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List:.....$33,589
Sale Price:.....$31,988
Rebate:.....$4,500
*GM Truck Loyalty:....$1,000
$26,488
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GMC BMW
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2014 GMC SIERRA 3500HD
List:.....$62,359
Sale Price:.....$57,883
Rebate:.....$3,000
$54,883
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Weekend Tribune
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44 pages | http://www.hastingstribune.com | Saturday, Dec. 21, 2013 | Home delivered 33 cents Newsstands $1.50

Tough win
St. Cecilia boys defeat Sutton in defensive battle.
Page B1

Toy story
Community chips in to help United Way cause for kids.
Page A5

HC club gets boost from NRA's CEO

Shooting coach met LaPierre at Hastings Gun Show

WILL VRASPIR
wvraspir@hastingstribune.com

A chance meeting at a local gun show led a national gun group to help provide funding for the Hastings College shooting club.


LaPierre

The National Rifle Association recently donated $10,000 to the newly formed club.

The shooting club was working at the concession stand at the Hastings Gun Show in October when Wayne LaPierre, CEO and executive vice president of the NRA, made a surprise visit. He signed autographs and chatted with local residents.

LaPierre also met Ron Hergott, the coach of the Hastings College shooting club that began in March.

After discussing the fledgling organization, LaPierre told Hergott that he wanted to help. He provided a business card and told Hergott to call to provide more information.

After a few discussions during the next week, Hergott found out the club would receive a donation.

"It was nice to receive that contribution," he said. "They were really trying to boost a neat program. Having the NRA support it, that is a blessing."

Hergott said the club invites a variety of students, ranging from experienced shooters to those who have never touched a firearm, to participate. The club has had as many as 25 students attend meetings at one time.

***Please see BOOST**/page A3*

Planned Hebron community center ready for design

Former resident's gift of farmland making $1.8M project possible

TONY HERRMAN
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HEBRON — City officials here are pleased with the progress of a new community center made possible by a former resident.

The Stastny Community Center — planned for the north edge of town along U.S. Highway 81 — has entered the design phase.

"I think it's fantastic," City Attorney Joe Murray said. "These things never happen during the donor's lifetime and it would be nice if they did because I'm sure Jane would've absolutely loved it."

Alexandria native Jane Stastny Brinegar died April 8, 2012, at the age of 93 in her home in Boston, where she lived most of her life.

Before she died, Brinegar, who worked in food service at Harvard University, left 412 acres of Thayer County farm ground to the city of Hebron.

***Please see CENTER**/page A3*

Skate date

AMY ROH/*Tribune*

Allison Stritt, 9, (left) gives a helping hand to her sister Anna, 7, as they skate on an ice rink Thursday put up by the city of Hastings at Libs Park.

WILL VRASPIR
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Holding a folding chair for support, 7-year-old Anna Stritt tried to stutter-step herself along the slippery ice.

After she became more comfortable, she tried skating with her mother, Jamie, and finally on her own.

Three members of the Stritt family of Hastings braved the low temperatures last week to take to the ice. It took time for Anna and her 9-year-old sister, Allison, to get back into the swing of ice skating, but they seemed to like the challenge.

Having enjoyed ice skating on a frozen river at her family's land in Minnesota since she was young, Jamie wanted to share her love of ice skating with her daughters.

The family had gone to an ice skating rink in Kearney a few years ago, but it is much easier to be able to skate in town.

***Please see SKATE**/page A3*

LAURA BEAHM/*Tribune*



The first part of a three-phase renovation has been completed at The Lark, 809 W. Second St. The historic building will act as the permanent home of The Listening Room. Ukelele trio Star Belle will perform at the venue at 7:30 tonight.

The Lark

Survey says: 'Wow'

LAURA BERNERO
lbernero@hastingstribune.com

Someone has suggested that the directors of the new downtown concert and event space "The Lark" should emblazon a "wow" sign on the back wall of the venue in downtown Hastings and cue it each time a visitor crosses the threshold.

As the board of directors welcomed guests to a soft opening of the space Dec. 6, that's the expression they heard again and again: "Wow."

"We were very pleased," said Robin Harrell, director of The Lark and longtime leader of The Listening Room concert series, which will be among a variety of shows and events hosted at the space. "It was so fun to watch people walk in and just say 'Wow.' Plus, the crowd was a great mix of downtown merchants, Listening Room fans and newcomers."

The first floor of the historic building at 809 W. Second St. has emerged from a monthslong construction phase as a polished, spacious venue, including a new prep kitchen and restrooms; a historic, refurbished wooden bar; acoustic paneling; a modern house sound system, and tables and chairs

***Please see LARK**/page A3*

Weather

Hi: 31
Lo: 13

Partly cloudy and not as cold today. Chance of snow tonight.


Art by Owen Hansen, 9, Adams Central East

Nation

Trapped in snow

GREECE, N.Y. — Police say a 10-year-old boy in western New York has died from his injuries after being trapped in a snowbank near his home.

Police say Cory Denoncourt was building snow forts with a friend at an apartment complex Wednesday when the snowbank he was playing on collapsed.

Several children from the apartment complex helped pull him out, while another child ran for help.

Police say the boy was taken to a hospital in critical condition and died Thursday night.

Greece school officials say a crisis team was available Friday at Denoncourt's elementary school.

The Associated Press

Inside

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Classified	B5	Obituaries	A2
Comics	C3	Religion	C4
Entertainment	AA1	Society	C6

Vol. 109, No. 71 ©2013,
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Obituaries

SYLVIA GARTNER



Sylvia Gartner, age 99, of Aurora passed away on Wednesday, December 18, 2013, at Memorial Community Care.

Graveside Memorial Service will be held 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 28th, at Blue Valley Cemetery south of Hastings. Higby-McQuiston Mortuary is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be e-mailed to the family through the mortuary website at www.higby-mortuary.com.

Sylvia Freda Gartner, the daughter of Henry and Antonia (Mysicka) Wehnes, was born on a farm near Ayr, Nebraska, on December 16, 1914, and passed away in Aurora, Nebraska, on December 18, 2013, at the age of 99.

She was raised on a farm near Pauline and Ayr. Sylvia attended country school and helped take care of her younger sisters and brothers.

Sylvia was married to Charles Gartner on March 24, 1934, at Smith Center, Kansas. Charles passed away in 1960. Sylvia sold the farm and moved to Hastings where she worked at the Modern Motel and Travel Lodge. She also was a cook at the Good Samaritan Village for several years.

Sylvia was a member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Aurora. She taught Sunday school and helped with vacation Bible school while being a member at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Blue Hill.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; son, Roger; 5 sisters and 3 brothers.

Those left to cherish her memory are her two children, William (Karen) Gartner of Gretna and Charlene Coon of Aurora; 6 grandchildren, Russell Gartner of Clarksburg, West Virginia, Cindy Williams of Hastings, Robert (Rhonda) Coon of Greeley, Colorado, Barry (Laura) Coon of Highland Ranch, Colorado, Michelle Gartner-Kochanek and Dan Kochanek of Denver, Colorado, and Adam (Ashley) Gartner of Omaha; and 7 great-grandchildren, Zachary, Andrew, Nathan, Sarah, Megan, Kinley and Brennan.

Official: Porsche had no mechanical issues in Walker car crash

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Investigators have found no evidence that the Porsche carrying actor Paul Walker had mechanical problems before it crashed, killing the "Fast & Furious" star.

The investigation also has ruled out debris or other roadway conditions as causing the car in which Walker was a passenger to slam into a light pole and tree.

The car, a 2005 Porsche Carrera GT, is notoriously hard to handle.

"We're looking at speed and speed alone," a law enforcement official with knowledge of the investigation told The Associated Press. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the ongoing investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Nov. 30 crash also killed the driver, Walker's friend and financial adviser Roger Rodas.

Rodas, 38, and Walker, 40, co-owned an auto racing team. Rodas also was a professional driver who competed in 10 Pirelli World Challenge GTS races this year.

Investigators with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department have calculated a range of the speed at which they think the car was traveling, but they won't firm up that number until Porsche engineers come to California next month in the hope of extracting information from onboard data collectors.

The official would not disclose the current speed estimate. It is calculated through a formula that uses factors including the arc of tire marks from the scene and how well the tires would grip the roadway, said Chris Kauderer, chairman of the California Association of Accident Reconstruction Specialists.

The sheriff's office has said speed was a factor in the one-car crash in an industrial park about 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. A spokesman on Wednesday had nothing to add.

Though the car exploded in flames, its three data recorders survived and may produce information to pinpoint the speed. If they produce usable data, the recorders would be able to tell investigators whether seat belts were fastened, air bags deployed and whether Rodas hit the brakes before impact.

Because the car is so rare, investigators will need Porsche's help to retrieve the data. A spokesman for the car company declined to comment.

The official said sheriff's investigators also have enlisted the help of California Highway Patrol accident reconstruction specialists, who tested the brakes on the wrecked car and found that at least one of the tires was made in 2004. The CHP did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The official told AP that the Porsche appeared to have negotiated a curve in the road successfully before crashing.

"They were well out of the curve when they lost control," the official said.

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. 14th St. Volunteers also welcome.

◆ **Alcoholics Anonymous**, 9 a.m., noon and 8 p.m., 521 S. St. Joseph Ave.; and 7:30 p.m., 918 W. Fourth St. Sunday; and noon, 5:15 and 8 p.m., 521 S. St. Joseph Ave.; and noon, 835 S. Burlington Ave. No. 114 Monday.

◆ **Crystal Meth Anonymous**, 7 p.m. Sunday, 521 S. St. Joseph Ave.

◆ **Al-Anon**, 8 p.m. Sunday and 8 p.m. Monday, First United Methodist Church, 614 N. Hastings Ave.; and noon Monday, The Kensington, 233 N. Hastings Ave.

◆ **Itty Bitty Story Time** for ages 0-24 months, 9:15 a.m. Monday, Hastings Public Library, 517 W. Fourth St. For more information, call 402-461-2346.

◆ **Overeaters Anonymous**, 5-6 p.m. Monday, Hastings Family YMCA, 1430 W. 16th St.

◆ **Gamblers Anonymous**, 6:30 p.m. Monday, Mary Lanning Healthcare Education Building basement, Room D.

◆ **Chorus of the Plains**, 7 p.m. Monday, The Kensington ballroom, 233 N. Hastings Ave. Barbershop style music open to men of all ages.

◆ **3 Steps to Recovery**, 8 p.m. Monday, Crossroads Center Rescue Mission, 702 W. 14th St.

◆ **Narcotics Anonymous**, 8 p.m. Monday, 401 N. Lincoln Ave.

CLAY CENTER

◆ **Al-Anon**, 3 p.m. Sunday, Clay Center Christian Church, 31371 Woodland Road.

◆ **Alcoholics Anonymous**, 8 p.m. Monday, Clay Center Christian Church, 31371 Woodland Road.

Yesterday and Today

Today is Saturday, Dec. 21, the 355th day of 2013. There are 10 days left in the year. Winter arrives at 11:11 p.m.

MEMORY LANE

TRIBLAND

Sixty years ago: Through the efforts of Hastings civic clubs, the Salvation Army Christmas fund was $600 richer.

Fifty years ago: Rural Youth installed new officers for 1964. Those installed were Frank Reis of Ayr, president; Charles Hoffman of Ayr, vice president; Mary Grothen of Hastings, secretary; and Betty Gartner of Glenvil, news reporter.

Forty years ago: A record $5,577 was contributed to the Goodfellows Christmas Dinner Fund

Thirty years ago: Plans for a $3 million communications art building at Hastings College were revealed. Bob Gray, a Hastings native and chairman of Gray and Co. Public Communications International in Washington, D.C., was giving $1 million as a challenge grant.

Twenty years ago: Citizens for Progressive Education, which opposed a school bond issue for merging Red Cloud, Blue Hill, Campbell and Guide Rock schools, said the boards were misleading the public in statements about the proposal.

Ten years ago: Former Gov. Ben Nelson said that the proposed closing of the regional centers in Hastings and Norfolk would not save the state money.

One year ago: Lloyd McIntyre was named the golf coach at Hastings College.

HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY

On Dec. 21, 1913, what's regarded as the first newspaper crossword puzzle was published in the New York World. Created by journalist Arthur Wynne, it was billed as a "Word-Cross Puzzle."

ON THIS DATE

In 1620, Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower went ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Mass.

In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln signed a congressional act authorizing the Navy Medal of Honor.

In 1910, 344 coal miners were killed in Britain's Pretoria Pit Disaster.

In 1945, Gen. George S. Patton died in Heidelberg, Germany, of injuries from a car accident.

In 1988, 270 people were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a Pam Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, sending wreckage crashing to the ground.

TODAY IN SPORTS

In 2010, the University of Connecticut Huskies women's basketball team won its 89th consecutive game, setting a new Division I record for consecutive wins.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Country singer Freddie Hart is 87. Actor Ed Nelson is 85. Talk show host Phil Donahue is 78. Movie director John Avildsen is 78. Actress Jane Fonda is 76. Actor Larry Bryggman is 75. Singer Carla Thomas is 71. Musician Albert Lee is 70. Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas is 69. Actor Josh Mostel is 67. Actor Samuel L. Jackson is 65. Movie producer Jeffrey Katzenberg is 63. Singer Betty Wright is 60. International Tennis Hall-of-Famer Chris Evert is 59. Actress Jane Kaczmarek is 58. Country singer Lee Roy Parnell is 57. Entertainer Jim Rose is 57. Actor-comedian Ray Romano is 56. Country singer Christy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 51. Rock musician Murph (The Lemonheads; Dinosaur Jr.) is 49. Actor-comedian Andy Dick is 48. Rock musician Gabrielle Glaser is 48. Actress Michelle Hurd is 47. Actor Kiefer Sutherland is 47. Actress Karri Turner is 47. Actress Khrystyne Haje is 45. Country singer Brad Warren (The Warren Brothers) is 45. Actress Julie Delpy is 44. Country singer-musician Rhean Boyer (Carolina Rain) is 43. Contemporary Christian singer Natalie Grant is 42. Actor Glenn Fitzgerald is 42. Singer-musician Brett Scallions is 42. Rock singer Lukas Rossi (Rock Star Supernova) is 37. Rock musician Anna Bulbrook (Airborne Toxic Event) is 31. Country singer Luke Stricklin is 31. Actor Steven Yeun is 30.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The time will come when Winter will ask us: 'What were you doing all the Summer?' "

— Bohemian proverb

FACT OF THE DAY

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," derided by Hollywood insiders as "Disney's Folly" while it was in production, cost Disney Studios an estimated $1.5 million to create. Walt Disney mortgaged his home to help cover the unanticipated expenses.

LUNAR LANDING

Between full moon (Dec. 17) and last quarter moon (Dec. 25).

Sources: The Associated Press, Newspaper Enterprise Assn. and World Almanac Education Group

Cruisin' Claus



ELIZABETH ROBERTSON, The Philadelphia Inquirer/AP

Santa Claus waves while riding his motorcycle in Washington Township, N.J., Wednesday.

Tribland

The following couples recently applied for marriage licenses at the Adams County Clerk's Office: Travis Leigh Williams and Tanisha Chanel Mullen, and Joshua Jeremy Pettit and Tamara Ann Elizabeth Hughes, all of Hastings.

Love & Logic parenting class: early childhood ages 1 to 7, Faith Lutheran Church; four Sundays starting January 5, 1:00 to 2:30; $25. Pre-register by January 3, 402-462-5044. -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Max C. Gallagher of 1300 Pershing Road and Daniel P. Ogden of Lincoln collided Dec. 12 at Burlington Avenue and South Street.

Happy Anniversary Hastings Barista's; ten years and still brewing. Thanks a latte! -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Sarah L. Nutz of 921 W. 11th St. and Irene J. Gerdes of Glenvil collided Wednesday at Burlington Avenue near 14th Street.

Woodward's Disposal Holiday pick up schedule for Hastings and Juniata area: December 25 pick up is December 28; January 1 pick up is January 4. This will be for both garbage and recycling service. -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by William G. Tackwell of 1312 Briggs Ave. and Unchae L. Reiman of 1615 W. Eighth St. collided Monday at Burlington Avenue and 14th Street.

Reminder! Tribland advertising deadline for Tuesday, Christmas Eve Day, is Monday, the 23rd, at 4:00 p.m. -Adv.

A vehicle reportedly driven by Rebecca Hamik of Campbell Tuesday struck a deer at Powerline Road and Bladen Avenue.

Eagles, Sunday breakfast brunch 9:00 to noon; kitchen open 5:00 to 7:00; John Stitt 6:00 to 10:00. All welcome. -Adv.

A vehicle reportedly driven by Emily N. Nissen of 409 E. Ninth St. Dec. 7 struck a utility pole at Ninth Street and Colorado Avenue.

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.

A vehicle reportedly driven by Bryant A. Menke of 743 S. Kansas Ave. Dec. 7 struck a fire hydrant at Ninth Street and Marian Road.

Just arrived...another shipment of those world-famous La-Z-Boy recliners. Enjoy the comfort at terrific sale prices. A great Christmas gift for year-round relaxation at Bruce Furniture of Hastings. -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Timothy P. Horst of Edgar and Constance J. Lewis of 1025 S. Wabash Ave. collided Dec. 11 at Second Street and Lincoln Avenue.

A vehicle reportedly driven by Virginia Campos Garcia of 1719 W. Third St. Dec. 12 struck a tree at Kerr Avenue near Second Street.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Dan R. Hoselton of Juniata and Crystal Garcia Ramirez of 1410 E. South St. No. 24 collided Dec. 12 at Second Street and St. Joseph Avenue.

A hit-and-run driver Sunday reportedly struck a parked vehicle owned by Adam L. Story of 1310 North Shore Drive at 700 N. Hastings Ave.

50% off in-stock Christmas decorations now thru December 24. Big G ACE. -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Kelby B. Pierce of 917 South St. and Craig A. Spady of Fairfield collided Monday at Showboat Boulevard and Seventh Street.

A gift certificate makes sure it is just right! Shop today 9:00 to 5:00; Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Bruce Furniture. -Adv.

A vehicle reportedly driven by Arthur L. Sole of 217 W. H St. Tuesday struck a parked vehicle owned by the Hastings Street Department, 1010 W. A St., at H Street near St. Joseph Avenue.

Concealed carry class January 11. Clark, 402-984-5305. -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Bryant A. Menke of 743 S. Kansas Ave. and Colby J. Pedroza of 925 N. Hewett Ave. collided Thursday at Hastings Avenue near F Street.

Ellis Disposal's Christmas schedule: Wednesday route will run on Tuesday. Have a very Merry Christmas! -Adv.

Adams County Judge Michael Burns Friday sentenced Bruce J. Berck Jr., 18, of 1233 N. Lexington Ave. to 14 days in jail, a $500 fine and six-month driver's license revocation for driving under the influence of alcohol on Dec. 8. Berck pleaded guilty Thursday. DUI is a Class W misdemeanor punishable by up to 60 days in jail and a $500 fine.

Julie Smith Phillips, principal harpist with San Diego Symphony, playing at Grace United Methodist Church, 1832 West 9th, Christmas Eve services at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. -Adv.

Adams County Judge Michael Burns Friday sentenced Michelle L. Clausen, 46, of 406 S. Chicago Ave. to a $100 fine for procuring alcohol to a minor on Nov. 8. Clausen pleaded guilty on Thursday. Procuring alcohol to a minor is a Class 1 misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a $1,000 fine.

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.

Personal Touch Wigs, new looks, styling, wig products. 402-463-3240, 469-2548. -Adv.

Adams County Judge Michael Burns Friday sentenced Noel R. Luce, 25, of 1029 W. H St. No. 4 to a $300 fine for theft by shoplifting, subsequent offense, on Nov. 21. Luce pleaded guilty Thursday. Theft by shoplifting, value less than $200 and subsequent offense, is a Class 1 misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a $1,000 fine.

G&W Saw & Tool Sharpening open 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. thru January, 463-0166. -Adv.

John P. Clerc of 144 Ringland Road reported Thursday that money was taken at his residence.

Christmas gift ideas...curio cabinet, glider rocker, floor mirror, jewelry armoire, memory foam pillow. Bruce Furniture of Hastings. -Adv.

Corrections

If you see an error in the Hastings Tribune's news coverage, we want to know. Call the newsroom at 402-461-1257 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or email tribune@hastingstribune.com. Or write to Newsroom, P.O. Box 788, Hastings, NE 68902.

Area funerals

Today

◆ **Marie R. Jorgensen,** 88**,** of Holstein, 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Roseland

◆ **James "Jim" Miller,** 65**,** of Minden, 10:30 a.m. at St. John's Catholic Church in Minden.

◆ **Leota Gragert Hoffmeyer,** 88**,** of Deshler, 2 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church in Deshler.

Lotteries

WINNING NUMBERS

Friday

Nebraska Pick 5 .....**3-5-6-10-19**
Jackpot: $58,000
2by2 .....**Red 6-7, White 2-24**
MegaMillions **3-4-31-49-57-MB6**
Megaplier: 2
Nebraska Pick 3 .....**7-5-5**
MyDaY **8-20-47**
Kansas Pick 3 .....**9-6-4**



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Lark: New venue hosting first concert tonight

Continued from page A1
that can be arranged to seat 160-200 people.

About 100 people braved freezing temperatures to attend the soft opening, and the showcase gave the directors a feel for how people will use the space in the future.

"We had been wondering how people were actually going to interact with the space when they got inside. And throughout the night, there were clusters of people spread all over the room, checking out different features," said Liz Halsted, president of The Lark board of directors. "We are so excited to finally share the space with the community."

> "The acoustics are amazing."
>
> **- Lark board president Liz Halsted**

Halsted, Harrell and members of The Lark board have spent long hours cleaning and polishing the first floor over the past several weeks.

On a working afternoon recently, Halsted and Harrell tested out The Lark's house sound system, which can be controlled from mobile devices and is one of many features that has delighted the organizers.

"The acoustics are amazing," said Halsted, as she held her finger on her iPhone, dragging the volume level up and down and grinning as the walls echoed with the sounds of a bluegrass track. "And this is just the house sound system. I can't wait to hear how a professional sound system sounds in here."

On the night of the soft opening, clusters of people remarked that their conversations didn't have to compete with the music being played through the sound system, but rather blended with it equally.

"If you stood in a group of three to five people, you could hear everyone clearly, and it was like the music floated above that. No one was competing for sound. It was like a perfect mix," Halsted said.

The board is also excited that the building's renovation has maintained the historic look of the space while also ushering the space into a new era of use. With the soft opening complete, The Lark directors are now gearing up for a season of premiere concerts and events and a busy year to come as different groups use and rent the space.

The Lark will host its first concert today with Nebraska ukulele trio Star Belle. The first Listening Room show of the 2014 season will be on Jan. 10, 2014, and will also serve as The Lark's official grand opening and the culmination of The Listening Room's coupling with a stage it can call its permanent home.

The Listening Room concert series is going to maintain its vein of folk performances and expand its outreach to include jazz and classical musicians. However, it will remain its own entity and maintain a permanent spot in The Lark lineup, which the directors anticipate will include local concerts, classes, workshops, church services, movie screenings, meetings and wedding receptions.

The board of directors hopes that bands and local music and dance studios will conduct their own, existing concerts and events at the space.

The Jan. 10 event will feature Jackie Allen, a jazz vocalist and composer from Lincoln who will bring an accompanying jazz quartet. Allen is known most recently for her appearance on the NPR radio show "A Prairie Home Companion" when the show was hosted in Lincoln in October.

Concerts at The Lark will be held in what Harrell describes as a "cabaret style," with tables of four set up near the stage as well as lines of chairs in traditional concert seating. Reservations for both are already filling quickly for the Jackie Allen event, she said.

This month also marks the completion of the first of three phases in The Lark's $1.2 million, three-year capital campaign, which has crossed the $1 million mark.

The Lark building has two phases to go in its three-phase construction timeline. The second-floor mezzanine of the building, which includes conference rooms, two balconies overlooking the first floor and a green room for performers, is slated for completion in fall 2014.



LAURA BEAHM/*Tribune*

A historic bar was part of first-floor renovations at The Lark. Work on the second-floor meeting spaces and balconies is slated to begin early next year.

Seven offices on the third floor will be available for rent as early as fall 2015, depending on the funds raised in the capital campaign. The Lark directors plan to use event and office rental fees as the revenue to sustain the space into the future.

The Community Redevelopment Authority, which owns The Lark building and has a purchase agreement with the board, helped get the ball rolling on the project by securing a community redevelopment block grant from the state.

Other contributors to the capital campaign include the Perkins Foundation, the Wallace-Ellis Trust, the Hastings Community Foundation, Pinnacle Bank, the Adams County Convention and Visitor's Bureau and private contributors.

The board of directors hopes construction on the mezzanine level will continue as soon as possible in the new year.

"People are already excited about the mezzanine level. I think the balconies draw your eye up there, and it piques people's interest," Harrell said.

To reserve tickets for upcoming shows and to track the progress of The Lark's construction projects and capital campaign, patrons can visit TheLarkDowntown.com.

Tonight's concert featuring Star Belle will begin at 7:30 with doors opening at 6:30. Reservations for table seating can be purchased online or at the door.

Center: Building could be finished by end of 2014

Continued from page A1
The land was to be auctioned and the proceeds used to build a community center that would be named for Brinegar's parents: Robert and Antonette Stastny.

"She wanted to do something for the entire county and decided this is what she wanted to do, and she wanted to do it in memory of her parents," Murray said.

The auction took place in early 2012 and generated $2.58 million. The City Council established an informal steering committee to work on the project with representatives from the Lincoln office of JEO Consulting Group architecture firm.

The steering committee involved local residents and two council members.

The community center will be built on a horseshoe piece of ground the city already owns on Dove Road, north of Subway between old and new highways 81.

The property is large enough that after the community center is constructed there will be lots available for future development, Councilwoman Beth Goldhammer said.

Out of the committee's work came four floor plans ranging in size and cost from 13,000 square feet and $2.6 million down to 10,000 square feet and $1.8 million.

Three plans were presented a few months ago at a Hebron City Council meeting, but council members were concerned about spending all of the money on construction and not having anything left for maintenance.

"Because the last thing we want to happen is the city in the long term to have to fund the community center," Goldhammer said. "So we thought it would be prudent to hold some money back for the maintenance of the building."

The steering committee asked JEO what the city could do for $1.8 million. That's when the architects came up with Plan D.

"We were all in agreement that was a really nice plan," she said.

Council members approved the plan unanimously at their regular Dec. 2 meeting.

Plan D calls for a 10,000-square-foot community center that will have all of the same amenities planned for the larger building: a kitchen, concession area and multipurpose room.

The larger floor plans included a meeting room that could hold 25-50 people. With Plan D, the multipurpose room will contain an "air wall" that is part of the building and stores inside of a crevice in one of the walls.

"I don't know if we are doing without," Goldhammer said. "We just restructured so we could bring down the square footage and save some money."

Now that the council approved a floor plan, the project enters the design phase with more detailed drawings on the way to address components like window placement and wiring.

"Now we'll get down to the height of the walls and where this is going to be and more detailed information about the actual building," Goldhammer said.

The hope, she said, is to put the project out for bid in April or May and for it to be completed by the end of 2014.

"I don't know how possible that is but that's our timeline," she said. "We've got to get all of our blueprints done so we can send it out if people want to bid on it."

Murray is pleased with the community's dedication to the project.

"The community has done an excellent job in planning it and really putting some effort into it and doing a good job of making it top-notch," he said.

Boost: NRA's LaPierre donates to HC shooting club

Continued from page A1
Early meetings focused on teaching firearm safety, meant to refresh shooters on the need for safety and introduce new students to shooting sports.

"It's neat to see the camaraderie between students," he said. "That's the neatest thing about the club."

The NRA is not the only organization to invest in the shooting club. The National Shooting Association previously gave a $10,000 grant.

Hergott said the donated money will be used to provide safety tools, shells and an indoor system to practice shooting during the winter months.

"Without these donations, it would take longer to get some of these extras to help make the program grow faster," he said.

Hergott also appreciates the support from the Four Rivers Sportsman's Club near Hastings and its president Jim Price. The club provides a secure vault to store firearms when they are not in use. Members also provide moral support to the students.

"The kids really appreciate that," Hergott said. "Some of their members have traveled with us to meets."

Less than one year after founding the group, he said students have been able to be competitive at tournaments.

"We've come a long ways in one year," he said.

Skate: Rink ready to go

Continued from page A1
Last year, they spent a lot of time at Crosier Park after the ice skating rink was set up.

This year, the rink was placed at Libs Park. The Stritts live in the area so the move made it much closer for the family.

"I'm so glad they did this," Jamie said. "We used it a lot last year."

The Hastings Parks and Recreation Department purchased a liner three years ago and set it up at Crosier Park. Two years ago, it was too warm to set up the rink.

Ryan Martin, recreation superintendent, said it takes sustained temperatures below freezing to allow the ice rink to be set up.

This year, the rink was moved to Libs Park, in a former tennis court now used for sand volleyball.

Martin said a fence will help keep the area sectioned off and the sand made it easier to install the rink.

"The physical part of the area was a lot more convenient," he said.

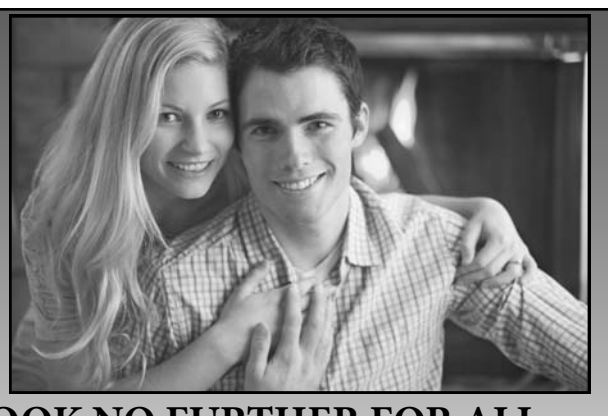
Now, the area can be used as an ice rink in the winter and a volleyball court in the summer.

Martin said ice skating is dependent on cold temperatures, but the department plans to leave the rink up as long as the weather sustains it.

It also adds an activity for the community.

"I think it's very unique for a community to have," Martin said. "It's nice to provide something special for people to enjoy with one another."

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George Norris a remarkable part of state's history

The Grand Island Independent

Nebraska has produced outstanding people over time, and one of the most prominent is highlighted in a new book "George Norris, Going Home," authored by Gene Budig and Don Walton. Home was McCook, and in the years 1913 to 1942 Norris was a towering, national figure in Washington, D.C.

Norris won 10 elections to the United States Congress, and his service included 30 years as U.S. senator from Nebraska. He was a master parliamentarian, fiercely independent, and quickly became a powerful influence in the nation's capital.

A progressive Republican, Norris had many legislative triumphs. Foremost among them was his crusade to create the Tennessee Valley Authority. This year the TVA celebrates its 80th anniversary, serving over 9 million people in seven states through its mission of providing low-cost electricity and management of natural resources.

Norris also wanted to bring electric service to other areas that had none. As older readers will recall, prior to the 1940s wide parts of rural Nebraska were pitch black at night. Norris sponsored the Rural Electrification Act of 1935, which began the process of bringing electric power to small towns and farms all over America.

Today, public power districts in Nebraska are a visible Norris legacy. Less known, however, is his successful 1930s campaign to change Nebraska's two-house legislature into the nation's only state unicameral...the consequence of his belief that one legislative body would be more efficient, transparent and responsive to the people.

Despite over 30 years of winning elections and national accomplishments, by the late 1930s Norris' support in Nebraska began to wane. He was not only an ally of President Roosevelt, but also his friend and was often accused of being more Democrat than Republican. He changed to an Independent in 1936, and thus faced opponents from both the Republican and Democratic parties. In a harbinger of things to come, he won the three-person race...but received only 44 percent of the vote.

Defeat came in 1942. His loss should not have been unexpected, for his Republican opponent had campaigned for months and the 81 year-old Norris had decided to run again only a few weeks before the election. He returned to McCook in 1943, a sad but honored man, and lived two more years.

"George Norris, Going Home" is a wonderfully written account of a once-powerful Nebraska senator who ultimately lost the support of those who believed in him. Still, although political times had changed, his integrity and independence remained constant throughout his life.

George Norris was a great man, and a remarkable part of Nebraska's history.

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Hastings Tribune

908-912 W. Second St.
Hastings, NE 68902
(USPS 237-140)

General Info: 402-462-2131
Circulation: 402-462-2131
Advertising: 402-461-1231
News: 402-461-1257
Want ads: 402-461-1241
Toll free: 800-742-6397

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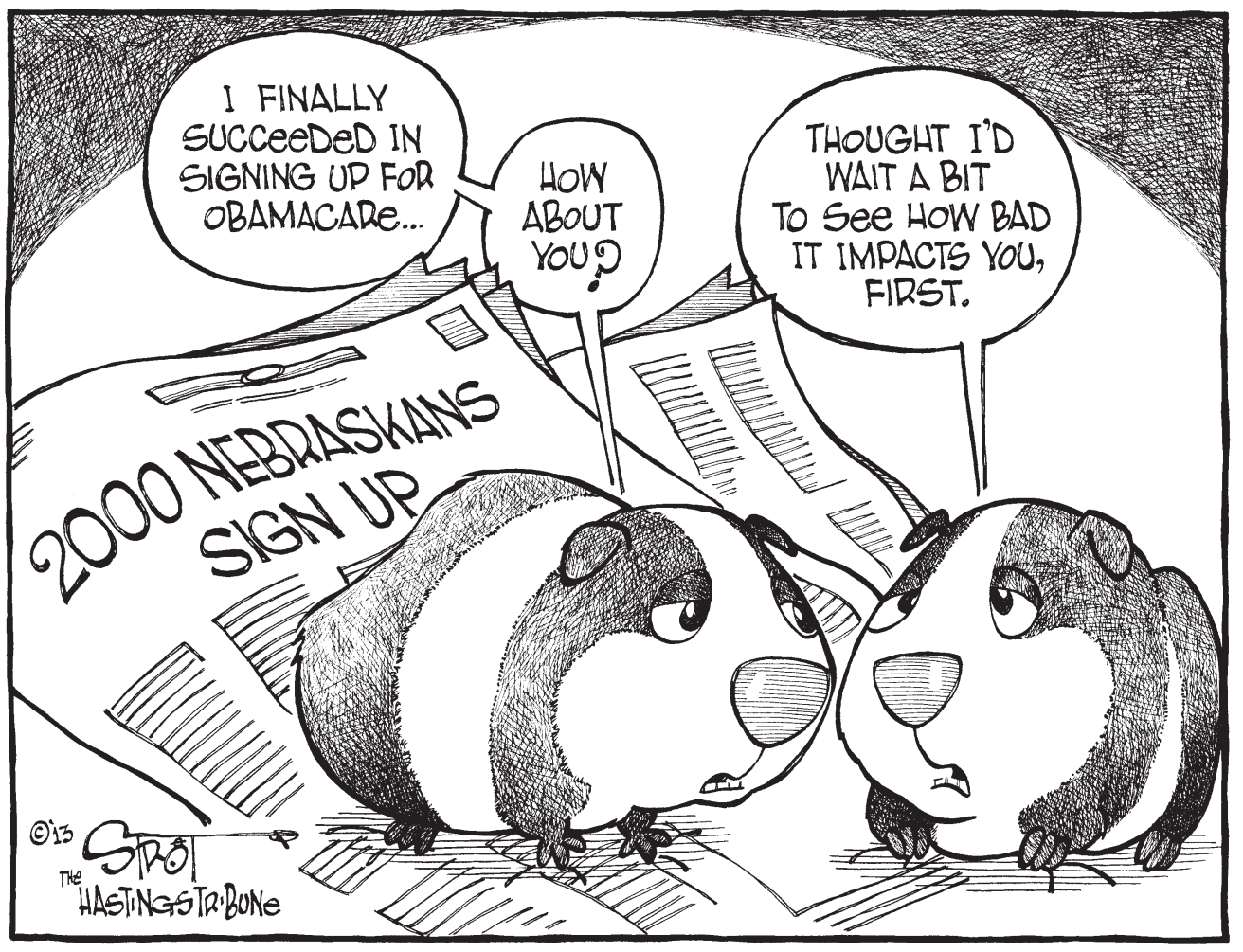
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Published daily except Sunday and holidays of Jan. 1, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Periodicals postage paid at Hastings, Neb., POSTMASTER: Send changes to The Hastings Tribune, P.O. Box 788, Hastings, NE 68902.

Subscription rates

Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, Webster counties, Doniphan, Giltner: E-Z Pay $8 per month; $34 for three months; $58 for six months and $102 per year.
Fillmore, Franklin, Kearney, Thayer counties: E-Z Pay $8.50 per month; $36 for three months; $61 for six months and $107 per year.
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Tribune on the Internet: http://www.hastingstribune.com; email: tribune@hastingstribune.com



Must Americans start accepting polygamy?

Must Americans accept polygamy alongside same-sex marriage? A federal judge last week struck down part of Utah's ban on polygamy; the state can no longer prosecute adult men and women who "cohabitate" in numbers larger than the traditional pair. Critics suggested the ruling was a natural next step after the success of same-sex marriage campaigns and lawsuits in recent years.

