

Seniors volunteer to help freshmen. Page C6



Hastings Tribune



Streak broken

Win over Dana ends HC losing skid. Page C1

Two injured in fire



People watch as firefighters enter the apartment complex at 516 N. Hastings Ave. early Sunday morning to extinguish a fire.

WILL VRASPIR AND JOHN HUTHMACHER

Hastings Tribune

A Hastings couple was injured after the man's apartment caught fire Sunday morning, just one day after he moved in.

Tyson Burtis, 19, of 516 N. Hastings Ave. No. 11 reportedly jumped from the bathroom window of his third-story apartment and fell 26 feet to the sidewalk below, according to the Hastings Fire Department. Reports indicate items in the living

room were on fire and blocked the exit from the door, leaving the bathroom window on the east side of the building as the only escape route.

Burtis sustained serious injuries and was transported by Rural/Metro Ambulance Service to Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital, said Hastings Fire Chief Kent Gilbert. Hospital officials said Burtis has been admitted and is in stable condition.

Burtis' girlfriend, Mary

Ann Silva, 17, of 1417 W. Sixth St., reportedly was found at the bathroom window, but police officers convinced her to stay put. Firefighters used a ladder to bring her down.

Silva was admitted and released at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital.

A candle left burning the previous night was determined to be the most likely cause of the fire, which occurred shortly after 8 a.m. Sunday, Gilbert said. Heavy

smoke forced several residents from the building, but no one else was injured.

Two apartment residents attempted to extinguish the fire in the brick building but were unsuccessful. Hastings firefighters arrived and put out the fire in the complex, which is owned by Leon Davis of 907 N. Burlington Ave.

"We were both sleeping, and we heard the hall alarm," said Shawn McGee, who lives in No. 10, on Sunday.

Please see FIRE/page B1

JOHN HUTHMACHER/Tribune



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

Above: Hastings College student Steve Neal waves to some friends during the Melody Round-Up Parade Saturday. Below left: Dustin Runcie plays his trombone. Below right: Nebraska Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy leads the parade through downtown Hastings.



On parade

SHAY GRAVES

Hastings Tribune

Area high school marching bands and antique cars were on hand Saturday to honor the Hastings College Homecoming/Family Weekend.

The 55th annual Hastings College Melody Round-Up Parade brought together Hastings College students, area junior high and high school students and the public.

The parade, following this year's Homecoming/Family Weekend theme of "History in the Making: Celebrating 123 Years," included marching bands, floats



by Hastings College organizations and antique and classic cars.

The parade also honored the 2005 Hastings College Homecoming royalty.

Juniors Emily Hogan of Aurora, Colo., and Brandon Diamond of Kansas City, Mo., were

named homecoming king and queen Friday during a special coronation dinner on HC's campus.

Juniors Celeste Bauer of Alma and Thomas Kluber of Fairfield were named prince and princess.

Royalty were selected by a vote of the student body.

Please see MELODY/page B1

Osborne chooses Witek

KEVIN O'HANLON

The Associated Press

LINCOLN — U.S. Rep. Tom Osborne announced today that state Auditor Kate Witek will be his running mate as he seeks the Republican nomination for governor.

"Kate will bring unquestioned integrity, values and work ethic to the lieutenant governor's office," Osborne said. "She is not afraid to challenge the status quo, and she believes, as I do, that Nebraskans are not satisfied with 'pretty good' or 'good enough.' With Kate on our team, I am convinced more than ever that we can transform Nebraska into a world-class performer on every level."

Witek, 50, was elected auditor in 1998 and was re-elected in 2002.

Please see WITEK/page B1



JOHN HUTHMACHER/Tribune

Class of 1944 alum Maxine (Kistler) Gardner looks through a book of old Tiger Cub publications during a Class of 1940s Reunion Saturday night at the Hastings City Auditorium.

Reunion stirs up memories

JOHN HUTHMACHER

Hastings Tribune

A crowd of more than 500 alumni, spouses and family filled the City Auditorium Saturday with stories and recollections of the good old days during the Hastings Class of 1940s Reunion gathering.

The dinner engagement, which included guests from Hastings Senior High classes of 1940 through 1949, included live music performed by the Bobby Layne Orchestra of Lincoln, tables full of memorabilia and the release of two books dealing with the history of Hastings.

