumulative effort on the part of thousands and thousands."

Church members seek out their local congregation leader, called a bishop, to access the system. Bishops — there are 27,000 worldwide — also have a pool of cash to pay for housing, medical needs or keep the utilities on, although the church prefers to provide commodities first, Burton said.

Assistance comes with the expectation of reciprocal service, whether it's a few hours of volunteer work on the Square stocking shelves or some other form of service.

Jennifer Williams was hesitant to accept

help. Fresh out of college and in the middle of a difficult divorce, she was struggling to find a career that matched her skills — fluency in Russian and a political science education.

"One of the things that makes it so hard is that you think it's just for people who don't have a job, but for someone like me, working, middle-class and educated," said Williams, 29, now of Washington, D.C. "But, you know, needing help is OK."

Without money to buy a gallon of milk, she temporarily stocked her pantry with church commodities and used the training she got in an executive job search program to land a job with a defense contractor.

It's unclear how many individuals and families need church assistance each year. Church statistics from 2007 show some 210,000 people used employment centers

and training to find jobs. But church officials declined to provide a demographic snapshot of the average welfare recipient, the amount of time most recipients use the programs and an average value for the commodities provided.

Without that information, it's difficult to assess the effect the church programs have on the community, said Glenn Bailey, director of Crossroads Urban Center, an advocacy and direct services agency for the poor in Salt Lake City that annually gets a share of church commodities for its own emergency food bank.

"I think they play a critical role, it's just that there's no way to tell the size of the gap they fill," Bailey said. "Obviously they are doing a lot of work and helping a lot of people who would go without or seek assistance elsewhere."

Nation

THE NEW iPRAYER

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican is endorsing new technology that brings the book of daily prayers used by priests straight onto iPhones.

The Vatican's Pontifical Council for Social Communications is embracing the iBreviary, an iTunes application created by a technologically savvy Italian priest, the Rev. Paolo Padrini, and an Italian Web designer.

The application includes the Breviary prayer book — in Italian, English, Spanish, French and Latin and, in the near future, Portuguese and German. Another section includes the prayers of the daily Mass, and a third contains various other prayers.

After a free trial period in which the iBreviary was downloaded approximately 10,000 times in Italy, an official version was released earlier this month, Padrini said.

The application costs \$1.10, while upgrades will be free. Padrini's proceeds are going to charity.

Monsignor Paul Tighe, secretary of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Social Communications, praised the new application, saying the church "is learning to use the new technologies primarily as a tool or as a means of evangelizing, as a way of being able to share its own message with the world."

DIocese FACES

288 SEX ABUSE CLAIMS

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — The Diocese of Fairbanks, which is under bankruptcy protection, received 288 claims from people who said they had been molested by Roman Catholic clergy.

A Dec. 2 deadline for claims was imposed when the diocese filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy earlier this year. The number of claims was reported by Catholic News Service.

The diocese said it sought bankruptcy protection this past February because it could not reach a financial settlement over the 150 or so abuse claims it had received at the time. The claims related to cases largely dating between the 1950s and 1980s.

In 2007, the Oregon Province of the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, agreed to pay \$50 million to more than 100 Alaska Natives who said they had been molested as children by Jesuit priests.

However, the cases did not include claims of negligence against the Fairbanks diocese, which owned and managed the parishes in the rural Alaska villages where the Jesuit priests worked.

Fairbanks was the sixth U.S. diocese to seek bankruptcy protection in the face of sex abuse claims. The Fairbanks diocese oversees 47 parishes and 14,500 parishioners in what is — geographically — the largest diocese in the U.S. It spans more than 400,000 square miles.

The Associated Press

Objection won't stop DNA sampling

JESSE J. HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court on Tuesday refused to stop the government from taking DNA from a prisoner who claims the process would violate his religious beliefs.

Russell Kaemmerling, who is in the Federal Correctional Institution in Seagoville, Texas on a felony wire fraud conviction, sued in 2006 to stop the Federal Bureau of Prisons from taking a DNA sample from him.

Federal law requires felons give a DNA sample to the Federal Bureau of Prisons to be kept in a national law enforcement database. Officers then use the Combined DNA Index System, or CODIS, to try and solve crimes by matching evidence from crime scenes to known offenders.

Kaemmerling claimed the collection violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, as well as the First, Fourth and Fifth Amendments of the Constitution, saying the collection and retention of his DNA information is "tantamount to laying the foundation for the rise of the anti-Christ."

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton ruled against Kaemmerling, saying only that the

prisoner had not exhausted all of the remedies available inside the prison system.