But Kody Brown, the fundamentalist Mormon "Sister Wives" star whose case sparked the ruling, proclaimed it a victory for religious freedom.

Is polygamy inevitable? Are we headed down the slippery slope? Joel Mathis and Ben Boychuk debate the issue.



Joel Mathis

What's sacred to one person is often profane to another. Obvious, yes, but a point often in need of deep reconsideration.

Need proof? Here's my sparring partner, Ben Boychuk, commenting two weeks ago on whether Hobby Lobby should be forced to abide by the Affordable Care Act mandates to provide birth control coverage to its employees: "The First Amendment is supposed to be a bulwark against government encroachment on the free exercise of religion."

He's (ahem) making a somewhat different argument this week.

Yes, it is a bit hilarious to watch the same conservatives — who were just passionately advocating the inviolable importance of the First Amendment — suddenly remember other priorities. It helps you understand that when they say "religious liberty," they often mean "Christian privilege," and no, the two are not the same.

Now, I don't want to be in the position of defending polygamy. While there may be exceptions, it appears to me that women in such situations are usually less than full partners — often bound to such relationships before (and whether or not) they give their full consent. That's bad.

Understand, though, the state of Utah wasn't just denying Kody Brown legal recognition for his multiple relationships — it was denying that Brown and his "sister wives" even have the right to live in the same place. That's a rather considerable intrusion on personal freedom, if you think about it. The state needs a rational basis, a showing of legitimate harm, to interfere with such freedoms — and no, general squeamishness doesn't suffice.

Critics say the Utah decision was made possible by the logic of the 2002 Supreme Court decision striking down laws banning homosexual conduct. They are right about that and there's no point in denying it; they are wrong in suggesting it means the end of the world. It might get messy at times, but we'll get it worked out. In the meantime: Civilization will chug along, much as it always does.

Joel Mathis is a writer in Philadelphia. Email him at joelmathis@gmail.com.



Ben Boychuk

Liberals favor a broad reading of the Bill of Rights — until they don't. Does it matter that polygamy was illegal everywhere in America when the states ratified the First Amendment in 1789? Not at all, our liberal friends say.

Our "living" Constitution all but requires Americans to accept that standards evolve and truths are negotiable. Times change.

So liberals agree religious liberty should be absolute — unless your beliefs collide with the prevailing progressive orthodoxy. In that case, kindly shut up and knuckle under. It's the American way.

That's a far cry from the founders' view, which flatly rejected that just any claim to religious liberty was legitimate. The Aztecs, for example, believed human sacrifice was a religious duty. No one would accept murder as "free exercise of religion" — well, almost no one. We're a big country. Somebody, somewhere might think human sacrifice is copasetic, just as a lot of people have convinced themselves polygamy is just fine.

Times really do change. Republicans in their 1856 platform urged Congress "to prohibit ... those twin relics of barbarism, polygamy and slavery."

Every child today understands slavery was wrong. It deprived humans of their natural liberty. What about polygamy?

Polygamy says one woman isn't enough for a man. (Polyandry, which involves one wife and multiple husbands, is rare.) That's also what our sexually liberated society says. Has the serial "hookup" culture liberated women? Would legalized polygamy be any better?

As the U.S. Supreme Court underscored in a famous 1878 ruling, "[P]olygamy leads to the patriarchal principle, and which, when applied to large communities, fetters the people in stationary despotism, while that principle cannot long exist in connection with monogamy."

In other words, polygamy was — and remains — wrong because it undermines the essential equality between one husband and one wife.

It somehow seems fitting that the federal judge in Utah ruled on a case brought by the patriarch of a reality TV show. Those nice people on TV seem to make it work, right? And if the effect is to further undermine an institution essential for maintaining a free society — well, that would make for a fine show, too.

Ben Boychuk is associate editor of City Journal. Email him at bboychuk@city-journal.org.

Some gift suggestions for the naughty, nice



Ann McFeatters

In the spirit of good will to others, even if they are politicians, here are some gift suggestions culled from the catalogues. For Ted Cruz, the Texas tea partying maverick senator who helped orchestrate the government shutdown for which he hasn't yet given us an explanation, we suggest "Magic Morsels" from Fairytale Brownies. We would perhaps add an ingredient from the 1960s, just to see if he is human.

For John Boehner, the House speaker from Ohio who is now on the Tea Party's naughty list for backing the budget compromise even though he spent the last two years bucking his own establishment Republicans, we suggest Dean and Deluca's sweet "Coal Stocking Stuffer." Dean and Deluca notes: "It's the nicest stocking stuffer possible for those who deserve a lump or two."

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who "presided over" the disastrous rollout of the Affordable Care Act, to use one of the nice names for it, might find a "voice clarifying amplifier" from Hammacher Schlemmer useful. It is a digital earpiece that amplifies human speech frequencies above background noise so that spoken words are clearly audible. Perhaps the next time peons tell her a computer program is not ready for primetime, she'll hear.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Ca., who ran a tight ship when she was speaker, should receive a "fashionista Christmas tree," a prelit 5-foot (just her size) tree designed like a dressmaker's dress form also from Hammacher Schlemmer. Pelosi always looks so well put together you forget the Republicans ignore everything she says.

We think President Obama would enjoy the new Play it Again Polar Bear from Gump's in San Francisco. You ask the bear to play a song, any one of 12 Christmas carols, and he does it. Just like Obama tries to mollify whoever he is meeting with at any given moment.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the beleaguered Senate Republican leader, might find under his tree a "teepee to call your own." The Land of Nod catalogue notes that this teepee is "the perfect home away from home while trailblazing the playroom frontier," which of course is Congress. Poor McConnell just keeps bashing Obamacare and he still can't win friends and influence people.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, whose brash style (he hopes) will propel him to the White House in 2016, shoots from the hip so often he should have an Orvis denim long-sleeved shooter shirt which will make everyone think of Theodore Roosevelt, and not just because of girth.

Michelle Obama, the near perfect first lady, ordinarily would get a vegetable-of-the-month club subscription. But she's probably tired of that, so we are suggesting a Meatsplosion, a Big Box of Deli Meat from Zingerman's. For only $200 she'll receive pastrami, corned beef, sausage, liverwurst, applewood smoked bacon, pork spread, and salami. Yum-o.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fl., who would like to be the first Hispanic president and used to be for immigration before he was against it, really should have an iPhone owner's robotic avatar from Hammacher. It reflects an owner's facial features and personality traits. "You can customize its response in your own voice to match your personality such as "stop that!" or "wait a sec, bub."

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., is best known for trampling anyone who stands between him and a TV camera and refusing to step aside. His aides might consider the runaway alarm clock from Hammacher. Put on Schumer's lectern, it makes a "mischievous dash when its alarm sounds" and can survive a jump from a three-foot stand after which it scampers in an erratic path." TV crews would love it.

You have to admit that Hillary Clinton, who has been first lady, senator and secretary of State, has everything. She's rich. She's smart. Neat clothes. Husband with great hair. Nieman Marcus' big gift this year is an ultimate outdoor entertainment system ranging from $1.5 million to $2.6 million. What a perfect way to make a presidential announcement!

Happy holidays, pols. Isn't it nice to know we're thinking of you?

Ann McFeatters has covered the White House since 1986 for Scripps Howard newspapers. Reach her by e-mail at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.

Tribland five-day forecast

Art by Owen Hansen, 9, Adams Central East



Partly cloudy Today
High: 31 **Low:** 13
Wind: Light; 20 percent chance of storms tonight.



Cold Sunday
High: 22 **Low:** 7
Wind: North 15-20
A 20 percent chance of light snow Sunday night.



Partly cloudy Monday
High: 20 **Low:** 12
Partly cloudy at night.



Partly cloudy Tuesday
High: 36 **Low:** 21
Partly cloudy at night.



Sunny Wednesday
High: 37 **Low:** 15
Mostly clear Wednesday night.

Keeping eyes open for spirit of Christmas

Caught up in all that goes on this time of year, we tend to feel we have lost the Christmas sprit. A dear friend of mine lost hers entirely.

"I can't find it anywhere," she said, frantically searching for tape on her dining room table that was covered with empty boxes, stuffed shopping bags and colorful wrapping paper.



Joyce Ore

"You probably wrapped it and stuck it under the tree," I said in an attempt to bring some humor into the situation.

"This season is no fun without the Christmas spirit," she said. "I don't feel like celebrating."

This was serious. This woman is the icon for all that is good about this season.

"When did you last see it?" I asked.

She shook her head. "I can't remember. I've been too busy."

"You need to sit down and relax," I said, leading her into the kitchen where I could smell fresh baked cookies.

"I have too much to do without baking, but it seems to be the thing to do," she said wearily, then brightened. "Say, aren't these the cookies you like so well? Take some home with you. I think I'll take some down the street to my elderly neighbor who is snowed in. While I'm at it, I might as well shovel her walks; I need the fresh air."

As she reached into the closet to hang up my coat, she picked up her blue scarf in the corner of the floor. "The last time I wore this was a year ago when I went caroling. I thought I had lost it," she said. "I love Christmas caroling, standing in the crisp air under a star-studded sky, singing those age-old carols that tell us the never-tiring story of Jesus' birth. It makes me feel warm and serene deep inside. It doesn't matter if you have a voice like Perry Como or my husband's. Carols are beautiful no matter who sings them. I think our church is doing that tomorrow night."

She stood for a few seconds taking in the flickering candles, the twinkling ornaments on the tree, the carols on the radio.

"I nearly forgot the canned goods for the needy and wrapped package of mittens and warm socks to hang on the church's tree for the children," she said.

I reached for my coat.

"Aren't you going to help me find my Christmas spirit?" she asked.

"I don't think you need my help," I said with a smile on my face. "I think you just misplaced it for a short time."

May each of you find your Christmas spirit and keep it close by throughout the coming year.

Merry Christmas!

Joyce Ore, of Hastings, is a columnist for the Tribune. Contact Joyce at 402-463-9559 or jore@windstream.net.

State

LINCOLN — A Lincoln woman must serve a 45-day jail sentence for sneaking onto the campus of the Catholic high school she once attended and posing naked for her adult website, a judge ruled Friday.

Lancaster County Judge Thomas Fox ordered Valerie Dodds to serve 30 days in jail for trespassing and 15 for public nudity. Her attorney said he has already filed notice for an appeal, and she was expected to be released Friday evening after posting a $75 bond.

The Associated Press



JOHN HUTHMACHER/*Tribune*

Michele Henke (left), executive director of United Way of South Central Nebraska, and Melissa Worthing, UW community coordinator, pose Friday in the Hastings Area Chamber board room with the table-load of donated toys — including more than 100 last-minute arrivals — that will be distributed Monday to children through the Toys for Tots program sponsored by the United States Marine Corps.

Toys aplenty

Last-minute drive helps United Way reach Toys for Tots goal

JOHN HUTHMACHER
johnh@hastingstribune.com

The power of social media has helped bring out the best in people who stepped up to bail out the local Toys for Tots campaign at the United Way of South Central Nebraska with some timely last-minute donations.

Michele Henke, executive director of the local United Way chapter, learned that the toys received Wednesday at the UW office in Omaha for the U.S. Marine-led toy drive had been delivered to its Grand Island office by mistake.

Worse still, the order received was 164 toys short of filling the requests of those seeking assistance from the UW and its 19 affiliates in Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, and Clay counties.

"I panicked at first because I thought, 'I can't let 164 children not have a toy,' " Henke said. "So we scrambled.

"I sent out an SOS on Facebook asking friends, 'If you have any extra jingle in your pocket, we could sure use some extra toys this Christmas.' "

And with that, the table was set for local intervention. Area residents did not disappoint.

"By the next morning, I already had toys on my porch that people had left," Henke said. "People were calling, 'I'll get you toys this weekend.' "

Please see TOYS*/page A6*

'Tis the season — for scams

Area sheriff says fraudulent callers are up to old tricks, and a few new ones, too

ANDY RAUN
araun@hastingstribune.com

CLAY CENTER — Area residents who don't want the Grinch to steal their money or personal information this Christmas are reminded not to be taken in by telephone scam artists who are hard at work this time of year.



Franklin

That was the message Clay County Sheriff Jeff Franklin wanted to deliver on Wednesday, having just responded to two separate complaints from the public concerning shady telephone solicitations.

Despite many warnings to the public, many people either don't get the word to look out for scam artists or don't realize when they are about to be victimized, Franklin said.

"Apparently, people are just not catching on," he said.

The basic story line is old by now: A relative — a grandchild, perhaps — is in jail in a foreign country and needs money on an emergency basis. Sometimes the money is to be wired.

Franklin said one new twist is that now callers representing themselves as police or jail officials are offering to send a courier to the victim's home to pick up the money.

Also, the purported location of the distressed family member is getting closer to home. Franklin said one caller represented himself as a law enforcement officer in Omaha.

"This is the first time I've heard the relative is in jail in Omaha," he said.

Individuals receiving the shady calls often have their name and number on a list the scam artists purchased, the sheriff said — perhaps after providing their information over the Internet in response to a "you are a winner" ruse.

He recommends that those receiving the calls try to pump the caller for as much information as possible — then report that information to their local police or sheriff's office.

"Go to your local law enforcement agency," Franklin said. "They can check and see if you actually have a family member in jail."

Be assured, he said, that law enforcement officials will never be calling and asking you to wire money for someone's bond, much less offering to send a courier to your house.

Also, the sheriff said, never provide your Social Security number or date of birth to anyone making a solicitation of this type, either on the telephone or in writing.

Franklin said he believes older people tend to be easier targets for the telephone scams because they tend to be more trusting and find it harder to believe people would tell them bald-faced lies over the phone, whereas younger people tend to be more jaded and wary.

"The younger generation is a little harder to buffalo," he said.

Meanwhile, the scammers are continuing to refine their procedures.

Please see SCAMS*/page A6*

Man gets jail for drunken car theft

WILL VRASPIR
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A 19-year-old Hastings man was sentenced Tuesday in Adams County District Court to 20-36 months in prison for theft by unlawful taking and driving under the influence of alcohol June 29.

Judge Terri Harder also sentenced Trinton A. McAleese of 418 S. Lincoln Ave. No. 3 to two years of probation after being released from prison and a 60-day driver's license revocation. McAleese was ordered to pay a $500 fine, $3,800 in restitution to Carlos Santos and $932.86 in restitution to Walter Bienkowski.

McAleese pleaded no contest Oct. 7. In exchange for his plea, prosecutors dropped a second count of theft.

According to the arrest affidavit, McAleese stole Santos' vehicle and was driving around after drinking about four cases of beer. He allegedly lost control and got the vehicle high-centered in a ditch on South Street between Laird Avenue and Marian Road.

He reportedly walked to the Second Street Slammer and stole a car owned by Bienkowski and tried to push the first vehicle out of the ditch, but the second vehicle became high-centered, as well, the affidavit states. McAleese reportedly told police he didn't know either owner but planned to take the vehicles back.

Theft by unlawful taking, value $500-$1,500, is a Class 4 felony punishable by up to five years in prison and a $10,000 fine. DUI is punishable by up to 60 days in jail and a $500 fine.



Cash donations are accepted at the Tribune, 908 W. Second St. Checks can be mailed to the Tribune, attention Goodfellows, P.O. Box 788, Hastings NE, 68902. Donations also may be dropped in the Tribune subscription payment box located in the parking lot north of the Tribune building.

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In loving memory of Patty Hansen	$5.00
Pray for Collins	$5.00
In loving memory of Linda Svoboda	$5.00
In loving memory of Mary Sheehy	$5.00
In loving memory of Steve Borden	$5.00
In loving memory of Marilyn Borden	$10.00
In loving memory of Brandon Keever	$5.00
Dad, I love & miss you so much! Love Peachy	$5.00
For our service men & women	$5.00
In loving memory of Ron Hagemeister	$5.00
In loving memory of Christine & Joe Haberer	$5.00
A friend	$100.00
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In memory of loved ones	$20.00
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Local

Orthmann files

Eldon L. Orthmann of 419 Briggs Ave. has filed to retain his position on the Adams County Board of Supervisors. Orthmann filed Tuesday as a Republican to represent District 7.

Election filings began Dec. 2. Incumbent candidates are required to file by Feb. 18, 2014. Non-incumbents can file until March 3, 2014. The primary election will be May 13, 2014.

The following have already filed: Dale Curtis for Adams County Board of Supervisors District 5; Ramona R. Thomas of Hastings for Adams County clerk; Ric L. Hallett of Hastings for Adams County sheriff; Melanie J. Curry of Hastings for Adams County treasurer; Chrystine D. Setlik for clerk of the Adams County District Court; and Annie M. Hinton of Hastings for register of deeds.

Students of week

The following schools have named their students of the week for the week of Dec. 16-20:

Hastings Middle School

◆ Gilliyan Hueske, Team 6A; Tre O'Connell, 6B; Beatriz Ramirez, Team 7A; Sarah Waite, Team 7B; RJ Diaz, Team 8A; Hallie Murray, Team 8B

Adams Central Middle School

◆ Morgan Carver, Emma Allen, Hailey Moore

State

Plane passenger

MESA, Ariz. — Authorities have released the name of a man who died on a flight from Nebraska to Arizona.

Mesa police said Friday that the passenger was 81-year-old Richard L. Nootz of Lincoln.

Allegiant Air officials say the incident occurred Thursday afternoon on Flight 115 from Grand Island.

Allegiant spokesman Justin Ralenkotter said that as the plane approached Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, the flight crew declared a medical emergency.

After the plane touched down at the Mesa airport, fire department officials say the passenger was pronounced dead.

Authorities say the Maricopa County Medical Examiner's Office is working to determine the cause of death.

Fatal fire

OMAHA — Omaha fire investigators say a mobile home blaze the killed two children was likely caused by space heaters.

The Omaha Fire Investigation Unit says Friday that space heaters were used throughout the home, including in the living room, where the fire began.

Investigators determined a smoke detector was in the home's kitchen but wasn't working because it lacked a battery.

Police say 3-year-old Gabriel Rodriguez and his 3-month-old brother Brandon Rodriguez died in the Wednesday morning fire.

The boys' 18-year-old mother, Champaine Harn, and their sister, Adrianna Rodriguez, remained hospitalized but were expected to survive.

Witnesses said a neighbor tried to rescue the boys but couldn't make it past the intense flames.

The Associated Press

Markets

Friday's closing local markets

Corn 4.07
Soybeans 12.87
Milo 4.03
Wheat 6.37

Stocks of local interest

The following stocks of local interest were traded today:

	Last	Chg.
Berkshire Hathaway A	175,600	+951
Berkshire Hathaway B	115.60	-.76
ConAgra	33.54	+.07
Eaton Corp.	75.72	+1.24
Ingersoll Rand	60.12	+.97
Level 3	32.21	+.22
McDonald's	96.51	+1.37
PepsiCo	81.81	+.15
Tricon Global Restaurants	73.39	+.64
Union Pacific	163.60	-.59
Wells Fargo	45	-.06
Williams Cos.	37.01	+.12
Wal-Mart	77.43	+.19



LAURA BEAHM/*Tribune*

Above: Six-year-old Landon McReynolds adds tiles to a calendar board while playing in the new "GO Figure!" exhibit that debuted at the Children's Museum of Central Nebraska Friday morning. Below: Rita Brhel of Fairfield reads "The Doorbell Rang" to her 2-year-old son, Nathan, as they visit the exhibit, which combines reading stories with hands-on math activities.

Go figure!

Children's Museum exhibit combines math, literacy

SHAY BURK
sburk@hastingstribune.com

Landon McReynolds studied each numbered tile carefully before looking up at an oversized calendar, studying it carefully and putting the piece into place.

The 6-year-old repeated the process for the next 10 minutes until nearly all the tiles were in place. Then he pushed a button and all the pieces fell into the tray below.

The activity was part of the opening of "GO Figure!," a new math and literacy exhibit at the Children's Museum of Central Nebraska, which opened Friday.

The traveling exhibit centers on five popular children's books, including "Arthur's Pet Business" and "Frog and Toad are Friends: A Lost Button."



Each station focuses on a different book and has an activity attached to it that focuses on math, whether it be patterns at the quilt station or measuring height based on bear size at the Goldilocks and the three bears station.

Museum director Deb Bosle set the exhibit up Dec. 14 and said she has already had a great response from her young guests.

"My preschoolers have played with it all week and it's been very popular. They've been standing in line for this one," she said of the iPad at the quilt station.

Amber Patterson of Hastings brought her two children, Grady, 2, and Chloe, 3, to the new exhibit.

At the "Arthur's Pet Business" station, her two children took turns putting calendar pieces onto the calendar. After making it about halfway through the calendar, Grady discovered the handle that releases the calendar pieces.

That's when the family moved on to "The Quilt" where Chloe and Grady took turns selecting pieces of the quilt.

"Are you guys making a quilt?" Bosle asked. "You're taking turns. Good job."

Amber said her children are members of the museum so they come on a regular basis for the art classes and Fairy Tale Fridays.

As for the new exhibit, Amber said the kids were having fun with it.

"It's pretty cool," she said. "We're still checking it out. She (Chloe) was enjoying the chocolate chip cookies putting all the chocolate chips on."

Nichole Bryant brought her three children to the museum for the opening Friday. After just a few minutes, Bryant said she could tell her kids were really enjoying the exhibit.

"It's so fun," she said. "The kids want to read the stories. They like the activities. And something new is always fun for the kids."

"GO Figure!" will be on exhibit at the Children's Museum through the end of April.

CASA to laugh in New Year with event

Hastings Tribune

A local child advocacy group wants to ring in the New Year with laughter with an evening of activities featuring a pair of comedians and casino games.

CASA of South Central Nebraska is giving revelers another way to celebrate New Year's Eve starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Hastings Museum, 1330 N. Burlington Ave.

"Laugh in the New Year" will feature two Lincoln comedians as entertainment for the evening.

Gayle Becwar, comedian and magician, grew up in a family of magicians, participating in his father's shows. Striking out on his own, he has performed in a variety of comedy clubs and casinos across the nation and shared the stage with comedians such as Carrot Top and Bill Engvall.

T. Marni Vos is one of only seven women to be a finalist in the San Francisco International Stand-up Comedy Competition. She opened for Jay Leno at the Comedy and Magic Club in Hermosa Beach, Calif.

"She has a spiritual twist to her comedy and is supposed to be very funny," CASA outreach coordinator Wendy Keele said.

Entertainment will also include casino games, such as black jack, roulette and craps. Tokens won at the games will go into a drawing for prizes.

A prime rib dinner will be catered by Pig in a Bag.

There will be auctions for a variety of wines and desserts. A photo booth will also be operating.

Alcohol will be available and Keele said participants can receive a safe ride home. Participants can make arrangements to be picked up for the event or ask for a ride home later in the evening.

Organizers hope to turn the event into an annual fundraiser.

"We're looking for a signature fundraiser for CASA," Keele said. "We're hoping New Year's Eve will fit that niche. We think that it's a need we're trying to fill."

Money raised during the event will go toward CASA's mission to advocate for abused and neglected children in the court system. Funds are used to train volunteers to effectively navigate the system on behalf of a child.

"We're hoping people will come and have a safe and fun evening," Keele said. "We look forward to having a lot of people there."

Registration for the dinner is due by 5 p.m. Friday to notify the caterer. Tickets are available at the CASA office, 2727 W. Second St. No. 410, or by calling 402-463-1030.

Toys: Shortage brings out community's generosity

Continued from page A5

And that was just the beginning.

With the UW's office headquartered in the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce building, Henke had little trouble getting her message out to the masses. Neighbor Dave Rippe, executive director of Hastings Economic Development Corporation, was happy to share her plight with local businesses and other contacts, including his wife, Kristi, an employee at Hastings College.

Aided by several agencies that shared the message via their respective web pages, and the toy drive was in full swing by Thursday afternoon. In addition to filling Henke's office with toys, the Chamber board room table was packed with hundreds of toys left by area businesses and individuals. By early Friday, the room more resembled Santa's workshop, with a steady stream of toys continuing to pour in throughout the day.

Rippe said he wasn't at all surprised by the generous response shown by the community. In fact, he predicted as much when Henke first approached him.

"I told Michele, 'I'm going to send out an email and we're going to knock this thing out of the park. So what do you want to do with all the extra toys that I know we're going to get?'

"I had a feeling there was going to be a great response to this. I mean, who can say no to toys for kids at Christmas? It's one of those situations where you're really encouraged about the community in which you live and do business."

Because of the overwhelming response to the agency's plight, Henke said there are now more than enough toys to share the abundance with additional families and agencies. The Salvation Army, for instance, was reporting a shortage in toy donations received this year, she said.

"Because of the outpouring of generosity — people taking care of their own family, friends, and neighbors here and around Hastings — we're going to be able to serve other families who can't buy gifts," she said. "We even got a Facebook message from a gentleman in Washington State who said, 'I don't live there, I can't deliver toys, but can I help?' and sent in a donation. So it was very far-reaching."

The donated toys will be picked up by participating agencies for redistribution to area families on Monday morning. Those who signed up directly through the United Way may pick them up that afternoon.

Henke said the last-minute display of goodwill displayed by locals only reaffirms her belief in the good that can be found in most people's hearts. In Tribland, residents look out for their own.

"We really like to take care of the people living next door, down the road, or even a county over," she said. "South Central Nebraska is wonderful. It's a great place to live."

Scams: Sheriff says frauds getting more sophisticated

Continued from page A5

"They're getting more sophisticated all the time," the sheriff said.

Whatever the case, he said, the federal government needs to do something to address the rampant scamming problem — and victims need to understand that local law enforcement can look into their complaints, but will not be able to charge anyone with a crime or try to recover lost money a victim willingly gave, albeit under false pretenses.

Franklin said he is trying to convince Nebraska's members of Congress to take up the issue. He would like to see some federal agency designated to get to the bottom of the scams and stop them where they start.

"There's got to be a way to stop it," he said.

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ED SUBA JR., Akron Beacon Journal/*MCT*

Above: Vicki Vespoint of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, (right) and collector Troy Zulich look through his collection of ugly Christmas sweaters and vests at his warehouse Dec. 11 in Akron, Ohio. Below: A detailed view of one of the uglier Christmas sweaters that is part of Zulich's stash.

Ugly is in the eye of the beholder

Ohio man has 600 Christmas sweaters

KIM HONE-McMAHAN
Akron Beacon Journal

AKRON, Ohio — Vicki Vespoint pulled on her boots and parka and headed into the winter weather in search of ugly Christmas sweaters.

You know the kind — the ones so hideous they make babies cry. So disgusting they evoke groans from adults. Threads revolting enough to earn the top prize at the company's annual Ugly Christmas Sweater contest. But bah humbug! The Grinch must have gotten to the thrift stores before Vespoint and snapped up the most outrageous for himself.

"Every day people ask about them," said Amy O'Brien, manager of the Clothes Mentor, a store in Akron, Ohio, that buys and sells stylish, gently used clothing. "We can't keep them in. The more stuff that's on them (like blinking lights and garland) the quicker they sell."

Ditto at many other secondhand stores.

Because of the season and the popularity of parties that require guests to wear ugly sweaters, employees at Goodwill of Akron, which has 13 retail stores and an outlet in the five-county area, know that the demand will increase around the holidays. To prepare, they stockpile the seasonal clothing until that time. Even with that, the pickings are slim so close to Christmas Day.

By the way, said Janet Morrison, she and other folks who work at Goodwill don't typically call the sweaters "ugly."



"We just call them Christmas sweaters because beauty is in the eye of the beholder," she said, laughing.

Because Vespoint, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, planned to give two ugly sweaters away as gag gifts at a New Year's Eve party, she was looking for pre-owned items, rather than new, expensive apparel available at department stores. And during a visit to the Village Discount Outlet on Waterloo Road in Akron, she found that what they had was, well, too pretty.

"They (customers) about wiped us out," said Delorse Lumley, retail manager at the store. "There was a lady in here who decided to glue cotton balls on a red shirt to make a snowman."

But did she win a prize for ugliest sweater?

"I don't know, but she should have," Lumley said, giggling. "I'm sure it was atrocious."

After days of looking, Vespoint was at her wits' end. That is, until a friend told her about a man in Akron with a warehouse stuffed with 600 sweaters.

Troy Zulich has a successful e-commerce business, so when an Akron woman, whose name escapes him, found him on the Internet, she asked if he was interested in buying her stash of sweaters. It seems she, her family and high school students she hired were in the business of embellishing dull sweaters to make them good and ugly to sell. But she was ready to liquidate and move on to something else. So Zulich, who has an MBA in finance, reasoned he could sell them on eBay.

Currently Zulich has about 80 reasonably priced sweaters on the auction website, a fact that Vespoint didn't realize.

Zulich doesn't generally open his warehouse space to the public (though he will today). Vespoint called him and asked if she could see his wares. He agreed.

Inside the warehouse, Vespoint rummaged through boxes stuffed with neatly folded sweaters. Some were garnished with stuffed animals, hot-glued to the chest. Others sported garland, beads and glitter.

"Try this on, honey," she encouraged her husband, Jim, who had been chuckling from the moment he entered the upstairs room.

Asked to point out a particularly ugly sweater, Zulich strolled to the side of the room where he keeps the items for sale on the Internet, and pulled out a beauty — a little number with snowmen that had 6-inch protruding felt noses.

The Vespoints groaned.

Putin rival a free man

Russian oligarch Khodorkovsky leaves prison, flies to Germany

NATALIYA VASILYEVA AND FRANK JORDANS
The Associated Press

BERLIN — After spending 10 years in Russian jails for what many in the West believe were trumped-up offenses, Mikhail Khodorkovsky left prison a free man Friday and immediately flew to Germany.

Russian President Vladimir Putin pardoned his long-time rival Friday morning and the country's Federal Penitentiary Service said Khodorkovsky quickly left the IK-7 prison in the remote northwestern village of Segezha.

Khodorkovsky had petitioned to be allowed to travel to Germany to meet his mother who is undergoing medical treatment, the Penitentiary Service said in a statement.

Germany's Foreign Ministry confirmed that Khodorkovsky arrived at Berlin's Schoenefeld Airport in the afternoon.

In a statement released on the website of his lawyers and supporters, Khodorkovsky said his application for a pardon, which he made Nov. 12, was not an admission of guilt.

"I am very much waiting for the minute when I can embrace my nearest and personally shake the hands of all my friends and colleagues," he said in the statement.

He also thanked former German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who met him at the Berlin airport, for his "personal participation in my fate."

A statement from Genscher's office said he had met Khodorkovsky while head of the German Council on Foreign Relations and agreed to a request from Khodorkovsky's lawyers to try to help secure his release.

OBO Bettermann, a German energy company that provided the plane for Khodorkovsky, said it offered it on Genscher's request.

During his time in prison on politically tinged charges of tax evasion and embezzlement, the 50-year-old Khodorkovsky has shifted his image from a powerfully wealthy, often arrogant oligarch into a respected dissident. The former oil tycoon became a political thinker and editorial writer who argued for social justice and placed the blame for Russia's stagnating economy squarely on its long-time leader Putin.

Obama orders military to review sexual assault

NEDRA PICKLER AND DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Friday gave the military a one-year deadline to better prevent and respond to a wave of sexual assault in the ranks and warned that if progress isn't made, he will consider tougher reforms than those approved by Congress.

The ultimatum from their commander in chief and pressure from lawmakers puts the onus on the Pentagon to live up to its vows of zero tolerance for sexual assault, or face the potential of losing authority to prosecute offenders in its own courts.

"So long as our women and men in uniform face the insider threat of sexual assault, we have an urgent obligation to do more to support victims and hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes, as appropriate under the military justice system," Obama said in a statement issued hours after the Senate sent a bill for his signature that would crack down on the crime.

The president said he wants Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to report back to him by Dec. 1, 2014, on improvements they've made preventing and responding to sexual assault.

"If I do not see the kind of progress I expect, then we will consider additional reforms that may be required to eliminate this crime from our military ranks and protect our brave service members who stand guard for us every day at home and around the world," Obama said in the statement, his first comments in response to sexual assault legislation that has been furiously debated on Capitol Hill in recent months.

The Pentagon estimates 26,000 military members were victims last year.

The sexual assault measures were part of a sweeping, $632.8 billion bill the Senate passed on an 84-15 vote late Thursday that also covers combat pay and other benefits, new ships and aircraft and military bases. The legislation also:

◆ Provides $552.1 billion for the regular military budget and $80.7 billion for the war in Afghanistan and other overseas operations, a reflection of deficit-driven efforts to trim spending and the drawdown in a conflict lasting more than a decade.

◆ Gives the administration additional flexibility to move detainees out of the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to foreign countries. It stops well short of the president's goal of closing the detention facility and bans detainee transfers to the United States.

Court strikes down anti-prostitution laws

CHARMAINE NORONHA
The Associated Press

TORONTO — Canada's highest court struck down the country's anti-prostitution laws Friday, a victory for sex workers who had argued that a ban on brothels and other measures made their profession more dangerous. The ruling drew criticism from the conservative government and religious leaders.

The court, ruling in a case brought by three women in the sex trade, struck down all three of Canada's prostitution-related laws: bans on keeping a brothel, making a living from prostitution, and street soliciting. The ruling won't take effect immediately, however, because the court gave Parliament a year to respond with new legislation, and said the existing laws would remain in place until then.

The decision threw the door open for a wide and complex debate on how Canada should regulate prostitution, which isn't in itself illegal in the country.

The court found that Canada's prostitution laws violated the guarantee to life, liberty and security of the person. For instance, it said the law prohibiting people from making a living from prostitution is too broad.

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Fury over data breach

TARGET CUSTOMERS FRUSTRATED BY INABILITY TO CONTACT COMPANY

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AND BREE FOWLER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Potential victims of credit card fraud tied to Target's security breach said they had trouble contacting the discounter through its website and call centers.

Angry Target customers expressed their displeasure in comments on the company's Facebook page. Some even threatened to stop shopping at the store. Target apologized on Facebook and said it's working hard to resolve the problem and is adding more workers to field calls and help solve website issues.

The fury and frustration come as the nation's second-largest discounter acknowledged Thursday that data connected to about 40 million credit and debit card accounts was stolen as part of a breach that began over the Thanksgiving weekend.

The theft is the second-largest credit card breach in U.S. history, exceeded only by a scam that began in 2005 involving retailer TJX Cos. That incident affected at least 45.7 million card users.

Target disclosed the theft a day after reports that the company was investigating a breach. The retailer's data-security troubles and its ensuing public relations nightmare threaten to drive off holiday shoppers during the company's busiest time of year.

Christopher Browning, of Chesterfield, Va., said he was the victim of credit card fraud earlier this week and believes it was tied to a purchase he made at Target with his Visa card on Black Friday. When he called Visa on Thursday, the card issuer could not confirm his suspicions. He said he hasn't been able to get through to Target's call center.

On Monday, Browning received a call from his bank's anti-fraud unit saying there were two attempts to use his credit card in California — one at a casino in Tracey, Calif., for $8,000 and the other at a casino in Pacheco, for $3,000. Both occurred on Sunday and both were denied. He canceled his credit card and plans to use cash.

"I won't shop at Target again until the people behind this theft are caught or the reasons for the breach are identified and fixed," he said.

Customers who made purchases by swiping their cards at its U.S. stores between Nov. 27 and Dec. 15 may have had their accounts exposed. The stolen data included customer names, credit and debit card numbers, card expiration dates and the embedded code on the magnetic strip found on the backs of cards, Target said.

There was no indication the three- or four-digit security numbers visible on the back of the card were affected, Target said. The data breach did not affect online purchases, the company said.

Eric Hausman, a Target spokesman, said the company is engaged in "an ongoing investigation."

Target hasn't disclosed exactly how the breach occurred but said it has fixed the problem.

Given the millions of dollars that companies such as Target spend implementing credit-card security measures each year, Avivah Litan, a security analyst with Gartner Research said she believes the theft may have been an inside job.

"The fact this breach can happen with all of their security in place is really alarming," Litan said.

Other experts theorize that Target's network was hacked and infiltrated from the outside.

Whatever the case, Jason Oxman, CEO of the Electronics Transaction Association, which represents the payments technology industry, said data breaches like Target's are generally "heavily organized and sophisticated."



DON RYAN/*AP*

Lightbar patrons sit in a purple glow from special lights in Portland, Ore., Thursday.

Light in a SAD world

BRIGHTNESS ON TAP AT PORTLAND, ORE., BAR

STEVEN DUBOIS
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Saturday marks the shortest day of the year — the pinnacle of dread for people who feel depressed when there's less sunshine. When they go out for a drink or coffee in the dreary wintertime Pacific Northwest, they could also order up a dose of something else entirely: a few rays of bright light.

Designed to mimic sunlight, light boxes are now being featured at a bar in Portland and a cafe in Seattle to help those with seasonal affective disorder, or SAD, an energy-sapping depression that occurs at the same time each year and affects an estimated 3 percent to 5 percent of Americans.

"I really call it atmosphere therapy in here more than anything," says Alex Carlson, the owner of Portland's Lightbar, where walls leading to the high, barrel-vault ceiling are bathed in ever-changing colors, such as a deep blue that mimics the sky just before sunrise and a red that evokes a winter sunset.

