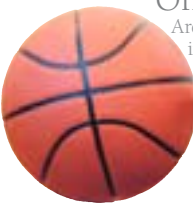


ACT team members meet with South Central Behavioral Services Center to discuss possible move to facility.

Page A5



On the line
Area teams battle in district finals for right to advance to girls state tournament.
Page C1

Army struggles to shorten Guard deployments

LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Army National Guard combat units that go to Iraq or Afghanistan through much of the next two years will be on active duty for longer than 12 months despite the Pentagon's pledge to try limiting deployments to a year, Army and Guard officials say.

The effort to shorten tours of duty to a year — they're now roughly 18 months — was designed to ease the strain on troops and their families, in part by jamming more war preparation into the soldiers' routine monthly training exercises at home. However, Army and National Guard leaders told

The Associated Press that efforts to transfer more training to the states so soldiers can train at home won't be done in time to benefit the thousands of troops going to war this year and in 2008. That is because states don't have the equipment, soldiers or plans they need to do the extra training, officials said.

"It's going to be hard to shorten it at all because so much has to happen," Maj. Gen. Roger Lempke of Nebraska, president of the Adjutants General Association of the United States, said in an interview. Adjutants general command the guard in each state. "If they're going in early 2008, they would almost need to start

preparing this minute," he said. Guard soldiers typically travel to military centers around the country for up to six months of training before heading to the battlefield for a year, a total of 18 months on active duty. No final decisions have been made, but Guard officials say they have contingency plans to send two or more Guard combat brigades back to Iraq in

2008 for their second yearlong tour of duty. Brigades usually have about 3,500 troops. Bryan Whitman, a Pentagon spokesman, said Thursday that no such deployments have been proposed to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, but other officials have said the planning includes the possibility of tapping Guard **Please see GUARD/page A7**

School crisis plans play integral role

PREPARATIONS HELP HANDLE VARIETY OF SITUATIONS

DEANN STUMPE
dstumpe@hastingstribune.com
In a complicated society, school crisis plans are becoming more and more of an integral part of administrative and staff planning. The plans must be in place and ready to activate at any given time. This was evident Wednesday morning when local school officials activated portions of their crisis plans to protect students from the potential threat of a runaway youth. During the incident, Hastings Public Schools activated their "yellow schedule," which means all exterior doors on all buildings were locked. Craig Kautz, HPS assistant superintendent for curriculum and human resources, said the different schedules are part of the school district's crisis management planning. Kautz said the first objective of crisis planning is keeping the students safe. "At all times, student safety is our No. 1 priority," Kautz said. The plans also include communication with students' parents, Kautz said. One of the largest parts of crisis planning is preparing for the untimely death of a student or a member of the staff. Kautz said as soon as the administration is notified of a tragedy, the district's crisis teams are deployed. The crisis teams are made up of counselors and staff who have completed training in areas such as grief counseling.

Please see PLANS/page A7

'Window to the Outside World'



Above: Tim Soucek and Mary Sayer, both 9, get to try on a constrictor snake during a demonstration of rainforest creatures Friday at the Hastings Museum. Top: A parrot puts an aluminum can into a recycling bin to show how easy it is to recycle during Dave "Crittterman" Kleven's demonstration of rainforest animals Friday at the Hastings Museum.

'Crittterman' teaches students about exotic animals

RAINFOREST PROGRAM CONVEYS IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING WORLD

SHAY BURK
sburk@hastingstribune.com
Crawling spiders, hissing cockroaches, climbing primates and hundreds of children filled the Hastings Museum of Natural and Cultural History on Friday. David Kleven, known as the "Crittterman," presented nearly 1,000 children with exotic rain forest animals, like small noisy insects and large cat-like creatures, in a series of five programs. "What I hope you get out of this is a greater appreciation for these animals because they're beautiful and interesting," said Kleven, of Aubrey, Texas. "If we learn about them, we'll care more about them. And if we care about them, we're more likely to help animals and places where they live."



Dave Kleven gets an iguana to show its tongue while giving a demonstration of rainforest animals to school children Friday at the Hastings Museum.

Children from schools in Kearney, Ravenna, Clay Center, Hastings and Spalding got a up-close look at a tarantula and hissing cockroach during the educational program. Kleven introduced the group to Banshee, a blue-and-gold

macaw, or parrot — an animal that knows the importance of saving the planet. "There's three words you need to know. I'll say the first two, and listen real close and Banshee will say the third," Kleven said. "Reduce, reuse..."

"Recycle," the bird said after a few seconds. While Banshee was able to say "recycle," Kleven said parrots aren't able to talk or carry on conversations. Instead, he said, these birds mimic sounds they hear, partly as a form of defense. Kleven said macaws will mimic the sounds of predatory birds in an effort to protect themselves. He also showed the children a tarantula, a red tagu iguana, a hissing cockroach, a ring-tailed lemur, a Burmese python and a binturong, or bearcat. Kleven said binturongs are known as bearcats for two reasons. The resemblance of a bear comes from the way they stand on their hind legs to reach above them. Binturongs also are known to meow like a cat, and when fighting, they are known to sound like tomcats in an alley fight, Kleven said. "It's not pretty," he said. **Please see MUSEUM/page A7**



Artist rendering courtesy Hastings College

HC announces plan for new science building

TONY HERRMAN
therman@hastingstribune.com
The Alumni Room at Hastings College's Daughtery Center was bubbling with excitement Friday afternoon during a news conference announcing plans for the college's new \$10-million science building. "Completion of a new science center is the single most important challenge facing Hastings College," HC President Phil Dudley said. "Our existing building has served the college well for half a century, but we are anxious to provide more spacious, up-to-date laboratories and classrooms for the growing number of students majoring in the sciences."

Please see HC/page A7

Weather

Hi: 42
Lo: 25

Blizzard watch in effect from this afternoon through tonight.



Art by Dallas Bruning, 9, Sandy Creek Elementary

TAX PAYERS NOT SEEKING PHONE TAX PAYBACK
WASHINGTON — Taxpayers have already received almost \$87 billion in income tax refunds this year, but many are neglecting to ask for a modest refund from a

now defunct telephone tax. So says the Internal Revenue Service, which reported Friday that as of Feb. 17 it had processed refunds worth \$86.9 billion from about 31.8 million returns, up 5.8 percent in dollar amounts compared to the same time in the 2006 filing season. The average refund was \$2,733, up

3.6 percent from the previous year. The tax agency expects to process about 136 million individual income tax returns by April 17, the deadline this year. So far it has received almost 38 million returns, of which 30 million were filed electronically. *The Associated Press*

Nation

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Obituaries

BONITA J. ARTZ

Former area resident, Bonita June Artz, 78, died Thursday, February 22, 2007, at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney.

Services are 2 p.m. Monday at First Christian Church in Alma with Pastor Larry Doubet officiating with O.E.S. funeral rites by Republican Chapter No. 304. Burial will be in Alma Cemetery at Alma. Visitation is 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Banta-Torrey Funeral Home.

Memorials may be given to Alma Public School Kindergarten Room.



Artz

Mrs. Bonita June Artz was born the first child of four children to Doyle Vernon and Mabel (Hill) Kreutz on April 8, 1928 on a farm east of Trumbull. Bonnie, as everyone came to know her, attended grade school and high school at Trumbull where she graduated with the class of 1946. She attended Hastings College one year, before teaching at Huntley two years, Ragan one year, Stamford one year and the kindergarten class in Alma for twenty years, retiring in 1984. She attended Kearney State College where she received her bachelor's degree in 1971 and her master's degree in special education and library science in 1975. On August 22, 1948, Miss Bonita June Kreutz was united in marriage to Dean Burdell Artz at the Kreutz family farm southeast of Trumbull. To this union, three children were born: a son, Lynn Doyle and two daughters, Carol Ann and Julie Kay. The family resided

one year southwest of Huntley until the spring of 1949 when they moved to the William Lutjeharms farm one mile south and one mile west of the Huntley spur on U.S. Highway 183. They moved to Alma in the fall of 1964. They moved to their new home at 808 North Division Street in 1971. Bonnie was baptized as a young adult and was a member of the First Christian Church in Alma where she was also a member of the church choir and taught Sunday School. She was also a member of the Excelsior Chapter No. 88 of the Order of the Eastern Star at Alma, the Delta Kappa Gamma, a teacher's sorority and the Red Hat Women's Society.

Bonnie enjoyed square dancing, extension club, several card clubs, golfing, bridge, crafts, and traveling to their winter home in Mesa, Ariz.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her father in 1953, her mother in 1980, and one sister Geraldine Miller and her husband Floyd.

Survivors include her husband Dean of Alma; her son Lynn and wife Dee of Kearney; two daughters, Carol Pearson and husband Jimmy of Amarillo, Texas, and Julie Artz of San Andreas, Calif. and her daughter Alexis Martino of Chicago; one brother, Rex Kreutz and wife Fran of Hastings; one sister, Delores Tewell and husband Francis of Wenatchee, Wash.; step-grandchildren, Holly Blume and husband Zach of Lincoln, Nicole Hasselbalch of Lincoln, Michael Pearson of Amarillo, Texas; one step-great-grandchild, Sydney Hasselbalch of Lincoln; other relatives and a host of friends.

EMILY COLE

Hastings resident, Emily Cole, 91, of Good Samaritan Village Perkins Pavilion, died Monday, February 19, 2007, at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in Hastings.

Services are 2:00 p.m. Tuesday at Butler-Volland Funeral Home chapel in Hastings with the Rev. Millard Huett officiating. Burial will be in Parkview Cemetery in Hastings. Visitation is 1-9 p.m. Monday and 9 a.m. until services Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be given to the family's choice.

Condolences may be sent to www.lbvfh.com.



Cole

Francis. She married Freddie Cole on August 25, 1939, and he preceded her in death in October 1993. She was a homemaker and had resided in Hastings for 58 years.

Mrs. Cole was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Freddie Cole, Sr.; a daughter, Emily Marie Brown; a son, Melvin Cole; a grandson, Maurice Hill; two sisters, Beatrice Shonee and Lena Francis; and three brothers, John, Clark, and Robert Francis.

Survivors include her children, Audrey Hill and Ray Cole of Pittsburg, Calif., Freddie Cole, Sr. of Omaha, Carolyn Murphy and Judith Scriven of Hastings; eighteen grandchildren; forty-two great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; sisters, Maude Conner of New Iberia, La. and Melissa Francis of Houston; and brothers, Wallace Francis, Raymond Francis, and Rivers Francis, all of Houston.

MARION R. FREY

Red Cloud resident Marion Robert Frey, 91, died Friday, February 23, 2007, at Heritage Care Center in Red Cloud.

Services are 1:30 p.m. Monday at Simonson-Williams Funeral Home chapel in Red Cloud with the Reverend Ronald Kuehner officiating. Burial will be in Guide Rock Cemetery at Guide Rock. Visitation will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and until service time on Monday.

Condolences may be sent to www.wmsfh.com.

Survivors include a brother, Everett Frey of Red Cloud; sisters, Frances Brubaker and Evelyn Oberheide of Red Cloud, and Ardis Gerlach and husband Wayne of Cowles.

He was preceded in death by sisters, Bernice Frey and Esther Waugh; and brothers Lee and Neil Frey.

SHARON PRUSIA

Former area resident Sharon Prusia, 73, of Lakewood, Colo., died Wednesday, February 21, 2007, in Lakewood.

Services are 2 p.m. Tuesday at Hutchins Funeral Home chapel in Franklin with the Reverend Neil Kloppenborg of-

ficiating. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery at Franklin. Visitation is 5-8 p.m. Monday and 9 a.m. until services Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be given to the family.

Rapper Sigel back in court

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A judge extended Beanie Sigel's supervised release after the rapper was questioned in federal court about a positive drug test and association with convicted felons.

Sigel was sentenced in October 2004 to 12 months

and a day, plus two years of supervised release, on gun and drug charges.

The U.S. Probation Office asked for a hearing Wednesday to change his supervised release status, saying he failed to notify his probation officer that he had been stopped and questioned by police on Aug. 20.

PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA INTERIM CONDUCTOR NAMED

PHILADELPHIA — Charles Dutoit, former music director of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, has been named interim conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra while it searches for a new director.

Dutoit, a frequent guest conductor who oversees the orchestra's summer series in Saratoga, N.Y., has been named to the new post of chief conductor and artistic adviser, orchestra President James Undercoffer announced to musicians following Thursday night's concert at the Kimmel Center.

Beginning in September 2008, Dutoit, 70, will lead the orchestra in up to eight weeks of concerts per season in Philadelphia and on tour. He has a contract through the 2011-12 season.

The orchestra announced in October that Christoph Eschenbach would be departing as musical director after a three-year run. Eschenbach, 66, is remaining as conductor until the end of the 2007-08 season and will return for concerts in January and February 2009.

The Philadelphia Orchestra Association plans to formalize its search process for a new music director this summer.

Dutoit, a native of Switzerland, made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in 1980. He directed the orchestra's summer series at The Mann Center between 1990 and 1999, but was twice passed over for the job of music director.

He was music director of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra from 1977 to 2002.

DWI CASE DROPPED AGAINST OPERA STAR

NEW YORK — A drunken-driving case against opera singer Jerry Hadley — who was arrested while sitting in a parked car — was dismissed at the request of prosecutors.

Prosecutors moved to drop the charge after concluding they could not make a case that Hadley intended to drive drunk, Jennifer Kushner, a spokeswoman for District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, said Thursday.

The case was dismissed Tuesday. Hadley, 54, was arrested on Manhattan's Upper West Side in May. A woman had reported seeing him in a drunken state before getting into a car, and he was found at the wheel with the key in the ignition, authorities said.

Prosecutors said at the time that the "intent" to drive was enough to warrant a DWI charge. Hadley's lawyer, Lou Freeman, said then that the singer never intended to drive because he realized he was too tipsy to do so once he got behind the wheel.

The Grammy Award-winning singer apologized Friday and said the arrest has been blown out of proportion.

"While I certainly was under the influ-

NewsMakers

Dancing partners



GARTH VAUGHAN/AP

Actor and singer Joey Fatone takes a twirl on the Cinderella Castle stage at Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Friday with his new dance partner, Kym Johnson. It was announced earlier this week that Fatone will be one of 11 celebrities featured on the fourth season of the ABC competition series "Dancing with the Stars." Fatone, who has starred in Broadway's "Rent" and in films including "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," is most famous as a member of the multi-platinum-selling pop group 'N Sync. Fatone and Johnson are currently in Orlando, Fla., training for the new season of the show, which debuts March 19.

ence — I had too much to drink at a business lunch — I went back to my car because I needed to collect all my things before going to the home of my friend so I wouldn't have to drive," Hadley said.

"Out of habit, I stuck the key in the ignition of the car. ... The car was never started."

The Illinois-born Hadley is considered a world-class romantic tenor. He has sung in a roster of major opera houses, appearing in works as varied as composer John Harbison's "The Great Gatsby" and Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte."

HUGH HEFNER AGREES WITH FLORIDA JUDGE

LOS ANGELES — Hugh Hefner says he believes Anna Nicole Smith — a Playboy Playmate in 1992 — wanted to be buried in the Bahamas next to her late son, Daniel.

A judge in Florida, where Smith died this month, awarded custody of her remains to a court-appointed lawyer for Smith's 5-month-old daughter, Dannielynn, and urged that burial be in the Bahamas. The lawyer then announced that the Bahamas would be Smith's final resting place.

"I think she was a dear person," Hefner, the founder of Playboy, told reporters Thursday at an event to announce the lineup of the annual Playboy Jazz Festival. His comments were broadcast by KCBS-TV.

"We miss her and I think probably that

decision was the right one. I think she wanted to be there with her boy, with her son," the 80-year-old Hefner said.

A hearing in Fort Lauderdale ended Thursday with a decision to bury Smith at a Nassau cemetery beside her son, who died last year while visiting her days after she gave birth to Dannielynn.

Smith's estranged mother, Virgie Arthur, wanted to bury Smith in her native Texas.

BIRTHDAYS

Actor Abe Vigoda is 86. Actor Steven Hill is 85. Actor-singer Dominic Chianese is 76. Movie composer Michel Legrand is 75. Actor James Farentino is 69. Actor Edward James Olmos is 60. Singer-writer-producer Rupert Holmes is 60. Actress Debra Jo Rupp is 56. Actress Helen Shaver is 56. News anchor Paula Zahn is 51. Country singer Sammy Kershaw is 49. Singer Michelle Shocked is 45. Movie director Todd Field is 43. Actor Billy Zane is 41. Actress Bonnie Somerville is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Brandon Brown (Mista) is 24.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Great events make me quiet and calm; it is only trifles that irritate my nerves."

— Queen Victoria, British monarch (1819-1901)

The Associated Press

Studio sues blogger for topless photo of Aniston

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A Hollywood movie studio filed a lawsuit claiming gossip blogger Perez Hilton posted a stolen topless photograph of Jennifer Aniston on the Web.

Universal City Studios Productions LLLP filed the suit Tuesday claiming the stolen image was posted on the perezhilton Internet site by Mario Lavandeira, aka Hilton.

The picture was allegedly "misappropriated and illegally

copied" during production or post-production of the 2006 romantic comedy hit "The Break-Up," starring the actress and Vince Vaughn, the suit said.

The shot of Aniston, 38, was not included in the final version of the movie, which earned more than \$118 million at the box office.

The lawsuit, claiming copyright infringement and filed in U.S. District Court, said Lavandeira "posted all or parts of the stolen footage from the motion picture on his Web site."

The suit seeks an injunction barring further distribution of the picture and requests a court order "directing the U.S. Marshal to seize" the copyrighted material from the 28-year-old blogger.

The complaint demanded a jury trial and monetary damages to be determined by the court.

Last September, Aniston and celebrity photographer Peter Brandt settled a lawsuit regarding topless photos Brandt shot of the actress in late 2005.

"It's a confidential settlement," Aniston attorney Jay

Lavelly said. "The matter was amicably resolved."

Aniston had sued Brandt in December 2005, claiming he invaded her privacy by using a telephoto lens to photograph her inside her home when she was topless or partly dressed.

She alleged in the lawsuit that Brandt used "invasive, intrusive and unlawful measures" to capture the images. Brandt said he took the photos while standing on a public street about 300 yards away from Aniston's home.

Tribland

The following couples recently applied for marriage licenses at the Adams County Clerk's Office: Kenneth Tyson Fesulnai, of Hastings, and Shannon Elise Stormy Carusone, of Juniata; Rocky Dale Zimmerman and Chandra Marie Gaston, both of Ayr; Michael Joseph Svoboda and Tia J. Ebert, both of Harvard; and Tracy Allen Polage and Phyllis Jean Polage, and Steven Matthew Peddicord and Gloriann Renee Hodson, all of Hastings.

Charlotte, on your 90th birthday, today, my best wishes and deep thanks for your friendship of 50 years. Please accept my love and gratitude for your life. Bev. -Adv.

Elks Wednesday burger, barbecued country-style ribs night 6:30 to 8:00. Public welcome. -Adv.

Knights of Columbus Annual Pork Feed, February 24, 5:00 to 9:00. \$8.00 advance, \$9.00 at door. Tickets at usual places. -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Joanne M. Meents, of Blue Hill, and Deann Faimon Kotimetscher, of Deweese, collided Thursday at 501 N. Burlington Ave.

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

Giant Garage Sale, Saturday, March 3, 9:00 to 3:00, Adams County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by Hastings Tribune. -Adv.

Gospel Life Fellowship special speaker from Las Vegas, Nevada, Saturday, March 3, 7:00 p.m., 521 West 3rd. -Adv.

Karaoke at Wanda's, Saturday, the 24th, 9:00 p.m.; music by Mike's Music. 623 West 1st. -Adv.

Korky Lightner Auction, 213 South Woodland...new items, Monday, February 26, 5:30. -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Denise D. Schneider, of 35 Kingston Drive, and Juan Carlos Sosa, of 36 Kingston Drive, collided Thursday on Kingston Drive near Maywood Drive.

Project Management workshop begins Tuesday, March 6, at Central Community College. Call Susan at 402-461-2431 or 1-877-222-0780 extension 2431. -Adv.

Reward! Need help in locating the white four-door car or person responsible for the hit-and-run damage to my vehicle in Hastings Saturday night, February 17. 402-831-0407. -Adv.

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.

Prime rib \$10.95 Saturdays at Taylors; dine-in. 462-8000. -Adv.

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

Vehicles reportedly driven by Alan R. Fisk, of 116 N. Kingston Drive, and Michael R. Buchanan, of 319 E. Fourth St., collided Thursday on Third Street near Kansas Avenue.

Vital Signs Health Fair March 24 and 25. Register online now at mlmh.org -Adv.

Area funerals

Today

◆ Leonard Williams, of Hastings, 10 a.m. at Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hastings.

◆ Laurence Johnson, 71, of Hastings, 10 a.m. at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Hastings.

Monday, Feb. 26

◆ Marion Frey, 91, of Red Cloud, 1:30 p.m. at Simonson-Williams Funeral Home chapel in Red Cloud.

Tuesday, Feb. 27

◆ Emily Cole, 91, of Hastings, 2 p.m. at Butler-Volland Funeral Home chapel in Hastings.

◆ Sharon Prusia, 73, of Lakewood, Colo., 2 p.m. at Hutchins Funeral Home chapel in Franklin.

Democrat Vilsack drops out of presidential race

MIKE GLOVER
The Associated Press
DES MOINES, Iowa — Democrat Tom Vilsack, the former Iowa governor who built a centrist image, abandoned his bid for the presidency on Friday after struggling against better-known, better-financed rivals.

"It is money and only money that is the reason we are leaving today," Vilsack told reporters at a news conference, later adding, "We have a debt we're going to have to work our way through."

Vilsack, 56, left office in January and traveled to early voting states, but he attracted neither the attention nor the campaign cash of his top-tier rivals — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Sen. Barack Obama and John Edwards. He even faced obstacles in his home state.

In the most recent financial documents, Vilsack reported raising more than \$1.1 million in the last seven weeks of 2006 but only had around \$396,000 in the bank. Some campaign finance experts contend candidates will need \$20 million by June 2007 to remain viable.

"I came up against something for the first time in my life that hard work and effort couldn't overcome," he said, his wife, Christie, and two grown sons at his side. "I just couldn't work any harder, couldn't give it enough."

Vilsack's withdrawal still leaves a crowded field of eight Democrats. He will remain an important figure in the presidential race as former rivals undoubtedly will seek his endorsement and help to win Iowa.

Vilsack, who likely will be

considered as a vice presidential nominee, repeatedly declined to endorse another candidate at his news conference.

Other campaigns immediately began to seek out Vilsack's well-respected staff, hoping to pick up talented political operatives with experience in the first nominating state, and his political backers.

Gary Hirshberg, CEO and founder of Stonyfield Farm yogurt, was one of Vilsack's earliest and most prominent New Hampshire supporters. He said two minutes after Vilsack's announcement, Obama called seeking his support. Hirshberg told Obama he wasn't ready to commit to another candidate yet.

"Although we're absolutely undecided, I was very impressed," Hirshberg said.



JIM COLE/AP
Former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack acknowledges applause at the Merrimack County victory party and pot luck supper in Concord, N.H., Nov. 30, 2006.

North Korea invites IAEA chief to visit

The Associated Press
VIENNA, Austria — North Korea on Friday asked the chief U.N. atomic inspector to visit four years after expelling his experts and dropping out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty — an encouraging sign the reclusive regime is serious about dismantling its weapons program.

Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, offered few details about his upcoming trip, which other agency officials said would likely occur in the second week of March.

Still, his announcement was significant because it signaled the North's willingness to subject its nuclear program to outside scrutiny for the first time since withdrawing from the Nonproliferation Treaty in January 2003, just weeks after ordering nuclear inspectors to leave.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hailed the invitation — which came five months after the North conducted its first nuclear weapon test — as a "good beginning," an interpretation shared by the U.S. administration.

Tribland five-day forecast
Art by Dallas Bruning, 9, Sandy Creek Elementary

SNOWY TODAY
High: 42 Low: 25
Wind: East 25-35
Blizzard watch in effect through late tonight.

SNOWY SUNDAY
High: 35 Low: 19
Wind: Northwest 20-30
Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow.

PARTLY CLOUDY MONDAY
High: 35 Low: 22
Partly cloudy at night.

SUNNY TUESDAY
High: 42 Low: 28
Mostly clear Tuesday night.

RAINY WEDNESDAY
High: 52 Low: 25
Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain.

Nations push for cluster bomb treaty

DOUG MELLGREN
The Associated Press
OSLO, Norway — Forty-six countries agreed Friday to push for a global treaty banning cluster bombs, a move activists hope will force the superpowers that oppose the effort — the U.S., China and Russia — to abandon the weapons.

Organizers said the declaration was needed despite the absence of key nations at a conference in the Norwegian capital to avoid a potential humanitarian disaster posed by unexploded cluster munitions.

Cluster bomblets are packed by the hundreds into artillery shells, bombs or missiles which scatter them over vast areas, with some failing to explode immediately. The unexploded bomblets can then lie dormant for years after conflicts end until they are disturbed, often by children attracted by their small size and bright colors.

Of the 49 countries attending the Oslo conference, only three — Japan, Poland and Romania — rejected the declaration calling for a treaty by next year. Some key arms makers — including the

U.S., Russia, Israel and China — snubbed the conference.

But even deeply skeptical nations like Canada, Britain and Germany, were swayed to join the Norwegian-led initiative in what activists hailed as a major step forward.

Jody Williams, an American who shared the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for a global campaign to ban land mines, urged nations supporting a cluster bomb treaty to move ahead without the major powers.

ELITE TOUR SPECIALS
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DEADWOOD IN SPRING		
4 Days May 20-23	3 Nights at Cadillac Jack's Hotel & Casino Casino Fun Book & Welcoming Party Departs from Hastings, Grand Island, & Kearney	only \$199 pp/do
TAMA-MESKWAKI CASINO TOUR		
3 Days June 7-10	2 Nights Lodging \$60 Cash Back • (3) \$3 Food Vouchers Departs from Hastings & Grand Island	only \$99 pp/do

www.GOELITETOURS.com

Severe Back, Disc or Leg Pain?

Grand Island— Have you considered or tried pills, therapy, injections, massage, stretching or surgery for your severe back, buttock or leg pain and failed? It can certainly make you wonder if your severe back pain will ever go away. If you'll ever be able to have a "normal" life again. The frustration of chronic daily pain combined with a long line of failed treatment can be enough to drive even the most well grounded folk over the edge...

- They told you to take more and more pills
- They told you to stop bending.
- They told you to stretch
- They told you to go to therapy
- They told you to do exercises
- They told you to stop doing the things you love most
- They told you to try injections
- They told you "Try surgery or just live with it. And not just one, but many may have failed you...

Only if you are serious about eradicating your severe back pain should you read any further... because there is a back pain technology that your doctor may not even know about that is non-invasive, non-surgical and has been designed to treat severe low back, buttock and leg pain along with herniated and slipped discs.

Are you wondering if there is anything at all that can be done even though every treatment you've tried has failed? Grand Island Chiropractor... Dr. Jeff Uhrmacher has just released a complimentary guide entitled, "The Severe Back, Sciatica, And Disc Pain Guide".

Discover why your back treatments may have failed and a technology relatively new to Nebraska that may provide a solution. For a free copy of the guide, call 1-888-764-2954 (Toll-free 24 Hour recorded message) ...or go to: www.mydiscpainhelp.com NuSPINE Rehabilitation



BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP
A rat runs between chairs inside a KFC-Taco Bell restaurant in Greenwich Village in New York Friday.

Rodents invade KFC, Taco Bell restaurant

VERENA DOBNIK
The Associated Press
NEW YORK — New Yorkers are used to seeing rats where they catch their trains — not where they buy their burritos.

About a dozen rats were having a grand party Friday in a locked KFC/Taco Bell restaurant, scampering around the floor, playing with each other and sniffing for food as they dashed around tables and children's high chairs.

Onlookers could not keep their eyes away from the jaw-dropping sight — a gang of urban vermin invading a restaurant that had been taking people's chicken and taco orders just a day earlier. Video of the rats was seen around the world, disseminated on TV stations and the Internet.

"All you can eat once the store is locked," one onlooker joked.

"They should handcuff them and throw the dirty rats in jail," cabbie Wilson Paul said as he pulled over to gawk.

Word spread after a TV crew discovered the rat infestation Friday morning and filmed it through a window of the Greenwich Village building.

Health inspectors arrived, and the parent company for KFC and Taco Bell, Yum Brands, Inc., was again forced into damage-control mode a few months after enduring an E. coli outbreak.

The restaurant was not open when the rats were spotted. The company said construction in the basement on Thursday appeared to have stirred up the rodents.

"This is completely unacceptable and is an absolute violation of our high standards," Yum Brands said in a statement.

Rats have long been a problem in densely populated New York City. They are frequently seen scampering through subway tunnels, rooting through trash, dashing across parks and burrowing into the walls of apartment buildings.

Greenwich Village tends to be a happy home for them because of its combination of older buildings and a tangle of subway lines converging just below street level.

The city Department of Health had inspectors at the site on Friday for hours, and by midday had posted a sign that read "CLOSED."

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Yes to means-testing Medicare

The Providence Journal

Should Medicare be means-tested? That is, should well-to-do beneficiaries pay more into the program than those of modest means?

We say yes.

In his new budget proposal, President Bush has called for \$70 billion savings in Medicare and Medicaid over the next five years. Medicare is the federal health-insurance program for the elderly and disabled. Medicaid, whose costs are shared by Washington and the states, covers the poor.

Actually, means testing has already begun on Medicare Part B, which covers visits to doctors and other services. (Part A covers hospitalization.) Part B is a voluntary program requiring participants to pay monthly premiums. Beginning this year, individuals with income under \$80,000 (\$160,000 for couples filing jointly) pay \$93.50 a month for Part B coverage. But anyone making more than that pays a higher premium, which tops out at \$162.10 a month (for individuals with income over \$200,000 or couples with \$400,000).

Medicare Part B deducts the premiums from beneficiaries' Social Security payments, so those subject to the higher premiums may have already noticed the change: Their Social Security check may be smaller than it was last year, despite an adjustment for inflation.

Mr. Bush believes that expanding the number of beneficiaries who are means-tested can trim \$66 billion from projected Medicare spending over five years. And over 75 years, the savings could total \$9 trillion, according to analysts.

Means-testing is controversial in government programs, because the less stake that higher-income Americans have in the program, the more vulnerable is public support for it. The program comes more and more to resemble welfare — not popular in America.

But let us be honest. Medicare already is a type of welfare in that it involves a transfer of wealth from taxpayers to its 43 million beneficiaries. Premiums and co-pays cover only 25 percent of the huge costs.

And there is something unseemly about asking low-income workers, who may not have health insurance, to subsidize the medical care of rich retirees. Until there is universal coverage in the land — and perhaps after — it seems only fair that wealthy Medicare beneficiaries carry more of the load.

Which brings us to the scandal in American health care — that we spend a far bigger share of our gross domestic product on medicine than any other country, yet have 47 million people without insurance and worse public-health indices than most developed nations. To blame is our chaotic "system" of covering medical services, which results in enormous administrative costs. We have a multitude of public and private insurers, each with its own rulebook and army of bean counters. Any fix will require a comprehensive makeover, and that will surely displease many of the players. We have to try.

As a start, Medicare should be expanded to cover the uninsured. Medicare's administrative costs are very low because the program doesn't have to advertise or make a profit for shareholders. And its managers are modestly paid public bureaucrats, not executives with extravagant compensation.

Until there is more social equity in health coverage, the demands on people who can pay more for Medicare will only grow. Means-testing is probably here to stay.



Candidates not the only 'spinners'

Some years ago, I accepted a magazine assignment to write about the Texas Prison Rodeo. Never having set foot inside a penitentiary, I asked a friend who'd been a prison warden in two Southern states for advice. After we talked for a bit, my friend leaned back, put his boots up on the desk, lit a cigar, and cut to the chase.

"You don't strike me as a naive person, so don't take me wrong," he said carefully, pausing for emphasis. "But some of those boys will lie to you."

In that spirit, a guide to the upcoming marathon presidential campaign. Lest anybody tell you different: ALL candidates are consumed with ambition; ALL seek power; ALL have formidable egos. Nobody who didn't could survive the ordeal. Furthermore, ALL political events are stage-managed to the maximum extent possible. Even if they appear on "Oprah," they're not there to bare their souls.

An American presidential campaign is the ultimate "reality TV" show. It follows that the anchorcreatures and pundits who bring it to your living room use it to advance their own careers, often by substituting made-for-TV plots and themes for the humdrum issues candidates prefer to discuss. Few voters grasp how much the media's obsession with personality, "character," and hot-button issues like race and sex, often involves distorting reality to fit a pre-selected theme.

On his Web site, The Daily Howler, Bob Somerby has exhaustively chronicled how fictive scenarios about Al Gore and George W. Bush dominated the 2000 presidential election. The Beltway press consistently portrayed Gore as a big faker who made up self-aggrandizing tales about himself, while Bush was an "authentic" politician with a common touch. A gushing



Gene Lyons

Bush profile in, yes, The New York Times set the tone early: "Nobody would ever mistake him for Vice President Gore ... His style is an amalgam of East and Southwest, Yale and the oil patch. Call him the Madras Cowboy."

The "Madras Cowboy" line never took, but the theme sure did. I vividly recall talking with two Democratic friends, both physicians, both a lot smarter than myself, who'd swallowed the anti-Gore storyline whole. Invented the Internet, "Love Story," the lot. The first claim Gore never made; the second, author Erich Segal made clear, was largely true. He had modeled his novel's protagonist on Gore, his former student.

The result is that our president's a bicycle-pedaling "Texas rancher" who, to my knowledge, has never owned a horse or cow; an epic liar rivaled only by Richard Nixon and his fellow Texan, Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Many find it hard to grasp how today's Beltway press operates, because in their own professional lives, inventing or ignoring dispositive facts ultimately leads to firing, disgrace and revoked licenses. In Washington, it brings fame, fortune and guest spots on "Hardball," where pundits ponder questions like this one from the excitable host about Sen. Hillary Clinton's alleged unwillingness to explain her vote authorizing the Iraq war:

"Everybody in America knew we were going to war with Bush. He made it pretty clear from Day One we were going to war. How come she still pretends that she didn't know he was going to war? It's like she didn't know anything about

Bill and his behavior! How many times is she going to be confused by men?"