But on appeal, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit added that Kaemmerling's claim that submitting to DNA sampling, collection and storage would be repugnant to his strongly held religious beliefs was not enough to stop the collection.

"The government's extraction, analysis and storage of Kaemmerling's DNA information does not call for Kaemmerling to modify his religious behavior in any way — it involves no action or forbearance on his part, nor does it otherwise interfere with any religious act in which he engages," the three-judge panel said. "Although the government's activities with his fluid or tissue sample after BOP takes it may offend Kaemmerling's religious beliefs, they cannot be said to hamper his religious exercise."

The decision was made by Judges David B. Sentelle, Brett M. Kavanaugh and Karen LeCraft Henderson.

This is another blow against prisoner attempts to stop DNA collection. The 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled last year that collection of DNA samples from prisoners does not violate their privacy rights.

Inauguration prayer could draw ire

RACHEL ZOLL

The Associated Press

President-elect Barack Obama's choice of Rick Warren to deliver the inaugural invocation drew one kind of protest. Whether the evangelical pastor offers the prayer in the name of Jesus may draw another.

At George W. Bush's 2001 swearing-in, the Revs. Franklin Graham and Kirbyjon Caldwell were criticized for invoking Christ. The distinctly Christian reference at a national civic event offended some, and even prompted a lawsuit.

Warren did not answer directly when asked whether he would dedicate his prayer to Jesus. In a statement Tuesday to The Associated Press, Warren would say only that, "I'm a Christian pastor so I will pray the only kind of prayer I know how to pray."

"Prayers are not to be sermons, speeches, position statements nor political posturing. They are humble, personal appeals to God," Warren wrote. His spokesman would not elaborate.

Evangelicals generally expect their clergymen to use Jesus' name whenever and wherever they lead prayer. Many conservative Christians say cultural sensitivity goes way too far if it requires religious leaders to hide their beliefs.

Please see WARREN/page C5

The Following Merchants Urge You To Attend Your Chosen House Of Worship This Sabbath:

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Eldon Albers & Staff
701 E. South St. 463-7588

Consolidated Concrete Co.
and Employees
Concrete and Aggregate

Herberger's Inc.
and Employees
Imperial Mall 462-2168

Mid-America Pump and Supply Co.
Management & Employees

Wal-Mart and Associates

Livingston-Butler and Volland
Funeral Home
1225 N. Elm 462-2147

Bernard Pavelka Trucking, Inc.
1215 East J.
462-4650

Taco John's
Hottest Spot in Town
Management & Staff

Hastings Irrigation Pipe Co.
Irrigation Technology Since 1949
Management & Staff

Bruce Furniture and all Employees
411 South Marian Road 463-3223

Stan's Radiator Service
Stan, Marian, Mike and Deb
301 E. South 462-2379

Modern Methods
Harold and Terry Klatt and Staff
1211 E. South
462-5143

Vaughan's Printers, Inc.
Bill Vaughan & Staff
222 East Side Blvd.