Booths have light-therapy lamps that can be dialed up to 10,000 lux, the recommended dosage for SAD sufferers, and are draped by white canopies that provide a cocoon-like coziness. DJs play ambient music as bartenders serve craft cocktails under a tree-like chandelier that includes hundreds of crystals.

A Seattle cafe owner started offering light therapy this fall after learning of Lightbar.

The condition is more common in the perpetually cloudy Pacific Northwest — as well as in other northern locales — because it's triggered by long winter evenings. Contrary to popular belief in Portland and Seattle, the rain has nothing to do with it.

Supporters of light therapy say SAD is underdiagnosed because doctors often take a snapshot of a patient's current mood and prescribe an antidepressant, rather than examine a yearslong history to identify a seasonal trend.

"Or, more sensibly, the doctor advises monitoring before medicating, and you return in April completely remitted, so 'it was nothing,' " says Dr. Michael Terman, professor of psychiatry at Columbia University and the author of the book "Reset Your Inner Clock."

Though precise sales figures are tough to come by, manufacturers of light therapy devices say they are selling more of them, and the expanding array of models on the Internet supports that assertion.

Users don't need a prescription.

When light therapy works, it generally works quickly — within a week. Terman says the keys include the intensity of the light reaching the eyes, the duration of the session and the timing of the sessions relative to a person's inner clock — the circadian rhythm pacemaker in the brain.

Patients are typically more responsive to light therapy early in the morning, which conflicts with Lightbar's nighttime hours, and must sit in the front of the light every day.

Though the bar may not provide the recommended therapeutic strategy, some patients do get better results in the evening and "you can't discount the placebo effect," says Dr. Alfred Lewy, an Oregon Health & Science University professor who is an expert on seasonal depression and light therapy.

University of Colorado professor in trouble after prostitution skit

The Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — A tenured Colorado professor has run into trouble after a lecture on prostitution featured a skit in which students dressed up as prostitutes, sex slaves and escorts.

University of Colorado sociology professor Patty Adler said the lecture earlier this semester was meant to show students lifestyles that lead to prostitution, but administrators didn't see it that way. She said they gave her a choice: Take a buyout and retire after 26 years, or have her course reviewed by the sociology department, the Daily Camera newspaper reported Thursday.

She hadn't made a decision, the Camera said.

More than 500 students enrolled in Adler's "Deviance in U.S. Society" course this term. Adler said she never had complaints before about the course from university administrators.

Steven Leigh, dean of CU's College of Arts and Sciences, said Wednesday that his main concern was that students were photographed or filmed without their consent during the skit. Adler said all students know they are being videotaped, and they often ask for copies.

Provost Russell Moore told the university in an email Monday that some students may have "felt there would be negative consequences for anyone who refused to participate in the skit."

Moore added that CU's commitment to academic freedom doesn't protect anyone who may "violate the university's sexual harassment policy by creating a hostile environment for their teaching assistants, or for their students attending the class."

Moore said he had evidence of complaints from more than one student, the Camera reported. He didn't elaborate.

Students have rallied in Adler's support, creating a Facebook group and an online petition.

Caitlin McCluskey, a senior, told the Camera she performed as a prostitute in the skit. No one was forced to participate, she said.

"I never felt pressured in any way," McCluskey said.

The Colorado chapter of the American Association of University Professors issued a statement Wednesday urging CU to respect Adler's judgment in the classroom. Other faculty protested the university's actions in a Wednesday meeting with administrators.

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AC beats Ord in 2OT

GENE RAY
sports@hastingstribune.com

Toughness might have played a more important role than talent for Adams Central in its double-overtime win against Ord Friday.

The Patriots overcame an early eight-point deficit and pulled out a 77-73 victory over the Chanticleers to improve to 5-1.

AC travels to Gibbon today to face perhaps the best player in Class C-1, Riley Reinertson.

"There were five or six times in the game where we could have folded; could have quit. We never feared the moment. We can't coach that. Our kids are tough-minded and embraced the moment," said Patriot coach Zac Foster.

Down the stretch, sophomore Kyler Wormdstadt and freshman guard David Bohlen helped direct the Patriots. They also showed the maturity of older, more experienced players.

Bohlen scored five free throws in overtime. Wormstadt scored a driving layup to give the Patriots the final lead, then canned two charity shots in the closing seconds.

"A lot of times we are playing two sophomores and a freshman in the backcourt," Foster said, referring to Bohlen, Wormstadt and sophomore Garrett Sittner. "They have a long way to go but have ability to make tough plays. Early, Ord was just tougher than us. They showed their experience. Then we just buckled down and didn't panic. And the kids responded."

Bohlen led the Patriots Friday with 20 points. Wormstadt closed with 14 points, while Sittner uncorked 15 points.

Friday's nail-biter might help the Patriots bring some swagger into tonight's game. And AC is happy to be 1-0 so far this weekend against two strong opponents.

Please see OVERTIME*/page B3*

Second half lifts Patriots

MIKE ZIMMERMAN
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The Adams Central girls hit eight field goals in the first half, falling behind to Ord 32-22 at halftime Friday at Patriot Gym. But the home team had no problems erasing that deficit in the second half.

AC went on a punishing 34-2 run in a 13 1/2 minute span to earn a 58-39 win — its first of the season.

"Yeah, that was an incredible run," said AC head coach Tim Marker. "We've talked so many times about when you score on offense, its really easy to turn around and play defense. Our girls worked hard and talked much better on defense in the second half. It was all them. The girls just played harder."

The third-quarter rally started when sophomore Jacki Fowler hit an inside shot and followed with a 3-pointer to cut the deficit to 32-29. Junior Josie Bumgardner provided a layup to shorten the Chanticleers' (0-5) lead to one, and then freshman Hannah Fleischer gave her side the lead with a pair of free throws with 4:06 remaining in the third.

After an Ord bucket exactly a minute later, the Patriots (1-5) expanded their lead even further when Bumgardner scored eight points in a row. She finished the third quarter shooting 4-of-5 from the field, scoring 10 of her game-high 16 points. The Patriots scored more points in the third quarter than they did in all of the first half.

"A big part of it was our kids just relaxed and hit some shots," the coach said. "We've had four days of practice this week, which we really needed. We shot the ball well in practice, and it showed tonight, especially in the second half."

Please see FIRST WIN*/page B3*

Burr, Kenesaw cruise past Silver Lake

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KENESAW — The Kenesaw Blue Devils improved to 3-3 on the season with their 47-27 victory over Silver Lake (0-5) on Friday.

The Blue Devils put the ball into the hands of senior guard Trevor Burr early in the game, and Burr took advantage of his increased role.

"Trevor's an excellent player," Kenesaw head coach Jack Einrem said. "He's on the floor so long because we always have him guard the opposing team's best player. He did a heck of a job on Seyler Monroe. Monroe is a fantastic player. For Trevor to do what he did tonight, I'm really proud. He really hit some big shots for us."

Monroe finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Mustangs.

Burr scored 13 of his game-high 25 points in the first quarter giving Kenesaw an 18-14 lead over the Mustangs after one. Also making a solid contribution off the bench was junior wing Kory Heier. The Blue Devils were down 9-5 early on when Heier entered the game and quickly tied the score with five points, including a 3-pointer.

Please see KENESAW*/page B3*



LAURA BEAHM*/Tribune*

St. Cecilia's Alex Sheehy is guarded by Sutton's Nicholas Hohensee Friday night at Chapman Gymnasium.

Mustangs beat Blue Devils for 4th straight win

RYAN PELTON
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KENESAW — The Silver Lake girls basketball team had to shake off some early rust Friday in their 39-29 victory over Kenesaw (1-5).

The Blue Devils jumped out to an 14-7 lead after one quarter, much to the dismay of Silver Lake head coach Keith Crowe.

"We started out really flat. We didn't have a lot of emotion," Crowe said. "Kenesaw hit some early baskets and put us down. We had to regroup a bit. Once we got our head in the game, we started to play better. We just lacked a lot of emotion early on. Once we got a little more fire in us, then we stated playing better. Give Kenesaw credit. They handled our pressure really well."

Kenesaw forced seven first-quarter turnovers and Silver Lake (4-1) was held to just 24 percent shooting (4-17) in the first eight minutes while the Blue Devils shot 42 percent (5-12).

Kenesaw was determined to come out in the first half and

Please see STREAK*/page B3*

STC wins battle over Sutton

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On Oct. 4, St. Cecilia and Sutton met on the gridiron in a defensive battle between two talented football teams. The Bluehawks came away a 21-14 victory.

On Friday, the two teams met on the basketball court in a game that was very similar — even the score.

St. Cecilia's stifling defense led the Bluhawks past defending Class C-2 runner-up Sutton 29-23.

"You have to play such great, disciplined defense against (Sutton) because they run that pattern to a T," said the Bluehawks' head coach Kevin Asher. "I thought 35 points would win the game. Defensively, there were a couple mistakes that we'll see on tape, but outside of that I thought played an outstanding basketball game."

It was obvious early in the game that points were going to be scarce, and that every basket was going to be hard-earned.

Sutton, which lost a large senior class from last season, was held to just 1-of-7 shooting in the first half, thanks in large part to seven turnovers. St. Cecilia made six of its 20 field goal attempts in the first two quarters to go into the break leading 14-6.

"I thought our kids played better defensively tonight," said Sutton head coach Jon Ladehoff. "We've been working on that in practice and we still have to get better in the halfcourt defense... But we got in a hole a little early."

The Mustangs hit more field goals in the first three minutes of the third quarter than they did in the whole first half. Baskets by senior Cole Wiseman and junior Noah Johnson cut STC's lead to six. Sophomore Brooks Asher and senior Alex Sheehy scored back-to-back buckets for the Bluehawks to take a 20-10 lead. But after Sutton senior Trae Ramer hit a pair of free throws, Johnson scored his fourth point of the quarter, trimming the deficit to 20-14 going into the fourth quarter.

Sophomore Dayton Sealey got the Bluehawks started in the fourth with layup. But the Sutton defense got the Mustangs back in the game. Wiseman's ball pressure helped lead to four Bluehawk turnovers early in the quarter.

Please see STC*/page B3*

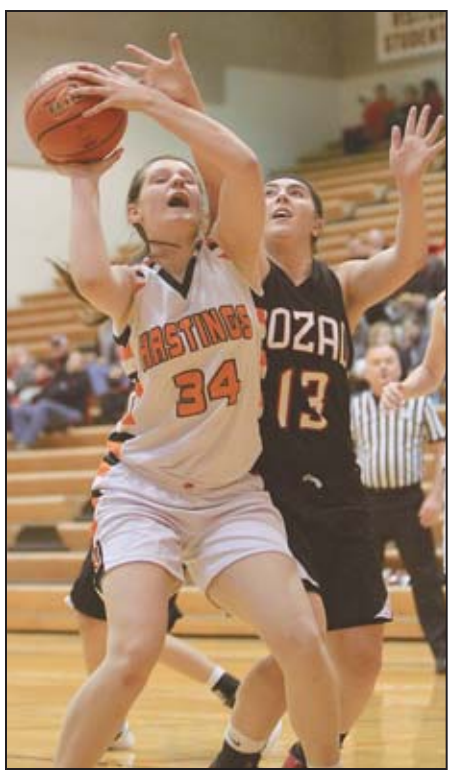


LAURA BEAHM*/Tribune*

Sutton's Trae Ramer steals the ball from St. Cecilia's Dayton Sealey Friday night at Chapman Gymnasium in Hastings.

Tigers earn second victory

LAURA BEAHM*/Tribune*



Hastings High's Elizabeth Franssen is fouled by Cozad's Becca Etherton Friday night in Hastings.

HASTINGS TRIBUNE
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The Hastings High girls basketball team picked up its second win in a row with a 53-25 decision over Cozad on Friday.

The Tigers (2-3) led just 13-9 after one quarter, but took control of the game by outscoring the Haymakers (1-4) 16-2 in the second quarter.

Libby Knapple and Sophia Pankratz each had 12 points to lead the Tigers. Annie Grealish added eight points while Elizabeth Franssen and Bailey Petzoldt each provided seven.

The Tigers take on Class B No. 6 York (5-0) on the road today.

Cozad	9	2	10	4	— 25
Hastings High	13	16	15	9	— 53

Hastings High (53)
Chloe Swoboda 2, Libby Knapple 12, Annie Grealish 8, Sophia Pankratz 12, Kelsey Ripperger 2, Bailey Petzoldt 7, Bailey Richman 1, Maddie Stokes 2, Elizabeth Franssen 7.

Cozad (25)
Samantha Carlson 6, Emily Reyes 6, Rebecca Etherton 7, Hannah Thramer 6.

HHS defeats Cozad 57-41

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The Hastings High boys basketball team used a 10-0 run midway through the third quarter to take complete control of the game and cruise to a 57-41 victory over the Cozad (2-2) Haymakers on Friday night in Hastings. The run came after Cozad hit a jumper to knot the score at 30-all, but the Tigers (2-3) responded with a 16-4 rally to end the quarter highlighted by five straight points from sophomore Morgan Karloff during the spurt. Senior Ben Claussen and sophomore Sam Reimer also hit key 3-pointers during the run with Reimer hitting long range bombs on consecutive possessions. Claussen finished with nine points.

"Sam is a very streaky shooter for us right now at times but he took good shots tonight," Hastings coach Lance Creech said. "Our offense did a pretty good job of finding the open shooter tonight."

Karloff would finish with a game-high 17 points on 5-of-9

Please see HHS*/page B3*



LAURA BEAHM*/Tribune*

Hastings High's Morgan Karloff is fouled by Cozad's Jason Finnegan (44) Friday night in Hastings.

Basketball

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	12	15	.444	—
Toronto	9	14	.391	1
Brooklyn	9	17	.346	2 1/2
New York	8	17	.320	3
Philadelphia	8	19	.296	4

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	20	6	.769	—
Atlanta	15	12	.556	5 1/2
Charlotte	13	14	.481	7 1/2
Washington	11	13	.458	8
Orlando	8	18	.308	12

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	21	5	.808	—
Detroit	13	15	.464	9
Cleveland	10	15	.400	10 1/2
Chicago	9	16	.360	11 1/2
Milwaukee	5	21	.192	16

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	21	5	.808	—
Houston	17	10	.630	4 1/2
Dallas	15	10	.600	5 1/2
New Orleans	11	13	.458	9
Memphis	10	15	.400	10 1/2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	21	4	.840	—
Portland	22	5	.815	—
Denver	14	10	.583	6 1/2
Minnesota	13	13	.500	8 1/2
Utah	7	22	.241	16

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	18	9	.667	—
Phoenix	14	10	.583	2 1/2
Golden State	14	13	.519	4
L.A. Lakers	12	13	.480	5
Sacramento	7	18	.280	10

Friday's Games

Philadelphia 121, Brooklyn 120, OT
Cleveland 114, Milwaukee 111, OT
Miami 122, Sacramento 103
Atlanta 118, Utah 85
Charlotte 116, Detroit 106
Indiana 114, Houston 81
Toronto at Dallas, late
Phoenix at Denver, late
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, late

Saturday's Games

Memphis at New York, 11 a.m.
Washington at Boston, Noon
Sacramento at Orlando, 6 p.m.
Houston at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Utah at Charlotte, 6:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Portland, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Boston at Indiana, 5 p.m.
Toronto at Oklahoma City, 6 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, 8:30 p.m.

NCAA Men's Results

EAST
Albany (NY) 70, Yale 62
Marist 69, Bucknell 51
Syracuse 75, High Point 54
SOUTH
Furman 86, Liberty 83
Georgia St. 73, Georgia Southern 61
Samford 75, Jacksonville 58
UNC Asheville 83, Va. Intermont 58
William & Mary 94, Goucher 60
MIDWEST
Indiana 79, Nicholls St. 66
Minnesota 92, Nebraska-Omaha 79
SOUTHWEST
CS Northridge 67, Texas A&M-CC 66
FAR WEST
Idaho 69, Idaho St. 65
Montana 91, Montana-Western 74
Portland 74, Bradley 53
Princeton 83, Pacific 58
SMU 62, Wyoming 54
UC Riverside 57, Ill.-Chicago 56
UNLV 82, Sacred Heart 50
Utah St. 77, UC Santa Barbara 71, OT
Utah Valley 103, Haskell Indian Nations 64
W. Illinois 61, Troy 58
TOURNAMENT
BVI Tropical Shootout
First Round
Southern Miss. 88, Coppin St. 74
UALR 75, Jacksonville St. 70

NCAA Women's Results

EAST
Merrimack 80, Nyack 42
New Haven 74, St. Michael's 66
St. Francis (NY) 74, Lafayette 52
SOUTH
Alabama 113, Troy 105, OT
College of NJ 60, Emory & Henry 49
E. Illinois 57, Georgia Southern 50
East Carolina 76, Ohio 47
Elon 56, Campbell 49
FAU 67, Abilene Christian 63
Florida Gulf Coast 75, St. Francis (Pa.) 68
Georgia College 75, Tuskegee 48
Lenoir-Rhyne 75, Lander 54
Louisiana Tech 50, UALR 39
Memphis 91, Ark.-Pine Bluff 45
Mercer 59, Alabama St. 54
Mississippi St. 109, SE Louisiana 57
NC State 89, LSU 79
Nicholls St. 73, Bethune-Cookman 56
Norfolk St. 116, Va. Lynchburg 40
North Florida 61, Air Force 40
S. Indiana 90, Trevecca Nazarene 64
South Carolina 69, Winthrop 61
Spring Hill 67, Lindsey Wilson 64
St. Augustine's 74, Ursuline 65
Stetson 103, Murray St. 72
Tulane 79, Virginia 72, OT
UNC Pembroke 74, Limestone 61
W. Kentucky 66, Belmont 46
Wake Forest 92, South Alabama 66
William Smith 65, Buffalo St. 60
MIDWEST
Akron 86, Rochester (Mich.) 43
Bemidji St. 75, Minn.-Crookston 66
Bethany Lutheran 58, Marantha Baptist 55
Cardinal Stritch 64, Concordia (Mich.) 58
Chicago St. 55, S. Illinois 51
Franklin 89, Alma 59
Marquette 71, Denver 54
Michigan 83, Southern U. 59
Michigan St. 67, Georgetown 54
Minot St. 82, Mary 74
Ohio St. 52, Appalachian St. 38
Olivet Nazarene 148, Madonna 102
St. Bonaventure 61, Kent St. 44
UCLA 58, Minnesota 55
Valley City St. 70, Minn.-Morris 57
SOUTHWEST
Arkansas 79, Tennessee Tech 53
Georgia Tech 102, UTEP 77
Houston 67, Rice 54
TCU 78, Sam Houston St. 46
Texas 90, Northwestern St. 60
Texas Tech 62, Jacksonville 48
FAR WEST
DePaul 73, Washington 66
E. Washington 81, Boise St. 66
Montana St. 50, Carroll (Mont.) 36
Oregon 124, Cal Poly 87
Oregon St. 68, UNLV 60
Pittsburgh 76, Louisiana-Monroe 61
San Diego 79, UC Irvine 55
San Francisco 76, Fresno St. 47
Santa Clara 87, Georgia St. 68
Utah Valley 59, Idaho St. 56
TOURNAMENT
Beach Classic First Round
Long Beach St. 73, Richmond 61
Christmas City Classic First Round
Delaware 69, Youngstown St. 48
Lehigh 87, Vermont 78
Gator Holiday Classic First Round
FIU 84, La Salle 58
Florida 86, Tennessee St. 56
Wright State Invitational First Round
Bradley 87, Lipscomb 85
Wright St. 90, Gardner-Webb 77

Prep Boys Results

Arapahoe 50, Southwest 22
Bellevue West 52, Omaha Bryan 40
Boyd County 69, Ewing 57
Burwell 63, St. Edward 21
Cambridge 58, Loomis 28
Columbus Lakeview 70, Centura 29
David City 60, East Butler 34
Deshler 50, Franklin 6
Edgemont, S.D. 47, Morrill 36
Elkhorn 61, Nebraska City 50
Elm Creek 52, Kearney Catholic 51
Giltner 48, Meridian 24
Grand Island 56, Fremont 54
Guardian Angels 62, Oakland-Craig 38
Hastings 57, Cozad 41
Hastings St. Cecilia 29, Sutton 23
Heartland 54, Thayer Central 45
High Plains Community 60, Exeter/Milligan 58
Hitchcock County 68, Brady 16
Kenesaw 47, Silver Lake 27
Malcolm 37, Elmwood-Murdock 30, OT
Maywood 49, Eustis-Farnam 44
Southern Valley 70, Superior 30
Stuart 67, Elkhorn Valley 29
Wayne 67, Wisner-Pilger 44
York 47, Aurora 37
SEM Tournament
First Round
Anselmo-Merna 54, Ansley-Litchfield 47

Prep Girls Results

Adams Central 58, Ord 39
Arapahoe 50, Southwest 38
Battle Creek 59, O'Neill 23
Bellevue West 56, Omaha Bryan 4
Bishop Neumann 70, Omaha Mercy 41
Bruning-Davenport/Shickley 53, Cross County 33
Burwell 46, St. Edward 39
Cambridge 55, Loomis 31
Cody-Kilgore 36, Mullen 30
Columbus Lakeview 49, Centura 32
Eustis-Farnam 51, Maywood 29
Exeter/Milligan 42, High Plains Community 38
Fremont 64, Grand Island 28
Hastings 53, Cozad 25
Heartland 36, Thayer Central 18
Johnson-Brock 44, Tri County 32
Kearney 58, Lincoln Northeast 53
Kearney Catholic 67, Elm Creek 39
Laurel-Concord 61, Plainview 31
Mead 52, Omaha Brownell-Talbot 33
Morrill 71, Edgemont, S.D. 11
Omaha Westside 54, Millard South 38
Palmyra 36, Weeping Water 16
Papillion-LaVista 63, Omaha South 46
Papillion-LaVista South 54, Omaha Burke 38
Red Cloud 38, Shelton 28
Shelby/Rising City 68, McCool Junction 20
Silver Lake 39, Kenesaw 29
Sterling 46, Pawnee City 14
Stuart 54, Elkhorn Valley 24
Superior 49, Southern Valley 36
Sutherland 62, Hayes Center 30
Tekamah-Herman 46, Logan View 22
Wahoo 68, Fort Calhoun 36
Wayne 66, Wisner-Pilger 30
York 72, Aurora 26

Football

NFL Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	4	0	.714	369	311
Miami	8	6	0	.571	310	296
N.Y. Jets	6	8	0	.429	246	367
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	300	354

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Indianapolis	9	5	0	.643	338	319
Tennessee	5	9	0	.357	326	355
Jacksonville	4	10	0	.286	221	399
Houston	2	12	0	.143	253	375

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Cincinnati	9	5	0	.643	354	274
Baltimore	8	6	0	.571	296	277
Pittsburgh	6	8	0	.429	321	332
Cleveland	4	10	0	.286	288	362

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Denver	11	3	0	.786	535	372
x-Kansas City	11	3	0	.786	399	255
San Diego	7	7	0	.500	343	311
Oakland	4	10	0	.286	295	393

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	8	6	0	.571	364	349
Dallas	7	7	0	.500	393	385
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357	251	357
Washington	3	11	0	.214	305	434

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	10	4	0	.714	359	270
Carolina	10	4	0	.714	328	208
Tampa Bay	4	10	0	.286	258	324
Atlanta	4	10	0	.286	309	388

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	8	6	0	.571	406	391
Green Bay	7	6	1	.536	353	362
Detroit	7	7	0	.500	362	339
Minnesota	4	9	1	.321	363	425

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Seattle	12	2	0	.857	380	205
San Francisco	10	4	0	.714	349	228
Arizona	9	5	0	.643	342	291
St. Louis	6	8	0	.429	316	324

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Sunday, Dec. 22

Tampa Bay at St. Louis, Noon
Indianapolis at Kansas City, Noon
Denver at Houston, Noon
Miami at Buffalo, Noon
New Orleans at Carolina, Noon
Dallas at Washington, Noon
Cleveland at N.Y. Jets, Noon
Minnesota at Cincinnati, Noon
Tennessee at Jacksonville, Noon
Arizona at Seattle, 3:05 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Detroit, 3:05 p.m.
Oakland at San Diego, 3:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Green Bay, 3:25 p.m.
New England at Baltimore, 3:25 p.m.
Chicago at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 23

Atlanta at San Francisco, 7:40 p.m.

NCAA Bowl glance

All Times EST
Saturday, Dec. 21
New Mexico Bowl
At Albuquerque
Washington State (6-6) vs. Colorado State (7-6), 2 p.m. (ESPN)
Las Vegas Bowl
Fresno State (11-1) vs. Southern Cal (9-4), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Buffalo (8-4) vs. San Diego State (7-5), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)
New Orleans Bowl
Tulane (7-5) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (8-4), 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Dec. 23
Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Ohio (7-5) vs. East Carolina (9-3), 2 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Oregon State (6-6) vs. Boise State (8-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Dec. 26
Little Caesars Pizza Bowl
At Detroit
Bowling Green (10-3) vs. Pittsburgh (6-6), 6 p.m. (ESPN)
Poinsettia Bowl
At San Diego
Northern Illinois (12-1) vs. Utah State (8-5), 9:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
At Annapolis, Md.
Marshall (9-4) vs. Maryland (7-5), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Texas Bowl
At Houston
Minnesota (8-4) vs. Syracuse (6-6), 6 p.m. (ESPN)
Fight Hunger Bowl
At San Francisco
BYU (8-4) vs. Washington (8-4), 9:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 28
Pinstripe Bowl
At New York
Notre Dame (8-4) vs. Rutgers (6-6), Noon (ESPN)
Belk Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Cincinnati (9-3) vs. North Carolina (6-6), 3:20 p.m. (ESPN)
Russell Athletic Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Miami (9-3) vs. Louisville (11-1), 6:45 p.m. (ESPN)
Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Kansas State (7-5) vs. Michigan (7-5), 10:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Dec. 30
Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth, Texas
Middle Tennessee (8-4) vs. Navy (7-4), 11:45 a.m. (ESPN)
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Mississippi (7-5) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 3:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Oregon (10-2) vs. Texas (8-4), 6:45 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Arizona State (10-3) vs. Texas Tech (7-5), 10:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Dec. 31
AdvoCare V100 Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Arizona (7-5) vs. Boston College (7-5), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Virginia Tech (8-4) vs. UCLA (9-3), 2 p.m. (CBS)
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Rice (9-3) vs. Mississippi State (6-6), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta
Texas A&M (8-4) vs. Duke (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Jan. 1
Heart of Dallas Bowl
At Dallas
UNLV (7-5) vs. North Texas (8-4), Noon (ESPNU)
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Nebraska (8-4) vs. Georgia (8-4), Noon (ESPN2)
Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Wisconsin (9-3) vs. South Carolina (10-2), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Iowa (8-4) vs. LSU (9-3), 1 p.m. (ESPN)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Stanford (11-2) vs. Michigan State (12-1), 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Baylor (11-1) vs. UCF (11-1), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Jan. 2
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Alabama (11-1) vs. Oklahoma (10-2), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Jan. 3
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Ohio State (12-1) vs. Clemson (10-2), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Cotton Bowl
At Arlington, Texas
Missouri (11-2) vs. Oklahoma State (10-2), 7:30 p.m. (FOX)
Saturday, Jan. 4
BBVA Compass Bowl
At Birmingham, Ala.
Vanderbilt (8-4) vs. Houston (8-4), 1 p.m. (ESPN)
Sunday, Jan. 5
GoDaddy.com Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Arkansas State (7-5) vs. Ball State (10-2), 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Jan. 6
BCS National Championship
At Pasadena, Calif.
Florida State (13-0) vs. Auburn (12-1), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Hockey

NHL Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	35	23	10	2	48	96	74
Tampa Bay	35	21	11	3	45	97	84
Montreal	37	21	13	3	45	92	81
Detroit	37	16	12	9	41	94	101
Toronto	37	18	16	3	39	101	106
Ottawa	37	14	17	6	34	103	122
Florida	37	14	18	5	33	87	117
Buffalo	35	9	23	3	21	63	100

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	37	26	10	1	53	117	80
Washington	35	19	13	3	41	111	104
Philadelphia	35	16	15	4	36	86	97
Carolina	35	14	14	7	35	81	98
New Jersey	36	14	15	7	35	85	90
N.Y. Rangers	36	16	18	2	34	82	100
Columbus	35	14	17	4	32	91	100
N.Y. Islanders	36	10	19	7	27	90	124

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	38	25	7	6	56	140	105
St. Louis	34	23	7	4	50	119	81
Colorado	34	23	10	1	47	100	80
Minnesota	37	20	12	5	45	86	88
Dallas	34	17	12	5	39	99	102
Winnipeg	37	16	16	5	37	100	108
Nashville	35	16	16	3	35	80	99

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	37	25	7	5	55	119	93
Los Angeles	36	24	8	4	52	101	69
San Jose	35	21	8	6	48	113	88
Vancouver	38	21	11	6	48	104	92
Phoenix	34	18	10	6	42	106	105
Calgary	35	13	16	6	32	88	111
Edmonton	37	11	23	3	25	95	127

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Friday's Games

Vancouver 3, Chicago 2, SO
Anaheim 3, New Jersey 2, OT
N.Y. Islanders 5, N.Y. Rangers 3
Washington 4, Carolina 2
Winnipeg 5, Florida 2

Saturday's Games

Calgary at Pittsburgh, Noon
Phoenix at Ottawa, 1 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 3 p.m.
New Jersey at Washington, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at Columbus, 6 p.m.
Montreal at Nashville, 6 p.m.
Buffalo at Boston, 6 p.m.
Detroit at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 6 p.m.
Anaheim at N.Y. Islanders, 6 p.m.
St. Louis at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Minnesota at N.Y. Rangers, 6:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Vancouver, 7 p.m.

Transactions

Baseball

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Agreed to terms with OF Xavier Paul on a minor league contract.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Named Jim Rickon hitting coach and Chad Wolfe athletic trainer for Columbus (IL); David Wallace manager, Rouglas Odorm hitting coach, Jeff Harris Pitching coach and Jeremy Heller athletic trainer for Akron (EL); Scooter Tucker manager, Tony Mansolino hitting coach and Steve Karsay pitching coach for Carolina (Carolina); Mark Budzinski manager, Shaun Larkin hitting coach and Rigo Beltran pitching coach for Lake County (MWL); Phil Clark hitting coach and Greg Hibbard pitching coach for Mahoning Valley (NYP); Mark Allen pitching coach for Arizona (GCL) and Jesus Sanchez pitching coach for Indians (DSL). Named Luis Ortiz minor league assistant field coordinator and Edwin Rodriguez minor league special assistant.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Named Gary Tuck bullpen coach; Trey Hillman special assistant, major and minor league operations; Mike Quade roving outfield and baserunning instructor, and Matthew Krause strength and conditioning coordinator.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Claimed C Chris Gimenez off waivers from the Tampa Bay. Agreed to terms with 1B Daric Barton on a one-year contract. Released LHP Pedro Figueroa.

TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with INF Kensuke Tanaka, LHP Ryan Feierabend and RHP Daniel McCutchen on minor league contracts.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Agreed to terms with INF Eric Chavez on a one-year contract and RHP Brad Ziegler on a two-year contract.

CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with LHPs Jonathan Sanchez, Tsuyoshi Wada and Tommy Hottovy and OF Mitch Maier on minor league contracts.

CINCINNATI REDS — Agreed to terms with RHPs Jose Diaz and Chien-Ming Wang, LHP Lee Hyde, Cs Corky Miller, Rossmel Perez and Max Ramirez, INFs Argenis Diaz, Reynaldo Navarro and Kristopher Negron, and OF Jason Bourgeois on minor league contracts.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Designated LHP Eric Surkamp for assignment. Added RHP Ryan Vogelsong to the 40-man roster.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Named Brian Daubach manager, Chris Michalak pitching coach and Mark Harris hitting coach for Harrisburg (EL); Tripp Keister manager, Franklin Bravo pitching coach and Brian Rupp hitting coach for Potomac (Carolina); Patrick Anderson manager for Hagerstown (SAL); Billy Gardner Jr. manage, Paul Menhart pitching coach and Joe Dillon hitting coach for Syracuse (IL); Amaury Garcia hitting coach and Tim Redding pitching coach for Auburn (NYP); Michael Barrett manager and Jorge Mejia hitting coach for the Nationals (GCL). Named Tony Beasley and Jeff Garber co-field coordinators; Troy Gingrich hitting coordinator and Jon Kotredes medical and rehab coordinator for their minor leagues.

Basketball

National Basketball Association

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS — Assigned G Nemanja Nedovic to Santa Cruz (NBADL).

LOS ANGELES LAKERS — Signed G Kendall Marshall.

Football

National Football League

NFL — Fined Philadelphia QB Nick Foles $10,000 for an illegal peel-back block on Minnesota LB Erin Henderson; Arizona LB Marcus Benard $15,750 for roughing the passer on a hit on Tennessee QB Ryan Fitzpatrick; Cardinals LB Daryl Washington $5,000 for unsportsmanlike conduct and Tennessee DE Kamerion Wimbley $10,000 for hitting Arizona QB Carson Palmer in the knee area in games last week.

Hockey

National Hockey League

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Activated F Marian Gaborik and D James Wisniewski from injured reserve.

DALLAS STARS — Placed D Aaron Rome on injured reserve, retroactive to Dec. 16.

College

ALABAMA — Suspended junior LB Xzavier Dickson and freshman RB Alvin Kamara from the football team and neither will play in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2.

JAMES MADISON — Named Everett Withers football coach.

KANSAS STATE — Signed athletics director John Currie to a contract extension through the 2019 academic year.

NORTH CAROLINA — Announced it won't seek the reinstatement of junior basketball G P.J. Hairston from the NCAA after the junior committed several rule violations.

UTAH — Named Dave Christensen offensive coordinator. Demoted Dennis Erickson to running backs coach.

Tribland

Saturday

College men's basketball: Mount Marty at Hastings College ..... 4 p.m.
College women's basketball: Mount Marty at Hastings College ..... 2 p.m.
Prep boys basketball: Adams Central at Gibbon ..... 7:45 p.m.
Prep boys basketball: Hastings High at York ..... 7:45 p.m.
Prep girls basketball: Adams Central at Gibbon ..... 7 p.m.
Prep girls basketball: Hastings High at York ..... 6 p.m.
Prep wrestling: Adams Central, Hastings, Smith Center at Flatwater Fracas in GI ..... 10 a.m.
Prep swimming & diving: Hastings High at Lincoln Southeast ..... 10 a.m.

Area Schedule

Prep boys basketball
Red Cloud at Alma
Giltner at Cedar Valley
Fillmore Central at Doniphan-Trumbull
Harvard at Heartland Lutheran
Shelton at Lawrence-Nelson
Minden at Phillipsburg, KS
Wood River at Sutton
Thayer Central at Tri County
Sandy Creek at Wilber-Clatonia
Pleasanton at Wilcox-Hildreth

Prep girls basketball
Red Cloud at Alma
Giltner at Cedar Valley
Fillmore Central at Doniphan-Trumbull
Harvard at Heartland Lutheran
Shelton at Lawrence-Nelson
Minden at Phillipsburg, KS
Wood River at Sutton
Thayer Central at Tri County
Sandy Creek at Wilber-Clatonia
Pleasanton at Wilcox-Hildreth

Prep wrestling
Franklin, Harvard at Cambridge Invite
Red Cloud/Blue Hill at Sandy Creek Invite

TV/Radio broadcasts

Saturday's television

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
11 a.m.
ESPN2 — NCAA, Division II, championship, NW Missouri St. vs. Lenoir-Rhyne, at Florence, Ala.
1 p.m.
ESPN — New Mexico Bowl, Washington St. vs. Colorado St., at Albuquerque, N.M.
2:30 p.m.
ABC — Las Vegas Bowl, Fresno St. vs. Southern Cal
4:30 p.m.
ESPN — Famous Idaho Potato Bowl, Buffalo vs. San Diego St., at Boise, Idaho
8 p.m.
ESPN — New Orleans Bowl, Louisiana-Lafayette at Tulane
GOLF
9 p.m.
TGC — The Royal Trophy, final round, at Guangzhou, China
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
11 a.m.
ESPN — Georgetown at Kansas
FSN — Tulsa at TCU
1 p.m.
FSN — Florida St. vs. UMass, at Sunrise, Fla.
FS1 — Youngstown St. at St. John's
2 p.m.
NBCSN — Hampton vs. James Madison (at Richmond Coliseum)
2:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Gonzaga vs. Kansas St., at Wichita, Kan.
3 p.m.
CBS — National coverage, Michigan St. at Texas
FS1 — Rider at Villanova
3:30 p.m.
FSN — Florida vs. Fresno St., at Sunrise, Fla.
4:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Illinois vs. Missouri, at St. Louis
NBCSN — Virginia Tech vs. VCU, at Richmond, Va.
5 p.m.
FS1 — Louisville at FIU
6:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Ohio St. vs. Notre Dame, at New York
7:30 p.m.
FS1 — Michigan vs. Stanford, at Brooklyn, N.Y.
10:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Colorado vs. Oklahoma St., at Las Vegas
NBA BASKETBALL
7 p.m.
WGN — Cleveland at Chicago
SOCCER
6:40 a.m.
NBCSN — Premier League, Cardiff at Liverpool
8:55 a.m.
NBCSN — Premier League, Manchester City at Fulham
WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
8:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — NCAA, Division I, championship, Wisconsin vs. Penn St., at Seattle

Saturday's radio

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
1 p.m.
KXPN 1460, KICS 1550 — Gildan New Mexico Bowl, Washington State vs. Colorado State
4:30 p.m.
KXPN 1460, KICS 1550 — Famous Idaho Potato Bowl, Buffalo vs. San Diego State
8 p.m.
KXPN 1460, KICS 1550 — R-L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, Tulane vs. Louisiana-Lafayette
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
4 p.m.
KHAS 1230 — Mt. Marty at Hastings College
6:30 p.m.
KLIQ 94.5 — The Citadel at Nebraska
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
1:45 p.m.
KHAS 1230 — Mt. Marty at Hastings College
2:15 p.m.
KLIQ 94.5 — South Dakota State vs. Nebraska

Sunday's television

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
4 p.m.
FSN — Southern U. at Baylor
FS1 — E. Washington at Seton Hall
6 p.m.
FS1 — California at Creighton
NFL FOOTBALL
Noon
CBS — Regional coverage, doubleheader
FOX — Regional coverage
3 p.m.
FOX — Regional coverage
3:25 p.m.
CBS — Regional coverage, doubleheader game
7 p.m.
NBC — Chicago at Philadelphia
SOCCER
7:25 a.m.
NBCSN — Premier League, Tottenham at Southampton
9:55 a.m.
NBCSN — Premier League, Everton at Swansea City
WINTER SPORTS
1 p.m.
NBC — USSA, Copper Mountain Grand Prix, ski slopestyle and snowboard halfpipe, at Frisco, Colo. (same-day tape)
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Noon
ESPN — California vs. UConn, at New York

Sunday's radio

NFL FOOTBALL
11:30 a.m.
KXPN 1460, KICS 1550 — TBA
3 p.m.
KXPN 1460, KICS 1550 — TBA
6:30 p.m.
KXPN 1460, KICS 1550 — Chicago at Philadelphia

Local

Flatwater Fracas

Hastings High went 3-1, Adams Central 2-2 and Smith Center (Kan.) 0-4 on the first day of the Flatwater Fracas in Grand Island.