See how it works? From WMD straight back to Bill Clinton's pants. Never mind that when the Senate voted in 2002, Bush swore that war was the LAST thing he wanted. Did Sen. Clinton believe him? I have no way of knowing. Her contemporaneous public statements accepted intelligence reports touting Iraq's WMD and ties to Al Qaeda, both now known to be false.

But Clinton's clearly this campaign's Beltway pinata, a calculating phony like Gore. Recently, for example, a New Hampshire voter asked her why she hadn't called her Iraq vote a mistake. Reporters for the trend-setting New York Times and Washington Post knew what to do. They paraphrased her answer and guessed at her motives. "Mrs. Clinton," the Times wrote, "stuck to a set of talking points that she and her advisers hope will ultimately overcome the antiwar anger that is particularly strong among Democrats."

Here's the transcript of what Clinton actually said: "I have said, and I will repeat ... that, knowing what I know now, I would never have voted for it. But I also — and, I mean, obviously you have to weigh everything as you make your decision — I have taken responsibility for my vote. The mistakes were made by this president, who misled this country and this Congress into a war that should not have been waged."

How much does Clinton's position differ from those of Sen. Barack Obama and former Sen. John Edwards, depicted as her main rivals? Hardly at all, in practical terms. But you'd never know that if you follow the spin.

Gene Lyons is a columnist for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. His e-mail is genelyons2@sbcglobal.net.

The uproar over mandating Gardasil

I sometimes find myself encouraging my likeminded conservative friends not to go believing this or that conspiracy theory. I think we folks can get a little overwrought, a little too fearful, over the government's, or the schools', or Hollywood's, latest "attack" on the family. I sometimes want to say, "Friends, relax a little — these organizations just aren't as focused on our family-values types as we may wish they were."

So when I heard initial reports that many states were considering mandating that a new vaccine that protects against a sexually transmitted disease be given to girls ages 11 and 12, I really didn't believe it. The vaccine, Gardasil, protects against human papillomavirus (HPV), which is sexually transmitted and can lead to cervical cancer.

Then, a friend animatedly told me a pharmaceutical company was secretly pushing the mandates because it stood to make billions from the required vaccines. And I thought, "Oh, good grief, here we go again."

But as my mother would say, just because you are a hypochondriac doesn't mean you're not going to become terminally ill. Sometimes, conspiracy theories really are true. So I realized, as I watched the furor over the attempt to mandate the vaccine erupt around the country.

In my home state of Illinois, it turns out the legislature really is considering requiring that Gardasil be administered to all rising sixth-grade girls (some of whom are only 10). Those not vaccinated would actually be barred from attending school, even though HPV is only communicable through sexual contact.

Yes, religious or medical exemptions would be



Betsy Hart

allowed. But talk about being made to feel like a pariah.

Oh, guess what? Gardasil's maker, Merck, which currently has a monopoly on the vaccine, really was "quietly funding the campaign, via a third party, to require 11- and 12-year-old girls to get the three-dose vaccine in order to attend school" in some 20 states, Chicago's Fox News Channel reported.

At \$360 to vaccinate each child, it's no wonder. Merck was "channeling money for its state-mandate campaign through Women in Government, an advocacy group made up of female state legislators across the country," as the Associated Press revealed and Fox reported.

I'd love to know more about that connection. But, anyway, in the wake of the controversy, Merck announced this week that it has suspended its lobbying efforts.

Other states, particularly California and Texas — where the governor has signed an executive order mandating the vaccine — have also seen firestorms ignite over the issue.

Well, I have a rising sixth-grade daughter, and whatever the state of Illinois ends up deciding, she won't be getting the vaccine. Here's why:

That same daughter recently came home talking about the anti-smoking campaign that goes on in her school. No cigarettes. Ever. I'm all for it.

So then, if a vaccine were invented that could largely protect children from getting one

or two of the many serious diseases and chronic conditions caused by smoking cigarettes, would we say, "So many kids are going to smoke whether we like it or not, let's mandate this vaccine for every child"?

Not an exact analogy, but imagine if Big Tobacco were secretly behind the move to mandate so that it could "safely" sell lots more cigarettes.

Somehow, I don't suppose the same people who advocate mandating the Gardasil vaccine would be for such a thing. I think most people would say that it's fine the vaccine is out there, and if some parents want to pay the big bucks for their kids to get it, or if adults want to receive it, OK.

But smoking is still a terrible habit that causes all kinds of collateral damage that can't be protected against. And for the government to mandate the expensive vaccine for children would be for Big Brother to reach past the parents and into the home, and seek to "protect" children — in a way that doesn't really protect them at all. That in fact, by essentially throwing in the moral towel on the smoking issue and taking parents out of the equation when it comes to their kids, it may leave kids more vulnerable than ever on smoking and other matters.

Apparently a lot of parents, including this one, get that, even if our elites don't. And that's why I have a feeling that the uproar over mandating Gardasil is not going to die down until the state legislatures back down on mandating it.

Betsy Hart is a columnist for the Scripps Howard News Service.



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Nothing like a poke to get your attention

Bruford, the husband of my good friend and former neighbor, Matilda, says whenever they are traveling, it isn't until his wife is in the passenger seat that she becomes a virtual driver's manual and map complete with a pointer finger and elbow.

"Put her behind the steering wheel, and she has no clue where she is headed," Bruford said rubbing his shoulder.

"Once she is in the passenger seat she is back in her comfort zone and has no problem sharing her knowledge about the speed limit, what direction I should be going, which corner to take, when the stop light is about to turn, if I am going to fast or too slow, if I am tailgating, what lane I should be in, if I should pass or stay put or the potential for a black cat to cross our path."

Matilda doesn't verbalize, according to Bruford. Each command comes with a jab from a finger or an elbow to make sure she has his attention.

"I need heavy body armor," he said. "Her finger and elbow could be used as weapons of mass destruction."

"Why don't you make her sit in the back? I asked, trying to be of assistance.

"I tried that several years ago," he said. "My neck was in traction for months afterwards."

I handed him an ice pack. Bruford's was a sad, sad tale that I understood.

Sometimes a jab to the shoulder is the only way to get the attention of someone who has been practicing selected hearing for years.

Traveling together across the miles in a car is much like wallpapering. It takes patience, resilience, endurance, a sense of humor and sometimes body armor.

Joyce Ore of Hastings is a columnist for the Tribune. Contact Joyce at (402) 461-7327 or e-mail at jore[at]alltel.net

Calendar

HASTINGS

◆ **Alcoholics Anonymous**, noon and 8 p.m. Sunday; and noon, 5:15 and 8 p.m. Monday, 521 S. St. Joseph Ave.

◆ **Alanon**, 8 p.m. Sunday and 8 p.m. Monday, First United Methodist Church, and noon Monday, The Kensington.

◆ **Chorus of the Plains**, 7:30 p.m. Monday, ballroom of Kensington. Barbershop style music open to men of all ages.

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

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

◆ **Panic and Anxiety program**, Noon to 1 p.m. Monday, call 732-940-9658 for details.

◆ **Overeaters Anonymous**, 5-6 p.m. Monday, basement of Mary Lanning Medical Center.

◆ **Sunday Sundaes**, 2-3 p.m. Sunday, College View Assisted Living, 1100 N. Sixth Ave. Open to public ages 55 and older.

◆ **"The Pursuit of Happiness"**, 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Lied Super Screen Theatre at Hastings Museum.

Lotteries

WINNING NUMBERS

Friday
Nebraska Pick 3 0-5-1
Kansas Pick 3 8-8-6
Nebraska Pick 5 4-18-21-30-38
Jackpot: \$146,000
2by2 Red 14-23, White 1-7

ACT members 'open' about potential move

HRC-BASED EMPLOYEES
MEET WITH SOUTH CENTRAL
TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE MOVE
TO FACILITY

JOHN HUTHMACHER
johnh@hastingstribune.com

Hastings Regional Center ACT team members met with officials at South Central Behavioral Services Center Thursday to discuss their possible move to the facility, the Region 3 program administrator said Friday.

The 11-employee team comprised of a psychiatrist, three nurses, three psychiatric specialists, two licensed mental

health practitioners, a team leader and peer support specialist, discussed the potential move for about 2 1/2 hours according to Beth Baxter, District 3 program administrator.

The move has long been part of the state's behavior health reform plan, which eliminated most of the regional center's adult program in March of 2004. Currently there are four adults being served by the center's residential program, which has been re-vamped to serve primarily adolescents in need of rehabilitation and treatment, Baxter said.

"It's my understanding that the idea to move the ACT team to the community was in the initial part of reform," she said. "It's just that we've moved

forward with other components of behavioral health reform. Now we're looking at moving the ACT team to the community."

Currently, the ACT team serves 62 clients in the community with its outreach program, she said. Its services include visiting their homes, taking medications to them, and helping them to remember what medications to take and when. The team also helps them with day-to-day life, like shopping, paying bills and finding activities.

Attending the Thursday ACT team meeting were Baxter, Gary and Susan Henrie, CEO and operations director of South Central, and two administrators from HRC, Baxter said.

"It really was an opportunity to understand and get to know each other," she said. "There were questions that were developed and a discussion about the potential of transitioning the team into the community."

Baxter said it has not yet been determined which agency — HRC or South Central — would actually be the team's employer should the move go forward.

"It's too early to say," she said. "That's one of the decisions that hasn't been determined. There's being a thorough review of benefits and looking at what South Central has to offer for a benefit package and how that fits in with where the employees currently are."

Please see FACILITY/page A8



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/AP

Don Comer stands at the Aurora Co-op in Aurora in this file photo from Jan. 5. During the 46 years that Comer has been employed at the co-op, he has seen some monumental changes in the business of agriculture. Comer retired from Aurora Co-op in December. He was serving as vice president of grain at that time.

Going with the grain

RETIRED AURORA CO-OP VICE
PRESIDENT OF GRAIN HAS
SEEN PLENTY OF CHANGES

ROBERT PORE
The Associated Press

GRAND ISLAND — During the 46 years that Don Comer of Grand Island has been employed at Aurora Co-op in Aurora, he has seen some monumental changes in the business of agriculture.

Comer retired from Aurora Co-op in December. He was serving as vice president of grain at that time.

He started at the co-op on April 1, 1960, as a bookkeeper. Comer attended the National Business College in Lincoln for two years and received a degree in accounting. He is a graduate of Phillips High School.

"When I started as bookkeeper, everything was done by hand — pen and ink," Comer said. "Everything was writ-

ten and posted."

Raised on a farm in the Phillips area, Comer was glad to get a job in agriculture close to home.

"After living in Lincoln for two years, I definitely wanted to come back home," Comer said.

The roots of the Aurora Co-op go back to 1908, when farmers invested their money to start a cooperative elevator to sell their grain. Comer said when he went to work for the co-op in 1960, it just had elevators in Aurora and Murphy. Forty-six years later, Aurora Co-op has expanded to 18 locations, operating 21 elevators.

Bookkeeping wasn't Comer's only responsibility when he first started working for the co-op. He also ran the scales that weighed the farmers' trucks when they brought loads of grain to the elevator. He was also responsible for counter sales.

The co-op, at the time, had a small feed mill, and it also sold fertilizer and coal.

"Everything was done by hand,"

Comer said. "We worked 60-hour weeks back then. Seven a.m. to 6 p.m. was the normal workweek, six days a week. And harvest was on top of that. A lot of times, we worked 80-plus hours at harvest time."

At that time, Comer said, the big harvest wasn't corn and soybeans, but wheat.

"The fall was only milo," he said. "Corn back then was picked by the ear and kept on the farm, and it was shelled until it was needed."

Irrigation was just getting started. Once in place, Comer said, irrigation changed the landscape in central Nebraska as cornfields began replacing wheat and milo fields. Along with irrigation, new corn genetics allowed farmers to increase their yields. Soybeans didn't come in a big way until the early 1990s, but they became a dominant crop when scientists developed genetically modified soybean varieties that allowed farmers to spray their crops to protect against insects without harming the plant.

Please see COMER/page A8

Hung jury in sex assault case

DEFENDANT FOUND
GUILTY OF TAMPERING

WILL VRASPIR
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The jury couldn't agree on a verdict Friday after six hours of deliberations in the trial of a 20-year-old Harvard man accused of sexually assaulting a 12-year-old Omaha girl.

The jury did agree, however, on the second charge and found Andrew J. Callahan guilty of tampering with a witness.

Adams County District Judge Terri Harder declared a mistrial after the jury of eight men and four women couldn't come to a unanimous decision on the first-degree sexual assault charge, but accepted the jury's verdict on the tampering charge.

Harder scheduled Callahan's sentencing on the

tampering charge for April 9. Deputy Adams County attorney Alyson Keiser said it

has not been determined if the state will retry the case.

Evidence for the case concluded Thursday.

Callahan

According to testimony during the trial, which began Tuesday, Callahan met the alleged victim on Aug. 11, 2005, when he gave the girl and her friends a ride away from their broken-down car.

The group went to a Hastings motel, where Callahan, who was 18 at the time, had rented a room, and the group later started drinking alcohol.

Please see CALLAHAN/page A6

Retreat allows council to take look at self

SHAY BURK
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The Hastings City Council this week discussed its strengths and weaknesses — many of which center on its relationship with other boards.

During a retreat Thursday, the group created a list of the city's internal strengths and weaknesses and the outside opportunities and threats with a SWOT analysis.

SWOT is an acronym for the four concern areas: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Bernie Hayen, a business ethics professor at Kansas State University and the director of finance for the city of Manhattan, Kan., facilitated the discussion and led the group through several exercises.

The group made a long list of the city's strengths, including quality department heads,

longevity among staff, quality city services and strong city employee involvement in the community.

Some of the city's major weaknesses included a lack of funding for programs and departments, department heads with hidden agendas, and a fragmentation between the City Council and appointed boards and committees.

Mayor Matt Rossen said the fragmentation is caused by too many council-appointed boards that have too much authority. That, he said, has become a major weakness for the city.

"I think fragmentation permeates this town," City Administrator Joe Patterson said.

He said he saw it while serving as the city's parks and recreation director before becoming the city administrator in August 2001.

Please see RETREAT/page A6

HPS better because of NCLB

CURRICULUM
DIRECTOR SAYS THE
ACT SEEMS
TO BE WORKING

JOHN HUTHMACHER
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The mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act have caused Hastings Public Schools to re-evaluate how the district teaches its students, the district's director of curriculum said Friday.

Troy Loeffelholz spoke to an audience of about 30 people during a program on the topic Friday at the YWCA Adams County. The event was presented by the Hastings



Loeffelholz

League of Women Voters.

Using a power point presentation, Loeffelholz — accompanied by curriculum assistant Julie Blazer — walked guests through some basic background and history on NCLB, which was signed into effect by President Bush on Jan. 8, 2002. Preceded by an optional lunch served by YWCA representatives, the one-hour program touched on the impact NCLB has had on districts throughout the state.

With NCLB up for re-authorization this year, Loeffelholz shared what he believes are some of the pros and cons of the federally mandated legislation. NCLB calls for annual proficiency testing of students in grades four, eight, and 11 in reading and mathematics.

Please see NCLB/page B1

Council to discuss pair of high-dollar projects

SHAY BURK
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The Hastings City Council is scheduled to discuss two high-dollar projects at its meeting Monday.

First, the council is scheduled to award the bid for a 81,000-pound landfill compactor for \$392,034 to the Nebraska Machinery Co., of Doniphan.

The current machine, a 2001 Caterpillar 826G Landfill compactor, will be traded in for \$167,400, with the remaining cost to be paid during the next four years.

According to the council's agenda packet, the city wants to have the new compactor delivered within 30 days.

The City Council also is scheduled to authorize Mayor Matt Rossen to sign a grant application for the Hastings Municipal Airport to purchase new taxiway lighting.

Please see COUNCIL/page B1

States scramble for federal money

CHILD HEALTH CARE MONEY
RUNNING OUT

SHANNON MCCAFFREY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Some states are warning that hundreds of thousands of poor children could lose their health insurance if Congress doesn't act soon to come through with more money for the program.

The situation is most severe in

Georgia, where officials plan to stop enrolling kids in the state's PeachCare program starting March 11 because of a \$131 million shortage.

The problem is that many states have nearly used up their annual federal subsidy for child health care, and it is not even midway through the fiscal year — a situation some are blaming on the formula by which the money is doled out by Washington. Congress has been unwilling so far to deliver more money.

The uncertainty is making it difficult for some states to draw up their new budgets, because they do not know how much they will ultimately get from Washington.

In the meantime, states are scrambling to protect youngsters.

In Iowa, which is looking at a \$16 million shortfall by the end of the state's fiscal year in June, lawmakers are pushing for a \$1 cigarette tax increase to pay for children's health care and related programs. Some states

plan to shift some children to the Medicaid rolls, at least temporarily. Others say they will pour in additional state dollars.

Early projections show Nebraska might run out of the federal funding at the end of July or early August, said Kathie Osterman, spokeswoman for the state's Health and Human Services System.

At that point, children can be moved to Medicaid, where the federal match of dollars falls to 59 percent from the

71 percent.

The shortfall was included in HHS budget projections for fiscal 2007. While there are concerns about lack of funding, they aren't insurmountable, said Dr. Joann Schaefer, chief medical officer for the Nebraska Health and Human Services System. Children won't lose coverage, she said, but the state will have to make up the extra money.

Please see SCRAMBLE/page B1

Suspects charged in robbery

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Charges have been filed against two 18-year-old men related to the robbery Jan. 24 at Sonic Drive-in, 928 S. Burlington Ave.

Luke E. F. Lefever, of Broken Bow, was charged with robbery, use of a firearm to commit a felony and theft Feb. 16. Police announced Friday that Lefever turned himself in at the Custer County Sheriff's Office.

He will have his next hearing March 2, and is currently being held in the Adams County Jail on a \$100,000 bond.

Zachary Lee, who currently resides in Grand Island, who is

an ex-employee of Sonic, was charged with aiding and abetting the robbery for helping Lefever plan the theft.

Lee will have a preliminary hearing March 16, and is currently out on a 10 percent of \$10,000 bond.

According to court records, Lefever approached Sonic store manager Cory Levos as he locked up for the night. Lefever reportedly used a handgun and demanded Levos go back into the store and open the safe.

Levos complied and gave Lefever one or two money bags containing \$1,196. Lefever reportedly left the store and headed west through the park-

ing lot on foot.

Witnesses saw a white Cadillac in the parking lot, but it left as Lefever approached Levos. The vehicle allegedly met up with Lefever soon after the robbery.

A 17-year-old Juniata boy was issued a citation for accessory to a felony. He reportedly drove the vehicle used during the robbery.

Robbery and aiding and abetting a robbery are Class 2 felonies punishable by up to 50 years in prison. Theft by shoplifting, value \$500-1,500, is a Class 4 felony punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine.

Callahan: Hung jury in sex assault case; defendant found guilty of tampering

Continued from page A5

Near the end of the party, there was a kissing incident between the alleged victim and Callahan, who was dating another girl.

The alleged victim, now 14, testified Callahan pushed her against a wall and kissed her. Callahan testified the kissing was mutual.

Another girl at the party testified she originally thought the two were kissing, but then noticed the alleged victim pulling away.

The party broke up, and the alleged victim went to stay at a friend's house because the girl's older sister didn't want their mother to find out she had been drinking.

Callahan stayed in the motel room with a couple of friends until he received a call from the alleged victim's friend, indicating the girl wanted him to come over, according to testimony. The friend also gave Callahan directions to her house to pick up the alleged victim.

He picked up the girl in his truck and drove a few blocks away to a secluded area.

The girl testified she thought the two were going to the motel to identify some purses and money left at the party. Callahan testified the girl complained that he wasn't paying attention to her so he stopped his truck.

The alleged victim testified Callahan said he liked her and his girlfriend had broken up

with him.

After talking for a while, the girl called Callahan's girlfriend to find out if she had broken up with Callahan, but couldn't talk with her, the girl testified. The girl then called the friend she was staying with and talked for a few minutes.

Defense attorney, Joe Murray, of Hebron, told the jury that the girl's desire to know if the couple had actually broken up indicated she wanted to have a relationship with Callahan. The girl testified she called her friends because she didn't want to talk to Callahan.

After she completed her phone calls, Callahan moved over to the passenger seat.

The alleged victim testified Callahan started kissing her, but she didn't kiss him back. She testified he took her clothes off and had sexual intercourse with her, even after she said "no."

Callahan testified the couple started kissing and the alleged victim helped remove her own clothing.

Keiser told the jury the girl testified everything happened quickly, and she didn't know how to react.

After the sexual intercourse, the two got dressed and Callahan drove the girl back to her friend's house. Callahan testified the girl gave him a kiss as she left.

The girl testified she started crying and went into her friend's house, where her friend hugged her and said she knew

what happened.

The girl's mother testified she found out about the incident the next day and drove around with her daughter to talk about it. She testified she was angry about the sexual assault and her daughter's drinking.

The mother contacted police, and a sexual assault kit was completed at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital.

Callahan testified he was contacted by police and volunteered to cooperate, although he admitted to lying about being with the girl. He testified he lied because he was scared about the accusation.

When police contacted Callahan about the accusation, they said they were told it occurred around 3:30 a.m. Callahan testified he called his friend Abby Langan to have her tell police he was with her at that time. He testified he was with Langan from about 3-6 a.m.

Keiser told the jury that Callahan wanted Langan to say he had been with her for a longer period of time.

Murray told the jury Callahan thought the time of 3:30 was important, he knew he had an alibi for that time and wanted Langan to tell police the truth.

Forcible first-degree sexual assault is a Class 2 felony and is punishable by up to 50 years in prison. Tampering with a witness is a Class 4 felony punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine.

Retreat: Council examines its own strengths, weaknesses

Continued from page A5

Patterson said some council-appointed boards report to their department heads and not the City Council. Others are almost completely autonomous, reporting to no one regularly and only to the council during budget time, he said.

"Hastings Utilities is a strength, but it's also a weakness because they are so separate," he said. "We're not an integrated city."

While HU has City Council liaisons, it primarily reports to the council only during budget time.

Hayen, who served as city administrator in Hastings in the 1980s, said fragmentation was a problem when he was

in Hastings and has only continued.

"I don't know how to fix it, but the problem, as I see it, is that it creates power bases that don't want to change," he said. "So it doesn't matter what you say because they have their power base, and they answer to themselves and not you."

Hayen suggested the council start by working with a few of the boards and eventually work its way up to the larger bodies, which pose the most fragmentation issues.

He said the council needs to create a better working relationship with these boards and remind them that the council still is the governing body.

"In our form of government,

the buck stops with the City Council," Patterson said. "They don't always realize it all starts with them and what authority and power they have."

After the SWOT list was completed, Hayen had the group decide which weaknesses and threats were their biggest concerns.

The top three concerns were the lack of funding for programs and departments, infrastructure problems, and dealings with the Environmental Protection Agency and the city's Superfund sites.

Council members plan to discuss the issues again in the near future as they decide what issues they would like to tackle during the next year.

Revenue growth predicted for state

The Associated Press

LINCOLN — The state may bank \$30 million more than anticipated this fiscal year.

That prediction Friday from the state revenue forecasting board is expected to build momentum for tax cuts this legislative session. There are myriad plans on lawmakers' plate, including one from Gov. Dave Heineman that hinges on reductions in income taxes.

Strong revenues from income taxes were a main basis for the board's forecast.

In a statement, Heineman used the good revenue news to caution against more spending.

"The actions taken today by the forecasting board show the continued strength of state receipts. However, they should not be viewed as a call for additional spending," Heineman said.

The \$30 million projection represents an increase of less than 1 percent over the previous forecast.

The board predicted that revenue growth would remain steady the next two fiscal years, with \$27 million more than projected in the last forecast flowing into state coffers next fiscal year.

Should the state receive the projected \$30 million this fiscal year, it would go into the cash-reserve fund.

Other developments on the 34th day of the first session of the 100th Nebraska Legislature, Friday, Feb. 23rd, 2007:

ON THE FLOOR
CATS AND DOGS —

Senators plan on spending nearly \$267,000 more next year to help dogs and cats. A bill (LB12) meant to tighten enforcement of safety and health regulations that pet breeders, kennel operators and pet store owners, among others, have to follow got first-round approval. Doing so will require hiring more inspectors.

Lawmakers expressed some concerns about the cost, but approved it anyway, saying they want more scrutiny of the 700 licensed, commercial operators in the state. Existing operations would be inspected once every two years under the bill, and new ones would have to be inspected before going into business. The bill was introduced by Sen. Mick Mines of Blair.

ARRESTS — Arrests that don't result in charges would be shielded from the public under a bill (LB470) that got first-round approval. The measure was introduced by Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, who said that making public those arrests that don't result in charges unfairly hinders the ability of people to get hired, among other things. In cases where arrests were made but no charges filed, arrests would drop from the public record in a year. If there were no charges because diversion programs were completed, arrests would be erased after

two years, and after three years when charges were dismissed by courts on motions from prosecuting attorneys.

IN COMMITTEE

SALES TAX — Three bills that would exempt items and services from sales taxes were before the Revenue Committee. One (LB32) from Sen. Danielle Nantkes of Lincoln would cease sales taxes on college textbook sales, a move that could reduce state revenues by about \$3 million. Omaha Sen. John Synowiecki has a bill (LB429) that would exempt memberships to museums, zoos, historic groups, which would cost the state about \$1 million a year. And Sen. Lowen Kruse of Omaha has a bill (LB575) that would exempt nonprofit assisted-living facilities from having to pay sales tax on their purchases, which could reduce state revenues by more than \$2 million annually.

CHILD RESTRAINTS — Children would have to sit in child-restraint seats while traveling in vehicles for a couple more years under a bill (LB254) before the Judiciary Committee. The age limit currently is six. Sen. Ray Aguilar of Grand Island wants to raise the age to eight. Aguilar's bill would allow county and city attorneys to dismiss action against people who violated the rule if they had their restraint systems installed.



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AMY ROH/Tribune

Dave "Critterman" Kleven extracts webbing from a tarantula during a demonstration of rainforest creatures Friday at the Hastings Museum.

Museum: Students learn about animals

Continued from page A1

After the show, many of the children stopped to ask Kleven questions and tell him stories of their own pets or animals they have seen.

Some students asked about the animals he had on stage, while others asked about the largest and strongest animals in the world.

One girl said she wanted to be like Kleven when she grew up. Another boy said he wanted to work at the Australia Zoo, once co-owned by the Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin.

Jake Johnson, a second-grader from Clay Center, said his favorite part of the show was seeing the Burmese python, the world's third-largest snake.

"I like the python because he's long, and I like the way he kills his prey," Jake said.

Before the children left the museum, Kleven told them that museums and libraries are impor-



AMY ROH/Tribune

A binturong, otherwise known as a bearcat eats from Dave Kleven's hand during a demonstration of rainforest animals Friday at the Hastings Museum.

tant places for children to learn about animals.

"There's one place you can go to see the outside world and animals you don't have here in

your hometown or here in Nebraska or here in the United States," he said. "The museum is your picture to the outside world."

HC: Plans announced for new science building

Continued from page A1

The new, 52,600-square-foot Morrison-Reeves Science Center — named in honor of Ken Morrison, HC trustee from 1981 to 1999, and Thomas Reeves, HC president from 1985 to 1995 — will feature high-tech and more specialized laboratories, areas for student and faculty research, larger classrooms, a greenhouse, animal suite, conference room and student lounge.

"During the period of 1985 to 1995, both Ken and Tom did so much to give Hastings College a new dimension of excellence that it is only fitting we establish a permanent tribute to their influence on our nationally acclaimed institution," said Gary Freeman, president of the HC Foundation.

Construction will begin on the building this summer, with a projected spring 2009 completion date.

The two-story building will be almost twice the size of the 51-year-old building that it's replacing. The three-story Steinhart Hall of Science is 28,978 square feet. The new center will have a brick facade, matching the other Georgian-influenced buildings on campus, and will be constructed on the site of the former A.H. Jones Football stadium on the south-east edge of campus.

John Bohmfalk, president of the faculty senate and professor of biology and chemistry, called the effort to create the new science center a "rare and monumental undertaking."

"In 24 years of teaching, this is the first project like this I've been involved in," he said. "Getting to this point required countless hours of meetings, conversations, discussions and a host of decisions, and I'm sure we've only just started our decision making."

Faculty members will be able to teach in ways that have not generally been possible in many of the current classrooms, he said.

"I think having additional laboratory space will make the flexibility we have in scheduling classes and labs, a whole lot

better," Bohmfalk said.

Right now, the biology department has two labs, which Bohmfalk said are used from 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

"That kind of inhibits what we can do with the labs, because as soon as my scheduled time is up, all my stuff has to disappear," he said.

Planning of the project and work with the Omaha-based architectural firm RDG Planning and Design, which designed the building, began about a year and a half ago. But the project has been in the minds of HC officials for several years.

It was at the forefront of the college's long-term plan, which was created in 2004.

"We began talking about the need for additional facilities several years ago, and we've gone through several iterations and ideas about what we might do and how this might come about," Bohmfalk said.

The science center will be constructed to meet national certification standards for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System.

LEED-certified buildings have lower operating costs, increase the level of comfort for occupants, reduce waste sent to landfills, conserve energy and water and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Freeman said this sends a good message, especially since the building will house the life sciences.

"There are very few green buildings in the state of Nebraska, and we're proud to have one here at Hastings College," he said.

The Hastings College Foundation already has received commitments for more than half of the \$10 million project.

Also, the college announced Friday that the Peter Kiewitt Foundation in Omaha awarded a \$1 million challenge grant for the new science center. It is conditioned upon the college raising the balance of funds needed to complete the project by June

30, 2008.

Both Freeman and Dudley referenced successful alumni from the different HC science programs, including astronaut Clayton Anderson who graduated in 1981 with a physics degree and will fly to the International space station this summer aboard the space shuttle Endeavor.

"We've already set rich traditions in science at Hastings College and our alumni have reached great success — whether it be in the laboratory, the medical offices, private industry, educational institutions and even to the outer reaches of space," Freeman said.

Student representative Amanda Schademann, who has been a part of the planning on the project from the beginning, said students wanted a bigger space to interact with each other in a quiet environment.

"The student body is tremendously excited about this new building," she said. "It will be a

source of pride throughout the campus and give Hastings College a competitive advantage over everyone else in the state of Nebraska."

Schademann, a sophomore majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry, was nominated for her position by biology professors Amy Morris and John Kuehn.

The need for a new science building is evident by the increasing number of biology majors, officials said.

Bohmalk said of the approximate 1,100 HC students, there are about 120 biology majors. Dudley said that number was about 75 when Steinhart was expanded in 1986.

Bohmalk said he was "tickled pink" about how the project is going.

"It will certainly give us the newest science building of all the undergraduate colleges in the state," he said. "We think for prospective students, it will be an extra incentive to come here."

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Guard: Army struggles to shorten deployments

Continued from page A1

units from Arkansas, Indiana and other states.

Stretched by the demands of nearly five years at war and facing growing public discontent, the Pentagon last month decided to limit Guard deployments to one year at a time. Guard units would train for about two months away from home just before deploying, then spend 10 months on the battlefield under the plan.

"We shopped it around, and everyone said if we put them on a predictable deployment schedule like that — a year or less — we can buy into it. But 18 months is killing us," Brig. Gen. James Nuttall, deputy director of the Army National Guard, said in a recent interview.

The Pentagon also has abandoned its cumulative 24-month limit on the time a citizen-soldier could serve on active duty in the Iraq and Afghan wars.

About 270,000 of the more than 347,000 Army Guard soldiers have served in the wars. Under current plans, two Guard combat brigades would deploy to the bat-

tlefront each year, besides at least 10,000 more Guard soldiers in smaller, specialized units.

The goal is to deploy Guard units for one year, then give them five years at home. But military officials said war demands would likely give soldiers just three or four years at home.

Lempke, who commands Nebraska's National Guard units as adjutant general, said the new training requirements could force Guard members to do up to two more weeks of regular training each year, in addition to their one weekend a month and one two-week stint.

The Army National Guard's Nuttall said much of the pre-deployment training can shift to the states — from weapons certification and roadside bomb training to dental work, X-rays and paperwork like finalizing wills.

The moves could save days or even weeks of time on active duty.

Military observers, however, say letting Guard soldiers be tapped more frequently could strain families and hurt recruitment.

Plans: Schools make preparations to handle variety of situations

Continued from page A1

"First we determine what buildings a certain event might affect," Kautz said. "Then we alert the staff."

Kautz said once the crisis teams are notified, the members come up with a plan to address the situation.

"Once they're activated, they look at the situation — and every situation is unique — and they come up with a plan," Kautz said.

In most situations, he said, the teams would be mobilized in the buildings most affected by the event.

He also said it is imperative that communication is kept open with the parents.

"Generally, the building that's most affected writes a letter to be sent home with the students," Kautz said.

HPS has had the crisis teams in place for about 10 years, Kautz said, but each time they address a situation or event, the system is refined. Crisis team training is ongoing.

"On the other side, there are situations that we haven't dealt with," Kautz said.

The HPS district is larger than other local schools, but even smaller districts have crisis teams in place.

Gale McDonald, superintendent of Silver Lake Public Schools, said Silver Lake has a crisis team in place that meets monthly.

"It's one of those things that's good to have in place," he said. "You can still never predict when something will happen."

Like at HPS, McDonald said, the teams have ongoing training.

The district's crisis plan covers situations such as chemical spills, student injuries or deaths, and weather.

McDonald said the plan also was activated during a bank robbery in Blue Hill in April 2006. He said the school was on alert and all doors were locked.

"It covers a pretty broad spectrum," McDonald said, referring to the crisis planning.

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SNOW EMERGENCY IN EFFECT

At least two communities in Tribland already have issued snow emergencies because of a potential snow-storm.