Thomsen Oil Company
Go First Class, Go Phillips
C.J. "Tod" Broderson & Staff

Guarantee Electric Co.
Residential, Commercial

T-L Irrigation Co.
Pump, Pipe and Center Pivots

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Tom Meyer and Staff

Roger's Inc.
TV and Appliance
Sales and Service

Cooperative Producers, Inc.
Growing Partnerships through Agriculture

Jackson's Car Corner
Alton Jackson & Staff
3rd & Colorado
463-0688

Brand-Wilson Chapel
Murray Wilson Jr. & Bob Wilson
5th and Bellevue

Rader Insurance, Inc.
Larry, Rick and Dustin
1130 W. Second 462-4111

Good Samaritan Village
and all Employees
Your Retirement Home Address

K-T Heating and Air Conditioning
234 E. J. 463-1794

Farris Construction
Jim Farris and Employees
137 East E Street
462-8732

Transportation Equipment Co.
Maurice & Barb Gartner

Halloran Battery & Electric
Complete Repair Service
Richard Halloran & Staff

Jackson Funeral Home
Kenesaw, NE
Jean Opbroek and Murray Wilson

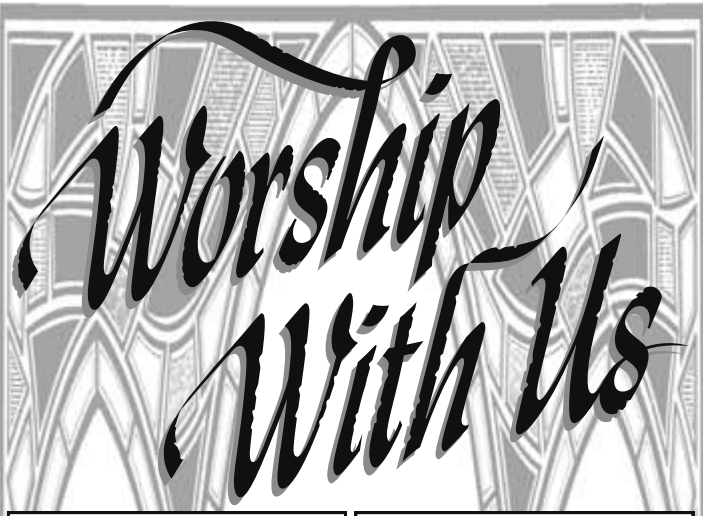


Table listing various churches and their services, including Grace United Methodist Church, Peace Lutheran Church, New York Avenue Congregational Church, Saint Mark's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral, Holy Eucharist, North Shore Assembly of God, Luthera Church of the Good Shepherd, Second Presbyterian Church, Glevin Immanuel Lutheran Church, Faith Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church, First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Watermark Community Church, Grace Baptist Church, South Street Church of Christ, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hastings Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Zion Lutheran Church, Juniata Community Church, Lifehouse, First Christian, Zion Lutheran Church, Evangelical Free Church, St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, Berean Bible Church, St. Michael's Catholic Church, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lakewood Community Church, First Congregational United Church of Christ, First Presbyterian Church, and Immanuel Lutheran Church.

If your church would like to be listed in this Church Directory, please call (402) 461-1231 or 1-800-742-6397.

Anniversary

HAUSSLER 40TH



Dee and Jerri (Reher) Haussler of Hastings celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on December 28th, 2008. They were married in Grand Island in 1968 at Trinity United Methodist Church. Dee has been Director of Hastings Economic Development Corp. for nearly 30 years. Jerri served as Associate Dean of Students at Hastings College for fifteen years and is a published author. They have two grown children, Marci and Philip. Marci and her husband Grady Peace live in Greensboro, NC with their two daughters, Lia and Emme. Phil and his wife Stacey live in Omaha, NE with their two sons, McCoy and Lincoln. The couple plans to celebrate with a family vacation along with their children and grandchildren this summer.

Birthdays

CRABTREE 99TH

A reception was held December 26, 2008 in honor of Ernestine Crabtree's 99th birthday at Good Samaritan Village. In attendance were Ernestine's son John and his wife Judy, Agnes Crabtree (wife of her late son Richard Crabtree), her niece Norma McWhirter and husband Vern, and her great-niece Connie and husband John. Other birthday guests were grandchildren Stephen Crabtree, Kathleen Crabtree Reeves, and Drew McMillen; great-grandchildren Nathan, Zachary, and Sydnie Reeves, and all of her dear friends from the Village Green.



Ernestine was born December 26, 1909 in Streeter, Illinois and moved to Hastings with her family when she was 6 months old. Always a fan of the arts, she was a member of the Kosmet Klub at Hastings High. After high school she married Raymond Crabtree. Ernestine was an entrepreneur, and literally ran the family business, Radio Electronics, which got it's start when Ray and Ernestine's brother Art were able to procure tubes for radios during WWII, when no parts could be found. This business blossomed into a Radio/TV/Record store which was in business for over 30 years. She also played the organ at the Rivoli Theatre before the talkies. She has been a member of First St. Paul's Lutheran Church since 1917 and has been involved with various organizations through the years. Ernestine received birthday wishes from family and friends from all over the U.S. Her grandchildren, ReNae and Steve, children of her late son Richard, would like to continue the celebration by honoring this special lady with a card shower. Birthday wishes may be sent to Ernestine Crabtree, 900 East B, Apt. 207, Hastings, NE 68901.

SOCIAL GUIDELINES

- ◆ The deadline to submit social announcements and club news is Monday for same-week publication.
- ◆ Club news items must be received no later than one month after the meeting.
- ◆ Five-generation photos will be published.
- ◆ The Tribune cannot print copyrighted photographs without written consent of the copyright owner.
- ◆ Photos may be picked up in the newsroom after the item is published or returned by mail with a self-addressed, stamped envelope only.
- ◆ The Tribune is not responsible for photos that are lost or errors caused by illegible handwritten reports.
- ◆ All stories will be edited for clarity, brevity and news value. For information, call 402-461-1251.

MEYER 80TH



Phyllis Meyer will be celebrating her 80th birthday on January 6th. Her children and grandchildren are requesting a card shower in her honor. Birthday wishes may be sent to 4680 West Blue Valley Rd., Blue Hill, NE 68930.