The Tigers defeated Madison 50-24, Manhattan (Kan.) 33-30 and Lincoln Northstar 59-15 before falling to Omaha North 40-37. HHS could finish as high as fourth in the team standings after Saturday's action. The lowest the Tigers could finish is eighth out of 32 schools.

Nolan Laux (120) went 3-0 while Brandon Kile (113) and Kaleb Neugin (145) both went 4-0. Huy Trong (152), Brady Michel (160) and Colton Hatch (106) picked up three wins apiece.

The Patriots defeated Lincoln Southwest 39-28 and Northwest 42-33. They also lost to Bennington 42-30 and Scottsbluff 42-35. Derek Lonowski (160) and Jack Barry (182) both went 4-0, while Alex Meier's 4-0 day saw him switch between the 220 and 285-pound weight classes.

Smith Center dropped duals to Omaha Burke, Northwest, Gretna and Lincoln Southwest. Grant Lambert (160) and David Hileman (120) went undefeated to lead the Redmen.

Nation

Jensen, Crockett lead NDSU to FCS title game

FARGO, N.D. — Brock Jensen threw three touchdown passes and ran for another score to help North Dakota State rout New Hampshire 52-14 in the Football Championship Subdivision semfinals Friday night.

The two-time national champion Bison (14-0) advance to the title game Jan. 4 in Frisco, Texas. They will play the winner of the Eastern Washington-Towson game Saturday.

John Crockett ran for 196 yards, including a 71-yarder on North Dakota State's first play from scrimmage in the second half.

Wisconsin-Whitewater wins Division III title

SALEM, Va. — Matt Behrendt threw four touchdown passes and Wisconsin-Whitewater's defense stymied Gagliardi Trophy-winner Kevin Burke and Mount Union in a 52-14 victory in the Division III championship Friday night.

Behrendt hit Jake Kumerow and Tyler Huber for two touchdowns each, and Jordan Ratliffe ran for a pair of scores as the Warhawks (15-0) continued their domination of the series between the two powerhouse programs in Division III.

Whitewater has won four straight and five of its last six meetings with Mount Union in the Stagg Bowl. The teams have met eight times in the last nine years in the division's championship game.

The Associated Press

Tribland roundups

Prep boys basketball

Sylvan-Lucas 51
Rock Hills 47

Sylvan-Lucas ..... 10 16 13 12 – 51
Rock Hills ..... 15 12 11 9 — 47

Sylvan-Lucas
Individual Scoring — Ty Heenan 6, Collin Herald 7, Justin Carterburg 10, Nick Lawson 14, Mark Urginsvick 6, Chance Weber 4, Kelvin Lopez 2, Jim Schulte 2

Rock Hills
Individual Scoring — Copple 7, Broeckelman 5, Speigel 3, Freeman 12, Fleming 6, Wilson 4, Schwerman 7, Johanek 3

Deshler 50,
Franklin 6

Franklin

STC: Bluehawks' defense too much for Sutton

Continued from page B1

With 7:18 remaining in the game, Wiseman converted an and-one opportunity to cut STC's lead to 22-17. Just 20 seconds later, Johnson hit a bucket inside the paint to cut the lead to three — the closest the game had been since the first quarter.

Sutton missed two shots and a pair of free throws that could have potentially given it the lead. And with 4:48 remaining, Brooks Asher hit a dagger. Brooks got a screen and Wiseman, who had fought through picks all game, went under the screen, giving Brooks just enough room to drain his first 3-pointer of the game.

"After getting a couple (shots) tipped and one going in and out in the third, it felt great (to make the shot,)" Brooks said. "I knew I was going to get one, and that one gave us a boost and helped us."

The shot put St. Cecilia up 25-19.

Another old-fashioned three-point play from Wiseman cut the Bluehawks' lead to 25-23, but two clutch free throws from Sheehy made it a four-point game with 1:29 remaining.

On the ensuing Mustang possession, the Sutton offense could not find a shot. A full minute ran off the clock before Ladehoff called a timeout to organize his squad.

"We couldn't get into our set play. (St. Cecilia) took away our two looks there, and then they did a good job defensively with what we tried. So, we had to burn one of our timeouts," Ladehoff said.

Sutton missed a jumper out of the break, and STC sophomore Alex Teano made a pair of free throws to seal the win.

Brooks Asher led St. Cecilia with 10 points on 4-of-11 shooting from the field. He was also 1-for-7 from 3-point range. He admitted it was a frustrating night shooting the ball.

"Sometimes you always get frustrated, but you have to fight through it and go play defense," Brooks said. "If you're not having a good game offensively, you always have to play good defense because it wins you ball games."

Sheehy finished with six points, while Sealey and sophomore Zach Kitten had four each.

Wiseman led Sutton with nine points, six of which he scored in the fourth quarter. Johnson ended the game with six points.

Ladehoff said this was a good learning experience for the young guys on his team.

"We have some young guys that haven't been in those pressure situations before," he said. "Over the years, we've had guys that knew they had to catch and be ready to shoot. I think we're still learning our roles and our identity and who's going to take those shots."

The St. Cecilia student section was in midseason form, energizing the Bluehawks throughout the game. Students sang Christmas carols, had a saxophone player in a giant box wrapped like a gift and there was even someone in a gorilla suit chasing another student dressed like a banana. In all, Brooks Asher said the Bluehawks fed off the energy.

"Our student section was really good tonight. It gives us a little more energy on the court," Brooks said. "(The crowd) gives us a little more mojo and gets us into the game more."

Sutton plays Wood River today before competing in the Freeman Holiday tournament on Dec. 28. The Bluehawks have a long break before taking on Class B No. 5 Beatrice in the Aurora Holiday tournament on Dec. 30. The STC head coach said Friday's win gives his team a little confidence heading into a tough tournament.

"That's a very good basketball team. They're not going to woo and awe you with their players, but they're mentally tough and they know what they want to do on offense," Asher said. "To give us confidence, we wanted to finish the full week from last Saturday to this Saturday with wins going into Christmas."

Sutton (2-3).....6 0 8 9 — 23
St. Cecilia (3-2) .....10 4 6 9 — 29

Sutton (23)

Cole Wiseman 3-10 3-4 9, Trae Ramer 0-5 2-4 2, Nicholas Hohensee 0-3 2-2 2, Tristan Sheridan 0-0 0-0 0, Noah Johnson 3-4 0-0 6, Andrew Pawlowski 1-1 1-2 4, Austin Reinsch 0-0 0-0 0. Totals: 7-23 8-12 23.

St. Cecilia (29)

Dayton Sealey 2-4 0-0 4, Brooks Asher 4-11 1-1 10, Zach Kitten 2-2 0-0 4, Alex Sheehy 2-9 2-2 6, Trevor Ernst 0-1 0-0 0, Canon Howell 1-2 0-0 2, Alex Teano 0-2 3-4 3, Tommy O'Keeffe 0-0 0-0 0, Grant Schmdit 0-0 0-0 0, Derek Boyd 0-1 0-0 0. Totals: 11-32 6-7 29.



LAURA BEAHM/*Tribune*

Sutton's Trae Ramer shoots against St. Cecilia's Alex Teano Friday night at Chapman Gymnasium.

Three-point field goals — Sut 1-10 (Wiseman 0-7, Ramer 0-2, Pawlowski 1-1), STC 1-16 (Sealey 0-1, Asher 1-7, Sheehy 0-5, Howell 0-1, Teano 0-1, Boyd 0-1).

HHS: Third-quarter run propels Tigers past Cozad

Continued from page B1

shooting while connecting on all seven free throw attempts. Senior Tanner Johnson tied Karloff with game-high scoring honors with 17 as well, including nine points in the pivotal final quarter as the Haymakers attempted one final comeback.

"Tanner just took control there in the fourth quarter," Creech said. "His senior leadership really showed."

The Tiger defense tightened in the fourth quarter, holding Cozad to just seven points on 3-of-12 shooting as it didn't score until 4:20 remained in the game.

"I thought our zone defense got them out-of-sync there towards the end," Creech said. "Our kids did a good job of rebounding better."

Just 15 seconds into Friday's contest, Hastings jumped out to an early 2-0 lead after a field goal from junior Addison Belau and extended that advantage to four on the next possession with a bucket from Johnson. But the Haymakers responded with an 8-0 run that was aided by six Hastings turnovers.

"That was like a deer in the headlights," Creech said of the first quarter turnovers. "Cozad is just so long and so fast on top breaking on the ball but we did a lot better over the next few quarters once we got their defense figured out."

Karloff would end the rally with an old-fashioned three-point play to make the score 8-7. After Cozad answered with a pair of free throws, Johnson responded with a field goal on a nice up and under move. The Tigers would end the quarter with six straight points on a 3-pointer from Claussen and another and-one from Karloff to claim a 15-10 lead after eight minutes of play. The Tigers never trailed the rest of the game.

"Morgan really made some nice plays in transition tonight," Creech said.

Cozad would score on the first possession of the second quarter to trim the Tiger lead to 15-12, but Karloff hit two free throws on the ensuing possession. The Haymakers got within 22-20 following a three-point play after a Hastings turnover late in the first half, but the Tigers answered right back with six straight points. Senior Ryan Kern nailed a 3-pointer with just over three minutes remaining in the second quarter and senior Brendon Menke would add one later. Cozad answered with the final four points of the half to make the score 28-23 at the interemission.

Karloff got an offensive rebound and putback on the opening possession of the second half, but Cozad would score seven straight points to tie the game. That's when the Tigers answered back one final time and put the game out of reach. Senior Tysen Werner led Cozad with 10 points as no other Haymaker player finished with more than seven points.

Hastings High (2-3)15 13 18 11 - 57
Cozad (2-2).....10 13 11 7 - 41

Hastings (57)

Morgan Karloff 5-9 7-7 17, Sam Reimer 2-3 0-0 6, Ryan Kern 1-6 0-0 3, Tanner Johnson 6-11 5-5 17, Addison Belau 1-6 0-2 2, Ben Claussen 3-7 0-0 9, Brendon Menke 1-2 0-0 3, Jared Foote. Totals: 18-42 12-14 57.

Cozad (41)

Colin Wetovick 1-8 4-4 6, Jake Paulsen 3-8 1-1 7, 1-3 0-2, Conor Young 2-11 0-0 5, Tysen Werner 5-8 0-0 10, Jacob Stallbaumer 2-5 1-4 5, Jason Finnegan 1-3 1-4 3, Nate Bubak 1-5 0-1 2, Tanner Evertson 0-1 1-2 1, Mitchell Fischer 0-1 0-0 0, Chase Dugan 1-2 0-0 2. Totals: 16-52 8-16 41.

Three-point field goals - HHS 7-18 (Karloff 0-4, Reimer 2-2, Kern 1-4,Claussen 3-4, Menke 1-2, Foote 0-2), C 1-13 (Wetovick 0-3, Paulsen 0-2, Young 1-5, Werner 0-2, Bubak 0-1). Fouled out - none.



LAURA BEAHM/*Tribune*

Hastings High's Addison Belau looks to shoot against the defense of Cozad's Jason Finnegan (44) and Jake Paulsen (22) Friday night in Hastings.

First win: Patriot girls defeat Chanticleers 58-39

Continued from page B1

Bumgardner wasn't done, hitting a trey on the opening possession of the fourth quarter to push the lead to 48-34. The Chanticleers didn't light up the scoreboard until 2:30 remained on the clock when Tori Beran hit two free throws.

In the second half alone, AC hit 13-of-20 field goals to boost its final average to 44 percent.

Ord made only two field goals in the last 16 minutes, its second coming in the last minute of the game off a breakaway. The Chants finished 14-of-39 from the floor, giving up 17 turnovers in the process.

AC had nine steals, led by three from junior Sarah Krueger.

"We just told the girls that all five players have to work hard on every play," Marker said. "We had some break downs in the first half where we had four people working hard and somebody was lost. Our players just did a great job. They worked hard on every play."

Bumgardner's big night offensively also saw her grab a team-high seven rebounds. Junior Brittani Wiseman had seven points and a team-high five assists. Fowler and Fleischer added eight points apiece while Krueger tallied seven.

Morgan Alexander led Ord with 11 points while Katelyn DeRiso came off the bench to provide 10 points.

The Patriots travel to Gibbon (1-3) today before they break for the holidays. Like last season, AC's holiday tournament will be in Wayne.

"It's big to get this first win," Marker said. "We've had a tough schedule here, and we've had a couple where we're close. We had chances to win but couldn't get it done. Tonight, we got a run and we got back into the game and kept it going. That was big for us, to keep that energy going."

Ord.....16 16 2 5 — 39
Adams Central...10 12 23 13 — 58

Adams Central (58)

Jacki Fowler 3-8 0-2 8, Brittani Wiseman 2-3 2-4 7, Josie Bumgardner 6-11 0-0 16, Alexis Grimmett 2-3 0-0 4, Carly Bostock 1-5 1-2 3, Sarah Krueger 3-6 0-2 7, Meredith LaMaster 1-4 2-2 5, Hannah Fleischer 3-7 2-2 8, Morgan Bredenkamp 0-1 0-0 0. Totals: 21-48 7-14 58.

Ord (39)

Katherine Lansman 2-6 0-1 5, Morgan Alexander 4-9 2-2 11, Tori Beran 0-2 3-4 3, Hallie Ramsey 0-0 1-4 1, Kate Grint 2-9 1-2 5, Cassidy Gydesen 1-3 0-0 2, Katelyn DeRiso 4-9 0-0 10, Hanna Heil 1-1 0-0 2. Totals: 14-39 8-13 39.

Three-point field goals — AC 9-20 (Fowler 2-5, Wiseman 1-2, Bumgardner 4-8, Krueger 1-2, LaMaster 1-2), ORD 4-13 (Lansman 1-2, Alexander 1-5, Beran 0-2, Gydesen 0-1, DeRiso 2-3). Rebounds — AC 26 (Fowler 3, Wiseman 1, Bumgardner 7, Grimmett 3, Bostock 4, Krueger 2, LaMaster 3, Fleischer 2, Bredenkamp 1), ORD 25 (Lansman 3, Alexander 2, Beran 5, Ramsey 6, Grint 6, DeRiso 3). Assists — AC 11 (Wiseman 5, Bumgardner 3, Bostock 1, Krueger 1, Emalie Krabel 1), ORD 5 (Alexander 2, Beran 1, Ramsey 1, Heil 1). Steals — AC 9 (Fowler 1, Bumgardner 2, Bostock 1, Krueger 3, Fleischer 2), ORD 11 (Lansman 1, Alexander 3, Ramsey 1, DeRiso 1, Cora Svoboda 1, Andrea Carson 2, Jordan Kuck 1).

Overtime: Adams Central beats Ord in double overtime

Continued from page B1

The Patriots will have their hands full against the Buffaloes, led by by Reinerstson, who is averaging 25 points per game.

"We thought we could play well and go 0-2 this weekend. To get this one in the fashion that we did might reap benefits for awhile," Foster said. "Reinertson is hands down the best player in Class C-1."

The Chanticleers led by 7 points early in the final period. But AC cut the lead to 60-59 when Wormstadt nailed a 3-pointer with 1:26 left. Then Wormstadt forced overtime by making two free throws with 36 seconds left.

AC led by five points in the first overtime. But Ord tallied five unanswered points in the final minute to send the game into the second extra period.

After halftime, Ord looked like it might run away from the Patriots by scoring the third quarter's first 11 points. But AC reeled off a 9-0 run in the quarter's last two minutes to tie the score at 49 apiece.

Ord began the contest by scoring the first eight points. AC didn't get on the scoreboard until Tevin Anderson sank a trey three minutes into the game. Ord owned an 18-11 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Adams Central took its first lead in the last second of the first half when Sittner scored a 3-point bucket on an out-of-bounds play that began under the AC basket. AC owned a 33-31 edge at the break.

Tony Smith and Alex Fahey led the Chanticleers with 21 points and 20 points, respectively. Colton Zulkoski added 12 points as Ord slipped to 2-3.

"Ord is very good. They are kind of a sleeping giant. They are going to win a lot of games this year," Foster said.

Ord (2-3).....18 13 18 12 7 5 — 73
AC (5-1).....11 22 16 12 7 9 — 77

Ord (73)

Alex Fahey 6-13 4-4 20, Brant Bechtold 2-5 1-2 7, Tony Smith 7-17 0-0 21, Trevor Fahrenholz 2-1 0-0 5, Eli Hill 0-1 2-2 0, Nolan Grint 0-3 0-0 0, Colton Zulkoski 5-9 2-2 12, John Radil 3-4 0-0 6. Totals: 25-62 10-11.

Adams Central (77)

Garrett Sittner 5-16 2-2 15, David Bohlen 5-16 7-8 20, Buzz Niederklein 2-4 0-0 4, Kyle Wormstadt 4-7 4-4 14, Alex Keller 0-1 0-0 0, Cale Pleak 1-1 0-0 3, Tevin Anderson 3-9 0-0 7, Sam Lindblad 3-4 1-1 7, Evan Lindblad 2-6 3-4 7. Totals: 25-64 17-19 77.

Three-point goals — O 13-27 (Fahey 3-5, Bechtold 2-3, Smith 7-11, Fahrenholz 1-5, Hill 0-1, Zulkoski 0-1). AC 10-34 (Sittner 3-11, Bohlen 3-9, Niederklein 0-1, Wormstadt 2-4, Keller 0-1, Pleak 1-1, Anderson 1-4, S. Lindblad 0-1, E. Lindblad 0-1). Fouls — O 17, AC 9. Fouled out — none. Turnovers — O 17, AC 12.

Kenesaw: Burr leads boys team to victory over Silver Lake

Continued from page B1

"Cory Heier came in and did a great job," said Einrem. "He gave us a lift with his quick five points off the bench when we were having some trouble offensively."

Both teams came out of the gates hot. Mustang guard Journey Ericsson had eight points in the first quarter to allow Silver Lake to keep pace.

Kenesaw's defense tightened up as the game continued. The Mustangs scored 14 points in the first quarter and then only 13 more the rest of the game. Silver Lake had a lot of good looks at the basket, but could never take the lid off the rim, shooting 21 percent (10-47) on the evening.

"Defensively, we did a great job," said Einrem. "Silver Lake has some good shooters and we worked really hard keeping them out of rhythm. We gave up 14 points in the first quarter, then only 13 in the remaining three quarters. You can't ask for much more than than that."

Despite the lack of offensive production, the Mustangs were still within single digits until late in the third quarter. But in the fourth quarter, Burr put the game away. Burr tallied 10 more points in the final period to add to his total.

Einrem knows his team has yet to hit their stride, knowing the ceiling is high.

"We're still not clicking on offense. It's taking some time getting everyone in sync. Once we do, we'll be a pretty good basketball team," he said. "We average around 45 points per game and I believe we can raise that to around 60. With our defense, we can play with anybody."

Silver Lake.....14 3 0 10 27
Kenesaw.....18 8 4 17 47

Silver Lake (27)

Journey Ericsson 3 1-4 8, Dakota Jameson 3 0-2 8, Seyler Monroe 4 0-0 10, Quentin Journey 0 1-2 1. Totals: 10 1-6. 3-point field goals 5 (Monroe 2, Jameson 2, Ericsson)

Kenesaw (47)

Trevor Burr 10 1-1 25, Tyce Clark 1 0-0 2, Austin Schnitzler 2 0-1 4, Lane Tibbs 1 1-2 3, Kory Heier 2 0-2 5, Wyatt Woodman 1 2-2 4, Carson Woodman 3 0-0 6. Totals: 20 4-8. 3 point field goals 5 (Burr 4, Heier)

Streak: Mustangs earn fourth consecutive win over Blue Devils

Continued from page B1

make a statement.

"It was nice that we came out tonight and were the aggressor," Kenesaw head coach Jace Morgan said. "It was nice to see our shots fall. We hadn't had a good shooting night yet, and we started the game shooting the ball well. It was nice to see. We started well and played a decent, tough game. But Silver Lake capitalized on some of our miscues and we didn't on theirs."

However, Kenesaw cooled down while Silver Lake got gritty. Slowly, but surely, the Mustangs came back and took control of the game.

Sophomore post Sydney Skupa had 15 points and 12 rebounds to dominate the paint while fellow sophomore wing Joslyn Grabill had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

That combo allowed the Mustangs make a run in the third quarter that would prove the difference. Silver Lake scored the first 10 points of the period to take a 28-20. From there on out, it was patience on offense and second-chance points that kept that lead at bay.

Silver Lake out-rebounded Kenesaw 37-21 in the game and also forced 20 turnovers.

Kenesaw will look to improve as they'll have a long break before their next game.

"Being a young, inexperienced team takes its time," said Morgan. "Every game is a valuable experience. We hav a lot of good things to work on. We just need to continue to work. If we can get our players to play their positions, we'll be alright. We're getting more expereince. We lost some of that fear tonight. I'm excited for what's ahead."

The Mustangs are off to a nice start as they approach the Christmas break.

"When I looked at the schedule, I thought 4-1 was going to be our goal and I knew we would have to play some pretty good basketball to get there," said Crowe. "I'm very happy with where we're at, but I told the girls that we need to get a lot better because our effort wasn't great at times tonight. we have to be ready to respond with who we play every night."

Silver Lake.....7 14 10 11 39
Kenesaw.....14 6 5 4 29

Silver Lake (39)

Josie Parr 1 0-0 3, Alissa Ehrman 2 0-0 4, Joslyn Grabill 5 1-2 12, Sydney Skupa 6 3-7 15, Kila Timm 2 1-2 5. Totals: 16 5-11. 3 point Field Goals 2 (Grabill, Parr)

Kenesaw (29)

Brenna Schneider 3 0-1 6, Kendra Nunn 2 0-0 4, Brielle Schneider 4 2-4 11, Staci Weavers 1 1-4 3, Jordan Dassinger 1 2-2 5. Totals: 11 5-11. 3 point field goals 2 (Brielle Schneider, Dassinger).

In diverse U.S., Santa Claus has many faces, races

RUSSELL CONTRERAS
The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — In Atlanta, children of many races share their Christmas wish lists with a black Santa Claus.

In Houston, Santa dons a red zoot suit and dances to jazz as he hands out gifts in Mexican-American neighborhoods.

In Indian Country, Native American Santas add American Indian attire to their red snowsuits, visiting shops and community centers from the pueblos of New Mexico to the reservations on the Pacific Northwest.

Santa Claus may be popularly known as a white-bearded benefactor with Dutch-English origins, but multiethnic versions of Santa are making the rounds out there too — illustrating that in an increasingly diverse United States, Santa takes on whatever color you imagine him to be.

"Kids don't see color. They see a fat guy in a red suit giving toys," said Dee Sinclair, 50, of Atlanta, who bills himself as the "Real Black Santa" and sports a very real, very white beard to prove it. He said in his 12 years of Santa-dom, he has posed with children and adults of all backgrounds during appearances at art centers, private parties and the occasional suburban Christmas tree lighting.



JOHN BAZEMORE/*AP*

Dee Sinclair, who bills himself as the real black Santa, delights 4-year-old Joe Morris IV Tuesday in Atlanta.

"The character to me is all about the spirit of Christmas," Sinclair said. "If we leave Christmas to ourselves, we'd be all right."

This holiday season, however, not all reactions to non-white Santas have been jolly.

At Indiana University in Bloomington earlier this month, a dormitory bulletin board posed the question, "Can Santa Claus be a black man?" in hopes of generating fruitful discussion about racial stereotypes. Instead, it generated outrage on social media because it also asked other questions that played to stereotypes, such as whether a black Santa would only visit the ghetto. The display, which a university spokesman described as well-intended but "misguided," was taken down.

Last week, a high school teacher in Rio Rancho, N.M., was disciplined, and apologized, for telling a black student who dressed as Santa Claus, "Don't you know Santa Claus is white? Why are you wearing that?" The teacher has since been placed on paid administrative leave.

Also last week, Fox News host Megyn Kelly sparked a heated debate when she declared on air, "And by the way, for all you kids watching at home, Santa just is white," during a panel discussion about a blogger's essay arguing that children of other races could feel alienated by constantly seeing Santa as white. Kelly later said her comments were motivated by humor, not "by any racial fear or loathing."

That situation was promptly skewered by comics such as Comedy Central's Jon Stewart and Kenan Thompson of NBC's Saturday Night Live, who, clad in a full Santa suit and beard, joked about Kelly's comments and quipped: "You heard of secret Santa? Well, here's a secret for you: I'm black as hell!"

Richard Reyes, 62, of Houston, who has portrayed "Pancho Claus" for 32 years, found this year's debate over Santa's race surprising. He has seen Santa transformed into many images for years, he said; In his version, Pancho Claus has a goatee, and accessorizes his zoot suit with sunglasses and a fedora.

"For these diverse times, it's important for children to see Santa in all these different forms," Reyes said.

Andrew Chesnut, the Bishop Walter F. Sullivan Chair in Catholic Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, said depictions of Santa Claus as a white man came about mainly because he was a European import, a blend of the Dutch Sinterklaas and British folklore character Father Christmas.

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Business Review

Backflow Recertification Course Planned In Grand Island



A backflow recertification training course will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on January 14 at College Park, Room 201 at Central Community College-Grand Island.

The class is designed for water and wastewater operators, plumbers and other individuals who want to learn about the latest water industry regulations and technology.

The class meets the requirements set by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for receiving continuing education units (CEUs) toward recertification as follows: Grade 6=5 hours; Grades 1-4= 5 hours; WW operators=5.75 hours

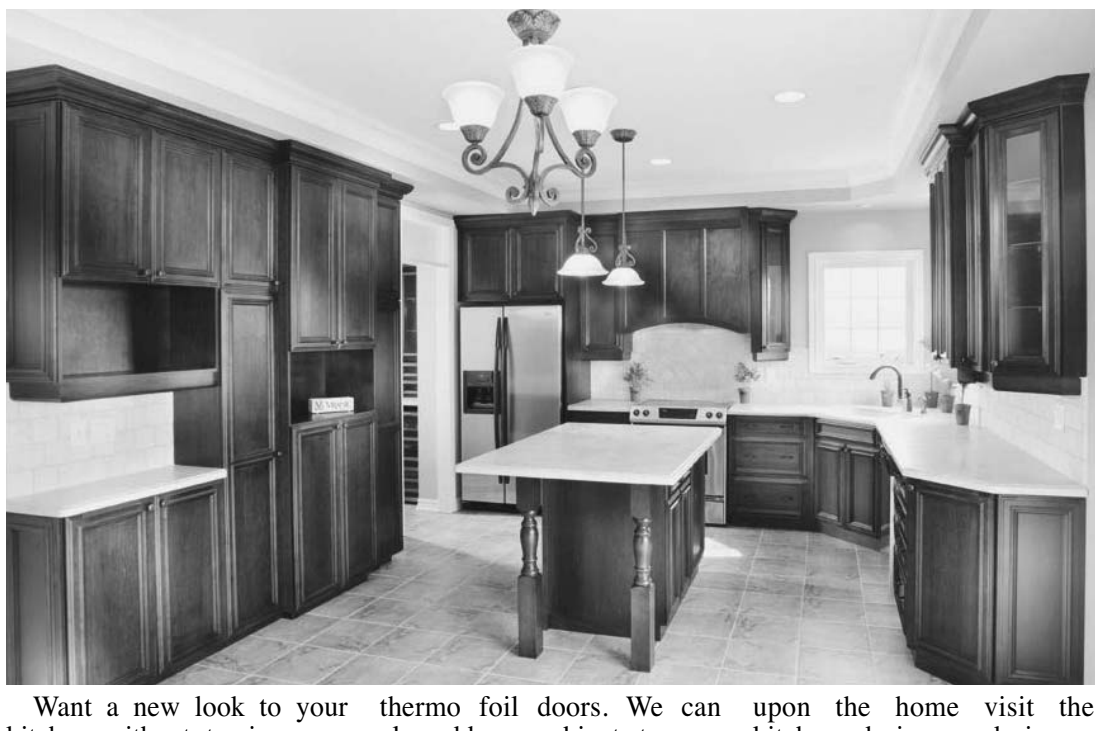
The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality also has approved the course for 3 CEUs toward recertification for wastewater operators.

Gregg Hinrichsen, a Licensed Grade 2 Water Operator, Licensed Grade 2 Wastewater Operator, and a Licensed Grade 6 Backflow Technician will be the trainer for this class.

Class size is limited so preregistration is required to reserve a space. The cost is $85. For more information or to preregister, contact Sue Carlson at Central Community College-Grand Island at (308) 398-7527; toll-free at 1-877-222-0780, ext. 7527; or by e-mail at scarlson@cccneb.edu.

Central Community College offers training in leadership development, computer technology, industrial technology, environmental health and safety, and welding technology. Interested businesses can request the training be customized to meet their specific needs and can arrange to have the classes taught onsite for their convenience. Contact CCC for more information.

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Rodman holds tryouts for Pyongyang exhibition game

ERIC TALMADGE
The Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea — Former NBA star Dennis Rodman held tryouts Friday for a North Korean team to face a dozen NBA veterans in an exhibition game on leader Kim Jong Un's birthday next month — though he hasn't convinced all the players on the American team that it's safe to come to Pyongyang.

The flamboyant Hall of Famer said plans for the Jan. 8 game are moving ahead but some of the 12 Americans he wants are afraid to come.

Some foreign analysts say the dramatic purge and execution of Kim's once-powerful uncle less than a week ago has cast doubt on Kim's future. But officials here say there is no instability and Kim remains firmly in control.

"You know, they're still afraid to come here, but I'm just telling them, you know, don't be afraid man, it's all love, it's all love here," Rodman told The Associated Press after the tryouts at the Pyongyang Indoor Gymnasium. "I understand what's going on with the political stuff, and I say, I don't go into that venture, I'm just doing one thing for these kids here, and for this country, and for my country, and for the world pretty much."

Rodman, who arrived in Pyongyang on Thursday, said he expects to announce the roster soon. He also said he is planning another game in June.

Rodman, wearing a pink button-down shirt and puffing on a cigar, watched as a couple of dozen local players took to the basketball court for the tryouts. After the session, he told the players that each of the 12 he chooses will get two new pairs of tennis shoes.

When asked why he liked basketball, North Korean player Kim Un Chol told Rodman he started playing the game because he was impressed by it on TV, and said he also wants to be good at the sport because it is a favorite of leader Kim and his late father, Kim Jong Il.

Rodman asked all the players if they felt the same way. They nodded in unison.

"I want you guys to do one thing for your leader," Rodman then told them. "It's his birthday. It's a very special, special day for the country."

Rodman and Kim have struck up an unlikely friendship since he traveled to the secretive state for the first time in February with the Harlem Globetrotters for an HBO series produced by New York-based VICE television.

He remains the highest-profile American to meet Kim since the leader inherited power from his father in 2011.



DAVID GUTTENFELDER/*AP*

Former NBA star Dennis Rodman speaks to North Korean basketball players during a practice session in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Friday.

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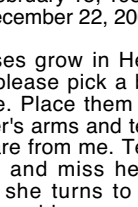
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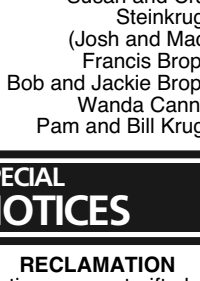
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Hastings Tribune

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Sudoku

Difficulty: 4 (of 5)

4		8			3	1		
		3		6	5			
		2	9				8	
	9			2				3
2			3	5				
		4				9		
			7	8			6	1
	5					7	4	9

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HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

7	2	5	6	9	8	4	1	3
8	3	9	5	1	4	2	6	7
1	6	4	2	7	3	9	8	5
2	7	6	1	4	9	5	3	8
5	4	8	7	3	6	1	9	2
3	9	1	8	2	5	7	4	6
6	5	7	4	8	1	3	2	9
9	1	2	3	6	7	8	5	4
4	8	3	9	5	2	6	7	1



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Nation

ARRESTING PROPOSAL

ELK CITY, Okla. — Talk about a marriage proposal to remember.

An Oklahoma man proposed to his girlfriend last week while an officer tried to arrest him on two outstanding warrants.

An officer spotted Justin Harrel of Elk City in a local park last Friday and discovered that he had outstanding warrants out of two counties for obtaining cash or merchandise by bogus check, according to court documents.

Police said Harrel resisted arrest at first.

"I advised Justin that he was under arrest and directed him to turn around and place his hands behind his back," the officer wrote in his police report. "Justin said, 'Steve, let's talk about this. Give me five minutes.' "

When the officer took him into custody, Harrel explained that he was about to propose to his girlfriend. He asked if he could go ahead with the proposal.

The officer allowed Harrel to complete the marriage proposal, and Harrel's girlfriend eventually said yes. Harrel then asked the officer to get the engagement ring from his coat pocket and give it to her.

The officer handed the ring to the girlfriend.

Harrel was not cited for resisting an officer.

PASSENGERS TAKE DOWN ARMED ROBBER ON BUS

SEATTLE — Surveillance video from a Metro bus in Seattle shows the dramatic takedown of an armed man who was robbing passengers of their phones.

The video from Nov. 25 is evidence in the case against 19-year-old Trevonnte Brown of Seattle. He pleaded not guilty on Monday to robbery charges and is jailed with bail set at $350,000.

The video shows the robber taking phones before pointing his gun in the face of one man who pushes it away and fights back. Other passengers jump in and subdue the man.

One of the passengers who was robbed, Chris Briggs, said he initially said no but handed over his phone when he was jabbed with the gun.

After another passenger scuffled with the robber, Briggs jumped in to help hold him.

OWL VS. OWL

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — An experiment to see if killing invasive barred owls will help the threatened northern spotted owl reverse its decline toward extinction is underway in the forests of Northern California.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Friday that specially trained biologists have shot 26 barred owls in a study area on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, northeast of Arcata, Calif. They plan to remove as many as 118.

The service is spending $3.5 million over six years to remove 3,600 barred owls from sites in Oregon, Washington and California. Barred owls migrated from the East in the 1950s and have become the single biggest threat to spotted owl survival.

Scientists want to see if spotted owls will increase when competition from the more aggressive barred owl is eliminated.

ROCK PYTHONS

MIAMI — State biologists are concerned that the aggressive rock python might be the latest invasive species to become established in the Everglades and elsewhere in South Florida.

Rock pythons can grow to about 16 feet and are the largest snakes in Africa. Biologists say they are among the world's most aggressive snakes and will eat almost anything they can swallow.

Wildlife officials say they want to prevent these pythons from joining their Burmese cousins as an established, breeding species with no natural predators in Florida.

The Associated Press

Obama: '14 can be 'breakthrough year'

JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Citing strong progress on the economy, President Barack Obama said at his annual year-end news conference Friday that 2014 "can be a breakthrough year for America" after a long season of recession and slow recovery.

Yet he suggested that given widespread criticism, he may alter the power of the National Security Agency to collect information on Americans.

And when it came to the universally panned roll out of his health care law, Obama conceded that "we screwed it up," and said, "I'm going to be making appropriate adjustments once we get through this year." It was unclear if he meant to signal high-level personnel changes.