Please see 1940s/page B1

Weather

Lo: 40s
Hi: 50s



Art by Zach Merrill, 8, Watson Elementary

ELKHORN TEEN DIES IN BIKE ACCIDENT

ELKHORN — A bicycle accident has claimed the life of an Elkhorn teenager.

Drew Benson, 16, was riding a bike Saturday afternoon when he

State

wrecked, landing on his head in a residential driveway, Elkhorn Police said.

A witness reported that Benson appeared to be startled by passing traffic just before he wrecked, police said.

Benson was taken to Creighton

University Hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

None of the drivers of the passing cars appeared to do anything unusual that would have caused Benson to wreck, police said.

The Associated Press

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JOHN HUTHMACHER/Tribune

A Hastings Police officer helps Rural/Metro paramedics work on a man who injured himself after he jumped from the third floor of an apartment complex at 516 N. Hastings Ave. early Sunday morning in order to escape a fire.

Fire: Two people injured; apartment receives damage

Continued from page A1

"I opened the door, and there was smoke in the hall. My girlfriend was trying to help knock down the door to No. 11 and then I called 911. That's when we just got out."

Burt's living room was destroyed. The rest of the apartment building has varying degrees of smoke damage, Gilbert said. Residents of the building's 11 other apartments were allowed to return as the rooms were cleared of smoke.

Hastings firefighters received assistance from Juniata

firefighters, Adams County Emergency Management, Hastings Police Department and the American Red Cross.

Connie Paulson, who lives directly north of the apartment complex, said the fire scared her grandchildren, who worried it would spread to her house.

"Some excitement for a Sunday morning," Paulson said at the scene.

The building owner said the fire was unusual.

"This is the first time we've had anything like that," Davis said.

1940s: Reunion stirs up memories

Continued from page A1

Other events connected to the reunion included a bus tour Saturday afternoon and a get-together at Hastings Holiday Inn Convention Center Friday.

"As far as we can determine, it was 100 percent successful," said Bob Foote Sr., who coordinated the event. "People were thrilled to have the opportunity to mingle with their friends of the past, and they were just astounded with the turnout. Honestly, with that many people, you would think you would have had some glitches, and there may have been, but nobody complained about anything."

Don Crecelius, 1948 graduate, said the reunion was great.

"I've met several people here that were in World War II," Crecelius said. "I was in the Korean War... It's just great to see that some of these people are still active enough to get out here."

Crecelius smiled as he shared a recollection from his high school days.

"They started a cooking class for boys at the senior high," he said. "We raised so much Cain in there and threw so much food out the window they didn't have the class any more after that."

Robert Fuller, 1942 graduate, said liked how the school was conducting reunions 10 years at a time. Now a resident of Columbus, Ga., he remembered his high school years with fondness.

"I had a wonderful time," he said. "We had outstanding teachers. I remember Ms. Roberts and Ms. Beasley. Wonderful teachers."

Though he thoroughly enjoyed meeting friends from his youth, Fuller said he was too far removed from his past to feel too sentimental about it.

"I'm too old for that now," he said. "That's all gone."

Gale Fuller, Robert's cousin and 1945 graduate, said he hasn't missed any of his many class reunions through the years. He said he was

glad to get a chance to catch up on old times with his cousin and others.

"I don't have any bad memories of it," he said of his high school days. "It was all a good experience as far as I'm concerned."

The younger Fuller shared a table with one of his first crushes in grade school, Rachel Rodine Dow. He'd recognize her anywhere, he said.

"When we went to junior high, we just walked past each other like we'd never seen each other before, which was a disappointment to me at the time," he said. "Now we kid about it."

Fuller, who resides in Fulton, Miss., recalled one incident of mischief when his classroom participation was met with a less-than-favorable response.

"In Ms. Christensen's English class, she was reading some romantic poetry to the class, Elizabeth Barrett Browning or something like that, and when she finished she heaved a sigh and said, 'And it's love that makes the world go round.' I looked up and said, 'Yeah, so does a swell of tobacco juice.' About that time, she grabbed me by the ear and hauled me out in the hallway."

"I knew what I was talking about, I'd had experience. I didn't know if she knew what she was talking about."