Clubs

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB

Hastings Christian Women's Club, a division of Stonecroft Ministries, met for luncheon meeting Dec. 8 at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Donna Christensen of Superior was the guest speaker and presented, "Do Fairy Tales Really Come True?" Grandmas on the Go provided songs of the season.

The next luncheon meeting is 12:30 p.m. Jan. 19, 2009, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. All women are welcome. Cindy Harman of Lincoln will present, "Oops! My Ducks Won't Stay In a Row." Tim Grothen will provide the music on the dulcimer and Jackie Zeckser will provide the special feature on collections, "Old and New."

For reservations, call Julie at 402-462-4793 or Gloria at 402-463-1270.

Wedding

HOAGLAND - WILD

Carrie Renae Hoagland of Hastings and Garrett Wayne Wild of Chardon were married June 14 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Grand Island. Father Vince Parsons officiated.

Parents of the bride are Alan and Connie Hoagland of Hastings. Parents of the groom are Dan and Millie Wild of Chardon.

The bride was given in marriage by her parents.

Maid of honor was Shelsey Hight. Bridesmaids were Sarah Jordan, Chrystal Underwood and Sarah Walker.

Best man was C.J. Bach. Groomsmen were Joe Wild, Casey Bach, Tyler Teahon, Josh Wild, Jim Pettie and Adam Hoagland.

Other members of the wedding party were Peyton Underwood, Mikayla Wild and Kadence Wild, flower girls; Amy Hoagland, personal attendant; Brittany Bach, guest book attendant; Jake Hlavacek and Jake Downs, ushers; Rob Mason, scripture reader; Taylor Wild, candlelighter; Randy Kort and Angie Gill, vocalists; Deb Johnson, flutist; Elaine Bishop, organist; Laurie Peterson, Lynn DeVries, Abby Collins and Maria Simianar, cake servers.

Arlen and Sue Brown and



Ron and Tana Seymour were hosts for a reception at the Liederkranz in Grand Island. The couple held a Monarch butterfly release at Pioneer Park immediately following the ceremony to commemorate their special day and to honor special loved ones.

The bride is a 2004 graduate of Adams Central High School and a 2008 graduate of Chadron State College with a Bachelor's Degree in Clinical Laboratory Science.

The groom is a 2001 graduate of Chadron High School and attended Chadron State College. He is an HVAC technician for Mansfield Enterprises in Chadron.

The couple resides in Chadron.

California proposing pet care sales tax

IMRAN GHORI
The Press-Enterprise

Dr. Marshall Scott already has seen pet owners become less willing to spend money on costly procedures with the recent economic downturn.

He fears a state proposal to levy a sales tax on veterinary services would make matters worse.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last month proposed broadening the sales tax to a number of services to close an \$11.2 billion budget gap. In addition to veterinarian services, sales tax would be applied to furniture and appliance repair, auto repair, golf, amusement parks and sporting events.

The proposal was not included in legislative budget proposals so far. If it is included and adopted, it would become effective Feb. 1. The governor's finance office estimates the revenue generated would be \$357 million through the end of the current fiscal year.

The California Veterinary Medical Association has been lobbying strongly against the tax, saying it could increase the cost of veterinary care by 9 percent. They say some animals may not get necessary care and end up abandoned or euthanized.

Scott, a veterinarian at Pedley Square Veterinary Clinic in Riverside, said he already has seen a trend of clients being less willing to opt for diagnostic or laboratory tests, especially for animals that are older or severely injured.

Senior menu

Adams County Senior Services Inc. provides noon meals Monday through Friday at the Golden Friendship Center, 509 S. Bellevue Ave., and Good Samaritan Village Goldbeck Towers, 721 S. First Ave., for people 60 and older. Reservations must be made by calling 402-463-4439 by 2:30 p.m. one day in advance.

◆ Tuesday: Country fried steak, parmesan baked potato, wax beans, ambrosia salad, apple nut muffin and rice pudding.

◆ Wednesday: Cheeseburger deluxe, lettuce, tomato, pickle and onion, coleslaw, bun and cherry cobbler.

◆ Thursday: Spaghetti and meat sauce, green beans, tossed salad, garlic bread and sugar cookies.

◆ Friday: Salmon loaf with cheese sauce, scalloped corn, spinach salad, dinner roll and ginger bread with whipped topping.

◆ Jan. 12: Ground beef stroganoff, mashed potatoes, country vegetables, orange and pineapple salad, cream bread muffin with honey and carrot cake with cream cheese icing.

