



Weekend Tribune

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Filing papers
Kansas attorney general digs into Republican River issue.
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Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008

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Lights turn on for kids

'MR. SCIENCE' ELECTRIFIES MUSEUM AUDIENCES WITH DEMONSTRATIONS

TONY HERRMAN
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It didn't take much for Mr. Science to get giggles out of the hundreds of area students who came to see him explain how electricity works at the Hastings Museum of Cultural and Natural History Friday. He did that just with his use of the word "electron" as he talked about atoms.

"I'm sorry you can't know about electrons until you're older," he joked as he explained the components of an atom.

Then, within minutes he reeled off the taboo word several times.

Mr. Science, whose real name is Tim Perkins, of Melbourne, Fla., hosted five, hourlong performances about electric energy at the museum on Friday.

Along with teachers and parents, preschool through sixth-grade students from 18 area schools were in the audience throughout the day.

"I'm teaching them about electricity, and I'm showing them in a scientific way how to build up their ideas," Perkins said in an interview before his 11 a.m. show.

Mr. Science began the show by defining energy for his young audience members as the ability to do work. "You took energy from your food and put it in your tummy," he said.

He said the body also contains electricity. During one of several experiments utilizing volunteers, Mr. Science had two students hold both ends of a device measuring electrical current.

There wasn't a reading until they held hands and created a closed circuit and it moved up slightly.

Mr. Science elicited giggles, too, when a volunteer placed her hands on



AMY ROH/Tribune

Tim "Mr. Science" Perkins demonstrates how salt water is a conductor of electricity during a demonstration Friday at the Hastings Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

a Vandergraph Generator and her hair began to rise. He said it is similar to rubbing your socks on carpet and then shocking someone, but at 100 mph.

Because he was going to the birthplace of Kool-Aid, Perkins said he experimented with the drink in its powder form to see if it's a conductor.

"It turns out you can caramelize the sugars in there really well with 6,000

volts," he said.

Mr. Science explained the difference between conductors, which allow electricity to travel, and insulators, which are wrapped around power lines and stop electricity.

He also explained the difference between batteries and capacitors.

Please see **SCIENCE**/page A7

Chief justice lone dissenter in key ruling

HEAVICAN CALLS FOR SCRUTINY OF STATE COURT'S EXECUTION CHAIR DECISION

JOSH FUNK
The Associated Press

OMAHA — Only one of the seven judges on Nebraska's Supreme Court disagreed with Friday's ruling that electrocution is cruel and unusual, but Chief Justice Mike Heavican's dissent will likely be important to any appeal.

At first glance, the majority opinion appears to be the final word on the electric chair because it is based on the Nebraska Constitution. But Heavican lays out several arguments Attorney General Jon Bruning might use to appeal to federal courts.

"The majority relied upon those aspects of federal law that supported its conclusion and ignored the remainder that did not," Heavican wrote.

Legal experts agree that Heavican's dissent will help shape both the debate over the death penalty in Nebraska and any appeal arguments that are drafted.

"It doesn't radically change the outcome," said Douglas Berman, a law professor at Ohio State University. "It certainly radically changes the extent to which it's either easy or hard to resist the outcome."

Michael Rushford, president of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation in Sacramento, said he thought Heavican made some good points. Rushford's group files briefs supporting capital punishment in about 15 U.S. Supreme Court cases each year.

"If I was the AG, I'd use the dissent as the basis for an appeal," Rushford said.

Bruning said in a statement that he agrees with Heavican's dissent, and plans to ask the state Supreme Court to recon-



Heavican Bruning

sider it's ruling. But Bruning didn't say whether he would appeal to federal courts.

The decision should be scrutinized by federal courts, Heavican wrote, because the six Nebraska judges who endorsed the ruling relied entirely on federal rulings.

"Although the majority refers to the Nebraska Constitution, it fails to cite to a single Nebraska case in support of its conclusion that electrocution is unconstitutional," Heavican said.

The language of the Nebraska Constitution matches the U.S. Constitution on the subject of cruel and unusual punishment. So Rushford said the majority of the court doesn't "have much to hang their hat on" because the federal constitution should dictate what happens.

But Kathryn Kase, co-chairwoman of the death penalty committee for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, disagreed.

Kase said even if the language of Nebraska's constitution matches the federal one, the state document can still be interpreted differently because it arises out of a different experience.

"A state is entitled to interpret its constitution more strictly and to give its citizens more rights than under the federal constitution," said Kase, who is a Houston attorney.

The Nebraska Supreme Court made its ruling in the case of Raymond Mata Jr., convicted for the 1999 kidnapping and killing of 3-year-old Adam Gomez of Scottsbluff.

School's gym space needs driving Kenesaw bond push

JOHN HUTHMACHER
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KENESAW — School bond committee members here have had to hit the ground running to get the word out as to why the city's public elementary and high school facility needs a new track and gymnasium.

A proposed \$3.795-million bond issue — which would cost residents 12.4 cents per \$100 of taxable value if passed — will be decided through an all-mail election March 11, with ballots being mailed to homes between Feb. 20 and March 1.

School board members approved the resolution Jan. 14 to allow the bond election.

Bond committee co-chairwomen Jamie Bittfield and Shelly Gallagher have met three times with volunteer committees since that resolution was approved. The duo will host public meetings in Kenesaw's school gym at 1 p.m. Feb. 17 and 7 p.m. Feb. 25 to educate residents on what the new facility would mean to the community as a whole.

"I think we need this, and I think our patrons will agree and understand that we do need this,"

Gallagher said. "It is important for our community as well as our school. We really need to encourage people to look at our school and show we are willing to grow and do what we need to do for our kids."

To Bittfield and Gallagher, the need for the gymnasium and track are indisputable. Both parents of four, the two women have seen firsthand how overlapping sports and theater practices have created an atmosphere of chaos at the school.

"We're one of only two schools in our 11-school conference who don't have a second gym," Gallagher said. "And where that is really an impediment for us is that we have kids in drama, music, junior high sports, senior high sports, all practicing in one gym."

"Being a rural community, that means we have kids having to come to school at 6 in the morning. Some practice at 3:30 in the afternoon, then go home and come back again. If we have two gyms, a lot more time is available for these extracurricular practices."

Please see **KENESAW**/page A7

Post office honored for safety

SHAY BURK
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The Hastings post office was awarded the highest honor for excellence in safety from a branch of the U.S. government Friday.

A representative of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration presented Postmaster Dana Ferguson and the entire Hastings postal staff with the Voluntary Protection Program Star Award.

"It's really a proud moment for the members of the Hastings Post Office," Ferguson said. "Normally, when someone mentions OSHA, you get a little bit scared of people coming in and doing an audit. Instead of running away from it, we ran toward it."

The VPP Star Award is the highest award for workplace safety bestowed by OSHA, which can only be obtained by meeting a comprehensive set of safety and health criteria higher than those of the regu-



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

Ben Bare (right), area director for the U.S. Department of Labor-OSHA, presents Hastings Postmaster Dana Ferguson and the VPP Core team a Star Worksite flag Friday at the Hastings post office.

lar OSHA requirements.

The Star Award has only been awarded to 1,500 of more than 7 million companies across the country, including 110 post offices.

"This is quite an honor for the Hastings post office, but not a real surprise to those of us

who have visited the office and know the employees here," said Ed Goforth, manager of post office operations with the Central Plains District.

More than 50 postal employees, dignitaries and supporters

Please see **HONOR**/page A7

Weather

Hi: Mostly sunny today. Cold with a chance of flurries tonight.
38
Lo: 8



Art by Emma Mays, 7, Longfellow School

EMERGENCY LANDING

OMAHA — A United Airlines flight made an emergency landing Friday morning at Omaha's Eppley Airfield after reporting a possible fire.

United spokesman Jeff Kovick said the landing was a precaution

— there was no fire on the nonstop flight from San Francisco to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. The plane had departed just before 6 a.m.

"The flight landed safely and routinely, and the captain proceeded with appropriate caution by divert-

ing to Omaha," Kovick said.

Pilots on the Boeing 757 reported the fire-extinguishing system in the plane's cargo area was activated about 50 miles from Omaha, said the Omaha Assistant Fire Chief Joe Gibilisco.

The Associated Press

State

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Obituaries

JANICE L. MANKIN

Trumbull resident Janice L. Mankin, 69, died Thursday, February 7, 2008, at Tiffany Square in Grand Island.

Services are 10:30 a.m. Monday, February 11, 2008, at Livingston-Butler-Volland chapel in Hastings with the Rev. Jack Sample officiating. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery at Trumbull. Visitation is 1-9 p.m. Sunday, and 9 a.m. until services Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be given to Nebraska Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Condolences may be sent to www.lbvfh.com.

Mrs. Mankin was born May 24, 1938, in Gibbon, Nebraska, to Frederick and Sylvia (Smith) Pember. She graduated from Kenesaw High School in 1956 and attended Bethany College

in Oklahoma for one year. She moved back to the area and worked for Sears in Hastings. On January 4, 1964, she married Stanley Mankin in Gibbon, Nebraska. She was a homemaker and helped on the farm. She was very nonjudgmental of people and a loving wife, mother and grandmother.

Mrs. Mankin preceded in death by her parents.

Survivors include husband, Stanley Mankin of Trumbull, Neb.; daughter and son-in-law, Sylvia and Steve Schreiner of Omaha, Neb.; sons and daughter-in-law, Clinton and Sharon Mankin of Grand Island, Neb., Philip Mankin of Trumbull, Neb.; grandchild, Caleb, Jennifer, Rachel and Jacob Mankin; sister, Joyce Dornhoff of Minden, Neb.; many nieces and nephews.

MARCEL G. MCCOY

Hastings resident Marcel G. McCoy, 76, of 402 South Maple, died Friday, February 8, 2008, at his home.

Services are 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at Livingston-Butler-Volland chapel in Hastings with the Rev. David L. Speicher officiating. Burial will be in Parkview Cemetery

in Hastings. Visitation is 1-9 p.m. Sunday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday, with family present 6-8 p.m., and 9 a.m. until services Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be given to Nebraska Visually Impaired Peer Support Group.

Condolences may be sent to www.lbvfh.com.

EDITH L. HOGELAND

Alma resident Edith Lily Hogeland, 85, died Thursday, February 7, 2008, at her home.

Services are 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at United Methodist Church in Alma with Pastor Barbara Spangler officiating. Burial will be in Alma Cemetery. Visitation is noon-8

p.m. Sunday and Monday at Banta-Torrey Funeral Home in Alma and before services Tuesday at the church.

Memorials may be given to United Methodist Church Building Fund or Harlan County Health Systems.

JAMES T. MCDONALD

Hebron resident James Tobin McDonald, 79, died Tuesday, February 5, 2008, at his home.

Memorial services will be held at a later date in Grosse

Pointe Woods, Mich. He was cremated. There is no visitation. Hebron Memorial Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

HAROLD E. SMITH

Former Harvard resident Harold E. Smith died Friday, February 8, 2008, at his home in Hastings.

Services are pending at Alberding-Wilson Funeral Home in Harvard.

CAROL L. CAULEY

Former Hastings resident Carol L. Cauley, 62, died Friday, February 8, 2008, in Centennial, Colo.

Services are pending at Brand-Wilson Funeral Home and Cremation in Hastings.

Music industry ready to celebrate 50th Grammy Awards

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — As Sunday night's Grammy Awards draw near, there's a sense of relief in the struggling music industry as it prepares for a much-needed celebration.

During the uncertainty over whether the ongoing Hollywood writers strike would derail the show, "there were subtle kinds of holdbacks from certain artists" about whether to attend, said Ken Ehrlich, producer of the telecast. Some industry execs even hesitated for fear it that "music's biggest night" could be altered or even canceled.

"There was definitely an uncertainty of whether there was going to be a Grammys," said record marketing executive Chris Atlas, who is flying in from New York to attend.

Now that the threat has been averted, an industry pummeled by a broken business model, shrinking profits and thousands of layoffs is ready to cut loose — at least for one night.

"A lot of good people are losing their jobs. It's a strange time for the record companies," said Grammy-winning songwriter Diane Warren. "(But) it's about celebrating the music, and that's always a good thing. You kind of have to leave that at the door."

This year's Grammys will not only celebrate today's stars — the leading contenders are Kanye West with seven and Amy Winehouse with six — but

also the past as it marks its 50th year. Among this year's performers are Beyonce, nominated for record of the year for "Irreplaceable," with her precursor, the rock goddess Tina Turner. Another record of the year nominee, Rihanna for "Umbrella," will perform with The Time, and the Foo Fighters, up for album of the year among their five nods, will perform with three unknown instrumentalists who are contenders to win this year's "My Grammy Moment" contest.

The Grammys are not only music's highest honor, but one of the promotional tools to boost album sales. Many nominated or performing artists see a pre- and post-show sales bump.

The idea that the show could be affected by the writers' strike was deeply troubling to an industry in dire need of any kind of boost. The Writers Guild of America threatened to boycott the Grammys, who use writers despite their performance-laden broadcast. That left the possibility that some stars might stay away in solidarity with the writers. But the Grammys worked aggressively to keep the show together — soliciting support from superstar acts like Beyonce and the Foo Fighters, who announced intentions to perform — and eventually an interim agreement was put in place to avoid any drama.

CORNWELL DONATES \$1M

NEW YORK — Patricia Cornwell is donating \$1 million to a top criminal justice college for a new academy to teach CSI techniques.

The best-selling novelist said she's taking action because she's appalled by what she's seen at crime scene investigations.

"I've seen cops walk through blood. I've seen them leave their own fingerprints on a window," Cornwell said in an interview Friday. "I've seen bloody clothing put in a plastic bag, instead of a paper bag, so it decomposes."

Her funding will help start the Crime Scene Academy at New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice, set to open this fall with training in DNA typing, fingerprint enhancement techniques, ballistics and forensic psychology.

The 51-year-old author has written more than a dozen books featuring Dr. Kay Scarpetta, a medical examiner. Her latest is "Book of the Dead."

Praised for her meticulous research, Cornwell blames television and movies for misleading the public on how crimes are investigated.

"It's like 'Star Trek' compared to the real Air Force," she said.

HILL FORCED TO CANCEL

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A bronchial infection forced Faith Hill to withdraw from a MusiCares tribute to Aretha Franklin.

"I am devastated and deeply disappointed," the 40-year-old country singer said in a statement late Thursday. "I have been looking forward to being part of this event for months, and even after being diagnosed with a bronchial infection I came to L.A. anyway hoping that I'd be able to sing. I simply can't."

Hill was to join Fantasia, John Legend, Herbie Hancock, Shirley Caesar, the Blues Brothers, Bill Cosby and others Friday in honoring Franklin as the 2008 MusiCares Person of the Year. The show was to be taped for broadcast on PBS.

MusiCares is a Recording Academy charity that supports the arts community and music education programs.

Franklin, 65, is up for her 18th Grammy Award on Sunday, nominated for best gospel performance for a duet with Mary J. Blige. The Grammys will air live from the Staples Center in Los Angeles on CBS.

"Aretha is a musical hero and she deserves all of the accolades that she receives," Hill said. "I only hope that I'll get the chance to be a part of something like this in the future."

DAUGHTRY PERFORMING?

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Daughtry has four Grammy nominations, but viewers may not see the band on Sunday's broadcast, even if they win each award.

"We don't even know if they are going to air our nominations yet," Chris Daughtry told The Associated Press on Thursday as they rehearsed for Clive Davis' annual pre-Grammy blowout concert Saturday night.

"I've heard that we may not be shown, because it's the 50th anniversary and they are going to have a lot of back-to-back performances, so you may not even see us

Grammy fashions



KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/AP

Pop star Miley Cyrus arrives at a fashion show by In Style and The Recording Academy to celebrate Grammy with a salute to fashion showcasing the spring collection from musicians turned designers in Los Angeles Thursday.

on TV," the 28-year-old singer said.

Although the Grammys award 110 trophies, only about 10 percent of the categories are shown on the live CBS telecast; most of the show is jam-packed with performances.

"You may see us on the red carpet and peace out, because we probably already took home all four," he joked.

BIRTHDAYS

Actress Kathryn Grayson is 86. Television journalist Roger Mudd is 80. Actress Janet Suzman is 69. Actress-politician Sheila James Kuehl ("The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis") is 67. Singer-songwriter Carole King is 66. Actor Joe Pesci is 65. Singer Barbara Lewis is 65. Author Alice Walker is 64. Actress Mia Farrow is 63. Singer Joe Ely is 61. Actress Judith Light is 59. Rhythm-and-blues musician Dennis "DT" Thomas (Kool & the Gang) is 57. Actor Charles Shaughnessy is 53. Country singer Travis Tritt is 45. Actress Julie

Warner is 43. Country singer Danni Leigh is 38. Actor Jason George is 36. Actor-producer Charlie Day is 32. Actress Ziyi Zhang is 29. Actor David Gallagher is 23. Actress Marina Malota is 20.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If we knew where opinion ended and fact began, we should have discovered, I suppose, the absolute."

— Alec Waugh, English author (1898-1981)

The Associated Press

FACT OF THE DAY

Some 45.3 percent of all U.S. TV-owning households tuned in to see The Beatles debut in America on "The Ed Sullivan Show," the then-highest rated TV telecast and still the 24th highest of all-time.

NUMBER OF THE DAY

250 — length in feet of Henry Ford's first assembly line.

Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Tribland

The following couples recently applied for marriage licenses at the Adams County Clerk's Office: Nicholas Lee Warm, of Doniphan, and Amanda Renee Wademan, of Blue Hill; Ronald Wayne Novak and Carmen Kay Phillips, and Waylon Shawn Ford and Minta Ann Gregory, all of Hastings.

February classes at Central Community College include Qi Gong (Tai Chi), Knitting, YouTube, Basic Quilt Triangles. Call Susan, 402-461-2431, or srinker@cccneb.edu. -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Hollie P. Cordes, of Kenesaw, and Jessica L. Owens, of 1617 W. Fifth St., collided Wednesday on 14th Street near Baltimore Avenue.

American Legion Valentine's dinner Tuesday, 6:00; two meats, \$5.00...ladies bring salads. All proceeds to Ladies Auxiliary. 463-9152. -Adv.

Craig and Wilma Kinnaman 60th anniversary. Cards to Box 58, Tracyton, Washington 98393. -Adv.

Discontinued patterns of Peggy Karr Glass now half price while supplies last at Sweet Peas, 615 West 2nd, Hastings, 463-3115. -Adv.

Matthew J. Hilburn, of 424 N. Minnesota Ave. No. 1, reported Thursday that his laptop computer was taken from his vehicle at 235 N. Burlington Ave.

Habitat for Humanity seeking applicants. Call for application. Linda Eberle, 402-462-4187, extension 153. -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Caprice A. Lueth, of 1405 N. St. Joseph Ave., and Elyse Schlake, of Gothenburg, collided Thursday at Kansas Avenue and Ninth Street.

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.

Hastings native, Kenneth Higgins, has been promoted to the rank of Colonel in the United States Army. A 1981 graduate of Hastings High, Higgins is stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. His parents, Gwen and Lloyd Higgins, reside in Peoria, Arizona. -Adv.

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

Hastings Tribune Juniata route open; 56 customers, approximately \$140 a month. Call Jessi in Circulation, 461-1221. -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Christopher R. Reents, of 321 S. St. Joseph Ave., and a hit-and-run driver collided Thursday on Elm Avenue near 13th Street.

Barb McCauley Massage Therapy, February, one full price/second \$30. 462-9999. -Adv.

Elks Valentine's dinner and dance February 14, serving steak and shrimp dinner 5:30 to 8:00; \$29.50/couple. Reservations by 11th, 462-6616. -Adv.

Ashley D. Millard, of 322 S. Boston Ave., reported Thursday that her couch and chair were damaged at her residence.

VFW stag/stagette Tuesday, February 12, 6:30 to 8:00; advance tickets at club \$9.00, \$10 at door. -Adv.

Jacobi Carpet One Floor and Home Saturday only specials for February 9. Breast Cancer Awareness Welcome mats \$22. Armstrong Harvest Oak Laminate \$1.39 square foot. Earthcapes Flagstone Wheat vinyl \$1.79 square foot. \$2.00 off four pound pail Capture carpet cleaner. In-stock quantities only. Shop our Leap Year Sale. -Adv.

A vehicle reportedly driven by Autumn K. Torske, of 406 S. California Ave., Wednesday struck a parked vehicle owned by Charles L. Shaw, of Holstein, at 3803 Osborne Drive West.

Sassy's Tanning 20-percent off tanning points thru February 14. 463-1665. -Adv.

St. Michael's breakfast February 10, 8:00 to 11:00. Proceeds to Close-Up. -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.

Space is available in the following February cooking classes: Low Carb, Cake Decorating, Cajun and Food Prep 103. Call Susan, 402-461-2431, or srinker@cccneb.edu. -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Robert P. Rodriguez Jr., Juniata, Traci L. Myers, of Chapman, and Gary M. Hinrichs, of 909 Sycamore Ave., collided Thursday at Second Street and Baltimore Avenue. Myers, 37, was treated and released at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital.

Youngsters, bring your favorite adult to "The Man in the Moon" for Preschool Playday at Hastings Museum, February 12 at 10:00 a.m. and February 16 at 10:00 a.m. 1-800-508-4629, option 0 for reservations. -Adv.

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

Congratulations to January Keno winners of \$368,059 at Hastings Keno Sports Bar. -Adv.

Area funerals

Today

◆ **Lillian Christensen**, 88, of Nelson, 11 a.m. at Salem Lutheran Church in rural Superior.

◆ **Rosie Marks**, 72, of Franklin, 11 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Franklin.

Monday, Feb. 11

◆ **Janice Mankin**, 69, of Trumbull, 10:30 a.m. at Livingston-Butler-Volland chapel in Hastings.

◆ **Ruby Hoffman**, 96, of Lee, Mass., 11 a.m. at Merten-Butler Mortuary in Blue Hill.

Tuesday, Feb. 12

◆ **Marcel McCoy**, 76, of Hastings, 2 p.m. at Livingston-Butler-Volland chapel in Hastings.

◆ **Edith Hogeland**, 85, of Alma, 2 p.m. at United Methodist Church in Alma.

Government warns of deaths in kids treated with Botox

LAURAN NEERGAARD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The popular anti-wrinkle drug Botox and a competitor have been linked to dangerous botulism symptoms in some users, cases so bad that a few children have died, the government warned Friday.

The Food and Drug Administration's warning includes both Botox, a wrinkle-specific version called Botox Cosmetic, and its competitor, Myobloc, drugs that all use botulinum toxin to block nerve impulses, causing them to relax.

In rare cases, the toxin can spread beyond the injection site to other parts of the body, paralyzing or weakening the muscles used for breathing and swallowing, a potentially fatal side effect, the FDA said.

Botox is best known for minimizing wrinkles by paralyzing facial muscles — but botulinum toxin also is widely used for a variety of muscle-spasm conditions, such as cervical dystonia or severe neck spasms.

The FDA said the deaths it is investigating so far all involve children, mostly cerebral palsy patients being treated for spasticity in their legs. The FDA has never formally approved that use for the drugs, but some other countries have.

Tribland five-day forecast

Art by Emma Mays, 7, Longfellow School



SUNNY TODAY
High: 38 Low: 8
Wind: West 10-15
Cloudy and cold with a chance of flurries tonight.



COLD SUNDAY
High: 25 Low: 14
Wind: East 10-15
Mostly cloudy Sunday night.



PARTLY CLOUDY MONDAY
High: 38 Low: 18
Partly cloudy at night.



PARTLY CLOUDY TUESDAY
High: 38 Low: 20
Mostly clear at night.



SUNNY WEDNESDAY
High: 45 Low: 20
Mostly clear Wednesday night.

Brother: Gunman left note saying 'truth will come out'

CHRISTOPHER LEONARD
The Associated Press

KIRKWOOD, Mo. — A gunman carrying a grudge against City Hall left a suicide note on his bed warning "the truth will come out in the end," before he went on a deadly shooting spree at a council meeting, his brother told The Associated Press on Friday.

Arthur Thornton, 42, said in an interview at the family's home he knew when he read the one-line note that Charles Lee "Cookie" Thornton was the man who stormed the meeting Thursday night and killed five people before police shot him dead.

"I want to say for my family that I'm am truly, truly sorry," Arthur Thornton said, breaking into tears. "I'm so sorry. This didn't have to happen."

Friends and relatives said the dead gunman had a long-standing feud with the city, and he had lost a federal free-speech lawsuit against the St. Louis suburb just 10 days earlier. At earlier meetings, he said he had received 150 tickets against his business.

The victims were identified Friday as Public Works Director Kenneth Yost, Officer Tom Ballman, Officer William Biggs and council members Michael H.T. Lynch and Connie Karr. Flowers and balloons were

placed outside City Hall Friday in their honor.

At a midday prayer vigil at the local United Methodist Church, a bell tolled six times — once for each of the dead — as hundreds of mourners held white candles honoring them.