The cities of Minden and Hastings have both declared emergencies.

The Minden emergency began at 8 p.m. Friday and will last until 8 p.m. Monday.

In Hastings, the emergency takes effect at noon today and is scheduled to expire at noon Tuesday.

During a snow emergency, vehicles must be removed from snow emergency routes to allow for snow removal vehicles to clear the streets.

In Hastings, almost all stop sign protected streets are snow emergency routes. These routes can be identified by red, white and blue signs posted every few blocks.

A storm heavy snowfall and blizzard conditions is expected to hit the area today.

Southern Power District is warning customers that the storm could cause some power outages this weekend, as some areas are still weakened because of the New Year's ice storm.

High winds that accompany blizzards could result in damage, according to a Southern Power news release.

To report any outages that occur this weekend, call (888) 484-2470.

Facility: ACT members 'open' about potential move

Continued from page A5

During discussions, ACT team members seemed receptive to the idea of moving to South Central, she said.

"There were a couple of individuals who approached me after the meeting and said they felt really positive about the meeting," she said. "I think it really demonstrates that the ACT team members came to the meeting with an open mind and that they are approaching this process with an open mind."

Based on a national model, the Hastings ACT team is the first of three established in Nebraska, Baxter said. The other teams are located in Omaha and Lincoln.

While there is no set deadline for negotiations, Baxter said she hopes to have an agreement reached with ACT team members within the next three months.

"I hope that we can meet probably every two to three

weeks over the course of the next two or three months," she said. "The region has advocated that we're able to do it in a fashion so that it's a thoughtful planning process. We want to do it as soon as we can, but we want it to be done well."

Baxter said the move could actually afford the team greater flexibility in carrying out its assignments. The HRC and South Central are nationally accredited organizations under different accrediting bodies. HRC falls under hospital accreditation, while South Central is accredited as a community-based rehabilitation program.

"I believe the ACT team will have greater flexibility in the community than they've had being attached to the hospital," she said. "It's important that they follow the national model, and I think they'll be able to better adhere to the model in the community. That'll be a real plus for the team."

Comer: Man has witnessed plenty of changes in business

Continued from page A5

"In 1960, if you had 100 bushels of corn per acre on irrigated land, you had a good crop," he said. "And you know how that has expanded now, as 250 bushels per acre isn't that uncommon."

Also in the mid-1960s, Comer said, new farm equipment became available, allowing farmers to more efficiently harvest their crops. When he was growing up, corn harvest could run as long as 60 days. Nowadays, highly mechanized farm equipment allows farmers to harvest vast tracts of land in several days, barring any complications.

As technology vastly changed the agricultural landscape in central Nebraska, Comer said, Aurora Co-op also began to expand, offering its patrons new and improved services that allowed them to compete in the rapidly changing world of agriculture.

Comer said the biggest challenge during his career has been the railroads. Railroads play a vital farm-to-market role. As farmers take their grain to the elevator, the elevator ships a vast majority of the grain to other markets by rail.

In recent years, elevators such as Aurora Co-op have added bigger loading facilities to handle 110-unit rail car loads of grain in order to take advantage of the railroad's better shipping rates for larger loads. The growth from 54-unit car grain trains to 110-unit ones has taken place in just a little more than 20 years. That made huge financial demands on co-ops such as Aurora Co-op to expand their grain-hauling capability to remain competitive.

But Comer said providing timely transportation for farmers' grain has been a challenge. Many years, as harvest grew progressively larger, rail transportation was strained while keeping up with the growing yields.

"It has been very satisfying to continually build volume year after year, whether it be farmers growing more crops or

through mergers and acquisitions," Comer said. "That is very satisfying, but it is also very challenging."

Comer said when he started with Aurora Co-op in 1960, they loaded mainly trucks and boxcars.

"We really have evolved over the years," he said. "Our corn at the time mainly went out by truck to Colorado feedlots because those trucks hauled wheat from Colorado to Omaha and on the return trip they hauled corn back to Colorado."

And Comer said all things came around eventually as within the next several years, the role trucks played in hauling grain will dramatically change as more and more ethanol plants dot the landscape. Local truck volume will increase as more and more of the locally grown corn crop will be used for ethanol production.

"We were one of the first local co-ops in Nebraska to buy rail cars," he said. "But we are now evolving back to trucks, and those rail cars will also go by the wayside eventually."

With all the changes Comer has seen over the years to the agriculture industry, he took it all in stride.

"You have to go with the flow," he said. "You always want to be in the position to sell to the best market and you have to have the equipment to do it."

What Comer will carry with him the most from his years of working at Aurora Co-op is the personal relationships he has built. In some cases, those relationships span five generations.

He said back before Aurora Co-op purchased the elevator in Grand Island back in the 1980s that allowed them to ship on both the Burlington Northern and Union Pacific, he was the man in charge of marketing the farmers' grain.

"I knew every tenant and every landlord in every division we operated in and all their crops," Comer said. "That is very satisfying because I knew everybody."

The Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE — A state proposal to ensure Nebraskans don't use more Republican River basin water than they're supposed to would cut groundwater irrigation pumping by up to 25 percent for wells near the river.

The plan presented Thursday to representatives of the basin's natural resources districts and irrigation districts also calls for pumping cutbacks of 15 percent for wells farther from the river.

State Department of Natural Resources officials said the plan would bring the state into compliance with the three-state Republican River Compact by 2012.

"The goal is to achieve a balance between our annual allocations and computed beneficial consumptive use by the year 2012," said DNR Director Ann Bleed. "People want to know what they can expect in the long term."

Nebraska has overused its compact allocation in the Republican basin the last three years, and estimates show the state could be short enough water to cover 200,000 acres of land — more than 300 square miles — with a foot of water.

A 1943 compact allocated the annual water supply in the Republican basin. Nebraska gets 49 percent, Kansas gets 40 percent and

Colorado gets 11 percent.

Kansas filed a lawsuit in 1998, arguing that Nebraska breached the compact by allowing the proliferation and use of thousands of wells connected to the river and its tributaries along the state's southern border.

Nebraska argued that groundwater use was not regulated by the compact because it was signed before deep-well irrigation was used in the river basin.

The U.S. Supreme Court later approved the settlement of the dispute.

Nebraska did not have to pay monetary damages as a result of the settlement, but would be forced to if Kansas does not get its share of the water.

The draft of the new DNR plan includes ways to pay for projects that would provide more water and to pay groundwater users who would face more regulations than other irrigators.

"Eventually, the basin shouldn't need handouts from the state," Bleed said. "But with drought conditions, we hope the state will help."

The scenarios described by DNR senior groundwater modeler James Schneider didn't include a similar compensation portion for surface water irrigators.

State plan for Republican River would cut allocations

"This would be fine if we were to the point that our irrigators were able to use surface water for what it was intended," said Nebraska Bostwick Irrigation District Manager Mike Delka of Red Cloud. "You are asking us to keep our sacrifice going for something that should be ours anyway. You are asking us to share with all the depletions caused by increased (groundwater) development."

Bleed said the draft does call for surface water users to share in the allocations and said an estimated 115,000 acres in the Republican Basin are irrigated with surface water and 1.2 million acres irrigated with groundwater.

If a moderate drought were to continue, Schneider's calculations showed the annual compact allocation overuses from 2003 through 2007 could become a positive of 20 acre-feet by 2012 if groundwater pumping were reduced as outlined.

His figures also included other water-saving methods.

Josh Friesen, chairman of the Middle Republican NRD, attended the meeting and on Friday described the plan as a soft proposal state officials seemed willing to adjust.

"We all understand we're going to have to have some reductions in groundwater in there," he said.

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Lincoln* American Auto, 500 N. Jackson St., (402) 476-5420
Lincoln* American Business Initiatives, 809 P St., (402) 476-5420
Lincoln* Bolte-Systek Wireless, 8600 Andermatt Dr., Ste. 1, (402) 489-2355
Lincoln* Huskerland Communications, 224 Norrits Ave., (308) 345-2429
McCook (402) 489-2355
Nebraska City* Watkins True Value, 1107 Grundman Blvd., (402) 873-3762
Niobrara Jones Communications, 250 Walnut Ave., (402) 857-3644
Norfolk** Abe's Wireless, 506 Omaha Ave., (402) 841-5545
Norfolk* Cellular Advantage, Sunset Plaza Mall, (402) 371-4500
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North Platte* Huskerland Communications, 400 Dewey, (308) 534-1304
O'Neill Huskerland Communications, 414 E. Douglas Ave., (402) 336-1121
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Omaha Cellular Advantage, 9747 Q Street, (402) 884-6609
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Omaha* Next Generation at Montclair, 13015 W. Center Rd., Ste. A1-A, (402) 697-9900
Omaha* Next Generation at North Park, 2012 N. 117th Ave., (402) 496-9800
Red Oak* Watkins True Value, 1600 N. Broadway, (712) 623-3662
Seward Choice Communications, 1419 W. Hwy. 34, (402) 643-6609
Shenandoah Kios' Connections, 2007 Hwy. 59, Ste. A, (712) 246-2077
Syracuse Video Express, 415 S. 13th, (402) 374-2313
Tekamah Huskerland Communications, 170 S. Main, (402) 576-5597
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Council: Pair of high-dollar projects to be discussed

Continued from page A5

The grant application is to receive entitlement funds from the Federal Aviation Administration to replace the lighting, wiring and conduits on Taxiway B.

In December, City Engineer Dave Wacker said he estimated the project would cost about \$252,000.

The council meets 7 p.m. in the City Building, 220 N. Hastings Ave.

The council also will:
◆ Consider a license agreement

with Harry Dworak, owner of My Place Plaza at 314 N. Burlington Ave., to have a grease pit installed.

◆ Authorize the mayor to sign the memorandum of understanding between the city and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

◆ Consider the request of the Development Services Department for a time extension for the Hastings Planning Commission's recommendations on properties eligible for annexation.

◆ Consider the one- and six-year street plan.

◆ Conduct a closed session to discuss contract labor fees.

NCLB: Curriculum director says the Act seems to be working

Continued from page A5

"As we've tried to meet No Child Left Behind, we've had to re-look at what we teach and how we teach it," Loeffelholz said. "We're in the process of identifying essentials of what kids should know and be able to do in each of our classrooms. We think if we can do that with standards and assessments, No Child Left Behind and STARS will take care of itself."

STARS, School Based Teacher-Led Assessment Reporting System, is Nebraska's system for implementing NCLB's assessment regulations at local levels on a district-to-district basis.

Loeffelholz said while he considers NCLB an imperfect work in progress, he is nonetheless convinced it has brought about some very positive changes into the classroom.

"The requirements of NCLB and many state-mandated assessment plans are focused on student achievement," he said. "This has changed everything that we do. Before, we didn't know if what we were teaching was making a difference. This had kind of forced us as educators to make adjustments in our instruction so that the kids get it."

Not everything about NCLB has resonated well with teachers and administrators, however. Loeffelholz said he has traveled to Washington, D.C., on three different occasions to lobby for changes in the act, including how the Adequate Yearly Progress standards are set and the need for additional funding to accomplish the legislated objectives.

While he admits that the state's goal of achieving 100 percent proficiency by 2013-14 probably isn't realistic, he pointed out that HPS' students have excelled beyond the district's expectations at many levels.

"HPS meets all their reading goals," he said. "The district goal for the last four years was to improve in reading, and we

have the data to show we are improving, but we're not there yet. We think we can do better."

That sentiment holds especially true in the area of mathematics, he said.

"In math, we're struggling," he said. "A lot of people across the state are struggling with the math piece of it."

In addition to re-assessing its mathematics program, HPS is in the process of adapting a new reading curriculum for kindergarten through sixth grades, Loeffelholz said. During the question-and-answer portion of the program, he explained how the district relies heavily on research data when selecting a curriculum.

"Research-based curriculum are the only ones we consider," he said.

Additionally, the input of teachers carries ample weight, as well.

"You've got to believe in it to teach it," he said. "That's why we want the teachers involved."

Beginning this year, student report cards in kindergarten through sixth grades will include a standard number grade explaining what level of understanding each pupil has achieved in each subject. Standards include beginning (one), progressive (two), proficient (three) and advanced (four).

These same standards are adopted by teachers when developing their assessment tests, Loeffelholz said. The objective, he said, is to achieve an acceptable level of proficiency as mandated by the NCLB Act.

"For example, in a 16-question test, you know you're writing four questions for that beginning learner, four for the progressive learner, four for the proficient student and four for the advanced learner," he said. "The goal is to be proficient. That's what the government wants us to do at the state level and the federal level."

Head of women's panel quits, protesting firing of director

The Associated Press
LINCOLN — The chairwoman of the state Commission on the Status of Women resigned Friday, protesting the firing of the commission's executive director on Thursday.

Irene Duncan of York said in an e-mail sent to other commission members, the news media and the Gov. Dave Heineman that she did not approve of how the firing of Lisa Good was handled, nor did she "approve of the process, actions or representations made by what I feel were from vindictive, unethical, self-serving people and possibly politically motivated."

"At no time was I, as chair, made aware of any specific con-

cerns or questions regarding the executive director, by these members or anyone else, even as I repeatedly requested same from those who created this caustic atmosphere."

In her resignation letter addressed to the governor, Duncan said that, because of "meddling and manipulation affecting this properly constituted agency, the (commission) has been strangled from its necessary purposes, intent and vital function."

"This agency is desperately needed by many of the 870,000 women of Nebraska," she said, "especially those who do not have a voice in policy formation, legislation, their workplace or within the legal system."

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Monday
◆ Good Samaritan Village:
◆ Goldbeck Towers, 9:30 a.m.
◆ The Villa, 9:45 a.m.
◆ Hoeger Memorial Library, 10:15 a.m.
◆ Perkins Pavilion, 10:45 a.m.
◆ Village Green, 11 a.m.
◆ Regency Retirement, 1:15 p.m.
◆ HPS Preschool at Hawthorne, 1:45 p.m.
◆ 1900 block of West Ninth Street, 2 p.m.
◆ HPS Preschool at Headstart, 2:20 p.m.

Tuesday
◆ Kenesaw School, 9:15-1 p.m.
◆ Christ Lutheran School, 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday
◆ Saint Michael's School, 9-11 a.m.
◆ Homestead, 11:15 a.m.
◆ District No. 33, 1:25-2:15 p.m.
◆ 1000 block of South Hastings Ave., 2:40 p.m.
Thursday
◆ Children's Ark, 9-10 a.m.
◆ Pooh Corner North 10:15-11:15 a.m.
◆ Juniata School, 1:15-2:45 p.m.

Region/State

Scramble: Child helath care money running out for states

Continued from page A6

SCHIP covers about 24,000 children in Nebraska.

An Associated Press survey found that at least 14 states could face a shortfall of children's health insurance funds before the next federal fiscal year begins in October.

Besides Georgia, the other states are Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Iowa, Maryland, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Rhode Island and Alaska.

Georgia contends it will run out of money in late March. Illinois, New Jersey, Maryland, Massachusetts and Alaska expect to exhaust their federal money this spring.

Carol Martin, of the Atlanta suburb of Decatur, has two children, ages 12 and 14, on PeachCare. Both have asthma.

"We really need this," Martin said. "If you are not going to make children's health a priority what is?"

At issue is the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP, which was started by Congress in 1998

and is funded by a combination of federal and state funds. Participants also pay premiums.

The program was envisioned as a way to provide health insurance to the children of the working poor — those who make too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to afford their own insurance.

SCHIP's current budget is \$5.5 billion. But states say the amount falls \$745 million short of what they need.

The program has had funding problems in the past. But "you've never had this many states before. It's never been this much of a shortfall before," said Genevieve Kenney, a policy expert at the Washington-based Urban Institute. "And Congress isn't moving."

Georgia's senators, Republicans Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson, have proposed shifting money from states with surplus SCHIP money, like Texas and Connecticut. But states with surpluses are not eager to give

up the extra cash.

Dennis Smith, director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations, said President Bush favors redistributing any unspent money to those states with deficits. "There's plenty of money. It's just in different places," Smith said.

SCHIP funding is based, in part, on the number of uninsured children in each state. So, those states that use the program most aggressively to reduce their number of uninsured children end up coming up short on federal funds.

Another problem, say critics, is that the funding is based on outdated census data. That has been especially problematic in states like Georgia where the population has swelled in recent years, in part because of an influx of Hurricane Katrina refugees.

Georgia's program insures about 273,000 children. Besides freezing enrollment, the state's Republican legislative leaders are pushing to drop some 21,000 children from the program by lowering the income threshold.

State

UNO, UNK

MATCH UNION

LINCOLN — An arbitrator has ordered the University of Nebraska to raise faculty wages over the next two years at the Kearney and Omaha campuses, ruling in favor of the faculty unions.

Each year of the 2007-2009 state budget, the university must pay a 4.4 percent salary increase to UNK teachers and 4.3 percent more to UNO teachers.

The Associated Press

Markets

Friday's closing local markets

Corn4.02
Soybeans7.14
Milo4.02
Wheat4.85

Stocks of local interest

The following stocks of local interest were traded today:

	Last	Chg.
Alltel	62.70	-0.36
BN Santa Fe	63.91	-1.01
Berkshire Hathaway A	106,800.00	-560.00
Berkshire Hathaway B	3,562.00	-13.00
ConAgra	25.53	-0.07
Eaton Corp.	84.04	+0.69
Ingersoll Rand	45.20	+0.62
Kinder Morgan	105.95	-0.05
Level 3	6.55	-0.05
McDonald's	46.01	-0.04
PepsiCo	64.58	-0.08
Tier One	28.48	-0.65
Tricon Global Restaurants	60.51	-0.55
Union Pacific	103.88	-0.23
Wells Fargo	35.63	-0.58
Williams Cos.	27.91	-0.10
Wal-Mart	49.57	-0.12



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U.S. detains Shiite political scion

BRIAN MURPHY
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. troops detained the eldest son of Iraq's most influential Shiite politician for nearly 12 hours Friday as he crossed back from Iran — the same route Washington believes is used to keep powerful Shiite militias flush with weapons and aid.

Even though the U.S. ambassador issued a rapid apology, the decision to hold Amar al-Hakim risks touching off a backlash from Shiite leaders at a time when their cooperation is needed most to keep a major security sweep through Baghdad from unraveling.

It also highlights the often knotty relationship between U.S. military authorities and Iraq's elected leaders, whose ties to neighboring patrons — Syria backing Sunnis, and Iran acting as big brother to majority Shiites — add fuel to sectarian rivalries and bring recriminations from Washington about alleged arms smuggling and outside interference.

Shiite reaction to the detention was quick and sharp, with some officials suggesting it was a veiled warning about the limits of ties to Iran.

"What happened is unacceptable," Shiite lawmaker Hamid Majid Moussa told Al-Forat television. "The Iraqi government and the American forces must put an end to such transgressions," Shiite lawmaker Hamid Majid Moussa told Al-Forat television.

The station is just one part of the multilayered clout of the al-Hakim family.

Al-Hakim's father, Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, met with President Bush at the White House in December. He is the leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, or SCIRI, the country's largest political force.

The bloc carries the strongest voice in the 275-seat parliament and holds critical sway over the fate of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. It also maintains very close ties to Iran, which hosted the elder al-Hakim and other SCIRI officials before the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003.



Flora Patino holds a photo of her son, Hector C. Patino, at the family's cemetery plot in San Antonio Feb. 16. Patino, 58, was driving a truck for a Halliburton subsidiary in the heavily fortified Green Zone in Iraq when he was killed in a friendly-fire incident at an Australian checkpoint.

Iraq war exacts toll on civilians

NEARLY 800 PRIVATE CONTRACTORS KILLED

MICHELLE ROBERTS
The Associated Press

In a largely invisible cost of the war in Iraq, nearly 800 civilians working under contract to the Pentagon have been killed and more than 3,300 hurt doing jobs normally handled by the U.S. military, according to figures gathered by The Associated Press.

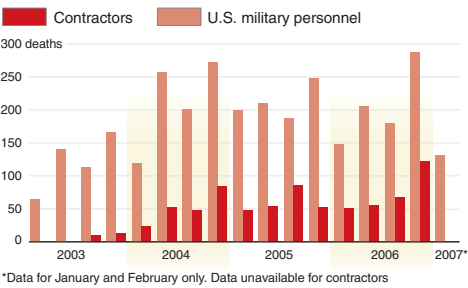
Exactly how many of these employees doing the Pentagon's work are Americans is uncertain. But the casualty figures make it clear that the Defense Department's count of more than 3,100 U.S. military dead does not tell the whole story.

"It's another unseen expense of the war," said Thomas Houle, a retired Air Force reservist whose brother-in-law died while driving a truck in Iraq. "It's almost disrespectful that it

Contractor deaths in Iraq increase

The U.S. Department of Labor has recorded 769 contractor deaths in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003.

Number of deaths in Iraq, by yearly quarter



*Data for January and February only. Data unavailable for contractors

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Labor; U.S. Department of Defense

doesn't get the kind of publicity or respect that a soldier would."

Employees of defense contractors such as Halliburton, Blackwater and Wackenhut cook meals, do laundry, repair infrastructure, translate docu-

ments, analyze intelligence, guard prisoners, protect military convoys, deliver water in the heavily fortified Green Zone and stand sentry at buildings — often highly dangerous duties almost identical to those per-

formed by many U.S. troops.

The U.S. has outsourced so many war and reconstruction duties that there are almost as many contractors (120,000) as U.S. troops (135,000) in the war zone.

The insurgents in Iraq make little if any distinction between the contractors and U.S. troops.

In January, four contractors for Blackwater were killed when their helicopter was downed by gunfire in Baghdad. In 2004, two Americans and a British engineer were kidnapped and decapitated. That same year, a mob of insurgents ambushed a supply convoy escorted by contractors, burning and mutilating the guards' bodies and stringing up two of them from a bridge.

But when contractors are killed or wounded, the casualties are off the books, in a sense.

While the Defense Department issues a press release whenever a soldier or Marine dies, the AP had to file a

Freedom of Information Act request to obtain figures on pre-2006 civilian deaths and injuries from the Labor Department, which tracks workers' compensation claims.

By the end of 2006, the Labor Department had quietly recorded 769 deaths and 3,367 injuries serious enough to require four or more days off the job.

Questions about the casualties and the U.S. government's extensive use of contractors were referred by the Pentagon to U.S. Embassy spokesman Lou Fintor in Baghdad, who did not return repeated calls or e-mails as recently as Friday.

Although contractors were widely used in Vietnam for support and reconstruction tasks, they have never before represented such a large portion of the U.S. presence in a war zone or accounted for so many security and military-like jobs, experts say.

Smith's mother, boyfriend square off over custody of infant



LOU TOMAN/AP

Larry Birkhead, Anna Nicole Smith's former boyfriend, looks on during a paternity hearing at the Broward County Circuit Court in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Friday.

MANUEL ERNESTO RIVERA
The Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas — After feuding over where to bury Anna Nicole Smith, the former Playboy Playmate's mother and boyfriend are now preparing for another fight — this time in the Bahamas, for custody of Smith's 5-month-old daughter.

The grandmother, Virgie Arthur, claims she could provide a more stable home for the infant, who stands to inherit a fortune. She wants to wrest guardianship from Howard K. Stern, who is listed as Dannielynn's father on the birth certificate but faces a three-way paternity dispute.

A hearing on Monday is not likely to resemble Thursday's bizarre courtroom scene in Florida, where a weeping judge

announced before news cameras that he wanted Smith buried in the Bahamas.

The proceedings in Nassau are conducted in private, and a judge issued a gag order at the opening session Thursday to limit the information released publicly by attorneys from both sides. Arthur and Stern missed that session because they were in court in Florida, but they are expected to appear on Monday.

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Isaacs, the judge hearing the case, has barred Stern from taking the infant out of the Bahamas until a custody ruling. It was not clear when that might come.

An attorney for Larry Birkhead, an ex-boyfriend of Smith's who claims he fathered the baby girl, filed a motion in

the Bahamian Supreme Court claiming paternity for his client. Birkhead's attorneys in the U.S. said they planned to come to the Bahamas on Monday to seek custody on this behalf.

On Friday, Birkhead attorney Debra Opri asked a Florida court to enforce a California judge's orders so he can get DNA samples from Smith's body and the

baby, but the judge said the decision could belong to authorities in the Bahamas.

"This child is in the Bahamas. The jurisdiction is in the Bahamas," said Broward County Circuit Judge Lawrence Korda.

Birkhead's attorneys said they had sent doctors to the Bahamas to perform DNA tests, and the doctors were turned

away because they did not have work permits.

Frederic von Anhalt, the husband of actress Zsa Zsa Gabor, also says he may be the father.

Smith, who moved to the islands during her pregnancy last year, died Feb. 8 after she was found unconscious in a Florida hotel room. The cause of death is under investigation.

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Scorsese's
Oscar may
finally be
at hand

DAVID GERMAIN
The Associated Press
LOS ANGELES — Among the five Academy Award directing nominees, one name seems to be on everyone's lips: Martin Scorsese.



Scorsese
Nominated five times previously for best director since the 1980 masterpiece "Raging Bull," Scorsese has gone home a loser each year. With Scorsese's sixth directing nomination, this one for his return to the vivid and violent crime genre on "The Departed," seemingly everyone in Hollywood figures he finally will have his Oscar come Sunday.

Not that he's up against a bunch of slouches. His formidable competition includes Clint Eastwood, who beat him for the directing Oscar two years ago and is nominated this time for the World War II saga "Letters From Iwo Jima."

Also nominated are two Brits, Stephen Frears for the insightful palace drama "The Queen" and Paul Greengrass for the Sept. 11 chronicle "United 93," and Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu for the sprawling ensemble tale "Babel."

Scorsese has made no secret over the years that he'd like to have that trophy.

The chatty Scorsese has been modest and terse through awards season about his Oscar history and his prospects this time.

Last fall, as "The Departed" arrived in theaters, he said of his Oscar shutout: "I guess it's all right. I'm disappointed, of course. But you don't make pictures to win Oscars."

After winning the Directors Guild of America's top filmmaking honor — which almost always is a precursor to an Oscar triumph — Scorsese was coy when asked if this was his year to win an Oscar.

"I don't know," Scorsese said. "It's good to have a nomination, especially for this picture."

Along with "Raging Bull," Scorsese previously was nominated as best director for "The Last Temptation of Christ," "Goodfellas," "Gangs of New York" and "The Aviator." Scorsese also had two screenplay nominations for co-writing "Goodfellas" and "The Age of Innocence," losing both times.

A sixth loss would put Scorsese in the record books as the director with the most nominations without winning.

If Scorsese wins, it arguably will be for a lesser film compared to his best work. Still, despite the repetitive violence that concludes "The Departed," the story of rival mob and police moles is magnificently directed, resurrecting much of the sardonic humor, wiseguy interplay and savage grandeur of Scorsese's vintage films.

Many thought Scorsese should have won for "Raging Bull," but the directing prize that year went to Robert Redford for "Ordinary People," which also beat Scorsese's film for best picture.

"I voted for him back in the 'Raging Bull' days as an academy member," Eastwood said. "Everybody thought that would be his moment. It still is one of his defining films."

Two years ago, awards watchers branded the directing category a showdown between Eastwood for "Million Dollar Baby" and Scorsese for "The Aviator." A previous best-director winner for "Unforgiven," Eastwood beat out Scorsese.

While sentiment is firmly with Scorsese this time, some Oscar analysts have revived the notion of a two-man race, saying Eastwood could be a spoiler.

"I really don't like that, and I don't think Marty does — and don't think any of the other nominees do, because it's not fair to the other nominees who have done good work — to have people pitting the two senior guys. Whoever delivers the goods, they'd like to win on delivering the goods," Eastwood said. "When you make a sporting event out of it, it really shouldn't be like that."



FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES/AP

Actors (from left) Abigail Breslin, Toni Collette, Steve Carell and Greg Kinnear appear in a scene from the Oscar-nominated movie "Little Miss Sunshine."

Comic tales make small inroads

ACADEMY TENDS
TO FAVOR SOBER
BEST-PICTURE DRAMAS

DAVID GERMAIN
The Associated Press
LOS ANGELES — The Academy Awards typically are a gloomy Sunday, ending with a heavy drama crowned as best picture.

Yet there's good news for this year's exhilarating romp, "Little Miss Sunshine": Over the last decade, academy voters have lightened up and handed the top trophy to the occasional comic frolic rather than a big, tragic pageant.

Granted, the Oscars went down with the ship on 1998 awards king "Titanic," died in the arena with Russell Crowe in 2000's champion "Gladiator," and reveled in wholesale carnage in 2003's victor "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King." But they also caroused with the Bard in 1998's best-picture recipient "Shakespeare in Love," wisecracked through stifling suburbia with Kevin Spacey in 1999's winner "American Beauty," and tapped their toes along with Renee Zellweger and Catherine Zeta-Jones in 2002's triumphant "Chicago."

OK, so Spacey gets blown away by a neighbor in the end, and Zellweger and Zeta-Jones are conniving killers in prison. They're FUN victims and perps, though.

Do Oscar voters need to lighten up more often?

"Absolutely. This has been a sticking point for me as long as I've been a fan of movies," said critic Richard Roeper of the Chicago Sun-Times and TV's "Ebert and Roeper and the Movies." "People in the industry know better than anyone else that comedy is incredibly hard to do. Crap like 'Norbit' can make millions of dollars, and it's absolute garbage, but people still don't want to reward a



MERIE W. WALLACE, Warner Bros./AP

Actor Ken Watanabe (right) appears in a scene from the Oscar-nominated film "Letters From Iwo Jima." The Oscars air Sunday at 7 p.m. on ABC.

GOOD action film or comedy."

In their early decades, the Oscars mixed it up, the bonny 1934 romance "It Happened One Night" taking best picture and the tyrant tale "Mutiny on the Bounty" winning the next year, the stark war saga "The Bridge on the River Kwai" prevailing for 1957, the musical charmer "Gigi" earning top honors a year later.

After a string of merrier best-picture winners in the 1970s ("The Sting," "Rocky," "Annie Hall"), the Oscars largely became an exercise in gloom and doom as films such as "The Deer Hunter," "Ordinary People," "Terms of Endearment," "Platoon" "Unforgiven" and "Schindler's List" took the main prize.

The best-picture field the last 10 years still has been dominated by somber stories, with lighter tales such as "The Full Monty," "Jerry Maguire" and "Sideways" among the just-happy-to-be-nominated crowd.

With comedy-tinged films winning three of the past 10 times, the Oscars are looking cheerier than they have in decades. Here's the gloomy-vs.-

sunny scorecard for best-picture winners over the last decade:

◆ "The English Patient," 1996: Gloomy. Ralph Fiennes' lover dies alone in a cave, and he gets most of his skin burned off before croaking in an act of assisted suicide. On the sunny side, his nurse, Juliette Binoche, gets a new boyfriend.

◆ "Titanic," 1997: Gloomy. Everybody dies (except Kate Winslet and some insignificant others). On the sunny side, girls and women are hooked on heartthrob Leonardo DiCaprio to the tune of \$1.8 billion in worldwide grosses.

◆ "Shakespeare in Love," 1998: Sunny. Gwyneth Paltrow wears a fake mustache to make good in a man's world and gets to sleep with the playwright (Joseph Fiennes). On the gloomy side, Shakespeare's a married man, and Paltrow winds up hitched to a mercenary creep.

◆ "American Beauty," 1999: Partly sunny. Kevin Spacey goes from tubby to buff while mercilessly mocking everything in his life. On the gloomy side, a homophobic military man puts

a bullet in him, but Spacey lives on in eternity as a disembodied narrator.

◆ "Gladiator," 2000: Gloomy. Good soldier Russell Crowe is forced into gladiatorial slavery, and his wife and son are burned and hanged by Rome's wicked new ruler. On the sunny side, before dying, Crowe gets to butcher the sniveling emperor in front of a full house.

◆ "A Beautiful Mind," 2001: Gloomy. Good mathematician Russell Crowe loses his marbles and hangs out with sinister imaginary friends. On the sunny side, he wins a Nobel Prize.


◆ "Chicago," 2002: Sunny. Renee Zellweger and Catherine Zeta-Jones sing, dance, beat murder raps then take their act on the road. On the gloomy side, it's curtains for the no-good, two-timing men of the world.

◆ "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," 2003: Gloomy. Probably the biggest body count ever in a best-picture winner, even if most of them are digitally crafted fantasy creatures. On the sunny side, good kicks evil's butt.

◆ "Million Dollar Baby," 2004: Gloomy. Spunky Hilary Swank overcomes the odds to become a star boxer, only to be paralyzed and have Clint Eastwood pitch in with another act of assisted suicide. On the sunny side, Eastwood winds up at a diner that has really good pie.

◆ "Crash," 2005: Gloomy. Seemingly everyone in Los Angeles interacts with everyone else over one tragedy-filled 36-hour stretch. On the sunny side, it's the funniest movie ever in which an off-duty policeman kills a hitchhiker, a vengeful store owner nearly shoots a little girl and a bigoted white cop terrorizes a black woman then rescues her from a car wreck.

This year's best-picture race is uncharacteristically wide open, with the winner anyone's guess among four heavy dramas — "Babel," "The Departed," "Letters From Iwo Jima" and "The Queen" — and the comic "Little Miss Sunshine."


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Cheney: China's anti-satellite test at odds with goal

ROHAN SULLIVAN
The Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — China's recent anti-satellite weapons test and its continued military buildup are "not consistent" with its stated aim of a peaceful rise as a global power, Vice President Dick Cheney said Friday.

In a speech in Sydney, Cheney also expressed wariness about North Korea's commitment to a landmark deal on ending its nuclear programs.

As anti-war demonstrators clashed with police outside the hotel where Cheney was speaking, the vice president also expressed gratitude to Australia for sending troops to the Iraq war, which he said must be won or terrorists would be emboldened worldwide.

Cheney praised China for playing an "especially important" role in the negotiations that resulted in the North Korea deal, under which the North is to seal its main nuclear reactor and allow international inspections in

exchange for fuel oil.

"Other actions by the Chinese government send a different message," Cheney told the Australian-American Leadership Dialogue, a private organization that promotes ties between the two countries.