Noon meals are also served at the Kenesaw Senior Center on the second Thursday of the month; at the Roseland Town Hall on the first and third Tuesdays of the month; and at Juniata the third Thursday of the month. Reservations may be made by calling the Golden Friendship Center by the Friday before the serving day.

Infant alive thanks to donated heart

DEBBIE CAFAZZO
Tacoma News Tribune

Inside little Mia McDonald beats the heart of an angel. Five-month-old Mia is alive, thanks to a donated heart from an infant who died.

The heart donation and subsequent transplant, on Nov. 10, left Mia's parents, Mimi and John McDonald, in awe of the anonymous family whose deep pain gave birth to their great joy.

"I think about that mom, dealing with the death of a baby," says Mimi, 27. "You mourn that child. Knowing that someone out there is feeling that way, and that we are the beneficiaries of their selfless gift—it is a very raw emotion."

"It's hard to express your gratitude," says John, 32. "Thank you" doesn't quite say it.

Mia's tumultuous journey into this world was handicapped from the start.

When Mimi was six months pregnant with her daughter, she learned that the baby's heart valves were not developing properly. Blood pooled in the baby's heart, and it was abnormally enlarged.

"I knew something was wrong," says Mimi, who could tell by looking at an image of her baby's heart that there was a problem.

In years past, Mimi had undergone three heart surgeries, including an operation to give her a new heart valve from a human donor.

Mother and baby shared a similar heart defect. But Mia's was much more serious. The doctor told Mimi that if Mia survived, the baby would need a heart transplant.

"He didn't even know if she would make it to term," Mimi recalls. "But week after week, her heart kept holding strong. She held on."

Mia was born July 8 at University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle, then was immediately transferred to Seattle's Children's Hospital and Medical Center. It was days before Mimi could hold her baby.

Mia underwent a surgical procedure designed to help her heart function while she waited for a donor, and by late July, she was placed on the official donor waiting list.

By August, Mia was well enough to go home, but her stay was short-lived. "She was supposed to be able to wait for a heart at home," Mimi says. "They discharged us on a Wednesday, but by Sunday, she had to be life-flighted (via helicopter) back to Children's."

Mimi spent most of her time at the hospital with the baby, while her husband, John, and other family members helped

with their two older children, 5-year-old Jensen and 3-year-old Ellie, at home in Puyallup. Mia's siblings were able to visit her occasionally, and Mimi and John posted pictures of the baby on their family blog so Jensen and Ellie could keep track of their baby sister's progress.

"The hardest thing for me was knowing that they were going to remove a part from my baby," Mimi says. "It was really hard for me to swallow."

But as time progressed and Mia grew more fragile, Mimi gradually came to terms with the idea of a transplant. "I knew it was the only way," she says.

John says the power of prayer helped his family through their trials.

A friend set up a blog—helpbabymia.blogspot.com—to share the family's story and to help raise funds for expenses not covered by insurance.

"The beautiful thing about this situation is that it really brings out the best in people," says John.

The family received a call on Nov. 9 that a donor heart was available.

Mimi had tried to visualize what it would be like to get that all-important call. When it finally came, she says, "it was really humbling."

Immediately after the transplant at Children's Hospital, the McDonalds could see a big improvement in Mia. "The second she came out of the recovery room, she looked better," John says. "Her skin was pink, her breathing was slower. Her little body was like, 'Thank you.'"

Less than a month after receiving her new heart, Mia returned home on Dec. 5.

Having their baby home has been a source of comfort for the McDonalds. But their new life is far from routine.

Mia takes 14 drugs. "We have to give her medication every few hours, and some of them upset her stomach," John says.

The family must strike a balance between letting Mia's brother and sister express their affection for the baby and ensuring Mia is safe in their hands.

While the McDonalds would like to meet the family of Mia's donor some day, that decision rests with the donor family. The McDonalds have written a letter to the donor family expressing their gratitude.

"I would like to meet the donor family, to let them know how much this heart is loved," says Mimi.

For now, Mimi says, she is content to hold Mia close, so she can feel her angel heart beating strong.

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May, 2009

23rd Brittany MacDonald and Kirk Layton

23rd Jessica Pittz and Andy Gregg

30th Leslie Goedert and William Bostock

June, 2009

13th Christina Hermann and Bryan Runcie

20th Courtney Douglas and Jonathan Rush

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Hastings Tribune
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Stroke of misfortune brings love

COUNTING THEIR BLESSINGS, COUPLE PLANS MARRIAGE

HUDSON SANGREE

Sacramento Bee

Susan Majewski and Donald Greenwood say their romance was meant to be.