"As far too often, violence divides us," the Rev. David Bemmett told the throng. "Let us not let the actions of one man define who we are. We are for more than this."

The city's mayor, Mike Swoboda, was in critical condition at an intensive care unit, St. John's Mercy Medical Center spokeswoman Lynne Beck said. Another victim, Suburban Journals newspaper reporter Todd Smith, was in satisfactory condition, Beck said.

"This is such an incredible shock to all of us. It's a tragedy of untold magnitude," Tim Griffin, Kirkwood's deputy mayor, said at a news conference. "The business of the city will continue and we will recover but we will never be the same."

The meeting had just started when the shooter opened fire, said Janet McNichols, a reporter covering the meeting for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The gunman killed one officer outside City Hall, then walked into the council cham-

bers, shot another and continued pulling the trigger, St. Louis County Police spokeswoman Tracy Panus said Friday. A witness said the gunman yelled "Shoot the mayor!" as he fired shots in the chambers.

Police said he first fired with a handgun he brought, then used one of the slain officer's pistols to continue the rampage.

Thornton was often a contentious presence at the council's meetings; he had twice been convicted of disorderly conduct for disrupting meetings in May 2006.

The city had ticketed Thornton's demolition and asphalt business, Cookco Construction, for parking his commercial vehicles in the neighborhood, said Ron Hodges, a friend who lives in the community. The tickets were "eating at him," Hodges said.

"He felt that as a black contractor he was being singled out," said Hodges, who is black. "I guess he thought mentally he had no more recourse. That's not an excuse."

Franklin McCallie, a longtime friend of Thornton's, said Thornton once told him that the city would drop the fines, which totaled in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, if he "would just follow the law."

Woman kills 2 fellow students in their seats

DOUG SIMPSON
The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — A 23-year-old woman killed two fellow students in a classroom at a vocational college Friday, then killed herself, police said.

The women apparently were shot in their seats in the second-

floor classroom at Louisiana Technical College, Baton Rouge Sgt. Don Kelly said. About 20 people were in the room at the time, he said.

Officers ran into the building within four minutes of the first 911 call, which came at 8:36 a.m., Kelly said.

"There was mass pandemonium, people running," he said. "One officer — the first into the classroom — told me he could still smell gunpowder."

Police withheld the names of the shooter and the victims, ages 21 and 26, until their families could be notified.

ROSSEN FOR MAYOR

Paid for by the Rossen for Mayor Committee • Kenzie Wolfe, Treasurer • 907 University • Hastings, NE 68901

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our \$1,000 Shopping Spree Winner for January!

Be sure to get registered for the February \$1,000 Shopping Spree! Every \$25 up to \$100 gives you a chance to win, February 1-29, 2008 (Drawing in March)

OPEN: 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday - Friday; 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday



Ron Bartels
Bladen, Nebraska

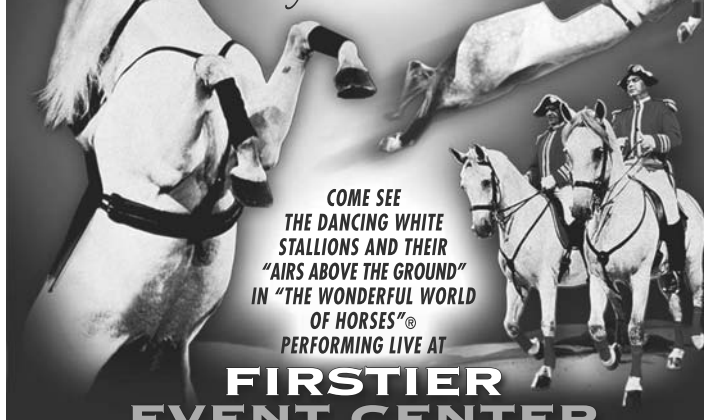
Big G ACE

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Michele Klingler

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Residents fussy about city streets

Hastings Tribune

We're surprised that it took more than a week for letters to appear in Voice of the People in opposition to the city helping fund a residential street project.

That's because we learned during the city's attempt last November to restore a half-cent local sales tax that Hastings residents are passionate when it comes to the funding of city streets. That measure failed, in part, because residents are upset and suspicious about how money is spent to repair them.

We figured as soon as taxpayers heard that one proposal for improving Lochland Road East involved the city chipping in 10 percent of the cost, they would jump all over that.

There's no question that Lochland Road East, the well-worn gravel road that runs from U.S. Highway 281 to just east of the Thom Subdivision, needs to be paved.

Homeowners along the road agree, the mayor agrees, the Hastings City Council agrees and we agree. Actually, it's something that should have been done a long time ago, prior to the city's annexation of the area. But it wasn't, mostly for reasons that exist today: Who pays?

Certainly, the property owners would like the city — and hence its taxpayers — to help pay for the street's improvements. But that would just open up a huge can of worms that city officials don't need when so many residents are screaming about the condition of their streets.

One problem we see with this proposal is the limited use of that street by most residents. We don't think enough people would use the road to justify paying for it from the city coffers. Because the road is simply an outlet for residents to get to U.S. Highway 281, it doesn't get a lot of wear and tear from most Hastings taxpayers.

Besides, in some ways, the city has already made a significant contribution through the efforts of city staff to secure 80 percent funding from the federal government by designating Lochland East as a collector street. There are other roadways in Hastings that are collector streets and also in desperate need of repair.

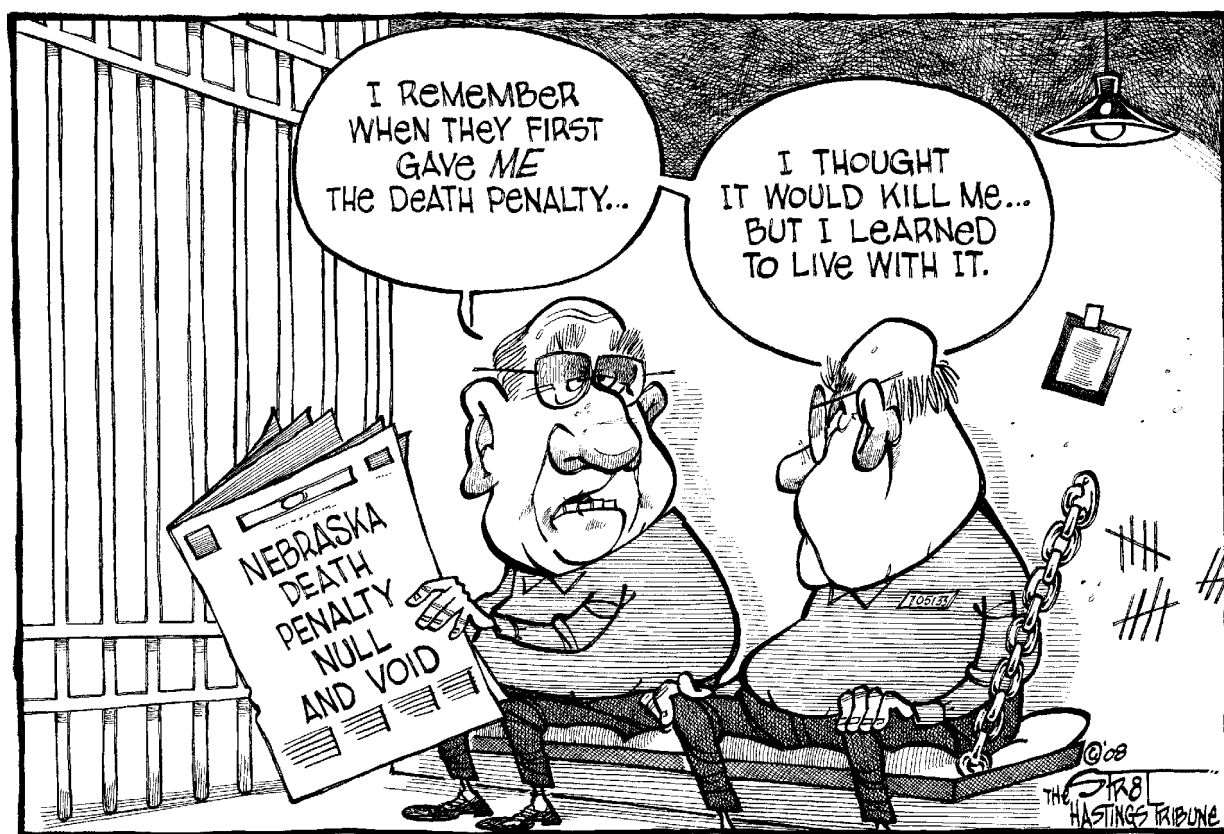
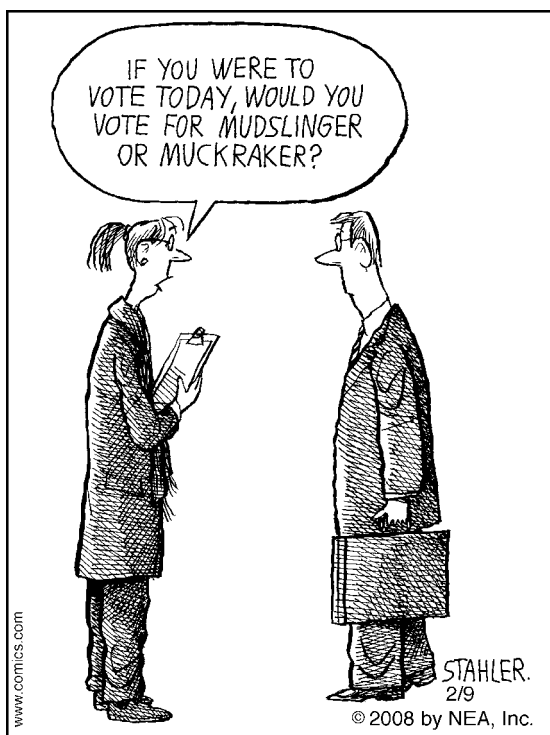
Another problem is fairness, which is a major concern among some City Council members.

At their meeting last week, council members voted 6-1 to create a street improvement district for Lochland Road East, with two more votes needed for final approval. The estimated \$1.3 million cost of the project would include paving the road and installing curbs and gutters. But the council, recognizing that it needs to be careful because of what this might mean for future street projects, did not decide whether the city would help fund the project.

When it was proposed that the city and the Lochland Road East homeowners each pay 10 percent of the project's cost, Councilman Roger Glen said the city needed to be cautious about setting a precedent for helping fund neighborhood street projects.

"The issue is we need to treat everybody in the community the same," he said.

Given how strongly residents feel about the street conditions in this city, he's probably right.



On with the shorter not-so-glitzy show

The People's Choice Awards this year had no live ceremony, no live audience and almost no live viewers. It was a collection of pre-taped clips and the usual, "It's an honor just to be nominated" nonsense. Or so I hear. Like most of you, I didn't watch it.

The Golden Globe Awards show, a completely unnecessary event in the best of times, usually runs three hours long loaded with plenty of celebrity face time. This year it got reduced to an hour of film clips and talking heads. Again, that's just what I hear. Like most of you, I didn't watch it, either. There was no red carpet, no embarrassing acceptance speeches, no fake looks of surprise on the winners' faces.

"Who! Me! A winner! You've got to kidding! I deserted my wife and kids and became an actor to fill this big empty hole inside me — not to win awards! This is such a complete shock!"

These ceremonies weren't trimmed because the celebrities couldn't ad lib such lines as "Nice dress, Angelina," and "It's a pleasure to be here tonight," without union writers, but because most actors are in the Screen Actors Guild and would not cross the Writers Guild picket line.

Union people stick together and help each other. It's the only way millionaire actors can stand up against billionaire producers. Some actors have even let the writers make a little extra money during the strike by hiring them to clean their pools, weed their



Jim Mullen

gardens and baby-sit their kids. It's worked out particularly well since illegal immigrants are getting harder to find while it's easy to find unemployed scriptwriters on every corner. Solidarity forever!

Fortunately for the writers, everyone in Los Angeles is in a union. The musicians, the limo drivers, the red carpet installers, the cameramen, the cops, the firemen, the food handlers, and the cleaning crew, the reporters, the teachers, the migrant workers, the telephone linemen, the electricians. Pool boys and producer's assistants are about the only unaffiliated people in the whole town. So, feel free to exploit them.

The way things are going, it looks as if many of the other awards shows will suffer the same fate as the Golden Globe Awards. The Grammys, the Oscars, the Tonys ... whoops! Never mind, who would notice if they skipped the Tonys? But you get my drift.

I say we should go ahead with the Oscar ceremony anyway, even if no one shows up but the CPAs who counted the ballots. Let some functionary from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences come out and read the nominees and then announce the winners.

After he reads the winner's name he could look in the camera and say, "So-And-So couldn't be here tonight because the mem-

bers of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences would rather loose a few billion dollars than settle. We accept this award on So-And-So's behalf. We would also like to thank their agents, their spouses, their children, their nanas, their parents, their pets, their fans, their producers and anyone they've ever met in their entire life."

I would watch that. If it were, say, a half an hour long. I never understood why there was plenty of time for five, five-minute long musical numbers but not enough time for a \$20-million-a-movie actor to say hello to his parents? Have you ever gone to a movie just because the song they play over the closing credits was nominated for an Oscar? Is that why you went to see "Meet the Parents?" For the music?

Showing an unglitzy, unvarnished awards might add a much-needed touch of humility to the movie business. I mean really — the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences? How pretentious can you get? They're people who make movies, they didn't map the human genome, they didn't discover dark matter, they didn't cure polio. Shakespeare, in his entire life, never belonged to anything as lofty as an Academy of Arts and Sciences — but Lindsay Lohan and Adam Sandler do? Bring it down a notch, would ya?

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

Voice of the People

HEROES WELCOME

We can't all be heroes. Someone has to stand on the curb and clap as they go by.

My family is thankful for the businesses that donated and the citizens of Hastings for their support for our "Welcome Home Heroes" event on Feb. 1. Our son and the soldiers who returned with him to Hastings, and the soldiers who returned previously were overwhelmed with the turnout of people showing their support.

I know firsthand that it takes a lot of hard work to throw together an event such as the one we had that day, but each of our returning military deserve it.

I ask that the family of military let us — the Hastings community — know when your soldier is returning home, so that we can show our support.

Again, thanks for helping us welcome our son and his fellow brothers home to a heroes welcome.

Georgia Whiteley
Hastings

POWER PLANTS DIRTY

Why is Hastings Utilities building another coal-fired power plant when everyone knows the burning of coal is the dirtiest way to generate electrical power?

James Lambert
Hastings

GUN LAWS NOT SENSIBLE

The assassination attempt of President Ronald Reagan and subsequent injury to Jim

Brady brought us the "Brady Bill." It was going to protect us common folks from criminals totting guns.

What followed was a knee-jerk reaction that caused people like me to jump through a set of hoops to be able to legally purchase a gun for hunting, target shooting and self-defense.

Here we are almost 27 years later and what have we seen? Improvement? Safer streets, schools and suburban shopping malls?

No.

We've seen an "Assault" Weapons Ban come and go that only punished shooting sports participants and target shooters.

We've had Columbine, Virginia Tech, Luby's, West Roads Mall in Omaha and now the St. Louis tragedy.

The stats prove the obvious. "Sensible" gun laws are the opposite of "sensible." Gun free zones have now been proven over and over again that they are really only "Good Guy Gun Free Zones." The bad guys who go in those places with the malicious intent to kill innocent people don't pay any attention to those "No Concealed Weapons Allowed" signs plastered all over the place.

Only professionally trained, permitted, law-abiding concealed weapons permit holders pay attention to those signs and the rules they project. And what happens? It's obvious. The bad guy gets to shoot all the people he wants to with no threat of actually being killed himself until his warped, twisted mind actually tells him to turn the barrel to his own head.

Almost every state in our country has some sort of concealed carry law on its books. People must be properly trained, pass background

checks and go through a licensing procedure to carry weapons. They must prove their proficiency with the weapon they intend to carry.

Business owners and managers, public officials, and others who continually ban the legal, trained, and licensed concealed carriers from entering their property are not creating "safe zones" for their patrons and employees. Instead, they are in fact, as proven in the last 27 years, creating "unsafe zones."

One solution is to keep out of these "Good Guy Gun Free Zones." It's really the only way to stay safe until the smart owners, managers and public officials realize the danger they put their customers and patrons in and change their ridiculous regulations.

Rick Schnase
Hastings

Letter Policy

The Hastings Tribune welcomes letters about issues of public interest. Here are some rules:

◆ Letters can be submitted by e-mail: tribune@hastingstribune.com

◆ Letters may be hand-delivered: 908 W. Second St. Or mailed: Voice of the People, P.O. Box 788, Hastings, NE 68902

◆ Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. (The address and phone number will not be published.)

◆ Letters should be 250 words or less. Letters will be edited for length. They also will be edited for spelling, grammar, clarity and content.

◆ Letters should express an opinion or explain why something is important or in the public's interest.

◆ Thank you letters and form letters may be rejected.

◆ Letters submitted within 30 days by the same author on the same issue may be rejected.

◆ Letters of a political nature will not be accepted within seven days of an election.

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Tribune on the Internet: <http://www.hastingstribune.com>;
e-mail: tribune@hastingstribune.com

Overheard: Too much information

Strangers will share the darnedest personal information with others when waiting in airports, sharing a table at a wedding reception or sitting in a dentist's office.

From people I've never seen before and don't expect to see again, I've heard about marriages gone wrong, children taking illegal drugs and the unbelievably high price for the ugliest orange print purse ever to be brought across the border.

The other day in a fast food restaurant, I experienced the ultimate in personal information from a couple sitting next to us.

I heard that the daughter from Wisconsin and the man with whom she was living were coming for a three-day visit and that the parents were perfectly comfortable with the idea of them being together in the same bedroom. I also heard a full description of the brown and gray queen-sized bedspread that had been purchased for the newly decorated room.

I heard about a fabulous diet that resulted in a loss of 30 pounds and four inches around the waist in 60 days, and the new toupee that looked so real no one believed it wasn't his own hair.

I heard about the cashmere sweater, leather coat and black lingerie she bought for a steal during the recent clearance sale.

I heard about their family business, yearly income and their most recent visit with the accountant. In fact, I heard so much information about their finances that I could fill out their income tax form.

During this conversation, I heard a lot about these people who entered my world for a brief time. I heard information they would never have considered telling their neighbors, acquaintances or most of their friends. I heard all this information without ever saying a word, for they were in the booth right behind me talking loudly on their cell phone. The only things I didn't hear were their names.

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

Calendar

HASTINGS

- ◆ **Sunday Sundaes**, 2-3 p.m. Sunday, College View Assisted Living, 1100 N. Sixth Ave. Open to public ages 55 and older.
- ◆ **Alateen**, 5:15 p.m. Sunday, 521 S. St. Joseph Ave.
- ◆ **Al-Anon**, 8 p.m. Sunday and 8 p.m. Monday, First United Methodist Church; and noon Monday, The Kensington.
- ◆ **Panic and Anxiety program**, noon to 1 p.m. Monday. For more information, call 732-940-9658. Overeaters Anonymous, 5-6 p.m. Monday, Mary Lanning Medical Center basement.
- ◆ **Alzheimer's/Dementia Information Session**, 6:30 p.m. Monday, Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital Services Building, Classroom G. For more information, call 402-463-0106.
- ◆ **Gamblers Anonymous**, 6:30 p.m. Monday, Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital Education Building basement, Room D.
- ◆ **Narcotics Anonymous**, 8 p.m. Monday, 401 N. Lincoln Ave.
- ◆ **Chorus of the Plains**, 7:30 p.m. Monday, ballroom of Kensington. Barbershop style music open to men of all ages.

Lotteries

WINNING NUMBERS
Friday
Kansas Pick 3 1-6-0
Nebraska Pick 3 8-5-3
Nebraska Pick 5 6-15-17-34-38
Jackpot: \$66,000
2by2 Red 4-22, White 9-26

Kansas asks for river answers

NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL
BEGINS TO ASSERT
HIS STATE'S POSITION

JOHN MILBURN
The Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas officials have asked those charged with administering an agreement over Republican River water usage for a quick resolution to the latest dispute between Kansas and Nebraska.

Attorney General Stephen Six on Friday asked the Republican River Compact Administration to address within the next 30 days Kansas' concerns that Nebraska is using more water from the river than allowed under a 65-year-old compact.

Six also sent a letter to Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning saying that state needs to remedy the situation.

"Kansas has been more than patient in waiting for Nebraska to take concrete action," Six wrote. "In the face of that

patience, Nebraska has flouted its obligation under the compact and the 2003 settlement. Let me assure you, we are committed to getting our water."

At issue is an agreement between Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado that allocates water from the Republican River to the three states. Kansas contends that Nebraska is taking too much water from the river and is refusing to stop.

Nebraska contends that it is trying to come into compliance with rules on water use set by the U.S. Supreme Court and that Kansas' demands would force Nebraska to shut down wells for more than 40 percent of the irrigated acres in its part of the river basin.

Kansas sued Nebraska and Colorado over the river in 1998, alleging that it wasn't getting the water it was due. In 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court approved a settlement among the three states.

The Republican River Compact Administration is made up of one official from each of the three states.

Kansas' member of the administration, David Barfield, asked that compact

administrators fast-track the matter and consider it at a March 11 meeting. He submitted a 40-page document outlining concerns and technical data on water flowing into Kansas from Nebraska.

"If it turns out that the dispute can't be resolved by the compact administration, we will have to advance the matter to nonbinding arbitration according to resolution procedures already agreed to by our states," said Barfield, chief engineer of the state Department of Agriculture's division of water resources.

Nebraska's member, Ann Bleed, who is the state's top water official and director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, said fast-tracking the issue likely would put more pressure on Nebraska to reach a resolution with Kansas. But she said Nebraska already is on track to be in compliance with the compact over the long-term.

Kansas contends that Nebraska used an extra 82,870 acre feet of water in 2005 and 2006 and continues to take too much water from the river. One acre foot is equal to 325,851 gallons of water.

As a proposed remedy, Kansas has said that Nebraska officials should shut down wells within 2.5 miles of the river and its tributaries where irrigation started after 2000. Kansas also has asked for monetary damages for previous overuse.

Bleed disputed Six's description of Nebraska's concerns about how Kansas calculated water overuse as "minor."

"They are not insignificant," Bleed said of the water accounting issues. "If you think 8,000, 10,000 acre feet of water is insignificant, you have more water than we have."

North and south forks of the Republican flow from northeast Colorado into Nebraska, converging just over the border. The river then flows through southern Nebraska into north-central Kansas and Milford Lake northwest of Junction City. Its basin covers almost 25,000 square miles.

Associated Press Writer Nate Jenkins in Lincoln contributed to this report.



Joyce Ore



Above: Adams County Sheriff's Deputy Jason Ackles watches as Adams Central junior Alyssa Karr uses a magnetic powder to show her fingerprint during a demonstration in her forensic science class Friday. Below: A magnetic powder sticks to a fingerprint placed inside a cup during a demonstration for the class.

AMY ROH/Tribune

The science of fingerprints

SHERIFF'S OFFICER SHOWS
ADAMS CENTRAL STUDENTS
SOME TECHNIQUES USED
BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

WILL VRASPIR

wvraspir@hastingstribune.com

Students at Adams Central High School got a firsthand look at fingerprinting techniques used by law enforcement Friday afternoon at the school.

Adams County Sheriff's Deputy Jason Ackles gave a demonstration on finding fingerprints during a forensic science course at the school, which was added to the curriculum this year. The class uses a college textbook and is an elective for juniors and seniors and can be used as a science requirement for college.

Jay Ceclre, instructor for the course, said the forensic science course was created to show some practical applications for scientific principles learned in other classes.

"It's just a good opportunity to show the kids how it's done aside from me telling them out of a textbook," he said. "There seems to be a pretty big interest in it."

Ceclre said bringing a sheriff's deputy into class gave students a chance to observe techniques up close.

"They're gaining a better understand-



ing of what it takes to solve a crime," he said.

During the lab, Ackles explained how different techniques are used to lift a fingerprint from an object depending upon the situation.

Ackles had each student put a fingerprint into a plastic cup split in half down the middle. Using metal fingerprinting dust and a magnet, students

took turns brushing dust across their fingerprint and watching the print appear as the dust became embedded in the print.

While the metal fingerprinting dust could be used to lift prints from plastic cups, Ackles showed students another substance which can be used to find fin-

Please see PRINTS/page A6

Second road vote Monday

COUNCIL CONTINUES
TO MULL CONTENTIOUS
EAST LOCHLAND ISSUE

SHAY BURK

sburk@hastingstribune.com

The Hastings City Council is scheduled Monday to consider a second reading of the street improvement district on Lochland Road East — an issue that has generated controversy among council members.

The estimated \$1.3-million project would pave the road, which is currently gravel, from U.S. Highway 281 to just east of the Thom Subdivision, including the installation of curbs and gutters.

In September 2007, the City Council had approved a street improvement district for that road only to have it rejected a month later when eight property owners along the road petitioned against it and killed the project.