The president praised Congress for a recent, relatively modest budget compromise. "It's probably too early to declare an outbreak of bipartisanship. But it's also fair to say we're not condemned to endless gridlock," he said.



CHARLES DHARAPAK/*AP*

President Barack Obama speaks during his end-of-the-year news conference in the Brady Press Room at the White House in Washington Friday.

He also renewed his longstanding refusal to negotiate concessions with Republicans in exchange for legislation that will be needed in late winter or early spring to raise the nation's debt limit. "It is not something that is a negotiating tool. It's not leverage. It's a responsibility of Congress," he said, although he added that he was willing to discuss other issues separately.

Obama spoke from the White House briefing room podium as he concluded his fifth year as president, his hair far grayer than the day he was first sworn in. He and his family were departing later in the day for their holiday vacation in Hawaii.

The president opened his remarks with an upbeat assessment of the state of the economy, and seemed determined not to stray from it.

Asked if this year had been the worst of his presidency so far, he laughed and said, "That's not how I think about it."

Obama's polls are at or near the low point of his tenure in the White House. The rollout of his health care website bombed, and high-visibility parts of his agenda have yet to make it through Congress, including a call for gun safety legislation in the wake of the shooting at a Newtown, Conn., elementary school a year ago and a sweeping overhaul of immigration laws.

"If you're measuring this by polls, my polls have gone up and down a lot over the course of my career," he said, and then repeated that the economy was finally showing significant progress.

The president fielded questions a few hours after the government announced the economy grew at a solid 4.1 percent annual rate from July through September, the fastest pace since late 2011 and significantly higher than previously believed.

Much of the upward revision came from stronger consumer spending at a time when unemployment is at a five-year low of 7 percent. Obama did not mention it, but the stock market is also at or near record levels.

In his review of the year, Obama also noted that U.S. combat troops will finally be withdrawn from Afghanistan during the coming year.

GIFT GUIDE



DAVID TULIS/*AP*

In this Nov. 28 file photo, Sabastian Valenzuela (left) and his older brother Alberto compare prices for iPad tablets at a Best Buy late in the evening on Thanksgiving Day in Dunwoody, Ga. IPads are still among the best tablets, but Apple has strong, cheaper challengers this holiday season.

Strong slate of iPad challengers

ANICK JESDANUN
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Once upon a time, people who craved a tablet computer bought an iPad.

But Apple faces its strongest slate of challengers this holiday season, with several tablets besting the trend-setting iPad on price and features.

There are still plenty of reasons to get an iPad — either the full-size iPad Air starting at $499 or the iPad Mini at $399. Versions of both are available for $100 less, but you get a slower device with a lower-resolution screen. The Air is lighter and thinner than previous full-size models, and it feels nice in your hands.

Whichever one you get for your loved one, the iPad offers this:

◆ An unmatched selection of high-quality apps, many of them adapted for the tablet's larger screen. Many apps for Android tablets are simply phone apps blown up, while the Windows app store has a smaller selection.

◆ A screen with a 4:3 aspect ratio. That's the standard size for photos and older television shows, and it displays more content when Web surfing with the tablet held horizontally. That said, the wider aspect ratio found on Android and Windows tablets are better for widescreen video.

◆ Great syncing with other Apple devices, if the recipient of your gift has any. When setting up an Apple TV streaming device, for instance, you can simply place your iPad near it and bypass screens of prompts. Directions on the Mac's new Maps app can be sent to the iPad with two clicks. You can read and reply to iPhone texts from the iPad or a Mac.

But for a top-notch experience, you'll pay a top-notch price. That's where Android tablets come in.

You can get Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle Fire HDX 8.9 for $120 less than the iPad Air, at $379. It's even lighter, by about 17 percent, though I couldn't feel much of a difference holding the two side by side. The Kindle's screen has a higher resolution, but the display measures just 8.9 inches diagonally compared with the Air's 9.7 inches.

For a smaller tablet, you can get a 7-inch Kindle Fire HDX or a 7-inch Google Nexus 7 for $229, or $170 less than the latest iPad Mini.

With the Mini, though, you get a larger screen, at 7.9 inches. LG Electronics' G Pad 8.3 offers an 8.3-inch screen for $350, or about $50 less than the Mini. Sync the G Pad with an Android phone to see who's calling on your tablet, though you still need the phone to answer it. You can read and reply to texts from the tablet, as long as they don't have photos or video attached. You're limited to one reply and can't initiate a text from the tablet, however. That's where iPads do better.

As for the Kindle, there's one important limitation. The Kindle runs a modified version of Android, and only a subset of Android apps works on it.

On the flip side, Amazon is alone in offering live tech support 24 hours a day, seven hours a week. Hit the "Mayday" button on an HDX, and a representative will appear in a video box within seconds. The representatives can only hear you and see what's on your screen. They can help guide you by placing orange markers on your screen or taking control of your device completely. This feature makes the Kindle excellent for your tech-challenged loved ones. Just train them to call Mayday — rather than you — every time the device's volume needs adjusting.

Owners of Samsung phones might prefer a companion tablet, such as the $550 Galaxy Note 10.1. Sporting a stylus and several note-taking features, the Note is good for those who handwrite a lot of notes. But beware: The tablet's text-recognition software makes plenty of mistakes.

Avid readers, meanwhile, might be drawn to an Arc tablet from e-book specialist Kobo. Prices range from $150 to $400 depending on screen size and quality. The home screen has quick access to books and recommendations. A reading mode blocks distractions such as notifications and sounds, while adjusting screen brightness. You can even turn Wi-Fi off completely in reading mode to avoid temptations to check email and Facebook.

Some Android tablets also address one of the iPad's major shortcomings: It's not meant for sharing. The Nexus, the G Pad and the Arc tablets are among those that let you create multiple profiles. The Nexus also lets you restrict what kids can do under their profiles, though that feature is rudimentary. If you're shopping for a kid, check out our review of kid-focused tablets at http://bit.ly/1bXjkpO .

Beyond Android, you have plenty of Windows tablets to choose from, all with multi-user capabilities. The app selection is limited compared with iPads and most Android tablets. But Windows tablets are the only ones to offer a full version of Microsoft's Office software. It's free with tablets running a lightweight version of Windows 8.1 called RT. With iPads and Android tablets, you're limited to Web versions of Office.

Microsoft sells a 10.6-inch RT tablet, the Surface 2, for $449. For $130 more, you can get a keyboard cover with keys that move. A more powerful version, the Surface Pro 2, starts at $899. It runs a regular version of Windows 8.1, meaning it can run older Windows programs, not just ones designed for RT. Microsoft markets these as laptop replacements, and the cover has been redesigned such that it works better for typing on your lap.

A newcomer to tablets is Nokia, traditionally a phone maker. Nokia's first-ever tablet, the Lumia 2520, has a brightly colored plastic back that helps it stand out in a crowd.

It costs $499, the same as the iPad's starting price. But it comes with access to 4G LTE cellular networks, something that costs $130 more for iPads and $100 for the Kindle. That's something really useful for those away from Wi-Fi a lot. Data charges aren't included. Price reductions are available with service contracts or bundled with Nokia smartphones.

Stores open for 100 hours to attract shoppers

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Some stores are ending the holiday shopping season the same way they began it — with round-the-clock, marathon shopping hours.

Kohl's for the first time is staying open for essentially five days straight, from 6 a.m. on Friday through 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Macy's and Kmart are opening some of their stores for more than 100 hours in a row from Friday through Christmas Eve. And Toys R Us is staying open for 87 hours straight starting on Saturday, which is typically the second biggest shopping day of the year.

The expanded hours in the final days before Christmas are reminiscent of how some retailers typically begin the season on the day after Thanksgiving known as Black Friday. The strategy comes as stores try to recoup lost sales during a season that's been hobbled by a number of factors.

Despite a recovery economy, many Americans have been struggling with stagnant wages and other issues. On top of that, the time period between the official holiday shopping kickoff on Black Friday and the end of the season is six days shorter than a year ago. That has given Americans less time to shop.

Sales at U.S. stores rose 2 percent to $176.7 billion from Nov. 1 through last Sunday, according to ShopperTrak. That's a slower pace than the 2.4 percent increase the Chicago store data tracker expects for the entire two-month season.

The disappointing growth pace has put more pressure on retailers to get people into stores in the final days before Christmas. A lot is at stake because they can make up to 40 percent of their revenue in November and December.

"It's make or break for the retailers," said C. Britt Beemer, chairman of America's Research Group, a consumer research company. "They have to make up for lost ground."

Retailers hope the expanded hours will make last-minute shopping easier for Americans like Peter Sallese, who have either stayed out of stores so far because of money problems, inclement weather or other issues. The financial executive from New York City said he's usually finished with shopping by mid-December, but with the shortened season, he fell behind.

"Basically, when I came back from Thanksgiving, there was no time," Sallese said.

Nation

UNITED LIMITS UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

CHICAGO — Hey, kids! United Airlines says children flying alone need to go nonstop or stay home.

United says it's no longer allowing children ages 5 to 11 to fly without an adult on flights that include connections. It also says its optional service for unaccompanied minors ages 12-17 will only be offered on nonstop flights.

It made the changes quietly two weeks ago. United charges $150 extra, each way, for children flying alone.

United's new policy for young children is similar to policies at US Airways and Southwest. Delta Air Lines and American will still help young children who are flying alone get to connecting flights.

CALIFORNIA GIRL HAD FEARS BEFORE TONSIL SURGERY

OAKLAND, Calif. — The mother of a 13-year-old Northern California girl declared brain dead after a routine tonsillectomy says her daughter had expressed fears she wouldn't wake up after the surgery.

Nailah Winkfield said Thursday her daughter, Jahi McMath, did wake up after the Dec. 9 procedure, but the girl later began bleeding profusely from her mouth and nose for hours.

She went into cardiac arrest and is now on a ventilator as her family seeks a court order to keep her on life support through the holidays. The family says Children's Hospital Oakland officials told them Thursday they want to take the girl off life support quickly.

The family's attorney says he'll file an injunction on Friday to prevent any hospital intervention.

Hospital officials say the family hasn't given them permission to openly discuss the case, citing medical privacy laws.

SANTA SCARE

HOLLIS, N.H. — Police in southern New Hampshire say a man dressed as Santa Claus was only trying to spread some cheer but ended up panicking officials when he knocked on school windows and entered the building.

Administrators at the Hollis Primary School called police around 10 a.m. Thursday after they saw the man running around the school, tapping on windows and waving at students.

He was buzzed into the building but fled when he saw a look of alarm on a staffer's face.

Other schools and parents were notified and kids were kept inside for recess.

The man has contacted police to say he was only trying to spread "holiday cheer" and didn't mean to cause panic. Police aren't identifying him because he wasn't charged.

TEACHER WHO SAID SANTA IS WHITE ON PAID LEAVE

RIO RANCHO, N.M. — A suburban Albuquerque teacher who told a black student that Santa Claus is white has been placed on paid administrative leave.

Rio Rancho school district spokeswoman Kim Vesely confirmed on Tuesday that the teacher is out of the classroom while the incident is being investigated.

The teacher's comments came after students at Cleveland High School were told they could come to class dressed as Santa, an elf or a reindeer.

Michael Rougier says when his ninth-grade son, Christopher, arrived with a Santa hat and beard, the teacher asked, "Don't you know Santa Claus is white? Why are you wearing that?"

The incident happened the same week that Fox News Channel's Megyn Kelly said both Santa Claus and Jesus were white.

The Associated Press

Marine center offers hands-on training

SUZETTE LABOY
The Associated Press

GRASSY KEY, Fla. — Molly, a bottlenose dolphin in her early 50s, can't see very well and requires special care. The staff at the Dolphin Research Center in the Florida Keys is teaching her to respond to verbal and touch-related signals before she loses her sight completely.

Molly isn't the only one learning from these sessions, which also include the first five students in the center's College of Marine Mammal Professions. The 36-week program that yields an Associate of Science Degree in Marine Mammal Behavior, Care and Training is the only one in the U.S. that teaches hands-on training and care of marine mammals, according to the International Marine Animal Trainers' Association.

The care of marine mammals is a growing but competitive field. In particular, geriatric marine mammal care is a field that is becoming more important these days as Molly and other animals in human care are living longer than their counterparts in the wild, said Kirsten Donald, the center's education director.

"We provide the same kind of care as with aging humans," Donald said.



LYNNE SLADKY/*AP*

In this Dec. 2 photo, a dolphin named Molly, who is in her early 50s, is given water through a tube by a trainer at the Dolphin Research Center in the Florida Keys, Fla.

The center's degree is an expansion on its week-long dolphin lab program that started in 1985. The college's first students, all women, will graduate in May and the college is looking to expand by offering other degrees in marine mammal professions. The program costs $20,310, including tuition and fees.

Most marine animal caregivers learn through internships, acquiring such skills as how to prepare an animal's meal. The research center's program teaches advanced skills such as how to calculate a diet based on the animal's age, health status or the season. Students learn how to create a diet for a nursing or pregnant mammal, Donald said.

The center has two nursing baby dolphins.

"You already have an edge in the fact that we went through and got to see a baby dolphin being born right in front of you," Donald told her students in a small classroom at the facility. "Talk about great education right there."

There are about 40 aquariums or theme parks in the U.S. that are potential employers of students who learn how to work with marine mammals, according to the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums. The organization also has 26 international member institutions in Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Hong Kong, Europe and elsewhere.

The jobs are highly coveted, explained Ken Ramirez, the former president of the International Marine Animal Trainers' Association.

"For any position you have 100 applications. You have to do everything you can to get your resume to stand out and part of that is practical, hands-on experience as well as the education. And that's something unique that the program can offer," he said of the coursework at the center in the Florida Keys.

Samantha Sorbello, a recent graduate, said getting the hands-on education was difficult for her while in school because there were not a lot of places to get an internship while studying.

"When I saw this, I thought 'Oh my gosh, this is perfect.' I can get the hands-on experience. I'm going to be learning a whole lot and I don't have to worry about trying to fit it in with different things at the same time," said Sorbello, who's from Rhodes Island.

The center also teaches the students how to care for animals with special medical needs, such as Molly and Karen, a 27-year-old California sea lion who is blind. Karen has to use her sensitive whiskers to feel her way around her habitat.

On a recent day, trainer Kelly Jayne Rodriguez called out instructions as the sea lion swam closer to the dock.

"So you guys can see as I call her, she listens to my voice. Dock," she said as Karen shuffled her way onto the wooden dock. "She uses the whiskers to find the dock."

As Karen made her way to the center of the outdoor classroom, Rodriguez said: "I'm still talking to her so she knows where I'm at. She follows my voice."

Back at the dolphin area, the students were learning how to transfer hand signals into a touch or vocal signal while Molly still has some sight.

"So I'm going to say the world 'Dive!,' " Rodriguez said loudly, giving her the hand signal — a circular hand motion — as she says the word. "I'm pairing the two. She'll learn that that dive sounds means for me to jump."

Rodriguez then blew the whistle to call her back. But Molly kept putting on a show for the students by jumping in and out of the water. "And with age, selective hearing comes into play, too."



AP

In this Oct. 22, 2011, file photo, a man holds up his pet cat during a cat show in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province. In a report released Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, scientists say they've caught cats in the act of going through a key stage in domestication with the evidence in 5,300-year-old bones from China.

Cat-mouse game might explain how felines got domesticated

MALCOLM RITTER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A cat-and-mouse game played out in a Chinese village some 5,300 years ago is helping scientists understand how wild felines transformed into the tame pets we know today.

In fact, it was the cat's appetite that started it down the path to domestication, scientists believe.

The grain stored by ancient farmers was a magnet for rodents. And that drew wild cats into villages to hunt the little critters. Over time, wild cats adapted to village life and became tamer around their human hosts.

That's the leading theory, anyway, for how wild cats long ago were transformed and became ancestors of today's house cats. That happened in the Middle East, rather than China. But bones from the Chinese village back up the idea that felines took on the pest-control job in ancient times, says researcher Fiona Marshall of Washington University in St. Louis.

Marshall is an author of a report on the fossil research, published online Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

The study, focused on an agricultural village in northern China, comes from a poorly understood time in the history of cats. The first evidence of domesticated cats comes much later, in Egyptian artwork from about 4,000 years ago.

So what went on in that village?

Researchers found signs that rodents were threatening the village grain supply. Storage vessels were designed to keep them out, and rodents had burrowed into a grain-storage pit.

In the ancient feline bones, chemical signatures indicated that the cats had eaten animals that in turn had fed on millet, a grain crop known to be harvested by the villagers. So apparently, the cats were indeed going after the rodents.

It's not yet clear whether the cats were from a local wild population, or were already domesticated and had been brought in from elsewhere, Marshall said. Either way, it shows that ancient cats filled the niche at the heart of the hypothesis about how domestication began, she said.

Greger Larson of Durham University in England called the new work "an important step forward." Few studies have focused on how cats became domesticated, in contrast to dogs, pigs and sheep, he said.

Police: Suicide note foretold of Reno attack

SCOTT SONNER AND MICHELLE RINDELS
The Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — Bypassing waiting patients, a gunman who complained he had a botched 2010 surgery opened fire with a 12-guage shotgun at doctors at a Reno medical office — a deadly rampage that investigators say was referred to in a suicide note.



Frazier

On Thursday, detectives provided a chilling, detailed account of how Alan Oliver Frazier of Plumas County, Calif., opened fire with a pistol-grip shotgun in the examination room area of a urology medical practice.

The 51-year-old killed one doctor, critically wounded another and seriously injured a 20-year-old woman with a shotgun wound to the torso, before shooting himself to death.

"We may never know the suspect's exact motive or reason for his actions but there is indication that his focus was on the physicians at this specific office," said Reno police Lt. William Rulla.

Police said they searched Frazier's home in Northern California and found evidence that he was plotting the attack.

"Inside, we located a typed letter indicating the suspect's intention to commit this horrific act," Rulla said. "We also located other firearms within the residence, as well as notes indicating the suspect's actions during this incident were to be his final actions."

Witnesses told investigators Frazier also made statements at the time of the attack that he was looking for physicians, not patients, Rulla said.

Frazier entered the third-floor office about 2 p.m. Tuesday with the shotgun he used to kill Dr. Charles G. Gholdoian, 46, president of Urology Nevada; critically wound Dr. Christine Lajeunesse and seriously injure Shantae Spears, who was accompanying a relative on an office visit.

Frazier also was carrying a two-shot Derringer pistol and a fully loaded .40-caliber handgun, neither of which police believe he fired. He walked past the reception desk and toward the examination rooms where he first encountered Lajeunesse in the hallway and blasted her at point-blank range with one shot that hit both her arm and torso, police said.

As she fell to the floor, he continued down the hall and fired at Gholdoian, missing him but striking Spears in the torso. He fired again and hit the doctor with a fatal shot to the torso.

Frazier fired a fourth shot into a smoked glass door, perhaps in an attempt to gain access, Rulla said, then "returned to the main lobby area where the fifth and final shot was the self-inflicted gunshot wound to his head."

DRIVEN ACADEMY

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RETAIL AND CLASSIFIED DISPLAY AD DEADLINES

PUBLICATION DATE	FINAL DEADLINE
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Fri., Dec. 20 at Noon
Thursday, Dec. 26	Mon., Dec. 23 at Noon
Friday, Dec. 27	Mon., Dec. 23 at 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 31	Fri., Dec. 27 at Noon
Thursday, Jan. 2	Mon., Dec. 30 at Noon
Friday, Jan. 3	Tues., Dec. 31 at Noon

Tribland

Tuesday, Dec. 24	Mon., Dec. 23 at 4 p.m.

CLASSIFIED READER AD DEADLINES

PUBLICATION DATE	FINAL DEADLINE
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Mon., Dec. 23 at Noon
Thursday, Dec. 26	Tues., Dec. 24 at Noon
Tuesday, Dec. 31	Mon., Dec. 30 at 5 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 2	Tues., Dec. 31 at 5 p.m.

The Hastings Tribune Offices Will Be Closed on December 25th and January 1st.

Windshield farming's not so easy at 130 mph

You know you're a farmer when you have to look at other farming operations wherever you go.

And apparently I am.

My husband Daryl and I recently traveled to Rome and Venice, Italy.

We saw the pope and visited numerous churches and museums. We saw the fountains of Rome and the canals of Italy. We saw marble statues, magnificent paintings and architecture and many of the Roman ruins. We stood in line with hundreds of other tourists and we ate real Italian food.



Denise Andersen

We managed to see the remnants of the Roman aqueducts, which was interesting since we are interested in water, and we marveled at the technology that the Romans had 2,000 years ago that allowed them to build gracious buildings that still stand and are still in use.

We also marvelled that for all of that fascinating technology, they didn't have soap. We decided that while proficient in physics and using chemistry for devising bronze weapons, soap apparently wasn't on their list of priorities.

We traveled on the subway, buses, a tram and a high-speed train as we went from Rome to Venice.

I thought we would be able to see farms and vineyards between Rome and Venice, and we did, but we moving at a speed of about 130 mph, so we had to look fast.

The Italians hadn't harvested all of their corn, but the fields looked small, maybe 10 acres or so. We did see a couple of combines sitting near farms, but they weren't running. And I got just a glimpse out of my window of a pivot irrigation system.

What we didn't see were cows grazing in the fields. We didn't see any cows at all, or chickens or hogs. We know they have them; the meat we ate while in Italy was excellent. Let me rephrase that: The fresh meat we ate there was amazing, but we didn't really understand what they were trying to do with their bacon and ham.

The bacon was really side pork. It wasn't cured. I didn't like side pork when I was growing up, and I was pretty sure I wouldn't like it today, so I didn't eat any. While I thought the ham was cured — after all, it can't be ham if it's not cured — what we ate was sliced so thin we could see through it. I found a little grocery store that had an amazing meat market and bakery, and the hams still had the leg bones in them and were hanging from the ceiling. I wasn't sure I could carry one out of the store. It was a moot point because I was pretty sure I couldn't bring one back to the United States.

Which brings me to customs.

When we entered Italy, they welcomed us and sent us on our way.

When we left Italy, we were given a custom form and told to fill it out on the airplane before we got back to the United States. If we had misplaced ours on the airplane, they gave us a new one and made sure we had them filled out before we landed. We had to hand that form to the customs agent who looked it over and asked where we had been.

There was one question on there that concerned me. It wanted to know if we had been in close proximity to any livestock.

We hadn't, but I wondered what would have happened if we had. After all, we could have chosen to drive or visit relatives in the country who lived on farms and had livestock.

I understood the reason for

Please see ANDERSEN*/page C2*

FACES OF BUSINESS: *Gwen Davidson*



AMY ROH*/Tribune*

DECA coordinator Gwen Davidson organizes donated toys while volunteering for Goodfellows Monday evening at the Adams County Fairgrounds.

Encouraging philanthropy

HASTINGS HIGH TEACHER SHOWS STUDENTS HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SHAY BURK
sburk@hastingstribune.com

From almost the day she started teaching at Hastings High in 1982, Gwen Davidson knew she wanted her students to make an impact in the world.

"I think it's wonderful for the students to learn the importance of philanthropy, the charitable spirit," Davidson said.

Her goal was to find a charity or philanthropic project that was already established, something she and her students could jump in and help with each year.

That's when Davidson turned to the annual Goodfellows program, which distributes toys and food to families in the Hastings area each December.

Each year, she encourages her students to either purchase toys for Goodfellows or volunteer their time during the packing week.

Davidson teaches marketing and business classes at Hastings High along with serving as the DECA advisor.

She encourages all of her students both in the classroom and in DECA to help out with Goodfellows each year.

"Our students have helped with many different stages in the process, from putting together the boxes to making deliveries later in the week," Davidson said.

While some of her students have the money to and choose to buy toys for Goodfellows, she almost prefers for her students to donate their time instead.

"Too often I think people give themselves a release by saying, 'I don't have the money to do that.' Time and energy is probably more important sometimes than the physical gift," Davidson said.

Each year, students will help to put together the boxes, fill them with food and toys and deliver the boxes to the recipient families.

Davidson said she really enjoys the time she is able to spend with the students for breakfast after delivering boxes on Saturday morning.

"Every year after the Saturday delivery, I take them to McDonalds for breakfast and it gives us a time to sit and talk a little bit about what they've experienced," she said. "It's always such an intense thing for them."

Davidson said her students don't often realize the depth of need for many families in the community.

They might visit one home with very little furniture and another where the Christmas tree looks pretty bare underneath.



Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that profiles businesspeople in Tribland. To submit ideas, contact the newsroom at 402-461-1257 or tribune@hastingstribune.com.

Please see DAVIDSON*/page C2*

Tech firms focus on eggs, chicken

ENTREPRENEURS SEARCH FOR PLANT-BASED ALTERNATIVES TO DIETARY STAPLES

TERENCE CHEA
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The startup is housed in a garage-like space in San Francisco's tech-heavy South of Market neighborhood, but it isn't like most of its neighbors that develop software, websites and mobile-phone apps. Its mission is to find plant replacements for eggs.

Inside, research chefs bake cookies and cakes, whip up batches of flavored mayonnaise and pan-fry omelets and French toast — all without eggs.

Funded by prominent Silicon Valley investors and Microsoft founder Bill Gates, Hampton Creek Foods seeks to disrupt a global egg industry that backers say wastes energy, pollutes the environment, causes disease outbreaks and confines chickens to tiny spaces.

The company, which just started selling its first product — Just Mayo mayonnaise — at Whole Foods Markets, is part of a new generation of so-called food-tech ventures that aim to change the way we eat.

"There's nothing to indicate that this will be a trend that will end anytime soon," said Anand Sanwal, CEO of CB Insights, a New York firm that tracks venture capital investment. "Sustainability and challenges to the food supply are pretty fundamental issues."

Venture capital firms, which invest heavily in early-stage technology companies, poured nearly $350 million into food-related startups last year, compared with less than $50 million in 2008, according to the firm.

Plant-based alternatives to eggs, poultry and other meat could be good for the environment because it could reduce consumption of meat, which requires large amounts of land, water and crops to produce, backers say.

It could also benefit people's health, especially in heavy meat-eating countries like the U.S., and reduce outbreaks of diseases such as avian flu, they say.

"The biggest challenge is that people who consume a lot of meat really like meat, and to convince them to try something different may be extremely difficult," said Claire Kremen, faculty co-director of the Berkeley Food Institute at the University of California, Berkeley.

The American Egg Board, which represents U.S. producers, said eggs can't be replaced.

"Our customers have said they're not interested in egg substitutes. They want real, natural eggs with their familiar ingredients," Mitch Kanter, executive director of the board-funded Egg Nutrition Center, said in a statement.

The industry has reduced its water use and greenhouse gas emissions, and hens are living longer due to better health and nutrition, he said.

Hampton Creek's quest to replace the ubiquitous chicken egg is also backed by PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel and Khosla Ventures, a venture capital fund started by Sun Microsystems co-founder Vinod Khosla.

In its food lab, biochemists grind up beans and peer through microscopes to study their molecular structure, looking for plants that can fulfill the culinary functions of eggs. So far, the company has analyzed some 1,500 types of plants from more than 60 countries.



ERIC RISBERG*/AP*

In this Dec. 3 photo, CEO Josh Tetrick holds a species of yellow pea used to make Just Mayo, a plant-based mayonnaise, at Hampton Creek Foods in San Francisco.

Please see EGGS*/page C2*

Readers sound off on many subjects

There are two file folders in the lower, right drawer of my desk. One is labeled "Mail," the other "Another Satisfied Customer."

The former is filled with complimentary or question-asking reader mail. The latter holds mail that's more acidic than affectionate, more hammering than humorous.



Alan Guebert

Like an email from "Gil" in response to an October column on congressional missteps with the Farm Bill. "Congratulations in writing a very prejudiced article with a predetermined conclusion … (Did you do) it for glory, money or prestige?"

Similarly, a letter from "Dave" begins with a thumb in the eye — "Your column … shows the left-leaning liberal that you really are" — before delivering a lecture on tea party economics. It concludes with a warning: "I think it's time you and all liberals quit bashing the GOP and especially the tea party … before it's too late."

One reader was incensed by my description of an about-to-close Catholic church near my southern Illinois boyhood home as "an outpost of Rome" and by my reference to Martin Luther as "Rome's worst nightmare ever."

"You ruined an otherwise nice article about rural economics," the email read. "You obviously live a shallow life and have an even shallower faith … I find your kind of prejudice no better than that of racist jerks."

A November column on the slow implementation of Dodd-Frank, a three-year-old banking reform law still not in place, inspired several people to verbally beat from me any notion that Dodd-Frank, both the law and its authors, contained on ounce of anything good.

Both Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., were, in fact, "directly responsible for the housing market crash!" wrote one. "They should have been tarred, feathered, and rode out of town on a rail on their way to jail!"

A late September column that referred to the House Ag Committee as the "Chicken Liver Caucus" brought a caisson of mail — all incendiary. One from "W" captures the overall sentiment quite well.

"I'm sure you'll want to (soon) write about the Democratic Chicken Liver Caucus in the Senate and their part in the government shutdown … Your hateful tone is just as offensive … as the thugs in the White House and the extremist leftists …"

One equally hacked writer suggested the column "would be a whole lot better if you just told it the way it is."

Since July, reader-writers from 26 states thought I did just that. "I say you are incisive and objective and I find myself in (Nebraska) encouraging locals to 'read Alan Guebert today, page… 'Go get 'em."

Likewise, a Colorado rancher got off his horse and on his computer to email his thanks for "telling the 'right side' of every issue."

Right or not, I expected to be buried in angry emails after an early September column asked why everyone in farming and ranching talks forever about "feeding the world" but never once say one word about world population.

Amazingly, not one anger-filled scream arrived. Instead, emails from all over the world poured in to thank me for pointing out the obvious. One from "Juergen" speaks for rest: "Thanks. You are so right — population is the elephant in

Please see GUEBERT*/page C2*

Consumer prices flat as gas costs keep falling

JOSH BOAK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer prices stayed flat in November, held down by falling gas prices. Inflation remains low across the broader economy, giving the Federal Reserve latitude to continue its extraordinary stimulus program.

The consumer price index was unchanged last month, after dropping 0.1 percent in October, the Labor Department said Tuesday.

Gas prices declined 1.6 percent in November to keep overall prices down. Over the past 12 months, consumer prices have risen just 1.2 percent. That's well below the Fed's 2 percent inflation target.

Excluding volatile energy and food costs, core prices rose 0.2 percent in November from October and just 1.7 percent over the past 12 months.

High unemployment and small wage increases have kept consumers from ramping up spending, making it difficult for businesses to raise prices since the Great Recession ended.

Low inflation also gives Fed members more reason to hold off scaling back its buying $85 billion a month in bond purchases for a few more months. The Fed's final two-day policy meeting starts Tuesday and many economists expect the Fed to keep the purchases at that level.

"Indeed, inflation is still a distance from the Fed's 2 percent target and this is one report that would give the Fed reason to go easy on tapering," said Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Cheaper gasoline costs in recent months have kept inflation extremely weak. Gas prices nationwide are averaging just $3.23 a gallon, according to AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report.

The November decline in energy costs was offset by higher prices for home rentals, hotels, airfare, and restaurant meals. Grocery prices edged up 0.1 percent last month, led by higher prices for bread, hot dogs, soup and milk.

Prices for new vehicles and clothing fell. But in a sign of potentially changing fashion styles, the price of women's dresses increased 5.7 percent during the past 12 months as the cost of women's suits dropped.

For roughly a year, the Fed has been buying Treasury and mortgage bonds to keep long-term interest rates low and encourage more borrowing and spending. The Fed has also kept its key short-term interest rate near zero since late 2008.

Critics of the bond-buying program fear it will spark higher inflation in the future.

But the inflation has yet to materialize. Moreover, a number of Fed officials say the program is needed because inflation has been too low.



JULIO CORTEZ/*AP*

In this Nov. 28 file photo, watches are on display at Kmart in New York.

Andersen: Farming Italian style

Continued from page C1

the question; we don't want to bring any diseases back to our livestock. Apparently, the Italians weren't so worried about us bringing diseases into the country.

Still, would we have been quarantined, or taken out of line and questioned. I still don't know, but the fact is, I didn't see any livestock, even from the relative comfort of my seat on my very fast train.

Denise Andersen of Fairbury is a columnist for the Tribune. Contact Andersen at 402-461-1264 or e-mail at tribune@hastingstribune.com.

Guebert: Readers respond

Continued from page C1

the room and no one can gather the courage to talk about it."

And, finally, many writers asked about an anticipated book that compiles more than 20 years of "southern Illinois dairy farm of my youth" columns. Such a compilation (nearly 60 of 'em; wow), in fact, was completed this fall by daughter Mary Grace, a terrific editor, and now rests with an interested publisher. Gracie and I await a go, no-go decision hopefully in a month or two. So, please, stay tuned.

In the meantime, I'll keeping writing to you and — I'd bet hard money — you'll keep writing to me.

Alan Guebert can be reached at P.O. Box 648, Delavan, IL 61734 or e-mail at agcomm@sbcglobal.net.

HP CEO gets big raise

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Hewlett-Packard CEO Meg Whitman is getting a huge raise as she enters the third year of her attempt to turn around the slumping personal computer and printer maker.

Whitman's annual salary is soaring to $1.5 million from the $1 that she settled for during her first two years on the job, according a regulatory documents filed Tuesday. The raise approved last week is retroactive to Nov. 1, the beginning of Hewlett-Packard Co.'s fiscal year.

HP said the bigger paycheck will make Whiteman's salary comparable to what CEOs of similar-sized companies make. HP earned $5 billion on revenue of $112 billion during its last fiscal year.

The Palo Alto, Calif., company's annual revenue has fallen by 12 percent over the past two years as PC sales have declined amid a shift to smartphones and tablets. Whitman has been trying to counter the downturn by expanding into more profitable niches such as business software, data analysis and technology-consulting services.

Whitman is a billionaire who agreed when HP hired her as CEO in September 2011 to accept a nominal salary partly because she realized the company would have to trim its payroll to offset the drop in revenue. Not long after Whitman took control, the company set out to eliminate nearly 30,000 jobs.

Davidson: Making Christmas bright through Goodfellows

Continued from page C1

As they reflect over breakfast, Davidson said her students will realize some of those people won't be receiving the gifts or having the Christmas treats as others do for Christmas.

She said the students often realize that the Goodfellows box recipients don't receive all the gifts or have all the luxuries the students have in their own homes.

However, Davidson said she has had some students pass through her classroom who truly understand the importance of programs like Goodfellows.

She had one student for four years who helped with Goodfellows partly because of his own personal experience with the program.

"He told me that growing up, Goodfellows was the only box his family would receive at Christmas," Davidson said.

Davidson said the comment made by that student only reinforces to her the importance of getting her students involved in philanthropy and encouraging them to help others whether it be through money or manpower.

And she just enjoys working with her students in a different setting.

"It's nice working with the teenagers. I love spending time with them outside the classroom," she said. "It's so nice to see them in a different light."

Eggs: Creating better foods

Continued from page C1

The research has resulted in 11 "hits," said Josh Tetrick, the company's CEO.

"Our approach is to use plants that are much more sustainable — less greenhouse gas emissions, less water, no animal involved and a whole lot more affordable — to create a better food system," said the former linebacker on West Virginia University's football team.

The company's first product — the mayonnaise — is sold for roughly the same price as the traditional variety. It soon hopes to start selling cookie dough and a batter that scrambles like eggs when fried in a pan.

"The egg is a miracle, so one of the hardest parts of replacing it is all the functions that it can do," said Chris Jones, the company's culinary director of innovations and a former contestant on Bravo TV's Top Chef.

While Hampton Creek takes aim at the egg, another Gates-backed company is targeting the chicken itself.

Beyond Meat, located in Southern California, sells "chicken-free strips," which have the taste and stringy texture of poultry but are made from plant protein. It is sold at Whole Foods and natural food stores. It's also working on a product that mimics beef.



ERIC RISBERG/*AP*

In this photo taken Dec. 3, CEO Josh Tetrick (left) watches as research and development chef Trevor Niekowal makes a plant-based scrambled egg at Hampton Creek Foods in San Francisco.

Inside its test kitchen in El Segundo, Caitlin Grady, the company's culinary ambassador, stir-fried the strips with broccoli, onion, peppers and sesame oil. "I cooked it just like a regular stir-fry, but I don't have to worry about the meat being raw," Grady said.

The company is also funded by Obvious Corp., a startup incubator founded by Twitter's founders, and Kleiner Perkins Caulfield & Byers, one of Silicon Valley's premier venture capital firms.

"It can fit in a vegan's diet. It can fit in a carnivore's diet," said Beyond Meat CEO Ethan Brown. "We're trying to appeal to the full range of consumers that are making some shift toward healthier protein."

Business Brief Guidelines

- There is a charge to publish all business related news releases, promotions, attended educational training seminars, new hires, conferences, new product lines, and awards. Photos are welcome and are included at no extra charge.
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Business Brief

Good Samaritan Society Announces Employees Of The Month



Kohout

Tim Kohout has been named the December 2013 Employee of the Month for Senior Housing at Good Samaritan Society-Hastings Village. Tim has been employed at Hastings Village for 26 years in Maintenance.