"Last month's anti-satellite test, China's continued fast-paced military buildup are less constructive and are not consistent with China's stated goal of a peaceful rise," he said.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Cheney's remarks. Many government offices were closed Friday for the weeklong Lunar New Year holiday.

Beijing previously said its Jan. 11 firing of a missile into a defunct weather satellite was for scientific purposes, but the test was widely criticized as a provocative demonstration of China's growing military clout.

Washington said the test — which made China only the third nation after

the United States and Russia to use weapons beyond the atmosphere — undermined efforts to keep weapons out of space. Beijing countered by saying the United States is blocking a possible global treaty that would ban weapons in space.

China's military has grown rapidly along with its economy in recent years, prompting concern that the balance of military power in the Pacific could start to shift away from the United States.

China said in late December it was strengthening its military to thwart any attempt by Taiwan to push for independence, but vowed it was committed to the peaceful development of its 2.3 million-strong military, the world's largest.

Regarding the North Korea deal, Cheney said it represented "a first hopeful step" that would "bring us closer" to a nuclear-free Korean peninsula — but he also sounded a note of caution.

"We go into this deal with our eyes

open," he said. "In light of North Korea's missile test last July, its nuclear test in October and its record of proliferation and human rights abuses, the regime in Pyongyang has much to prove."

Cheney, a key backer of the Iraq war, praised Prime Minister John Howard for sending troops to Iraq and Afghanistan, saying Australians had won the respect of the world through their support of the fight against terror.

"The notion that free countries can turn our backs on what happens in places like Afghanistan or Iraq or any other possible safe haven for terrorists is an option that we simply cannot indulge," he said.

He said that if the U.S.-led coalition leaves Iraq before domestic forces can handle security, violence among rival factions would spread throughout the country and beyond.

"Having tasted victory in Iraq, jihadists would look for new missions," joining the Taliban fighting in

Afghanistan and spreading "sorrow and discord" across the Middle East and further afield, he said.

"Such chaos and mounting danger does not have to occur. It is, however, the enemy's objective," Cheney said. "For the sake of our own long-term security, we have a duty to stand in their way."

Outside, about 100 protesters waved placards saying "Go home Cheney" and "Bring the troops home." Three people were arrested after scuffles broke out and officers on horseback moved in to disperse the crowd.

Cheney later visited a military barracks in Sydney and held talks with a group of Australian troops who had served overseas. He also met with opposition leader Kevin Rudd, who wants a timetable set for withdrawing Australian troops from Iraq and faster action to deal David Hicks, an Australian who has been jailed without trial at the military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for more than five years.

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Business Review

Snow's Car Clinic celebrating 20 years of Service

Snow's Car Clinic has been in business for 20 years. Doug Snow worked as a mechanic for KN Energy while doing repairs in his backyard. In 1987 his business was growing so he and his wife Denise decided to open up Snow's Conoco at 1354 West 2nd Street. It was a full service gas station with repairs. In 1990 they decided they needed more room and wanted to focus on repairs so they moved their business to its current location of 836 South Burlington Avenue. They are a Napa Auto Care Center and install quality Napa parts and Interstate Batteries and now employ 2 full time mechanics. They offer full automotive repairs including air-conditioners, brakes, transmissions, engine overhauls, computer diagnostics, alignments, strut and shock replacement, electrical, diesel repair, and oil changes. They also have 2 wreckers for towing, an alignment rack, computer



Doug and Denise Snow have been in business for 20 years

testers and lab scopes for testing all car problems. They also use a part locating system to locate parts that are obsolete or hard to find.

At Snow's Car Clinic they fix things right the first time. From minor to major repairs stop in to see the professionals at Snow's. You can make your next appointment by calling 402-462-6490 or by sending an e-mail to snowscar@hotmail.com.

WINTER COMPUTER CLASSES

Outlook Intermediate	Feb 26	8:30 am-5:30 pm
Windows XP Basic (GI)	Feb 26 & 28	1:15 pm-5:15 pm
Word Intro	Feb 27 & Mar 1	6:00-10:00
Dreamweaver Advance (GI)	Mar 3	8:30 am-5:30 pm
PowerPoint Intermediate (GI)	Mar 5 & 7	8:30 am-12:30 pm
Outlook Intro (GI)	Mar 6 & 8	8:30 am-12:30 pm
Windows XP Advance (GI)	Mar 12 & 14	1:15 pm-5:15 pm

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In June of 2005, United Way of South Central

Nebraska was awarded a grant through Eaton Corporation of Hastings which allowed the United Way of South Central Nebraska to join the already active 2-1-1 systems across the country and make 2-1-1 available the counties of Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster. At that time United Way of South Central Nebraska entered into a contract with the call center of the United Way of the Midlands, located in Omaha and a local database was established containing over 400 health and human service related organizations. Now each time a call is made into the center, the caller is provided with the most comprehensive record of local services in the area including everything from food pantries and utility assistance to support groups, and crime prevention. The system is designed to assist in times of natural disasters or prevention or control of communicable, non-communicable diseases, or chronic diseases, 2-1-1 is the easy access that people need to information about where to go, what to do or how to volunteer. The 2-1-1 service also provides relief for the local 9-1-1



United Way, located at 421 N. Kansas Ave., Hastings is pleased to sponsor the 2-1-2 system for South Central Nebraska

systems, preserving it for the life and death emergencies. In cases of immediate crisis, 2-1-1 centers are able to link a person to the 9-1-1 system for emergency situations. 2-1-1 is always there.

United Way of South Central Nebraska is very grateful for the funds received from Eaton Corporation. That grant covered the start up costs and one year of service for the system. Currently the 2-1-1 system for Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster counties is being financially supported by the United Way of South Central Nebraska. Additional funding for the service is continuously being sought out to keep the system running indefinitely. Uni-

ted Ways across the country want our nation's leaders on Capitol Hill to hear our voices. Please join the efforts to obtain critical federal funds for our community. Contact your Senators and Representatives to urge co-sponsorship of the Calling for 2-1-1 Act. The legislation will provide federal money to states starting or enhancing a 2-1-1 system.

By February 2007, 2-1-1 will be serving approximately 196 million Americans — over 65% of the U.S. population; 212 active 2-1-1 systems covering all or part of 41 states (including 19 states with 100% coverage) plus Washington, DC and Puerto Rico. Canada has an additional 5 locations.

No. 5 Aurora holds off Hastings High rally

RYAN MURKEN
rmurken@hastingstribune.com
AURORA — The Aurora girls basketball team is apparently not interested in fairy-tale endings. The No. 6 Huskies ended Hastings High's hopes for a storybook trip to the state tournament with a 53-35 victory

in the Class B, District 4 title game Friday night. Aurora never trailed Friday, getting 21 points from senior Katie Nunnenkamp to wrap up its first state tournament berth in 23 years. "I'm just happy for the girls," Aurora coach Jeff Sutter said. "All their hard

work and effort paid off tonight and for us to be able to go to state for the first time in 23 years, that is just awesome." Aurora overcame a furious Hastings rally with a 12-2 run over the final four minutes of the third quarter, then put the game away by

hitting 12-of-15 free throws in the final eight minutes. Just as they did in their 54-49 victory over Hastings on Feb. 10, the Huskies lived at the charity stripe as they connected on 27-of-35 trips to the line compared to just 1-of-8 for Hastings.

"They are so big and we tried to hold our ground and play it straight up, but it's tough," Hastings coach Jeff Cafferty said. "I don't know what the free throw stats were, but I know they shot a lot more than us and I knew that was going to be the tale tonight." *Please see HHS/page C2*

STATE BOUND



St. Cecilia's Morgan Dubas (24) and Alyssa Farmer (14) trap St. Paul's Brittney Grim during their Class C-1, District 5 final at Grand Island Central Catholic's gym Friday night.

Hawkettes win district title

GENE RAY
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GRAND ISLAND — Alyssa Farmer and the St. Cecilia defense stole the show Friday night, capturing the Class C-1, District 5 championship and a trip to the girls state basketball tournament. Farmer pilfered seven steals and rang up a game-high 23 points to lift St. Cecilia to a 44-40 come-from-behind victory over St. Paul for the Hawkettes' first state tournament berth since 2004. St. Cecilia stepped up its defense early in the second half and caused more turnovers than

St. Paul could handle the rest of the way, as STC rallied from a 26-20 halftime deficit. The Hawkettes' closed with nine steals and 16 points off St. Paul turnovers to come home with the district title. STC cranked up its offense in the third quarter by outscoring St. Paul 19-7. "After getting behind in the first half, we knew we had to out hustle and outwork them," said Farmer, who grabbed back-to-back steals at the outset of the third quarter, sparking an 8-0 Hawkettes run that gave St. Cecilia the lead it never relinquished. "It showed that if you work hard, good things happen." *Please see STC/page C3*



St. Cecilia's Alex Brosnihan (left) and Nicole Osten (right) battle for the ball with St. Paul's Brittney Grim during their game Friday.

Blue Hill gets wild-card berth

BOBCATS FALL TO TOP-RANKED
KEARNEY CATHOLIC AT BUZZER

VINCE KUPPIG
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Friday night's district title game between Blue Hill and Kearney Catholic very much had a state tournament-type feel to it.

Fortunately for both teams, they'll get a shot at the real state tournament. Despite losing to Class C-2 No. 1 Kearney Catholic 49-47 in the C2-5 district final at Hastings College's Lynn Farrell Arena, the fourth-ranked Bobcats learned later Friday night that their season wasn't over yet as they got one of the two wild-card berths.

"It was a tough loss. Hopefully, we get another shot at them," Blue Hill coach Tim Streff said. "It was a great crowd, great atmosphere going up against the No. 1 team. Hopefully that's going to prepare us for the state tournament."

With the wild-card berth, which the Bobcats received with both Perkins County and West Point Central Catholic winning, Blue Hill unofficially will be the fourth seed for the state tournament and will open with Elkhorn Valley on Thursday Lincoln High School at 5 p.m.

For more than 31 minutes Friday, the Bobcats (21-3) looked like they'd get the automatic berth to the state tournament. They never trailed until Kearney Catholic's Megan Theesen made a layin just before the buzzer to give the Stars (23-0) the two-point win.

Blue Hill held a 47-45 lead with less than 30 seconds left in the game, but the Stars' Kaitlin Petri stole a pass and drove the length of the court for a layup. Then, on the inbound pass, the Bobcats lost control of the ball to give Kearney Catholic the ball with 15 seconds left for one final shot.

That's exactly what the Stars did, with Petri driving and then dishing to Theesen for the game-winner.

"The kids did a nice job defensively that fourth quarter," said Kearney Catholic coach Rick Petri, whose Stars outscored Blue Hill 21-7 over the final 8:02 of the game. "We wanted to get the last shot regardless of what happened. We got the ball to Kaitlin and we were just going to try to let her create. She was able to penetrate and dish off."

"That was kind of the plan. Either she was going to take it or she was going to find somebody that was open."

Blue Hill seemed to be in control in the game late in the third quarter, holding a 40-28 lead with possession of the ball in the final 20 seconds of the period. But Kearney Catholic stole the ball and Jordan Squiers was fouled on a three-point attempt with 1.8 seconds remaining.

She made all three free throws and on ensuing inbound pass, Petri stole the ball and made a 15-foot jumper as time expired to get the Stars within seven going into the final quarter. *Please see BH/page C3*

Tigers fail to advance at state meet

BRYAN L. VALENTINE
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The Hastings High boys swimming team was seconds away from qualifying for the second round of the state swimming competition Friday in Lincoln at the Bob Devaney Sports Center swimming pool.

In order to qualify for the second day of competition, individuals and teams had to finish in the top 12. If a team or individual finished 13th or 14th, they would be designated alternates in case someone could not compete the following day.

The Tigers 200- and 400-yard freestyle relay teams missed the alternate mark by one place as they finished 15th. They missed the second round by 8 seconds or

less as the 200 team of Jack Zoucha, Gavin Raitt, Chris Smolik and Sam Zoucha swam in a time of 1:36.07. The 400 team of Jack and Sam Zoucha, Charlie Lainson and Smolik finished with a time of 3:33.19.

This was the third year the Tigers haven't sent a swimmer past the preliminary round. However, they did send a diver to the second round Thursday as Joe Cockrell finished 10th in what co-head coach Ed Rief said was a long time waiting.

Even though the Tigers didn't make the second round, Rief was pleased with the way the boys performed as all of their times were better than their seeded times. *Please see SWIM/page C3*

Silver Lake sees season come to end

BRYAN L. VALENTINE
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DONIPHAN — Silver Lake's Cinderella run through the post season came to an end Friday in the Class D-1, District 3 championship, as the Mustangs were defeated 42-39 at Doniphan-Trumbull High School.

The win vaulted the Tigers (10-12) to the school's first-ever state tournament, while Silver Lake (12-10) was denied their first trip to state since 2002.

The Mustangs had every opportunity to pull past Palmer in the fourth quarter, but the team struggled from the foul line, converting on just 4-of-9 attempts in the final quarter. Meanwhile, the Tigers converted on 6-of-9 attempts to capture the win. *Please see SL/page C2*



AMY ROH
Tribune

Palmer's Kayla Meyer tries to steal the ball from Silver Lake's Caitlin Bruckman in the first quarter of the Class D-1, District 3 final Friday in Doniphan.

Baseball

College Results

SOUTH

Clemson 8, Pacific 3
Bn 10, Miami 7
Florida St. 6, Appalachian St. 3
Georgia Tech 11, Duquesne 2
Kent St. 10, Florida 4
Kentucky 10, Tennessee Tech 2
LSU 4, Central Florida 1
Mississippi 3, Wright St. 2
Mississippi St. 10, Murray St. 5
North Carolina 9, Stony Brook 1
South Carolina 6, E. Michigan 0
Tennessee 6, Ind.-Pur.-Ft. Wayne 1
Virginia 2, Bucknell 0
Villanova 6, Illinois 1

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas 12, Alabama St. 1
Baylor 3, Oral Roberts 2, 10 innings
Texas 4, Kansas State 2
Texas A&M 15, Jacksonville 5
Texas Tech 6, N. Illinois 5
Oklahoma 1, W. Illinois 5

FAR WEST

CS Northridge 9, Oklahoma St. 8
New Mexico 10, Texas State 0
Stanford 6, Kansas 5

TOURNAMENTS

Baseball at the Beach

N.C. State 5, West Virginia 1
UNC-Wilmington 9, Notre Dame 4
Buckeye Baseball Classic
Kansas St. 4, Seton Hall 2
Ohio St. 8, James Madison 6
Cardinal Baseball Classic
Creighton 6, Arkansas St. 3
Lamar 18, Northwestern 2
HomeWood Suites Shootout
Minnesota 7, UNC-Ashville 5
Virginia Tech 5, The Citadel 4
Mobile Coca-Cola Classic
Auburn 3, Jacksonville 6
South Alabama 5, Michigan St. 1
Rice Invitational
Nebraska 9, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 1
Rice 4, Florida Atlantic 2
River City Classic
Oregon St. 11, UC Davis 2

Basketball

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Toronto	30	25	.545
New Jersey	26	30	.464
New York	25	31	.446
Philadelphia	18	37	.327
Boston	13	40	.245
Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Washington	31	22	.585
Orlando	27	29	.482
Miami	26	28	.481
Atlanta	22	33	.400
Charlotte	22	33	.400

Central Division

	W	L	Pct
Detroit	35	19	.648
Cleveland	32	23	.582
Chicago	32	25	.561
Indiana	29	28	.537
Milwaukee	19	37	.339

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct
Dallas	45	9	.833
San Antonio	37	18	.673
Houston	34	20	.630
New Orleans	27	29	.482
Memphis	14	42	.250

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct
Utah	35	18	.660
Denver	26	26	.500
Minnesota	25	30	.455
Portland	24	32	.429
Seattle	21	38	.353

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct
Phoenix	42	13	.764
L.A. Lakers	30	25	.545
Golden State	26	29	.473
L.A. Clippers	29	28	.509
Sacramento	23	31	.426

Friday's Games

Detroit 40, Orlando 88
Toronto 110, Indiana 88
Charlotte 102, Philadelphia 87
Atlanta 105, Houston 89
New York 95, Milwaukee 83
New Jersey 109, Sacramento 96
Chicago 105, Washington 90
Phoenix 116, Minnesota 104
New Orleans 98, Seattle 87
Memphis at Portland, late
Utah at Denver, late
Boston at L.A. Lakers, late

Saturday's Games

Golden State at L.A. Clippers, 2:30 p.m.
Toronto at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
Seattle at San Antonio, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Utah, 8 p.m.
Denver at Dallas, 8 p.m.

Prep Results

A-1 Tournament

Belleuve West 76, Omaha Central 61

A-2 Tournament

Omaha Westside 52, Bellevue East 48

A-3 Tournament

Lincoln East 63, Omaha Burke 54, OT

A-4 Tournament

Millard West 57, Omaha Marian 53, OT

A-6 Tournament

Grand Island 49, Columbus 47

B-1 Tournament

Crete 44, Lincoln Plus X 32

B-2 Tournament

Gretna 70, Omaha Mercy 43

B-3 Tournament

Omaha Roncalli 52, Blair 46

B-4 Tournament

Aurora 53, Hastings 35

B-5 Tournament

Holdegrise 51, Lexington 32

B-6 Tournament

Alliance 57, Ogallala 36

Class C1 District Tournament

District C1-1

Fairbury 58, Lincoln Lutheran 44

District C1-2

Fort Calhoun 43, North Bend Central 37
--

District C1-3

Twin River 48, Wisner-Piager 40

District C1-4

Norfolk Catholic 47, Crofton 42

District C1-5

Hastings St. Cecilia 44, St. Paul 40

District C1-6

Bridgeport 58, Southern Valley 46

Class C2 District Tournament

District C2-1

Malcolm 47, Tecumseh 29

District C2-2

East Butler 42, Louisville 20

District C2-3

West Point Central Catholic 56, Homer 43
--

District C2-4

Elkhorn Valley 55, Hartington Cedar Catholic 49

District C2-5

Keamery Catholic 49, Blue Hill 47

District C2-6

Perkins County 64, Bayard 40

Class D1 District Tournament

District D1-1

Freeman 38, Exeter/Milligan 29

District D1-2

Humphrey Sr. Francis 58, Bancroft-Rosalie 54
--

District D1-3

Palmer 42, Silver Lake 39

District D1-4

North Loup Scotch 42, Stuart 40

District D1-5

Arapahoe 56, Axtell 42

District D1-6

Wauzata-Palouse 43, Potter-Dix 36

GPAC Women's

Tournament Schedule

Semifinals

Saturday, Feb. 24

Northwestside (22-6) at Morningstar (20-10), 1 p.m.

Hastings (24-7) at Mount Marty (21-8), 1 p.m.

GPAC Men's Tournament

Semifinals

Saturday, Feb. 24

Dordt (21-11) at Northwestside (22-7), 3 p.m.

Concordia (10-20) at Sioux Falls (28-4), 3 p.m.

Hockey

NHL Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	38	17	6	82	165	148
Pittsburgh	33	18	9	75	210	188
N.Y. Islanders	30	23	8	68	180	172
N.Y. Rangers	29	26	6	64	178	175
Philadelphia	16	36	9	41	159	230

Northwest Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Buffalo	41	15	5	87	229	176
Ottawa	35	22	4	74	209	166
Montreal	32	25	6	70	184	189
Toronto	23	29	9	67	193	198
Boston	30	26	6	64	176	214

Central Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	39	16	7	85	192	151
Nashville	40	18	4	84	211	158
St. Louis	26	26	9	61	185	185
Chicago	22	30	9	53	149	185
Columbus	23	32	6	52	150	191

West Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	36	21	4	78	163	154
Minnesota	34	23	5	73	177	160
Calgary	31	21	9	71	193	165
Edmonton	30	26	6	66	171	178
Colorado	29	28	4	62	197	194

Pacific Division

Calgary	31	21	9	71	19
Edmonton	30	26	6	66	17
Colorado	29	28	4	62	19
Pacific Division					
	W	L	OT	Pts	G
Anaheim	35	17	10	80	196

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

Friday's Games

Edmonton 4, Detroit 3, SO
Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 1

Saturday's Games

Montreal at N.Y. Islanders, noon
Washington at New Jersey, noon
Buffalo at Ottawa, 6 p.m.
Carolina at Atlanta, 6 p.m.
Toronto at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Columbus at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.
Boston at Dallas, 6:30 p.m.
Detroit at Nashville, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Calgary, 5 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

Horse Racing

Friday's Fanner Results

1st-6f.

5 (5) Sarah's Cow Girl (T.Riggs)	3.40	2.40	2.40
4 (4) Maywood's Carlie (D.Frazier)	2.60	2.60	2.60
Off 2:01, Time 1:18.40, Fast, Also Ran—Sketchy, Number One Blonde, Exacta (3-5) paid \$148.00.			
2nd—4f.			
5 (5) Reactionary (B.Butler)	17.40	6.40	2.80
6 (6) Tushar (D.Williams)	3.40	2.40	2.40

2nd-4f.

Sharp, Reality Check, U R Smart. Daily Double (3-5) paid \$44.20. Exacta (5-6) paid \$37.20. Trifecta (5-6-4) paid \$110.00.			
3rd—6f.			
Shawliit Fantasy (D.Williams) 7.20	4.40	3.20	
Blumin Attitude (D.Collins)	4.20	3.20	

3rd-6f.

Guess Again, Wildcat Ali K, Greatplainsexpress.			
Exacta (3-5) paid \$26.80. Trifecta (3-5-4) paid \$520.80.			
4th—6f.			
3 (3) Golden Spark (T.Riggs)	32.60	8.00	3.20
1 (1) Brushy Lake (L.Delorme)		3.40	2.40
5 (5) Whiskey (J.Cordock)			2.20

4th-6f.

Westfield, Phionwood, Shanny O Heer, Pick 3 (2-3-3)			
2 Correct Paid \$32.40, Exacta (2-1) paid \$65.20, Trifecta (3-1-5) paid \$290.00.			
5th—4f.			
4 (4) C. R. Charmer (T.Riggs)	6.20	3.80	2.60
2 (2) Real Battleaxe (D.Williams)		3.60	2.40

5th-4f.

the Arose. Pick 3 (3-3-4) 3 Correct Paid \$260.00. Exacta (4-2) paid \$15.60.			
6th—6f.			
2 (2) Concordance (L.Delorme)	7.00	3.80	3.20
1 (1) Scentual (R.Williams)		4.00	3.40
6 (5) Its Ctmarie C (A.Martinez)			4.20

6th-6f.

if Holme, Musical Copy. Pick 3 (3-4-2) 3 Correct paid \$739.40. Exacta (2-1) paid \$24.60. Trifecta (2- -6) paid \$104.00.			
7th—4f.			
9 (8) Jasper County (D.Collins)	3.80	3.40	2.80
7 (5) Ultimate Mangel (T.McCoe)	7.20	6.50	5.50

7th-4f.

On 4:53, Time 0:46.40, Fast, Scratched—
licoultbottledup, Also Ran—Pro Mon, El Toro Loco,
Cresco Real Jammmer, Mr Launch, Little Thief, Midnight
Matador, Pick 3 (4-2-3) 3 Correct Paid \$33.00,
Exacta (9-7) paid \$47.20, Trifecta (9-7-6) paid \$140.00.

8th—6f.

8th-6f.

2 (2) Maywood's Z (B.Butler)	4.20
Off 5:21, Time 1:13.80, Fast. Also Ran—Super Call, Short for Cash, Skwhirl, Guardian. Pick 3 (2-7-9) 3 Correct Paid \$28.40. Exacta (4-5) paid \$39.40. Trifecta (4-5-2) paid \$245.80.	
9th—6f	

9th-6f.

John Three Sixteen (A.Martinez)	5.00	4.60
Hippy (J.Pabon, Jr.)	11.40	11.40
Off 5:50, Time 1:14.40, Fast, Scratched—Ope, Also Ran—Full Moon Cat, Cooper County, Prince Hector, Quiet Deputy, Omaha's Player, Hogs Hope, Pick 3 (3-9-4-2) 3 Correct Paid \$62.20, Daily Double (4-2) paid \$22.40, Exacta (2-5) paid \$44.40, Superfecta (2-5-9-3) paid \$7,310.40, Trifecta (2-5-9) paid \$800.20.		

HHS: Aurora ends Tigers' season

Continued from page C1

Hastings High trailed just 12-10 after one quarter thanks to six early points from junior Melanie Patrick.

After scoring just three points Thursday night in the semifinals,



DOUG CARROLL/Tribune

Above: Hastings High's Charles Lainson swims the breaststroke portion of the 200-yard medley relay at the state swim meet Friday in Lincoln. Below: The Tigers' Sam Zoucha swims the boys 100-yard freestyle event.

Swim: Tigers fail to advance

Continued from page C1

"We had some pretty drastic improvements today," he said. "The competition was stiff and just a couple of seconds would have gotten us into the second day."

Sam Zoucha made the biggest improvement on the season as he improved his time in the 100 freestyle.

He was seeded eighth in the third heat with a time of 51.57. He bettered that mark with a 51.34 time to finish 20th overall.

"There were a lot of kids that had a low time of 51 seconds," Rief said. "That (time of 51.34) is the fastest he has swam in his life."

Rief said he had hoped there would have been more individual swimmers competing over the weekend, but he said



the Tigers are already looking for next season.

Hastings Results
200-yard medley relay — (Chris Smolik, Jack Zoucha, Sam Zoucha, Charlie Lainson), 19th, 1:51.04; 100-yard freestyle — Sam Zoucha, 20th, 51.34; 200-freestyle relay — (Jack Zoucha, Gavin Raitt, Smolik, Sam Zoucha), 15th, 1:36.07; 400-yard freestyle relay — (Jack Zoucha, Lainson, Smolik, Sam Zoucha), 15th, 3:33.19.

Shickley falls by one to S-E-M

HASTINGS TRIBUNE
sports@hastingstribune.com

WOOD RIVER — Shickley fell to Sumner-Eddyville-Miller 37-36 in the Class D-2, District 2 final Friday to end the season 16-6.

Andrea Schweitzer led the Longhorns with 11 points. Arielle Brinkman and Anne

Troyer added eight each in the loss.
S-E-M.....13 4 6 14 — 37
Shickley.....4 12 7 13 — 36

S-E-M (37)
Kaci Jacoby 3, Kesley Stolp 5, Abby Schuppert 7, Anna O'Neill 13, Laura Matthes 5, Jessica Erwin 4.

Shickley (36)
Kylee Schweitzer 3, Andrea Schweitzer 11, Arielle Brinkman 8, Stephanie Swartzendruber 6, Anne Troyer 8.

BH: Kearney Catholic rallies past Bobcats for district title

Continued from page C1

"The end of the third quarter and the end of the game, we just executed very poorly and we made some mistakes that are uncharacteristic," Streff said. "It ended up costing us the game. At the end of the third quarter, they scored five points in one second. That hurts."

Up until that basket by Petri, the Stars' leading scorer had just four points. She finished with eight points, 12 points fewer than what she averages.

"Our whole defensive focus was on her," Streff said. "They go where she goes. We played a 1-3 chaser on her."

After turning the ball over four times in the entire first half, Blue Hill had four turnovers in the third quarter and another six in the final period.

Senior guard Kelsey Bonifas led the Bobcats with 13 points, all in the first three quarters. Freshman guard Madison Coffey sparked the Bobcats off the bench in the second and third quarters, scoring all of her 12 points in the middle two periods on four-three pointers. After missing her first two three-pointers, Coffey made her next four but didn't have an attempt in the fourth quarter.

Blue Hill managed just five shots in the fourth quarter and was 1-of-4 from the free-throw line.

Blue Hill shot 53 percent from the field for the game, hitting 18-of-34 shots. Kearney Catholic shot just 35 percent, but the Stars took 20 more shots than

Blue Hill thanks to forcing their opponent into 14 turnovers and grabbing 13 offensive rebounds.

Kearney Catholic was 8-of-9 from the free-throw line. Jordan Squiers, who came into the game hitting just 55 percent of her free throws on the season, was 8-of-8 from the charity stripe Friday night to lead the Stars with 17 total points.

Blue Hill jumped out to a 6-0 lead and still held a 11-10 lead at the end of the first quarter. After Kearney Catholic tied the game 19-all, Blue Hill went on a 8-0 run in the final 2:20 of the half as Coffey made a pair of three-pointers in the final 40 seconds.

"I was proud of the way the girls came out and played," Streff said. "They did everything I asked of them to start the game."

Kearney Catholic (49)
Mackenzie Sims 1-8 0-0 3, Kaitlin Petri 4-12 0-0 8, Jordan Squiers 4-10 7-7 17, Katie Sokolowski 4-10 1-2 9, Megan Theesen 4-6 0-0 8, Emily Hoehn 2-5 0-0 4, Morgan Mannlein 0-1 0-0 0, Megan Bowman 0-2 0-0 0, Team 19-54 8-9 49.

Blue Hill (47)
Aubrey Meyer 1-1 0-0 2, Elizabeth Lipker 2-8 3-5 7, Kelsey Bonifas 5-8 0-0 13, Page Kohmetscher 1-3 0-0 3, Raelene Buschow 4-5 0-1 8, Christina Hubl 0-1 0-0 0, Madison Coffey 4-7 0-0 12, Rachel VanBoening 1-1 0-2 2, Amber Himmelberg 0-0 0-0 0, Christina Hubl 0-0 0-0 0, Team 18-34 3-8 47.

Blue Hill (21-3).....11 16 13 7 — 47
Kearney Catholic (23-0).....10 9 14 16 — 49
Three-point field goals — BH 8-14 (Bonifas 3-4, Kohmetscher 1-4, Coffey 4-6), KC 3-18 (Sims 1-6, Petri 0-4, Squiers 2-5, Hoehn 0-2, Mannlein 0-1). Rebounds — BH 30 (Lipker 9), KC 31 (Sokolowski 10). Turnovers — BH 14, KC 10. Total fouls — BH 8, KC 10. Fouled out — None. Technicals — None.

Smith Center takes lead after first day of state wrestling

HASTINGS TRIBUNE
sports@hastingstribune.com

HAYS, Kan. — Smith Center holds an 8.5 point lead over Beloit after the first day of the Class 3-2-1A state tournament.

Smith Center is in first place with 85 points. Beloit is in second with 74.5 and Norton is third with 72.

The Redmen have three wrestlers in their respective championship matches today, including Colt Rogers at 112 pounds, Justin York (140) and Kirk Palmer (215).

Teammates Garrett Kuhlman (103), Trevor Rempe (130), Marshall McCall (135), Travis Rempe (152) and Grady Godsey (160) are still alive in the consolation bracket of their respective weight classes.

To reach the finals, Rogers picked up a

win in the first round followed by a 16-3 major decision in the quarterfinals. In the semifinals, the freshman picked up a 6-2 decision.

York opened with a 16-0 technical fall followed by a 6-2 decision in the quarterfinals. He tne won a 9-7 decision in the semifinals.

After pinning his first two opponents, Palmer needed overtime to capture a 5-3 decision in the semifinals. Trevor Rempe is guaranteed a medal after dropping his semifinal match. The other four wrestlers in consolation bracked need one win to finish somewhere in the top six.

Smith Center, which finished second last year, is looking for its first-ever state title. Smith Center has never crowned more than one individual state champion in the same season.

Sports

Defense leads Freeman past E-M

BJ FICTUM
sports@hastingstribune.com

WILBER — Physically outmatched and outgunned, the Exeter-Milligan girls ended their 2006-07 season Friday night with a loss to Class D-1 No. 2 Freeman 38-29 in the Class D1, District 1 championship game at Wilber.

For head coach Jason Arbuck, the game was a roller-coaster ride on both sides of the ball.

"For being totally mismatched against them physically, we did our job defensively, but offensively we cracked under their pressure," Arbuck said. "We need to be able to score more than 29 points to win games, but we couldn't get the ball to the center of the floor and we didn't handle the pressure from their guards well enough."

"They are physically bigger and stronger than we are and our girls did the best they could," he added. "I felt we did a good job...we just gave up too much size. We also needed to be tighter with our ball-handling."

Arbuck said turnovers plagued both teams throughout the contest that saw E-M hold the lead for several minutes at a time before relinquishing it when the shooting turned cold.

"Both teams had problems giving up the ball," he said. "We did a lot of it because they were pressuring our guards up front, we'd travel or make bad passes because of that. We figured our press would bother them and when we went into a zone press it did, but they did a good job of breaking it when they had to."

Longtime Freeman head coach Ken Cook, whose teams have qualified for state six out of the past seven years, felt neither team played as well as they should have.

"We played tentatively at times and so did Exeter-Milligan, but rebounding and free throws were the big things for us," Cook said, noting that the Falcons shot 16-for-21 at the charity stripe compared to a 4-for-8 performance by the Timberwolves.

"I think our offense spread them out a few times, but we didn't get much from it," Cook added. "The shooting intensity was present on both sides, but everyone was worried about throwing the ball toward the basket and that's why no one really crammed it inside very much."

Arbuck said Freeman's size bothered the Timberwolves in a couple areas.

"We rebounded about as well as we could," Arbuck said. "I remember four breakdowns when we didn't and they got some points. We might have lost the battle because we were a little shorter and didn't go to the



BJ FICTUM/Tribune

Megan Kuska (24) of Exeter-Milligan is accosted by Freeman defender Cassie Veerhusen (right) as she brings the ball down the court in the second quarter of the Class D, District 1 title game at Wilber on Friday.

ball as quickly as normal, but when you play an athletic team like Freeman, you will have problems."

Lindsey Moore knocked down the first of three 20-foot shots to open the game for the T-Wolves, but Freeman answered with a 6-0 run via Katie Schoen, Jodeen Rademacher and Cassie Veerhusen.

Kimberly Sladek closed the gap to one at the 4:42 mark and Allee Kuska used a Moore assist to put E-M on top 7-6 just two minutes later.

The Falcons led 10-7 with less than a minute remaining in the first stanza, but Megan Kuska canned a three-pointer and Moore sank a 25-foot shot at the buzzer, giving E-M a 13-10 advantage at the break.