The issue resurfaced during a City Council work session on Jan. 23 when Mayor Matt Rossen updated the council on meetings he had been having with landowners on possible options to improve the road. They included rebuilding and graveling the road, which would cost an estimated \$100,000, paving the road or maintaining as has been done since the area was annexed by the city in 2006.

At the Jan. 28 meeting, the City Council voted 6-1 for the street improvement district with Councilman Roger Glen dissenting.

The council's discussion wasn't about if the road should be paved as much as it was about how the project should be funded.

The city has secured 80 percent of the funding from the federal government by designating Lochland East as a collector street. According to city policy, the remaining 20 percent is assessed to landowners adjacent to the road.

Rossen suggested three options to the City Council including that the road be left as gravel, that it be paved and the residents pay for it or it be paved and the city pay 10 percent or \$129,000.

That proposal generated discussion at Monday's meeting, which led to a lengthy debate, a divided vote on the street improvement district and the tabling of a letter of intent to landowners.

The City Council is scheduled to take a second vote on the

Please see COUNCIL/page A6

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Local

ADAMS CENTRAL
BOARD TO MEET

The Adams Central Public Schools Board of Education will discuss budget goals and priorities for the 2008-09 school year at its regular meeting 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Adams Central Elementary No. 15 School building.

Other items of interest on the agenda include the pursuit of a facilities study to identify the needs at each of the district's six locations and the adoption of a capacity resolution for the upcoming school year.

At its discretion, the board may also enter into executive closed session to discuss personnel matters before adjourning.

ADAMS COUNTY
BOOKMOBILE

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.
- ◆ YMCA, 1:15-1:45 p.m.
- ◆ Regency Retirement, 2 p.m.
- ◆ HPS Preschool at Hawthorne, 2:15 p.m.

Tuesday

- ◆ Kenesaw School, 9:15-1 p.m.
- ◆ Christ Lutheran School, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday

- ◆ St. Michael's School, 9:45-11 a.m.
- ◆ Homestead, 11:15 a.m.
- ◆ District No. 33, 1:25-2:15 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.

State

DUI CASE

OMAHA — An Elkhorn woman was transporting a state ward when she was arrested for having a blood-alcohol level five times the legal limit.

The Sarpy County Sheriff's Office said 25-year-old Denise Thomson was pulled over Thursday afternoon on Interstate 80 after deputies received several reports of a drunken driver. A field sobriety test measured her blood-alcohol level at 0.415, according to the office.

Thomson was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence, negligent child abuse and two traffic violations. She later posted \$2,000 bail.

The sheriff's office said a girl found in Thomson's car was a state ward. She wasn't hurt, and deputies returned the child to her foster parents.

Thomson works for Beneficial Behavior Health in Omaha, which provides transportation for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

The department said Friday that Beneficial's contract with the state has been suspended pending an investigation.

The Associated Press



AMY ROH/Tribune

Adams Central senior Hai Doan washes off a piece of duct tape that had a solution used specifically for finding fingerprints on the sticky side of tape during a demonstration on fingerprint lifting Friday at the school.

Prints: Adams Central students get lesson on lifting finger marks

Continued from page A5

gerprints on adhesive surfaces, such as tape. Each student used the substance to coat a piece of duct tape and rinsed the tape with water to see the fingerprint appear.

Ackles said an understanding of science is important in fingerprinting to ensure the correct technique is used to preserve the evidence.

"When you're dealing with chemicals, you need to know what things react with each other," he said. "There's different chemicals for different prints, and you need to know what you're dealing with."

Students said they enjoyed

the presentation and liked being able to actively participate.

"It was very interesting," said Addison Heeren, a junior from Juniata. "I knew there was dust, but I didn't know how it was administered."

Tia Mohling, a junior from Glenvil, said it helped her realize how actual forensics differ from television programs.

"Everything's not like on C.S.I.," she said.

Cecrle said the lab went well and heard some students compliment the presentation.

"I think a few of them got more out of it than they thought," he said. "I got a lot out of it, too."

Council: East Lochland issue up for second-round vote

Continued from page A5

street improvement district and reconsider the letter of intent at Monday's meeting.

The session begins 7 p.m. at the City Building, 220 N. Hastings Ave.

On Monday, the council also will:

- ◆ Consider the application of Svoboda and Pryal LLC, doing business as Little Jake's Dancing Country, and Richard Svoboda for a Class CK Liquor License at 1104 W. J St.

- ◆ Consider approval of the lease addendum for a five-year extension of lease with the state of Nebraska for use of office space at Hastings

Police Department.

- ◆ Consider awarding a bid to Frontier Ford for one 2008 Ford Escape Hybrid vehicle for the Hastings Police Department for \$25,500.

- ◆ Consider authorizing the continuation of the Cable TV franchise fees such that 5 percent of gross receipts are paid to the city and of that one percent is paid to the Hastings Public Access Corp.

- ◆ Consider repealing the Hastings City Code regarding disturbing the peace.

- ◆ Consider amending the Hastings City Code pertaining to consumption of alcohol on public property.

Obama, Clinton surrogates keep stumping in state Friday

ANNA JO BRATTON

The Associated Press

LINCOLN — Michelle Obama said she's married to the man who has the character to change the nation's future, while Chelsea Clinton said her mother is the best person to fight for universal health care and bring troops home from Iraq.

Both Democratic presidential campaigns relied on the candidates' family members Friday to rally Nebraskans. State Democrats hold their first-ever presidential caucuses on Saturday.

Chelsea Clinton, daughter of Sen. Hillary Clinton, spoke to a crowd of several hundred people at Creighton University in Omaha on Friday morning.

She said her mother would bring troops home from Iraq quickly but with attention paid to helping Iraqis who assisted the military.

"If she could end the war today, she would," said Chelsea Clinton, who also spoke in Lincoln and Grand Island on Thursday.

But "we have a moral obligation to the men and women who keep our men and women safe," she said.

Chelsea Clinton answered questions from students about health care and said her mother "has been fighting for universal health care since ... before it was fashionable."

Former U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey, a Democrat, introduced Chelsea, asking Nebraskans to vote for her mother. Kerrey is appearing in a TV commercial for Clinton that began airing in Nebraska and elsewhere on Thursday.

Ryan Durham, 20, listened to Chelsea and said he plans to vote for Clinton, although he hopes to see Obama as her running mate.

"Barack has an incredible gift at drawing the masses," Durham said. "He's an amazing speaker. But when you look at things that people really care about, Hillary has the gusto to be able to do what she's going to do."

Meanwhile, Sen. Barack Obama's wife told a crowd of more than 1,000 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Friday afternoon that it's become too difficult for regular people to get by in the United States.

"We're not where we need to be, and we all know that," Michelle Obama said. "We don't know one another. We live in our own neighborhoods and communities and we don't talk to each other. It is 'them' and 'they'; it isn't 'us' anymore."

But she said Barack Obama is the one to change things, not because of what he's done but because of who he is.

"I love my husband, but if he were crazy, I wouldn't be here," Michelle Obama said, drawing laughs from the crowd.

She said her husband opposed the war in Iraq from the beginning, and she criticized those she said pretend it "didn't count" because he wasn't in the Senate.

"He stood up publicly and said, 'This war is wrong,'" Michelle Obama said.

Sara Keene, 45, of Lincoln, and her mother came to hear Michelle Obama speak.

Both are Republicans, but they'll split ways this presidential race.

Keene said she was moved by Barack Obama's message of working together and said his wife's speech helped make up her mind to register as a Democrat and vote for Barack Obama at caucuses Saturday.

"I think this put me over the edge," Keene said after the speech.

Her mother, Mary Jane Sweet, said she'll remain a Republican and vote for John McCain — although she might have been persuaded to switch if another Obama were running.

"She's an amazing woman," Sweet said of Michelle Obama. "I'd vote for her."

Details on today's Democratic caucuses

The Associated Press

◆ **What:** Nebraska Democrats will hold caucuses to pick a presidential nominee.

◆ **When:** Today, various times

◆ **Where:** Go to www.nebraskademocrats.org or call (800) 677-7068 to find the location and time of your caucus.

There is no uniform start time, but all caucuses must finish selecting a presidential preference by 7:30 p.m. in their local time zone.

◆ **What does it mean?**

Nebraska will send 31 delegates to the Democratic National

Convention. Six are superdelegates — party leaders such as Sen. Ben Nelson and state party chairman Steve Achelpohl — who aren't pledged to any candidate. People picked to go to the state convention in August will vote to decide who gets one delegate. The other 24 are bound by the results of Saturday's caucuses.

SOME TIPS

◆ Don't assume your caucus will be held at the same location you usually vote. In most counties, caucuses locations and polling places aren't the same.

◆ If you're not registered to vote, or if you're registered as a Republican or Independent, you can still participate. Find out where your caucus location is and go early, and voter registration cards will be available. You'll be able to register or change parties and vote just like everyone else, and the county chair will turn the registration cards in to election officials. If you will turn 18 by Nov. 4, the date of the general election, you can go to the caucus, register and participate.

◆ Show up early, especially if you need to register or change parties.

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AMY ROH/Tribune

Tatum Grove (left) and Jay Ceperley rub their hands together during a demonstration about electricity Friday at the Hastings Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

Science: Kids get energized

Continued from page A1

A battery stores up energy while a capacitor eats energy, then "barfs up lightning bolts." Mr. Science showed the audience his Tesla Coil. The coil, powerful enough to light a florescent bulb several feet away, shot out purple bolts once Mr. Science turned it on with a remote. He explained that it worked by speeding up electrons.

"I think Mr. Tesla is smarter than Mr. (Thomas) Edison," Mr. Science said. "I think he got a bum rap."

Russanne Erickson, education coordinator for the museum, said after the 11 a.m. show was completed that the day was a success.

"I think it's gone really well," she said. "The kids are interested, the adults are interested and he's keeping their attention the whole time."

Erickson said watching the Tesla Coil light up the florescent light bulb was the most surprising about the presentations for her.

"I never thought of light bulbs being able to light up without being screwed in," she said.

It's important to educate children about electricity, Erickson said, since it is so prevalent.

"A lot of stuff in our collection uses electricity," she said. "The kids use electricity everyday. We want them to be aware of what it can do to you. You don't want them to be afraid of it, but you want them to be safe."

Mr. Science and his assistant, Melany, have several different programs they perform. Erickson said the museum has brought in similar programs in the past and they went over well.

"In the past, we've had electricity exhibits and they're very popular," she said. "We wanted to stick with electricity, but see if we could get somebody different in here."

Perkins said every child is a scientist until they're taught not to be.



AMY ROH/Tribune

Chase Jacobson, a fourth-grader at R-4 Phelps County Elementary School, transfers electricity from a plasma ball to a light bulb during the Mr. Science show Friday.

"They're curious and they build on their knowledge to gain a larger body of knowledge," he said. "Basically, that's the scientific method at work. If we structure their understanding of how to build that knowledge in their heads, they're going to be able to understand more things."

Hastings chamber makes plans for annual meeting, awards banquet

'LOVE IS IN THE AIR'
WHEN GROUP GATHERS
WEDNESDAY

WILL VRASPIR

wvraspir@hastingstribune.com

The Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce will conduct its annual meeting Wednesday at the Adams County Fairgrounds, 947 S. Baltimore Ave.

The theme for this year is "Love is in the Air," for the Sweethearts Banquet, said Sherri Patterson, one of the organizers of the banquet. In 2007, a Mardi Gras theme was used.

"We try to do things different each year," she said.

Live music will be provided by a live quartet from Hastings College during the social hour from 5-6:45 p.m. Supper will be served at 7 p.m.

Three main awards will be presented at the banquet: the Outstanding Community Service Award, Pioneer Spirit Award and Max Award.

Patterson said the community service award recognizes outstanding work done in a business or community service.

The spirit award is presented to someone who makes a signif-

icant contribution to the community in leadership or philanthropy, she said.

The Max award is given to a significant contributor to the chamber or the community in recent months.

"We want to recognize what's going on in the community," Patterson said.

During the program, a presentation about the community survey for the retail oversight committee will be given. A review of 2007 also will be presented, along with a look ahead to 2008.

For more information or to reserve seats, call the Hastings chamber, 402-461-8400.

Kenesaw: Proposed bond issue would cover gym, track project

Continued from page A1

And more reasonable hours spent on campus means more family time together at home — something parents like Gallagher value highly, she said. With new facilities, the school would be able to play host to district and conference track, volleyball, and basketball events, rather than traveling off campus for home games.

"We can't host meets or games because we're limited in size," Gallagher said. "At this time, you may have girls practice early and boys practice late."

Superintendent Jim Troshynski said the school's current facilities are insufficient to house its many extracurricular activities. The overlap in activities places an undue strain on parents trying to manage the schedules of their children.

"There's a definite need," Troshynski said. "We have students that are here until 8 o'clock at night and later because of having only one gymnasium. We have to use the gym for our drama pro-

gram because that's where our stage is.

"When we have play practice, it's got to be at a time when there's nothing else going on in the gym. Sometimes you run pretty late."

Likewise, he said, there's simply no place for students who run track to train on campus. And because of it, most athletes take to the streets to stay fit — something school officials reluctantly allow.

"We have kids running out on the street now, warming up and practicing out there," he said. "And that's probably not very safe. We have nowhere else to go."

The proposed ground rubber track represents only about 10 percent of the overall bond, Gallagher said. Grouping it together with the gymnasium project seems to make good sense from a financial standpoint, she said.

"We're going for the track at the same time as the gym because they'll already be doing site prep work and

drainage in the area," she said. "So while they are at it, it's a good time to put that track in at a low cost."

Additionally, a grant applied for by the bond committee from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality — if obtained — would pay for 25 percent of the track's surfacing cost.

Ultimately, Gallagher said, the gymnasium and track will more than pay for themselves over time. In addition to benefiting those already living in Kenesaw, the attractive facilities would serve to make the community more appealing to prospective residents, she said.

"This is money well spent to attract teachers and new families to our community," she said. "For community benefits, we have many town teams that will also be able to practice there, upon availability. The town will also be welcome to walk on the track."

Volunteers still are needed to promote the bond election. For information, call Pam Hoffmann at 402-744-2901.

Honor: Post office receives OSHA award

Continued from page A1

attended the recognition ceremony at the post office, 300 N. Kansas Ave., Friday afternoon.

Nebraska Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy was on hand to congratulate the Hastings employees for winning the prestigious award.

"I understand the conditions that our postal workers have to deal with not only here but throughout the city with rain, snow and sleet," he said. "Not only have you met the general basic requirements and the meritorious requirements, but you are a star."

OSHA area director Ben Bare presented the award to Ferguson and the VPP Core Team in Hastings that has worked to earn the recognition.

"I commend all of you again on your great accomplishment," Bare said. "You know that safety can make a difference and I encourage you to promote safety throughout the community. Your knowledge of safety is a gift."

Bare said that achieving the Star rank isn't easy for any business, especially in today's society where people have learned to expect accidents at work.

"Once we overcome that mindset the journey gets a lot easier," he said. "At VPP sites, safety is part of the culture and values. Employees value safety as much as producing a quality product."

The Hastings post office is the third post office in the state and second business in Hastings to achieve this high honor. Eaton Corp., 300 E. 39th St., is the only other company in Hastings to have VPP Star status.

Hastings Mayor Matt Rossen said he wasn't surprised that the post office was receiving this special safety award.

"There is no question that you are well deserving of this," he said. "Your service that you are providing us on a daily basis is second to none."



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Berkshire Hathaway B	4.592	+54.00
ConAgra	21.00	-29
Eaton Corp.	80.48	+11
Ingersoll Rand	37.38	-89
Level 3	3.00	NC
McDonald's	55.64	+1.18
PepsiCo	69.81	-60
TierOne	19.11	-1.59
Tricon Global Restaurants	34.15	-21
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MICHAEL HOLAHAN/AP

Floyd Moore tracks his weight, pulse rate and blood pressure and then enters all of the information into his home computer for transmission to his medical team Feb. 2 in Augusta, Ga.

Tracking your own health records

STUDIES BEING DONE TO
FIND OUT IF THIS CAN
MAKE YOU HEALTHIER

LAURAN NEERGAARD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Just like with do-it-yourself taxes, a growing software industry lets patients create their own “personal health records.” No more answering 10-page questionnaires every time you visit a new doctor — just hit the print button before leaving home to arrive armed with your life’s medical history.

Doctors have been slow to switch from error-prone paper records to digital ones, so the trend promises to empower patients to take matters into their own computers.

But can using personal health records, or PHRs, actually make you healthier? The government is spending millions on the first studies to find out — and if so, the findings would give doctors a big push to get on board.

The idea: Put records from every health encounter in one patient-controlled spot, such as a password-protected Internet site. Then if you travel, change doctors, or a disaster destroys paper charts — like when Hurricane Katrina flooded doctors’ offices — you’ll always have on hand information that could prove crucial.

But the quality and scope of PHR programs varies widely, and a good one is supposed to be more than a static repository.

Say someone with hypertension

starts listing morning blood pressure in a PHR that automatically creates a graph. It shows a pattern of spikes that a one-time check in the doctor’s office never would catch, prompting a call for help.

More sophisticated programs allow e-mails for prescription refills, automatic downloads of lab-test results, even blood pressure monitors that plug into the computer to directly record measurements.

“As patients, we don’t think of ourselves as the person driving the health care,” says Dr. Peggy Wagner of the Medical College of Georgia, who is leading one of the studies. PHRs may be “changing what it means to be a patient.”

“People want all their information at their fingertips,” adds Dr. Julie Gerberding, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

She says PHRs are evolving much as online financial tools for tax preparation did, eventually giving people more control and understanding of complicated data.

Yet just having a PHR isn’t automatically better than a family keeping good paper records.

“It’s not about a PHR in every pot. It’s about PHRs that make a difference,” says Dr. Jon White, health technology chief for the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

So his agency is funding four unique projects around the country — in California, Georgia, Iowa and Virginia — to compare whether patients randomly assigned to use strong PHRs fare better than their counterparts who don’t go digital. The studies will measure such



MICHAEL HOLAHAN/AP

Floyd Moore uses this device to check his blood pressure and pulse rate Feb. 2 in Augusta, Ga. He also tracks his weight and then enters all of the information into his home computer for transmission to his medical team.

things as improvement of chronic diseases, use of cancer screenings and immunizations, and proper medication use.

The Medical College of Georgia, for example, will track 720 patients with high blood pressure. Half will get standard care. Half will be taught to use a PHR that links directly to the health system’s own records plus allowing patients to record daily blood pressure, diet and other lifestyle factors and e-mail doctors.

Floyd Moore, 60, of Augusta, Ga., is pilot-testing the program. He has congestive heart failure, and uses the PHR daily to record both his blood pressure and fluctuations in weight that could signal dangerous fluid retention.

But he’s finding more valuable the PHR’s warnings about interactions between various prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Moore also has a kidney condition and arthritis, and says his different doctors’ paper records seldom have his slew of medications completely up to date.

“It’s always something that’s changed,” says Moore, who prints his PHR medication record and brings it to every appointment.

President Bush says all Americans should have electronic health records by 2014. That focus has been on converting patients’ formal charts — the records controlled by hospitals and doctors — from paper to digital, to reduce paperwork costs and medical errors.

Environmentally friendly inhalers coming — at a hefty price

BARBARA ANDERSON
Fresno Bee

Asthma inhalers are going green. And users are seeing red over paying more for the new, environmentally friendly devices.

But like it or not, asthmatics who carry inhalers containing albuterol, a quick-acting drug that opens airways, will be switched to new inhalers soon — if they haven’t already — that are free of chlorofluorocarbons, an ozone-depleting propellant.

The old devices — called CFC inhalers — will be banned for use in the United States on Dec. 31.

Pharmacists say it’s increasingly difficult to order CFC inhalers. Manufacturers began phasing them out a year or two ago for inhalers that contain hydrofluoroalkane, or HFA, a more ozone-friendly propellant. The propellant forces a dose of medication out of the inhaler.

The new inhalers are as effective as the old ones, pharmacists and doctors say. But they’re more expensive and operating them requires some getting used to.

Overall, prices of the new inhalers are higher because there are no generic versions, said Nancy Asai, a pharmacist in Fresno, Calif. And that means higher insurance co-payments for the brand-name drugs. The new inhalers typically cost from \$45 to \$65, Asai said.

One brand of inhaler, ProAir HFA, is available for about \$30 at some discount pharmacies. But the old generic albuterol inhalers cost less than that.

The hope is prices for the new inhalers will drop in the future, Asai said.

David Harvey, 40, a Fresno radio salesman, paid about \$25 for his albuterol inhaler a year ago. Today, he pays about \$45 for the drug.

The government ban on CFC inhalers is in response to the 1987 Montreal Protocol, an international pact that called for the elimination of ozone-depleting chemicals.

The new inhalers are good for the environment, said Dr. Richard DeMera, a Fresno allergist. “We needed to do this,” he said. “But patients are having to pay a higher co-pay for their inhalers.”

Patients need education about the new inhalers, said Corbin Bennett, pharmacy clinical operations manager at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Fresno.

Kaiser pharmacists will counsel patients when they make the switch to new inhalers in September or October, Bennett said. Kaiser members will not pay more for the ozone-friendly inhalers, he said.

Dr. Malik Baz, an allergist, said the new inhalers provide the same dose of medicine. He began prescribing the new inhalers about two years ago.

He encourages patients to keep trying the ozone-friendly inhalers. Said Baz: “All the studies show they work very effectively.”

For more information about asthma inhalers check out the following Web sites:

www.lungusa.org (search CFC inhalers in the Web site)

www.mayoclinic.com/health/asthma-inhalers/HQ01081

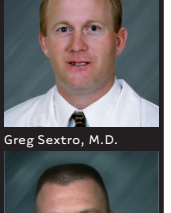
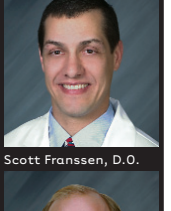
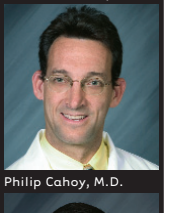
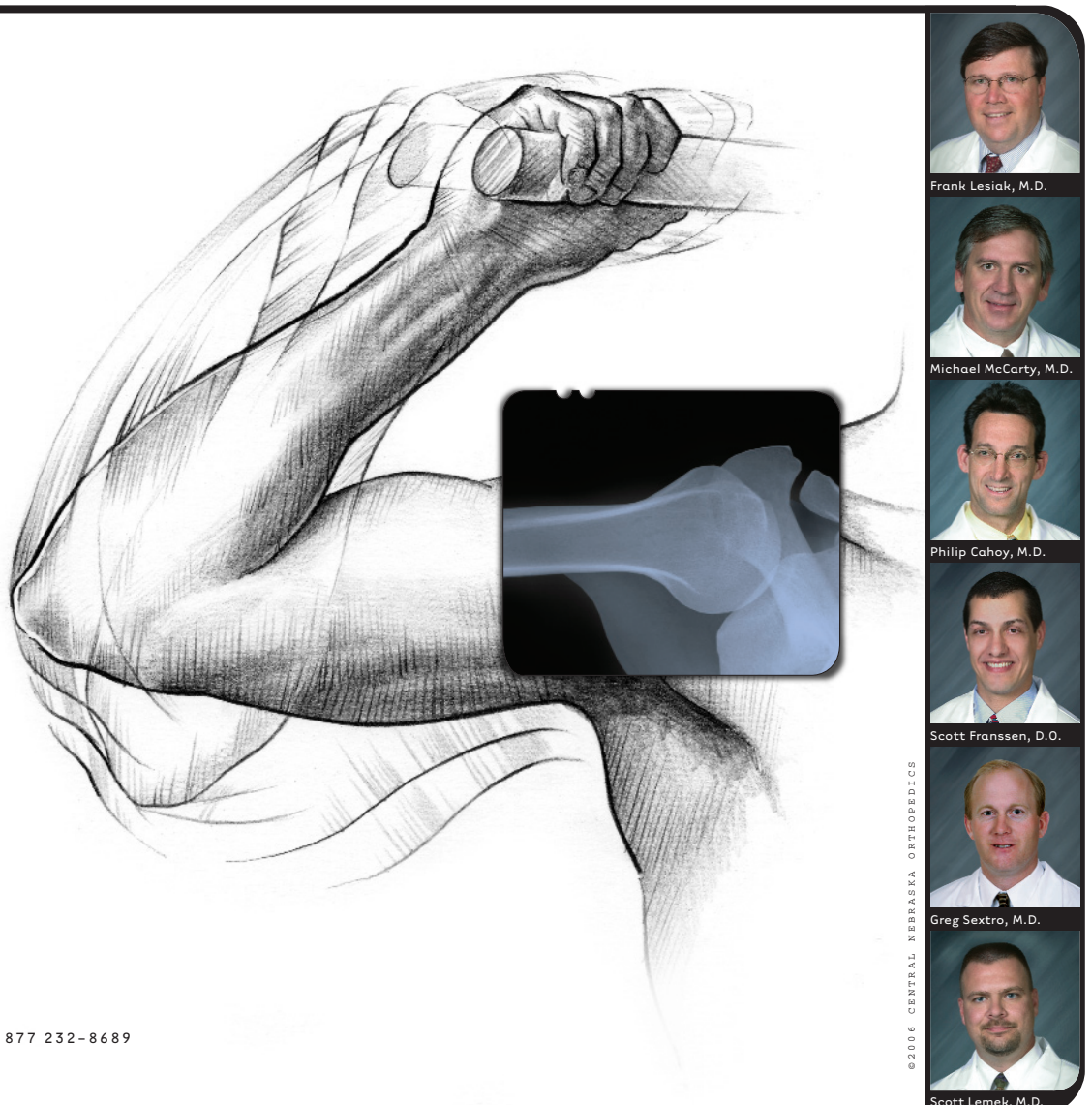
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Bluehawks stuff GICC

ST. CECILIA HOLDS NO. 4 CRUSADERS TO SEASON-LOW 34 POINTS

RYAN MURKEN

rmurken@hastingstribune.com

GRAND ISLAND — Grand Island Central Catholic has made a habit over the past several years of winning games with solid man-to-man defense.

