

Local

CAT EUTHANIZED

A cat found duct-taped to a street sign Wednesday was euthanized.

Veterinarian Brad Jones said the body temperature of the adult domestic short-haired cat was below 87 degrees. Jones could not determine the exact body temperature because the thermometer turns on at 87 degrees.

Normal body temperature of an adult cat is 101.5

degrees, he said. Temperatures overnight were in the low 20s.

The cat, whose owner has not been located, also had head trauma and was unresponsive. Duct tape was wrapped around the beige and cream-colored cat several times, but an officer was able to free the animal, Hastings police Sgt. Dan Losada said.

There are no suspects, he said. A person found guilty of cruelty to animals could be jailed for one year and fined \$1,000.

The Associated Press

PAROLE HEARING

LINCOLN — The state Board of Parole will consider granting parole to Richard E. Frerichs at a Dec. 18 hearing at the Community Corrections Center here.

Parole hearings start at 8:30 a.m.

Frerichs, an inmate at CCC, was sentenced in Fillmore County and is serving one to five years for possession of a controlled substance other than marijuana.

Frerichs began serving the sentence Oct. 10, 2001.

OPEN HOUSE

Several Nebraska authors and artisans will be at Nebraska Food and Gift for the Holiday Open House 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Vintage Charms owners Shauna Hoffman and Jenny Hartman, both of Hastings, will display their personalized and custom-made jewelry.

Clarence Hotz of Hastings will feature several styles of his handmade rosaries.

Also at the open house will be York artist B.J. Sievers with his wood carvings and pen-and-ink sketches; author Mary Ridder of Callaway with her book "In Benton"; Mary Ethel Emanuel, author of "Nebraska: Off The Beaten Path"; and Elaine Westring of Stromsburg, owner of Little Blue River Soap Co.

TOUR OF HOMES

The North Shore Assembly of God Missionettes' third annual Holiday Tour of Homes is 4-7 p.m. Saturday.

Homes on the tour are:

◆ Dave and Lorena Barrientez, 322 S. Baltimore Ave.

◆ Dan and Deb Dowling, 1518 W. Fifth St.

◆ Tony and Kim Anderson, 1109 N. Briggs Ave.

◆ Bruce and Karen Dillon, 8609 Osborne Drive West

◆ JoAnn Adams, 14720 Buffalo Road

◆ Gaylen and Judy Rainforth, 14555 S. Alda Road

Tickets may be purchased in advance at North Shore Assembly of God Church or Stamps and More at the Landmark Center. They also will be on sale at each home the day of the tour. A map is provided with each ticket.

For information, contact the church at (402) 462-5742.

Lotteries

WINNING NUMBERS

Wednesday
Powerball . . . **13-20-21-35-40-PB35**
(Power Play: 4; Saturday's jackpot: \$90 million)
Kansas Pick 3 . . . **1-3-9**
Super Kansas Cash **4-14-16-29-31**
(Super Cashball: 15)
Nebraska Pick 5 . . . **6-13-22-24-36**
(Jackpot: \$104,000)
2by2 . . . **Red 4-6, White 14-23**
Hot Lotto . . . **1-17-19-29-33**
(Hot Ball 8)

REBECCA SVEC
Hastings Tribune

GENEVA — Last December the Geneva Arts Council's Holiday Tour of Homes drew more than 800 visitors.

The success of the tour gave Geneva officials an idea:

With that many people coming to town, why not build a weekend of events for them to enjoy?

"It's an opportune time to emphasize Geneva," said Lori Loontjer, executive director of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce.

"Christmas in Geneva 2002" stretches from Nov. 23 to Christmas Day. The upcoming weekend is a large part of the event.

Saturday and Sunday are packed with activities, including the annual tour of homes.

Planners hope the event will be one of the biggest weekends of the year for Geneva, Loontjer said.

It offers a greenery workshop and carriage rides, a craft and gift extravaganza, and a holiday camp for kids. Visitors and residents can watch the lighting of the Christmas season at the Fillmore County Courthouse or make live mannequins (also known as Fillmore Central High School students and adults from Geneva) move or laugh as they model merchandise at downtown stores.

They can choose from a soup

supper, a silent auction for Christmas wreaths, the tour of homes or a stroll through the historic Fillmore County Courthouse, recent winner of a prestigious national preservation honor.

The weekend includes:

SATURDAY

◆ 9:30 a.m.: Greenery workshop at the Fillmore County Fairgrounds. The workshop runs until 3 p.m. and includes lunch. There is a charge for the workshop, and participants must have registered already.

◆ 1-5 p.m.: Live mannequins in downtown businesses

◆ Moonlight carriage rides

◆ 7 p.m.: Lighting of the Christmas Season, courthouse lawn decorating contest

SUNDAY

◆ Noon to 7 p.m.: Craft and gift extravaganza, downtown gym

◆ 1-5 p.m.: Holiday Tour of Homes

◆ 1-5 p.m.: Live mannequins in downtown businesses

◆ 1-5 p.m.: Courthouse tours

◆ 1-5 p.m.: Christmas Open House at Heritage Crossings

◆ 1:30-4 p.m.: Free holiday camp for children of all ages, Rialto II Theatre

◆ 4-7:30 p.m.: Soup supper presented by the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, VFW. Proceeds go toward the town's F Street sign. The Senior Swingers band will perform from 4:30-5 p.m.

◆ 6:30 p.m.: Tribute by the First Congregational United Church of Christ, at the church. Free-will offering.

◆ 7 p.m.: Last chance to bid on Christmas wreaths displayed during the soup supper.