The lead stayed at three as Allee Kuska scored off another Moore assist with 6:34 left in the half, but turnovers kept the Timberwolves silent over the next three minutes while Kristin Kroese and Schoen put together another 6-0 series.

Two Megan Kuska free throws cut it back to a one point game at the 3:14 mark and Rademacher widened it to 21-19 before halftime.

Another Megan Kuska goal, this time with help from Kayti Mark, wound up the Timberwolves as she and Moore hit two more perimeter shots to give the team a 27-24 lead with 5:30 remaining in the period.

That's when the bottom fell out of E-M scoring.

The Timberwolves didn't get another ball through the net until 1:38 was left in the game — a drought of almost 12 minutes — while Freeman regained the momentum to lead 29-27 at the end of the third quarter.

Hitting 5-of-6 charity attempts

along with two more goals, the Falcons had a 36-27 lead by the time 3:07 was left in the game.

Filipi struck from the lane with 1:38 remaining for E-M's final points of the night.

Arbuck said Freeman's switch from the zone to the man pressure defense after Kuska and Moore hit the three-pointers to start the second half, was a little unexpected.

"We knew they were going to play man, but we don't know why they waited so long to change out of the zone," he said. "We didn't match up inside and we knew we had to go to the perimeter because we couldn't penetrate the middle of the lane to get any fouls in the second half."

"Getting to the foul line was the difference in the game."

Exeter-Milligan ends the season at 18-6.

"I'm very proud of these girls," Arbuck said. "To go 18-6 after all we lost last year...I don't think anyone would have thought we'd accomplish that. We didn't have any all-stars this year; we just had kids who played together well as a team and that's how they won a lot of their games."

Freeman (38)
Katie Schoen 2 4-5 8, Tasha Mares 0 0-0 0, Jodeen Rademacher 3 6-6 12, Stacie Goracke 2 3-4 7, Kristin Kroese 3 6-6 12, Erin Dorn 0 0-0 0, Cassie Veerhusen 1 0-0 2, Kelsey Schuster 0 0-0 0. Team Totals: 11 16-21 38.

Exeter-Milligan (29)
Tina Kassik 0 0-0 0, Amber Filipi 1 0-2 2, Lindsey Moore 3 0-0 9, Kim Sladek 1 0-2 2, Megan Kuska 3 4-4 12, Rachel Manning 0 0-0 0, Jenna Rhodes 0 0-0 0, Kayti Mark 0 0-0 0, Allee Kuska 2 0-0 4. Team Totals: 10 4-8 29.

Freeman (23-2).....10 11 8 9 — 38
E-M (18-6).....13 6 8 2 — 29
Three-point field goals — Freeman 0, E-M 5 (Moore 3, M. Kuska 2). Total fouls — Freeman 14, E-M 17. Fouled out — Freeman (Goracke), E-M none. Technicals E-M (bench).

STC: Hawkettes going to state as district champs

Continued from page C1

Unofficially, the Hawkettes will be the No. 8 seed at the Class C-1 state tournament, opening with Norfolk Catholic on Thursday at 9:30 p.m. in Lincoln at Pershing Auditorium.

Morgan Dubas gave the Hawkettes' additional offensive punch with 12 points, including a pair of treys. Her second three-pointer at the third-quarter buzzer gave STC a 39-33 cushion. She added two free throws in the fourth quarter when the Hawkettes went into the spread passing game offense to preserve their lead.

An aggressive defense and taking care of the ball better in the second half allowed the Hawkettes' to meet their goal of winning the district title. St. Cecilia committed only six turnovers in the second half, compared to 13 before intermission. St. Paul finished with 28 turnovers.

"We've wanted this since our freshman year," said senior starter Alex Brosnihan, who — along with Farmer and Nicole Osten — participated in the St. Cecilia basketball program when the 2004 Hawkettes qualified for state as a wildcard team. "Now this is our year. We've come close that last couple of years. It's especially important now because this was our last chance as seniors."

But in the first quarter, St. Cecilia's dreams of going to state looked bleak.

St. Paul rolled to a 15-8 bulge and enjoyed red-hot shooting. The Wildcats missed only once from the floor in eight attempts, riding the strength of their 5-11 center Ashley Hall who scored six of her team-high 17 points.

St. Paul looked good in its first-half transition game, scoring three fast-break layups while cruising to a 21-10 bulge early in the second period.

Both teams played nervously in the opening quarter due to the high

stakes riding on the game's outcome. St. Paul racked up nine turnovers and St. Cecilia got whistled for eight miscues.

"We played tight in the first quarter, and we knew we probably would," STC coach Jahn Kile said. "I thought our defense was just as good in the first half. We just needed to take care of the ball better. And we knew that if we kept it up on defense and if our offense came around, we'd be in good position."

The Hawkettes cut their turnovers in half in the second quarter and whittled St. Paul's lead to six points at the break.

"We felt we were lucky to trail by only six points at halftime," Kile said. "Once we got into the flow, things started clicking. It was a great comeback, and ranks right up there with the best. We thought we'd be tough to beat come district time because we had enough offensive weapons and we played good defense."

Farmer took command on defense as the second half began, picking the pocket of a Wildcat ballhandler and racing in for an uncontested layup. She stole another pass a minute later and found Danielle Nikkila open for a fast-break layup.

Farmer scorched a trey midway in the third quarter to give St. Cecilia its first lead at 21-20. She got her first steal of the period moments later and cruised in for another break-away basket.

"She's been doing that kind of thing all year for us," Kile said. "She is playmaker on both ends. When she made those plays you could just



BRENT MCCOWN/Tribune

St. Cecilia fans try to distract St. Paul's Amanda Minor (23) during the game Friday night.

feel the energy and emotion on the bench."

Farmer opened St. Cecilia's lead to 42-34 when she fired in a three-point bucket from the corner with 2:27 left. The score resulted from St. Cecilia's passing game that spread out the St. Paul defense. Nikkila threw a cross-court pass to the wide open Farmer who swished in the trey.

St. Cecilia's spread offense worked the way Kile designed it, taking time off the clock and preserving the lead.

"We wanted to force St. Paul away from the basket, use our quickness and get better looks. We've done that a lot this year."

The victory improved St. Cecilia's record to 17-6, while St. Paul ended its year at 16-6.

St. Paul (40)
Brittney Grimm 1 3-0 0-3, Justine Dethlefs 5 9-1 2 10, Amanda Minor 26 1-2 5, Jana Wells 0 2-1 2 1, Ashley Hall 7 1-1 3-9 17, Melanie Placke 1 4-2 2 4, Dream Somkila 0 1-0 0 0, Audrie Marnot 0 0-0 0 0. Team Totals: 16-36 8-17 40.

St. Cecilia (44)
Kaleigh Chalupa 1 2 0-0 2, Alyssa Farmer 10 11 1 2-23, Alex Brosnihan 1 4-0 1-2, Morgan Dubas 3 9 4 12, Danielle Nikkila 2 5-1 2-5, Holly Rundt 0 1 0-0 0, Nicole Osten 0 6-0 0-0. Totals: 17-38 6-14.
St. Paul (16-6).....15 11 7 7 — 40
St. Cecilia (17-6).....8 12 19 5 — 44
Three-point goals — STP 1-4 (Grimm 1-2, Minor 0-1, Wells 0-1), STC 4-79 (Farmer 2-3, Dubas 2-4, Nikkila 0-2). Rebounds — STP 26 (Hall 10), STC 20 (Brosnihan 8). Turnovers — STP 28, STC 19. Personal fouls — STP 20, STC 16. Fouled out — STP (Dethlefs), STC (Chalupa). Technical fouls — none.

Loyalty, violence rule ‘Black Donnellys’

FRAZIER MOORE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A bit of patience is called for when you first encounter “The Black Donnellys.”

The premise of this new NBC drama would seem simple: Four working-class Irish brothers in New York City who stick together, fractiously, while tumbling into organized crime.

That’s simple enough. Except you’re seeing the Donnelly boys through the eyes of their lifelong comrade, Joey Ice Cream, who has a way of complicating things.

You meet him right away, serving time in the slammer where authorities grilling him want to know, “Where are the bodies?”

Joey just loves to hear himself talk, so he eagerly spins out Donnelly lore.

On the other hand, he never really answers any questions. (What bodies?) Nor does he seem too concerned with the truth.

Is he delusional? A pathological liar? Just a helpless motor-mouth? Whatever, Joey clearly prefers a colorful account over an honest one. (The reason he gives for his nickname is “under pressure I’m like ice,” yet in a childhood flashback you see for yourself it’s really because, well, he likes ice cream.)

Entering a drama through the portal of an unreliable narrator can be disorienting. But hang on. The fast-talking Joey (Keith Nobbs) lends buoyancy to a saga that otherwise is often teetering on tragedy.

In short, “The Black Donnellys,” which premieres Monday at 9 p.m., has some artful touches befitting Paul Haggis (who directed “Crash,” last year’s Oscar-winning best picture) and co-creator Bobby Moresco (who with Haggis shared the best-screenplay Oscar).

The two have a gift for textured, elegiac depictions of a given community in crisis. A decade ago, they created “EZ Streets,” a short-lived CBS crime drama that paved the way for other extraordinary series like HBO’s “The Wire,” Showtime’s “Brotherhood” and even, arguably, “The Sopranos.”

Now, in “The Black Donnellys,” they are painting a portrait of four brothers who, no matter how divisive the world they inhabit, nothing can pry apart — including their own best interests.

Your witness to all this is Joey, who both narrates and frequently pops up in the action (filmed beautifully on location in New York).

Early in the first episode, he introduces you to the Donnellys.

Here’s hothead Jimmy (Thomas Guiry), plagued by a limp, a drug habit and the ratty neighborhood bar he won in a crap game from its owner who, according to Joey, “SWORE he didn’t lose on purpose.”

Here’s Kevin (Billy Lush), a tireless gambler who professes to be lucky despite having “never won a bet in his life.”

Baby brother Sean (Michael Stahl-David) is a chick magnet, “which is why his brothers never let their girlfriends anywhere near him.”



Actors (from left) Thomas Guiry, Billy Lush, Jonathan Tucker and Michael Stahl-David star as the Irish-American Donnelly brothers in the new NBC dramatic series “The Black Donnellys,” which premieres Monday at 9 p.m.

VIRGINIA SHERWOOD, NBC/AP

Darth Vader’s brother force on the Internet

RYAN J. FOLEY
The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Chad Vader gets no respect, but he sure gets plenty of laughs.

Poor Chad, the younger brother of the evil Jedi knight slayer Darth Vader, is stuck managing a grocery store in a series of short films that have become an international hit thanks to video-sharing sites YouTube and MySpace. The six wacky episodes created by Aaron Yonda and Matt Sloan have been viewed more than 9.5 million times on those sites alone.

The popularity of Chad’s misadventures has allowed Yonda and Sloan, both aspiring filmmakers, to quit their jobs and negotiate a contract with a major media company they won’t yet name. It has also led to talk that Chad Vader may be the best comedy started in Madison since The Onion, the satirical newspaper founded here in the late 1980s.

“This is one of the biggest things to come out of Madison in a while,” said Jesse Russell, who runs a Web site that follows Madison arts and culture. “It’s a very Madisonian form of parody and comedy. The Onion was a perfect example. Chad Vader is kind of intelligent in some ways, but you also have to have a sense of pop culture to



Chad Vader as played by Aaron Yonda (left), Madison, Wis., Mayor Dave Cieslewicz (center) and Matt Sloan prepare for a photo session Jan. 31 in Madison after taping an upcoming episode of “Chad Vader” in the mayor’s office.

ANDY MANIS/AP

He has the powers, he could be great but he’s missing something,” says Yonda, who transforms from a 34-year-old metal shop worker into Chad when he slips into his Supreme Edition Darth Vader costume. “Some key personality flaw is preventing him from getting past that level that he needs to get to become Supreme Commander of the Imperial Army.”

Sloan, who does the character’s voice with an uncanny resemblance to James Earl Jones’ Darth, said the goal was to humanize Vader by “making

him that guy who doesn’t know how to handle his authority and goes way over the top ... but at the same time making him really likable.”

Chad Vader has conquered the Internet very quickly. Yonda and Sloan previewed their first episode to a small group at a Madison coffee shop last year and were nervous when they got few laughs. They made changes and submitted it to a monthly film contest in Los Angeles and won.

YouTube started featuring the episodes and fans quickly began e-mailing them to friends. ABC’s “Good Morning America” debuted their fourth episode and VH1 will feature Vader among its top 40 Internet superstars in April. Fan mail has poured in from around the world, including Tokyo, where Chad Vader was featured in a film festival.

The films have become a source of civic pride in Madison. Most of them have been filmed at the Willy Street Co-Op, a popular local grocery store. Mayor Dave Cieslewicz appears in the sixth episode, released last week.

“You’ve failed me for the last time!” Cieslewicz says as he fires Chad, who briefly works as his assistant after leaving the grocery store in that episode.

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Sudoku

FRIDAY’S ANSWERS

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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2/24

Julia Moeller, Adams County Treasurer

1909 Ioll NW1/4 5-6-11	\$584.8'	To Beg - 26-5-10	786.84	284-2638.00	Lot 8	
Roseland Twp Bldgs		892.48	284-1266.00	Lot 2 East	Creeths Sub Of Blks 2 &	
Bins & Hog Sheds 5-6-11		236-514.00	Tr Of Land In	Park Add Blk 23 -	14 St Joe 2nd Add Blk 2	
	7.15	N1/2 SE1/4 & S1/2 NE1/4		182.90	469.50	
182-640.00 Lots 16 Thru		Cont 14.75 Ac Known As	284-1394.00	All Of Lts	284-2650.00	Lot 16
18 Roseland Village Blk 10		Tax Lot 1 In Sec 29 29-5-10	1,2,3 & 4 Berlins Add Blk 3 -	452.61	Creeths Sub Of Blks 2 &	
	306.49		3 -	284-1434.00	14 St Joe 2nd Add Blk 2 -	
182-690.00 S5' E89' Lot		236-661.00	Lot 1 Krueger	Wood & McClouds Add	998.36	
11 & E89' Lot 12		Subdivision Sec 33-5-10	Abandoned Rr Right Of	284-2666.00	Lot 7	
Roseland Village Blk 11		Zero Twp - 33-5-10	Way Maps 15-16 Parcels	Creeths Sub Of Blks 2 14		
	20.43		3 & 4 Now Vacated	St Joe 2nd Add Blk 14 -		
182-850.00 E1/2 Lots 1 &		236-790.00	Tr Of Land In	1,031.66		
2 Roseland Village Blk 14		E1/2 NW1/4 & NE1/4 Tax		284-2680.13	Lot 4	
	286.78	Lot 1 - 36-5-10		Oakwood Sub-Div (See		
190-130.00 SW1/4 Ex 2 A			284-1438.00	Wood &		
For Rd Sd 11-9a, 1992			McClouds Add Desc	Tif 500-2680.13) -	65.89	
Merged - 3-6-12			Deed Blk 191 Pg 55 Wood	284-2744.00	Lot 5	
	2,654.18		& McClouds Add Now	Cornell Sub Replat		
190-400.00 E1/2 SE1/4 Sd			Vacated	2,067.00	Cramers Sub Lt 11	
11-9a, 1992 Merged - 9-			284-1440.10	A Tr Of	185.81	
6-12			Land Pt 100' Pt 60' & Pt	284-2766.40	Lots 19	
190-1630.00 E1/2			129' From California	Thru 21 Pauls Add Blk 4		
Ex 1.437a For Rd Sd 11-9a,			Elm & Lots 1,2 & 24 E1/2	5,118.62		
1992 Merged - 34-6-12			NW 1/4 18-7-9 18-7-9	284-2788.00	Lots 18 & 19	
	5,912.90			South Side Add Blk 1 -		
190-1680.10 NW1/4 Ex			284-1446.00	Blks 5,6,7 &	711.12	
Tax Lot 1 & Ex Rd & Tr In			Pt 8 (Vacated) Wood &	284-2808.00	N12 1/2 Lot	
NW1/4			McClouds Add Now	15 & S1/2 Lot 16 South		
260x1718 - - 35-6-12			Vacated	Side Add Blk 2 - 781.04		
	2,574.22		284-1476.20	Tr Of Land	284-2822.00	All Blk 3
190-1681.00 Tr In			Beg Sw Cor Lt 1 N190'	South Side Add -		
NW1/4 NW1/4 Com At			E61' S61' E400' To Rr Row	523.65		
Nw Cor Of NW1/4 E260'			Line Sely To Se Cor	284-2834.00	S50' Blk 5	
S1718' W260' N1718' to			W651' Raymaker &	South Side Add -	80.11	
Pt Of Beg Cont 10.3 Ac M			Blakes Sub -	284-2836.00	N50' S100'	
Or L (T1 2) 35-6-12			284-1476.40	No 50' Of	Blk 5 South Side Add -	
	757.82		Lots 2 & 3 Raymaker &	80.34		
190-1710.00 S1/2			Blakes Sub-Div -	87.93	284-2902.00	Lots 9 & 10
.863a Sd 11-9a, 1992			284-1486.00	Lot 13 Coles	Hellers Add Blk 2 -	
Merged - 35-6-12			1st Add Blk 1 .	1,066.50	533.25	
	3,250.68		284-1566.00	Lots 17 18	284-2952.00	Lot 20
191-430.00 NW1/4 Sd			19 Coles 1st Add Blk 7		Cramers, A H Add Blk 1	
11-123, 1992 Affiliated			299.68		482.00	
- 10-6-12			284-1584.10	Lots 9 & 10	284-2968.00	Lots 8 & 9
191-1350.10 All NE1/4 Pt			Blk 8 Cole's 1st Add		Cramers A H, Add Blk 2 -	
NE1/4 NW1/4 With			905.34		1,606.86	
Exceptions 26-6-12 - 26-			284-1602.00	Lot 3 Coles	284-3034.00	Lot 7
6-12			1st Add Blk 10 -		Rohrs Add Blk 1 -	
2,903.33			1,584.35		1,060.22	
191-1570.00 SW1/4 Sd			284-1646.00	N30' Of Lt	284-3040.00	Lot 2
11-123, 1992 Affiliated			20 & S14' Of Lt 21 Cole's		Rohrs Add Blk 2 -	
- 32-6-12			Sub Of Blk 12 Cole's 1st		407.99	
191-340.00 S1/2 Lot 3 &			Add Blk 12 .	559.80	284-3042.00	Lots 3 & 4
All Lot 4 Holstein Village			284-1648.00	N36' Of Lt	Rohrs Add Blk 2 -	
Block 1 Sd 11-9a, 1992			21 & S5' Of Lt 22 Coles		603.76	
Merged 26 6 12			Sub Of Blk 12 Lot 15		284-3060.00	Lots 2 & 3
	1,043.89		Add Blk 12 .	556.00	Rohrs Add Blk 3 172.77	
194-280.00 Lots 1 & 2			284-1652.00	S46' Of Lot	284-3064.00	Lot 5
Holstein Village Block 7			23 Coles Sub Of Blk 12		Rohrs Add Blk 3 -	
Sd 11-9a, 1992 Merged -			Coles 1st Add Blk 12 .		1,576.41	
	642.17		567.85		284-3164.00	S35' Lot 25
195-140.00 E100' Lots 5			284-1668.10	Lots 1 & 2	& All Lot 26 Jorgensens	
& 6 Holstein Village			And 19 & 20 & Vac Alley		Add. 724.51	
Block 4 Sd 11-123, 1992			Stevens Sub- Div Of Blk		284-3166.00	Lot 1 Blk 1
Affiliated 26 6 12			13 Cole's 1st Add Blk 3 .		Kellers Add -	729.49
	270.22		373.28		284-3226.00	Lot 16 Kents
195-500.00 W100' Lots 7			284-1734.00	Lots 26	Add -	970.99
Thru 9 Holstein Village			284-1780.00	M J Add	284-3286.14	W20'23,24;
Block 10 Sd 11-123, 1992			Blk 2	564.77	N50'vac Lex Ave; All	
Affiliated.			284-1758.00	Lots 9-10	W 5', 2, 6; W 7's 27 - 29;	
195-590.00 W10' Lots 1			Blk 3 M J Smiths		275'n19' 30'; N144'vac	
Thru 3 & All Lots 4 & 5			Addition.	621.29	Aly Betw 25-30 & 43-48;	
Holstein Village Blk 15 Sd			284-1780.00	W1/2 Lot 14	N1943; 44-48 Railroad	
11-123, 1992 Affiliated -			All Lots 15 & 16 Smiths		2,005.85	
	303.46		M J Add Blk 4 .	594.99	284-3286.17	Lots 67-72
195-662.10 S1/2 Lot 8 &			284-1782.12	Lot 9	Inclusive Railroad	
All Lots 9 & 10 Block 17			Meier's Sub Div .	214.72	Addition -	711.95
Holstein Village Sd11-			284-1798.11	Lt 1 Hastings	284-3286.30	Lots 10-12
123 Affiliated, 1992			Hastings Apartments 1 Subdiv		E1/2 Of Lots 13-15 &	
	1,595.65		Replat Lts 1-17 M J		Abutting Alley Thereo	
195-710.00 W105' Lots			Smiths Add (See Tif 500-		Railroad Add -	5,566.67
17 Thru 19 N15' W105'			1798.11) .	346.91	284-3320.00	Lot 96
Lot 16 Holstein Village			284-2000.00	Lot 4 St	Railroad Add -	747.50
Block 17 Sd 11-123, 1992			Joseph Add Blk 17 508.13		284-3334.00	Lots 106
Affiliated.			284-2022.00	N15' Lot 7	Thru 108 Railroad Add .	
195-1032.00 Lots 3 Thru			& All Lot 8 St Joseph Add		352.65	
7 Holstein Vill Blk 27 Sd			Blk 20	339.15	284-3368.00	N1/2 Lot
11-123, 1992 Affiliated .			284-2028.00	Lot 11 St	125 & All Lot 126	
	31.82		Joseph Add Blk 20		Railroad Add -	314.62
195-1050.00 S1/2 Lot 2 &				111.15	284-3416.00	All Lot 156
All Lots 3 & 4 Holstein			284-2042.00	Lots 11	& N3' Lot 157 Railroad	
Village Block 28 Sd 11-			Thru 13 St Joseph Add		Add -	58.07
123, 1992 Affiliated			Blk 21	946.70	284-3434.00	Lot 170
	27.05		284-2044.00	Lot 14 St	Railroad Add	121.46
195-1340.00 E49' NW1/4			Joseph Add Blk 21 -		284-3532.00	Lot 63
NW1/4 N Of Rr & Ex Tr				329.84	284-3545.00	441.59
For State Hiway Tl 2			284-2048.00	Lots 17 & 18	Ghosts Add.	694.06
Holstein Extensions 26-			St Joseph Add Blk 21 -		284-3550.00	Lot 72
6-12 Sd 11-123, 1992				462.15	Ghosts Add -	475.30
Affiliated 26-6-12 . 37.87			284-2052.00	S50' W1/2	284-3566.00	Lot 80
2023-130.00 SW1/4 Logan			St Joseph Add Blk 22 -		Ghosts Add -	474.24
Twp Sd 11-123, 1992			659.10		284-3618.00	Lot 105
Affiliated - 5-5-12			284-2186.00	Lot 2 St	Ghosts Add	795.67
	2,253.89		Joseph Add Blk 28 613.06		284-3720.00	Lots 1 & 2
216-20.00 NW1/4 - - 19-			284-2234.00	Lot 5 St	Sewells Add Blk 3 -	
5-11			Joseph Add Blk 30 -		994.57	
182-132.20 NW1/4 -			398.16		284-3732.00	Lots 11 & 12
23-5-11			284-2328.00	N50' S125'	Sewells Add Blk 3 790.16	
218-414.00 Tr Of Land In			E1/2 Ex W6' St Josephs		284-3772.00	Lot 14
E1/2 SE1/4 Cont 19.34 Ac			2nd Add Blk 4 -		Sewells Add Blk 5	
Known As Tax Lot 1 35-5-			1,337.75		1,099.92	
11.			284-2490.00	S50' W1/2	284-3782.10	Lots 4 & 5
222-90.00 N1/2SW1/4 Ex			St Josephs 2nd Add Blk 9		Block 6 Sewells Add	
202X 350' Se Cor & NW1/4			See 284-2598 .	1,199.82	977.98	
SW1/4 E1 NE1/4 & NW1/4			284-2504.00	N50' E1/2	284-3908.14	Lot 4 Craig
SW1/4 E1 Ex 20x1300' On S			Ex W7' St Josephs 2nd		Industrial Park 3rd	
Side E25' NW1/4 & E20'			Add Blk 10 -	644.40	Subdivision -	3,074.37
SW1/4 SE1/4 18-5-11			284-2510.00	S50' N200'	284-3950.00	Lot 13 West
	2,899.29		E1/2 Ex W7' St Josephs		Side Add Blk 5 -	472.64
222-120.00 S1/2 SW1/4			2nd Add Blk 10 -		284-3978.00	Lot 1 West
Ex Tax Lot 1 - - 18-5-11			414.33		Side Add Blk 8 -	756.15
	734.37		284-2550.00	S50' N100'	284-3982.00	Lots 4 & 5
224-40.00 SE1/4 - - 1-5-			E1/2 St Josephs 2nd Add		West Side Add Blk 8 -	
11.	6,117.11		Blk 13	683.86	791.58	
226-110.10 SE1/4 Ex Tr			284-2560.00	N75' NW1/4	284-3988.00	All Lot 7 &
Of Land Known As Sec 36			St Josephs 2nd Add Blk		N1/2 Vac C St Abt Sd 8	
Oak Sub-Div In Sec 36-5-			13 -	1,112.48	Lot West Side Add Blk 1 -	
11 36-5-11.	1,743.18		284-2569.00	S70' S1/2	608.02	
232-120.00 5a NW1/4			Lot 16 St Josephs 2nd		284-4006.00	Lots 9 & 10
NW1/4 Ex Tr 242'n & X			Add Blk 16 .	926.43	West Side Add Blk 9	
464' & Ex Tr For Hiway			284-2590.00	S60' N125'	515.89	
Tax Lot 8 - 3-5-10.			E1/2 St Josephs 2nd Add		284-4028.00	N25' Lot 9
	466.52		Blk 24 -	602.57	& All Lot 10 West Side	
223-130.00 Pt NW1/4			284-2596.00	N65' E1/2 St	Add Blk 12 -	1,900.86
NW1/4 Tax Lot 5 - - 3-5-			Josephs 2nd Add Blk 24		284-4076.10	Lots 1-6 &
11.	54.25		1,085.46		Vacated Adj St Ex	
234-20.00 Pt NE1/4			284-2598.00	N100' W1/2	Highway Blk 2 Veiths	
NE1/4 TI 1 & 2 Ex State			Ex Tr For Hwy St Josephs		Park .	2,624.90
Hiway - 5-5-10.			2nd Add Blk 24 See 284-		284-4088.12	Lots 7-12 Ex
	1,465.21		2490.	6,159.64	Tr For St Hwy Block 4	
236-402.00 A Tr Beg At Se			284-2623.00	Lot 5	Veith's Park Add.	
Cor SE1/4 W201' N664'			Rosenfelds Sub Of Blks 15		4,043.94	
E1945.66' S 50' E73'			& 18 St Joe 2nd Blk 18 .		284-4302.00	Pt Told
			1,595.25			

Desc Db 182 P451 South Shore Sub 4,335.21
284-4376.00 S10' Of S75' Of W116' Of 10 Haires Add Blk 2 (See 284-4598) 2.37
284-4402.00 N35' Lot 6 & S10' Lot 7 Blk 3 Haires Addition - - - - - 464.70
284-4456.00 N57' Lot 9 Haires Add Blk 4 - - - - - 1,180.50
284-4488.00 Lot 6 Blk 5 Haires Addition 3,105.65
284-4550.00 S1/2 Lot 12 Haires Add Blk 6. 460.49
284-4584.00 S60' Of E90' Lot 4 Haires Add Blk 8 - - - - - 1,433.38
284-4598.00 Lot 2 Ballingers Sub Lts 3 & N1/2 Lt 2-8 Blk 2 Haires Add (See 284-4376) - - - - - 1,308.24
284-4691.10 Lot 2 Baywood Sub-Div Replat Of Parts Of Lts 5-6 All In Grosses Add - - - - - 99.18
284-4718.00 Lot 6 Sunset Hill Sub 1,720.39
284-4778.00 N1/2 Lot 1 Websters & Wemples Add Blk 3 - - - - - 520.75
284-4846.00 S1/2 Of Lt 9 Websters & Wemples Add Blk 4 - - - - - 765.63
284-4870.00 S25' Of Lt 2 & N1/2 Lt 3 Websters & Wemples Add Blk 5 - - - - - 847.51
284-4876.00 S1/2 Lot 5 Websters & Wemples Add Blk 5 - - - - - 503.74
284-4898.00 N1/2 Lot 11 Websters & Wemples Add Blk 5 - - - - - 1,347.35
284-4902.00 Lt 12 Ex N40' Websters & Wemples Add Blk 5 - - - - - 981.89
284-5242.10 Lot 135 Campbells Add - - - - - 3,463.05
284-5338.00 Lot 8 Owens Sub Of Blk 10 Haires Add Blk 1 - - - - - 571.76
284-5622.00 W1/2 Lot 2 Fairview Add - - - - - 2,082.29
284-5742.00 S150' Of E1/2 Ex So 74.9' Lowmans North Side Add Blk 11 - - - - - 2,057.40
284-5974.20 N75' Of Lt 1 & N75' Of E40' Lot 6 Buttery Sub Pt Blk 18 Lowman's N Side Add - - - - - 998.54
284-5976.00 All Lots 1 Thru 4 Buttery Sub Pt Blk 18 Lowmans No Side Blk 2 - - - - - 5,758.64
284-6053.10 Lot 1 Budson's Sub-Div City Of Hastings (Pastime Bowl) - - - - - 6,935.22
284-6198.10 N66' Of Lot 2 & N1/2 Lot 3 Blk 1 Bateman's Sub - - - - - 1,291.77
284-6218.00 Lots N56' Lots 13-14 Batemans Sub Blk 1 - - - - - 694.59
284-6220.00 Lots 13-14 Ex N56' Of Each Batemans Sub Blk 1 - - - - - 1,833.08
284-6278.00 Lot 7 Batemans Sub Blk 4 - - - - - 634.21
284-6282.00 Lot 9 Blk 4 Batemans Sub - - - - - 445.56
284-6322.00 Lot 3 Batemans Sub Blk 6 - - - - - 474.59
284-6376.00 W48' Of Lt2 Ex S57' Of The E20' Bateman's Sub Blk 9 - - - - - 768.95
284-6534.10 Lot 3 Eilene & Diana's Subdivision - - - - - 307.09
284-6534.11 Lot 4 Eilene & Diana's Subdivision - - - - - 72.58
284-6548.00 All Of Lt 10 Ex N100' Montgomerys Sub Lot 3 Lewis Sub - - - - - 458.00
284-6740.00 Lot 3 Kerrs Sub Of Lots 12-13 Lewis Sub Blk 1 - - - - - 700.10
284-6806.00 Lot 8 McCrearys Sub Of Lot 15 Lewis Sub - - - - - 1,587.90
284-6818.00 W8' Lot 2 & All Lot 3 Clelands Add Blk 1 - - - - - 3,749.23
284-6910.00 Lot 4 Kenwood Add Blk 1 - - - - - 1,526.05
284-7024.00 N105' Lot 5 Davison's Add Blk 1 - - - - - 888.75
284-7056.00 E87' S1/2 Blk 1 Coles S P Add Blk 1 (See Tif 500-7056) 72.76
284-7084.00 Lots 28 Thru 30 Pollards Add (See Tif 500-7084) - - - - - 274.33
284-7246.00 W25' Lots 3 & 4 & All Lots 5 & 6 Prospect Park Add Blk 9 - - - - - 3,998.44
284-7262.00 Lots 1 & 2 Prospect Park Add Blk 12 - - - - - 1,829.94
284-7270.10 S43' Lot 10 & All Lot 11 & Pt Of Vac Barnes Ave Prospect Park Add (See Tif 500-7270.1) 88.64