On Friday night, St. Cecilia beat the Crusaders at their own game.

St. Cecilia limited Class C-2 No. 4 GICC to 28-percent shooting from the field and hit 6-of-9 free throws in the final four minutes to hold off the Crusaders 41-34 in a defensive battle.

Riley Nikkila scored nine of his team-high 14 points in the first half and Jake Hamburger added 12 as Class C-1 No. 7 St. Cecilia improved to 15-2.

"We played very good team defense," St. Cecilia interim co-head coach Rob Kober said. "We had guys who stepped up on their shooters and we didn't give up many second chances. That was huge."

GICC dropped to 13-6 with its fifth loss of the season to a ranked opponent by fewer than seven points.

"I thought our defensive effort, our effort overall was championship-like. There is no other way to



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

St. Cecilia's Jake Hamburger (25) defends GICC's Jake O'Connor (20) Friday night in Grand Island.

put it," GICC coach Bill Gavers said. "I thought both sides gave championship efforts."

Both teams had season lows in points Friday, but it was St. Cecilia that found enough offense to win.

Hamburger's only field goal of the second half, a fadeaway jumper with 5:22 left in the fourth quarter, gave St. Cecilia a five-point cushion. Nikkila sealed the game with a tip-in

with 1:20 left that put the Bluehawks up by seven.

Led by Nikkila and Hamburger, St. Cecilia was efficient on offense — shooting 42 percent from the field while committing nine turnovers.

"We talked to our kids about we had to play as tough on defense as we could. And when they missed, we had to come down and be as patient as we could," Kober said. "We wanted to make them play defense. And if we did that, we thought we could be successful."

St. Cecilia never trailed Friday, scoring the first four points of the game. The Bluehawks used extended man-to-man defense to force GICC into six turnovers in the first quarter, building a six-point lead after eight minutes of play.

With the game tied 8-all Nikkila scored a fastbreak basket after a GICC turnover. Less than a minute later, Hamburger converted a layup following another GICC miscue.

Dalton Sealey's putback with three seconds left in the first quarter gave St. Cecilia a 16-10 lead.

"We got hurt with a couple of turnovers early in the game, maybe three or four of which led to points — and then second shots," Gavers said. "Those are areas that we have to take care of to be a championship-

Please see STC/page B3



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

St. Cecilia's Dalton Sealey (3) grabs a rebound and puts it back in the hoop in between Grand Island Central Catholic's Jake O'Connor (left) and Sam Bolton (22) during the first half of their game in Grand Island Friday night.

GNAC DIVING



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

Above: Hastings High's Cammie Koopman performs a dive during the GNAC diving meet Friday at the Hastings Family YMCA. Right: HHS senior Kathryn Johnson performs a dive.

KOOPMAN, JOHNSON TAKE TOP TWO SPOTS FOR HHS GIRLS

VINCE KUPPIG

vkuppig@hastingstribune.com

Hastings High divers Cammie Koopman and Kathryn Johnson have gotten used to finishing right next to each other over the years.

Friday afternoon's Greater Nebraska Athletic Conference diving meet at the Hastings Family YMCA was no different. For the second straight year, the two Hastings High seniors finished first and second.

After Johnson won the title last year, it was Koopman who claimed top honors this time.

"It feels really good," Koopman said. "Me and Kathryn did really good. It's an awesome feeling."

"We're pretty much the same person. We're like each other's coaches. I help her with things, and she helps me with a lot of things. We just coach each other and keep each other going throughout the year."

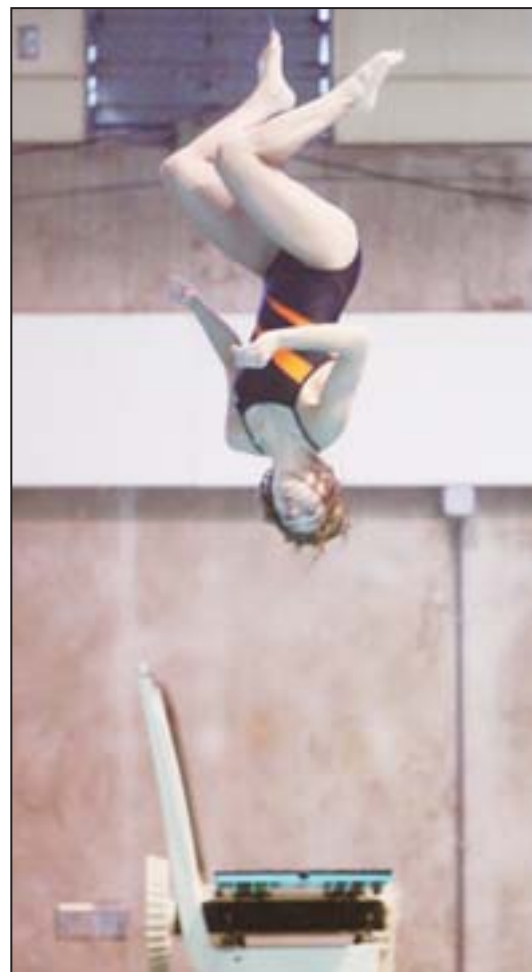
Koopman finished with a score of 300.55, while Johnson was second with 290.79 points. On the boys side, senior Joe Cockrell led the Tigers with a third-place finish with a score of 301.05. McCook's Matt Hall won the boys competition with 420.45 points, the second best score in the state this season.

The swimming competition of the conference meet is set to start today at 9 a.m.

While HHS coach Ed Rief was pleased with where his divers finished, he would have liked to see better scores out of the three.

"The point totals were a little disappointing," he said. "Not bad — but to be honest, their practice effort wasn't there this week. I'm sure that had as much to do with the low scores as anything."

Please see DIVING/page B3



Patriots advance eight to semis

HHS HAS FIVE WRESTLERS IN DISTRICT SEMIFINALS

HASTINGS TRIBUNE

sports@hastingstribune.com

YORK — Adams Central had eight wrestlers advance to the semifinals after the first day of the Class B, District 3 meet Friday. Ryan Alexander (103), Adam Joseph (119), Jake Johnson (130), Alex Rostvet (135), Nick Lonowski (145), John Lindblad (152), Richard Coats (160) and Riley Larsen (285) will be competing in the semifinals today. Travis Rust (140) and Dan Eddy (112) are still alive in the consolation bracket.

Hastings High had five wrestlers advance to the semifinals after the first day of the Class B, District 3 meet Friday. Adam Jorgensen (125), David Gonzalez (135), Kip Kiplinger (171), Ethan Rundle (189) and Jon Uden (285) will compete in the semifinals today. Phil Nelson (140) and Kellen Fraser (145) are still competing in the consolations.

Minden's Bryce Lewis (130), Clint Birnie (125), Brandon Lewis (189) and Matthew Favinger (215) will all be returning today in the consolations.

Wrestling begins today at 9 a.m.

C-3 DISTRICT

ST. PAUL — St. Cecilia had three wrestlers advance to the semifinals after the first day of Class C, District 3 meet Friday. Austin Wilson (119), Joe Tickle (125) and Jordan Stovall (171) will compete in the semifinals today. Brice Faber (135), Spencer Suminski (140), Grady McMahon (160), and Justin Nathan (189) are still competing in the consolations.

Red Cloud/Blue Hill had four wrestlers advance to the semifinals. Brock Hansen (119), Jared Krueger (130), Brett Rupprecht (135) and Chase Henderson (145) will be competing in the semifinals today. Taylor Premer (125), Tyler Haskins (140), Nathan Petska (152) and Art Oblerlechner (215) will be competing the consolation matches.

Please see WRESTLING/page B3

Subdistrict play starts Monday for girls teams

RYAN MURKEN

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Basketball coaches around the state have been talking to their teams for more than three months about peaking at the right time.

The time that coaches have been referring to begins Monday as subdistrict play begins in classes C-1, C-2, D-1 and D-2.

Just how important is it to be playing your best when the postseason roles around?

Since 2003, only four teams (Bellevue West in 2006, South Sioux City and Humphrey St. Francis in 2005 and Crofton last season) have won a state title after qualifying for the state tournament as a wild-card team. During that same five-year span, wild-card teams have a losing record (48-56) in games at the state tournament.

Of the wild-card teams that reached the state tournament last season, only Crofton reached the championship game.

Please see SUBDISTRICTS/page B2

Tribland girls basketball roundup

Hastings High 57
Norris 45
NORRIS — Hastings High defeated Norris 57-45. Melanie Patrick led HHS with 15 points. **HHS (8-9)** 10 15 17 15—57
Norris (10-6) 7 12 11 15—45

Hastings
Taylor Powers 4, Allison Kern 8, Rikki Lay 8, Melanie Patrick 15, Teri Schaefer 3, Kaylin Cook 9, Sadie Martin 8, Alex Price 2.

Red Cloud 35
Kenesaw 32
KENESAW — Red Cloud defeated Kenesaw 35-32 Friday.

Katy Meline led the Warriors with 12 points. Teammates Anna Eberly and Katie Danehey each added eight points in the win.

Jill Kroll led Kenesaw with nine points.
Red Cloud (12-9) 12 11 6 6—35
Kenesaw (14-6) 8 9 11 4—32

Hannah Bailey 1, Katy Meline 12, Anna Eberly 8, Katie Danehey 8, McKayla Kucera 6,
Kenesaw (32)
Brianna Bittfield 2, Jill Kroll 9, Megan Adams 6, Hannah Uden 7, Deidre Ground 6, Elise Lukow 2.

Bruning-Davenport 55
Franklin 28
FRANKLIN — Bruning-

Davenport girls basketball team defeated Franklin 55-28 Friday.

Cecelia Catlett led B-D with 22 points while Kelsey Otto had 18.

Rachel Walton led the Flyers with 13 points. Taylor Randall added 10 points.
B-D (10-10) 9 10 14 22—55
Franklin (2-16) 17 10 7 4—28

Bruning-Davenport (55)
Nikki Tegtmeyer 2, Lichelle Schroeder 5, Cecelia Catlett 22, Miranda Remmers 2, Kelsey Otto 18, Britney Stearns 2, Mindy Blunk 2, Nicole Nordner 2
Franklin (28)
Taylor Randall 10, Taylor Lucas 2, Rachelle Lennemann 2, Leslie Hammergren 1, Rachel Walton 13

Giltner 72
Hampton 53
GILTNER — Giltner defeated Hampton 72-53 Friday.

Stacie Ott led the Hornets with 23 points while Lisa Lockmon tallied 12 points. Chelsie White and Gretchen Kreutz each added 10 points each in the win.
Hampton (6-12) 10 21 11 11—53
Giltner (16-4) 14 25 13 20—72

Alex Hosier 4, Lisa Lockmon 12, Kassidi Burson 2, Bridget Meyer 2, Gretchen Kreutz 10, Khylla Straff 9, Stasia Ott 23, Chelsie White 10
Hampton (53)
Sadie Shoup 17, Sarah Steban 2, Kaylee Klute 4, Sheilla Smith 13, Krystal Nunnenkarp 10, Caitlin Carlson 13

Lawrence-Nelson 33
Superior 23
NELSON — Lawrence-Nelson defeated Superior 33-23.

Mackenzie McCartney led Lawrence-Nelson with 13 points while teammate Deidrea Schendt added six points for the Raiders.

Stacia Gebers led Superior with six points.
Superior (10-7) 2 6 9 6—23
L-N (12-8) 12 3 11 7—33

Lawrence-Nelson (33)
Jaycee Jacobitz 5, Brittany Julie Wehrman 5, Deidrea Schendt 6, Mackenzie McCartney 13, Rebecca Kathman 2
Superior (23)
Jessica Petsch 2, Heidi Wilt 3, Sam Price 5, Brittanee Simonsen 4, Stacia Gebers 6, Shae Tuma 1, Sarah Wood 2

Wood River 38
Doniphan-Trumbull 22
DONIPHAN — Doniphan-Trumbull fell to Wood River 38-22.

Jordyn Mlinar led the Cardinals with 10 points.
Wood River (7-11) 14 13 4 7—38
D-T (5-15) 4 9 8 1—22

Wood River (38)
Becky Boshart 8, Nichole Mead 6, Sarah Roth 3, Morgan Fischer 7, Lacey Woitaszewsk 2, Britney Spiels 4, Markeya Dubbs 8
Doniphan-Trumbull (22)
Jordyn Mlinar 10, Dayna Kathman 2, Jena Schlatz 2, Andrea Toben 1, Kayla Gruener 7

Rock Hills 51
Jewell 21
MANKATO — The Rock Hill girls basketball team defeated Jewell 51-21 Friday.

Bethany Jeffery led the Grizzlies with nine points.
Jewell 2 4 4 11—21
Rock Hills 14 13 13 11—51

Rock Hills (51)
Hillary Callaway 5, Amanda Fleming 4, Kayla Sholtz 1, Chelsie Beam 2, Katie Hesting 4, Regan Jeffery 4, Bethany Jeffery 9, Maddie Warne 4, Shelby Smith 8, Breanna Webb 5, Jessica Hancock 2, Ashley Lorence 3

Jewell (21)
Simmelnik 6, Renken 7, Garrett 2, Greene 6

McCool Junction 54
Clay Center 34
MCCOOL JUNCTION — The Clay Center girls basketball team fell to McCool Junction 54-34 Friday.

Ashley Boman led Clay Center with 14 points.
Clay Center (4-14) 14 10 9 1—34
MCJ (9-10) 12 11 15 16—54

McCool Junction (54)
Young 4, White 14, Hall 2, Hess 10, Jackson 3, Stevens 10, Momer 11
Clay Center (34)
Abby Sorensen 8, Jessie Sorensen 8, Ashley Boman 14, Brendell Studnicka 4

Exeter-Milligan 59
Shickley 43
EXETER — Class D-1 No. 8 Exeter-Milligan defeated Shickley 59-43 Friday.

Megan Kuska led Exeter-Milligan with 16 points while Katie Briske tallied 11 points for the Timberwolves.

Stephanie Swartzendruber led the Shickley with 13 points. Megan Alfs added 10 points for the Longhorns
Shickley (3-14) 6 14 6 17—43
E-M (16-4) 15 13 17 14—59

Exeter-Milligan (59)
Tina Kassik 9, Amber Filipi 7, Moore 5, Katie Briske 4, Kim Sladek 6, Megan Kuska 16, Heather Pribyl 5, Mackenzie Thomsen 2, Kayti Mark 5

Shickley (43)
Megan Alfs 10, Kyle Schweitzer 6, Nikki Kluna 1, Stephanie Swartzendruber 13, Anna Brinkman 3, Caressa Reinsch 6, Emilee Doll 4

Blue Hill 57
Deshler 52
DESHLER — The Blue Hill girls basketball team defeated Deshler 57-52 Friday.

Alyssa Willicott and Amber Himmelberg led the Bobcats with 14 points each. Elizabeth Lipker added 11 points in the win.

Ashley Dahl led Deshler with

23 points while Tara Herbek tallied 12 points
Blue Hill (18-3) 11 19 12 15—57
Deshler (12-6) 12 14 5 21—52

Blue Hill (57)
Alyssa Willicott 14, Amber Himmelberg 14, Elizabeth Lipker 11, Rachel VanBoening 8, Madison Coffey 5, Chrissy Hubl 5
Deshler (52)
Ashley Dahl 23, Tara Herbek 12, Shelby Pahl 9, Emily Pohlmann Bethany Meyer 2, Amanda Schardt 2

Sandy Creek 44
Fillmore Central 40
GENEVA — The Sandy Creek girls basketball team defeated Fillmore Central 44-40.

Molly Hinrichs led Sandy Creek with 13 points. Teammates Keriann Shaw and Beth Kohmetscher both added nine points for the Cougars.

Fillmore Central's Emily Pribyl had 16 points while Connie Jones added eight points.
SC (12-9) 12 13 11 8—44
FC (4-14) 8 9 10 13—40

Sandy Creek (44)
Shelby Hinrichs 2, Keriann Shaw 9, Molly Hinrichs 13, Beth Kohmetscher 9, Brooke Soucie 1, Danielle Harms 6, Morgan Meyer 4
Fillmore Central (40)
Christine Ochser 2, Connie Jones 8, Morgan Kleinschmidt 5, Katherine Roemlich 7, Emily Pribyl 16, MariBeth Capek 2

Tribland boys basketball roundup

Smith Center 67
Hill City 54
SMITH CENTER — The Smith Center boys basketball team defeated Hill city 67-54 Friday.

Jared Hayes led Smith Center with 16 points. Braden Wilson added 14 points for the Redmen.

Hill City 8 14 13 19—54
Smith Center 20 22 14 11—67

Smith Center (67)
Drew Joy 2, Jared Hayes 16, Joe Windscheffel 8, Landon Hubbard 2, Braden Wilson 14, Brayton Gillen 3, Jared Mccaby 22
Hill City (54)
Vap 6, Thompson 4, Miller 8, Gerstner 9, McDonald 6, VanLoenen 15, Pfeifer 6

Rock Hills 63
Jewell, Kan. 44
MANKATO — The Rock Hills boys basketball team defeated Jewell, Kan. 63-44 Friday.

The Grizzlies were led by Lee Simon with 28 points while Brice Ost tallied 11 points. Neal Jeffery added 10 points in the win.
Jewell 12 9 11 12—44
Rock Hills 10 15 18 20—63

Rock Hills (63)
Lee Simon 28, Riley Sholtz 2, Zane Hesting 8, Neal Jeffery 10, Josh Sudermann 2, Matt Broeckelman 2, Brice Ost 11
Jewell (44)
McMillan 17, Wilson 22, Rice 2, Bohnert 2, Lienberger 1

Kenesaw 57
Red Cloud 39
KENESAW — The Kenesaw boys basketball team defeated Red Cloud 57-39 Friday

Evan Bender led the Blue Devils with 15 points while Taylor Jacobitz tallied nine points in the win.

Wes Olson led Red Cloud with 14 points.
Red Cloud (8-12) 13 8 4 14—39
Kenesaw (11-6) 13 15 14 15—57

Kenesaw (57)
Evan Bender 15, Taylor Jacobitz 9, Ethan Volzke 7, Brandon Stevens 8, Trevor Stickle 6, Matt Cline 5, Brody Rossow 3, Kirk Marble 2, Jeremy Shurigar 2
Red Cloud (39)
Wes Olson 14, Aaron Wescoat 7, Jon Schriener 6, JayDee Snell 5, Kasey Ord 3, Patrick Hoyt 2, James Danehey 2

Thayer Central 56
Southern 53
WYMORE — The Thayer Central boys basketball team defeated Class C-2 No. 7 Southern 56-53 Friday.

Caleb Kenner led the Titans with 29 points including the game winner in the final seconds.

Teammate Jordan Winn had 16 points while Seth Wiedel added seven points.
TC (8-9) 12 16 13 15—53
Southern (15-4) 19 14 12 8—56

Thayer Central (56)
Caleb Kenner 29, Jordan Winn 16, Seth Wiedel 7, Nick Long 3, Michael Elting 1

Southern (53)
Drew Porter 13, Philip McCoure 12, Matt Baehr 10, Craig Trump 9, Ross Barr 7, Dillon Epp 2

Doniphan-Trumbull 55
Wood River 33
DONIPHAN — The Doniphan-Trumbull boys basketball team defeated Wood River 55-33 Friday.

Taylor Fjeldheim led the Cardinals with 19 points. Teammate Kelan Buhr added 15 points while Ryan Fjeldheim tallied six points.
WR (6-12) 11 9 7 6—33
D-T (6-14) 15 15 7 18—55

Doniphan-Trumbull (55)
Nik Neffe 2, Kelan Buhr 15, Cory Telecky 3, Ryan Fjeldheim 6, Taylor Fjeldheim 19, Aaron Armon 4, Jered Jones 2, Kaleb Lilienthal 2, Rhyder Nelson 2
Wood River (33)
Tim Rennau 4, Luke Wiseman 5, Skyler Wissing 15, Lucas Bofhart 3, Mitch Bofhart 2, Jeremy Uhrich 4

Deshler 60
Blue Hill 43
DESHLER — Class C-2 No. 3 Deshler defeated Blue Hill 60-43 Friday.

Kale Meyer led the Dragons with 20 points. Brady Firley added 17 points on 4-for-6 shooting from beyond the 3-point line while Dan Werner tallied 14 points and four blocked shots.

Blue Hill's Riley Bonifas was

4-for-6 from the field and finished with 10 points to lead the Bobcats.

Jacob Bachman had nine points for Blue Hill while Bryan Adams added six points and four assists.
Blue Hill (10-10) 16 11 7 9—43
Deshler (18-1) 12 16 17 15—60

Deshler (60)
Jens Scholl 7, Brady Firley 17, Kale Meyer 20, Corey Loupin 2, Dan Werner 14
Blue Hill (43)
Riley Bonifas 10, Bryan Adams 6, Jeff Hubl 2, Travis Lowery 6, Jacob Bachman 9, Travis Toepfer 7, Corey Willicott 3

Sutton 59
Fillmore Central 32
SUTTON — The Sutton boys basketball team defeated Fillmore Central 59-32 Friday.

Brooks Wiebe led the Mustangs with 19 points. Teammate Taylor Schlautman added 18 points while Morgan Robbins tallied seven points.

Dustin Hinrichs led Fillmore Central with 18 points while Riley Bohlken tallied eight points for the Panthers.
FC (1-15) 10 10 4 8—32
Sutton (11-7) 10 11 15 23—59

Sutton (59)
Brooks Wiebe 19, Paul Van Kirk 4, Cory Griess 3, Chad Sheridan 2, Levi Ochser 2, Taylor Schlautman 18, Lance Gemar 2, Morgan Robbins 7, Lance Griess 2
Fillmore Central (32)
Dustin Hinrichs 18, Shawn Yates 4, Riley Bohlken 8, Cody Chaney 2

Clay Center 45
McCool Junction 44
MCCOOL JUNCTION — The Clay Center boys basketball team defeated McCool Junction 45-44 Friday.

Francois Doumont led the Wildcats with 15 points. Teammate Andrew Malone added 11 points while James Martin tallied eight points.
CC (11-7) 10 7 12 16—45
MCJ (8-10) 5 16 15 8—44

Clay Center (45)
Andrew Malone 11, Jordan Franklin 2, James Martin 8, Francois Doumont 15, Alex Johnson 2, Brodderick Dillon 7
McCool Junction (44)
Adam Cheek 5, Dalen Hall 14, Damon Winn 10, Creighton Chrisman 4, Jeremy Coffey 2, Preston Bolte 9

Hampton 53
Giltner 46
GILTNER — The Giltner boys basketball team fell to Class D-2 No. 8 Hampton 53-46 Friday.

Shay Hinrichs led Giltner with 12 points while Brock Hinrichs tallied 11 points.
Hampton (16-3) 13 13 18 9—53
Giltner (12-7) 15 11 8 12—46

Hampton (53)
Alex Dose 6, Marcus Garrison 16, Dwayne Wall 15, D. J. Barmesburger 2, Dylan Barmesburger 4, Kyle Ediger 8, Chris Arnett 2
Giltner (46)
Ben Harmon 4, Cody Schacht 8, Brock Hinrichs 11, Shay Hinrichs 12, Nate Most 7, Trevor Scheil 4

Exeter-Milligan 62
Shickley 37
EXETER — Exeter-Milligan defeated Shickley 62-37 Friday.

Kelan Walford led Exeter-Milligan with 13 points while Blake Baller tallied 12 points.

Philip Hochstetler led Shickley with 12 points.
Shickley (5-11) 10 17 4 6—37
E-M (9-7) 20 14 15 13—62

Exeter-Milligan (62)
Kelan Walford 13, Greg Pribyl 3, Marcus Ruhl 6, Josh Sluka 2, Dillon Rischling 5, Nick Sudria 11, Blake Baller 12, Tanner Gloystein 10
Shickley (37)
Kyle Davis 1, Michael Reinsch 5, Philip Hochstetler 12, Spencer Walter 3, David Hochstetler 1, Derek Swartzendruber 5

Silver Lake 70
Wilcox-Hildreth 56
WILCOX — Silver Lake defeated Wilcox-Hildreth 70-56.