Tim lives in Prosser with his wife, Cindy and their Labrador retriever, Buddy. In his spare time, he enjoys brewing craft beers, gardening and hunting.

Tim is responsible for remodeling the Garden Apartments at Hastings Village. His favorite part of the job is taking the old apartments and renovating them. "I was very surprised to be named Employee of the Month" says Tim. Congratulations Tim Kohout from Good Samaritan Society – Hastings Village.



Hilburn

Tony Hilburn has been named the December 2013 Employee of the Month for Perkins Pavilion at Good Samaritan Society-Hastings Village. Tony has been employed at Hastings Village for three and a half years as a Maintenance Supervisor for Perkins Pavilion.

Tony lives in Hastings with his fiancée, Julie. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, antiquing, motorcycling and cooking.

Tony's position as Maintenance Supervisor keeps him busy supervising and performing maintenance tasks at Perkins. His favorite parts of the job are serving the residents. Tony says that "Working for the Society has taught me a lot about serving others." His favorite part of his work day is the morning. He says, "There are always certain residents waiting for me to come to work. We share a smile and a wave everyday." "I was surprised and honored at being named Employee of the Month." Congratulations Tony Hilburn from Good Samaritan Society-Hastings Village.

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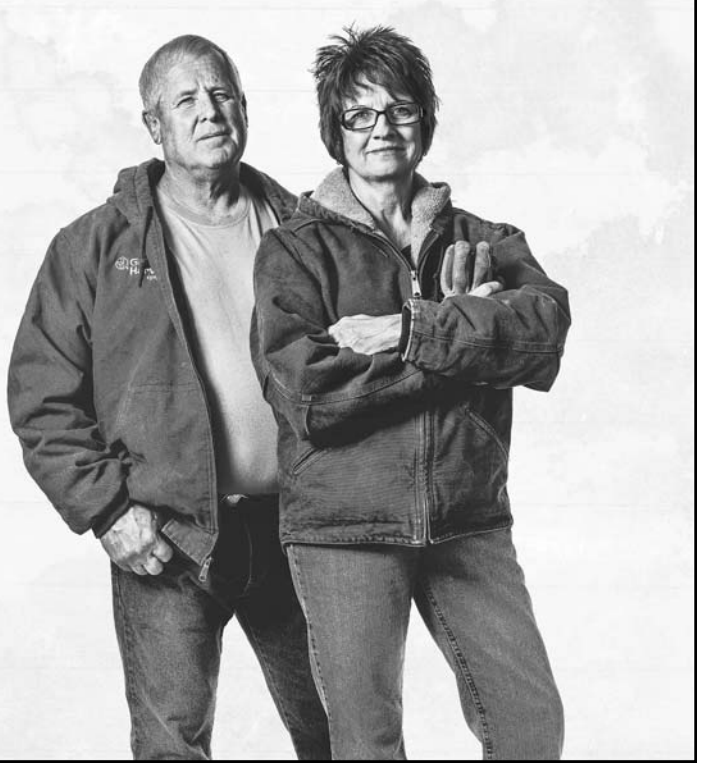
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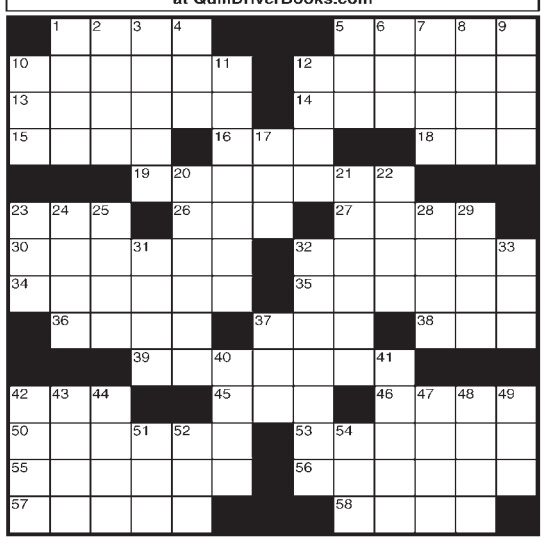
ACROSS
1 Lavish party
5 Cereal bit
10 — Abdul-Jabbar
12 Matched socks
13 Mountaineer's tool (2 wds.)
14 Dock work
15 Comparison word
16 "Norma —"
18 Wolfed down
19 Outshine
23 Soft touch
26 Pen part
27 Billionth, in combos
30 Expire
32 Desert phenomenon
34 Life's work
35 Is of use
36 Des Moines state
37 Riviera summer
38 — and Perrins
39 Catch off guard
42 Pained cries
45 Ebenezer's oath
46 Olive —
50 Sense of taste
53 Salad green
55 Battery terminals
56 Hung on
57 Aboveboard
58 Transmission part

DOWN
1 Fugue composer
2 Vicinity
3 Connery and Penn
4 Evil eye
5 LAX regulators
6 Jar top
7 Diva's rendition
8 Superman's alias
9 Margin
10 Baby fox
11 More jolly
12 Defendant's answer
17 PD dispatch
20 Beat an incumbent
21 Cry and whine
22 Name in cheesecake
23 Muscle for pushups
24 Jai —
25 Poi source
28 Brad
29 Gawk at
31 Hard benches
32 Broderick of films
33 NASA counterpart
37 Historical period
40 Not all are "Honest"
41 A funny Murphy
42 Libra's stone
43 Opposite of wax
44 Trudge
47 Beatles' meter maid
48 Say decidedly
49 Pickup truck part
51 Tooth fillers' org.
52 Util. bill
54 Remind too often

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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Astrograph

Sunday, Dec. 22

Make thoughtful choices this year. If you choose the right path, you stand to fulfill your dreams. Planning and preparation will be your best assets. Your integrity and strong character will guide you in the right direction. Strive for perfection, and you'll gain satisfaction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — A need to make sweeping changes may shock those close to you. Your heart will lead you in the right direction. If you are open and honest about your actions, your actions will be met with understanding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Children or romantic partners may be especially needy. Don't give in too readily if doing so will compromise other commitments. It is important to look after your own needs as well.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Nurture your health and general well-being. Taking sufficient time to rest is important. Enjoy the comforts of home and spending quiet time with loved ones.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Now is a good time to become better acquainted with potential partners, whether for business, romance or friendship. Be careful not to get caught up in the revelry and overspend on entertainment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Personal financial setbacks will cause you stress. Make a clear game plan for coping with fiscal uncertainty. You will be low on energy, so be sure to get lots of rest.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Your conscious and subconscious minds may be in conflict. Meditate very carefully on which path to take. Solitude will be useful for you at this time.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Avoid any large financial venture for the time being. Children or friends may go to great lengths to get your attention. Make an effort to understand their motivations. Offer time, not money, to organizations looking for a donation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Disruptions and delays will throw a wrench in your routine. Be prepared to go with the flow. Vigorous exercise will help alleviate your stress. Time for romance is recommended.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You may be irritated by friends and relatives. Ignore what they have to say, and focus your attention on something productive. You are capable of great things.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Hollow promises are likely. Do not quit your job unless you have a new one lined up. Contracts will not turn out to be as lucrative as projected.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Avoid the spotlight. Someone may be gossiping about you, trying to damage your reputation. Consider who your true friends really are. Seek out the information that you need to advance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — If a friend or relative is meddling in your affairs, tell them to mind their own business. You must respect your own needs and not brook interference.

Monday, Dec. 23

Aim high in the year ahead. Make big, lavish plans, and prepare to fulfill them. Move forward with conviction and push for what you want. Concentrate on all that you stand to gain personally and professionally.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Be strategic and maintain a paper trail. Once you know what direction you're heading in, you'll be able to enjoy time with the people you love. Be attentive to your heart.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Your cheerfulness and optimism will be infectious. Have fun and enjoy the festivities in your community. Participation in various activities or projects will result in new opportunities and friendships. Love and romance are highlighted.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Review your personal papers and professional strategies. Make certain that everything is in order and that you haven't forgotten anything that may cost you financially next year.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Boost your confidence with a personal change. You are likely to meet a like-minded soul. Romance is apparent. Someone you've helped in the past will reciprocate with a needed favor.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Meeting up with friends or making last-minute purchases will add cheer to your day. Attending an event and sharing your ideas for next year will prove informative.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Evaluate your life and partnerships. If you cannot come to terms with what's happening, mistakes will occur. Changes may be helpful, but only at the right time and right reason.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Be social and creative, and organize a surprise for someone you love. Don't be pressured into making an indulgent purchase or investment. You stand to gain more by saving your money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You should quickly attend to your responsibilities so that you'll have time to get together with your close friends and family. Enjoying festivities or working alongside a close companion will enhance your relationships.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Be open and honest about your plans. Networking will help you gain professional advancement. Don't allow personal concerns to stand in the way of professional progress.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Stubbornness will lead to personal difficulties. Concentrate on getting along with others and doing what suits everyone best. This is a time of new beginnings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Spend time with loved ones. Adapting to surrounding changes will lead to good fortune. A new partnership arrangement will give you something to look forward to.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Decorate and open your house to friends and family. Offering honest advice and meaningful opportunities will encourage a deeper bond with important people in your life.

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Sister immersed in virtual world blocks out the real world



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My younger sister "Lainie" is 14. She has had a smartphone for about a year. While I don't belong to any social media sites, Lainie is a social media junkie. She never goes anywhere without her phone. Sometimes she'll have her phone in one hand and her tablet in the other, taking turns when one or the other begins to bore her. It's almost impossible to interact with her because her face is buried in the virtual world just about every hour of the day and night.

I miss the way things used to be before she got that smartphone. I have talked about this with my parents. While they are equally concerned about Lainie's withdrawn, sometimes secretive behavior, they never do anything about it. What are your thoughts on this topic? — GADGET GIRL'S SISTER IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR SISTER: It's common for teens to spend a lot of time on their phones and computers. But when they become withdrawn and secretive, it is time for a parental intervention. If your folks are equally concerned about your sister's behavior, they should step in, find out what's going on and do something about it, if necessary. If they don't already, they could start by scheduling family dinners during which cellphones are turned off or put away.

* * *

DEAR ABBY: Christmas is nearly here, and I'm concerned about my brother. I'm afraid he blames himself for his 28-year-old daughter's suicide, which was by no means his fault. This will be his first Christmas without her. I don't know what to do for him. Any suggestions? — CHALLENGED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR CHALLENGED: When a close family member commits suicide, it is common for survivors to experience a range of emotions. Anger and guilt are two of them. If possible, encourage your brother to spend Christmas with you or other relatives. You should also suggest he join a survivors support group.

The American Association of Suicidology provides referrals to local self-help groups for survivors of suicide. Its website is www.suicidology.org. If he joins one, it will give him a place to talk about his feelings with people who will understand because they have them, too.

* * *

DEAR ABBY: A long time ago, I was dating and living with a wonderful woman. I was arrested and went to jail for possession of cocaine. She then had an order of protection issued against me for one year.

That was 10 years ago. I have been clean from drugs ever since. She has a child with another man now, and I hope everything is great. My problem is, I can't get her out of my mind. I miss her so much and just want the chance to be with her. Any advice? — HEARTBROKEN IN NEW YORK

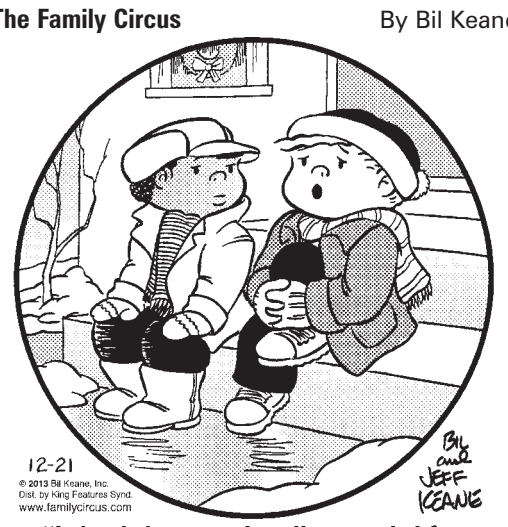
DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Your former girlfriend has gone on with her life, and your relationship is ancient history. If she had been willing to forgive you, she wouldn't have taken out the restraining order. If you want to be successful in moving forward in your life, stop looking backward. It's time to focus on your future.

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



"I don't know what I'm gettin' for Christmas. My mommy and daddy keep SPELLIN' everything!"

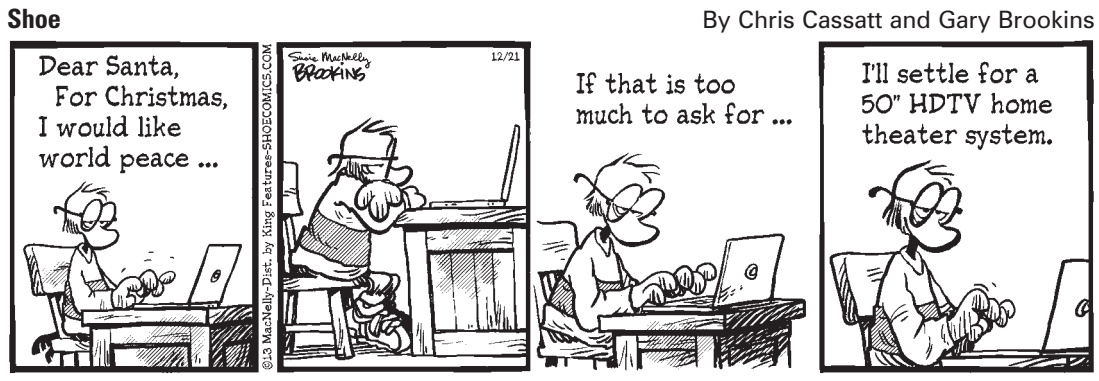
Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



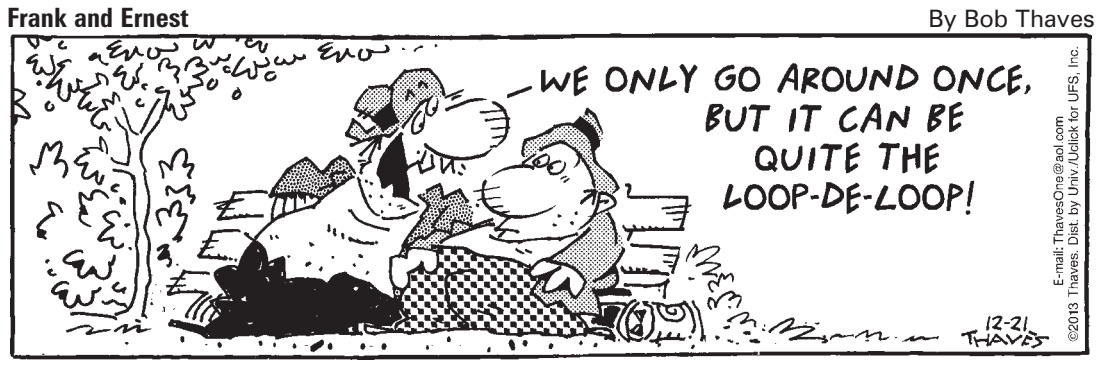
Grizzwells By Bill Schorr



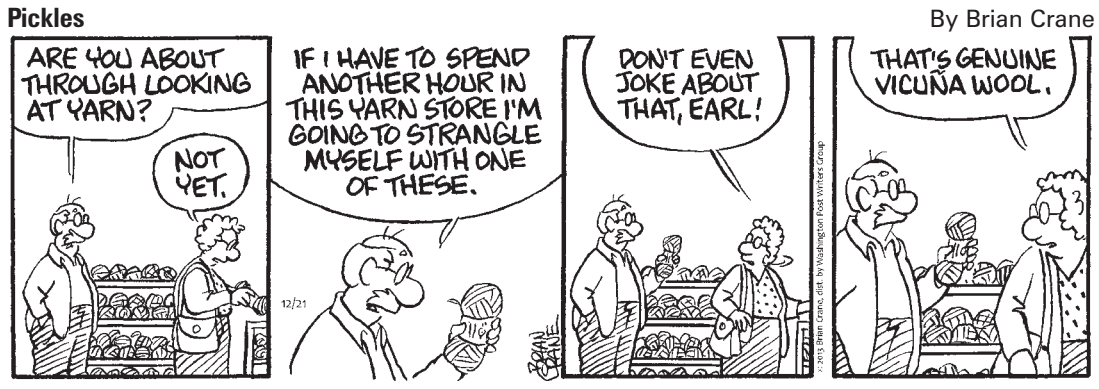
Shoe By Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



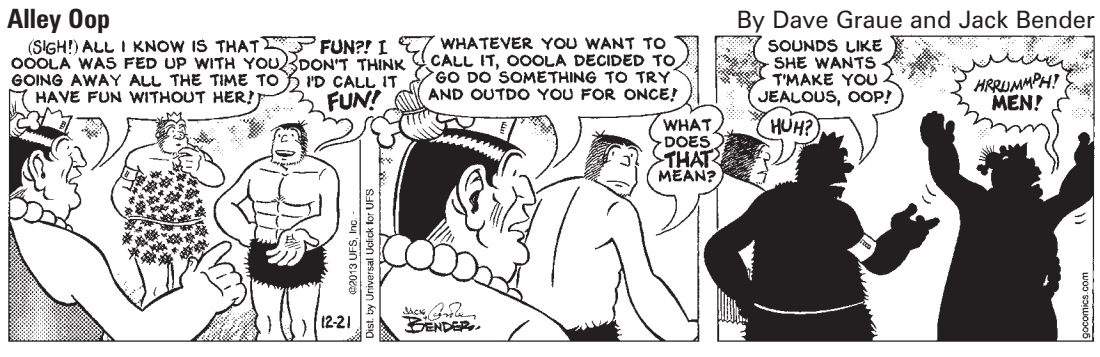
Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves



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



Observing Advent with homeless boys

Night after night, Jesse and Kelly Cone led their children through some of the most familiar verses in all of Christianity.

The goal was to use the quiet pre-Christmas season of Advent — or Nativity Lent in their Eastern Orthodox parish in Santa Maria, Calif. — to help their young sons grasp the meaning of Feast of the Nativity, which begins Dec. 25 and continues for 12 days. This isn't easy in a culture in which the powers that be roll out the Christmas bandwagon with the Halloween candy, well before the Thanksgiving turkey.



Terry Mattingly

Each night at their simple Lenten meals, the Cones opened a bag containing a verse or two of scripture and four pieces of candy. The story started slowly, with all the familiar details about Roman politics, taxes, a census, and a man named Joseph making a precarious journey with his pregnant wife, Mary.

Then came this crucial detail, the moment when Mary "brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

All of this was familiar territory for the two Cone sons, but not for the two foster children living with the family.

"These boys were new to the Nativity story, but they certainly knew all about being homeless and alone," explained Kelly Cone, reached by telephone.

In a post online that has since gone viral, she described the turning point: "Then we reached the part of the story where Mary and Joseph were forced to stay in a stable outside, cold and alone. No one had any room for them. They did the best they could, even though it was lower than low.

"I looked up at our 10-year-old foster boy, and his head was bowed, his face drawn and serious. Unlike his 5-year-old happy-go-lucky brother beside him, he remembers. He remembers the cold nights sleeping on the street or in someone's car because his mother had nowhere safe for him to stay. Instead of protecting him and reaching out for help, she eventually abandoned him at a mobile home park."

The 10-year-old boy — who cannot be named due to privacy issues — had tears in his eyes. Kelly asked him how he thought Mary and Joseph must have felt.

"Sad. Cold," he replied.

From that moment on, the Cones knew this would not be an ordinary Advent and Christmas. There were children at their table who were hearing the Nativity story for the first time and, day after day, this reality began to gnaw at the Cones "like a bad toothache," she said.

The questions kept coming. Yes, the baby in the manger is the same Jesus they heard about at church. Yes, Christians really believe that the Son of God was born in a manger, without a home to call his own. Yes, shepherds in that part of the world had to sleep out in the cold while protecting their sheep from, among other threats, lions. Yes, coming face to face with an army of angels probably freaked the shepherds out.

While his wife processed her thoughts online, Jesse Cone shared these Advent dinner vignettes with students at the Christian high school where he teaches.

"Every kid knows the story, and every kid there has read a lot of theology. ... I told the story at our Christmas chapel — not as eloquently as my wife did — and people were crying," he said. As it turns out, "not only can you get a better view of the Nativity story by spending time with homeless boys than at the mall, you can see it better than you can from a theology department."

In California, he noted, people sing all kinds of Christmas carols that make references to snow and this becomes normal — even when snow is something that they rarely, if ever, experience. The snow exists in their minds and they are comfortable with that. Sadly, the same thing tends to happen with the Nativity story itself.

All of these details, added Jesse, are "artifacts we appreciate from a distance. That's what Christ meant for these boys before actually hearing the story, and that's how it can become for many of us, as well."

But not this Christmas: This year, the story came home for real.

Terry Mattingly directs the Washington Journalism Center at the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities. Contact Mattingly at www.tmatt.net.



DIEU NALIO CHERY/*AP*

In this Nov. 13 photo, children lay on a worn mattress placed on the floor of the U.S.-based Church of Bible Understanding orphanage in Kenscoff, Haiti. The orphanage is run by a Christian missionary group funded by the Olde Good Things antique store on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

Orphanage in Haiti 'terrible'

Officials fault homes run by well-off U.S. church

BEN FOX
The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — At the Olde Good Things antique store on Manhattan's Upper West Side, a French crystal chandelier can go for tens of thousands of dollars. A marble mantel sells for more than $20,000 and hand-carved dinner tables are priced even higher.

The store's Christian missionary owners offer their well-heeled customers a heart-warming story: Part of the proceeds pay for the group's orphanage in Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world. What they don't say is that even though they claim in IRS filings to be spending around $2.5 million annually, the home for boys and girls was so dirty and overcrowded during recent inspections that the government said it shouldn't remain open.

The Associated Press made an unannounced visit to the orphanage's two homes, currently holding a total of 120 kids, in November and found conditions a world away from the opulent Manhattan apartments decorated with the store's antiques. Bunk beds with faded and worn mattresses were crowded into dirty rooms. Sour air wafted through the bathrooms and stairwells. Rooms were dark and spartan, lacking comforts or decoration.

While many other orphanages also failed the Caribbean country's new national standards, and conditions are far worse in some, the group's three-story building on the hilly outskirts of Port-au-Prince stands out because it's run by an organization with such an unusual, and successful fundraising operation. The failure to meet the standards would seem to contradict their financial position.

Wealthy people patronize Olde Good Things, which has five stores in New York, two in Los Angeles and a warehouse in Scranton, Pa., searching for unusual items for home renovations, much of it salvaged from old buildings. There are antique entryways and doors, porcelain sinks, cast iron bathtubs, stained glass windows, glass and brass doorknobs, and rare pieces of wooden furniture.



BEBETO MATTHEWS/*AP*

In this Nov. 22 photo, store manager Jim Digiacoma (right) assists visitors browsing antiques at the Olde Good Things store on in New York.

Haiti's Social Welfare Institute, meanwhile, says the orphanage run by Olde Good Things' owner, U.S.-based Church of Bible Understanding, did not meet minimum national standards during a series of inspections dating to November 2012. It found sanitary conditions were "terrible," and there were too many kids for the amount of space, said Vanel Benjamin, a senior inspector with the agency. They also found not all kids were going to school and the staff lacked adequate training.

"We made a number of visits to the orphanage to tell them that they needed to make progress, but there hasn't been any progress," Benjamin said.

The result is that the orphanage was placed on a warning list, allowed to remain open only because impoverished Haiti lacks the resources to close the facility and find new homes for the children.

A church official disputed the allegation that children weren't attending school and said he doesn't believe conditions were so bad that they warranted a failing grade, but he said they are addressing the complaints nonetheless.

"There are ways we are lacking but we try to do the very best we can in God's name," said Paul Szostak, part of a rotating staff of church workers who currently manages Haiti operations. "We are trying to improve things and make things better."

The AP's November visit appeared to bear out Szostak's claim that improvements were under way. Although the organization says it employs 60 Haitians at the orphanage, journalists found volunteers from another orphanage scrubbing floors, painting walls and giving advice on infant care to the one church member and several Haitian workers on the premises. Some children attended Haitian Creole classes on the terrace.

Justin Fair, a 32-year-old from New Jersey and the sole church member living on site, explained the group's mission: "Our goal is to raise them as Christians and bring them up to be productive Haitian citizens."

The orphanage is two homes, with about 60 children in each, located a few minutes apart in Kenscoff in the mountains above Port-au-Prince where steep, windy roads offer panoramic views of the sprawl and misery characterizing much of the capital. The report from the social welfare agency specifically faults only one of the homes, though both appeared similar during the recent visit.

"It's not horrible. I have seen orphanages way, way worse ... it just needs a lot of work," said Dixie Bickel, director of a nearby orphanage, God's Littlest Angels, operated by an organization in Colorado Springs, Colo. Bickel, who praised the Church of Bible Understanding for sharing food with needier groups, has been helping the church address the problems, supplying volunteers to paint and clean, training the Haitian staff and recently taking in several sick infants.

That the orphanage struggles is a surprise, given that it has a seemingly well-funded operation.

In its Form 990 for 2011, the most recent version available of the document the Church of Bible Understanding must file with the Internal Revenue Service, the church reported spending about $2.5 million annually on its orphanage, according to an analysis by Chuck McClean, vice president of research at Guidestar, the leading source of information on nonprofit groups.

McClean reviewed three years of returns and said it was difficult to determine from the explanations on the forms how much of what the church provided the orphanage was cash and how much was in-kind support such as food.

Church members gave conflicting information. Senior church official Kevin Browne said in an interview that the organization spends about $1 million a year in Haiti. Fair, one of two church members working in Haiti, said: "Basically, a third of all the profits

Please see ORPHANAGE*/page C5*

Christmas is more cultural than religious for many

RACHEL ZOLL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For a significant number of Americans, Christmas has largely lost its religious meaning, becoming an occasion focused instead on visiting family and friends and exchanging gifts, according to a new survey released Wednesday.

Only half of people who responded to a Pew Research Center poll said they considered Christmas a religious holiday, even though nearly three-quarters said they believed Jesus was born to a virgin. One-third said they viewed Christmas as a cultural celebration.

Church attendance will be higher than usual during the holiday. But of the 69 percent of respondents who said they attended Christmas worship services as a child, only 54 percent will do so this year. By contrast, 86 percent say they will gather with extended family or friends and will buy gifts for them.

The survey is the latest to measure the gulf between many Americans and religious life. About 20 percent of Americans overall say they have no religious affiliation, a figure which is expected to rise among younger generations.

The Pew Christmas study found a similar trend. While two-thirds of people age 65 and older consider Christmas religious, only 40 percent of adults under age 30 agree. Eight-in-10 non-Christians will celebrate the holiday, but mostly as a cultural celebration. A separate Pew poll found about one-third of U.S. Jews had a Christmas tree at home last year.

Not surprisingly, Christians who more closely identify with a faith are more likely to view Christmas as religious.

More than 80 percent of white evangelicals consider the holiday religious, compared to 66 percent of white Catholics and 60 percent of black Protestants. Fifty-six percent of white Protestants from what are known as mainline churches consider the celebration more religious than cultural.

Local

Parenting class

Faith Lutheran Church, Ninth Street and Chestnut Avenue, will offer a four-week parent training program beginning Jan 5.

"Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun" offers specific answers for the most difficult moments of the "early years" (birth to age 7).

The sessions run from 1-2:30 p.m. on consecutive Sundays.

There is a charge. Childcare will be provided free to those who pre-pay for the class by Jan. 3.

For more information, call 402-462-5044.

Nation

Vatican changes

ST. LOUIS — Pope Francis announced changes in the influential Vatican office that evaluates and nominates candidates for bishop around the world.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington was appointed Monday to the Congregation for Bishops. The pope also reconfirmed Cardinal William Levada, the former archbishop of San Francisco and former head of the Vatican's orthodoxy watchdog office.

Some members of the congregation were not reconfirmed. Cardinal Raymond Burke will no longer serve in the office. The former St. Louis archbishop had been a member for several years. Burke retains his position as the head of the Vatican high court, the Apostolic Signatura.

Burke drew attention in the U.S. in 2004 when he said he would deny Communion to Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry, a Roman Catholic who supports abortion rights.

The Associated Press

World

New saint

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has declared the 16th-century Jesuit Pierre Favre a saint, bypassing the Vatican's typical saint-making procedures to honor the first recruit of Jesuit founder St. Ignatius Loyola.

The announcement was made Tuesday on Francis' 77th birthday, something of a gift to his Jesuit family for whom Favre is a beloved role model.

Favre, who lived from 1506 to 1546, met Ignatius while the two were college roommates in Paris along with another future Jesuit, Francis Xavier. Favre later was ordained and spent most of his ministry preaching Catholicism in Germany and elsewhere during the Protestant Reformation.

Francis, the first Jesuit pope, recently spoke about the importance Favre had on his life, in particular his message of dialogue with anyone "even with his opponents."

The Associated Press



CHRIS KNIGHT/*AP*

The Rev. Frank Schaefer (center) of Lebanon Pa., is surrounded by the media as he exits the gymnasium for a lunch break from a penalty hearing at Camp Innabah, a United Methodist retreat, in Spring City, Pa., Nov. 19. A jury of his pastoral peers convicted Schaefer on Monday of breaking his vows by officiating his gay sons' Massachusetts wedding in 2007.

Defrocked Pa. pastor 'in shock,' will appeal

KATHY MATHESON
The Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — A United Methodist Church pastor defrocked for officiating the gay wedding of his son says he intends to appeal and is shocked by church officials' decision.

The pastor, Frank Schaefer, says he is "somewhat in shock still" by the church's move to revoke his pastoral credentials but says he will continue to fight to eradicate discriminatory language in church doctrine.

Schaefer met briefly with the Board of Ordained Ministry at church offices in suburban Philadelphia. Schaefer apparently made good on an earlier vow that he wouldn't voluntarily surrender his credentials as ordered by a religious jury.

Schaefer had been told to resign from the clergy by Thursday if he could not follow the denomination's Book of Discipline. But Schaefer says the book discriminates against gay people.

Officials had no choice but to terminate his ministerial office, church spokesman John Coleman said afterward.

"When asked to surrender his credentials as required by the verdict, he refused to do so," Coleman said. "Therefore, because of his decision, the board was compelled by the jury's decision to deem his credentials surrendered."

Schaefer left the building without commenting. He held a news conference Thursday afternoon at a Methodist church in Philadelphia where an associate minister was defrocked in 2005 for being in a lesbian relationship.

Last month, a church jury suspended Schaefer for 30 days for performing the 2007 wedding of his gay son in Massachusetts, where same-sex unions are legal. Although the Methodist church accepts gay and lesbian members, it rejects the practice of homosexuality as "incompatible with Christian teaching" and bars clergy from performing same-sex unions.

The issue has split the nation's largest mainline Protestant denomination amid a rapid shift in public opinion. Same-sex marriage will soon be legal in 16 states, and opinion polls show that a majority of Americans now support it. Hundreds of Methodist ministers have publicly rejected church doctrine on homosexuality, and some of them face discipline for presiding over same-sex unions. Last month, in a public challenge to church rules, a retired Methodist bishop officiated at a wedding for two men in Alabama.

Most other Protestant denominations have decided their position on the issue one way or another. But the Methodists, with about 7.7 million members in the U.S. and many more members overseas, remain divided. At their last national meeting in 2012, delegates reaffirmed the church's 40-year-old policy on gays.

Jurors who convicted Schaefer said he should use the suspension time to decide whether he could uphold the church's Book of Discipline. If he decided he could not, he was told to give up his pulpit in Lebanon by Thursday.

Schaefer gave his answer publicly Monday during a news conference in Philadelphia, surrounded by dozens of sympathetic ministers and laity. Schaefer described the Book of Discipline as contradictory and biased against gay people, said he would not go quietly.

"I cannot voluntarily surrender my credentials because I am a voice now for many — for tens of thousands — of LGBT members in our church," he said then.

Orphanage: Haiti faults church-funded homes

Continued from page C4

go to our orphanages."

Asked about the discrepancy, Browne said the group also distributes food in other parts of Haiti, but he said only the church's pastor, Stewart Traill, was aware of the details of their finances. "I'm not a money guy."

Browne said Traill has never given an interview and would not comment for this story.

Bickel said her orphanage spends about $1 million annually to care for about 140 kids and received government certification. Gena Heraty, director of the special needs program at Kay Christine orphanage, said her organization spends less to house 386 children and also passed muster.

"They are very basic standards," said Heraty, who has worked in Haiti for 20 years. "I wouldn't think they are hard standards to meet."

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402 New York Avenue, Hastings, NE
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Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.
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www.mynsag.com

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402-463-2087
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Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays
Pastor Chad Haygood
www.gracelifene.org

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402-463-3338
Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Dr. David B. McCarthy, Pastor

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9th and Chestnut Streets, Hastings, NE
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Education Hour at 9:15 a.m.
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Pastor Josh Davis

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Rev. Joel Remmers, Rev. Myron Meyer & Rev. Elwood Hipple

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http://goibay.com/churchofchrist/

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3001 W. 12th St., Hastings
Sunday Life Groups 9:00 a.m. (all ages)
Sunday Worship Gathering 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Worship 6:30 p.m.
www.ilifehouse.org
402-834-0400

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201 E. 9th St., Hastings, NE
402-463-1066
Sabbath School - Saturday 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - Saturday 11:00 a.m.
Lay Pastor, Loren Wehling
402-751-2400

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
465 S. Marian Rd.
Hastings, NE 68901-7401
Saturday Worship 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study & Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
(9:00 a.m. Service Broadcast over KHAS Radio)
Rev. Paul Warneke
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH
900 N. Platte Ave., Juniata, NE
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
Thomas Murray, Pastor

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Sunday Mass 7 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
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saintmichaelschurch.catholicweb.com
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Sunday Mass 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
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Father Michael Houlihan
Asst. Pastor Father Patrick Barvick

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Matt Sass, Adult Ministries Pastor
Joel Stark, Student Ministries
Fidel Torres, Hispanic Ministries Pastor

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402-463-6776 / www.lcchastings.com
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Melinda Runcie, Worship Pastor
Debra Rhodes, Discipleship Pastor

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Reverend Barry Rempp

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Supper, Service, Bible Class
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If your church would like to be listed in this Church Directory, please call (402) 461-1231 or 1-800-742-6397.

Clubs

Original Betty Club

Nebraska's Original Betty Club kicked off the Christmas season on Dec. 2 at Pastime Lanes. Bettys Aadland, Mlejnek, Spintig and Thomas were hostesses. There were 22 Bettys in attendance. Visiting and coffee time began the festivities followed by entertainment provided by the Hastings High School Madrigals.

Betty Juranek chaired a brief business meeting. The group viewed a video of its September trip to Abilene, Kan., and got to know the newest member, Betty Harvey of Hastings. A soup and salad luncheon followed.

Each Betty brought a gift for the exchange as well as items for the Hastings Food Pantry. The day ended with the Bettys taking turns selecting a wrapped gift from under the tree, then joining hands to sing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Hastings Quilter's Guild

The Hastings Quilter's Guild met on Dec. 5 at First St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

President Rochelle Rhoades opened the meeting by thanking the hostesses for their refreshments. The silent auction was the program and fundraiser for the evening.

The secretary's minutes were printed in the newsletter. No changes were noted, so minutes will stand approved as printed.

The treasurer's report was printed in the newsletter. The report was approved.

Pat Jensen, of the membership committee, reported that there were 43 members and one guest present. Barb Cordell won the name tag drawing. The raffles were won by guest Kara Baird, Marcia Swan, Carla Hubl and Pat Yendra.

Kathy Samuelson instructed the guild in making quilted holiday ornaments. Each member made an ornament to take home. She also provided fleece fabric to make blankets for the Linus Project. Several blankets were completed.

Rochelle Rhoades mentioned the December birthdays.

The next guild meeting is 7 p.m. Jan. 9 First St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

The meeting was adjourned and show-and-tell followed.

Kensington OES

Kensington Order of the Eastern Star met Dec. 5 at the Masonic Center. Fourteen members and one guest recited the Kensington prayer prior to the dessert lunch served by Joanne Shottenkirk.

President Marie Rasmussen welcomed everyone and in keeping with her theme of bells, she told the history of Christmas bells. They originally were used to drive away evil spirits.

Vickie Summers also used Christmas bells for her program. She told of the poem "Christmas Bells" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow written in 1863, which later became the carol "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The historical moment was the minutes from December 2001.

Venus Turner gave the financial report; it was approved.

The bylaws committee presented its recommended changes. The members voted to approve the changes as presented.

A monetary gift will be given to the Masonic Youth Tree.

Reports of joys and concerns were shared by members. Eileen and Fred Way celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Rasmussen read "Putting Christ Back into Christmas" to close.

Marcella Krieger gave devotions assisted by her daughter, Susan Wooster. She told of Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal priest who wrote the hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Wooster led the group in singing the carol.

The next meeting will be Jan. 2 at 1:15 p.m. at the Masonic Center.

H.A.R.T.A.

The Hastings Area Retired Teachers Association held its Christmas gathering Nov. 25 at the Good Samaritan Village Senior Center.