Hastings Tribune

GENEVA — Four homes will be featured on the Geneva Arts Council's annual Holiday Tour of Homes from 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

◆ The home Larry and Diane Heath purchased in 1979 was built in 1962 by Larry's father, Dean. The house has undergone numerous renovations and additions since that time.

Strothkamp Construction of Geneva built the latest, a sunroom and gazebo. The home also features interior faux painting.

The house is a modern split-level design, but many features reflect the owners' appreciation for the craftsmanship of earlier days.

"Stepping into the sunroom is like stepping back in time," a recent visitor commented on the display of family heirlooms, pictures and antiques found in the sunroom and other spaces.

◆ Dempster Woods, a bed-and-breakfast owned by Kenneth and Sandy Lefever, is an 1888 Italianate-style home boasting tin ceilings, transoms, 7-foot windows, stained glass and a marble fireplace. The 11 rooms each bear unique decorating touches, many influenced by the French ancestry of the family.

Each of the four bedrooms was created to set a mood for the occupant. The Demoiselle Room is for a "young miss"; the French Connections features a large bay window and authentic French touches; Rainbow's End contains a private bath and jacuzzi; and Alice's Window-on-the-Woods is a child's room.

Karen Allgood of Silks-N-Such will decorate the home and will have Christmas decorations available for purchase the day of the tour.

◆ Vina Mody's "Geneva House" is a traditional favorite of the tour, but always is decorated in a fresh and clever way. This Queen Anne Victorian-style

home, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, features stained-glass windows, exotic woodwork, fireplaces and displays of Vina's travel memorabilia. Once again, Mody will create fanciful Christmas tree displays throughout the home, but this year she will be working with the theme "The Year of the Flower." Come enjoy the use of flowers — some not often associated with Christmas — on the more than 100 trees Vina traditionally creates for the Tour of Homes.

◆ The fourth house on the tour is a brand-new home. Arlen and Pat Schake still are putting the finishing touches to the house they moved into in August 2001.

Schweitzer Construction of Shickley built the three-bedroom home, which is decorated in an "eclectic" style, according to Pat.

The home features unique window treatments and antiques provide interesting spaces for displaying Pat's pitcher collection.

Other items of interest include a Christmas house collection and family quilts. The "daylight" basement, storm room and triple-filtered air system are three features which make the house modern and unusual. Pat and her daughter, Robin Galusha, plan to decorate with family-oriented decorations.

Advance tickets for the Tour of Homes are available at Weaver Pharmacy or by mail order to the Geneva Arts Council, P.O. Box 54, Geneva, NE 68361. Tickets also may be purchased the day of the tour at any of the homes. There is a charge for the tour.

For more information call Pat Bohn at (402) 759-4955 or (402) 759-4783.

Volunteers hope to fill stocking for burned racer

Hastings Tribune

Hastings resident Rashell Hillis hopes to make Scott Wilder's holidays brighter by giving him a stocking full of Christmas cards. But it's no ordinary stocking: This one is 5 feet tall.

Wilder, 39, of Kearney was severely burned at the Mid-NEBR Speedway near Doniphan when his car flipped 2 1/2 times and burst into flames Aug. 31.

The rookie racer remains in the burn unit of St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln.

The racing community has pulled together with several benefits in the Tri-Cities area for Wilder. Hillis has helped organize several of them.

The gigantic stocking also is a community effort.

Her children held a rummage sale to raise money for the stocking. A sewing class at Grand Island Senior High sewed the stocking, and T-Shirt Engineers of Grand Island embroidered a logo at the top.

The stocking will be on display at Wal-Mart Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and cards to Wilder may be dropped inside. Cards also may be sent to Scott Wilder, c/o Rashell Hillis, 1619 W. Third St., Hastings, NE 68901.

Training the trainer: Lessons in hazardous materials

25 FIREFIGHTERS FROM NEBRASKA, IOWA ATTEND COURSE

LISA COBLE
Hastings Tribune

Controlling and identifying hazardous materials has become important since the increased threat of weapons of mass destruction being used against the United States.

That's why eight Hastings firefighters are among 25 students from Nebraska and Iowa who are learning to teach others about handling such materials, Hastings Fire Chief Kent Gilbert said.

Gilbert is one of the students participating in the 40-hour

course, Training the Trainer, which started Monday and ends Friday at Lincoln Park Fire Station in Hastings.

"The local 675 contacted the international union and they agreed to provide training for hazardous materials," Gilbert said. "What this program is aimed at is to train people to teach at a technical level."

Lt. Cris Aguirre of the Miami-Dade Fire Department, an expert in health and public safety, is one of the instructors for the course, which drew firefighters from the two states.

"The ranks are everything from a guy who has been on a year to the fire chief of Hastings," Aguirre said.

Other instructors come from

New York, Ohio and Connecticut, and specialize in other areas.

The class is paid for by federal grants through the International Association of Firefighters.

The Hastings Fire Department also received grant money from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency for training in hazardous materials.

In addition, the department has received a grant for \$170,000 equipment that will be ordered and used for hazardous materials, Gilbert said. Plus, HFD is in line for another grant worth \$98,000 directed at working with hazardous materials.

"Hazardous materials not only exist on railways and road-

ways, they also exist in pharmacies and homes. It's a common issue," Gilbert said.

Aguirre agrees that hazardous materials are everywhere, and firefighters have to be prepared.

"Most firefighters are geared toward structure fires, fires in buildings or in nature," Aguirre said. "But what if it's chlorinated gas or a type of short-lived isotope in a hospital?"

Trying to teach firefighters what to look for and how to understand these sometimes scientific materials is being done through question-and-answer sessions in a classroom-type setting.

Anyone wishing to learn more about hazardous materials can visit www.IAFF.org.



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