284-7440.00 Pt Lots 21-23 Tr 80'x 135.39' West Heights Add Of Pp Add Blks 1 & 20-23 Blk 1 - - - - - 3,288.38
284-7450.00 N112 1/2' Lot 2 West Heights Add Of Pp Add Blk 1 & 20-23 Blk 2 - - - - - 464.76
284-7472.00 Lot 2 West Heights Add Of Pp Add Blks 1 & 20-23 Blk 3 - - - - - 532.07
284-7482.00 Lot 7 West Heights Add Of Pp Add Blks 1 & 20-23 Blk 3 - - - - - 449.41
284-7548.00 Lot 1 & S1/2 Lot 2 West Heights Add Of P P Add Blks 1 & 20-23 Blk 5 - - - - - 972.94
284-7654.00 W30' Lot 12 & All Lot 13 Neffs Sub Of Lt 1 Blk 24 P P Add Blk 24 - - - - - 2,048.40
284-7656.00 Lot 14 & W21' Lot 15 Neffs Sub Of Lt 1 Blk 24 P P Add Blk 24 - - - - - 1,830.47
284-7714.00 Lot 6 Hastings Heights Lots 7 & 8 P P Add Blk 2 - - - - - 543.56
284-7916.00 Lot 7 Westland Sub Blks 26 & 36 Of P P Add Blk 7 - - - - - 325.75
284-7928.00 Lot 1 Blk 8 Westland Sub Blks 26 & 36 Of P P Add - 1,033.91
284-7946.00 Lot 10 Westland Sub Blks 26 & 36 Of P P Add Blk 8 - - - - - 662.89
284-8078.00 Lot 17 Barnes Sub Of Blk 30 P P Add Blk 2 - - - - - 390.10
284-8192.00 W18' Lot 9 & E50' Lot 10 Mark Martins Sub Blk 1 - - - - - 1,644.55
284-8436.00 E1/2 Lot 11 & S7' E1/2 Lot 12 Moores Add Blk 12 - - - - - 341.28
284-8456.00 Lot 5 Moores Add Blk 13 - - - - - 1,559.82
284-8458.00 E60' Lot 6 & 7 Moore's Add Blk 13 - - - - - 394.01
284-8490.00 E55' NS0' Lot 10 Moores Add Blk 14 - - - - - 434.30
284-8718.00 Lot 5 Abbotts Add - - - - - 651.75
284-8826.00 Lot 7 Wilkins Add Blk 2 734.46
284-8836.00 E1/2 Lot 11 & All Lot 12 Wilkins Add Blk 2 - - - - - 1,181.09
284-8850.00 Lot 3 Wilkins Add Blk 3 791.58
284-9024.00 E75' Lots 5 & 6 Cisneys Sub Of Blk 4 McIntyres Add, 5,090.30
284-9058.00 W37.5' Lot 4 & E5' Lot 5 Shotts Sub Of Blk 9 McIntyres Add - - - - - 718.59
284-9094.00 Pt NW1/4 SW1/4 12-7-10 Com At Sw Cor Blk 8 McIntyres Add N132.5' W75' S132.5' E75' To Beg Frantz Add 12-7-10 - - - - - 593.45
284-9106.00 W42' E50' Lot 5 Kerrs Add 1,858.79
284-9114.00 N100' Lot 8 Kerrs Add - - - - - 948.00
284-9144.00 W25' Lot 17 & E25' Lot 18 Kerrs Add - - - - - 470.98
284-9180.20 Lot 34 Kerr's Add Residences Only - - - - - 418.18
284-9180.30 W50' Lot 33 & Lot 34 Kerr's Add (Commercial Property Only) - - - - - 484.13
284-9198.10 E4' Of Lot 3 & All Lots 4 & 5 Holmes Sub Of Lts 21,22,23 Kerrs Add - - - - - 373.10
284-9302.00 N75' Lots 1 & 2 West Lawn Add Blk 2 - - - - - 1,031.84
284-9342.00 Lots 1 & 2 West Lawn Add Blk 3 - - - - - 603.88
284-9382.00 Lot 1 West Lawn Add Blk 4 - - - - - 735.29
284-9486.10 Lot 22 Blk 6 West Lawn Add - - - - - 1,075.03
284-9574.00 Lot 22 Blk 8 West Lawn Add - - - - - 617.15
284-9588.00 Lot 2 Bungalow Add Blk 1 - - - - - 922.41
284-9620.00 All Lot 6 & Vac Alley Bungalow Add Blk 2 - - - - - 1,228.61
284-9650.00 Lot 22 Bungalow Add Blk 2 - - - - - 1,127.41
284-9670.00 Lot 34 Bungalow Add Blk 2 - - - - - 1,151.59
284-9684.00 Lot 42 Bungalow Add Blk 2 - - - - - 592.50
284-9686.00 Lot 43 Bungalow Add Blk 2 - - - - - 763.85
284-9690.00 Lot 45 Bungalow Add Blk 2 - - - - - 948.00
284-9716.00 Lot 4 Bungalow Add Blk 3 - - - - - 592.50
284-9868.00 Lot 29 Beckers Sub Blks 3-4-5 Baltimore

284-9908.00 All Lots 15 & 16 Fairfax Add - - - - - 2,719.11
284-9916.00 S80' Lot 21 & S80' W6' Lot 22 Fairfax Add - - - - - 2,694.81
284-10076.00 S10' Lot 7 See Lot 9 & N33.5' Lot 10 Scofields Add Clines Add Blk 2 - - - - - 11.08
284-10284.00 N1/2 S1/2 E1/2 Blk 9 Ex W8' Thereof & S1/2 N1/2 E1/2 Blk9 Alexanders First Add - - - - - 2,635.15
284-10396.00 E63' N75' Lot 20 Alexanders 2nd Add - - - - - 1,695.03
284-10430.00 S90' Lot 28 Alexanders 2nd Add - - - - - 2,091.65
284-10562.00 Lts 7 Thru 12 Ex Tr For State Hiway Dawes & Foss 1st & 2nd Add Blk 1 - - - - - 1,122.20
284-10626.00 Lots 2 & 3 Dawes & Foss 1st & 2nd Add Blk 7 - - - - - 443.31
284-10646.20 Lots 4-6 (Residence Only) Blk 8 Dawes & Foss 1st & 2nd Add - - - - - 1,160.12
284-10648.11 Lots 7 & 8 Dawes & Foss 1st & 2nd Addition Block 8 880.22
284-10828.00 Lot 4 Wings Sub Of Blk 10 Mumaws Add - - - - - 649.62
284-10922.00 Lot 6 Ingrahams Sub Blks 12-13-14-16-17 Mumaws Blk 2 - - - - - 1,105.96
284-10970.00 W15' Lot 11 & Lot 12 Ingrahams Sub Blk 12-13-14-16 17 Mumaws Blk 4 - - - - - 917.07
284-11006.00 Lot 18 Ingrahams Sub Blk 12-13-14-16-17 Mumaws Blk 5 - - - - - 451.90
284-11026.10 Lot 6a Replat Lots 4,5 & 6 Dunlaps Sub Blk 15 Mumaw's Add - - - - - 505.82
284-11096.00 W62' Lots 37 & 38 Mowery & McNaulls Sub Blk 18 Mumaws Add - - - - - 1,649.64
284-11126.00 Lot 11 & Vac Alley Abtg Browns Add Blk 1 - - - - - 292.81
284-11206.00 Lot 4 Heartwell Park Blk 3 - - - - - 2,612.22
284-11250.00 S1/2 Lot 3 & E6 1/2' S1/2 Lot 4 Country Club Add - - - - - 679.89
284-11300.00 S1/2 Lot 16 & E3' S1/2 Lot 17 Country Club Add - - - - - 1,409.20
284-11462.00 Lot 82 Country Club Add - - - - - 2,028.96
284-11622.00 E50' W100' N139.55' Blk 2 Eastwoods Add - - - - - 591.97
284-11676.00 Beg 30' W & N Of Se Cor E & W100' & N & S134' Blk 5 Eastwoods Add - - - - - 838.33
284-11692.00 S150' E54' W129' Blk 7 Eastwoods Add - - - - - 681.31
284-11780.00 E1/2 N150' Lot 2 Blk 2 College Addition - - - - - 862.80
284-11814.00 S120' Lot 10 College Add Blk 2 - - - - - 1,338.46
284-11956.00 Lot 4 College Add Blk 6 - - - - - 3,271.32
284-12022.00 W50' N1/2 Lot 8 College Add Blk 7 - - - - - 35.55
284-12054.00 S2 1/2' S Of NS2 1/2' Lot 5 College Add Blk 8 - - - - - 973.95
284-12084.00 Lot 3 Gedney Court Park Sub Of College Add 1,443.69
284-12148.00 S1/2 Lot 18 Palmers Add - - - - - 685.29
284-12176.00 E22' S1/2 Lot 26 & S1/2 St Of Land Adj On E Lt 26 About 28' In Width Palmers Add - - - - - 421.80
284-12222.00 W30' S1/2 Lot 39 & E20' S1/2 Lot 40 Palmers Add - - - - - 412.62
284-12228.00 S1/2 Lot 42 Palmers Add - - - - - 648.43
284-12236.00 N1/2 Lot 44 Palmers Add - - - - - 179.05
284-12254.00 Pt Lots 50 & 51 44.62' N & S X 50.01' E & W More Or Less Palmers Add - - - - - 946.58
284-12286.00 W25' Lot 3 & All Lot 4 & E7 1/2' Lot 5 Palmers Sub Of Palmers Sub Blk 4 - - - - - 2,035.36
284-12322.00 Lot 4 Ringlands Sub Of Blk 3 Palmers Sub - - - - - 597.24
284-12458.00 Lot 10 Thompsons Add Blk 3 - - - - - 379.67
284-12514.00 Lot 17 Thompsons Add Blk 4 - - - - - 1,374.60
284-12560.00 Lot 16 Thompsons Add Blk 5 - - - - - 1,361.21
284-12568.00 Lot 20 Thompsons Add Blk 5 - - - - - 691.09
284-12676.00 N79.6' Lot

7 Norans Add Blk 1 - - - - - 1,226.83
284-12678.00 S90.4' Lot 7 Norans Add Blk 1 - - - - - 75.01
284-12794.00 S149' Of E 165 7'12' Of S1/2 Lot 4 Buswells Add Blk 1 - - - - - 431.63
284-12798.00 S41 1/2' Of E165 7'12'of N1/2 Of Lot 5 & N11/2' E165 7'12' Of S1/2 Lot 5 Buswell's Add Blk 1 - - - - - 487.27
284-12804.00 S1/2 Of E165 7'12' Lot 6 Buswells Add Blk 1 - - - - - 673.32
284-12818.00 S16' Of W55' Of 9 & N34' Of W 55' Of 10 Buswells Add Blk 1 - - - - - 1,434.80
284-13142.00 Pt Lts 4 & 5 Recorded Deed 85-2268 Hillside Add Blk 4 - - - - - 3,773.17
284-13256.00 S63-1/2' Of N73-1/2' Lot 4 Hillside Add Blk 10 - - - - - 1,003.82
284-13308.00 N1/2 Lts 9-10-11 Wemples Sub Blks 1 & 2 Hillside Add Blk 1 - - - - - 238.54
284-13360.00 Lot 4 Palmers L B 2nd Add Blk 2 - - - - - 578.46
284-13470.00 Lot 8 Blk 1 Birdsal's Add - - - - - 20045005: Deed Of Dist - - - - - 584.14
284-13512.00 Lot 14 Poehlers Add Blk 2 - - - - - 547.17
284-13588.00 Lts 1 & 2 & E36.5' Lt 3 & All Lt 12 Taggarts Add Blk 4 - - - - - 2,046.97
284-13594.10 W10' Lts 3 & 6 & All Lts 7-11 Blk 4 Taggart's Add - - - - - 7,987.68
284-13608.00 Lots 16 & 17 Dietz Add Blk 4 - - - - - 1,293.67
284-13618.00 Apt Lt 1 Beg SE Cor N36'swest Ery 58.6' S26' E58' & E58' Of 2 & N4' Of E58' Lt 3 Dietz Add Blk 11 938.52
284-13622.00 S10' Lt 3 & Lot 4 Dietz Add Blk 11 - - - - - 832.58
284-13902.00 Lots 8 & 9 East Broad Street Add Blk 5 - - - - - 2,021.26
284-13996.00 N66' Of Lts 7 & 8 East Broad Street Add Blk 11 - - - - - 1,181.21
284-14058.00 Lot 1 East Broad Street Add Blk 15 - - - - - 322.91
284-14080.00 All Of Lt 7 & All Lt 8 East Broad Street Add Blk 16 565.24
284-14092.00 Lot 5 Thomas Add Blk 1 - - - - - 1,444.04
284-14132.00 Lot 3 Thomas Add Blk 3 - - - - - 965.42
284-14146.00 Lot 9 Thomas Add Blk 3 - - - - - 1,193.30
284-14164.00 Lot 5 Devers Add - - - - - 553.04
284-14190.00 Lot 12 East Third Street Add Blk 1 - - - - - 1,082.97
284-14234.00 All Lt 1 & E10' Lt 2 East Third Street Add Blk 3 - - - - - 1,286.68
284-14372.00 Lot 16 Gedneys Add Blk 3 - - - - - 829.50
284-14466.00 N33' Lt 2 & S27' Lt 3 Hill Top Acres Add Blk 4 - - - - - 186.46
284-14976.00 All Lt 3 Ex S3' & Ex N14' Indian Acres Add Blk 6 - - - - - 990.78
284-15028.00 N10' Lt 5 & S60' Lt 6 Ex E5' Thereof Indian Acres Add Blk 7 - - - - - 959.26
284-15330.00 Lot 11 Westridge Add Blk 5 Replat - - - - - 2,083.95
284-16238.00 Lt 7 Ex The Nwesterly 2' Ther Of Imperial Village 4th Add Blk 3 - - - - - 1,251.00
284-16310.00 Lot 2 Imperial Village 4th Add Blk 5 - - - - - 2,848.15
284-16428.40 Unit #616 Eastridge Est Condo Inium Prop Regime Manster Dee 78 4001 Pt Lts 20-24 Westland 1st Add - - - - - 842.89
284-16442.20 Lot 12 Ellermeiers Add - - - - - 2,729.89
284-16457.83 Lot 3 Wal-Mart Sub-Div - - - - - 1,361.69
284-16458.30 Pt SE1/4 NE1/4 Tax Lot 2 6-7-9 City Extensions Blaine Twp 6-7-9 - - - - - 1,355.64
284-16510.12 Lot 1003 College View Town-Homes Sub-Div Replat Of College View Town-homes Sub-Div City Ext Pt NE1/4 NW1/4 8-7-9 8-7-9 - - - - - 3,012.87
284-16510.26 Lot 930 College View Town-Homes Sub-Div Repat College View Town-homes Sub-Div City Ext Pt NE1/4 NW1/4 8-7-9 8-7-9 - - - - - 130.47
284-16510.27 Lot 926 College View Town-Hom

S Sub-Div Replat College View Townhomes City Ext Pt NE1/4 NW1/4 8-7-9 Denver Twp 8-7-9 - - - - - 125.02
284-16510.28 Lot 922 College View Town-Homes Sub-Div Replat College View Town-homes Sub-Div City Ext Pt NE1/4 NW1/4 8-7-9 8-7-9 - - - - - 130.71
284-16510.29 Lot 918 College View Town-Homes Sub-Div Replat College View Town-homes Sub-Div City Ext Pt NE1/4 NW1/4 8-7-9 8-7-9 - - - - - 139.36
284-16510.30 Lot 914 College View Town-Homes Sub-Div Replat College View Town-homes Sub-Div City Ext Pt NE1/4 NW1/4 8-7-9 8-7-9 - - - - - 97.29
284-16510.31 Lot 910 College View Town-Homes Sub-Div Replat College View Town-homes Sub-Div City Ext Pt NE1/4 NW1/4 8-7-9 8-7-9 - - - - - 93.26
284-16510.32 Lot 906 College View Town-Homes Sub-Div Replat College View Town-homes Sub-Div City Ext Pt NE1/4 NW1/4 8-7-9 8-7-9 - - - - - 93.26
284-16510.33 Lot 902 College View Town-Homes Sub-Div Replat College View Town-homes Sub-Div City Ext Pt NE1/4 NW1/4 8-7-9 8-7-9 - - - - - 105.23
284-16510.34 Lot 1011 College View Town-Homes Sub-Div Replat College View Town-homes Sub-Div City Ext Pt NE1/4 NW1/4 8-7-9 8-7-9 - - - - - 479.81
284-16880.10 Lots 1 & 2 M S M Subdiv Pt NW1/4 NE1/4 8-7-9 8-7-9 - - - - - 11,200.64
284-17306.11 Pt S333' S1/2SE1/4 T13 & Sub Lot 1 Of T11 Ex Hwy City Extensions Sec 18-7-9 Annexed 1976 18-7-9 - - - - - 2,594.09
284-17400.00 Pt NW1/4 SE1/4 Tax Lot 1 City Extensions Sec 11-7-10 11-7-10 - - - - - 1,699.89
284-17442.00 Tr Of Land Known As W G Pauley Lumber Co Sub- Division 11-7-10 - - - - - 180.71
284-18430.00 PtNW1/4 SE 1/4 Tx Lt 69 Ex Tr For Hwy City Extensions Sec 13-7-10 13-7-10 - - - - - 1,687.21
284-18480.00 Pt NW1/4 SE1/4 Tx Lt 74 City Extensions Sec 13-7-10 13-7-10 - - - - - 136.87
284-18526.00 E78' W170' N130' SE1/4 SE1/4 Ex N20' Thereof Tax Lot 1 City Extensions Sec 13-7-10 13-7-10 - - - - - 983.55
284-18754.00 Lot 28 Hamshers South Side Replat - - - - - 2,489.93
284-18778.00 Lot 39 Hamshers South Side Replat 1998 Bayridge Iii 28 X 42 - - - - - 1,601.18
284-18972.80 Lot 110 Replat Lts 6-11 Blk 5 Imperial Village 6th Add - - - - - 1,784.26
284-19274.00 Lot 29 Chart Sub-Div 1st & 2nd Filin Pt 13-7-10 - - - - - 1,873.01
284-19790.00 Lot 1 Sidlo's Sub-Div 1,782.01
284-20008.00 Lot 4 Rancho Villa Sub-Div Replat Of Lt 1 Blk 1 Werner Sub Denver Twp - - - - - 2,956.70
284-20114.00 Lot 6 Vintage Heights Sub-Div - - - - - 1,478.82
284-20116.00 Lot 7 Vintage Heights Sub-Div - - - - - 2,947.81
284-20140.00 Lot 6 Blk 1 Cimarron Meadows Addition Pt NE1/4 Sec 36-8-10 Highland Twp 36-8-10 - - - - - 1,545.60
284-20430.03 Improvements Only Located Upon MH Berlins Addition 1991 Bel-Air 16 X 66 - - - - - 379.20
284-20530.03 Improvements Only Located Upon MH Berlins Addition 1986 Atlantic 14 X 70 - - - - - 177.75
284-20770.01 Improvements Only Located Upon MH Berlins Addition 1977 Shangri-la 66 X 14 - - - - - 106.65
284-20920.01 Improvements Only Located



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Cris Ashworth, president and CEO of United Record Pressing, displays a few of the albums his company has pressed at its Nashville, Tenn., plant on Jan. 25.

RECORDS IN RETROSPECT

VINYL REMAINS
RELEVANT AT
NASHVILLE RECORD
PRESSING PLANT

JOHN GEROME
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — That dusty stack of records in your parents' basement? They're not as retro as you might think.

Many record collectors, DJs and music junkies still consider vinyl to be the gold standard of recorded music — scratches, pops and all.

That enduring appeal has helped Nashville's United Record Pressing, which cranks out 20,000 to 40,000 records a day, making it one of the largest — and last — vinyl record manufacturers in the country.

"Folks thought we had disappeared," owner and CEO Cris Ashworth said.

Started in 1962, the plant is as much a throwback as the shiny black discs it produces. The interior is dingy, the '70s decor looks like a vintage garage sale and the air is a stale blend of ink and cigarette smoke.

Ashworth, 56, sat down for a recent interview with an ash-tray and pack of Merits by his side. He hardly looked the part of dance music guru, but 60 percent of his company's records are by rap, hip-hop and R&B artists such as Justin Timberlake, Beyonce, Black Eyed Peas, Christina Aguilera, Ludacris and Krayzie Bone.

Most of the discs are 12-inch singles destined for professional DJs at radio stations and dance clubs who still use vinyl records and turntables to mix, scratch and blend music.

"The record labels use us as a marketing tool to get that new track out there," Ashworth explained. "They'll come to me on a Monday, want it out on Wednesday and played Friday or Saturday night at a club or radio station."

Typically, the company will press four versions of the same song: a radio and club mix, as well as an instrumental and a cappella version so DJs can mix and manipulate the sound.

Another portion of United's product goes to retail stores, where vinyl is preferred by amateur DJs, collectors and purists convinced that the sound is superior to CDs.



"Vinyl has a distinct sound," said Doyle Davis, co-owner of Grimey's New & Preloved Music, a Nashville store where 15 percent to 20 percent of

sales are vinyl. "You hear people use adjectives like 'warmer' and 'more round.'"

"And there are other things beside sound quality. People



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Top: Boxes of Elvis Presley records are stored in a warehouse at the United Record Pressing company in Nashville, Tenn., on Jan. 25. **Left:** A record album slides out of a press at the United Record Pressing company. The press turns a blob of vinyl about the size of a hockey puck into a record album. **Above:** Vinyl pellets are shown as they are received at United Record Pressing. The pellets will go through a process that will heat and press them into a record album.

know what the song titles are. It's not like, 'I like track 5.' You put the needle on and let it play through — not jump around. You have more of an intimate relationship with the music."

Vinyl records use analog technology, whereby a physical groove is etched into the record mimicking the sound wave. CDs, on the other hand,

transform sound into digital packets of information.

"No one ever doubts the quality of vinyl over any other format that's ever existed," said George Sulmers, a Nashville-based club DJ who spins classic funk and soul discs under the name Geezus. "I understand why change happened, but I don't think there was a valid need for the change."

The means of music delivery continues to evolve. Digital downloading has eroded CD sales. Some artists are skipping CDs entirely and releasing new music online for the casual listener and on vinyl for DJs and hardcore fans.

But vinyl still accounts for a small percentage of total music sales. Last year 858,000 LPs were sold compared with 553.4 million CDs, according to Nielsen SoundScan. While the 2006 figure was up slightly from 2005, the overall trend has been down from 1.5 million in 2000.

Ashworth believes the data is skewed, though, because a lot of vinyl is sold in mom and pop stores not reflected in the SoundScan numbers.

His company has managed to thrive by picking up business from competitors in a shrinking market. Today, he has only 13 competitors compared to several dozen before CDs took over in the '90s. Revenues hit \$5 million in 2004 and grew to \$7 million in 2005. Last year saw significant growth over 2005, Ashworth said.

And yet the plant remains a timepiece with its rumbling presses that jar the floor, noisy blasts of compressed air and vats of blue nickel solution used to create the master discs.

Ashworth regards it a relic of Nashville's past, every bit as important as the old RCA studio where Elvis Presley and the Everly Brothers recorded, or the Ryman Auditorium where the Grand Ole Opry enjoyed its heyday.

"We want to be the last vinyl plant standing, no matter what," he said. "There is no other plant that looks like this in the country. This is an antique."

Indeed, it still has the furnished apartment where Motown Records executives stayed when they came down from Detroit during segregation. The apartment adjoins a party room where Wayne Newton celebrated his 16th birthday.

Most of the major labels and many of the independents contract with United. Elvis Presley's reissues are pressed here, as well as recordings by Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Johnny Cash, Rod Stewart, Alan Jackson, John Mayer and many others.

"If you look at the Hot 100 singles, we represent about 80 percent of what's on the chart," Ashworth said.

Opium eradication under way in Taliban heartland

NOOR KHAN
The Associated Press
DOBUNDI, Afghanistan — Anguish creased the weathered face of the opium farmer as a U.S.-trained eradication team swept through his farm fields in this southern Afghan village.

With helicopters buzzing overhead, dozens of tractors plowed up Sadullah Khan's sprouting poppy plants, which in two months time would have yielded the sticky resin used to make heroin — and earned him, by Afghan standards, a generous income.

After failing miserably to curb opium production last year, the Afghan government has launched a renewed eradication drive, particularly here in Helmand province — which accounted for more than 40 percent of the 2006's record yield of 6,725 tons. The U.S. government estimates the opium trade generates \$3 billion a year in illicit economic activity.

There is some armed resistance to the campaign in Helmand, where drug gangs and Taliban militants form a powerful nexus against President Hamid Karzai's unpopular government. Still, counter-narcotics officials expect better results this year — if not a resounding success.

That's cold comfort to Khan, a 55-year old father of nine, who owns 25 acres of land planted with poppies.

"When they are eradicating my poppy, it's just like they are destroying my home," he said, watching the heavily armed Afghan teams at work — supported by a handful of U.S. contractors, who rode in pairs through the rolling poppy fields on all-terrain vehicles.

There are fears the program could increase support for Taliban insurgents, but Karzai is under growing international pressure to crack down on Afghan drug production —



Afghan farmers watch as the police destroy a poppy field with a tractor near Jalalabad, Afghanistan, on Thursday.

which accounts for more than 90 percent of global supply.

Last week, President Bush called poppy cultivation a threat to Afghanistan's fragile democracy. Bush said he had told Karzai "to gain the confidence of his people, and the confidence of the world, he's got to do something about it, with our help."

The year 2006 saw an alarming 59 percent rise in opium cultivation to 407,700 acres, deepening fears that Afghanistan is rapidly becoming a narco-state.

A Western counter-narcotics official said it was too early for an accurate prediction of this year's crop, but he noted some positive signs.

Cultivation will likely drop sig-

nificantly in the north and northeast while increasing slightly in some areas of the south, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

The government, he said, has launched eradication "earlier and with more determination" than last year and has warned officials they would be fired if they didn't take action.

Lt. Gen. Mohammed Daoud Daoud, the deputy interior minister for counter-narcotics, said 8,900 acres of poppy fields have been destroyed nationwide in the past month. The target is to destroy almost 14 times that figure — a total of 123,550 acres — before the harvest, which runs from April to July, from the

south to the colder north.

The Western official doubted that target will be reached. But he said he hoped that 15 to 20 percent of the planted fields will be eradicated to demonstrate the "business risk" to poppy growers. Last year, only about 8 percent of planted fields were destroyed.

The campaign, supported mainly by the U.S. and Britain, carries a political and military risk for the government and its Western allies. It could generate more recruits for the Taliban, the militia that is threatening a spring offensive against NATO forces.

There have been five attacks in the past two weeks against the eradication campaign in Helmand, Farah and Nangarhar provinces, Daoud said. In the

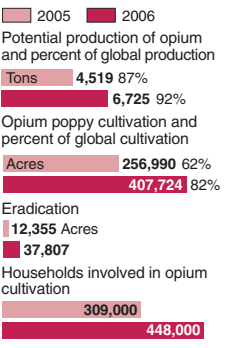
worst incident, a roadside bomb in Helmand's Nad Ali district killed two police officers and wounded three serving as guards for the eradication team.

To mitigate the risk of a backlash by farmers, authorities say they are targeting areas where there's little reason not to grow crops like wheat and vegetables — rather than dry, remote fields where farmers may feel forced to cultivate opium because they lack good irrigation or market access.

Most eradication efforts are led by provincial governors who pay their teams with U.S. money. But there's also a well-equipped, 550-man national eradication force under the Ministry of Interior, which is advised by the U.S. security con-

Stemming the rise of Afghan's opium

The Afghan government has renewed an opium eradication drive after a 59 percent rise in opium cultivation in 2006.



SOURCE: United Nations

AP

tractor Dyncorp.

This force has deployed to areas with increased poppy cultivation — in Nad Ali, for example, where vast poppy fields are irrigated by canals fed by the Helmand River.

This week, angry farmers in Dobundi village watched as uniformed men on tractors plowed up foot-tall poppy plants. Counter-narcotics officials say the farmers should have time to replant with legal crops.

In other villages, farmers have flooded fields to obstruct the tractors. Dobundi's farmers put up no resistance, but they complained bitterly, alleging security forces targeted them because the area is less dangerous than elsewhere in Helmand.

"If the Taliban were in Nad Ali, the government couldn't come here," said one farmer, Darath Khan.

He said Karzai's government had failed to bring security or development, despite the foreign aid that has poured into Afghanistan over the past five years.

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Monday	Noon Friday	Thursday	10 a.m. Wednesday
Tuesday	10 a.m. Monday	Friday	10 a.m. Thursday
Wednesday	10 a.m. Tuesday	Saturday	9 a.m. Friday

1 Card of Thanks

I wish to thank everyone who sent me cards, calls, and prayers for my 75th birthday. After going through chemo and radiation for breast cancer last year, I wasn't sure I would reach my 75th. God bless you all!

Roma Hicks

8 Happy Ads



Card shower requested for Clyde and Lela Frerichs of Franklin in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Married March 3, 1957. Cards and letters can be sent to 814 12th Ave., Franklin, NE 68939



Elaine (Derr) Vance of Bladen will celebrate her 85th birthday February 27 with a surprise card shower and open house. Send cards to: 910 W. Seward, Blue Hill, NE 68930. Her family invites you to an open house at the Blue Hill Care dining room from 2-4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27

8 Happy Ads

HELEN OWENS will celebrate her 90th Birthday, March 9

Her children and grandchildren would like to ask her friends and neighbors to send birthday greetings to:
1505 Maple Crest Drive
Marion, Iowa 52302

11 Garage Sales Northwest

141 N. LAIRD, #1: Friday, 4-7; Saturday, 8-2. **HUGE INDOOR SALE.** Lots of new and used name-brand items. Baby items: crib, changing table, car seat, Fisher Price toys; toys: remote cars and trucks; riding toys; hair accessories; appliances; tools; welders; jacks; PA equipment; speakers and speaker stands; guitars. Too much to list, all nice!

Surprise that special friend or relative today! Place your Tribune "Happy Ad". It's a low \$14.95. Bring in your picture and what you wish to say TODAY or call 402-461-1241.

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13 Garage Sales Southwest

Giant Garage-Antique-Flea Market Sale
Saturday, March 3, 9-3
Adams County Fairgrounds

461-1241, 1-800-742-6397

14 Garage Sales Southeast

LARGE INSIDE Community Garage Sale: Good Samaritan Village Senior Center. March 31. Call 460-3259 to rent space.

There are some prime rental possibilities in our rental classifications 100-113. Want to place your rental ad there? Call our Classified Department at 402-461-1241 or 1-800-742-6397.

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2004 FORD E-250 Cargo Van: V-8, automatic.....\$6,500
2000 FORD F-250: Super cab, short box, 4x4.....\$7,950

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20 Automobiles

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bramblesautosales.com
462-4849

PICKS OF THE WEEK



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1996 Jeep Grand Cherokee
Leather, Loaded
#9606B

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Leather, Loaded, V-6
#5406A

1992 GMC Sierra 4x4
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#9544B

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Sale Priced \$31,260

2007 Buick Terraza Rear DVD, Leather, Heated seats, Chrome wheels, XM Radio, Remote start
Sale Priced \$30,797

4-Year 50,000 mile Bumper to Bumper Warranty

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2003 FORD WINDSTAR LX

• Power seat • CD • Keyless Entry • Rear Air & Heat • Clean Local Trade • 79,000 mi.

\$8,990

2006 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4X4

• Leather • Moonroof • CD • Keyless Entry • Loaded, Sharp! • 13,000 mi.

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2002 SATURN SL2 4 DOOR

• 4 Cylinder, Automatic, CD, Great Economy • 57,000 mi.

\$6,995

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\$20,995

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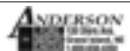
20 Automobiles**NORTHSIDE AUTO**

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www.northsideautoinc.net

2002 MONTE CARLO SS:
sunroof, 3800.....\$6,995
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Special.....\$3,495
Many more to choose from

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2004 F-150: 4x4, Super
Crew, 36,000 miles, DVD.
It's got it all!

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24 Sport Utility

1991 CHEVY Blazer: 4x4
works, good body, good
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36 Travel Trailers & Motor Homes

1994 SPORTMASTER 5th
Wheel Model 212F. Air,
awning, TV antenna, pow-
er booster. Got a little
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Our office is open
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36 Travel Trailers & Motor Homes

1999 HITCHHIKER: 28.5
5th wheel. Super nice.
Many more to choose
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See Maury today.
TRANSPORTATION
EQUIPMENT CO.
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1993 HARLEY Davidson
FXR: Custom paint and
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Approximately 36,000
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2006 YAMAHA YFZ450,
Special Edition, yellow,
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2007 HARLEY Davidson:
Sportster low, 1,200 cc,
with forward controls. Ap-
proximately 100 miles.
Must sell due to health.
\$8,500. 463-0461

47 Financial/Loans

**Turned down for a car
loan?** Let us help! Call
Sheila at Paul Spady Mo-
tors. 402-462-4105.

TRIBUNE CLASSIFIED
The place to look for help
wanted ads. Open 7:45 to
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place your ad, 461-1241.

50 Employment Agencies

ADVANCE SERVICES
Employment Opportunities
213 S. Burlington
463-6685

51 Professional**Armour/Eckrich Meats Hastings, Nebraska**

The Armour/Eckrich Fac-
ility in Hastings, NE has
three salaried positions
that are currently open.

Human Resource Manager

The position is responsible
for administering all as-
pects of Human Resource
functions for the plant.
These functions include,
but are not limited to: em-
ployment, employee rela-
tions, administration of
benefits, training. Position
will administer Armour/
Eckrich policies and proce-
dures including EEO/AAP/
FMLA. Successful candi-
date will work with Plant
Manager's Staff to assure
compliance to all applica-
ble policies and proce-
dures, be they Armour/
Eckrich, Federal or State.
Candidates for the position
should have at least 2-3
years of HR experience as
an Assistant HR Manager
or Generalist.

Maintenance Supervisor (2 Positions)

Have two open positions,
one on 1st shift and one
on 3rd shift. Position re-
sponsibilities include, but
are not limited to: Man-
agement of the Maintenance
Department employees for
the assigned shift; super-
vise activities of mainte-
nance employees engag-
ed in repair, maintenance,
and installation of ma-
chines, tools and equip-
ment; assures standard
operation procedures are
followed to meet establish-
ed quality and production
standards. The successful
candidates will also need
to be willing to work addi-
tional hours as needed to
assure smooth plant oper-
ation.

Candidates interested in
one of the three positions
should send resume to
one of the following ad-
dresses:

Arthur.Sorenson@
conagrafoods.com

Hard copy:
Armour/Eckrich Meats

Attn: J.Yost
P.O. Box 399

Hastings, Nebraska 68902

Resumes must be re-
ceived no later than March
12, 2007.

Armour/Eckrich Meats is
an Equal Opportunity Em-
ployer M/F/D/V

NEBRASKA AIDS Project

seeks Case Manager for
the Kearney area to work
with persons living with
HIV or AIDS. BSW/MSW
or related degree prefer-
red. Strong written and
verbal skills required.
Computer skills including
word processing, databas-
es and spreadsheets a
must. Ability to work with
diverse populations and
excellent organizational
skills required. Driver's li-
cense, insurance and vehi-
cle required. Submit re-
sume to: Jill Young, Ne-
braska AIDS Project, P.O.
Box 1500, Scottsbluff, NE
68361. Email:
napscb@earthlink.net or
fax 308-635-3907 or
phone 308-635-3807.

— ERRORS —

When placing an ad in
person or on the phone,
we will read all ads back
to you for your approval.
If you find an error in
your classified ad, please
call us before the next
day's paper. The Tribune
cannot be responsible for
more than one incorrect
insertion. Claims cannot
be considered unless
made within three days
from the first date of pub-
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affect the value of the
advertisement.