The couple met in September as new residents at Covell Gardens, an assisted-living facility in Davis, Calif.

Earlier this year, Greenwood, 61, suffered three strokes that left him paralyzed on the right side of his body.

Majewski, 50, had a stroke five years ago that immobilized her left side.

They fell in love and plan to marry on Valentine's Day.

"In marriage, two people should become one, united," said Greenwood, a former pastor.

"Together, we make one person."

The couple now share a small apartment. They hold hands between their wheelchairs and help each other with tasks that take two hands: cutting food, opening pill bottles, getting dressed.

Recently, they decorated their Christmas tree. Greenwood handed the ornaments to his fiancée while she hung them on the branches.

"The blessing is that I met Susan," Greenwood said. "I believe we were put together."

Majewski's 80-year-old mother, Elizabeth, also lives at Covell Gardens. Greenwood said he asked for her daughter's hand in marriage in the residents' dining room.

"She's old enough. She knows what she's doing," Elizabeth Majewski quipped.

Greenwood, who worked as a paint salesman before his strokes, said he had married young, gotten divorced after 19 years and swore never to marry again. Meeting Majewski changed his mind.

Majewski said she never married because she hadn't found the right man, until she met Greenwood.



BRYAN PATRICK/SHNS

Susan Majewski and Donald Greenwood have a kiss in their living room by the Christmas tree. Both suffered strokes on opposite sides of their bodies. One is paralyzed on the right side; the other on the left. They met at Covell Gardens, an assisted-living facility in Davis, Calif., and fell in love.

"Now I don't have to die a spinster," she said.

The couple met at the dining table reserved for new residents and presided over by a group of social mavens.

"They're both younger than other people here, and they were glad to have each other," said 88-year-old Catherine Murphy.

The two continued taking their meals together and bonded over their love of dogs and hunting.

Majewski owned yellow Labrador retrievers and hunted pheasant. Greenwood hunted deer and raised Afghan hounds.

They also both worked in the medical field. Majewski was a

nurse at Sutter Memorial Hospital for 13 years. Greenwood was an Air Force medic in Vietnam and later worked as a nurse.

And they both like the Beatles.

Their relationship has its rough spots.

"I like country music. He abhors it," Majewski said.

They bicker over the television remote and argue about whether to have their wedding inside or outdoors in February.

Greenwood wants to get married in a grassy courtyard lined with birch trees.

"In February, there won't be any leaves on them," Majewski said, sounding exasperated.

"You never know," her future husband replied.

Residents and staff at Covell Gardens are touched by the sight of the couple together.

"It's wunderbar," said Helen Caffee, their 95-year-old lunch companion.

Dining room server Lucy Zane said she likes to see them rolling down the hallways together in their wheelchairs.

They each push with one foot because it's difficult to turn the wheels. Greenwood goes backward. Majewski goes forward, so they can see each other and talk.

Sitting at lunch, enjoying an apple turnover, she holds the

turnover with a fork while he cuts it with the knife.

To get to their ibuprofen, he grips the bottle while she twists the cap.

"Just about anything you can imagine that takes two hands," Greenwood said.

An aneurism in 2003 left Majewski with dystonia, a condition that makes her muscles spasm and twists her hand and foot.

Greenwood, who lost his job after his stroke, has phantom pain in his limp right arm. He attends physical therapy sessions four times a week and is struggling to walk again.

Humor of 'nutty Nutcracker' falls flat

BALLET LOVERS FLOCKED TO COMEDY SHOW BY ACCIDENT

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — For some ballet lovers, leaping and laughing do not mix.

A special, humor-enhanced Christmas Eve performance of Ballet West's "The Nutcracker"

drew at least one request for a ticket refund. The office of Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon even received an angry call from someone asking that the county stop funding the ballet company.

The 20 surprise touches in the performance included a recurring "Where's Waldo" character, a rubber chicken that the Drosselmeyer character unveils during the party

scene and extra appearances of a mechanical mouse usually seen in the battle scene.

It was the first year Ballet West had put on a "nutty Nutcracker," which other ballet companies around the country have turned into a popular tradition. Ballet West officials said that whatever they do next time, they hope to better inform potential ticket buyers of what to expect.

Quilt Guild

Hastings Quilter's Guild met Dec. 4 at First St. Paul's Lutheran Church with 40 members and three guests present. Julie Bohlke, Meredy Theesen, Rita Jaworski, Donna Gartner, Jo Seiler and Kathy Haverly, members of the Odd Scraps, were hostesses.

President Barb Clonch called the meeting to order.