Reid Choquette led Silver Lake with 23 points while Connor Morris tallied 11 points.

Nate Gardels led W-H with 15 points while Brandon Gardels tallied 14 points. Rhett Young added 10 points for the Falcons.
S Lake (3-15) 15 26 9 20—70
W-H (2-14) 15 16 11 14—56

Silver Lake (70)
Derrick Shaw 7, Connor Morris 11, Reid Choquette 23, Brett Bonifas 3, Zach Crowe 8, Ryan Sluka 8, Dallas Thompson 6, Nate Kosse 2, Kevin Hall 2
Wilcox-Hildreth (56)
Matt Nelson 2, Rhett Young 10, Tyler Guthrie 8, Brandon Gardels 14, Nate Gardels 15, Thomas Gardels 7

STC: Bluehawks shut down GICC

Continued from page B1

caliber team.”

St. Cecilia built the lead to 10 at 25-15 with 1:43 left in the first half on a 3-pointer by Nikkila, but the Crusaders closed the half on a 6-0 run courtesy of two 3-pointers by Spencer Fahey that made the score 25-21 at intermission.

Fahey scored all 11 of GICC's points in the second quarter and finished with 24 of the Crusaders' 34 points.

The 6-foot-0 Fahey scored 17 straight points for the Crusaders during a 13-minute span that stretched from the end of the first quarter to the beginning of the third.

“I really felt that our players competed for one another with a lot of heart and a lot of desire,” Gavers said. “When we got down 10, they didn't back down. So those are good qualities.”

GICC got as close as two points at 29-27 on a putback by Lucas Wagoner with 2:50 left in the third quarter, but St. Cecilia answered with a pair of free throws by Hamburger. GICC would not get closer than three points the rest of the game.

After allowing Fahey to score 15 points in the first half, St. Cecilia held the GICC point guard to nine points on 2-of-11

shooting in the second half.

St. Cecilia's defense limited GICC to 13 points on 17-percent shooting after halftime.

“I thought both teams defensively played really well schematically with that they wanted to do,” Gavers said. “What hurt us most was offensive execution.”

St. Cecilia won't have much time to enjoy the win as it will take on cross-town rival Adams Central tonight at 7:45 in a makeup game originally scheduled for Tuesday.

“To come here to Grand Island and get a win is just huge for us,” Kober said. “We will enjoy it for a little, but we know that we have another big one tomorrow at AC.”

St. Cecilia (41)
Dalton Sealey 3-4 2-2 8, Aaron Esch 0-3 0-0 0, Jesse Souchek 0-1 0-0 0, Craig Farmer 0-1 2-2 2, Riley Nikkila 5-7 3-4 14, Jake Hamburger 4-8 4-6 12, Blake Wright 0-4 0-1 0, Zane Anstine 1-3 0-0 2, Paul Goedert 1-2 1-1 3, Team 14-33 12-16 41.

Grand Island Central Catholic (34)
Spencer Fahey 6-19 8-8 24, Jake O'Connor 0-7 0-0 0, Sam Bolton 3-5 0-0 6, Turner Fahey 0-1 0-0 0, Casey Wiens 0-2 0-0 0, Lucas Wagoner 2-5 0-0 4, Team 11-39 8-8 34.

St. Cecilia (15-2).....16 9 6 10—41
GICC (13-6).....10 11 6 7—34

Three-point field goals — STC 1-8 (Esch 0-2, Nikkila 1-2, Hamburger 0-3, Wright 0-1), GICC 4-17 (S. Fahey 4-11, O'Connor 0-4, Wiens 0-2). Rebounds — STC 23 (Wright 7), GICC 24 (S. Fahey 6, Wagoner 6). Turnovers — STC 9, GICC 12. Total Fouls — STC 11, GICC 13. Fouled out — none. Technicals — none.

Diving: HHS girls take top two spots

Continued from page B1

Said Cockrell: “I could have done a lot better. But everyone has their off days. There was a couple dives that I felt they weren't quite what the judges were looking for.”

Each of the three HHS divers have goals of making the finals and finishing in the top 12 of the state meet Feb. 21 in Lincoln.

Last year, Cockrell was 10th while Johnson was 19th and Koopman was 20th. Both Johnson and Cockrell are making their third appearances at the state meet.

“I feel pretty confident,” Cockrell said about his state of mind going into state. “I might not have as high of a score as some of the other guys that are going in right now. But the score doesn't really mean anything at state. It just depends on how you dive at the end.”

Heading into Friday's competition, Cockrell's top diving performance ranked 19th in the state. On the girls side, Johnson ranks 10th while Koopman is 13th.

Koopman said she has been pleased with the way the season has gone. Her top score of the season is a 328.8.

“I think it's gone really good,” Koopman said. “I improved a lot from last year. I got higher degree of difficulties. I've hit my highest this year, of 328. So that was really nice.”

Rief is hoping his team can get a few more qualifiers for the state meet at today's swimming portion of the conference meet.

So far, all three of the HHS boys relay teams have qualified, while Sam Zoucha has an automatic mark in the 100 freestyle.



BRENT MCCOWN/Tribune

Hastings High's Joe Cockrel performs a dive during the GNAC diving meet Friday at the Hastings Family YMCA.

The girls team is still looking for its first automatic qualifying mark.

“The girls have a legitimate chance at making state in two relays,” Rief said. “I don't know that they have the same appreciation of what's possible. On the boys side, we are still looking at some individual qualifiers.”

Boys Results
1, Matt Hall, McCook, 420.45; 2, Travis Reeves, Norfolk, 393.75; 3, Joe Cockrell, Hastings, 301.05; 4, Kyle Craw, McCook, 247.90; 5, Matthew Kreuzer, Kearney, 215.1; 6, Mark Meysenburg, Scottsbluff, 210.55.

Girls Results
1, Cammie Koopman, Hastings High, 300.55; 2, Kathryn Johnson, Hastings High, 290.70; 3, Cecile Panter, Kearney, 261.55; 4, Jordan Poff, Kearney, 247.75; 5, Kim Ellicott, McCook, 247.25; 6, Shannon Marsh, Norfolk, 191.80.

Wrestling: Day one of districts complete

Continued from page B1

Doniphan-Trumbull's Kyle Krueger (103), Tyler Lee (130), Travis Hand (160), Anthony Holroyd (189) and Sam Nelson (285) will be all be competing today in the semifinals. Jake Wetovick (135), Tom Delka (152) and Nick Williams (140) will be competing in the consolations.

Tanner Leichleiter (140) will compete for Harvard/Clay Center in the semifinals. Danny Buerer (145) and Jason Wehnes (189) will compete in the consolations bracket.

South Central's Ryan Musgrave (215) and Justin Williams (189) will compete in the semifinals. Christian Williams (112) and James Nejezchleb (119) will compete in the consolation.

Stanley Taylor (140) will be competing in the semifinals for Fillmore Center.

Collin Donahoo (145) and Joshua Powell (189) will be competing in the consolation bracket for Kenesaw/Shelton.

Brock Renz (189) will be competing in the semifinals for Bruning-Davenport/Davenport. No other information was available.

D-1 DISTRICT
DeWITT — Thayer Central had one wrestler advance to the semifinals after the first day of the Class D, District 1 meet Friday. Destry Kenning (160) will compete in the semifinals today. Jordan Wiedel (103), Ryan Lee (112), Kale Hintz (152), James Long (189) and Traygen Mumford (285) are still competing in the consolations.

D-3 DISTRICT
AMHERST — Franklin had seven wrestlers advance to the semifinals after the first day of the Class D, District 3 meet Friday. Garrett Rubendall (130), Ethan Kahrs (140), Jordan James (145), Aaron Davis (152), Logan James (160), Russ Walton (171) and Derek Fouts (285) will be competing in the semifinals today. Dakota Black (112) will be returning today in the consolations.

Most think best economic stimulus is to get out of Iraq

JEANNINE AVERSA
The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The heck with Congress' big stimulus bill. The way to get the country out of recession — and most people think we're in one — is to get the country out of Iraq, according to an Associated Press-Ipsos poll.

Pulling out of the war ranked first among proposed remedies in the survey, followed by spending more on domestic programs, cutting taxes and, at the bottom end, giving rebates to poor people in hopes they'll spend the economy into recovery.

The \$168 billion economic

rescue package Congress rushed to approval this week includes rebates of \$600 to \$1,200 for most taxpayers, the hope being that they will spend the money and help revive ailing businesses. President Bush is expected to sign the measure next week. Poor wage-earners, as well as seniors and veterans who live almost entirely off Social Security and disability benefits, would get \$300 checks.

However, just 19 percent of the people surveyed said they planned to go out and spend the money; 45 percent said they'd use it to pay bills. And

nearly half said what the government really should do is get out of Iraq.

Forty-eight percent said a pullout would help fix the country's economic problems "a great deal," and an additional 20 percent said it would help at least somewhat. Some 43 percent said increasing government spending on health care, education and housing programs would help a great deal; 36 percent said cutting taxes.

"Let's stop paying for this war," said Hilda Sanchez, 44, of Waterford, Calif. "There are a lot of people who are struggling. We

can use the money to pay for medical care and help people who were put out of their homes."

The subject of leaving Iraq shows a sharp partisan divide — 65 percent of Democrats think it would help the economy a lot, but only 18 percent of Republicans think so.

Just 29 percent of people think putting more money in the hands of the poor would help a great deal in fixing the country's economic problems.

According to many economists, the lower people are on the income ladder, the more probable it is that they will

spend a rebate and do it quickly — a shot in the arm for the ailing economy.

In the poll, 61 percent said they think the economy is already in a recession.

"Things are bad, but it will get a lot worse," said Jim Sims, 60, of Greer, S.C.

And Nanette Dahlin, 52, of St. Louis Park, Minn., said the economic stimulus package "would only make a recession less damaging."

The economy nearly stalled in the final three months of last year. Some economists, like the majority of poll respondents,

say it may actually be shrinking now, given the strains from a persistent housing slump and a painful credit crunch. The worry is that people and businesses will hunker down further and pull back their spending, sending the economy into a tailspin.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has gotten more forceful in cutting interest rates to spur people to buy more and to energize businesses. And now Republicans, Democrats and the White House have shown rare cooperation in approving relief.

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2007-2008 Goal
\$400,000

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United Way

The Shape of Things to Come

Personal Training can help you get back into shape and feel better

Fit 4 U Fitness
463-9613

WINTER COMPUTER CLASSES

Access Basic	Feb. 11-13	8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
PowerPoint Advance	Feb. 11-13	1:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m.
Word Intermediate	Feb. 11-13	8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Access Intermediate	Feb. 18-20	8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Excel Basic	Feb. 18-20	1:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m.
Office 2007 NEW FEATURES	Feb. 19-21	6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
Dreamweaver Advance	Feb. 20 & 27	6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

402-461-2554 **Central Community College** 800-742-7872

Business Review

Too busy to go to the gym?

With Fit 4 U Fitness, the gym comes to you! Trainer Stacie Widhelm will come to your home or office, with all the equipment you need to get a challenging total-body workout without leaving your front door.

We'll provide the fitness and exercise plan, the equipment, and the trainer. You provide the desire to change, and the right attitude.

Will she work with your schedule? Of course! Your personal training appointments are scheduled at times that are convenient for you, when you can be free of distraction, and when you feel that you can be at your best for your workout.

Why Home Training? Because it eliminates excuses! Not enough time to go to the gym? The gym comes to you. You can work out on your lunch hour, or at any time of day that works for you. Excuse gone! Don't like the "meat market" atmosphere? She doesn't either. When you work out at home or in your office, you don't have to compete with anyone, dress up for anyone, or work out to impress anyone. Excuse gone!

Many people already own equipment, and don't want to join a gym (and

shouldn't have to!) You may own exercise videos that you don't watch. You have probably researched basic weight training, and have a basic idea of what to do, but you're not doing it. THAT's why having a trainer is a good option.

Having a trainer work with you can teach you how to properly use the equipment you have, motivate you and give you ideas of things you can use — right in your home — to improve your fitness and health.

It's also a good opportunity to have a fitness professional evaluate your environment for "non-friendly" nutrition traps that could jeopardize your program. Your trainer might ask to look in your refrigerator or pantry from time to time, and address any "triggers" that could get you off track or lead to a lapse. NOT to judge you; but to be a resource, and give you advice about things you might try as alternatives.

Fit 4 U doesn't conduct home training sessions because they have to, we conduct in-home personal training because we know that it is a convenient, personalized way to get the fitness expertise of a trainer, and they know how impor-



Stacie Widhelm (right), of Fit 4 U Fitness, shows Jennifer Flottesch some home exercises during a workout in Hastings.

tant it is to get an in-home trainer who is knowledgeable, professional, and experienced with people like you.

Stacie doesn't just show up. When she arrives at your home, she will bring all of her "training world" expertise and experience into your home, for every session. For her, it's more than a workout. It's an opportunity to provide you

with all the education and experience you need to adopt or maintain a lifestyle of health, wellness, and strength of mind and body.

Stacie does a free 1/2 hour consultation so you can determine if in home personal training will fit your lifestyle. Stop making excuses and call today for your free consultation, 402-463-9613.

Acupuncture in Hastings

Dr. John Cerveny, of Adams County Chiropractic in Hastings, has incorporated into his practice the ancient Chinese pain relieving art of acupuncture. Although Dr. Cerveny says there are many reasons why he decided to learn acupuncture, it was his personal successes with acupuncture that seemed to be the deciding factor.

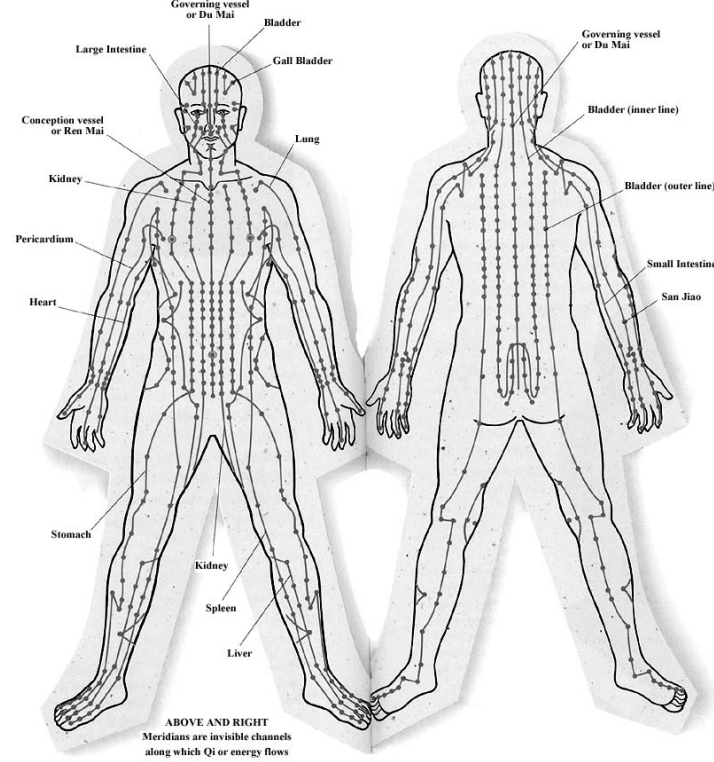
Acupuncture is the art of placing small (three human hairs wide) needles into the skin to balance out the body's energies. According to the Chinese, our energies run through fourteen different energy pathways in the body called meridians. These meridians relate to all of our major organs (lungs, stomach, liver, gal bladder, etc.). When these energies get out of balance, our body is weakened, and that is when problems or pain start to develop.

So how does Dr. Cerveny know where to place the needles? Experience. When certain pathways get out of bal-

ance, it results in certain symptoms. The needles are very small, painless, do not draw blood and only penetrate 2-3 millimeters into the skin. Dr. Cerveny uses disposable needles, so each needle is only used one time.

Dr. Cerveny's greatest successes have been with pain relief. There have been many patient's who have been "cured" of their pain. More specifically, Dr. Cerveny has had great success with all headaches, including migraines, lower back pain, hip pain, sciatic nerve pain, neck pain and shoulder pain. Other conditions that Dr. Cerveny has had great success with, has been knee and shoulder problems such as macular degeneration.

The World Health Organization has approved acupuncture for the treatment of many conditions including weight loss, smoking cessation, migraines, sleeping problems, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome,



Dr. Cerveny, from his personal experience and from practice experience, believes chiropractic care combined with acupuncture helped patients feel better faster and longer, which means less visits to the office.

asthma, diabetes, constipation, ulcers, high blood pressure, anxiety, depression, stress, acne. Other conditions include impotence, PMS, whiplash, arthritis, colds, and Bell's Palsy among others.

For a free acupuncture or chiropractic consultation, or if you have any questions for Dr. Cerveny, please call him at 463-5111. Dr. Cerveny is available Monday through Friday.

Classified Ads

If you find an error in your classified ad, please call us before the next day's paper. The Tribune cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Claims cannot be considered unless made within three days from the first date of publication. No allowances can be made when errors do not materially affect the value of the advertisement.

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We reserve the right to reject, edit or reclassify any advertisement accepted by us for publication.

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Fax: 402-461-4657



1 Card of Thanks

Thank you to our family and friends for the cards, prayers and congratulations on our 60th wedding anniversary. May God bless you all.
Frank and Ilene Gerdes

8 Happy Ads



Birthday Open House Honoring our Mother, Betty Magee, 85, and Aunt, Aletha Bennett, 80. February 17, 2-4 p.m. Sghetti's, 627 W. 1st. No gifts please.

Edna Eckert
91
February 9, 2008



Her family requests a card shower in her honor. Send cards to:
738 East 3rd
Hastings, NE 68901

Happy 85th DONALD SITTNER
February 13



Cards may be sent to:
1508 West 2nd
Hastings, NE 68901
P.S.

Happy 62nd Anniversary
Mom and Dad
Love, Roger and Janey

10 Lost And Found

LOST: Car keys with remote. Cimarron lot, by Video Kingdom. 463-1960.

12 Garage Sales Northeast

2 WINDSOR DR. (Kingswood Plaza): Friday, Saturday, 9-5. Moving sale.

20 Automobiles

KERSHNER'S AUTO KORNER
AAA AUTO RENTALS, Inc.
www.kershnersautokorner.com
'07 Focus ZX4: 4-door, champagne, 19,xxx, Nice. \$14,975. Cash.....\$11,975.
'07 Pontiac G6: 3500, V-6, 4-door, white, 27,xxx. \$16,975. Cash.....\$14,975.
'06 Cobalt LT: 2-door, 5-speed, blue, 41,xxx miles. \$13,950. Cash.....\$11,975.
'04 Malibu Maxx LS: V-6, green, loaded, 21,xxx. \$11,975. Cash.....\$10,475.
220 West South Street
402-461-3161

NORTHSIDE AUTO

1990 CADILLAC: Rare STS model! Only 95,000 miles. Hard to find another this nice! Make offer. See at Kallos Motors, 463-0108

20 Automobiles

1995 GRAND PRIX SE: V-6, 2-door, sunroof, alloy wheels. \$2,400. 402-751-2623 after 5:30 p.m.

1996 PONTIAC Grand Prix GTP: 2-door, fancy.... \$2,650
2001 OLDS Silhouette van: Dual air, quad seats.... \$4,500

1996 CHEVY: 1/2-ton, regular cab, 4x4, Silverado, white.....\$3,300

Deveny Motors
1013 S. Burlington
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2003 MONTE CARLO SS: Jeff Gordon Edition, low miles.

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Many more to choose from

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2004 Silverado 2500 Crew cab, leather, 4x4.....\$18,950

2001 F250 DIESEL Crew cab, flatbed, 4x4...\$15,950
2002 GMC Sierra Extended cab, leather.....\$14,750
2003 F350 DIESEL Crew cab, 4x4.....\$14,750
2003 Tahoe, leather.....\$14,750

2002 F150 Lariat Crew cab, 4x4.....\$14,750
Twins!.....\$14,250, \$14,950
2001 Silverado 2500 HD Extended cab, 4x4.....\$9,450

2000 Silverado Extended cab, 4x4.....\$9,450

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2002 CHEVY Monte Carlo SS: V-6, all options. \$7,450.
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23 4-wheel Drive Pickups

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2000 S10 PICKUP: Regular Cab, 4x4, new radials. Special Price.....\$4,995
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JUST TRADED for 85 model Wilderness travel trailer. 24'. Has bunk beds and air. \$2,995.

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TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT CO.
RV sales and service. Check us out!!
100 N. Laird, Hastings, NE
402-463-4402

37 Boats & Equipment

2006 SEA-DOO GTI-SE: 130-hp, 4-stroke, 3-person jet ski. \$7,500. 308-830-1087.

38 Motorcycles & ATVs

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www.superioroutdoorpower.com

47 Financial/Loans

Turned down for a car loan? Let us help! Call Jeramie at Paul Spady Motors. 402-462-4105.

48 Business Opportunities

Business Opportunity
Kansas farm couple makes over \$5,000 the first month in home-based business and looking to help others do the same. Initial investment of \$49. Call for information: 785-527-3147.

PLACE YOUR Classified ad today. Call 461-1241, Tribune for fast, fast results.

50 Employment Agencies

ADVANCE SERVICES
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463-6685

51 Professional

EM 9-1-1
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST/EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCHER

City/County 911 Center
Perform a variety of duties and responsibilities involved in receiving incoming calls for public safety emergency assistance and the dispatching of necessary units; receive non-emergency after-hour calls for the City and County departments; and monitor teletype communications. One to two years of increasingly responsible experience in receiving and processing emergency calls is preferred but not required. Basic training provided. Post-offer/pre-employment physical and drug screen. Salary: \$12.42 - \$17.52 per hour plus excellent benefits. Residency required within six months. Apply by Friday, February 29, 2008, to Workforce Development Center, 1306 W. 3rd, Grand Island. 308-385-6300 or online at City web site: www.grandisland.com EO/AAE/MF/DV

Sudoku

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 2/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9-by-9 grid with several numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 contains the same number only once. There is only one solution to each puzzle. The difficulty level of the puzzle increases from Monday to Saturday. Answers to each day's puzzle will appear in the next edition of the Tribune.

FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

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

Cards may be sent to:
1508 West 2nd
Hastings, NE 68901
P.S.

Happy 62nd Anniversary
Mom and Dad
Love, Roger and Janey

10 Lost And Found

LOST: Car keys with remote. Cimarron lot, by Video Kingdom. 463-1960.

12 Garage Sales Northeast

2 WINDSOR DR. (Kingswood Plaza): Friday, Saturday, 9-5. Moving sale.

20 Automobiles

KERSHNER'S AUTO KORNER
AAA AUTO RENTALS, Inc.
www.kershnersautokorner.com
'07 Focus ZX4: 4-door, champagne, 19,xxx, Nice. \$14,975. Cash.....\$11,975.
'07 Pontiac G6: 3500, V-6, 4-door, white, 27,xxx. \$16,975. Cash.....\$14,975.
'06 Cobalt LT: 2-door, 5-speed, blue, 41,xxx miles. \$13,950. Cash.....\$11,975.
'04 Malibu Maxx LS: V-6, green, loaded, 21,xxx. \$11,975. Cash.....\$10,475.
220 West South Street
402-461-3161

NORTHSIDE AUTO

1990 CADILLAC: Rare STS model! Only 95,000 miles. Hard to find another this nice! Make offer. See at Kallos Motors, 463-0108

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•3rd Row Seat •Rear Air & Heat
•Satellite Radio •CD •Keyless Entry
•11,000 Miles

\$25,995



2000 FORD F-150 SUPERCAB XLT 4X4

•5.4 L V8 •Full Power Options
•Trailer Tow •Clean Local Trade
•59,000 Miles

\$12,995



1998 FORD EXPEDITION XLT 4X4

•5.4 L V8 •3rd Row Seat
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List: \$28,936 • SALE \$28,436
Rebate \$500 • FINAL \$27,936
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STK. NO. 57260
List: \$16,356 • SALE \$15,856
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• 10 year/100,000 mile - Power Train Protection
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List: \$22,991 • SALE \$22,491
Rebate \$500 • FINAL \$21,991
\$337*/mo.

'08 VERACRUZ
STK. NO. 57180
List: \$37,151 • SALE \$35,951
WOW!

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Rebate \$750 • FINAL \$10,651
\$137*/mo.

'08 SONATA
STK. NO. 57400
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\$257*/mo.

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 <p>2006 FORD FREESTAR SEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28K Miles • Local Trade • Leather • Quad Seating <p>\$16,995</p>	 <p>2004 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24K Miles • Loaded • Local One Owner • V6 • 4x4 <p>\$19,895</p>
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51 Professional
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Part time, working with communities and businesses. 4-year degree in public administration, planning, business, organization management or related field preferred. Must have valid Nebraska driver's license and reliable transportation. Send letter and resume by 2/15/08 to SCEED, 1320 Valerie Drive, Holdrege, NE 68949. For more information, 308-995-3190, or sharonh@sceed.us.