52 Educational**Full-time Nursing Instructor**

Central Community Col-
lege, Columbus, Nebras-
ka. **Qualifications:** Must
have a BSN and must be
willing to enroll in an MSN
program. Must be an RN.
Previous teaching experi-
ence desired. Good com-
munication and critical
thinking skills are essen-
tial. **Responsibilities:**
Teaching in the ADN and
PN programs at the Co-
lumbus Campus. Theory
and clinical supervision in
medical-surgical nursing.
Will advise students. **Ben-
efits:** See our web site at
www.ccneb.edu (under
"Quick Links"). **For more
information, contact**
Douglas Adler by April 20,
2007 at 308-398-7327,
email hr@ccneb.edu or
check our web site:
www.ccneb.edu. An
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tive Action Employer.

53 Health Care**\$1,000 SIGN-ON Bonus:**

Immediate Opening
Night Shift

Full Time LPN/RN.
Blue Valley Care Home

Benefits include Health,
Dental, Life Insurance,
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Double Pay for Holidays
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Differential pay for night
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Attn: Pat Klaumann
Blue Valley Lutheran
Homes

220 Park Avenue
Hebron, NE 68370

402-768-3900

Fax: 402-768-3901

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53 Health Care**LPN or RN**

to work on Behavioral
Services Unit from 5:30
a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Experi-
ence in psychiatric nursing
preferred; however, will
train new grads. Full-time
position available. Apply in
Human Resources or on-
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Our dynamic 75-bed
skilled nursing facility in
quaint Kenesaw has

IMMEDIATE opportunity
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Join a team making a
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We offer excellent com-
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professional development.
If you're looking for a pre-
mier company to work for,
WE NEED TO TALK. For
more information, please
send resumes to George at
303-466-2101 or email
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www.savaseniorcare.com
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NURSE AIDES

Enjoy working with se-
niors, energetic, and com-
passionate? Come join our
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Hill Care Center. Full-time,
day and evening positions
available. We're growing.
Check us out! Contact Deb
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TODAY. Make someone
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CHAIR-SIDE Dental assistant/receptionist:

One day/
week. Will train. Send re-
sume to David Berkheim,
DDS, P.O. Box 594, Sut-
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OPHTHALMIC TECH

for Hastings Ophthalmology
Office. Must be a team
player. \$17-\$20/hour de-
pending on experience.
Sign-on bonus. For confi-
dential interview, call Eliz-
abeth, 402-984-3512 or
fax resume with salary his-
tory to 402-462-9192.

54 Office/Clerical**FULL-TIME**

receptionist for local medical practice.
Quick learner, people skills
a must. Benefits includ-
ing 402k and cafeteria plan.
Please send resume to
Box F Hastings Tribune,
P.O. Box 788, Hastings,
NE 68901

RECORDS PROCESSING CLERK:

Full-time position in our
Health Information Depart-
ment, Monday through Fri-
day, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00
p.m., with Saturday rota-
tion. Successful applicant
will have excellent work
history and references,
positive team member
skills, attention to detail,
and the ability to multi
task. Duties include coor-
dination of the release of
medical information to re-
questers according to hos-
pital policies as well as
state and federal laws, of-
fice reception, retrieving
charts for physicians and
other areas of the hospital.
Full-time benefits includ-
ing: Health and Dental In-
surance, Flexible Spend-
ing Accounts, 401(K) Re-
tirement Plan, Disability In-
surance and Paid Time Off.
Please apply in the Human
Resources Department or
on-line at www.mlhm.org.
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TELLER/BOOKKEEPER POSITION

South Central State Bank
has an opening for a Tel-
ler/Bookkeeper position at
the Blue Hill Branch. Com-
puter skills and accuracy
are required. Communica-
tion skills are very impor-
tant. Please stop in to pick
up an application at 541
Gage Street, Blue Hill, NE.
ask for Michele or Jamie.
Only qualified applicants
will be considered!

55 Sales**RENTAL CLERK**

Immediate opening with
local company. Full-time
hours. Duties include
sales, payment taking, de-
livery, collections and
show floor work. This job
can lead to our manage-
ment training program if
desired. Excellent hourly
wage and benefits. Must
have excellent driving re-
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niture and appliances and
be drug free. Apply in per-
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Ace Rent-To-Own, 1049
West Second Street, Hast-
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Sales Career - Management Opportunity

Established Midwest cor-
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consumer market in history.
We offer:

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•4-day work week
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tives
•Advancement opportuni-
ties
•\$3,000 month income
guarantee
•\$51,262+ first year earn-
ing potential
Overnight travel required
in-state (Monday-Thurs-
day). For more information
and/or interview, call Luke
Pray, 866-232-2814.

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Tribune for fast, fast results.

**Cleaning Services**

HAVE OPENINGS for resi-
dential cleaning clients.
20+ years experience.
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COMPUTER REPAIR: In-
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D&D FURNITURE MOV-
ERS. Honest quality serv-
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HONEY DO'S. Specializ-
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53 Health Care**CHAIR-SIDE Dental assistant/receptionist:**

One day/
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OPHTHALMIC TECH

for Hastings Ophthalmology
Office. Must be a team
player. \$17-\$20/hour de-
pending on experience.
Sign-on bonus. For confi-
dential interview, call Eliz-
abeth, 402-984-3512 or
fax resume with salary his-
tory to 402-462-9192.

54 Office/Clerical**FULL-TIME**

receptionist for local medical practice.
Quick learner, people skills
a must. Benefits includ-
ing 402k and cafeteria plan.
Please send resume to
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P.O. Box 788, Hastings,
NE 68901

RECORDS PROCESSING CLERK:

Full-time position in our
Health Information Depart-
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day, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00
p.m., with Saturday rota-
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will have excellent work
history and references,
positive team member
skills, attention to detail,
and the ability to multi
task. Duties include coor-
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medical information to re-
questers according to hos-
pital policies as well as
state and federal laws, of-
fice reception, retrieving
charts for physicians and
other areas of the hospital.
Full-time benefits includ-
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surance, Flexible Spend-
ing Accounts, 401(K) Re-
tirement Plan, Disability In-
surance and Paid Time Off.
Please apply in the Human
Resources Department or
on-line at www.mlhm.org.
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South Central State Bank
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the Blue Hill Branch. Com-
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ask for Michele or Jamie.
Only qualified applicants
will be considered!

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desired. Excellent hourly
wage and benefits. Must
have excellent driving re-
cord, be able to deliver fur-
niture and appliances and
be drug free. Apply in per-
son, and love your job at
Ace Rent-To-Own, 1049
West Second Street, Hast-
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Sales Career - Management Opportunity

Established Midwest cor-
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als to service the largest
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We offer:

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•4-day work week
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tives
•Advancement opportuni-
ties
•\$3,000 month income
guarantee
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have excellent driving re-
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poration seeking individu-
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consumer market in history.
We offer:

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•4-day work week
•Many bonuses and incen-
tives
•Advancement opportuni-
ties
•\$3,000 month income
guarantee
•\$51,262+ first year earn-
ing potential
Overnight travel required
in-state (Monday-Thurs-
day). For more information
and/or interview, call Luke
Pray, 866-232-2814.

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Immediate opening with
local company. Full-time
hours. Duties include
sales, payment taking, de-
livery, collections and
show floor work. This job
can lead to our manage-
ment training program if
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wage and benefits. Must
have excellent driving re-
cord, be able to deliver fur-
niture and appliances and
be drug free. Apply in per-
son, and love your job at
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•Many bonuses and incen-
tives
•Advancement opportuni-
ties
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Overnight travel required
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and/or interview, call Luke
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55 Sales**RENTAL CLERK**

60 General

FINISH DEPARTMENT is looking for someone to hang doors, trim and cabinets. Also someone to do stain and varnish. Should have experience, be detail-oriented and be able to work independently. Full-time position with competitive wages, insurance, holiday pay, vacation and retirement program available. **Apply in person** at Wardcraft Homes in Minden, NE. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

FRIENDLY LIVE-IN Manager(s) for pleasant franchise hotel in Nebraska. 888-421-4328, Ext. 201.

FULL-TIME Janitorial position open. Must be at least 18 and possess valid driver's license. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Contact 308-383-9637.

HASTINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS is accepting applications for the following limited part-time position

PARAEDUCATORS To meet Federal No Child Left Behind guidelines, applicant should have at least 48 hours of college credit or an Associates or Bachelors Degree. Interested individuals may submit a letter of application to: Human Resources Office Hastings Public Schools, 714 West 5th Street Hastings, NE 68901 402/461-7502

Closing date: March 9, 2007

HIRING GRAIN bin builders and millwright workers and welders. Good starting pay. Company has local work and travels. Call Greg, days, 402-520-2863; evenings, 888-292-0519.

House Parent Couple Christian Heritage Children's Homes Have you felt led to make a big difference in the lives of children? Do you have the heart to serve and the talent to run a household effectively? If so, check out the job description at www.chne.org or call 308-234-5702.

HOUSEKEEPING/ LAUNDRY

Enjoy working with seniors? Full- and part-time day positions available. Able to work every other weekend. Contact Sylvia at 402-756-2080 or stop in for application at 414 N. Willson. Blue Hill Care Center. Only 20 minutes south of Hastings. EOE

MARCH PUSH MONTH!

Extra Help Needed
*Hard workers only
*Temporary and Full-time Permanent Work
*Company Training Provided
*No experience necessary

0-1 Promotions have many openings available. New office in Grand Island needs people to start immediately.

\$1,685/month to start

Call 308-234-5025
All applications will be accepted

THE HASTINGS BASEBALL COMMITTEE

is looking for someone to manage the Legion Batting Facility this coming summer. The position will begin on June 1 and will end July 15. The building will be open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on a daily basis. Pay is \$6.00 per hour and for insurance purposes, the qualified individual must be at least 21 years old to apply. For more information, please contact Tim Johnson at 463-4430

60 General

POSITION AVAILABLE: Ethanol Production Manager for Nesika Energy, LLC, a 10 mgy ethanol plant located in Scandia, Kansas. Plant start-up is estimated to be mid July 2007. Potential candidate will be responsible for directing, coordinating and overseeing all plant operations within company policies and procedures. Salary commensurate with experience. Mail resume to Nesika Energy, LLC, P.O. Box 169, Scandia, KS 66966. Phone: 785-335-2221 or go to www.nesikaenergyllc.com - Employment Opportunities

THE U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, near Clay Center, NE, has an opening for a Building Systems Technician. Will perform general and aesthetic maintenance, assist trade leader in renovation or preservation of buildings. Projects may include masonry and concrete, assist in painting, wood work, insulating pipes and walls, maintain light fixtures, maintain HVAC systems. Must be able to work in all environments, work off ladder and lift 80 pounds. High school or equivalent experience. Experience or training in trades preferred. Apply on line at <http://employment.unl.edu> (Requisition #070090) by March 2, 2007. For more information contact:

Terry Madison
U.S. Meat Animal Research Center
P.O. Box 166

Clay Center, NE 68933
Phone: 402-762-4151.

UNL is committed to EEO/AA and ADA/504. Call if accommodation is required.

VISION CONSULTANT Half-time position in ESU #9 working with students birth-21 for 2007-08 school year. Excellent benefits and professional development opportunities. For information contact Michie at 402-462-4187, extension 169, or send e-mail to michie@esu9.org. For application, contact Jan at 402-463-5611. Applications close March 9.

WAREHOUSE/DELIVERY Immediate opening for person to manage warehouse for floor covering company. Accept deliveries, prepare materials for installers, organize product. Must be able to lift heavy loads. Must have valid driver's license. Fork lift certification a plus. Computer proficiency in Windows and Excel. Apply in person with resume and references at: Jacobi Carpet One, 3rd and Denver, Hastings.

List your ad, call 461-1241!

60 General

AVON: Unlimited earnings flexible hours. Start today. 402-469-4377.

WORKER WANTED for one opening for a self-starting individual for both delivery and warehouse work. Must have clean driving record. 40 hour week, no weekends. Apply in person to Cash-Wa Candy at 737 W. 1st St. Monday-Friday 8-5.

ZIEMBA ROOFING taking preliminary applications for full-time spring employment. Apply in person, 806 W. 17th, Hastings, 8-4 p.m.

61 Part Time

HASTINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS is accepting applications for the following limited part-time position

K-8 MARC RECORDS CLERK Interested individuals should have some background in library classifications and cataloging procedures and have good computer skills. Interested individuals may submit a letter of application to:

Human Resources Office Hastings Public Schools, 714 West 5th Street Hastings, NE 68901 402/461-7502 EOE

Closing date: March 9, 2007

PART-TIME Bartender: hours and days vary. Apply in person after 2 p.m. at 107 N. Denver.

THE CLAY County Sheriff's Department is hiring for the position of part-time dispatcher for the midnight to 8 a.m. shift. Hours will include holidays and weekends. Contact Clay County Sheriff's Department at 402-762-3528 or <http://www.claycounty.ne.gov/> for more information. Clay County is an EOE.

62 Child Care

LICENSED DAYCARE has openings for all ages. Food program. Lincoln school area. 984-3659.

WILL DO 2nd shift daycare in my home. Licensed for 20 years. References. Call Barb, 463-0128.

63 Looking for Work

LOOKING FOR work as an at-home transcriptionist. Call 402-461-6781. Leave message.

70 Pets

2 AKC MALE Cocker Spaniel puppies, \$150 with papers, \$100 without. 1 AKC Weimaraner blue male pup, \$100 without papers. 463-6112.

70 Pets

3 MINIATURE Schnauzer puppies, male, AKC registered. Sire and dam on site. Born 12/28. Ready 2/26. Dewclaws, shots and tails done. \$300. 463-0461

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Associates or bachelors degree is preferred.

Because our Christian programming is the foundation for our operation, candidate must be willing to embrace the faith based aspect of our mission.

Applications are available at the Human Resource office at Good Samaritan Hastings Village, 926 East "E" St.

If you need additional information please call Sue Gentert, HR Director at (402) 460-3234.

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CLEAN 2-BEDROOM: Appliances, central air. No pets. \$425. 402-463-1664.

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105 Mobile Homes For Rent

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Legals

Notice
Estate of HAZEL M. SCHUKEI, Deceased. Estate No. PR07-13

Notice is hereby given that on February 5, 2007, in the County Court of Adams County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will and Informal Appointment of Personal Representative and that Roger L. Schukei, whose address is 1320 Turner Avenue, Hastings, Nebraska 68901, has been appointed Personal Representative of this estate.

Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before April 11, 2007, or be forever barred.

Tom Hawes
Clerk of the County Court

DUNMIRE, FISHER & HASTINGS
Attorneys
202 Heritage Bank Building
P.O. Box 1044
Hastings, Nebraska 68902-1044
(402) 463-1383
February 10, 17, 24, 2007

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

You are hereby notified that the following-described property will be sold by Paul J. LaPuzza, Successor Trustee, at public auction to the highest bidder at the Adams County Courthouse on March 21, 2007, at 10:00 a.m.

Lot 3 and the East 2 feet of Lot 4, in Heartwell and Webster's Subdivision of Lots 7, 8, part of 9, 13, and 15 of Haire's Subdivision in the City of Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska, according to the recorded plat thereof

The highest bidder will deposit with the Trustee, at the time of the sale, a personal or cashier's check in the amount of \$5,000.00 with the full purchase price, in certified funds, to be received by the Trustee by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the sale, except this requirement is waived when the highest bidder is the beneficiary. (If the sale is held after 1:00 p.m., the deposit requirement remains the same, and the full purchase price, in certified funds, shall be received by the Trustee by 5:00 p.m., the following business day). The purchaser shall be responsible for all prior liens, all applicable fees, and all taxes, including the documentary stamp tax. This property is sold "as is" and this sale is made without any warranties as to title or condition of the property.

DATED This 31st day of January, 2007.

Paul J. LaPuzza, Successor Trustee
LaPuzza Law, P.C., L.L.O.
275 North 115th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68154
February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 2007

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

You are hereby notified that pursuant to a power of sale contained in the deed of trust in the original principal amount of \$108,000.00 executed by Robert D. Novotne and Melissa A. Novotne, husband and wife, which was filed for record on April 3, 2006, as Instrument No. 20061392 in the office of the Register of Deeds of Adams County, Nebraska, the property described below will be sold by the undersigned at public auction to the highest bidder for cash or certified or cashier's check, in the main lobby of the Adams County Courthouse, 500 West 4th Street, in the City of Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska, at 10:00 a.m. on March 15, 2007:

The West Eighty feet (W 80') of Lot Twenty (20), Block Two (2), Buswell Addition to the City of Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska, according to the recorded plat thereof.

The highest bidder is required to deliver cash or certified funds to the undersigned by the close of business on the day of sale, except this requirement is waived when the highest bidder is the beneficiary. The purchaser is responsible for all fees or taxes, including the documentary stamp tax. This sale is made without any warranties as to title or condition of the property.

Eric H. Lindquist
Successor Trustee

Eric H. Lindquist, P.C., L.L.O.
Attorney at Law
8712 West Dodge Road, Suite 260
Omaha, Nebraska 68114
February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 2007

Spring thaw on the farm

“What is that smell?” I asked as I walked into my house the other day. “Did you put a calf in the basement?”

Mabel had told me all about her experience with a calf and a cat. I didn’t think I wanted a repeat of that. My husband sniffed. “I don’t smell anything — and no, I didn’t bring a calf into the house,” he said. “All of our calves are out with their mothers.”

“Then why does it smell in here?” I asked. Daryl just shrugged. “It smells outside,” he said. “We’re having a spring thaw, I think.”

I had noticed that, mostly because the snow had melted and was running down the gravel road, creating rivers of mud for me to drive through. My SUV looked like I had spent the day mudding on the back roads.

Of course, I couldn’t miss the smell of freshly thawed cow manure when I got out of my muddy vehicle. All that manure had been frozen for at least a month and was just as fresh now as when it was first deposited.

But that was all just part of living on a farm. I expected mud and the smell of cow manure when the spring thaw hit. I didn’t expect it to waft inside.

“Maybe it’s my boots,” Daryl suggested.

I nodded and sat down in my chair and kicked off my shoes. It had been a long day, and I wasn’t going to worry about a little manure on some boots sitting on the back porch.

Just then, Topper, our little Yorkie, jumped up on my lap.

I immediately shoved him off again. I had found the source of the offending manure odor. The dog reeked of it.

“Where have you been?” I asked.

Topper, who weighs in at just under 5 1/2 pounds, just wagged his tail at me. He stands less than 9 inches tall, but he thinks he’s a cow dog. The cows don’t take him seriously, of course, but that doesn’t stop him from going out with Daryl and checking on everything going on in the pasture.

He usually comes in with sticks and weeds stuck to him since he has all of the long hair of a show Yorkie. Last week, he brought in two cockleburrs, one of which resulted in a spike cut in the hair that typically hangs down over his eyes.

Please see ANDERSEN/page E2



Denise Andersen

Landell named president of Wells Fargo



BRENT MCCOWN/Tribune

Jay Landell is the new president at Wells Fargo in Hastings.

FORMER PRESIDENT BRIAN LIERMAN ACCEPTS PROMOTION TO TERRITORY MANAGER

JOHN HUTHMACHER

johnh@hastingstribune.com

Newly named Hastings Wells Fargo president and former John Deere dealership owner Jay Landell of Hastings is out to see that nothing runs like his bank.

Landell, 42, was named president of the two Wells Fargo Bank locations in Hastings, at 747 N. Burlington Ave. and 815 N. Marian Road.

A fourth-year Wells Fargo employee, he takes over for Hastings native Brian Lierman, who was named territory manager of Wells Fargo Business Banking in Kearney, Grand Island, Hastings and North Platte effective Feb. 1.

Lierman, 52, graduated from Hastings College with a bachelor’s degree in business, economics and political science. He is an

active community member who has served in many leadership roles, including past president of the Hastings Noon Rotary Club, past president of Hastings Economic Development Corp., and past vice chairman of the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife of 31 years, Karen, a teacher at Adams Central, have two children.

“It is a strategic position versus a day-to-day position, and I’m thrilled with it,” Lierman said of his newly created situation. “It’s interesting and a really good opportunity for me.”

An employee at the Hastings Wells Fargo since 1988, his goals for 2007 revolve around getting to know his territories and employees and implementing a marketing strategy for each market.

“It’s going to be challenging,” he said. “I’ve been doing it actually for a few weeks now, and it does entail a little of traveling between the markets. My plan is to try to be in every market at least once a week.”

Please see BANK/page E2

Straight talk on farm bill

Ag journalists were well-blessed last Election Day when, in the Dems’ retaking of the U.S.

House of Representative, Collin Peterson assumed the chairmanship of that chamber’s Agriculture Committee.

The move, which positioned Peterson to do most of the 2007 Farm Bill’s heavy lifting, also delivered an ag boss that’s a near-ideal interview. He rarely dodges a question, offers opinions with supporting facts and, at least in my experience with him, doesn’t play the “off-the-record,” Washington spin game.

That make him a rare bird; a politician who believes that what happens in the People’s House is the people’s business. For proof, just ask him — as several journalists and broadcasters did Thursday, Feb. 15, when Peterson met the press in an hourlong telephone interview.

Two topics dominated the session: U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns’ lengthy appearance before the full House Ag Committee Valentine’s Day and, later that day, Peterson’s hat-in-hand visit to the House Budget Committee. The sessions, to hear Peterson relate their facts, were night-and-day different. Johanns talked for “nearly three hours” about his new 2007 Farm Bill ideas. By comparison, the Budget Committee hearing, where Peterson was handed the cold numbers he’s going to have wrap his Farm Bill inside of, was over in a blink.

Please see GUEBERT/page E2



Alan Guebert



BRENT MCCOWN/Tribune

Printers Bob Oldham (left) and Jeff Kirkpatrick (right) work in the pressroom along with owner Bill Vaughan (center) at Vaughan’s Printers Inc. Wednesday.

Still making an impression

VAUGHAN’S PRINTERS CELEBRATES 80TH YEAR IN BUSINESS IN TRIBLAND

JOHN HUTHMACHER

johnh@hastingstribune.com

Celebrating 80 years of local operation — 49 of them in Hastings — Vaughan’s Printers has become an icon in the community.

And third-generation owner Bill Vaughan sees no reason for that enduring impression to end anytime soon.

“There aren’t many businesses that have been in business for 49 years in Hastings,” he said. “That’s a pretty good run. It’s definitely been a family business, and there’s no reason to let that go down. Maybe I can get it to 100 years old.”

A full-service print shop, Vaughan’s now utilizes some of the latest technology available, including four-color process printing. The business has upgraded substantially since Bill Vaughan assumed ownership in January of this year.

Please see 80 YEARS/page E2



BRENT MCCOWN/Tribune

Vaughan’s Printers Inc. employees (from left): Sylvia DeBoer, Bob Oldham, Bonnie Sittner, Bill Vaughan (owner), Jeff Kirkpatrick, Jalene Parkison and Tyler Yurk. Vaughan’s Printers Inc. will be celebrating its 80th year in business this June.

Area leaders honored for service to community

JOHN HUTHMACHER

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While the New Year’s ice storm paralyzed cities throughout Nebraska for weeks, city officials and Hastings Utilities workers minimized the impact on Hastings residents to seven days, restoring power to most of the 1,800-2,000 homes affected within four days.

Aided by workers from North



Anderson



Rossen



Ross



Butler

Platte, Fairbury, and Crete, HU employees replaced damaged

lines and 50-75 poles in its 60-square mile service area at a

restoration cost of about \$500,000.

The efforts of both HU and city employees during the crisis were recognized when they were each awarded the Max Award Tuesday at the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce annual meeting.

The chamber meeting was on the Adams County Fairgrounds, 947 S. Baltimore Ave.

Included in the list of organizations that assisted in the city’s cleanup efforts were: Hastings Street Department; city Parks and Recreation; 911 communications; Hastings Police Department; Hastings Fire Department; Loren Uden, Adams County Emergency Management; and the city Solid Waste Facility.

Please see CHAMBER/page E2

Your turn

Do you think U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., should run for president?

Arlene Jones, Hastings

“I think he should run. I think he’s honest. I think he’d make a good president.”



Becky Hinrichs, Hastings

“Yes. Why not? There are a lot of others out there. I’d like to see what he had to offer.”



Wendy Gatto, Hastings

“I think he should run. I think anybody has the right to run if they absolutely want to, and they have the right goals set and mean well for the public.”



Manuel Espino, Hastings

“I don’t think so. I don’t think he likes Spanish people. That’s the reason.”



Bill Spooner, Hastings

“No, according to me. When he was talking, he was more or less telling that he’s going to be the one to settle all the problems. And I don’t think so. It could take a lot to settle it.”



80 years: Vaughan’s Printers still making an impression

Continued from page E1

As he sees it, there really was n’t any other way to remain viable in what has become a highly competitive market.

The days of hot lead and cold type are no more, he said. “We had a full letterpress shop until 2005,” he said. “I dismantled it and sold it. We had to move into the 21st century. It’s a whole new game. In order to make a living, I had to change things. I couldn’t have run it the way it was.”

Started by his grandfather, Byron Vaughan, in 1927 in Blue Hill, the business was incorporated by his father, William, and uncle, Tom Vaughan, in 1958, and relocated to Hastings the same year. Two moves later, it arrived at its present location, 222 East Side Blvd., in 1970.

Although he had dabbled in his father’s business as a young man, Vaughan said he never figured he’d wind up at the helm one day.

A construction worker for 23 years, he worked in Hays, Kan., Las Vegas, and Denver, before moving to Hastings in 2000 to help his father run the shop.

“I’ve messed with it all my life,” he said, “but if you’d said 10 years ago that I’d be running the business, I would have disagreed with you. But here I am.”

As a full-time employee at the shop, he basically filled the shoes of his uncle, who died in

1995. His father, who continued to work well beyond retirement age, died in 2005.

“He never retired,” Bill said of his father. “I think one time he retired for three days, and he was here in the shop all three days. Retiring is just not something Vaughans do.”

The father of two children, Bill said he doesn’t expect to hand the business down to either of his two daughters, but does plan to keep it running for many more years to come.

“I plan on updating when updating needs to be done,” he said. “It’s had to change with technology. Right now, the big change is that you’re competing against computers.”

From a managerial point, he now handles the day-to-day operations once shared by both his father and uncle.

Aided by seven employees, he remains hands-on in all facets of the business, manning the shop’s Heidelberg, Ryobi, and Multilith presses and other production positions on an as-needed basis.

It’s hard work, but nothing more than those who came before him weren’t able to accomplish, he said.

“There’s nothing easy about the printing business,” he said, “but I think I have to keep it going. Vaughan’s Printers has been a business that has endured all the changes in Hastings, and I expect to keep it that way.”

Chamber: Area leaders honored for service

Continued from page E1

The Community Service Award winners — Deb Ross, executive director of Head Start Child and Family Development Program, and the Head Start program itself — have given the city one of the premier child education and development programs in the nation, the chamber said.

Opened locally in 1966, Head Start has endured the test of time, with 23 different directors leading operations from five different locations.

Ross, who became director in July 1989, has been instrumental in growing the program

through her grant-writing skills and leadership. Since 1989, she has secured more than \$50 million in grants for the program.

Today, the local Head Start serves more than 1,000 children with 17 locations, encompassing Adams, Clay, Webster, Nuckolls, Franklin and Hall counties. It employs more than 200 people, operates a fleet of 56 vehicles, and provides more than 850 meals per day. Its current annual operating budget is \$4.6 million.

Livingston-Butler-Volland Funeral Home and Cremation Center received the chamber’s Pioneer Spirit Award for its

long list of contributions to the community through the years.

Founded by brothers Ed and Walt Livingston, the two-man operation arrived in Hastings in January 1904. It was purchased from the Livingstons by brothers Don and Floyd Butler in April 1945, then merged with Volland Funeral Home in 1951.

Michael Butler and his son, John, a third-generation funeral director, have owned and operated the business since October 2004.

Through the years, owners and employees of the home have been active in dozens of

Guebert: Chairman offers straight talk on farm bill

The contrast was hard to miss. We can talk ‘til the cows come home about the 2007 Farm Bill, but the Budget Committee is done talking. Its Farm Bill’s spending numbers are freezing over quickly.

Cash to support the 2007 law’s commodity price support programs “will fall substantially,” Peterson reported, “\$60 billion over the next 10 years.” That’s “42.8 percent less than the 2002 Farm Bill baseline,” added the one-time accountant.

New Farm Bill conservation spending, according to what Peterson was told, will rise 32 percent; and food aid funding, mostly Food Stamps, will climb 46 percent, to nearly \$77 billion per year.

The cut in commodity program funding was tough news, he continued, despite the fact that the “2002 Farm Bill had a life savings to the government that was probably the biggest of any federal agency.”

He’s right. Even with the heavy spending permitted under the 2002 law, the tab, by most estimates, could have been \$10 billion to \$17 billion higher had commodity prices been in the tank during all

its five-year run. Prices did tank part of the time, so farm program spending was curtailed, and Peterson’s “savings” piled up.

Yet it’s an interesting argument that the budgeteers have no interest in. The savings, they quickly point out, came about for one of three reasons: either the bill was too rich to begin with or Congress finally got farm policy right in 2002, or both.

Peterson vowed to lobby the Budget Committee because “we need additional allocations” for items like commodity price supports, a permanent disaster program, restoring rural development programs, and an extension of the Milk Income Loss program.

House leaders, however, have imposed a “pay-as-you-go, tough system,” the Chairman added. That means new money must be found by cutting other programs — a game all committee chairmen are playing prior to the budget being locked by Easter.

Also, Peterson noted he personally dislikes every one of Johanns’ ideas to cap and means-test program payments and

exclude IRS 1031 tax exchanges from commodity program benefits.

But, he conceded, he’s told Committee members that caps “are an issue that’s going to need to be addressed. We can’t ...

Alan Guebert can be reached at: agcomm, 21673 Lago Dr., Delavan, IL 61734 or e-mail at

BUYERS MEET SELLERS

EVERYDAY IN THE CLASSIFIED PAGES OF THE TRIBUNE

Bank: Landell named president of Wells Fargo

Continued from page E1

“The big challenge for me is to be organized and efficient because I’m not going to have as much time as I had in the past. That will also make the job interesting.”

Landell, for his part, said he’s looking forward to settling into his new role as bank president.

“I’m very excited and very happy,” he said. “My plans are to do a lot of the same things we’ve been doing and hopefully improve on some of the things we can improve on. We’ve got a

lot of heritage here, with a lot of long-term employees, and I just want to capitalize on the great employees that we have.”

A John Deere employee straight out of Kearney State College, Landell worked for the company eight years and managed his own dealership in Waverly for about five years before turning his interests to the banking world.

Prior to his appointment as president, he served as business banking manager in Hastings.

The second-youngest of six chil-

dren, the Shelton native relocated to the Hastings area five years ago to be closer to his family. He and his wife, Barbara, a kindergarten teacher at Alcott Elementary School, have three children.

In his new role, he will continue to manage all of the business agriculture banking at the two branches, along with assuming marketing and community involvement responsibilities.

His aim in his new position is to make himself as available to the customer as possible, he said.

“I’d like to be easily accessible,” he said, “and for anyone who walks in the bank to know they are welcome to come into my office and talk to me any time they want. I also want to get out in the community as much as I can.”

Already active in community affairs, he serves on boards for several organizations, including Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce, Hastings Symphony Orchestra and the Village Terrace HUD board.

Andersen: Spring on the farm

Continued from page E1

This time, though, he had gone too far.

“What did you do, let him roll in it?” I asked Daryl as I picked Topper up by the scruff of his neck to take him to the bathroom for a quick bath.

“I didn’t do anything,” my husband protested. “He just ran around, exploring.”

“In the mud,” I added.

“Well, of course, but there isn’t anywhere that isn’t muddy,” he said.

I knew that — but geez, Topper smelled bad. I mean, he smelled worse than the cows.

“That’s because the cows have longer legs,” Daryl said. “With Topper, he drags his fur through the mud, and mixed in with the mud is — well, you know — manure.”

I supposed I couldn’t blame either of them, I thought as I deposited the offending animal in the bathtub and turned on the water. He would have to have a shower of sorts before he got a bath or the smell would never come out.

Ten minutes later, Topper was clean, nearly dry after a little time spent with a blow dryer, and better smelling with the help of shampoo and dog deodorant.

We settled down to watch our evening television show. An hour later, Topper was barking to be let outside.

Daryl got up to let him out. “He can’t go out,” I protested. “He’ll get all muddy again.”

“I’m not leaving him in,” Daryl said as he opened the door. “He’ll potty on the floor.”

I just sighed. I knew exactly where Topper was headed, to check on the cows. I guess a couple of showers daily

won’t really hurt the dog, but Daryl was doing the honors for the second one that day.