Maxine (Kistler) Gardener, 1944 graduate, was among the many volunteers who helped decorate the auditorium for the event.

"The reunion has been fantastic," she said. "Everything is so beautiful. It's wonderful to see the kids you went to school with, but they don't look anything like they do when they were kids. I never do recognize them. I just recognize them by their name."

Gardener said she surprised to see so many people in attendance.

"We had our 60th high school reunion last year, and there were only about 60 or 70 of us, and that included the mates," she said. "This is really something."

Melody: Parade draws crowd

Continued from page A1

Other finalists for king were Patrick Johnston of Theoford; Tim Moore of Wichita Falls, Texas; and Danny Nicklin of Papillion.

Other finalists for queen were Beth Eager of Ashland; Tiffany Mayland of Alliance; and Ann Phelps of Hastings.

A total of 21 high school and junior high school bands joined the Hastings College marching band in this year's parade.

Participating Triband bands included Adams Central High School, Blue Hill High School, Clay Center Junior-Senior High School, Deshler High School, Doniphan-Trumbull Junior High School, Doniphan-Trumbull High School, Exeter-Milligan Junior High School, Giltner High School, Harvard High School, Hastings Senior High School, Hastings St. Cecilia High School, Kenesaw High School, Red Cloud High School, Sandy Creek High School and Shickley High School.

School. During the parade, bands were evaluated by a panel of judges and awarded divisional ratings in three categories.

MELODY ROUND-UP PARADE RESULTS

- ◆ Outstanding Class A/AA Band - Hastings Senior High School
- ◆ Outstanding Class B Band - Hastings St. Cecilia High School
- ◆ Outstanding Class C Band - Deshler High School
- ◆ Outstanding Class D Band - Kenesaw High School
- ◆ Outstanding Auxiliary/Flags Class A/AA Band - Hastings Senior High School
- ◆ Outstanding Auxiliary/Flags Class B Band - Columbus Scotus High School
- ◆ Outstanding Auxiliary/Flags Class C Band - Deshler High School
- ◆ Outstanding Auxiliary/Flags Class D Band - Clay Center High School
- ◆ Overall Outstanding Drum Major - Gibbon High School

Witek: Osborne picks running mate for race

Continued from page A1

Before that, she served six years in the Legislature representing Omaha's District 31.

Also seeking the GOP nomination are current Gov. Dave Heineman and Omaha businessman Dave Nabity.

There are no announced Democratic candidates.

If Osborne is elected, Witek would become the first Republican female lieutenant governor in Nebraska history.

The last female lieutenant governor was Kim Robak, a Democrat who served from 1993 to 1999.

"I am truly honored and extremely excited to campaign with a world-class leader who is dedicated to uniting Nebraskans and raising the overall level of performance of our state," Witek said.

Until 2002, candidates for lieutenant governor ran independently, meaning the governor had no say-so in who filled the spot.

Witek was born Oct. 22,

1954, in Detroit.

She graduated from Farmington Hills High School in Michigan and later attended Eastern Michigan University. She became a cosmetologist in 1976.

She and her husband, Charles, have two children: Thomas, 25, and Kimberly, 19.

Osborne, who won three national titles in his last four years as the football coach for the University of Nebraska, has parlayed his enormous popularity in the state into a political career.

He got 82 percent of the vote in his first run for Congress in 2000, 93 percent in his re-election bid in 2002 and 87 percent

last year.

He decided against a fourth term in Congress so he could run for governor.

Heineman became governor in January when President Bush picked Gov. Mike Johanns to become secretary of agriculture.

Heineman then picked Hastings Mayor Rick Sheehy to be lieutenant governor.

Heineman was elected state treasurer in 1994. Johanns picked him to be lieutenant governor in 2001 when then-Lt. Gov. Dave Maurstad left to be regional director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

WATER MAIN BREAK

LINCOLN — About \$1 million will be needed to repair damage from the water main break that flooded the bottom floor of the city-county Hall of Justice on Sept. 14.

Insurance will cover most of that current estimate, said Don Killeen, administrator of the Public Building Commission.


City-county employees quickly moved computers and other equipment to dry locations as the water poured in that evening, he said, keeping the repair and replacement bills from going even higher.

The Associated Press

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