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52 Educational
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53 Health Care
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We are currently looking for caring and compassionate individuals to join our team in the following areas:

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- CNAs

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We offer competitive wages, health, dental and vision insurance, 401k, plus more...

Please call **402-752-3212** or apply in person at **100 West Elm Ave. Kenesaw, NE 68956**

53 Health Care
FULL-TIME RN or LPN

needed for day shift 6 a.m.-6 p.m. 3 shifts a week and one weekend a month. If you are interested in joining our team, please call 402-224-5015 and ask for Heather Strobl, RN DNP

FULL-TIME TRANSCRIPTIONIST needed. Flexible hours. Send resume to Box J, Hastings Tribune, P.O. Box 788, Hastings, NE 68901.

LPN/RN

We are currently seeking an LPN or RN. The successful candidate will monitor the health and medical condition of individuals served. Responsibilities include administering medications, performing physicals, providing treatment and scheduling medical appointments as needed. In addition, the nurse will make referrals for appropriate medical services, maintain contact with the families of people in service and inform them of the individual's medical condition, nutritional needs, medications, etc. MOSAIC offers a flexible schedule, competitive wage, benefits, tuition reimbursement, paid time off and much more. Apply at:

Mosaic
818 W. 21st St.
Hastings, NE 68901
402-463-0518

Occupational Therapist/Physical Therapist/SLP

Full-time, part-time and PRN openings in Grand Island; full-time OTR/COTA for North Platte area. Excellent pay. Full time benefits at 30 hours/week; supplemental benefits at 10 hours/week; creative sign-on/relocation packages. Job share opportunities available. 888-362-8704, ext. 22. www.keyrehab.com. EOE

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461-1241

53 Health Care
Thayer County Health Services

Positions Available

Medical Technologist

Full-time position available in surgery to provide quality patient service in both acute and outpatient settings for a critical access hospital. Excellent salary and benefit package. Applicant must be registered ASCP as a Medical Technologist and have experience. See our website at www.thayercountyhealth.com

Send resume:
Attention: Melissa Sittler
Dir. Human Resources
120 Park Avenue
Hebron, NE 68370

For more information call 402-768-4641.
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Administrative and clinical responsibilities on day shift available at Blue Hill Care Center. 12- and/or 8-hour shifts—we're flexible. Competitive wages and benefits. Be part of our quality team of care givers to our wonderful seniors. Check us out. Apply 414 N. Willson, Blue Hill, or call Rose, 402-756-2080. EOE

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We are now accepting applications for a full-time RN charge nurse on our 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. shift. Benefits include: health insurance, life insurance, matching retirement program, paid time off (PTO), performance base pay increases, vacation. If you are a professional nurse who enjoys working with a geriatric population in a homelike, resident-centered environment, our facility may be just right for you. If you are interested in joining our healthcare team, please call Kris or Tina at Harvard Rest Haven. 1-402-772-7591

List your ad, call 461-1241!

53 Health Care
DISABLED WOMAN

needs experienced help in her home. 402-463-3735.

54 Office/Clerical

Counseling office seeking part-time billing specialist. Knowledgeable with insurance and electronic billing, computer savvy. Send experience/resume to 215 S. Burlington.

MEDICAL OFFICE: Billing/coding position. Full-time. Benefits. Experience preferred. Send resume to Box B, Hastings Tribune, P.O. Box 788, Hastings, NE 68901

56 Restaurant

FULL-TIME and part-time positions open in Food Service. Apply at Hastings College Hazelrigg Student Union, Sodexo.

HELP WANTED: Delivery position available. Days and nights. Godfather's Pizza, 402-463-4543.

57 Technical & Trade

PLC PROGRAMMER

Immediate opening in manufacturing company. Applicants will have working knowledge of programmable controls, digital interfacing, stepper motors, encoders, actuators, and electrical design. 3-5 years experience writing programs. Hands on Degree optional. Salary, benefits, 401k. Send resume to Merrick Machine Company, P.O. Box 130, Alda, NE 68810 or call 308-384-1780, ext. 154.

SERVICE ENGINEER

Great position for an individual with excellent communication, customer service, and technology skills. Responsibilities include service, repair, and networking of customers' digital imaging devices/photocopiers. We offer a comprehensive training program. Experience in any technical field such as telecommunications, HVAC, automotive repair, vending machine repair, radio / communications equipment, etc. is helpful. Full-time position, competitive wage and full benefit package. Apply in person or submit your resume to: Human Resources, Eakes Office Plus, 617 West 3rd, Grand Island, 308-382-9580, ext. 123. jbillesbach@eakes.com EOE

Are you a team player? Looking for great benefits? Apply at AGP

We are currently looking for a payroll/administrative assistant at our Hastings office. Apply at 2801 East 7th in Hastings or www.agp.com/employment. EOE

AGP
A Cooperative

— 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 publication. No allowances can be made when errors do not materially affect the value of the advertisement.

Never Placed An Ad?

Don't Worry!

We'll help you with the wording. Just give us a call!

Hastings Tribune
402-461-1241

Do You Need More Money?

Sell your unwanted items in the Classified Section. Just Call Us!

Hastings Tribune
Classified Department
402-461-1241 800-742-6397

DHHS
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Mental Health Security Specialist II
Hastings Regional Center

- > Mental Health Security Specialist Job - #255-08978
- > Full Time 2:45-11:15 p.m. including every other weekend
- > Closing date: 2-11-08

Please visit the Nebraska State Personnel website for more details on requirements and salary www.wr4neb.org.

The State of Nebraska offers an excellent benefit package including:

- Vacation & Sick Leave • 12 paid holidays • Health, life, vision and dental insurance
- Long term disability insurance • Flexible spending options
- Retirement program & deferred compensation options

Apply on-line at www.wr4neb.org. Applications also available from Workforce Development Offices. For questions call the Human Resource Office at the Hastings Regional Center at 402-462-1971

AA/EOE/V

GLENWOOD

Glenwood Telephone Membership Corporation is looking for a team-oriented individual to fill the following position:

Wireless Technician: Tasks include installing, upgrading, testing and maintaining network equipment; including towers, antennas, radios, bridges, and access points. Position requires performing some physically demanding tasks and applicant must have the ability to work with heights. Helpful skills would include: basic to intermediate computer literacy; an understanding of RF design/maintenance and AC/DC electronics; and construction experience. Electronics degree and one year in computers/networking desired.

The rewards are many, including a competitive wage and an outstanding benefits package. Cover letter, resume and reference required. No phone calls or walk-ins. Send resume and cover letter to:

Glenwood Telephone Membership Corporation
Attention Human Resources
PO Box 97
Blue Hill, NE 68930
Resumes due by February 15, 2008 EOE

LOOKIN' FOR A JOB?

Check out the Advance Services Job Fair! This is a great opportunity to stop in, fill out an application and see the job opportunities we have for YOU!

Wednesday, February 13
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

ASinc.
Advance Services, Inc.
"Putting You First"
213 S. Burlington Ave.
Hastings, NE

Every application completed is automatically entered into a drawing for prize.

Join our Team!

We have an immediate opening for a motor route driver.

Afternoons and Saturday mornings

HASTINGS AREA

Call Circulation
461-1221 or 1-800-742-6397

Hastings Tribune

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Hamilton Telecommunication's Corporate office in Aurora, NE is seeking a qualified individual to assist with the coordination of marketing and communications for all divisions of the company. The qualified applicant will have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Communication or related Field or an Associate's Degree with at least two years related work experience, and a minimum of 5 years marketing experience is preferred. In addition must be proficient utilizing software such as Microsoft Excel, Word, Access, Microsoft Publisher and Adobe Creative Suites. Experience working with Customer Resource Management systems is a plus.

Hamilton offers an excellent salary with Company Paid Benefits. To apply contact our HR Dept at 402.694.5101 or 800.821.1831. Refer to our website for more detailed information at: www.hamilton.net/employment.html

HAMILTON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

CASE IH **CNH**
AGRICULTURE
Grand Island Plant

The Case IH Grand Island Plant, which employs over 970 employees and manufactures the best combines and hay tools in the world, has the following hourly positions currently available:

- Assembly on 1st Shift
- Welders on 3rd Shift
- Painters on 2nd & 3rd Shift
- Paint System Support on 2nd & 3rd Shift

Interested, qualified applicants should apply through **Nebraska Workforce Development**

No applications will be taken at the plant.
CNH is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

EXEL

EXEL LOGISTICS,

A world leader in supply chain management will be holding a job fair at the Nebraska Workforce Development office in Hastings, NE 2727 W. 2nd St. on Wednesday, February 13th from 9 to 4 pm to recruit for:

FORKLIFT OPERATORS & CASE PICKERS

Location: Iams Plant site, Aurora NE

Shifts: Days or Nights-Twelve hour shifts-each shift consisting of one week at 36 hours and the next at 48 hours; every other weekend off.

Wage: \$11.00 per hour +.45 cent night shift differential

Benefits: Excellent

Exel offers a comprehensive benefits package including vacation pay, medical, vision, dental, life insurance. We also offer a great retirement package with employer matched contributions up to 4% plus profit sharing.

Successful candidates will possess the following:

- o 1-3 yrs of forklift experience (will train suitable candidate).
- o High school diploma or GED is required
- o Ability to pass a pre-employment screening including drug testing.
- o Good communication and basic math skills
- o Desire to work in a hands-on team environment

Interested candidates should apply in person at the Workforce Development or for additional information call Teresa @ 402-694-7945.

Exel is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CPI
Cooperative Producers, Inc.

NOW HIRING

- Blue Hill - Custom Applicator
- Giltner - Seasonal Tender Truck Drivers
- Juniota - Outside Grain/Fertilizer
- Sutton - ASE Certified Mechanic
- Trumbull - Service Station Technician
- Wood River - Outside Grain/Fertilizer
- Full-Time Office Clerk
- Custom Applicator
- Tender Truck Driver

Apply now to join a leader in agriculture serving 28 communities in South Central Nebraska. CPI knows what it takes to get extraordinary employees and we are willing to do what we can to get you. If you are reliable, hardworking individual apply today at any CPI location or call Brooke at 402-463-5148.

BENEFITS:

- Health, life and dental insurance
- Two separate retirement plans
- Competitive wages
- Paid Vacations and Holidays.

EOE/MF
Chemical testing required

TOP JOB Opportunities in Education

If you are looking for a career in education, watch for this special section to be published in the Hastings Tribune, March 3, April 7, May 5, 2008.

If you are looking for positions in education to be filled you will want to be listed in this section. Call the Hastings Tribune advertising department. 402-462-2131.

Hastings Tribune

57 Technical & Trade

FULL-TIME TECHNICIAN position available. Apply in person. Frontier Ford, 3101 Osborne Dr. West.

58 Ag Related

FARM/FEEDLOT needs person to operate front end loader and similar equipment. Also would do some shop work and maintenance. Experience necessary. 401k and group health. R Lazy K, Glenview, NE. Call 402-771-2394, 6:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

U.S. MEAT Animal Research Center, near Clay Center, NE is accepting applications for present and future openings. Several positions in production agriculture and agricultural research. Starting wage up to \$11 per hour. Excellent benefits. For information regarding the jobs, and how to apply, call 402-762-4151 or send resume to: Terry Madson, U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, P.O. Box 166, Clay Center, NE 68933. UNL is committed to EEO/AA and ADA/504. Call if accommodation is required.

U.S. MEAT Animal Research Center, near Clay Center, NE has an opening for a feed truck driver. All experience levels considered. Excellent equipment to work with. Benefits include 12 days of vacation in the first year, 11 paid holidays, health insurance and more. For more information about this job, and how to apply, call 402-762-4151 or send resume to: Terry Madson, U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, P.O. Box 166, Clay Center, NE 68933. UNL is committed to EEO/AA and ADA/504. Call if accommodation is required.

WANTED: Hired help for farm/ranch operation. Call Gary after 6 p.m., 308-848-3361.

YEAR-ROUND farm help needed. Wood River/Alida area. 308-383-4938.

59 Trucking

ATTN: DRIVERS



\$1,000 SIGN-ON BONUS
Becker Transportation

Come join the company that cares about you. We have dedicated lanes to get you home.
-New Pay Scale
-Quarterly Bonus
-Home time and more!
1 year verifiable regional/OTR required and meet all DOT requirements. EOE
Hastings, NE
Call Alan for full details
1-800-542-6645

CIRCLE THIS AD! Company Drivers, Owner/Operators, Casual Drivers
Great pay/hometime/benefits, friendly dispatch, late model equipment, CDL-A. 866-472-6347
giexpress.com

60 General

AGP Grain Marketing LLC Roseland, Nebraska, is now accepting applications for grain elevator maintenance person. This is a full-time position with full benefits and competitive wage. Applicant must have valid driver's license, be able to lift and climb. Experience with welding and hand tools preferred. Call Bill, 402-463-1235, for application.

CARPET CLEANING \$400 PER WEEK
Need extra money? We are overloaded with business! No experience necessary. We supply equipment, training and transportation. Must be able to start immediately!
Weekly performance bonuses
\$1,000 HIRING BONUS
Positions will fill up fast!
308-234-5025

Chief Ethanol Fuels is Hiring!
Join the growing Ethanol industry and become a process operator at Chief Ethanol Fuels. Candidates should possess a high school diploma, a valid driver's license, have good work ethics, be able to keep accurate legible log entries and lift 75 lbs. infrequently. These positions will work a rotating 12-hour shift, indoor/outdoor work, along with advancement potential. Positions are full-time eligible for full company benefits, including paid vacation and holidays, medical, dental, life insurance, disability, 401(k), and much more. Apply to the Nebraska Workforce Development office or at Chief Ethanol Fuels, Inc. Applications can also be mailed to:

CHIEF ETHANOL FUELS, INC.
4225 E South St (Hwy 6)
Hastings, NE 68901
For more information call 402-463-6885
Or www.chiefethanol.com/jobs
EOE/DF/Drug Testing Required

60 General

AVON: Customers, reps wanted. Start today! Up to 50% off! 402-469-4377.
DRIVERS NEEDED: Must be 25 or older. Action Cab, 402-831-8294.

Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital **FOOD SERVICE WORKER:** Full-time Food Service Worker in our Nutrition Services Department. Candidates must have excellent work history and references. Position is 40 hours per week, 10 hour shifts from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., with alternating weekends. Full-time benefits include Health and Dental Insurance, Flexible Spending Plan, 401(k) Retirement Plan, Disability Insurance and Life Insurance. Please apply in person in the Human Resource office or on-line at www.mlhm.org. EOE.

FULL-TIME OPTICAL/CLERICAL Work. Must be customer service-oriented and a fast learner. Send resume to Box S, c/o Hastings Tribune, P.O. Box 788, Hastings, NE 68902.

GRAVEL COMPANY looking for a full-time Dredge Operator. Experience helpful but will train right person. Please call 1-888-262-2331 for application.

HELP WANTED: Aurora Coop is accepting applications for a Tire Sales and Service person to work in Clay Center Tire Center. Position is full time and carries full benefits. See Bill Hoyt at 401 West Fairfield Street in Clay Center for application.

Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital **HOUSEKEEPER:** Full time position from 1:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Benefit package includes Health and Dental Insurance, Flexible Spending Plan, 401(k) Retirement Plan, Disability Insurance, and Life Insurance. Paid Time Off earned for all hours worked. Excellent work history and references required. Please apply in Human Resources or on-line at www.mlhm.org. EOE.

MANAGEMENT positions available. Apply at Dairy Queen. Interviewing Tuesday, February 12.



MANAGER TRAINEE
Immediate opening for a career-minded individual looking for rapid advancement in a local, stable company. Great pay. Fantastic bonuses and terrific benefits. You will be promoted through a 5-part management program which will result in managing your own store. This company is opening 2 stores in the next 6 months, so the opportunity is now. Duties include collections, inventory management, sales and computer data entry. Bilingual a plus. This is an awesome job and you'll love coming to work. Apply in person at Ace Rent-to-Own, 1049 W. 2nd St., Hastings.

POSITIONS OPEN: Plumbing division - warehouse and sales. Steel division - Class A CDL driver. Contact Jeff Kully at 402-463-5678.

61 Part Time
GINGERBREAD DAYCARE has part-time employee openings. Must be at least 19 years old. Apply at 2201 W. 2nd Street.

Lincoln Journal Star has Hastings routes available:
•Between 4 a.m.-7 a.m.;
•7 Days a week
•Reliable vehicle and backup person.
•Supplemental insurance offered.

For more information please call 1-800-742-7315, Ext 2697.

LOOKING FOR part-time help. Great work environment. Apply within. Curves, 726 W. 2nd St.

MUSEUM GUEST Services Assistant - strong customer service and cash handling skills required to sell theater and admission tickets. Not more than 20 hours per week - day, evening and weekend hours. Application and complete job description available in the City of Hastings Personnel Office, 220 N. Hastings Avenue, Hastings, NE 68901, 402-461-2313, email kstilt@cityofhastings.org or online at www.cityofhastings.org/employment EOE

Part-time cleaning: 10-15 hours/week, plus 1 week-end/month. Pick up application at 223 E. 14th, Suite 10.

62 Child Care

HOME DAYCARE has openings in Hastings (Lincoln School area). 308-379-8009.

70 Pets

AKC POMERANIAN pups: Home-raised, ready to go. 984-5346, 984-0982
BOXER PUPPIES: AKC, 4 females. \$100. 402-469-9573.
NKC PIT Bull Puppies: First shots, 2 females, 3 males. Call 785-447-2216.

76 Furnishings

LA-Z-BOY RECLINER with 2 recliner love seats, \$175; rocker recliner with wood arms, \$75; round wood side table, \$25; small wurgundy rocker, \$50. 402-772-2106.

77 Appliances

Your WHIRLPOOL and TOSHIBA Dealer **ROGER'S, INC.** 1035 S. Burlington 463-1345

79 Computers

COMPUTER REPAIR: House calls. Reasonable rates. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. 984-8001.

88 Building Supplies

USED 24'x14' Overhead brand door, 8 windows. All hardware, ready to install. \$500. 402-460-0291.

89 Lawn & Garden

5 HP, 2 Stage Atlas snowblower. 402-756-6029 or 402-984-5176

91 Good Things To Eat

RUSSET POTATOES: 50 lbs., \$10. Rollin Packer. 308-583-2252. Weekdays, 8-5; Saturdays until noon.

94 Miscellaneous

NEW AMERICAN Harvest Corn Stove, \$1,400. Corn Furnace, \$2,100. 402-462-6330.

SURE KLEAN II corn cleaner: Cleans corn so it won't plug your corn stove auger. Excellent condition. \$175. 461-3154.

96 Want To Buy

JUNK CARS, pickups, trucks, and old farm equipment. 308-233-2826

NEWER washers, dryers, stoves and refrigerators. Working or not. 462-6330.

100 Unfurnished Apartments

1-BEDROOM: Extra large, private drive. Utilities paid. \$475. Others, \$250 and \$275. Some utilities paid. Realtor owned. 984-2251.

2- and 3-BEDROOM. The Townhouses. 945 West H Street. Offering newly refurbished apartments with great local management. These spacious apartments offer refrigerator, stove, central air, off-street parking, basement, and washer/dryer hookups. No pets. 463-5953.

2-BEDROOM: Appliances, laundry hookups. \$350-\$450. No pets.
Embassy Square 462-4032

2-BEDROOM: Reserved parking, appliances, laundry hookups. No pets. References required. \$400/month, plus deposit. 720-252-7030

4-PLEX: 2-bedroom, newly remodeled, appliances, washer/dryer hookups, central air, off-street parking. Excellent location. \$425 month. \$400 deposit. No pets. 461-8170.

516 N. HASTINGS: 1-bedroom, \$350-\$375/month. References. 1 month deposit. No smoking/drugs/pets. 402-469-0556.

BRENTWOOD MANOR

Large 2-bedroom, 2-bath, garage. No steps. Also fully furnished luxury unit on month-to-month basis. No pets. Agent. 463-0843.

CHATEAU IMPERIAL

Townhomes and Apartments
Call Jeff Today
402-463-4111



CLEAN, unique, large: No smoking/pets. 460-6922. Photos at: cicadadwellings.com

DOWNTOWN: Upstairs. Very large, nice 1-bedroom. \$395. 984-9001.



Equal Housing Opportunity
All real estate advertising in the Fair Housing Act makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1 (800) 669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1 (800) 927-9275.

100 Unfurnished Apartments

CALIFORNIA PINES and South Pine Apartments offer room to spread out! 2- and 3-bedroom duplexes. Lawn care provided. VISA/MasterCard. Call for availability and your tour today! 402-469-0830. www.perryreid.com

LARGE 1-BEDROOM: Parking, appliances. References. No pets/smoking. \$280 plus deposit. 402-463-1426.

LARGE 2-BEDROOM: Ceramic tile, appliances furnished. No smoking/pets. \$400 month, \$350 deposit. Available 3/1/08. 460-6610 or 460-6600.

NICE 1-BEDROOM: In Hastings. No pets/smoking. Deposit. Lease. Off-street parking. Available 2/1. 402-756-6623.

PARKLANE APARTMENTS (MALL AREA)
Very nice 2-bedroom apartments with appliances, central air/heat, \$495. Garages available, \$40. No pets. 461-4100.

ONE MONTH FREE and only \$99 SECURITY DEPOSIT! Regency Heights Apts. Large floor plans, complete kitchens, on-site laundry, controlled entry. You pay only electricity! VISA/MasterCard. New manager, Patti at 402-462-5205, will be glad to give you a tour. www.perryreid.com

Rentals of All Types
Rader Real Estate
463-2323 • 463-1165

VERY NICE 1-bedroom: Great location. References. No smoking/pets. 970-590-1611.

102 Duplexes For Rent

1-BEDROOM: Appliances, central air, laundry, parking. Nice, clean. 984-7333.

LOVELY 2-BEDROOM+: Garage. Great location. References. No smoking/pets. 970-590-1611.

103 Town Houses For Rent

2-BEDROOM: Partial utilities. Appliances, laundry room. \$465. Embassy Square. 402-462-4032.

MEADOWS TOWNHOUSES: Winter special! 3-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath, dishwasher, walk-in closets, washer/dryer hookups, attached garage. No pets. \$475/\$450. 344 and 348 Walden Circle. NIFA guidelines. EHO. Housing vouchers welcome. A must see! 402-462-8767 U.S. Property.

104 Houses For Rent

1-BEDROOM: All new, garage, air. 611 Emerson. \$475. 460-9626.

1-BEDROOM: Stove, refrigerator, air. No pets. \$325. Call 463-1664.

1718 BOYCE: 2-bedroom. No pets. \$385. 402-461-4075.

2-Bedroom, 921 W 10th, \$400; 1-bedroom, 702 S. Lexington, \$350. 461-4075

3- AND 4-BEDROOM: Rent to own. Air, garage. \$650-\$950. 402-461-3213.

3-BEDROOM: \$475 month. 1523 N. Kansas, Hastings. Stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer hookups, attached garage, fenced back yard. 402-362-2898, evenings. Planning to show house Saturday, February 9, from 1-5 p.m.

3-BEDROOM: Off-street parking and garage. All kitchen appliances furnished. Large utility/family room. 414 S. Bellevue. Call Delvin, 402-366-9266.

FOR SALE OR RENT, 3/1/08: In Blue Hill. 2-bedroom with garage. Newly remodeled. 402-984-2373.

105 Mobile Homes For Rent

1-BEDROOM: \$325. Free water, trash and cable. Kingswood Plaza, Hastings. 1-888-880-8510.

108 Office Space

CLEAN, LOW cost offices: 1st and Hastings; elevator service. Call Cornhusker Realty, 402-462-6232 or 469-0556.

109 Business Property

RETAIL SPACES: 1st St. (MiCasa), Hastings (Divas), 2nd St. (Site). Call Cornhusker Realty, 402-462-6232 or 469-0556.

111 Storage/Warehouse

5,000 SQ. FT.: Office, manufacturing. \$500 per month. 461-1785.

INTERIOR RV STORAGE Year round accessibility, electricity, convenient location near Hastings. 402-845-2352 or 308-379-7183

NEW STORAGE Units: 10'x10', 10'x20', 10'x40'. T&M, 402-462-6330.

116 Houses For Sale

1331 N. CEDAR: 2-bedroom, 1-bath, 1 1/2-car garage. New siding, shingles, windows. Price reduced. 402-461-9824.

3 or 4-BEDROOM homes, garage. Joyce Schlachter, Broker, 462-5794.

116 Houses For Sale

3-BEDROOM, 2-bath, wood floors, large fenced-in back yard, single garage. Sprinklers, Colorado stone fireplace, 2-year-old roof and gutters. New air. 1,480 sq. ft. 1323 N. Colorado. \$97,500. 402-705-2370 or 308-440-4347 for more information or to see.