President Andi Brown opened the meeting by asking Ray Crowl and Dick Hawes to led the singing and Pledge of Allegiance. Before the group sang "America the Beautiful," Hawes told about the song. Crowl then led the group in singing accompanied by Barb Shriver on the piano.

Bernie Tushaus from Prairie Books and Gifts in Hastings presented the program. He told about many book gifts available and read from a few of them.

Loretta Tebbe won the scholarship basket and received a gift certificate to Prairie Books along with a basket of goodies.

Brown installed Diane Gundlach as secretary and Donna Dill as treasurer for two-year terms.

Following the meeting, the social committee, headed by Sandy Brown, served cookies and coffee.

The Jan. 27 meeting will feature Ben Dumas from the Maryland Living Center.

Knights of Columbus

Hastings Knights of Columbus Council 1123 and the Hastings Elks Club held a Christmas party for about 70 special-needs adults Dec. 5.

Knights in white shirts and Santa hats provided soft drinks while all sang Christmas carols accompanied by two Knight guitarists. The dinner was prepared by the Elks and served by the Knights with cookies for dessert. Santa Claus arrived to greet all and assist with the gift exchange. A goodie bag and a special gift provided by the Knights were presented to everyone.

Chapter HT, P.E.O.

Chapter HT, P.E.O. met Dec. 9 at First Presbyterian Church. Carla Fike and Renee Johnson served as hostesses.

President Sue Barnes led the business meeting. New member Belva Junker was initiated.

A program followed the business meeting. Eight hands played a selection of Christmas music on two pianos. The musicians were Barbara Zaroban, Mary Plock, Susan Neal and Laura Marvel Wunderlich.

The next meeting will be Jan. 13 at Sue Neal's home.

NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 362 met Dec. 14 at Pastime Lanes for a noon luncheon with 20 members attending. Walter Walker was greeter. Lyle Cowden was sergeant-at-arms.

Willa Rundle presided and welcomed everyone. The business meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Susie Graham gave the invocation. Graham provided the Thought for the Day on "How to Fill a Christmas Stocking." Nancy Stenger read the minutes of the November meeting. The minutes were approved as read. Stenger gave the treasurer's report and submitted it for filing. Virginia Jorgensen, sunshine chairwoman, mentioned the birthdays and anniversaries in December. She sent one "thinking of you" card.

Walter Walker, legislative chairman and service officer, reported open season for health care plans ended on Dec. 9. A 1 percent increase in cost of living adjustment is expected to take effect Jan. 1.

Bob Frank, membership chairman, reported 103 voting chapter members. Peg French was recognized for recruiting two new members.

Rundle called for nominations from the floor for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer for 2014. The current officers were re-elected. Robert Frank administered the oath of office to Rundle, president, and Stenger, secretary/treasurer.

Janet Herndon won the Alzheimer's 50-50 raffle. She donated the winnings to the Alzheimer's research fund.

The next meeting will be at noon Jan. 11 at Pastime Lanes, 1400 W. 18th St.

DAR

The Daughters of the American Revolution, Niobrara Chapter, held its monthly luncheon meeting Dec. 3 at Pastime Lanes' conference room with vice regent Marcella Lemonds presiding.

Jean Murphy offered the opening prayer. The DAR Ritual, Pledge of Allegiance, the American's Creed and the Preamble of the Constitution were recited by all.

Lemonds called roll with nine members present. Each member responded with a president's fact. The secretary's minutes and the treasurer's report were reviewed and approved. The registrar reported one prospective member's papers will be sent to National Society DAR soon and a past member may re-activate.

Members donated 17 hours in volunteer work this month.

Patriotic bookmarks have arrived and are to be distributed to the literacy program and fifth- and eighth-graders in Hastings schools on Presidents' Day Feb. 17.

The chapter's DAR Christmas tree has been decorated at the Hastings Museum. Volunteers are needed to dismantle it on Jan. 4.

After the meeting, Teresa Kruetzer presented a program on "How the Indians Used the Stars."

The next luncheon meeting will be Jan. 7 at noon at Pastime Lanes' conference room. The program will be "Identity Theft" by Paul Weber.

For further information concerning Daughters of the American Revolution, call 402-469-3535.

American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary met Dec. 2 at the American Legion Post Home.

The Pledge of Allegiance and the American Legion Auxiliary Preamble were repeated in unison.

Chaplain Virginia Dack gave the opening and closing prayers.

Secretary Belle Dragoo read the minutes from the last meeting. Treasurer Rose Kehn gave her report. Both were accepted and placed on file.

The auxiliary purchased two electric roasters to be used at the Post Home.

Christmas goodie boxes were packed to be given to veterans.

The next meeting will be 1:30 p.m. Jan. 6 at the American Legion Post Home.

Chapter GZ, P.E.O.

Chapter GZ, P.E.O. met Dec. 9 at Nancy Seaton's home. Hostesses were Kathy Haverly, Pat Tweedy and Barb Peck. Thirty-three members attended the meeting.

An initiation ceremony was held for Ann Utter.

Minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report were read. Reports were given by the corresponding secretary and various committees.

President Kathy Utter thanked the group for the contributions given to SASA and the Hastings Food Pantry.

Membership chairwoman Mary Lou Neumann gave information about Shirley Meininger, Connie Halloran and Judy Sandeen.

Elizabeth Israel presented the program on the Avani Day Spa & Yoga Studio.

The next meeting will be Jan. 13 at Cindy Biehl's home.

Fla. group bans playing in street

The Associated Press

LAKEWOOD RANCH, Fla. — A homeowner's association in Florida is prohibiting children from playing in the street.

The Miramar at the Country Club Homeowner's Association passed a new bylaw last week, saying that children can't play in the street due to safety reasons. Association officials told the TV station that there's one narrow, windy road through the community and drivers often speed.

One association member says there are other places for children to play.

Birthdays

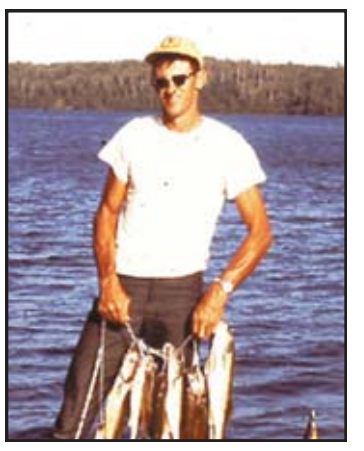
Lemonds 90th





Marcella Lemonds is celebrating her 90th birthday on Sunday, December 22, 2013 with an open house at First United Methodist Church in Hastings from 2-4 pm. Her children are Karen, Jean, Jacki and Doug. She has 10 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. Help her celebrate her day by sending cards, memories, photos and wishes to: 5180 W. Highway 6, Hastings, NE 68901. We thank you for being a part of her special day!

Hohlen 80th



The family of Howard Hohlen would like to honor him with a card shower for his 80th birthday on December 24th. Please send greetings to him at: 1409 N. 7th Ave., Hastings, NE 68901.

Anniversary

Krabel 50th



Gene and Joan Krabel will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house hosted by their children, Julie and Derrik Olsen, Teresa and Mike Williams, Brian and Shannon Krabel, Kim McCown and their families on December 28th from 2 to 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 614 N. Hastings Ave., Hastings. Joan DaMoude and Gene Krabel were married December 28, 1963 at First United Methodist Church in Hastings. Anniversary wishes may also be sent to them at 4895 W. Hwy. 6, Hastings, NE 68901.

Vermont city collects 2,337 pints of blood in a single day

WILSON RING
The Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. — A Vermont city of only 17,000 souls just smashed the national one-day record for blood donations — and it's likely to stand for quite a while.

After Rutland's 11th annual Gift of Life Marathon collected 2,337 pints of blood Tuesday, the regional Red Cross said it's unlikely to undertake another such drive because of the difficulty of staging it. Rutland required some 300 Red Cross staffers from New England and New York, 200 volunteers and thousands of donors.

"We had agreed that this would be the last time we went for a national record," said Steve Costello, one of the main organizers of the Rutland drive, which broke the previous one-day U.S. record of 1,968 pints set by Manchester, N.H., in 2011.

The online Guinness World Records says the one-day world-wide record of 43,732 pints was set in India in 2010.

The Vermont record comes as the nation's blood-collection system undergoes dramatic change.

It began with the Great Recession, when Americans who had lost their jobs and health insurance put off non-critical procedures. Blood-management programs, which include collecting blood lost during an operation and returning it to the patient, maximizing hemoglobin levels to prevent anemia, and using medications to reduce bleeding during surgery, are also contributing to the decline.

Mary Brant, spokeswoman for the Northern New England Chapter of the American Red Cross, said the organization supported the Rutland effort but agreed it would be the last big drive in the region.

Wedding

Janssen – Logsdon



John Janssen and Aubrey Logsdon were married September 28, 2013 at Third City Christian Church. Parents of the bride are Larry and Marci Logsdon. Parents of the groom are Ronald and Denise Janssen. Scott James officiated. Aubrey is a music teacher at Grand Island Public Schools. John is a tool maker at Cardinal Tool and Die in Grand Island. The couple will live in Grand Island.

JFK bust stolen from Ariz. park

The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Someone has stolen a life-size bronze bust of John F. Kennedy that's been on display for decades at a downtown Tucson park, city officials said Tuesday.

Officials said the bust that depicts JFK wearing a coat and tie was ripped clean off its granite base at Presidio Plaza. The bust measures 1 foot, 8 inches in height. Together with the base, it stood about 6 feet tall.

A city parks employee discovered the headless pedestal and reported it Monday.

The bust originally was unveiled on Nov. 22, 1964, exactly one year after Kennedy's assassination. It cost $1,000 and was paid for by the Pima County Democratic party. The bust was removed in 1968 during construction of the new park. It was returned in 1971.

While thieves do steal bronze statues to cash in on the raw materials, it might be difficult to turn a profit on this particular piece, said Mary Ellen Wooten, public art program manager for the Tucson Pima Arts Council.

Births

Mary Lanning

◆ **Jocelyn Noelle Vargas**, a 7-pound, 10-ounce girl, was born to Shanna (Kistler) and Derek Vargas of 1017 N. Hastings Ave. Dec. 15.

◆ **Abraham Hugh Schenk**, a 6-pound, 10.4-ounce boy, was born to Christine (O'Neil) and Clayton Schenk of 4725 Columbine Drive Dec. 14.

◆ **Praxton Lee Hagemann**, a 5-pound, 3-ounce boy, and Annika Irene Hagemann, a 5-pound, 10-ounce girl, were born to Cassandra Hagemann of 1613 W. Fifth St. Dec. 13.

◆ **Edwin James Schneider**, a 7-pound, 4-ounce boy, was born to Megan and Kevin Schneider of Kenesaw Dec. 12.

◆ **Henry Porter Schawang**, an 8-pound, 1-ounce boy, was born to Meggan (Goebel) and Kevin Schawang of Hastings Dec. 10.

◆ **Keela Noel Tura**, a 7-pound, 14-ounce girl, was born to Jessica (Johnson) and Denn Tura Jr. of Clay Center Dec. 12.

Elsewhere

◆ **Akua Joelle Oduro-Frimpong**, a 7-pound, 1-ounce girl, was born to Ann (DeVries) and Joseph Oduro-Frimpong of Accra Ghana, West Africa, Oct. 16. Ann is formerly of Hastings.

Senior menu

Adams County Senior Services Inc. provides noon meals for people age 60 and older from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Golden Friendship Center, 509 S. Bellevue Ave. Reservations must be made by calling 402-463-4439 by 2:30 p.m. one day in advance. All meals include a salad bar, milk and bread unless otherwise noted.

◆ Tuesday: Oyster stew or cream of tomato soup with crackers, roast beef sandwich, dill pickle spears and cookies.

◆ Wednesday: Closed.

◆ Thursday: French onion soup with crackers and chicken filet sandwich.

◆ Friday: Barbecue pork sandwich, baked potato half and corn O'Brien.

◆ Dec. 30: Beef stew, cinnamon apples and buttermilk biscuit.

Noon meals also are 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 on the third Thursday of the month. For reservations, call one day in advance.

SOCIAL GUIDELINES AND DEADLINES

Club News and Five Generations Photos

There is no charge for these items. Club news must be received no later than one month after the meeting and may be sent to tribmisc@hastingstribune.com.

Call 402-461-1254

Weddings, Engagements, Anniversaries and Birthdays

There is a charge to publish these items and must be paid when placing your ad. Forms may be picked up at the Tribune office or submit online at www.hastingstribune.com and click on contact us.

Call 402-462-2131

Deadlines for the Saturday Social Page is Monday at 4:00 p.m. for the same week publication.

- 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.
- The Tribune is not responsible for photos that are lost or errors caused by illegible handwritten reports.
- All announcements and stories will be edited for clarity, brevity and news value.

Nation

Driver hid pot as presents

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Pennsylvania State Police say they found 20 pounds of marijuana in boxes wrapped as Christmas presents inside a minivan after a traffic stop.

Thirty-eight-year-old Randy Jesus Valdivia, of Surfside, Fla., faces felony drug charges after the stop on Interstate 80 near State College.

Police say they became suspicious after Valdivia was stopped Thursday afternoon, and got him to agree to a search.

They say they found 20 pounds of weed vacuum-sealed inside large boxes wrapped as Christmas gifts.

Online court records say he was taken to the local jail. A defense lawyer wasn't listed.

Trooper's hat

RALEIGH, N.C. — An appeals court in North Carolina says a state trooper should not have been fired for changing his story about what became of his wide-brimmed hat.

The three-judge panel determined the 2009 dismissal of Trooper Thomas Wetherington did not match the level of his offense.

Wetherington initially told his immediate supervisor his hat blew off on a windy day during a traffic stop in Craven County along the coast. But court documents say the hat was returned a few weeks later in good condition by one of the people he had pulled over the day he lost it.

The Highway Patrol determined he violated its truthfulness policy. The state can appeal the decision to the state Supreme Court.

Alligator can greet restaurant patrons

PORT HURON, Mich. — A 4-foot long alligator named Wally will be allowed to greet patrons of a Michigan restaurant.

The City Council voted 4-2 on Monday to allow American alligators in its central business district.

Wally will greet guests at Cajun Gator. The restaurant is expected to open within the next week.

Developer Larry Jones says there were "a lot more excited people than there are people in question" when the idea was floated.

Councilwoman Anita Ashford cast one of the votes against the proposal. She says she's uncomfortable with the idea of a live alligator in an eatery.

Tip jar theft

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. — Police say a woman applying for a job at a Delaware restaurant stole money from a tip jar.

Rehoboth Beach police say the woman filled out an application at Five Guys last Friday, then took about $15 from two separate jars.

Police say a review of the application and surveillance footage led to the arrest of 44-year-old Melissa Brittingham.

Brittingham later pleaded guilty to a theft charge and received one year of probation.

Brittingham must also pay a $500 fine and court costs.

Ham jam

ATLANTA — A truck overturned in metro Atlanta, spilling tons of hams onto an interstate ramp.

The truck was hauling 40,000 pounds of hams Thursday around 4 a.m. when it overturned, spilling its cargo south of Atlanta. Authorities were working early Thursday to clear the ramp from Old National Highway to Interstate 85 southbound after the crash.

The cab of the truck was destroyed in the crash, which also caused a diesel fuel spill.

Truck driver, Rigo Vargas, said he was hauling the hams to Texas when he wrecked. He said he banged his head against the door when the rig flipped over, but wasn't seriously hurt.

The Associated Press



AP

This Dec. 4 image released by Carly Kerby shows her 18-month-old daughter Mati playing with a felt elf at their home in Salt Lake City, Utah.

'The bane of my December'

Tooth Fairy is walk in park over Elf on the Shelf

LEANNE ITALIE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Carly Kerby, a mom of four girls, doesn't have the greatest track record as the Tooth Fairy, but it was another family tradition that nearly did her in: The Elf on the Shelf.

In case you've been hitting the egg nog a little too hard all these years, the elf is a big seller. It involves a picture book and a stuffed, felt elf that serves as a scout for Santa and has to be moved stealthily every night, traditionally around Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve.

The elf's mission? To report back to the boss in red on who's been naughty or nice. After eight years on the market, more than 6 million of the kits, book and elf, have been sold, and it has climbed high on best-seller lists, with two sexes and different skin tones now available.

Kerby, in Salt Lake City, thought it sounded like fun when she took it on last Christmas.

"My first epic mistake was not knowing that a female elf existed," she said. "My daughters were devastated that their elf was a boy and not a girl. Heaven forbid we have anything boy-related in our house. It went downhill from there."

She forgot to move it for days and days. And her youngest, at 18 months, loves to grab it King Kong-style, a no-no by elf rules.

"Everyone here freaks out because they read the book and it says if you touch it the magic is gone," Kerby said. "It really creates a lot of drama, but with four daughters, everything is drama!"

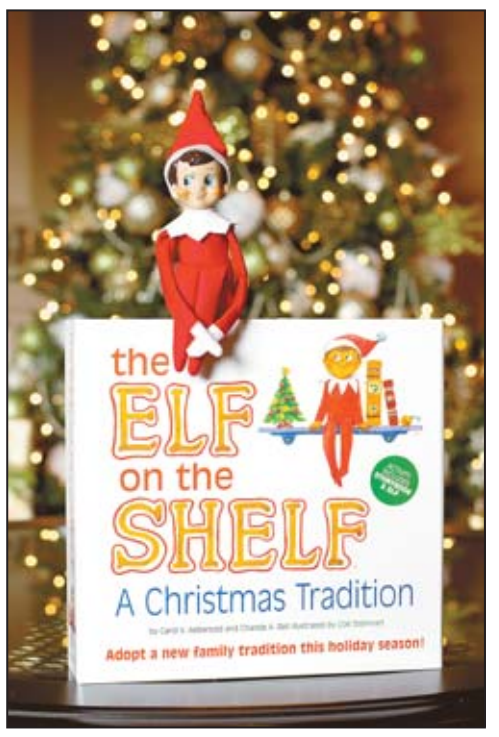
While, clearly, millions of people enjoy their elves on shelves, a backlash has bubbled up. There are anti-elf rants on Facebook and raunchy, bawdy and bloody visuals on Tumblr and Instagram. One photo circulating shows a green Grinch hat tied to the head of a large dog with one of those damning cardboard signs around his neck that reads: "I ate your Elf on the Shelf."

Kim Boerman in Charleston, S.C., has pulled hard elf duty with her 12-year-old daughter. There was the time it barely escaped their German shepherd, Myka, and another time it fell from the chandelier during dinner as it hung upside down.

She procured a doctor's prescription that states: "To Elf, address North Pole. Doctors orders: Take it easy, don't move around a lot ... rest!" Boerman and her husband even threw in a head bandage for the little guy before planting him under their Christmas tree with a toy ambulance for the duration.

Kerby said she had tons on her holiday to-do list before adding the elf, but mishaps aside, "it's quite fun for our little girl and a nice tradition."

The Elf on the Shelf — you get to name it — was born in 2005 as a self-published labor of love from Carol Aebersold and daughters Chanda Bell and Christa Pitts, co-founders of Creatively Classic Activities and Books. The company is dedicated to promoting and distributing the storybook and elf, recently launching its first sequel, a birthday elf and book. A dollar for every birthday kit sold goes to a charity working to provide clean drinking water in more than 20 countries.



AP

This file photo provided by Creatively Classic Activities and Books shows "The Elf on the Shelf: A Christmas Tradition," with the elf for the shelf.

"Every year we continue to be amazed and blessed with the fan response," Aebersold said in a statement, put out after their creation recently claimed the No. 1 spot on USA Today's best-seller list for the first time.

Other companies have gotten in on the game, including the makers of "Maccabee on the Mantel," which includes a snuggly plush soldier for Hanukkah. And Aebersold's company now offers games, a movie, elf couture, an elf registry online and elf adoptions in select locations around the country.

Meaghan B. Murphy isn't ho-ho-hoing. As deputy editor of SELF magazine, the busy and tired mom of three kids — ages 3, 20 months and 4 months — is on elf duty with her husband.

"The elf is the bane of my December," she said. "Her name is Arielle. She wears a Target-exclusive sparkly tutu that cost like 15 bucks. She has two. I can barely remember to brush my teeth, let alone hide her nightly or do an outfit change."

The fact that she forgot to move the elf usually hits around 3 a.m., while she's feeding her newborn. "At which point I run downstairs only to discover that I can't reach her because my husband who is 6-foot-3 hid her the night before on the ledge of crown molding 12 feet high," Murphy said. "I then peg her with things in the dark until I finally knock her down, at which point I hide her someplace glaringly lame."

She knows an elf supermom or two. Their Facebook feeds are hard to ignore, Murphy said.

"I have a friend who staged a marshmallow snowball fight between the elf and 'Monsters Inc.' (characters)," she said. "Honestly, I don't think my kids give a crap. They're more excited about the chocolates in their Advent calendars."

Vegan leather, faux fur are hot gifts for the holidays

MAE ANDERSON
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Finding a knockoff version of the fur you want under the Christmas tree would ordinarily be a disappointment.

Not this year.

Faux is the new black this season for holiday gifts. But this isn't the "pleather" of the 1980s — that cheap, plastic-looking material made popular by Michael Jackson during his "Thriller" days.

A $198 fuzzy brown coat at Banana Republic has a prominently placed tag that reads "faux fur." Dresses with "vegan leather" accents are flying off virtual shelves at shopbop.com. And at luxury retailer Barney's, a Marni faux leather three-quarter sleeve jacket sells for $1,900.

Faux is gaining popularity in part because there have been advances in technology enabling designers to make better-looking fakes. In a still-shaky economy that has made Americans more frugal, faux also can be seen as a good way to be trendy without breaking the bank. And a movement toward socially conscious shopping makes some people feel better about faux purchases.

It helps that some A-listers have given faux their seal of approval. Models have been seen on the runway wearing faux leather pieces in shows for big-name designers like Tom Ford and Rag & Bone. And actresses Anne Hathaway and Kate Hudson have strutted on the red carpet in faux leather and fur.

While it's difficult to pin down overall sales for faux goods, retailers say they are benefiting from their growing popularity. Banana Republic's $69.50 faux-fur neckwarmer and faux-fur leopard vests have been best sellers. Target says faux fur home goods like pillows and throws are performing "exceptionally well." And Macy's says new techniques used with faux leather, like scalloping and quilted stitching, have given tops and jackets "new relevance."

"It used to be that 'faux' meant less expensive and quality less than desirable, but not any longer," said Josh Saterman, vice president and fashion director for millennials at Macy's. "Faux is a part of our next evolution to our fashion 'must-haves.'"

Andrew Dent, who is a vice president at global materials consultancy Material Connexion, says that the trend is being fueled by the fact that faux fur and leather are nearly indistinguishable from the real thing nowadays. He said that's because designers are replacing older plastic like PVC with improved polyurethane that is more leather-like to the touch. They're also tapering synthetic fibers to make faux fur seem more luxe and softer.

The improved quality is what spurred Brandon Vidal, 28, to buy two faux fur blankets as Christmas presents this year for his mother and a roommate. "They feel great," said Vidal, who lives in Calgary. "They're warm and cozy and it is freezing up here in Canada."

In addition to better technology, a growing social consciousness about buying fabric that doesn't involve cruelty to animals has made faux fashion more acceptable. "The fact that this is the season's big trend has to do with a social movement toward greater acceptability of faux versus real," said Alison Levy, senior manager at consulting firm Kurt Salmon. "It's seen as the right and responsible choice as opposed to cheaper value choice."

That message certainly struck a chord with Kristin Birkey's 7-year-old son after he asked for a real leather jacket for Christmas.

"I explained to him what had to be done to make a leather jacket and he nearly started crying," said Birkey, 26, a marketing professional in Kokomo, Ind.

Birkey happened to be wearing a faux leather jacket at the time. So her son asked for one like that instead.

Make wallpaper ornaments to hang on Christmas tree

You can make wallpaper ornaments to decorate your tree or home décor item. This is a great way to get kids involved with your holiday festivities.



Robin Stroot

You will need scraps of wallpaper in different colors and patterns to make reversible wallpaper ornaments. Some retail stores will have out-of-date wallpaper books or scraps that they may be willing to give to you or sell to you at a small fee.

You will also need some accent notions such as buttons, ribbon pieces, markers, glitter and liquid glue or a glue stick. You will also need some type of template for your ornament. It can be a snowflake, teddy bear, star or other pattern. I find that children's coloring books offer templates. You can also use small metal holiday cookie cutters as a template.

Cut the wallpaper pieces into 6-inch squares. Trace the outline of your ornament on the back of one of the pieces of wallpaper. For designs that are profile shape (e.g., a dog or side view of a teddy bear), flip the ornament over and trace it on the back of a second piece of wallpaper. This will give you a mirror-image of the ornament. Trace two outlines of the ornaments onto the back of the wallpaper for items such as stars and snowmen.

For our example, I will use a star shape. The procedure is the same for all ornaments. Now, glue the two wrong sides of the star together, matching the shape edges. Let the glue dry.

Take a small nail or awl and poke a hole through both layers on one point of the star. This will be used to hang the ornament onto the tree.

Decorate the star with ribbons, glitter, etc., and let completely dry. Hang the ornament on the tree.

For ornaments such as a bear or dog, cut out four sets of legs for the animal (making two for each side of the reversible ornament). Take a little glue and place the animal's legs (one set on each side). Add a button where the leg connects to the body of the animal and using yarn and needle, stitch the legs into place. You will be going through one set of legs, through the body and the other set of the legs. Take the yarn or thread back through the second hole of the button leg, body, leg and button and tie a bow to secure in place. If you want the legs to be moveable, don't glue the legs to the body and match the holes in the buttons, legs and body and stitch into place.

Cut a piece of ribbon and thread through the opening on the ornament. Enjoy.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

Robin Stroot of Hastings is a columnist for the Tribune. Contact Stroot at 402-461-1252 or email at tribune@hastingstribune.com.

Married couple with no children should file taxes jointly

DEAR BRUCE: If you are married, should you file together or separately? We have no children and have been married for one year. Our combined income is $50,000. Our mortgage is $125,000, and we have no other debts. **— G.P., via email**



Bruce Williams

DEAR G.P.: This is a no-brainer. With your income and no children, I can see absolutely no reason for you guys to file separately. You would just be paying more taxes for no reason. I would file immediately for the next tax year as married and filing jointly.

DEAR BRUCE: My brother left my son money when he passed away, to be received after his wife's death. It was stated to be for "John and Mary Jones" (false names). Since then, my son has divorced and his ex-wife has taken back her maiden name. When my son's aunt dies, will he still have to split the money with his ex-wife? **— Jackie, via email**

DEAR JACKIE: Technically, I think the fact that the ex-wife took back her maiden name has nothing to do with anything. When the aunt dies, the money should be split between the two.

If there's a substantial amount of money, you might wish to consult an attorney to see exactly where you stand legally. If it's just a little bit of money, why not split it and get it over with.

DEAR BRUCE: We have several timeshares that we don't use anymore. Who or what resource can help us to dispose of them swiftly, legally and without any further obligations for maintenance fees? We have already spent over $575 on local attorneys, to no avail. We are in dire need of reaching a resolution; any help you could provide us would be greatly appreciated. **— M.J., via email**

DEAR M.J.: You have a problem that many people have. The timeshare company insists upon you paying its fees. You, on the other side, have no interest in the timeshares, and the reality is it's just about impossible to sell them.

The companies advertising that they will sell timeshares all want money up front. I wouldn't even consider that kind of an arrangement.

Other things being equal, I would simply stop paying. That may be a problem and the timeshare company may come after you. I can't determine what it will do. On the other hand, it's possible that you could simply say that you are agreeable to returning the timeshares to the company, and maybe it will take that route.

You might want to see if there's a charity that would accept the timeshares to offer as prizes in a raffle. However, charities oftentimes are hip to the fact that timeshares have little value and will refuse to accept them.

I know I haven't told you anything you probably haven't figured out for yourself, but unfortunately, the used timeshare market is very, very soft. You could, of course, offer to make a settlement with the timeshare company -- in other words, offer a certain amount of cash up front in exchange for a release from your obligation.

DEAR BRUCE: A few years ago, when your broadcast was available in the Seattle area, I heard you mention your first radio job applications. You applied something like 2,000 or 3,000 times, or some huge number, and somebody finally relented and gave you a chance.

Could you help me set the record straight and let me know exactly how many times you applied, and the method of application — phone calls or letters — and why they relented? I find this remarkable and inspiring for anybody looking for a job today. **— D.H., via email**

DEAR D.H.: I remember very well what I had to do before I actually got anywhere. That was with WMCA, a radio station in New York, in the late 1970s.

I called WMCA somewhere in the neighborhood of 3,000 times. Two or three times a day, every single day. In addition, I sent them well over 500 letters over a four-year period. They told me I wore them down.

Some people said I would tick them off. But I thought, how can I be any worse off than I am now? They weren't hiring me or answering my letters. All I can do is keep after them.

Fortunately, they gave me a shot at Sunday afternoons, which is the toilet in the radio business. I managed to hang in there, and they offered me a full-time job not that many months later. In any event, that's the story.

Bruce Williams is a columnist for the Newspaper Enterprise Association. Contact him at bruce@brucewilliams.com or P.O. Box 503, Elfers, FL 34680.

Budget deal and the U.S. economy

JOSH BOAK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Congress did something Wednesday it hasn't done during three years of partisan warfare: Pass a budget deal that won't likely hurt the economy.

The two-year spending plan all but removes the threat of another government shutdown like the one that slowed the economy in October. Among other things, the agreement will roll back some of the automatic federal spending cuts that kicked in this year.

President Barack Obama is certain to sign the measure, which on Wednesday passed the Democratic-controlled Senate on a vote of 64-36. Last week, it cleared the Republican-run House by a similarly bipartisan margin of 332-94.

The result? Economists say the U.S. economy has a good chance to accelerate at its fastest pace since before the Great Recession struck six years ago.

Growth has plodded along at a 2.4 percent annual rate so far this year. Bolstered in part by the budget deal, the economy is poised to expand 2.9 percent next year, its healthiest pace since 2005, according to an Associated Press survey of economists.

"There was a lot of austerity in 2013," said Michael Hanson, senior U.S. economist at Bank of America. "We should have a lot less in 2014."

The budget agreement marks a sharp change from recent years in which partisan hostilities led to governance by crisis. Deals were struck between Democrats and Republicans only as the government neared an emergency. A last-minute deal in October, for example, removed the threat of a default on the national debt that could have triggered another recession.

The earlier budget deals helped shrink the deficit. But they've also squeezed workers and businesses by hindering growth. Higher tax rates, along with spending cuts, subtracted 1.5 percentage points from annual growth this year, according to the Congressional Budget Office. That's the difference between an economy limping along at 2.4 percent annual growth and one accelerating at close to a 4 percent rate.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/*AP*

House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., left, and Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray, D-Wash., announce a tentative agreement Dec. 10 between Republican and Democratic negotiators on a government spending plan, at the Capitol in Washington.

With the new deal in place, economists estimate that the government will exert less of a drag on the economy. The drag on growth from federal policies should decline from 1.5 percentage points this year to 0.5 percentage point at the most, economists estimate.

The bill approves spending in 2014 at slightly more than $1 trillion, compared with the $967 billion mandated by the automatic spending cuts. It boosts spending by $63 billion over two years.

It replaces the spending cuts with longer-term savings, many of which don't accumulate for nearly another decade. Airline passengers will pay higher ticket fees, but the additional revenue won't come from tax increases.

Deficits would rise slightly in 2014-2015.

The compromise could also spur businesses to hire and expand because they're no longer operating under the threat of another government shutdown. It also suggests that a compromise will be reached when Congress must again raise the debt limit in February to prevent a possible default. Just the appearance of two nearly implacable political parties agreeing on the first bipartisan budget pact since 1986 has increased hope.

"More significant is that there is a deal at all, as that should eliminate the risk of another shutdown," said Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, who forecasts that the economy will grow 3.3 percent next year largely as a result of less drag from the government.

At a news conference Wednesday after the Federal Reserve announced a pullback in its economic stimulus, Chairman Ben Bernanke welcomed the congressional deal.

"It eases a bit of the fiscal restraint in the next couple of years, a period where the economy needs help to finish the recovery," Bernanke said. "So those things, you know, are positive things."

Economists said the additional spending from repealing some of the spending cuts should help growth. But some of the gains could be offset by the end of emergency unemployment benefits on Dec. 28. The federal program has extended benefits to 1.3 million people who've been out of work longer than six months. The program's expiration could hurt because the beneficiaries will have less money to spend on food, housing, clothes and transportation.

But on the whole, the budget deal is viewed as a net positive for the economy.

"For the first time in recent years in Washington, D.C., lunacy has given way to a baby step back towards sanity," said David Kotok, chairman of Cumberland Advisors, in a client note.

Insurers allow more time to pay under health law

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Consumers anxious over tight insurance deadlines and lingering computer problems during the holidays will get extra time to pay their premiums under President Barack Obama's health care law, insurers announced Wednesday.

The board of the industry's biggest trade group — America's Health Insurance Plans — said consumers who select a plan by Dec. 23 will now have until Jan. 10 to pay their first month's premium. That's 10 extra days beyond a New Year's Eve deadline set by the government.

The voluntary move comes as insurers and the government try to head off anticipated problems around the first of the year, when new coverage options for the uninsured take effect under Obama's law, and when several million people whose existing policies were canceled must switch to new plans.

Expect even bigger political trouble for the president if consumers who made a good-faith effort to get covered through the government's balky website show up at the pharmacy and can't get prescriptions filled, or if they turn up in the emergency room and there's no record that they are enrolled. The stakes would be higher this time because someone's health could be jeopardized.

The administration applauded the industry decision. It will "ultimately make it easier for consumers to enroll" through the new online insurance markets, said Health and Human Services spokeswoman Joanne Peters. The federal HealthCare.gov website is now working reasonably well, but insurers still report accuracy problems with enrollment information the government is sending about their new customers.

Karen Ignagni, CEO of the industry group, said the decision was taken "to give consumers greater peace of mind about their health care coverage." AHIP represents about 95 percent of the industry, including the major national carriers and nearly all the BlueCross BlueShield plans.

There may be a few insurers who do not follow the group's lead, so consumers are advised to check with their carrier. Consumers must pay their first month's premium on time for coverage to take effect.

The move burnishes the industry's image and has no real downside, said Dan Mendelson, CEO of Avalare Health, a market analysis firm. "It's useful for the consumer and not a problem for the plans."



Review

"The Hobbit: Desolation of Smaug"

Grade: C
Director: Peter Jackson
Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage
Rated: PG-13 for extended sequences of intense fantasy action violence, and frightening images
Now showing: Imperial 3 Theatre

'Hobbit' sequel too much to take in

"The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" is similar to a big bowl of ice cream with multiple flavors. When you sit down to eat it, you already know it's excessive and unnecessary to eat this much ice cream, but it looks so appetizing with its different combinations of sweetness. Unfortunately, you realize pretty quick while shoveling it into your mouth that this was a mistake.



Patrick White

There are certainly moments when you're digging through the soupy, former treat that you get a taste of what used to be chocolate or strawberry, but that is all. This can be seen in the thrilling Mirkwood forest scenes featuring comical, yet terrifying spiders.

This film is only a tribute to how tasty Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" series was going down all those years ago. "Desolation of Smaug" is a gloppy, sugary mess of action, drama, adventure, romance, fantasy, war, etc. There is simply too much going on in this film based on a simple adventure book written by J.R.R. Tolkien. Sorry Mr. Jackson, but Tolkien had his reasons for putting some information in the appendices and not in the story; you have no right to exploit his writing by stretching it out into three films.

The worst part of this wasted, potentially great film is that it's already been done in a healthy serving of 90-minute animation. Jules Bass and Arthur Rankin Jr. ("The Year Without a Santa Claus") created a fantastical, charming little "Hobbit" film that explored two simple genres: action and fantastical adventure. If it ain't broke don't fix it, but feel free to recreate with state-of-the-art filmmaking techniques.

Obviously Peter Jackson should have practiced moderation and certainly shouldn't have added to the bowl while his audiences were still eating. As if taking from the appendices wasn't enough, Jackson and his screenwriters added new characters and plot devices. Tauriel, a she-elf created by Jackson for this film, is a pathetic attempt at bringing female perspective into Tolkien's hobbit story.

Tauriel (Evangeline Lilly) is a completely one-dimensional female character who falls for a handsome dwarf, Kili, and chases him and his friends in order to save the poisoned little man. She is

Please see HOBBIT*/page AA2*

Ferrell & McKay
A partnership forged on jokes

JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — To reach the level of absurdity that Will Ferrell and Adam McKay regularly attain, they have to be particularly open-minded. They need to be willing to throw a joke about a female whale's anatomy against the wall, and see if it sticks.

It's a process of casual brainstorming, constant rewriting, endless improvisation and audience testing that leads them to ridiculous places. Their "Step Brothers," which McKay calls the most "free-form" film they've made, culminated at, of all places, something called the Catalina Wine Mixer, with Ferrell singing Andrea Bocelli's "Por Ti Volare."

"Sometimes I'll say to Ferrell: Can you believe we ended that movie in an opera song?" says McKay.

"We backed ourselves into such a corner," says Ferrell. "It was the only way."

"Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy," the first movie they made together coming out of "Saturday Night Live," famously arrived at Burgundy's inane translation of San Diego as meaning "a whale's vagina." Actually speaking the line caused Ferrell to uncharacteristically unravel.

"A professional crew. It's a night shoot," says Ferrell. "And it all came crashing down on me: We've convinced a bonded company to put these lines on film."

The sequel, "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues," opening Wednesday, comes nine years after the original, a movie that helped launch a decade of comedies and boosted the careers of Judd Apatow (a producer on "Anchorman"), Paul Rudd and Steve Carell. Since then, Ferrell has starred in every movie McKay has directed, including the NASCAR comedy "Talladega Nights" and the white-collar crime satire "The Other Guys."

Their collaboration, begun in the writing rooms of "SNL," has developed into one of the most rock-solid, long-running partnerships in comedy. They together created the production company Gary Sanchez, choosing the funniest way they could think of for an intern to answer the phone. (I Love Jesus productions was also an option.) They even developed a backstory of Sanchez as a former NFL placekicker from Paraguay who was getting into the movie business.

"They have something that's very special that's almost unprecedented in comedy films," says Apatow, also a producer on the sequel. "It reminds me of Bill Murray and Harold Ramis. When you're around it, you feel how rare it is. They've made five movies and they've all classics."

"I like working with them because they remind me I'm supposed to have fun," adds Apatow.

In a recent interview over lunch, McKay and Ferrell reflected on their process of constant trial and continual refinement. It usually begins with tossing around ideas at Ferrell's California guesthouse or their Gary Sanchez offices.

"We're big believers in sitting for two, three, four hours," says McKay. "We'll write down 50 ideas, and two will be useable."

The two first found themselves in sync at "SNL," where McKay rose to head writer after just one year as a writer. The first sketch they wrote together was about the deterioration of a morning news show when the teleprompters go down, leading to bloody tribalism.

"Anchorman 2" takes their chauvinist, sexist newsman into the 1980s and the dawn of 24/7 cable news. But it could have taken many different forms.

At first, they planned to tour a musical version in theaters before shooting the film. They considered setting a sequel in space ("We never figured out how or why," says Ferrell), or having Ron become friends with Manuel Noriega in Panama. They flirted with the Iranian hostage crisis ("How do we make THAT funny?" says Ferrell), as well as having Burgundy accidently start a war.

"We'll try anything," says McKay.

Just as "Talladega Nights" hid a commentary on Bush-era red states, the premise of "Anchorman 2" includes a parody of today's media. Burgundy has the epiphany that TV news can tell people not what they need to hear, but what they want to hear — history as shaped by an idiot.

The extensive promotion of the film has included Ferrell, in character, anchoring local news in North Dakota and appearing on ESPN. Ferrell is surprised that some may be missing the satire: "The news itself is kind of blissfully endorsing all the things that we're doing."

More mixing and matching followed in the improvisation-heavy shoot, where McKay routinely shouts new lines at his actors. There were so many jokes that McKay at one point considered making the film in two parts, a la "Kill Bill," and even tested part one with an audience. Each joke has at least one alternative, so McKay plans to release a DVD version with the some 400 jokes each swapped out for another.

A tug of war with the Motion Picture Association of American led to some snips, like in the scene when Burgundy smokes crack on the air. They wince a little at losing a big musical scene (it included a song "Gay for a Day"), but say if test audiences don't respond to a scene, they're ruthless in editing.

That's not to say what's in the film isn't plenty outlandish. It includes a section where Burgundy goes blind, a shark named Doby ("Nothing heightens chaos more than a berserk wild animal right in the middle," says McKay), and exclamations like "By the bedpan of Gene Rayburn!"

More than anything, they revel in these unpredictable, nonsensical left-hand turns that break the movie's already high degree of absurdity.

"Nothing is more enjoyable for me than when I'm watching a movie or a TV show and there's that sense that anything can happen," says McKay. "It is the most fun feeling in the world."

Ferrell and McKay, who also run the comedy website Funny Or Die, have both done projects separate of the other, of course. They're currently finalizing plans for a prison comedy, "Get Hard," starring Ferrell and Kevin Hart that McKay will produce.

McKay clearly has some interest in expanding his directing work in other directions, but he also, in the course of the interview, suggests to Ferrell that they do another big character like Burgundy, "like 8 on the volume scale."

"I selfishly want to only work with Adam and have him only work with me," says Ferrell. "Yet at the same time, I want other actors, other people to see. I don't know if people really, truly know how good Adam McKay is."

Says McKay: "People always say, 'Are you going to do other movies?' Yeah, eventually. But there's just never been a moment where us doing movies together hasn't been fun as hell and totally satisfying."





VICTORIA WILL/*Invision/AP*

Director Adam McKay (left) and actor Will Ferrell from the film "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues" pose in New York Dec. 6.

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The three ladies of 'Anchorman 2' show who's boss

JESSICA HERNDON
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In the eyes of legendary newscaster Ron Burgundy, arguably Will Ferrell's most memorable character, this is a man's world. But in "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues," it wouldn't be anything without a few saucy newsroom girls.

As one of the most anticipated comedies of the year, the sequel to Paramount's "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy" not only reunites Ferrell with Steve Carell, Paul Rudd and David Koechner, but Christina Applegate is back too — and she has reinforcements.

Reprising her role as anchorwoman Veronica Corningstone, Applegate returns with additional leading ladies: Kristen Wiig and Meagan Good. Wiig is receptionist Chani Lastname (pronounced Last-naw-may), the meek and kooky love interest to Carell's peculiar Brick Tamland, while Good wreaks havoc as the brazen boss of Ron and his newsroom posse.

It's been a decade since the original "Anchorman" released to mixed reviews. The formula seemed ideal: Choice comedic actors like Ferrell, Carell and Rudd; an asinine approach to the newsroom culture of the 1970s; and signature lines like "I'm in a glass case of emotion!" (delivered by Ferrell).

But it performed below expectations at the box office, earning $84.3 million overall. Yet the second installment, which opened Dec. 18, could break the $100 million mark overall, following an unabashed marketing campaign that had Ferrell doing all manner of publicity stunts.

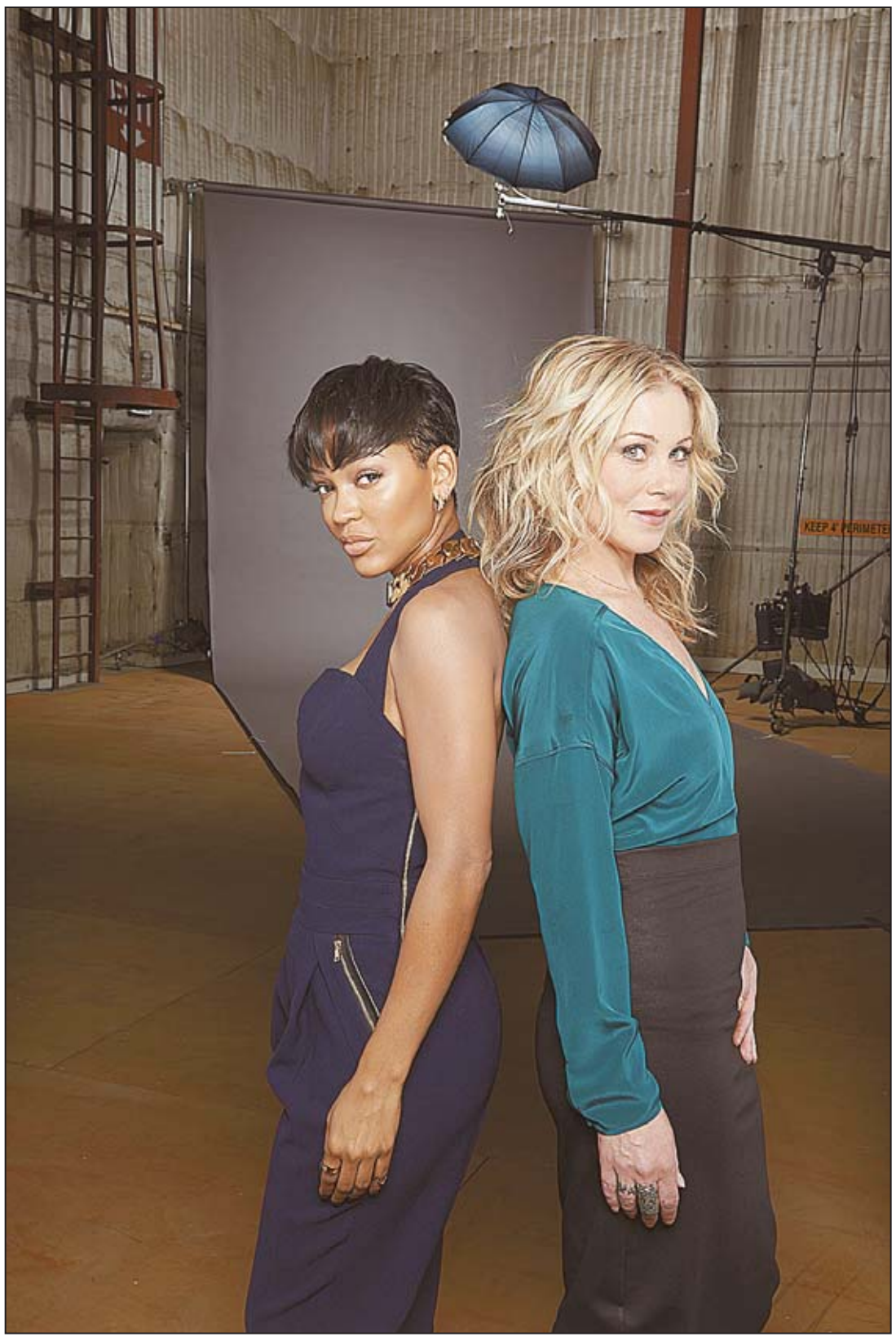
"This new generation, those who were 10 years old when the first movie came out, have found it, so the popularity of it seemed to just grow," said Applegate in a recent phone interview. "And the demand for it started to get bigger, so of course for the studio guys, that's like 'Oh yeah, we definitely have to do it.' "

Recognized for years for portraying Kelly Bundy in the sitcom "Married With Children," which aired on Fox from 1987-1997, the actress said her turn as Veronica has had its challenges.

"The male characters in this movie are strong and multidimensional, so I had to stand my ground and pull myself up and say 'Come on, you're in here too!' " said the 42-year-old actress. "I couldn't shrink away thinking I wasn't doing as good of a job." Applegate gave her co-star, comedy newcomer Good, the same pep talk. "I told her she had to stay up in their zone because her character is the powerhouse in this one," Applegate added.

"It made me feel good to know that Christina cared about me doing a good job," said Good, 32, who appeared in the 2012 hit "Think Like a Man."

As the only black female lead in the movie, Good plays the head of the newsroom. It's a notion that is heavily mocked in the plot. But Good had no problem tackling the tough material with what she calls "morbid humor."



ANDREW MACPHERSON, Paramount Pictures/*AP*

This photo provided by Paramount Pictures shows actresses Meagan Good (left) and Christina Applegate on the Paramount Lot in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

Hobbit: Sequel too much to swallow

Continued from page AA1

the object of affection of both Kili and everyone's favorite elf from the "Lord of the Rings" series, Legolas. Tauriel is tough, impressive as a warrior and obviously possesses a strong heart, but Jackson ignores 30 years of strong females in action films and instead creates a boring love triangle between Tauriel, Legolas and Kili.

Tauriel could have been a role model for young women similar to Katniss Everdeen or Merida, but instead is reduced to a female love interest that says been there, done that. These added plot devices are what ruin this film and turn it into nearly three hours of action broken apart by useless drama and romantic nonsense.

Jackson somehow manages to sneak in one satisfying scoop that is surrounded by a lakey mess of melted ice cream. Jackson's presentation of Smaug the Dragon is fantastic and stands out as the best scene in the film, on par with his great presentation of the meeting between Gollum and Bilbo in the first film. Benedict Cumberbatch ("Sherlock") breathes fiery life into the dragon of myth with both his powerful timbred words and his snake-like movements around the sea of gold. Unfortunately, we don't see this dragon until the last 45 minutes of the film and by that point it's a lot too late.

Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" series was a game-changer because it presented a fantastical world in a fascinating, easily understood way, but Jackson took too much heed of what his critics said when he cut the trilogy books down. Rather than paying particular attention to every word Tolkien wrote in the original novel and presenting the best version of "The Hobbit," Jackson has constructed a convoluted film version of notes by the author and taken too many liberties with the original characters and text. Here's hoping that the final film has some moderation and doesn't turn into an even nastier sweetness than this excessive spoonful.

Patrick White of Hastings is the Tribune's movie reviewer. Email him at pwhite@hastings.edu.

Thompson talks P.L. Travers role in 'Saving Mr. Banks'

FRANK LOVECE
Newsday

NEW YORK — Unlike in the 1964 movie, Mary Poppins in P.L. Travers' books is less merry than she is frequently poppin' off about some transgression or other. Travers herself was no different, and as played by Emma Thompson in "Saving Mr. Banks," the imperious author butted heads with Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) for 20 years as the movie mogul tried to obtain the Mary Poppins film rights.

Thompson, 54, the only person to win an Academy Award for both acting (outstanding actress, 1992's "Howards End") and writing (outstanding adapted screenplay, 1995's "Sense and Sensibility"; she was also nominated for best actress), was born in London and studied at Cambridge University. As a member of its famed sketch-comedy troupe Footlights, she performed alongside future stars Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie. Following a career breakthrough with the 1985 West End musical revival "Me and My Girl," she went on to a string of roles both prestigious and populist, including a guest shot as Frasier's first ex-wife on "Cheers." She herself was married to actor-director Kenneth Branagh from 1989 until separating in 1995, and since 2003 she has been wed to British actor-producer Greg Wise.

The actress, who also earned Oscar nominations for her roles in "The Remains of the Day" and "In the Name of the Father" (both 1993), spoke with Newsday.

Q: Before we talk about the movie, I just want to ask if you're OK after that fall you took yesterday? (During her hand and footprint ceremony at the TLC Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.)

A: I didn't really fall! I was doing a silly pratfall, and the press said I actually fell over, but I didn't. Just one of my clowning things. I was just mucking about. I should learn. I really should learn that any joke like that is liable to be taken seriously.

Q: The British papers said your husband believes that you were made to play "cantankerous, opinionated old bats." So how long will he have to sleep on the couch?

A: Nooooooooo, I don't think he said that. I made a joke about that at the ("Saving Mr. Banks") premiere in London. I was standing onstage and I had written a joke about, "My husband said to me this morning that you play someone who wrote about a nanny, and you've played (the children's-book character Nanny McPhee), and I wonder if behind every nanny there's a cantankerous, opinionated old bat." I'm sure, given the opportunity, he would have said it — I told him I was going to say it, and he said, "Yes, that's quite funny."

Q: Still, the overall point seems to be that you fit the character of P.L. Travers, in that you're very willing to say what you think.

A: No, not at all, actually! I wish I had a little bit more of her courage. I was brought up to be terribly polite and to treat everybody extremely well. Whilst I'll certainly not stint on an opinion if that's what's wanted, I couldn't possibly be as rude or unpleasant as she is. Not that I necessarily think it's a terrible thing to be — she was a very honest woman. But while my friends might say otherwise, I can't think of anyone I resemble less.

Q: And you're being very nice to me, so there you go. You must be offered so many roles, how is it you can choose a prestige project like "Saving Mr. Banks" on the one hand and a not-so-prestigious supernatural teen romance like this year's "Beautiful Creatures" on the other?

A: Well, of course, the quick answer is, I'm not offered so many roles, because there aren't so many roles for middle-aged women.

Q: Your recent remark that dancing with Prince Charles was better than sex exploded across, like, every newspaper in the world. So, um, just how good a dancer is he?

A: It was an off-the-cuff gag, and thanks to Time magazine, which extrapolated that one remark from a 45-minute interview, it has, of course, gone viral. You know, when taken out of context, all of the joy and the humor and the light touch is sucked out of that remark. So now people ask me, "Is dancing with Prince Charles really better than sex?" Am I expected to answer that seriously? I was just having fun, but unfortunately the decontexualization, which happens so much in the printed word these days, kills all humor stone dead.



FRANCOIS DUHAMEL, Disney Enterprises Inc./*MCT*

Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) shows Disneyland to "Mary Poppins" author P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson) in Disney's "Saving Mr. Banks."

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THE HUNGER GAMES: Catching Fire PG13
FRI: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
SAT Eve: 6:30, 9:30
SUN: 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
MON: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
TUES: 12:45 Only

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THURS (Dec. 26): 1:30, 3:50, 6:30, 8:50

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How high are you thinking?



Phillip Alder

Niccolo Machiavelli, an Italian who is famous for writing "The Prince," said, "Ambition is so powerful a passion in the human breast that however high we reach, we are never satisfied."

At the bridge table, we must decide how high we wish to reach. In this deal, North opens one diamond, South responds one spade, and North raises to three spades (yes, he might bid four spades). Now South normally has three choices. He can pass with no interest in game. He can raise to four spades. Any other suit bid shows interest in a slam.

Here, four diamonds is a control-bid (cue-bid), usually indicating the ace. However, since it is partner's first-bid suit, South might have only the diamond king when he does not have the club ace. (Do not make your first control-bid with a shortage — void or singleton — in partner's second suit.)

North then control-bid four hearts. (If North-South had been using Roman Key-Card Blackwood, North would have bid four no-trump.) This allowed South to use Blackwood twice before jumping to seven spades. (Yes, South might have bid seven no-trump.)

West leads the club queen.

After winning trick one with his king, South cashes the spade ace, getting the bad news. Now he crosses to dummy's club ace and plays the spade nine, capturing East's 10 with his king. Back to the board with a heart, another spade through East picks up his trumps and allows declarer to claim.

North
♠ 9 8 5 2
♥ A K
♦ K Q 7 6 3
♣ A 4

West
♠ —
♥ J 9 7 4 2
♦ 10 8 5 4
♣ Q J 10 9

East
♠ J 10 6 3
♥ Q 10 5
♦ 2
♣ 8 6 5 3 2

South
♠ A K Q 7 4
♥ 8 6 3
♦ A J 9
♣ K 7

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
7 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ Q

Phillip Alder is a columnist for Newspaper Enterprise Association.

Books

2 Ohio women held captive have book deal

NEW YORK — Two of the three Ohio women held captive for years in a Cleveland house have a book deal.

Viking announced Monday that it has acquired the planned book by Amanda Berry and Gina DeJesus. The book is currently untitled and is scheduled to come out in 2015.

Berry and DeJesus are working with Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post reporters Mary Jordan and Kevin Sullivan. Negotiations were handled by Washington attorney Robert Barnett, whose clients have ranged from President Barack Obama to Amanda Knox.

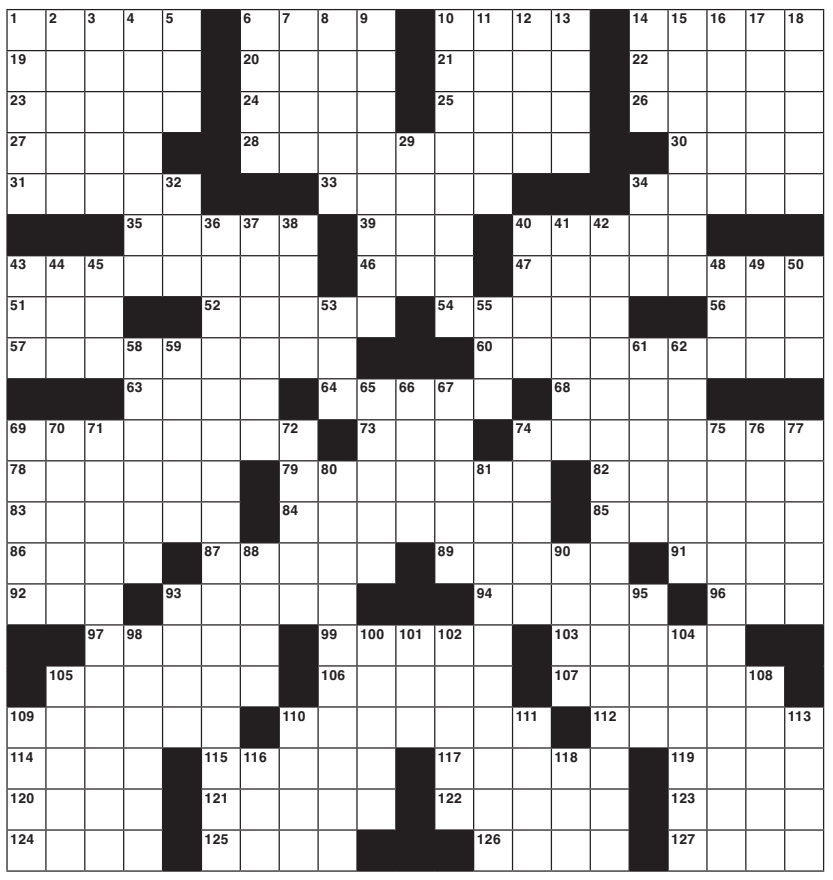
Berry, DeJesus and Michelle Knight were rescued in May and their kidnapper, Ariel Castro, was arrested and eventually sentenced to life in prison. He was found hanged in his cell in September.

The Associated Press

The New York Times Crossword Puzzle

Answers next Saturday

A CUT ABOVE THE REST By Jeff Chen/ Edited by Will Shortz



Across

1 Oceans
6 Bats
10 "The Clan of the Cave Bear" novelist
14 Razz
19 Tennis' Goran Ivanisevic, e.g.
20 A band may be on one
21 Torch-lit event
22 River of forgetfulness in Hades
23 Iron Age people
24 It has nine rooms
25 Ottoman
26 Serve up on a platter, say
27 Collectors of DNA
28 Game twist
30 Some basketball players: Abbr.
31 Espies
33 Profit from
34 "I'm innocent!"
35 Lab safety org.?
39 3-D pic
40 Diner fixtures, informally
43 More rakish
46 Canon offering
47 Clown prop
51 Sitcom ET
52 Walt Disney's middle name
54 Cable inits. since 1996
56 "Be a ___"
57 "Six Million Dollar Man" feature
60 Cabbed it
63 Most likely to be called up
64 From the top
68 Move, informally
69 2400, on the SAT
73 Dolt
74 Like most checks and political candidates
78 Green
79 Not so nice
82 Annual literary prize
83 Picked up, in Britain
84 Home of Velázquez's "Las Meninas"
85 Breakfast dish
86 They break at dawn
87 Angelica and others
89 Like some resolution, for short
91 Showed no restraint, in brief
92 Cask filler
93 Linguistic quintet
94 Parts of sows and cows
96 Head of steam?
97 Place to lounge
99 Jazz great Carmen
103 Cricket's sound
105 Triply
106 Like New Jersey among states admitted to the Union
107 Subway fare
109 Chinese hardliner
110 "Antigone" or "Elektra"
112 One famed for heartlessness
114 Last name in cookies
115 Some notepad jottings
117 It may be left hanging
119 Take out
120 Farmworker in "The Wizard of Oz"
121 Scale unit
122 Tony winner Tharp
123 Spheres
124 Ice cream brand
125 Recess
126 It's what's to be expected
127 "The ___ the limit"

Down

1 Grab
2 Abbr. on a musical score
3 Cause of a crybaby?
4 Provider of an inside look?
5 Nos. after a period, maybe
6 Yen
7 Last name in "Star Wars"
8 Farm females
9 Takes for granted
10 Charitable giving, e.g.
11 Trees with poisonous seeds
12 Marquis's inferior
13 First name in "Star Wars"
14 Girl group with four #1 hits in the 1990s
15 Often-decorative kitchen item, in Britain
16 Aids for long drives
17 Gas bill unit
18 Crisp
29 Lead-in to pop or pass
32 Chicago setting: Abbr.
34 Japanese computer giant
36 [See above]
37 Last place, with "the"
38 Indy 500 winner Luyendyk
40 2007 title role for Ellen Page
41 In utero
42 [See above]
43 Sharp putdown
44 1974 Fassbinder film subtitled "Fear Eats the Soul"
45 Subj. of some 911 calls
48 Figurehead, for short?
49 Like some parenting
50 QB Manning
53 Ottoman V.I.P.
55 RR stop
58 Brown-___ (sycophants)
59 Like one pre-Columbian civilization
61 Parting word
62 Taunting figure
65 Running pants?
66 Subj. for Galileo
67 N.B.A. Hall-of-Famer Thomas
69 Oscar winner Swinton
70 Oscar winner Tatum
71 [See above]
72 Winter month in Spain
74 Withdraw from the bank?
75 [See above]
76 Seashore fliers
77 Twosomes
80 [See above]
81 [See above]
88 "___ kleine Nachtmusik"
90 Per
93 National rival
95 Her name is Norwegian for "beautiful woman who leads you to victory"
98 Van Gogh painting that once sold for a record $53.9 million
100 Highlight of many a western
101 Fix
102 Ain't right?
104 Concerto movements
105 Broke
108 Didn't get involved
109 Pac-Man screen, e.g.
110 ___'clock scholar
111 Numbskull
113 Loch ___
116 Twosome
118 Canon offering, briefly

Answers to last Saturday's puzzle

A	B	B	A	■	■	A	M	O	R	E	■	■	S	P	A	■	U	K	E	S
B	R	A	C	E	■	R	O	P	E	R	■	S	H	A	N	G	R	I	L	A
L	I	B	E	R	T	A	R	I	A	N	■	C	U	R	V	E	B	A	L	L
E	L	O	■	S	I	M	O	N	L	E	B	O	N	■	I	R	A	■	■	■
S	L	O	W	■	N	I	N	E	■	S	U	N	■	S	L	E	N	D	E	R
T	O	N	E	L	E	S	S	■	A	T	R	E	S	T	■	■	E	E	R	O
■	■	■	S	E	A	■	■	■	D	O	G	■	E	E	K	■	■	E	G	O
L	I	T	T	E	R	M	A	T	E	■	■	M	A	E	L	S	T	R	O	M
A	R	A	B	■	S	I	L	E	N	T	■	I	L	D	U	C	E	■	■	■
L	I	N	E	S	■	G	A	S	O	H	O	L	■	S	T	R	E	T	C	H
A	N	D	R	E	S	■	S	T	I	R	S	I	N	■	Z	A	N	I	L	Y
W	A	Y	L	A	I	D	■	A	D	O	P	T	E	D	■	P	A	E	A	N
■	■	■	I	M	L	O	S	T	■	B	R	I	T	O	N	■	M	I	N	D
P	E	N	N	Y	A	N	T	E	■	■	E	A	S	T	O	R	A	N	G	E
E	L	I	■	■	S	K	Y	■	A	M	Y	■	■	■	M	A	R	■	■	■
W	A	L	K	■	■	E	X	T	R	A	S	■	C	S	I	M	I	A	M	I
S	L	E	E	K	L	Y	■	H	E	R	■	P	A	I	N	■	E	L	A	M
■	■	■	P	I	E	■	F	E	A	T	H	E	R	B	E	D	■	B	R	A
B	A	T	T	L	E	C	R	Y	■	H	A	P	P	Y	E	N	D	I	N	G
B	R	A	I	N	D	E	A	D	■	A	N	S	E	L	■	A	R	N	I	E
C	M	O	N	■	S	O	Y	■	■	S	K	I	T	S	■	■	J	O	E	S

TV

'The Bible' sequel

NEW YORK — NBC is bringing viewers more of the Good Book.

The network says it will film the 12-hour miniseries "A.D." as a follow-up to the miniseries "The Bible" that aired on the History channel earlier this year from producers Mark Burnett and Roma Downey.

The network says "A.D." is projected to air on NBC in spring 2015.

No cast has been announced.

"The Bible" was an unexpected hit on History, premiering last March to an audience of 13.1 million viewers.

Burnett is the prolific producer of such series as "The Voice" and "Survivor." His actress wife, Downey, is best known for her long run starring on the drama series "Touched By An Angel."

TV Hall of Fame

LOS ANGELES — The Television Academy is adding six new members to its Hall of Fame, including former "Seinfeld" star Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Jay Leno.

The academy's Hall of Fame selection committee announced the list of inductees for 2014 on Monday.

Louis-Dreyfus is a four-time Emmy Award winner and Leno is known as the host of the "Tonight Show." They'll be joined by media magnate Rupert Murdoch, writer-producer David E. Kelley and network executive Brandon Stoddard.

Sound pioneer Ray Dolby will be inducted posthumously.

The new Hall of Fame members will be honored at a Beverly Hills ceremony in March.

Past honorees include Lucille Ball, Walt Disney, Bob Hope and Bill Cosby.

The Associated Press

Part of Greenwich Village gets landmark status

VERENA DOBNIK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The city's newest historic landmark is part of a neighborhood where generations of American cultural greats staged their art, music, literature and politics — from Edgar Allan Poe and Bob Dylan to Miles Davis and Allen Ginsberg.

About 250 buildings in Manhattan's Greenwich Village that reach back to the 1800s gained historic district status Tuesday after a unanimous vote by the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission. Row houses, small theaters, cafes and clubs that welcomed the likes of Lenny Bruce and Eugene O'Neill are part of the 13-block South Village Historic District adjoining Washington Square Park.

Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney called the landmarking, which will make it much more difficult for developers to touch the area, "a slam dunk."

Without landmarking, many famed spots have disappeared, including the San Remo Cafe, which billed itself as America's first Italian coffeehouse and was a favorite hangout of Davis, Jack Kerouac, Dylan Thomas, William Burroughs and others who made the Village "one of the most important cultural and social centers of the city," the commission said.

Musician and software entrepreneur Mark Fiedler, who has lived in the neighborhood for at least three decades, said he was "ecstatic" over the designation.

"We've been waiting a very, very long time for this," he said.

The Village Gate nightclub and Back Fence bar are gone, but the Bitter End survived, along with memories of Peter, Paul and Mary and Woody Allen. Opposite Fiedler's apartment house is a new eight-floor building that blocks what was once his view of the Empire State Building uptown.

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As NORAD Tracks Santa, critics track NORAD

DAN ELLIOTT
The Associated Press

DENVER — The U.S. and Canadian military will entertain millions of kids again this Christmas Eve with second-by-second updates on Santa's global whereabouts. But there's something new this year: public criticism.

A children's advocacy group says an animated video on the NORAD Tracks Santa website injects militarism into Christmas by showing fighter jets escorting Santa's sleigh. It's a rare swipe at the popular program, which last year attracted a record 22.3 million unique visitors from around the world to its website.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command defends the video as nonthreatening and safe for kids.

The kerfuffle erupted two weeks ago over a 39-second video on noradsanta.org called "NORAD Tracks Santa Trailer Video 2013."

A 5-second segment of the video — which is also available on youtube.com — shows two fighter jets flanking Santa.

The Boston-based Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood said the video brings violence and militarism to a beloved tradition. Others had similar criticism. Blogs and Twitter lit up with volleys from both sides.

Josh Golin, the coalition's associate director, reiterated his criticism in an interview with The Associated Press — but he called the brouhaha "a media-manufactured controversy." The coalition hadn't known about the fighter jet video until reporters called, he said.

"Nobody in my organization was out there protesting," he said.

U.S. Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a NORAD spokesman, said he understands the critics' point of view but disagrees.

"We really do feel strongly that it's something that is safe and nonthreatening, and not something that would negatively impact children," he said. "In fact, we think that it's a lot of fun."

Davis said the fighter escort is nothing new. NORAD began depicting jets accompanying Santa and his reindeer in the 1960s, he said.

And he insisted the fighters in the video are unarmed: They're Canadian Air Force CF-18s, with a large external fuel tank under the belly that might look like a bomb. The wing racks that would carry bombs or missiles are empty, he explained.

The flap has driven lots of viewers to the video — nearly 265,000 on YouTube by midday Monday.

"That's way off the charts for any other videos we've done before," Davis said.

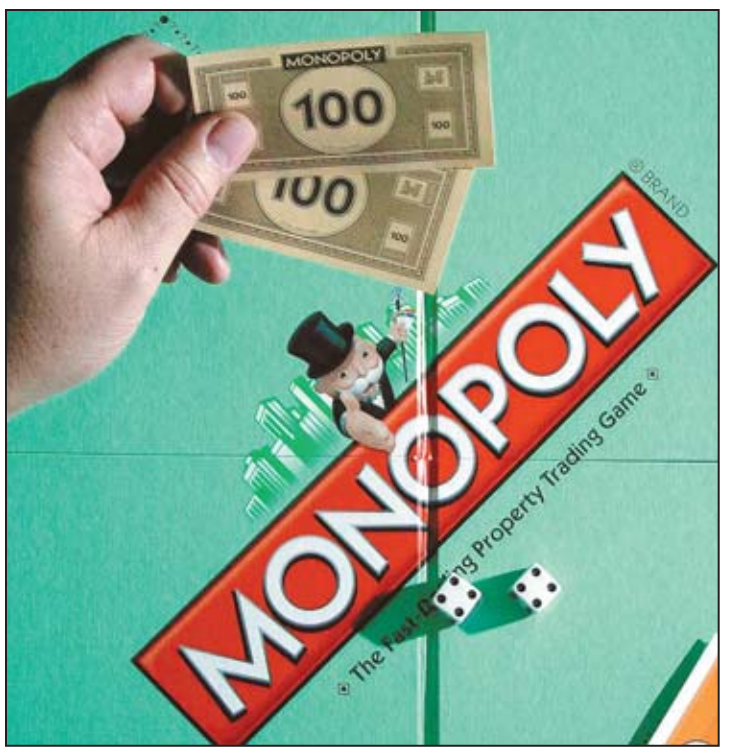
A second video on noradsanta.org and on YouTube, "NORAD Tracks Santa Command Video 2013," has drawn nearly 122,000 views. It's a longer, fast-paced mix of animation and real-life footage billed as a test flight for Santa, who gets the military tag "Big Red One."

"This is very much a fun and safe and nonviolent site that children of all ages can visit," Davis said. "Parents can be confident their children will walk away (and) have had fun and potentially have learned something, too."



BRENNAN LINSLEY/*AP*

In this Dec. 24, 2012, file photo, NORAD Deputy Commander Lt. General Alain Parent (center) of the Royal Canadian Air Force takes phone calls from children asking where Santa is and when he will deliver presents to their house during the annual NORAD Tracks Santa Operation at the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD, at Peterson Air Force Base, in Colorado Springs, Colo. Also fielding calls are U.S. Navy Capt. Jeff Davis (left) and U.S. Air Force Maj. Chris Bendig.



RICK BOWMER/*AP*

This April 13, 2011, file photo shows a Monopoly game in Portland, Ore. When it comes to "play," not all parents do a happy dance, says Silvana Clark, who lives in Seattle and has written a dozen primarily family-focused books. But like it or not, the bigger question, she said, is whether parents have forgotten how to play altogether in these stressed-out, overbooked times, when dropping kids off at classes or other structured activities prevails, along with loads of time-eating homework.

What happens when parents don't like to play with kids?

LEANNE ITALIE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Silvana Clark spent 10 years as a parks and recreation supervisor for the city of Bellingham, Wash., yet when it came time to raise children, there were certain things she just didn't love to play.

"When we played Monopoly we were the worst. We actually applauded each other if you could steal money out of the bank without the other person knowing it," she recalled. "We would say to our daughter, 'You stole $100. That was so good. Just don't do that with your friends.' "

When the younger of her two now-grown daughters was about 8, mom realized she hadn't experienced the scent of fresh-baked cookies filling their house.

"I just don't like to bake cookies, so I took a pot of water and I put cinnamon and vanilla in it and I boiled it," Clark said. "She came home from school and she goes, 'Wow, what's that smell? That smells so good.' And I said, 'Well if I were baking cookies, that's what it would smell like.' "

But there were countless other things Clark and her husband enjoyed, like making homemade Play-Doh, in mom's case, or pushing the girls on a rope swing that straddled a pond, in dad's. The couple lived guilt-free about the rest, believing their kids had plenty of quality time with their parents.

When it comes to "play," parents should not feel honor-bound to participate in exactly what their kids want to do, said Clark, who now lives in Seattle and has written a dozen primarily family-focused books.

Like it or not, the bigger question, she said, is whether parents have forgotten how to play altogether in these stressed-out, overbooked times, when dropping kids off at classes or other structured activities prevails, along with loads of time-eating homework.

"I'm totally shocked when I'll do a parenting seminar and I'll do something as simple as say, 'Why don't you play hide and seek in your house?' and people look at me and they'll go, 'What? I never thought of playing hide and seek in our house,' " Clark said. "I'm not asking them to construct a model of the Eiffel Tower or anything."

Quality time, she suggested, doesn't have to mean a hated board game or endlessly pretending you're a cat. It can mean a trip to the hardware store, if done with spirit — and even TV, something parents may depend on a little too much during school breaks.

One weekend ahead of the Tony Awards, her theater-loving family spent an afternoon drawing the New York skyline on a huge length of butcher paper and taped it to the wall. They taped down red construction paper for a red carpet leading to the TV room, bought sparkling cider and dressed in their fanciest clothes for the broadcast.

"As long as kids have your full attention, it can be as simple as taking the dog for a walk together or getting a bird feeder and reading about how to attract birds," Clark said.