Discussion was held on ways to improve income from the silent auction fundraiser. Suggestions included challenging small groups to make projects and also requiring a minimum bid on items.

Marsha Swan and Gardner

were thanked for their efforts on the guild Christmas tree project. Secret stitchers exchanged gifts.

Les Soper of Grand Island presented a trunk show.

December birthdays were acknowledged.

Swan, Vicki Gerloff, Patty Smith, Mary Kay Kissell, Nicole Miller, Lynette Broomfield and Sharon Conner won the door prizes and Kissell won the monthly raffle.

The next meeting is Jan. 8 at First St. Paul's Lutheran Church with Phyllis Hamaker of Quilters Cottage in Kearney presenting "What's New to Do!"

SOCIAL GUIDELINES

- There is a charge to publish all wedding, engagement and anniversary announcements.

- All announcements will be handled by the advertising department. All announcements must be paid for when placing ads. Please call ahead, 462-2131, to schedule an appointment to submit your information. Forms may be picked up in the advertising department or may be filled out when placing your announcement.

- **Deadline for the Saturday Tribune Social Page is Monday at 4:00 p.m.** Proofs must be returned or approved by 4:00 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to publication. The Tribune cannot be responsible for errors after this deadline.

- The Tribune cannot print copyrighted photographs without written consent of the copyright owner.

- Photos may be picked up at the Tribune after the item is published or returned by mail with a self-addressed, stamped envelope only.

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- All announcements may be edited for clarity. For information, call (402) 462-2131.



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Angie Langenberg

BRIDAL REGISTRY

Best Wishes to the following couples who are registered at Sweet Peas.



January 3, 2009
Kerrie Craig
Dustin Peterson

May 9, 2009
McLean Turner
Kevin Oakeson

March 6, 2009 - Wedding
May 16, 2009 - Reception

May 30, 2009
Leslie Goedert
William Bostock

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How to prepare for a depression

DEAR BRUCE: What can we do to prepare us for the impending depression? Should we take money out of savings? Pay off credit cards? Start a garden?

— **L.H., via e-mail**

DEAR L.H.:

First and foremost — don't panic. Why would you take money out of savings? If your savings are in an insured institution, they are presently insured for \$250,000 per person. As to the credit cards, if the interest rates are high, it is always wise to reduce the debt. I wouldn't take the money out of savings. That cushion could be important. Starting a garden is always a good idea; it can be fun and, as a practical matter, you may save a little money on groceries. Whether we're going into a depression is a matter of concern, but also a high degree of subjectivity. The majority of experts say a recession is more likely than a depression. Living a prudent life and trying to cut down on your overhead is the best way to proceed. At the risk of repetition — act in haste, repent in leisure.

DEAR BRUCE: I've heard that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. has only about six cents for every dollar deposited that it is supposed to be guaranteeing. If there were a real depression and a run on the banks, does it have enough assets to cover its obligations? Would the first people to apply get their guarantee until the funds run out? How would someone actually go about making a claim against the FDIC if their bank couldn't deliver the money in their account?

— **T.D., via e-mail**

DEAR T.D.: Every time I get a letter that starts out "I've heard," I shudder. There is so much misinformation floating around it's a wonder anything gets done. The reality is that the FDIC is backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government — period. If you're concerned that the government may go broke — and some people are — then you'd better quickly take all of your money and convert it to gold or diamonds or some such item of intrinsic value. I wouldn't recommend such a foolish action. The FDIC will cover any failed banks. Have you noticed that all of the failed banks were quickly absorbed into better-financed environments? The acquiring banks look at this as opportunity, and you can see why.

DEAR BRUCE:

Unfortunately, my husband and I put our home loan and a home-equity loan into a 10-year fixed at 4.9 percent in February 2008, not knowing the economy was going to

tank. Now instead of remodeling the loan to a 20- or 30-year fixed, we are stuck having to refinance and pay the closing costs all over again. We have outstanding credit and did get the appraisal, but we are angry about the whole situation.

These banks are immediately selling these loans to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Everyone is passing the buck! — **B.T., Sarasota, Fla.**

DEAR B.T.: I don't know why you are so upset. You got a great deal! You have an under 5 percent, 10-year fixed mortgage. Who knows what it will be in February 2018, but I sure wouldn't worry about it now. What possible difference does it make to you that banks are selling loans to Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or anyone else? It doesn't affect you in the slightest. If it's as you have described — 10 years at 5 percent — you might want to go kiss that banker right on the lips.