514 N. 2nd Avenue Open House: 2/9, 12-4; 2/10, 12-2. 4-bedroom, 2-bath. Main floor utilities. \$149,500. 463-0756.

700 Oakmont: 3 or 4-bedroom, 2-bath, split. Double attached garage, large fenced yard, sprinklers. 402-984-7264.

BY OWNER: 521 Depot, Harvard. \$7,000. 402-984-9210.

HUSKER AUCTION & REAL ESTATE, INC.
Ron Skrdla, Broker 463-5995

ADVANCED REALTY INC
Kathy Tessman, Broker, 463-3555

Benchmark IV Real Estate
463-2361
2727 W. 2nd Street, Suite 336

HOME REAL ESTATE
Darla Bruna, Broker 461-6930

GREAT OPEN floor plan: 3-bedroom, 2-bath, new windows, furnace/air, 2-car garage Close to schools. 462-4727.

LET US design and build a new home for you or see our existing homes in Hastings' finest areas.

JOHNSON IMPERIAL

Your "GREEN" Builder
2727 West 2nd - 461-4100



WELL-MAINTAINED 3- bedroom, 2-bath. Built in 1998. Large fenced yard. Great landscaping. \$112,000. 461-3491.



WESTBROOK: 2-story. Built in 2003. Large master bedroom. 2.75 baths, fireplace, private office entrance, large fenced yard, underground sprinklers. \$279,000. 402-469-8141.

Gateway Realty of Hastings Inc.

FARM AND RANCH

118 ACRES of irrigated farmland (with 1/2 of Hwy 6) in Hastings. Call Gateway Realty, 402-463-4561

NEW LISTING

174 ACRES in Clay Co. Mostly gravity irrigated.

2 Quarters of 160 in Clay Co. Fully irrigated. Call Gateway Realty, 402-463-4561

Gateway Realty Farm & Ranch Department Offers you Complete Real Estate Service:

• Personal, Dependable Service - a professional who knows the market area.

• Auctioneering Service - Gateway Realty employs an auctioneer, should you choose to auction your property.

When Selling Your Farm Property ... Call 463-4561
Dave Parr, Auctioneer 469-1574



Cleaning Services

WILL DO cleaning for small businesses and offices. 402-469-5236.

Computer Repair

COMPUTER REPAIR: In-home service. Reasonable rates. Virus, Spyware removal; tuneups; upgrades. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. 984-8001.

Engraving

SWEET'S CUSTOM ENGRAVING / SANDBLASTING. Bike, auto, knife, gun cabinet and gun engraving. 402-463-5709.

Firewood

QUALITY MIXED hard woods, sold by pickup load. 402-746-2886.

118 Mobile Homes For Sale

2 AND 3-BEDROOM homes for sale. Owner financing available. Blue Ribbon Homes, 463-2421.

2 DOUBLE WIDES located in K & K Plaza. 3-bedrooms, 2-baths, lot 18 and lot 33. Financing available. Blue Ribbon Homes, 402-463-2421.

119 Residential Lots

LAKEVIEW LOTS: Lake Hastings. Agent/owner, Alan Anderson, 461-1785.

Looking For A "New" Place To Live?

There are some prime rental possibilities in our rental classifications 100-113. Want to place your rental ad here? Call our Classified Department at 402-461-1241 or 1-800-742-6397.

Legals

Notice
In the County Court of Adams County, Nebraska Estate of ELEANOR L. PRESTON, Deceased. Estate Case No. PR08-19

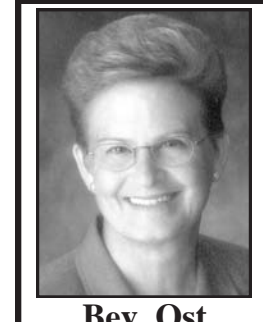
Notice is hereby given that on February 4, 2008, in the County Court of Adams County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Melvin D. Bunde, whose address is 1106 Circle L, Hastings, Nebraska 68901, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of this estate.

Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before April 10, 2008, or be forever barred.

Tom Hawes
County Court Clerk
Magistrate
P.O. Box 95
Hastings, Nebraska
68902

Les Seiler, #13759
Seiler & Parker, P.C.
P.O. Box 1288
Hastings, Nebraska
68902-1288
Attorney for Applicant
February 9, 16, 23, 2008

RE/MAX First Choice



Bev Ost
Agent
Cell 402-463-9377
Office 402-462-2525
All offices independently owned & operated

Blue Ribbon Homes

Brought to you by
Blue Ribbon Homes
1103 East South St., Hastings, NE 68901 • 402-463-2421

Farmer's Corner

135 Livestock
BLACK SIMMENTAL, Angus and SimAngus bulls for sale. Yearlings and 2-year-olds available. Free care and delivery. Call Hans, 402-469-1966.

Legals

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: Ron Hoagland of 811 North Madden Road addressed the Mayor and Council in regard to the proposed annexation of Area "C" (property located north of U.S. Highway 6 and east of the current City boundary).

Councilman Odom entered the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Chuck Hoagland of 13060 South Marian Road, Ayr, Nebraska, addressed the Mayor and Council in regard to the proposed annexation of Area "C".

Clyde Hoagland of 960 Showboat Boulevard addressed the Mayor and Council in regard to the proposed annexation of Area "C".

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS: The Mayor reminded the Council that the January 28, 2008, Council meeting will be held at 8:00 p.m. so that the Mayor and Council can attend the DARE Graduation ceremonies at the City Auditorium.

Chris Lundquist of Troop 200 stated they were at this meeting to earn their Citizenship Badge.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

Moved by Glen, seconded by Peterson that the following items on the Consent Agenda be approved: 1(a) Approve Minutes of the Council meeting of December 10, 2007.

2(a) Approve application of Midtowne Mart LLC for a Special Designated License at the Adams County Fairgrounds on February 13, 2008. 2(b) Approve application of The Tank for a Special Designated License at the City Auditorium on February 15, 2008.

4(a) Approve payroll for the period ending January 12, 2008, paid January 18, 2008 in the amount of \$289,454.95. 4(b) Approved authorizing the City Clerk to issue checks against the various funds for payment of the following claims:

Firefighters Clothing Allowance-\$1,520.00; Police Officers Clothing Allowance-\$2,220.00; Police Reserve Officers Clothing Allowance-90.00; Hastings Utilities General Operating Fund (Electricity)-3,992,365.67; Hastings Utilities General Operating Fund (Combined)-2,887,529.39; Hastings Utilities Payroll Fund (Electricity)-216,968.71; Hastings Utilities Payroll Fund (Combined)-243,725.13; 3M KQ S7020-1,236.75, Su; AFC Specialty Printing-22.66, Su; Adams County Clerk-19,314.87, Se; Adams County Convention & Visitors Bureau-8,450.18, Ms; Adams County Register of Deeds-45.50, Se; Adams County Sheriff's Office-27.48, Ms; Adams Land Title-50.00, Se; Advanced Compressor Service-13.95, Se; Aerosock, Inc.-266.20, Su; Allen's of Hastings, Inc.-11.49, Su; Allides Publishing-387.55, Se; Alltel Cellular-970.72, Se; Amera-Chem, Inc.-76.90, Su; American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers-294.00, Ms; Ampride-307.50, Su; AP Technology-150.00, Se; Aramark Uniform Service, Inc.-490.21, Se; Auto Glass Center-428.18, Su; Auto Value-Hastings-693.45, Su; Awards Unlimited, Inc.-208.73, Su; Baker & Taylor, Inc.-2,336.48, Su; BBC Audiobooks America-421.76, Su; Beyke Signs-148.00, Su; Big Dally's Deli-66.30, Su; Big G Commercial Account-2,990.00, Su; Big G Stores-2,308.66, Su; Robert Bishop-216.75, Su; Blackstone Audiobooks-79.20, Su; Bosselman Energy, Inc.-161.00, Su; R.R. Bowker, LLC-943.92, Su; Bramble's Auto Sales, Inc.-487.50, Se; Brown's Shoe Fit Company-40.00, Su; BSJ Construction, Inc.-25,660.26, Se; Marjorie Bunde-30.00, Ms; Michael Burke, Psy.D.-1,000.00, Se; Business Office Systems-62.90, Su; Business World Products-2,991.39, Su; The Cad Zone, Inc.-598.00, Su; Cash-Wa Candy Company-879.36, Su; Centaur Enterprises-269.44, Su; Centra Chemical Services-65.94, Su; Central Community College-190.00, Ms; Central Valley Rentals-80.00, Se; Centurion Technologies, Inc.-98.57, Se; Certified Folder Display-3,190.24, Su; Champlain Planning Press-60.00, Su; Chappy's Auto Maintenance-647.52, Su; The Child's World-1,822.60, Su; City Clerk-Petty Cash-262.84, Re; City of Hastings-213.61, Su; Community Redevelopment Authority-1,591.67, Sa; Computer Consultants of Hastings-1,736.82, Ms; Computer Hardware-2,376.00, Su; Consolidated Concrete Company-8,165.37, Su; Constructors, Inc.-2,643.84, Ms; Consumers Service Company-151.74, Su; Cooperative Producers, Inc.-854.02, Su; Cornhusker Press-732.87, Su; Cornhusker Tool Machine and Manufacturing-15.00, Su; The Cornhusker-70.00, Ms; Cross Dillon Tire-5,000.00, Su; Junior Cuba Trucking-707.50, Se; Culligan of Hastings-56.21, Su; Custom Masonry-375.00, Ms; Customers of Dynix, Inc.-75.00, Ms; DHL Express (USA), Inc.-140.77, Se; DLT Solutions, Inc.-2,132.83, Su; DEA Technology-128.20, Se; Jim Delgado-100.00, Se; Delken Press-888.00, Su; Dell Marketing, L.P.-1,762.06, Su; Tom Dinsdale Chevrolet-794.03, Su; Downtown Center Association-3,715.00, Ms; Drummond American Corporation-453.09, Su; Berdina Dunham-30.00, Ms; Duo-Safety Ladder Corporation-792.32, Su; Dutton-Lainson Company-14,238.79, Su; EDM Equipment Company-560.00, Su; Eakes Office Plus-1,756.18, Su; Earl May Seed & Nursery Company-4,213.24, Su; Ebsco Subscription Services-783.86, Su; Eileen's Colossal Cookies-90.00, Su; Emergency Medical Products, Inc.-651.89, Su; Emson Tree Specialists, Inc.-1,525.00, Se; Engineering Technologies, Inc.-3,733.14, Se; Enslow Publishers, Inc.-23.95, Su; Envirotech Services, Inc.-3,811.40, Su; Environ Ware, Inc.-1,413.04, Se; Ervin & Smith-365.40, Se; ETS Development Group, LLC-2,688.12, Ms; Eurolink Design Corporation-81.55, Se; Marilyn Evans-25.00, Se; Executive Copier Systems-347.80, Su; Factual Data-Midwest-25.44, Se; Fairbanks International-Hastings-315.90, Su; Family Medical Center of Hastings-326.00, Se; Fastenal Company-54.67, Su; Federal Express Corporation-54.30, Se; Ed M. Feld Equipment Company-114.00, Su; Fleet Pride-344.59, Su; Friesen Chevrolet, Inc.-1,232.59, Su; Fyr-Tek-432.19, Su; Gale-510.79, Su; Gall's, Inc.-10.99, Su; Ganz, Inc.-1,117.14, Su; Garrett Tires and Treads-86.75, Se; Gaylord Bros.-461.36, Su; Gene's Repair & Sales-222.61, Su; Giant Screen Films-619.20, Ms; Verlene Gipe-30.00, Ms; Glenwood Telecommunications-54.95, Se; Gould Evans Associates, LC-15,899.50, Se; Grand Island Independent-988.50, Se; Grand Island Testing Labs-45.00, Su; Great Plains Region Volleyball-125.00, Ms; Jesse and Wendy Gwenn-60.00, Ms; Mike Hamik Construction-382.50, Se; Happy Moon Enterprises-1,500.00, Ms; Hartland Cleaning Service-1,685.00, Se; Hasler Financial Services, LLC-328.65, Se; Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce-676.58, Ms; Hastings Hide, Inc.-42,000.00, Ms; Hastings Public Access-9,945.07, Ms; Hastings Tribune-2,369.59, Se; Hastings Utilities-40,115.45, Se; Hastings Utilities-Permits-7,911.28, Re; Hatten Electric Service-14.00, Su; Hazardous Substance Response-150.41, Ms; Head Start-150.00, Ms; Heartland Pet Connection-4,333.33, Se; Helmann and Sullivan, P.C.-9,509.00, Se; Heritage Bank-512.19, Su; Hess Auto Body-660.80, Se; Hogan's Sporting Goods-213.00, Su; Honeywell, Inc.-4,670.50, Se; Howard's Glass-626.17, Su; Husker Power Products, Inc.-783.25, Su; Ideal Electric, Inc.-742.93, Su; Industrial Irrigation Services-38.68, Su; Info USA, Inc.-637.00, Su; Informal Learning Experiences-59.00, Su; Insulation Systems, Inc.-483.00, Su; Interstate All Battery Center-1,384.17, Su; International Association of Electrical Inspectors-16.00, Ms; International Public Management-392.50, Ms; Island Supply Welding-46.74, Su; J&M Steel-102.00, Se; J.L. Asphalt Paving Company-322.02, Su; Jackson's Floor Service, LLC-295.00, Se; Janssen Auto Body, Inc.-431.20, Se; Janet Johnson-14.02, Re; KME Fire Apparatus-1,729.01, Su; K&G Plumbing and Heating, Inc.-1,627.90, Se; Kearney Hub-125.40, Se; Kelly Supply Company-91.21, Su; Kerr Chevrolet Geo, Inc.-43,865.69, Su; K-Mart, 26.00, Su; Knoll, Inc.-4,853.16, Su; Kone, Inc.-1,360.26, Se; Krieger Electric Company-161.02, Se; K-T Heating & Air Conditioning-780.96, Se; Kully Pipe & Steel Supply-952.94, Su; LCL Truck Equipment, Inc.-20,441.85, Su; Lamar Companies-650.00, Se; Lasertec of Nebraska, Inc.-267.86, Su; Deanne Leffler-30.00, Ms; Lerner Publishing Group-859.06, Su; Chingyun (Kay) Liang-100.34, Re; Library-Petty Cash-270.80, Re; Linweld-11.00, Su; Little Caesar's-59.50, Su; Meta, Inc.-450.00, Se; Monte Maouf, Jr. & Associates-43.35, Su; Marquis Who's Who-639.00, Su; Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital-37.28, Se; Midland Sales & Construction-403.00, Se; Mid-Nebraska Lubricants-6,388.46, Su; Mid-Sate Engineering & Testing, Inc.-490.00, Se; Midwest Engines-10.18, Su; Midwest Tape-491.75, Su; Midwest Turf & Irrigation-1,094.21, Su; Minitec-50.00, Su; Morrison Enterprises-55.67, Ms; Museum-74.38, Su; Museum of Science and Industry-36.40, Ms; NAPA Auto Parts-2,488.98, Su; National Air Insurance Agencies-6,997.00, Ms; National Geographic-387.40, Ms; National Arbor Day Foundation-15.00, Ms; National Fire Protection Association-150.00, Ms; National League of Cities-1,789.00, Ms; National Paper & Sanitary Supply-1,626.20, Su; Navistar Leasing Services Corporation-28,734.47, Su; Nebraska Aviation Council-150.00, Ms; Nebraska Department of Aeronautics-5,742.85, Su; Nebraska Department of Economic Development-18,723.78, Ms; Nebraska Department of Revenue-1,242.32, Ms; Nebraska Machinery Company-6,205.75, Su; Nebraska Public Health Environmental-616.00, Se; Nebraska Recreation & Park Association-200.00, Ms; Nebraska State Fire Marshal-240.00, Ms; Nebraska State Historical Society-40.00, Ms; Nebraska Supreme Court Publications-114.60, Su; Nebraska Turf-

grass Association-150.00, Ms; Nebraska Well Drillers Association-200.00, Ms; Network Solutions-29.99, Ms; Newman Traffic Signs, Inc.-1,976.25, Su; Tam Nguyen-20.00, Se; O'Keefe Elevator Company, Inc.-146.11, Se; Olsson Associates-20,055.83, Se; O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.-95.44, Su; Orschelns-286.84, Su; Paper Tiger Shredding-50.00, Su; Paramount Linen-27.10, Se; Parks Department-Petty Cash-66.24, Re; W.G. Pauley Lumber Company-228.46, Su; Pavelka Truck & Trailer Repair-216.22, Se; Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company-332.90, Su; Kathy Peterson-109.11, Re; Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab-231.00, Se; Pikes Peak Rock Shop Wholesale-93.50, Su; Platte River Radio, Inc.-225.35, Se; Platte Valley Communications-388.26, Su; Presto-X Company-255.00, Se; Primesco Films, Inc.-105.00, Se; Printing Systems, Inc.-275.27, Su; Protex Central, Inc.-976.00, Se; Quality Sound & Communications-117.00, Se; R&R Products Company-289.30, Su; Random House, Inc.-197.20, Ms; Raynor Garage Doors-80.00, Se; Reader's Digest Large Print-29.96, Su; Recorded Books, LLC-524.55, Su; Red Cloud Chief-24.00, Se; Regional Books, Inc.-27.94, Su; Reis Environmental, Inc.-1,307.80, Su; Re-New Christian Resource Center, LLC-142.19, Su; Richard's Electric-170,964.77, Se; Matthew Rossen-213.15, Re; Rural Metro Ambulance-529.05, Su; Don Rutt Plumbing & Heating-778.60, Su; Rutt's Heating & Air Conditioning-169.75, Su; Samuelson Equipment Company-390.76, Su; Scherbarth, Inc.-76.10, Su; Scholastic Book Fairs-238.40, Su; Scott Electric-227.50, Su; Andrea Sell-21.81, Re; Tammy Sell-60.00, Ms; Sherry's Collectibles-Cards-32.25, Su; Sherwin-Williams-19.48, Su; Sleep Inn & Suites-76.49, Se; M. Lee Smith Publishers, LLC-197.00, Su; Smitty's Electric, Inc.-483.65, Se; Source Gas-190.59, Se; South Central Nebraska RC&D-35.00, Ms; Sports Turf Managers Association-145.00, Ms; State of Nebraska-DAS Communications-704.00, Se; Superior Signals, Inc.-322.20, Su; Sure Foot-379.18, Su; Technicolor-20.18, Su; Telephone Systems of Nebraska, Inc.-8,240.22, Se; Third Party Environmental, Inc.-400.00, Se; Thomsen Oil Company-33,094.46, Su; Three Points Tire Service-12.00, Se; Trace Analytics, Inc.-156.00, Su; Trade West-133.20, Se; Trane-1,339.25, Se; Transit Works-245.86, Se; Tri-City Garden Corporation-30.00, Su; Ron Turley Associates, Inc.-900.00, Se; Tami Turner-30.00, Ms; USA Outdoor, LLC-300.00, Se; U.S. Express Leasing, Inc.-255.41, Se; U.S. Postal Service-2,257.00, Su; Uncle Neal's Country Stores-1,875.00, Se; United Automotive Distributors-75.18, Su; Universal Hydraulics, Inc.-87.62, Su; Van Kirk Brothers Contracting-19,859.09, Su; Viero Wireless-7.53, Se; Village Uniform-139.80, Ms; Mandy Vinton-30.00, Ms; VISA-7,834.06, Ms; Vontz Paving, Inc.-2,004.20, Se; Wal-Mart Community-1,377.32, Su; Weather Service International-582.00, Se; Weis Fire & Safety Equipment Company, Inc.-24.02, Su; Wells Fargo Bank-Paying Agent-94,131.25, Ms; Westland Building Company-5,325.97, Se; Williams Exterminating, Inc.-46.00, Se; Windstream Communications-5,146.35, Se; Windstream Long Distance-176.99, Se; Woodward's Disposal Service-1,836.26, Se; Kevin Wycoff, MD, P.C.-130.00, Sa.

The motion carried. Moved by Will, seconded by Goebel that the claims of Kully Pipe & Steel Supply in the amount of \$952.94 (City) and \$5,355.51 (Utilities) be approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Odom, Will, Peterson, Goebel, Ruberson, Glen. Nays: None. Abstain: Kully. Absent: Harrington. The motion carried.

The public hearing on the request of the City of Hastings to designate 9th Street between Elm Street and 6th Avenue as an urban collector street was held at this time. No one appeared to speak in favor. No one appeared to speak in opposition. The Mayor declared the hearing closed. ORDINANCE NO. 2008-2...Designating 9th Street between Elm Street and 6th Avenue as an urban collector street. Set in full in original minutes.

Moved by Peterson, seconded by Ruberson that Resolution No. 2008-2 be passed and approved. The motion carried. The public hearing on the request of Eileen Harman to rezone Lots 1 and 2, Little Mexico Subdivision from I-1 Light Industrial District to C-1 Local Business District was held at this time. No one appeared to speak in favor. No one appeared to speak in opposition. The Mayor declared the hearing closed. ORDINANCE NO. 4160...Rezoning Lots 1 and 2, Little Mexico Subdivision from I-1 Light Industrial District to C-1 Local Business District. Passed. Set in full motions in original minutes. Published in the Hastings Tribune on January 18, 2008. Effective date of the ordinance is January 30, 2008.

The public hearing on the request of Anna Stehlik on behalf of Robert Gottsch for a Conditional Use Permit to harbor horses at 1950 North Elm Avenue was held at this time. Anna Stehlik of 3303 West 12th Street appeared to speak in behalf of the request. No one appeared to speak in opposition. There being no other persons wishing to speak, the Mayor declared the hearing closed. Moved by Odom, seconded by Kully that the Council approve the request of Anna Stehlik on behalf of Robert Gottsch for a Conditional Use Permit to harbor horses at 1950 North Elm Avenue, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. There shall be a 25' wide manure free area maintained between the subject property and the surrounding properties. 2. Council approval for a five foot fence height is required or fence shall be brought into compliance with City Code.

The motion carried. Moved by Will, seconded by Odom that the Council approve the request of Anna Stehlik on behalf of Robert Gottsch for an increase in fence height along 2nd Avenue from three feet to five feet. The motion carried. The public hearing on the application of Hastings Liquor Mart & Tobacco Row LLC dba "Hastings Liquor Mart & Tobacco Row" for a Class "C" Liquor License to be operated at 728 East South Street was held at this time. No one appeared to speak in favor. No one appeared to speak in opposition. The City Attorney asked that the reports of the Building Official and the Police Chief, as well as the Affidavit of the City Clerk, be entered into the record. The Mayor so ordered. The Mayor declared the hearing closed. RESOLUTION NO. 2008-3...Approving application of Hastings Liquor Mart & Tobacco Row LLC dba "Hastings Liquor Mart & Tobacco Row" for a Class "C" Liquor License at 728 East South Street. Set in full in original minutes.

Moved by Goebel, seconded by Peterson that Resolution No. 2008-3 be passed and approved. The motion carried. Moved by Will seconded by Odom that the Council approve the Manager Application of Richard D. Wiseman in connection with the Class "C" Liquor License of Hastings Liquor Mart & Tobacco Row LLC dba "Hastings Liquor Mart & Tobacco Row" at 728 East South Street. The motion carried. Moved by Peterson, seconded by Ruberson that the Council approve the Green City Task Force providing the Parks and Recreation Department with \$10,000.00 for immediate tree purchase and \$25,000.00 to be placed in a sinking fund to be managed by the Hastings Community Foundation. The motion carried. Moved by Odom, seconded by Peterson that the Mayor be authorized to execute the Escrow Agreement pertaining to remediation of groundwater at the North Landfill Site, and that the sum of \$50,000.00 be paid from that Escrow Account. The motion carried. RESOLUTION NO. 2008-1...Supporting Adams County Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the Adams County Historical Society grant application to the State of Nebraska for a Tourism Marketing Grant. Set in full in original minutes. Moved by Ruberson, seconded by Peterson that Resolution No. 2008-1 be passed and approved. The motion carried. ORDINANCE NO. 4161...Vacating Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 in Plum Subdivision. Passed. Set in full motions in original minutes. Published in the Hastings Tribune on January 18, 2008. Effective date of the ordinance is January 30, 2008.

Moved by Goebel, seconded by Ruberson that the Council approve the Preliminary and Final Plans of Plum Second Subdivision. The motion carried. ORDINANCE NO. 4159...Annexing Area "C" (property located north of U.S. Highway 6 and east of current City boundary). Passed on 2nd reading only. Set in full motions in original minutes. RESOLUTION NO. 2008-5...Amending Fee Resolution No. 2007-50 pertaining to the City Auditorium, Smith Softball Complex and Prairie Ridge Soccer field fees. Set in full in original minutes. Moved by Odom, seconded by Ruberson that Resolution No. 2008-5 be passed and approved. The motion

carried. RESOLUTION NO. 2008-6...Participation in All-Hazards Mitigation Planning. Set in full in original minutes.

Moved by Goebel, seconded by Will that Resolution No. 2008-6 be passed and approved. The motion carried.