Denise Andersen of Fairbury is a columnist for the Tribune. Contact Andersen at (402) 461-1252 or e-mail at tribune@tribland.com

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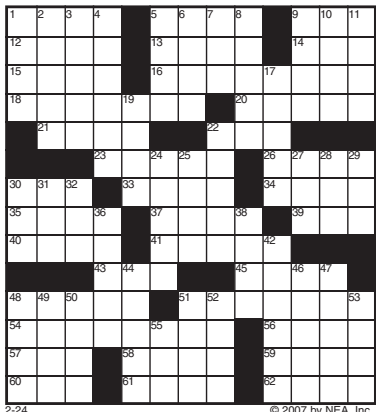
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Crossword



- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
- ACROSS
- 1 Woven
- 5 Rabbit — (antenna)
- 9 Current meas.
- 12 Verdi heroine
- 13 Warden's fear
- 14 Travel word
- 15 Bold look
- 16 Space probes
- 18 Delight
- 20 Secures
- 21 Iowa, to Jacques
- 22 Jiffy
- 23 Peace Prize founder
- 26 Hound's track
- 30 Entree choice
- 33 Scruff
- 34 By oneself
- 35 Thickening agent
- 37 Plump and juicy
- 39 Embed
- 40 Rock's Bon —
- 41 Vocal group
- 43 Kyoto honorific
- 45 Retain
- 48 Worked in a restaurant
- 51 Headaches

- 62 Cubicle filler
- DOWN
- 1 Green vegetable
- 2 Brother's daughter
- 3 I.e. words
- 4 Plaid
- 5 Romantic deity
- 6 Well-ventilated
- 7 Crack safes
- 8 Fence crossover
- 9 With, to Henri
- 10 Quicksand
- 11 Gridiron option
- 17 Mexican-menu items
- 19 Egyptian sun god
- 22 Hit the hay
- 24 Powerful businessman
- 25 Homer opus
- 27 Writer John — Passos
- 28 Pamplona cheer
- 29 Go bad
- 30 Mecca
- 31 Historian's word
- 32 NBA player
- 36 Choir
- 38 Cartoon shrieks
- 42 Tried out
- 44 Hacienda brick
- 46 Drop syllables
- 47 Lap dogs
- 48 Channel marker
- 49 A law — itself
- 50 In — (as found)
- 51 Not there
- 52 Sums up
- 53 Go down
- 55 Veto



Astrograph

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

Your adventurous inclinations are apt to be greatly stimulated, and they can encourage you to explore fields you've never tread before. Select areas that could further your educational possibilities and your career.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Should the outside world give you a rough time of things, don't come home and take your frustration out on innocent family members. Leave your negative feelings at the doorstep.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Don't give into doubts about your self-worth, allowing them to overpower your feelings of well-being. Remember: If you don't believe in yourself, others can't be expected to, either.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) When shopping, be prudent in the management of your resources or you could overspend. Stick to your established budget, and don't yield to the temptations to dip into what you shouldn't.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) A project of personal importance to you could be stymied, because an individual whose help you think you need has little interest in working on it now. You can do it by yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Neglected responsibilities are apt to get in the way of something new you would like to accomplish. Clean it up first, so you'll have a clear path.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) For the sake of sustaining good relationships with your pals, all friends must be treated equally. If you start playing favorites or show a preference, you could lose a few close chums.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Be prepared to be self-sufficient, because you're not likely to get as much support as you thought or hoped from associates, friends or family in fulfilling an ambitious project.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Be extremely selective with whom you share one of your bright ideas, because a negative listener could easily put a damper on it and discourage you before you've had a chance to try it out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Each and every one of your financial transactions should be examined carefully for their worthiness, regardless of whether they are large or small. Don't waste your funds.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Pride can get in the way to the point where you take an unyielding stance on an issue that could affect your happiness, even when others point out the fallacy of your position. Be open-minded.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Don't take on tasks you suspect are beyond your abilities or talents just to prove a point. Chances are you'll be right and fail miserably at it or worse.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Allow yourself much more time before getting too involved with a new acquaintance about whom you know little. Someone you recently met may not be all he or she seems at first.

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MONDAY, FEB. 26

You can be particularly fortunate when it comes to ventures or enterprises that you personally originate. If you believe you have something worthy to put on the market, by all means give it a try.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) It's one of those days when it might actually be advisable to fly by the seat of your pants. Spontaneous, not structured activities, will afford you a most fulfilling and enjoyable time.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) An opening to tie down a delicate matter, which you've been hoping would come about, is apt to occur. Be on your toes, so it can be concluded to your satisfaction once and for all.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) This is a good day to see if you can get together with some friends whom you haven't seen too much of lately. They're just as eager to see you and will welcome any arrangement you have in mind.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Several opportunities continue to hover over you where your finances or career are concerned, so be doubly alert so you don't miss any occasion that suddenly develops which you can use.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You have a natural faculty for saying all the right things that will have uplifting and inspiring effects on the downtrodden. Spread your sunshine wherever you encounter sadness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Without being asked, close friends or associates are apt to do some nice things, which you can't accomplish unaided, for you. What's even kinder is they might not even mention it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Project yourself into a social situation that would give you a good opportunity to make some new and valuable contacts. Persons you meet now could become very important to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Believe that you have the capability to do whatever it is that needs doing and you'll make things happen. You'll really shine when confronted with challenges that pique your imagination.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Try to spend as much of your time as possible with friends who know how to enjoy whatever comes along to make life happy. Their companionship will have an uplifting effect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Don't be dismayed by early indicators of impending change or shifting conditions. Go with the flow because what transpires can turn things around for you to your ultimate benefit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Not only are you a quick thinker and the possessor of excellent judgment, you are also a person who will know how to utilize those bright ideas to advance your personal self-interests.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Your area of greatest strength will be with those situations which can be quite meaningful to you financially. Put other interests aside for the moment and concentrate on your resources.

Wife ready to wash her hands of mother-in-law

DEAR ABBY: How do I politely tell my mother-in-law to stop doing my laundry? It all started when I was on bed rest due to my pregnancy. I didn't mind her doing an occasional load to help us out. But now she does it anytime she's over to watch the kids.

I'm very picky about how I do my laundry, and this is the main reason I don't want her doing it. Also, I'd prefer she spend time playing with the kids than with the laundry! She also puts things away in the wrong places. She does it with my dishes, too. Once I told her not to worry about my laundry because I wasn't done sorting it. She took it upon herself to do it anyway.

She's very strong-willed. My husband and I have had problems with her not respecting our parenting, too. She often takes things the wrong way. What's the best way for us to tell her that her help is not needed? — DIRTY FAMILY LAUNDRY

DEAR DIRTY FAMILY LAUNDRY: Short of locking your laundry hamper to dissuade your mother-in-law, you should make out a list of tasks you WOULD like her to perform when she comes over. If you take the time to show her how you would like them done, it could be a positive, beneficial family time for all of you and prevent misunderstandings.

PARENTS DISAGREE ON DISCIPLINING GUESTS

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I disagree on discipline when other children come over to play with our 4-year-old daughter. I believe we have the right to tell them "no" in our own house, and she says we should wait and tell the parents.

A recent example: A friend came over and got bored playing with our daughter, so he went to her room and dumped all of her toys on the floor. Still bored, he went to the living room and proceeded to dump a 300-piece container of Legos all over the floor. I told him he should not do that and should pick up the pieces and then take them out one at a time. My wife was horrified at MY behavior! What do you think about this? — PUZZLED IN SAN PABLO, CALIF.

DEAR PUZZLED: I think you showed great restraint in how you handled the boy. I'm not sure I would have had your patience. As to who should have been spoken to about the child's behavior — the boy or his mother — both of them should have been told that in your house, children are expected to act responsibly. Period.

P.S. So who picked up the Legos?

SHOULD SOBER FRIENDS BE INVITED?

DEAR ABBY: My best friend and I are having a big mutual birthday party April 1. It's going to be a big bash with lots of people, lots of drinking and, of course, the possibility that others may bring drugs.

We plan on inviting all our friends. However, we have a few friends who no longer live that kind of lifestyle.

Do we still invite our sober friends to this gathering? We love them and want them to be there because they're our friends, but we also don't want to lead them into temptation or dangle what they can't have in front of their faces. What do you think? — FRIEND IN NEED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR FRIEND IN NEED: By all means invite your abstinent friends. They have made their choice to forgo the "higher spirits," so to include them will not seduce them from their sobriety. If you are going to exclude prospective guests, make it those you think will bring illegal drugs to your party — or you could wind up "entertaining" more guests than you're planning for. Like the police.

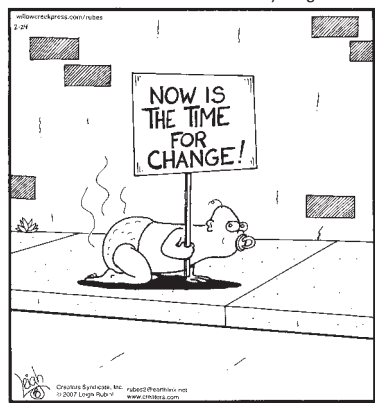
Pauline Phillips, a.k.a. Abigail Van Buren, and Jeanne Phillips are columnists for Universal Press Syndicate. Write Dear Abby at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Dear Abby

Rubes

By Leigh Rubin



The Family Circus

By Bill Keane



Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



Grizzwells

By Bill Schorr



Shoe

By Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookings



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



Episcopals
debate
'don't ask,
don't tell'
policy

When it comes to same-sex unions, the Episcopal Church has been using a kind of "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The church's General Convention has never



Terry Mattingly

authorized an official rite to bless homosexual relationships. Bishops have, however, been allowed to approve

blessings at the local level or simply look the other way. The national church didn't ask and local bishops didn't have to tell.

The big question is whether this tactic will work after the latest meeting of the world's Anglican primates, which ended early this week in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. In a blunt communique, they said there "remains a lack of clarity about the stance of The Episcopal Church, especially its position on the authorization of Rites of Blessing for persons living in same-sex unions. There appears to us to be an inconsistency between the position of General Convention and local pastoral provision."

Thus, the primates urged the U.S. House of Bishops to make an "unequivocal common covenant that the bishops will not authorize any Rite of Blessing for same-sex unions" at the diocese or national levels. They requested a similar freeze on the consecration of anyone "living in a same-sex union" as a bishop. The primates set a Sept. 30 deadline for these actions.

The Episcopal Church's official caucus for gays, lesbians and bisexuals has accused the primates of embracing bigotry. The Integrity network told its members and allies to "directly contact their bishops" and urge them to reject these demands.

"Jesus weeps, and so do I," said Father Michael Hopkins, former president of Integrity. "If the House of Bishops ... capitulates to these demands and sacrifices gay and lesbian people to the idol of the Instruments of Unity, it will have become the purveyor of an 'anti-Gospel' that will (and should) repel many."

However, the spokesman for the Diocese of Washington, D.C., said he is convinced that the Episcopal status quo might be able to survive after all.

The key is that the primates specifically asked U.S. bishops not to authorize any "Rite of Blessing" for same-sex unions,

Please see POLICY/page E5



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Members of the Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church congregation pray during a service in Brentwood, Tenn., Sunday. The service is simulcast in 16 locations across the country.

AND THE DEAF WILL HEAR

CHURCH DESIGNED
FOR HARD OF HEARING

ROSE FRENCH
The Associated Press

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. — Brian Sims was sitting in traffic when a car with a booming stereo pulled up next to him.

Feeling vibrations from the pulsating vehicle, the Baptist pastor who ministers to the deaf got an idea: creating a one-of-kind church exclusively for deaf people.

Today, the Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church has more than 30 speakers beneath the floor so congregants can feel the vibration of the music.

Many churches provide sign language for deaf and partially deaf worshippers, but this church in a Nashville suburb is unique because it was built specifically with a deaf ministry in mind.

"There is a hearing church, basically, on every corner, but there's not really any place like this," Sims said. "It's a place where the deaf know, 'This is for me,' that it meets their needs," Sims said.

The church has a loop system, which allows anyone with a hearing aid to tie into the sound system with the flip of a switch.

Each seat also is wider to give church members more space to communicate in sign language.

The Southern Baptist church has about 150 people who attend, with Sunday services that are now simulcast for 600 to 700 people in 16 locations across the country.

Sims said he wants the church to become a training ground for deaf pastors and church leaders, because most seminaries currently require deaf students to have their own interpreters and most can't afford such an expense.

The church held a pilot conference last year to train deaf pastors and leaders, with about 100 people from



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Pastor Brian Sims uses a projection screen as he preaches his sermon in sign language at the Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church in Brentwood, Tenn., Sunday.

around the Southeast attending. A national conference is planned for this fall.

Texas architect Cynthia Stiles, who designed the church, said she couldn't find any structure like it as she was in the planning stage.

Stiles, who also is deaf, said she knew having a clear line of sight to the altar area as well as good lighting and music were crucial in the church design.

Often, churches that have interpreters for the deaf have carpets and pews which deaden vibration. Large pillars and other obstacles can obstruct views of the altar, and too many windows can cause a glare.

"If you're a deaf person, I think it makes the service more meaningful to be able to feel the music from the

floor," Stiles said through an interpreter. "The (violet) coloring from the walls make it easier to see. The acoustics are easier to understand the message and to communicate better."

The National Association for the Deaf estimated in the late 1990s that there were only about 1,000 mainly deaf congregations nationwide for the nearly 30 million deaf and partially deaf Americans.

Kathy Black, professor at Claremont School of Theology and a former chaplain at Gallaudet University for the deaf, said there are likely fewer deaf ministries now than in the past because many don't get the funding they need to survive.

"A lot of the mainline Protestant churches are struggling financially,

and when it comes to budget cuts, (deaf ministry) is often the first to go. It's expensive to pay an interpreter," she said. "Churches think it's a large amount of money for a relatively small population of people."

Sims, whose adopted parents are deaf, noted some studies have shown that between 80 percent and 90 percent of deaf people don't attend church. He believes that's likely because churches don't have interpreters and other accommodations.

Brentwood Baptist Church hired Sims in 1995 to start a full-time ministry to the deaf, but the church's current location wasn't built until 2003, after it received a \$1.5 million donation. Before that, the church held services in different facilities.

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Jesus proves there's power in temptation

JOHN HUTHMACHER
johnh@hastingstribune.com

In temptation, there is power. This was the theme behind the sermon, "The Tempted Christ," by the Very Rev. Robert Neske at the first installment of the 35th annual Sermons a la Carte event Wednesday afternoon at St. Mark's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral.

The six-week program includes sermons by area ministers based on this year's theme, "The Power of Christ." Lunch following the sermon was served by the women of St. Mark's in the undercroft.

Neske began the service with a short reading from Philippians 2:5-8: Let this same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

Neske touched on the irony that temptation could be aligned with power, a concept

he said is more familiarly identified through strength and "having mastery and control over all situations." In his example taken from Luke 4:1-13, Jesus is tempted in the desert by Satan, but shows true power in resisting the temptations.

"You will recall there were three temptations," Neske said.

"The first was pretty mundane, but then no one ever said that Satan was very bright: 'If you

are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread ...' In this challenge Jesus was being asked to doubt the reality of his own vocation by not trusting that God would provide for him.

"In his second temptation, Satan offers Jesus multiple king-

doms on earth if he will worship him. Again, he rejects the temptation, understanding it to be a 'temptation to commit idolatry,' " he said.

"In his third and final temptation in the desert, Satan asks Jesus to gauge the capacity of his Father's concern for his well-being by throwing himself down from the highest point of the temple. Jesus recognizes the sin as an attempt to put God to the test and refuses to participate," Neske said.

The significance of the temptations, he said, is that Jesus could be tempted at all.

"What matters is that Jesus 'was tempted in every way as we are yet did not sin,' " he said. "This is what truly matters."

By assuming mankind's humanity, Jesus emptied himself in order to make room for God's will, setting an example for the rest of us to follow, Neske said.

"This is what matters," he said, "because if Christ was to redeem our fallen humanity, then Christ would have to become as fully human as each one of us, and so be susceptible to every weakness, every temptation, and every

struggle as we are."

The true power of Christ shined through when he assumed weakness and powerlessness and became vulnerable to evil itself, Neske said.

"He took on the vulnerability of our frail humanity and he took it to the cross that he might bring about our salvation; that we might be set free from fear, free from sin and free from the power of death," he said.

In this season of Lent, he challenged Christians to remove the obstacles that obstruct their walk in Christ.

"It is a time for repentance," Neske said, "for returning to the right path, the path leading to God's presence and the pursuit of God's will. It is a time of spiritual renewal, a time when we in our own weakness, in all of our sinfulness and human frailty might turn once more to the one who was tempted ... that we might glorify Christ with our lives and serve others in His name."

The Lenten series continues at 12:05 p.m. Wednesday with the message, "The Teaching Christ," by the Rev. James Miller of Grace United Methodist Church.

- The Very Rev. Robert Neske



Local

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Church Women United is sponsoring the 2007 World Day of Prayer Friday.

"United Under God's Tent" is this year's theme.

There will be a service at 10 a.m. at St. ark's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral, 422 N. Burlington Ave., preceded by a coffee fellowship time at 9:30 a.m.

There also will be a service at 7 p.m. at Immanuel Church in rural Hastings.

Written by women of Paraguay, this service is a call to work and to prayer together for people in need all over the world.

SALE4KIDS

The First Congregational United Church of Christ, 2810 W. Seventh St., will hold a SALE4KIDS March 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Individuals will sell "gently used" items for children. Cinnamon rolls, sloppy joes, hot dogs and brownies will be available at a concession stand in the fellowship hall.

Items sold last year included toys, games, cribs, car seats, high chairs and various sizes of children's clothing.

For more information, contact the church at (402) 463-4136 or Sherry Block at (402) 462-1971, ext. 3260.

LENTEN SUPPERS

First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 501 N. Burlington Ave., is offering soup and sandwich suppers every Wednesday evening prior to Lenten services through April 4.

The meals will be served from 5-6:30 p.m. with services starting at 7 p.m.

Proceeds from this year's suppers will go to God Made Me Preschool and Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.

Supplemental funding has been applied for with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

DEPRESSION TALK

Roger Kruger, a Lutheran pastor and psychologist and director of Partners in Caring, will speak on depression at 9 a.m. Sunday at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1338 N. Saunders Ave.

A question-and-answer session will follow during the Sunday school hour at 10:15 a.m.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Marriage Encounter United Methodist is offering two weekend sessions this spring, March 16-18 in Lincoln and April 27-29 in Hastings.

The weekends will include presentations by a clergy couple and lay couples, followed by private time for participating couples to grow closer.

To register or for more information, contact Russell and Lanita Evans at (308) 546-2745 or by e-mail at lanita@nebnet.net.

Policy: Episcopalians debate 'don't ask, don't tell'

Continued from page E4

argued Jim Naughton, a former Washington Post reporter who serves as spokesman for the Diocese of Washington, D.C. The word "authorize" and the capital letters in the phrase "Rite of Blessing" imply an official rite.

"I think we are being given some room here, as there is a difference between authorizing and allowing," said Naughton, writing at the Daily Episcopalian blog. "We are being asked not to approve texts. Very, very few dioceses have approved texts. Our diocese doesn't. ... In a nutshell, you don't need an authorized rite to bless a union.

Priests have been blessing unions without authorized rites for three decades. So we can continue that practice."

While the document isn't perfect, a key conservative is convinced it will be hard for Episcopal leaders to escape its conclusions.

The primates managed to reach "an agreement and they made specific calls and gave specific deadlines with real consequences. That looks like the possibility of an Anglican Communion with discipline could emerge," said Father Kendall Harmon, the conservative editor of the Anglican Digest. The result would be a "genuinely catholic church that acts catholic and has not simply faith but order — globally."

Nevertheless, the long-range health of the troubled communion will almost

certainly hinge on whether its members embrace a proposed "Anglican Covenant" that will try to define core beliefs and doctrines. The primates released an early draft at the end of their meetings.

In a passage that is sure to draw debate, the covenant asks each church in the communion to commit itself to "uphold and act in continuity and consistency with the catholic and apostolic faith, order and tradition" as well as affirming "biblically derived moral values."

The document concludes by stating the obvious.

"We acknowledge that in the most extreme circumstances, where member churches choose not to fulfill the substance of the covenant ... we will consider that such churches will have relinquished for themselves the force and meaning of the covenant's purpose, and a process of restoration and renewal will be required to re-establish their covenant relationship with other member churches."

At some point Anglicans on the left and right will have to reach some kind of doctrinal agreement about what the Bible and centuries of church tradition teach about sex, salvation and other thorny subjects — or go their separate ways.

Terry Mattingly is a columnist for Scripps Howard News Service. Contact Mattingly on-line at www.tmattnet.net

Southern Baptist leader asks for examination of health

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A top Southern Baptist executive says leaders in the convention should examine the spiritual health of the denomination now that theological conservatives have been in control for several years.

Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist executive committee, said his fellow leaders must look at whether the 16.3 million-member church is now better off.

"Is our convention any better spiritually because biblical conservatives are leading?" Chapman asked Monday, during the committee's winter meeting. "I

leave that question for you to answer in the depths of your own heart."

The conservative resurgence started in 1979, when Southern Baptists angry about what they saw as the liberal direction of their seminaries elected a fellow conservative as the convention president. It was a watershed that began a dramatic shift to the right — theologically and politically — in the years that followed.

But in the last few years, the number of baptisms in Southern Baptist churches has reached a low point, and many of the congregations have either not grown or declined in membership.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 465 S. Marian Rd. Hastings, NE 68901-7401 Saturday Worship 6:00 p.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. (8:00 a.m. Service Broadcast over KHAS Radio) Pastor Dan Heuer	FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ) 1201 Sheridan Drive, Hastings, NE 402-463-7121 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Reverend Judith Allen
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 401 N. Lincoln, Hastings, NE 402-462-5624 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Combined Service 10:00 a.m. Pastor Ron Reed	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2810 W. 7th St., Hastings, NE 68901 (402) 462-4136 www.fcuchastings.org Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. All Sunday School Classes at 9:15 a.m. Reverend Barry Rempp Licensed Lay Minister Karen Roback
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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.	

Atheist group takes on faith initiative

RYAN J. FOLEY
The Associated Press
MADISON, Wis. — Annie Laurie Gaylor speaks with a soft voice, but her message catches attention: Keep God out of government.

Gaylor has helped transform the Freedom From Religion Foundation from obscurity into the nation's largest group of atheists and agnostics, with a fast-rising membership and increasing legal clout.

Next week, the group started by Gaylor and her mother in the 1970s to take on the religious right will fight its most high-profile battle when the U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments on its lawsuit against President Bush's faith-based initiative.

The court will decide whether taxpayers can sue over federal funding that the foundation believes promotes religion. It could be a major ruling for groups that fight to keep church and state separate.

"What's at stake is the right to challenge the establishment of religion by the government," Gaylor said.

The 51-year-old once donned a nun's habit as a college student in 1977 to protest a judge who blamed rape on women who wear provocative clothing.

She uses different tactics these days, though her activism remains strong.

Among its victories, the group has stopped funding for a Milwaukee charity that Bush visited during the 2000 campaign and an Arizona group that preached to children of prisoners.

The case in front of the high court claims White House conferences to promote the faith-based initiative turn into unconstitutional pep rallies for religion.

The initiative helps religious organizations get government funding to provide social services.

George Washington University law professor Ira Lupu called the Madison-based foundation "by far the most aggressive litigating entity against the faith-based ini-



MORRY GASH/AP

Freedom From Religion Foundation co-president Annie Laurie Gaylor stands in front of the door at the foundation headquarters Jan. 25 in Madison, Wis. Gaylor has helped transform the Madison-based Freedom From Religion Foundation from obscurity into the nation's largest group of atheists and agnostics, with a fast-rising membership and increasing legal clout.

tiative."

"When they can prove there's religious content in those programs, they've been quite successful and they've won a few cases," Lupu said. "When they've tried to go after the initiative as a whole, they've been less successful."

Critics say the group imposes such an extreme view of the First Amendment that religious groups can't receive tax dollars for even laudable purposes.

"They are successful in the sense that they have disrupted government funding for faith-based initiatives," said Jordan Lorence of the Alliance Defense Fund, which defends religion in the public arena. "But real peo-

ple with real problems are no longer getting help because of some of their lawsuits."

The group has grown as its legal challenges mount. It claims 8,500 members in 50 states, with the most coming from California, after adding a record 400 in December.

Members consider themselves freethinkers who form opinions based on reason, not faith.

Gaylor is hoping an advertising campaign on progressive talk radio, the Internet and in liberal magazines helps the group reach 10,000 members this year.

She and husband Dan Barker, a former fundamentalist minis-

ter who turned against religion, are co-presidents. Her mother, Anne Nicol Gaylor, founded the group in 1978 to counter religious influence in government after clashing with religious leaders over abortion.

Its leaders say the surge in membership reflects a U.S. population that is becoming less religious and growing liberal alarm since Bush's re-election.

"There was a feeling that there was almost a near religious-right takeover of our government and that we better speak up now," Gaylor said.

The American Religious Identification Survey in 2001 estimated that 29 million Americans had no religion, dou-

ble the number from 1990. The survey, which was conducted by the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, estimated that 1.9 million identified themselves as atheist or agnostic.

Before its battle against the faith-based initiative, the group stopped prayers during the University of Wisconsin's commencement and overturned Good Friday as a state holiday in Wisconsin.

"We've applied some very needed pressure through going to court on keeping state and church separate," said the elder Gaylor, 80. "We hope we've done some educating that will be lasting."

Court scolds boy, mother for Dr. Phil trip

SEAN ROBINSON
Tacoma News Tribune
TACOMA, Wash. — Despite its mystical power, an invitation from Dr. Phil cannot supplant a court order.

Pierce County Court Commissioner Mark Gelman on Wednesday spent a few minutes explaining that reality to 9-year-old nomad Semaj Booker and his mother, Sakinah Booker.

The momentarily famous pair flew to Southern California last week for a talk-show interview, despite a Jan. 29 court order that placed the boy under house arrest. The only permissible reason for Semaj to leave his house in Lakewood was to go to school. The order explicitly restricted him to Pierce County.

Deputy prosecutor Fred Wist said he learned of the boy's absence Friday, and confirmed

it with police. Tuesday, he filed a request for a hearing on a pre-trial release violation.


"Mr. Booker and his mother traveled to Southern California to do a taped interview with Dr. Phil," Wist said. "This hearing may not be so much about Semaj as his mother."

Wist noted that Sakinah Booker signed the earlier court order, and consulted with the judge, who explained the conditions.

Semaj caused a sensation in January when he made his way from Sea-Tac Airport to Texas all by himself. He faces a hearing in April to determine whether he should be prosecuted for allegedly stealing a neighbor's car and leading police on a high-speed chase down Highway 512, shortly before his airline odyssey.

The boy's exploits prompted

intense media scrutiny.

90th Birthday

Thomas Dolnicek will celebrate his 90th birthday February 26. A card shower is requested in his honor.
Cards may be sent to:
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Apartment 704
Hastings, NE 68901

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1 percent not a good return

DEAR BRUCE: At present, I have quite a bit of money in a platinum checking account at 1.3 percent. Is there any way I can get a better interest rate (secured)? — Reader, via e-mail

DEAR READER: Your last word changed your question rather dramatically. There are lots of ways — corporate bonds, government bonds, etc. — where you can double or triple this percentage but, as in any case, there is a downside. In the case of the bonds, if you had to sell them before maturity and interest rates rise, you are very likely to be penalized on your principal. Corporate bonds can go bad, but risk and reward are definitely handmaidens. I believe, with just a modicum of risk, you could do considerably better. Bear in mind there's a great deal of speculation and interest rates are going to rise, although not enough in the short term to make any difference in the answer I'm giving you.



Bruce Williams

DEAR BRUCE: Can you offer some suggestions as to how we can turn our investments into an income stream and protect our principal? CDs and money markets aren't producing enough interest for us at this time. We have \$160,000 in IRAs and a \$55,000 401(k), all stock-driven mutual funds. We have enough income for our day-to-day expenses, but we would like to travel more and generate extra income for this while leaving the principal. We are mortgage free and have minimal monthly debt. Our monthly income from Social Security and a pension is about \$4,500.

— Reader, via e-mail

DEAR READER: Your question is very common, one I receive over and over again, without a strong acceptable answer in today's world. You want income with no risk, and that just isn't available. You have to decide whether or not the income is important enough to you to take a degree of risk. There are mutual funds that are doing well and, of course, if you are not prepared even to take that moderate amount of risk, you might want to consider corporate bonds.

As long as you are not going to look at recovering your principal until maturity, the market value is of no import. You're still going to get a sub-5 percent return. Until such time as you are prepared to take a moderate-to-fair degree of risk, you are condemned to a very low return. That's just the way it is in today's world.

DEAR BRUCE: My husband and I are native Californians. We have been thinking about our retirement in several years and are very concerned about retiring in this very expensive state. We would like to look into purchasing a home or property in another state that is a more economical place for our retirement years, but we don't know where to begin. Can you give us some guidance on this subject?

— Reader, via e-mail

DEAR READER: Many people retire and move to areas where the cost of living, including but not limited to shelter, insurance, etc., is considerably less than some of the high-cost areas like New York and California. That said, there are many variables to be considered, and economics is but one of these. For example, if you are accustomed to a temperate climate, it's unlikely that northern Alaska would be attractive to you no matter how economical the living might seem to be. As to the research, you can look on the Internet and find all manner of information. Every state has a public-relations department that will be very happy to provide you with details about the amenities available there, including taxes, cost of living, cost of housing, etc. As soon as you start to think about outside the United States, you add a very important facet to this idea you're polishing. You must consider relative safety, stability of the government, tax implications, as well as climate and other variables. You guys have plenty of time to do the research, and you could make it game. When you find an area that looks attractive, why not consider spending a portion of your vacation there? If nothing else, it could be a great hobby.

Bruce Williams is a columnist for News Enterprise Assn. Contact him by email at bruce@brucewilliams.com.

Hotels causing sticker shock

FIVE-STAR SERVICE MEANS
EXTRA ADDED FEES

CRISTINA ROUVALIS
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Some high-end hotels charge Internet fees, newspaper fees, resort fees. But a water fee? Travel expert Joe Brancatelli got slapped with one at a Puerto Rico hotel during a drought. "It was only a couple of bucks a day," says Brancatelli, editor of JoeSentMe.com, a Web site for business travelers. "But the point is, who can think of this stuff?"

Or how about a golf-club transfer fee? Ned and Terri Sokoloff of McCandless, Pa., were told it would cost \$90 to transfer their clubs to the five-star resort in Mexico from a sister resort, where they had stored their clubs after playing.

"This is beyond ridiculous," Ned Sokoloff, president of a restaurant-services firm, told the hotel management. Especially since they had put down \$5,000 for six days at the all-inclusive resort in December. The resort told them it would have to hire a cab, instead of bringing them back on the shuttle bus that came to their hotel daily.

The fee was waived. "What's next?" says Terri Sokoloff, a restaurant broker. "A wipe-your-shoes fee?"

The add-on fees that are spreading at high-end hotels and resorts are causing checkout sticker shock.

"I am definitely seeing more crazy fees the past two years," says Laura McKenzie, a TV travel expert who has a Web site called lauramckenzie.tv. "The hotel industry made \$2 billion in extra money from hotel charges because most people don't dispute them. They say, 'My company will pay for it.'"

Her vote for the craziest fee is the mini-bar-restock fee. Never mind that she doesn't use the mini-bar. Some five-star hotels charge for someone merely to check the room to see if the mini-bar needs to be restocked.

A-just-in-case-you-need-more-overpriced-peanuts-fee, if you will.

Hotels began tacking on extra costs to recoup their costs after the hospitality industry took a big hit in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, says Joe McInerney, president and chief executive of the American Hotel and Lodging Association. Though the industry has rebounded, many of the fees have stayed.

Once some hotels began doing it, many others followed suit because they wanted their base prices to be competitive — lest they lose business to the hotel down the street, says McInerney, who opposes hidden fees.

Brancatelli thinks hotels and rental-car companies can get away with fees at the end of the stay because checkout is often a mad rush out the door.

"The kids are whining, you are loaded down with luggage. You have to make your plane," Brancatelli says. "Are you really going to fight over a \$3 airport concession recovery fee," a fee that some airports impose on rental-car companies.

"They are guessing you won't."

Michael Matthews, a hotel consultant based in Tucson, Ariz., and a former executive with major hotel chains, also doesn't think there will be more backlash because business travelers pass it on to their employers.

"The great days of wonderful hospitality are vanishing, I am afraid," says Matthews, formerly an executive with Ritz-Carlton Hong Kong, Regent International and Rosewood Hotels and Resorts. "What drives



Metro Creative Graphics

Many high-end hotels now add extra fees for services such as internet access.

me nuts is parking fees. I paid \$175 for a hotel room in Los Angeles and I paid \$23 to park my car in a lot that is part of the hotel. Don't nickel-and-dime your guests. Tell them upfront."

The irony of hotel fees is that often a \$70-a-night hotel throws in free Internet, free breakfast, free phone calls and free pool, while a \$300-a-night hotel tacks on fees for every little extra — sometimes even that bottle of water on the counter, which you might have assumed was free. (Silly you. Consider it an \$8 rehydration fee.)

Matthews, whose wife likes La Quinta because of the free breakfast and Internet, says there is more competition on the budget end of the business, so they can't tack on surcharges. But McInerney thinks there are only so many fees even a high-end traveler will tolerate.

He says most of the major hotel chains have moved toward notifying customers of fees while they make reservations.

Kathy Shepherd, a spokeswoman for Hilton, says the hotel chain makes every effort to warn people about fees in advance. "Nobody is perfect. Sometimes they are not told things. But we make every single effort to do it."

The hotel chain charges a \$9.95 Internet fee at its full-service brands such as Hilton and Doubletree, while brands such as Hampton Inn and Homewood Suites have free Internet.

McKenzie advises travelers who are surprised by fees on their checkout bill to politely but firmly refute the fee.

If a hotel doesn't waive the resort fee, for example, it might knock \$20 off the price of

the hotel. "It doesn't hurt to ask," she says.

Some hotels also are moving toward automatic gratuities. McKenzie recommends making hotels spell out which tips the fee covers: "Does this mean I am not supposed to tip the bellman?" she advises asking. "Spell it out for them, and they will hem and haw."

Jeff Maggs, director of account management for Blattner Brunner advertising agency in Pittsburgh, recently stayed at a hotel in Los Angeles, where he was charged a \$5-per-day housekeeping tip — a surprise at checkout after he had already tipped the housekeeper in his room.

"It just seemed like someone was pulling one over me," Maggs says. "I didn't dwell on it, but it all adds up. I have to be sensitive about it whether it is my money, the company's money or the client's money."

Sometimes tipping rituals seem like a hidden fee.

Kay and Steve Vinay of Munhall, Pa., recently went to an all-inclusive Jamaican resort that advertises free golf on the cover page of its Web site. But a round of golf cost Steve Vinay \$50 after he paid a \$15 caddy fee, the caddy tip, the shuttle-driver tip and the \$15 drink-cart stop.

"You are expected to give the caddy a beverage," Kay Vinay said. "If everyone else is buying a \$7.50 Corona and they are buying their caddy one, you kinda look stupid."

Unbeknownst to the Vinays, if you go on the Web site and click on "amenities" and "golf," you will see the caddy tipping fees. But Kay Vinay was upset she did not know about the tips, which she considered hidden fees.

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