DEAR BRUCE: I am a 52-year-old woman who went through a bad divorce 11 years ago. I then filed for custody of our only son, which I had to fight for. I won the court battles, but they cost me everything I had, including my home and retirement savings. I filed for bankruptcy, and I have tried for the past four years to rebuild financially. But my credit score is still low, even though I have just two credit cards (\$500 limit/\$900 limit). I have a small 403(b) with my current employer (\$40,000). I am a nurse manager now, and I make \$85,000 a year. I am currently looking for another job that pays more so I can try to save. I plan to work until I die more than likely. Do you think I might ever be able to retire? My job is not an easy one at 52, so I fear by 65 I will mentally need to retire because of the high stress level.

— **P.L., via e-mail**

DEAR P.L.: I sympathize with your situation. Unfortunately, the attorneys are the only winners in an acrimonious divorce. Given the bankruptcy and other problems, I would say you're doing well. You're also earning a decent income, and I wouldn't jeopardize that until you are absolutely certain of the longevity of a new job. Private-duty nurses in many areas are extremely well paid. I speak from some considerable experience in that regard. Whether you can retire in 13 years is something I cannot forecast. It will depend on the volatility and profitability of the marketplace and your ability to live frugally (but not without some pleasures). Rather than seeking out another position — unless it pays a great deal more — I would give some thought to the plan that I have outlined. It has worked for many others and very possibly for you. Best of luck.

Bruce Williams is a columnist for News Enterprise Association. E-mail him at bruce@brucewilliams.com.



NICK UT/AP

Salesman Scott Gust places a zero percent financing sticker on a Chevrolet Trailblazer vehicle at an Ostron dealer Dec. 30 in Montebello, Calif. Detroit-based GM is offering zero-percent or low-interest financing on some slower-selling 2008 and 2009 models as part of a year-end sales push — a move made possible by the billions made available to GMAC.

GMAC loosens credit

BREE FOWLER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A \$5 billion government bailout aimed at reviving General Motors Corp.'s ability to make car and truck loans has dealers hopeful that cash-strapped consumers will return to their showrooms.

GMAC Financial Services, the automaker's troubled financing arm, on Tuesday loosened its tight lending standards, which in recent months have made it more difficult for would-be car buyers to get loans. GMAC's move marks the first time that a financial institution has said it will use money from the \$700 billion bank bailout to offer more affordable credit to consumers.

Detroit-based GM said it was offering zero-percent or low-interest financing on some slower-selling 2008 and 2009 models over the next week — a promotion made possible by the billions provided to GMAC.

The government funds, on the heels of the \$17.4 billion automaker bailout approved by the Bush administration earlier this month, could provide relief to auto dealers. They have blamed the industry's steep drop in sales partially on a lack of affordable credit.

Michael Martin, who owns Chevrolet and Saturn brand dealerships in Manassas, Va., said he thinks the loans will be key to turning around the auto industry, adding that GMAC's lifting of credit restrictions sets an example for banks that have yet to use their bailout funding to free up consumer loans.

"I think these things really spur consumer confidence too," said Martin, who had already seen customer traffic pickup at his dealerships on Tuesday. "People are saying it's good to see



TONY DEJAK/AP

Pat O'Brien, who owns a Chevrolet dealership in the Cleveland suburb of Willoughby Hills, talks about GMAC financing Tuesday.

GMAC back in the marketplace. Whether it's just a euphoric feeling or not, at least it's a positive."

Vehicles sales have declined sharply this year, plunging 37 percent in November to their worst level in more than 26 years, with every major automaker reporting a drop of more than 30 percent. GM was among those worst hit, reporting a 41 percent slide for the month, with company executives blaming a lack of easily available credit.

GMAC said Tuesday that as a result of the government aid it will resume offering automotive financing to customers with credit scores as low as 621, eliminating restrictions put in place two months ago as a result of the tight credit markets that mandated a minimum score of 700.

Marc Cannon, a spokesman for AutoNation Inc., a Fort Lauderdale, Fla.-based auto retailer that encompasses 264 dealerships including 73 GM franchises, noted that consumers

can faithfully pay their bills for years, but if they miss one or two payments along the way, their credit score can drop into the 600s.

"They're not lowering standards, they're bringing more people into the game," Cannon said of GMAC. "These people are still customers and they're still good people you want to help get into the right vehicle."

Scott Talbott, a financial services lobbyist in Washington, estimated that 49 million more Americans would have eligible credit scores under the loosened restrictions.

But he said it will still be tough to attract car buyers who are worried about their jobs.

"If unemployment rises people are going to reduce spending. So all of these programs are contingent upon the overall economy and the restoration of consumer confidence," Talbott said.

"A new car or home is wonderful, but a job is better."

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