REPORTS OF LIAISONS: Councilman Goebel reported on the January 3, 2008, Board of Public Works meeting. Discussion was had and a work order approved for 25 street lights to be installed in Westbrook Subdivision. PPGA activities were discussed and will be increasing this spring. Wind power possibilities for Hastings has been tentatively set for discussion at the March 13, 2008 Board of Public Works meeting. The PPGA Committee met on January 11, 2008 with Hastings Utilities Personnel and received an update on some of the real specific things that are being done and need to be done to get this power plant up and going. There are three agreements necessary, the Participation Agreement is in place and it is an agreement setting out who is in on the deal, what part of the facility they are buying, etc. The Shared Facilities Agreement needs to be taken care of within the next two to three weeks and it lays out who owns what when the power plant is constructed and who has responsibility for maintaining what. The Operating Agreement says that Hastings Utilities is going to operate and maintain the facility.

Councilmember Peterson reported on the Mayor's Youth Council meeting from last week. They are doing some fund raisers for the drug dog as well as fund raisers to help send more students to the National League of Cities meeting. They are also looking at writing a grant from the Disney Corporation to buy some trees for planting on Arbor Day. Councilmember Peterson reported on the Green City

Task Force meeting. We are and will continue to review proposals and also look at setting some time aside for all of us to discuss what is the role and mission of the Green City Task Force

Councilmember Peterson stated Betty Vertin has been hired as the part-time Director of the Ron Gardner Meth Coalition.

Councilmember Peterson reported on the Library Board meeting. There will be a consultant coming on February 7th and 8th. They will be contacting Councilmembers to meet with the Mayor and City staff. They are looking for Council input on what should be the vision for the Hastings Public Library.

Moved by Peterson, seconded by Kully that the Mayor and Council go into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. to discuss current City litigation and personnel. The motion carried.

Moved by Odom, seconded by Kully that the Mayor and Council go out of Executive Session into Regular Session at 9:35 p.m. The motion carried.

The Mayor advised that no other business was discussed in the Executive Session other than current city litigations and personnel.

Moved by Goebel, seconded by Ruberson there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourn at 9:35 p.m. The motion carried.

APPROVED: /s/ Matthew S. Rossen Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Connie Hartman City Clerk (SEAL) February 9, 2008

Hastings Tribune YELLOW PAGES

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Texas 'vacation' no sunny getaway

I keep thinking that spring is just around the corner, that tomorrow will be warmer and sunnier and farmers will be out working in their fields, getting the land ready for a new crop.

Tomorrow hasn't been warmer or sunnier, so I tried to change my way of thinking and headed south to Texas. It was a good plan, but it was only marginally warmer, and it was not sunny.



Denise Andersen

On the warmest day of the five my husband and I spent there, it was about 50 degrees. That was an improvement from home, but it felt cold. We still had to wear winter coats, and a misty rain fell most of the time we were there. It was more like home in March, and we all know March can act exactly like winter.

It was also brown there, just like home, only there was scraggly grass and brush instead of corn and milo stalk fields.

Of course, except for while we were at our destination in Killeen, we pretty much stayed on the interstate, and we all know that the view from the interstate isn't the same as the view from a back road.

So, it was with great surprise that as I was driving back from Killeen that my attention was caught by a farmer out disking his field. I couldn't tell what he was going to plant, but thought it might be wheat. Texas is known for wheat, after all.

Daryl was asleep in the copilot's seat, so I couldn't ask him. I was just tickled to see a farmer out farming and thought that maybe, just maybe, spring was really around the corner. I admired the flock of gulls following his tractor and pressed onward, my spirits lifted.

An hour later, it was misting rain. Two hours later, in Kansas, the temperature dropped from 41 degrees to 29 degrees in less than a mile and the rain was now freezing onto the windshield.

We braced ourselves for a long, miserable drive and were relieved when the freezing rain quit after about 75 miles. The temperature was down to 19 degrees.

And then it started to snow. The closer we got to home, the more snow collected on the road. We made it home, and the next morning when we got up, the temperature was at 5 degrees with a stiff north wind.

"Welcome home," the guys at the coffee shop greeted me when I came in that morning.

"Yeah, it's wonderful," I said. "It's cold and snowy, and spring is a long ways off."

"Well, sure," Alvin said. "You do know that it's only February."

Please see TEXAS/page C2

FACES IN BUSINESS: Harry Alexander



AMY ROH/Tribune

Harry Alexander cuts Dick Hinrichs' hair Wednesday at City Slickers Family Hair Center in downtown Hastings.

Cuts and conversation

HARRY ALEXANDER
WELL KNOWN TO PATRONS
AT CITY SLICKERS

TONY HERRMAN
therman@hastingstribune.com

Hastings barber with one of the longest tenures in town has been cutting hair and conversing with customers at the corner of Lincoln and Avenue and Third Street for more than a decade.

Harry Alexander, 72, whose been a barber 47 years, has cut hair at City Slickers Family Hair Center, 238 N. Lincoln Ave., for 13 years.

"I like talking to the people, and having a nice warm place in the wintertime and cool place in the summertime," Alexander said. "It's interesting talking to people — that's the thing I like."

There's always something new coming up, He said.

The business was started about 24 years ago by Bill Bye and Bill Delay. It

was originally called The Palace and was in the Susan Alexander building (no relation) across the street.

Alexander worked as a barber in a few other locations throughout the city. That includes his own barbershop, which used to be the old Yost and Kamper's barbershop near the corner of Hastings Avenue and Second Street.

"One day, Bill Delay asked me if I would come to work and I said, 'I sure would,'" Alexander said.

Delay has since died. Hastings resident Dale Gartner purchased the barbershop from Bye 12 years ago.

"Bill and Harry had been barbers in Hastings forever — in a sense, it's Harry's barbershop," Gartner said.

When he bought the business he renamed it City Slickers because he's a big fan of old westerns and likes the connotation of both the city and the Old West.

"And it's fun to decorate," Gartner said.

The barbershop has a mural of New York City and photos of old cowboys.

"It's a friendly corner downtown; you see the same people coming and going and there's always a friendly word from the barber," Gartner said. "I go by just to visit."

"It's family-friendly, we have cozy furniture. It's a nice place to sit and visit with friends — we always have the daily paper."

For Alexander, the job allows him to stay current on the latest news of his friends and customers.

"I like listening more than talking because you learn a lot more that way," he said.

He works with Lisa Healy and Jessie Faile at City Slickers.

"There's a good atmosphere in there," he said. "We have two ladies working in there with me."

While their chairs are surrounded with family photos, Alexander also has dozens of Christmas cards and letters posted on the mirrors near his chair.

"It just brings back memories," he said. "I have one of my old partner's brother. It's refreshing to see that. It brings back good memories."

Butz still had fans in farm country

Not long ago, a colleague and I were swapping war stories when he asked what my worst time as a reporter had been. A run-in with a crusty editor? A source who denied knowing me? A threatened lawsuit?

No, no and not even close.

By far the worst job I ever had, I related, was the time I followed then-former Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz to the microphone at an Illinois farm policy forum.



Alan Guebert

It was brutal. Not only did no one even pretend to listen to me, I doubt that anyone — short of Raquel Welch in a red-white-and-blue bikini singing the Star Spangled Banner — could have quieted the 500 or so buzzing farmers after their hero, Secretary Fencerow-to-Fencerow, finished his loaf-of-bread-and-apple routine. I was toast before I started.

Afterwards, however, the Secretary, whose razor intellect was matched only by his hack-saw tongue, stepped up to shake both my hand and a dash of salt into my wounds.

"Say," he offered, "after listening to you, I'm not surprised that folks in Illinois are still raising hogs in the weeds."

Several years later I bumped into the then-nearly 90-year-old on the campus of his beloved Purdue University. "You still preaching socialism?" he asked. Yes, I replied, but it beats raising hogs in the weeds. "Hah!" he chuckled, then smiled. "You just made my day."

Butz, who died at age 98 on Feb. 2, had a lot to smile about even though every one of his obituaries prominently featured the "vulgar racial comment," as the New York Times described it in their Feb. 4 edition, that brought an ignominious end to his princely reign as secretary in 1976.

None, however, mentioned perhaps his most remarkable achievement: living long enough to see his rock-ribbed, free market orthodox deliver not one, but two stratospheric economic boons to American agriculture. The first he rightfully could—and faithfully did—take credit for: the go-go 1970s.

Like Earl's public career, though, that brief interlude, fueled by the Soviet Union's explosive, unforeseen U.S. grain purchases, came to a swift and ugly end. When Soviet buying failed to keep up with expanding U.S. production, the American balloon it had over-inflated burst.

That boondoggle, also explosive and unforeseen, smashed farmers and lenders so fast and so badly that even Butz's acolytes in the Reagan White House and Congress swiftly forsook his free market legacy to

Please see GUEBERT/page C2

Retirees caught in financial squeeze

ENERGY PRICES,
FALLING STOCK
MARKET FORCE MANY
TO ECONOMIZE

ELLEN SIMON
The Associated Press

The temperature in Lea Wait's home has been falling along with stock prices.

Wait, 61, invested the early retirement buyout she took from AT&T Corp. in 1998. As stocks gyrated this winter and the heating bill at her Maine home climbed to \$600 a month, she made new investments: Thermal underwear and a wood stove that burns "BioBricks" made of condensed sawdust and wood chips.

"You try to do some planning," she said. "Then the stock market goes down and oil goes up. Fingers crossed that it will be an early spring."

Rising food and fuel prices, falling interest rates and screeching declines in worldwide stock markets have Wait and thousands of other retirees



PAT WELLENBACH/AP

Lea Wait gets an armful of wood from the stacked pile in her barn at her house in Edgcomb, Maine, Jan. 23.

paring spending to levels some haven't seen in decades, forgoing dinners out, cutting back on groceries and canceling plans to visit grandchildren.

"All these costs are added up but when I get my Social Security check, it's the same thing," said Johanna Walker, 75, of Greenfield, Wis., a retired

receptionist who said she depends on Social Security.

As a group, retirees are wealthy. People 65 and older have an aggregate net worth — assets such as homes, cars, stocks and savings accounts minus liabilities such as debts — of \$14.45 trillion. That's more than one-quarter of the nation's total personal net worth, according to an analysis of the most recent data from the Federal Reserve-sponsored Survey of Consumer Finances.

But a closer look shows life in retirement isn't all cocktails at the country club. The median income of people 65 and older in 2006 was \$16,443, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, an independent nonprofit group.

Social Security accounted for roughly 40 percent of average income for people 65 and older, according to the institute, while wages and salary earned by those who kept working were about a quarter of average income. The rest came from pensions, annuities and assets.

Please see SQUEEZE/page C2

Your turn

Do you have any special plans for Valentine's Day?

Heath Jacob, Hastings

"Nope, I'm just going to stay home."



Kendra Shuck, Hastings

"I am going to be in Florida with my boyfriend. We're going to Disney World."



Kelly Robenhagen, Fort Collins, Colo.

"I think some of us are just going to hang out, maybe get some pizza, have a low-key night, and not really make a big deal out of it."



Anne Hessler, Hastings

"My plans for Valentine's Day are that my husband is working, so I'm going to join the club and work as well."



Vonda Essex, Hastings

"I'm going out with my husband to dinner and possibly dance."



Amber Clinebell, Hastings

"Me and my husband just decided to make it simple this year. We're going to go out to dinner, and instead of getting each other a present we decided to get the kids a little something."



Squeeze: Many retirees cut expenses

Continued from page C1

Wait, for instance, depends on income from investments and earnings from the mystery and young-adult novels she writes, paintings her husband sells and a small antique business they run.

In Harlem, retired waiter Alexander Saunders, 69, said increased medical costs have him job hunting; he's waiting for his fingerprints to come back from a background check so he can get his chauffeur's license, start driving a limo and work his way up to driving a yellow cab. Asked what he's doing to cut costs, Saunders, who has diabetes, reaches into his coat pocket to pull out packs of Splenda nipped from restaurants.

After spending 40 years waiting tables everywhere from the Waldorf-Astoria to Lundy's, "I just have to really budget," said Saunders, who said his monthly income from Social Security and a pension is \$680.

Financial advisers say retirees with assets should spend, as a general rule, only 4 percent of their investments each year in retirement. But larger outlays are sometimes unavoidable.

Ed Block, 81, has seen a series of expenses drain his savings in the 22 years since he

retired from AT&T and moved to Key West, Fla. He and his wife helped with two granddaughters' college bills and still contribute to one grandson's prep school expenses. They've started a college fund for the rest of their grandchildren, assisted two sons who were downsized and pitched in when a grandchild needed special education.

With his diminished investments and a pension that doesn't rise with inflation, what he calls "Wall Street's agonies" added urgency to 2008 budget cuts the couple would have had to make anyway, he said.

"Twenty-two years without a paycheck is a very long time in the face of persistently rising costs," he said.

Block and his wife have shrunk what used to be \$2,000 to \$5,000 annual donations to the local symphony, church and social service agencies to \$150 to \$300. Vacations are out. When homeowners' insurance hit \$1,200 a month, the couple trimmed their coverage. He and his wife gave their Acura and their Mini Cooper to two of their sons, downsizing to a four-cylinder Accord.

Recent stock market tumbles mean their savings "are further threatened," Block said. "At my age, I have no prospect of

enlarging our income through employment, so we are just going to have to turn the screws and tough it out more than we even had to do since I began my working career in 1950."

On the other side are investors like Trudy Aman, 76, of Hollywood, Fla., who has run a stock club for 12 years and sees market swoons as a buying opportunity. One of the stocks she owns is Garmin Ltd., the GPS company. When it hit \$123, "I was just hysterical," she said. When it dropped to \$60, a friend called and said, "What do you think, are you going to sell?"

"I have full faith in this country's economy," she said. "I wouldn't dream of selling."

She told the retired teachers and city of Hollywood employees in her stock club when she founded it, "This money is not to put bread and butter on the table. This is money, if you lost it, you wouldn't be out on the street. I do not buy anything unless I have extra money."

AP Business Writer Emily Fredrix in Milwaukee, Wis., contributed to this report.

Texas: Weather cool, but warmer than home

Continued from page C1

I knew that — I just wanted to avoid it, maybe skip right to March.

"You're just spoiled because you were in Texas where it was warm," Mitch Wilson said.

I told them about my trip to Texas, where the weather wasn't warm.

"Did you see the Fort Worth Stockyards?" Mitch asked.

I saw a sign for them, but mostly in Fort Worth I saw the bumper of the car in front of me. It was not fun.

"But you saw cattle, didn't you?" Alvin asked. "Texas is a big cattle state."

I had to think about it.

Yes, I did see some cattle.

They were longhorns; and strangely enough, we had to stop our car for them to cross the road.

"They were running loose on the interstate?" Alvin asked.

"That doesn't sound right."

No, they weren't on the interstate, I explained. They

were on the road leading from Ft. Hood to a lake we drove to one afternoon.

"Well, then, see, the trip wasn't a complete loss," Alvin said. "And the weather was probably better at Corpus Christi."

It probably was, but I was never there.

"You went all the way to Texas and didn't go down to the Gulf?" Mitch asked. "You didn't sit on the beach and watch the sun rise?"

I didn't. We helped our daughter and son-in-law move into their new house. And I got to spoil my 9-month-old granddaughter. I can go to the beach anytime and the next time we go down to Texas, we'll go when it's warm and we can spoil our granddaughter at the beach.

Denise Anderson, of Fairbury, is a columnist for the Tribune. Contact Anderson at 402-461-1264 or e-mail at tribune@hastingstribune.com.

Study raises red flag on chicken feed additive

DON HOPEY

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A chicken-feed additive containing arsenic and used to produce pinker, healthier, bigger-breasted birds could cause human disease, according to a study.

The study is the first to link a human health risk to the feed additive that has been widely used since the 1960s by commercial chicken producers to control intestinal parasites, reduce stress, stimulate growth and improve the color of chicken meat.

Partha Basu, the study's lead author and associate professor in Duquesne University's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, said laboratory analysis reveals that the antibiotic arsenic compound roxarsone, which promotes the growth of blood vessels in chickens to produce pinker meat, does the same in human cell lines — a critical first step in many human diseases, including cancer.

"This is a significant finding as it relates to potential human health effects from roxarsone," said Basu, who worked on the study with scientists from Thermo Fisher Scientific laboratories and the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health.

"We wanted to test if roxarsone, which increases pigmentation by forming more blood vessels in chickens, does the same in

humans and the answer is yes," Basu said. "It's a process called angiogenesis, a common growth process, but also one that occurs in many diseases and cancers."

Results of the study have been published in Environmental Health Perspectives, an online journal of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, which supported the study.

Although the effect of roxarsone on those who eat chicken is still undetermined, Basu said, chicken-farm workers are likely at risk because they could inhale dust containing arsenic from feed and waste. In addition, those who work with or use commercial fertilizers containing waste from chickens that were fed the arsenic additive could also be exposed by breathing the dust.

The National Chicken Council, a Washington-based trade organization for the poultry industry, wasn't aware of the study but maintained that roxarsone is safe and is approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

"The study is based on lab tests. There's nothing epidemiological about it," said Richard Lobb, a spokesman for the council, who emphasized that the study is not based on reports of actual illnesses. "It will need to be repeated and confirmed by other researchers."

Alpharma Inc., the global specialty phar-

maceutical company that makes roxarsone, declined comment.

U.S. chicken producers use a total of 2.2 million pounds of roxarsone each year. About 70 percent of the 9 billion fryer chickens grown annually nationwide eat feed containing the additive, which also is used in turkey and pig feed.

More than 95 percent of the roxarsone fed to chickens is excreted unchanged in chicken waste, which is regularly applied as fertilizer on surrounding farm fields or used in commercial fertilizers.

The new study is a follow-up to one released by Basu and other Duquesne researchers last March that found the organic arsenic feed additive is chemically transformed into inorganic arsenic, a known carcinogen, much more quickly than previously thought.

Arsenic occurs naturally in the environment, but industrial discharges by coal-burning power plants, industries and some mining operations are closely regulated. Its use in pesticides and as a wood preservative has been banned due to health concerns and the difficulty in removing it from the environment.

Chronic exposure to inorganic arsenic is known to cause cancer and has been linked to heart disease, diabetes and declines in brain functions.

Wal-Mart to put own name on health clinics

MARCUS KABEL

The Associated Press

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. will open its first in-store medical clinics under its own brand name after leasing space in dozens of stores to outside companies that operate the quick-service health stops.

The world's largest retailer said Thursday it will open "The Clinic at Wal-Mart" as a joint venture with local hospital systems in Atlanta, Dallas and Little Rock, Ark., starting in April.

Bentonville, Ark.-based Wal-Mart is among several U.S. supermarket and drug store chains that in the past couple of years have begun opening store-based health clinics, which are staffed mostly by nurse practi-

tioners or physician assistants and offer quick service for routine conditions from colds and bladder infections to sunburn.

About 7 percent of Americans have tried a clinic at least once, according to an estimate by the Convenient Care Association, an industry trade group formed in 2006.

That number is expected to increase dramatically, as chains like Wal-Mart, CVS Corp., Target Corp. and Walgreen Co. partner with mini-clinic providers like RediClinic and MinuteClinic to expand operations. The trade group estimates there will be more than 1,500 by year-end, up from about 800 in November.

Guebert: Remembering Butz

Continued from page C1

pull American farmers back into the safe bosom of Momma USDA.

Butz would have none of the new schemes — PIK and CRP are two yet standing — and he spent much of the next decade speaking against the resurgence of "ill conceived, ill begotten" government farm programs to any group who'd have him.

And most did. Sure, in Washington he was a political pariah, but in the countryside he was a policy maharishi. He was, after all, Earl Butz, the first secretary of agriculture who didn't just preach higher prices; he delivered 'em. Personally.

Indeed, when Butz served Richard Nixon as USDA chief, his cult was so strong that

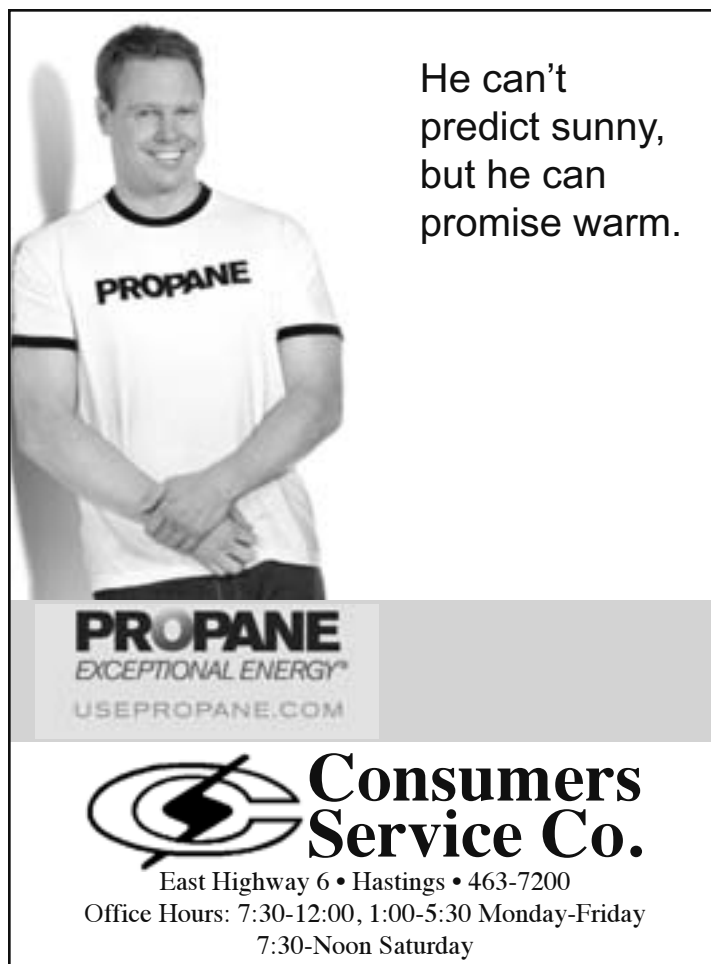
during Nixon's 1972 re-election bid a commonly seen bumper sticker in farm country read: "Re-elect Nixon or lose your Butz."

Even now, 35 years later, to speak ill of Earl in farm country is similar to burning the flag at the Lincoln Memorial on CNN at noon on the Fourth of July. Do it and someone's gonna' stomp the tar out of you.

But was Earl Butz the savior farmers made—and still make—him out to be?

What do I look like, a socialist who wants the tar stomped out of himself and his hogs out there in the weeds?

Alan Guebert can be reached at P.O. Box 648, Delavan, IL 61734 or e-mail at agcomm@sbcglobal.net.



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Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Green mineral
 - 5 Delt neighbor
 - 8 — vu
 - 12 Hair curler
 - 13 Miscalculate (2 wds.)
 - 14 Lerner or Ladd
 - 15 Parrot
 - 16 Goes camping (2 wds.)
 - 18 Running wild
 - 20 Racket
 - 21 Boxing great
 - 22 Gets smart (2 wds.)
 - 25 Place to park
 - 28 Do dock work
 - 29 Oops! (hyph.)
 - 33 Close by (2 wds.)
 - 35 Rousseau novel
 - 36 Things on a list
 - 37 Descend
 - 38 Frisk about
- DOWN**
- 1 Triangular sail
 - 2 Diva's melody
 - 3 Quad
 - 4 building
 - 5 Finance
 - 6 Each
 - 7 Worn away
 - 8 Morse click

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	A	T	C	A	L	L	S	P	A		
B	A	C	H	O	V	A	L	O	R	B	
A	R	L	O	C	O	M	A	L	O	B	
R	E	U	N	I	O	N	M	U	D	D	Y
	G	S	A	B	A	S	E				
P	R	I	S	M	O	S	E	R	S		
I	O	N	S	P	U	D	R	I	T	A	
N	A	G	S	O	R	E	S	N	O	V	
M	E	N	T	O	R	A	L	G	A	E	
N	A	I	L	W	R	Y					
E	R	U	P	T	F	A	I	R	I	E	S
T	A	O	T	E	A	K	I	D	L	E	
A	S	U	E	A	S	E	C	E	L	T	
L	P	S	R	U	T	S	S	A	S		

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- 10 Clink or cooler
- 11 Debate site
- 17 Eland cousin
- 19 Pottery ovens
- 23 Long-faced
- 24 Well mechanism
- 25 Hideout
- 26 Herr von Bismarck
- 27 The others
- 30 Rose fruit
- 31 Bogus butter
- 32 Clutched
- 34 Rock-band need
- 35 Warren and Monroe
- 37 Free of
- 39 Baja bash
- 40 Yearbook
- 43 Who and what's partner
- 44 Disney site
- 45 Junk e-mail
- 46 Parade honoree
- 47 Quiche base
- 50 Brat in "Blondie"
- 51 Hamlet, for one
- 53 Understood
- 54 Moray
- 56 Insult, slangily

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Two nos don't make a yes for man who wants to marry

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for 4 1/2 years, after a 24-year marriage. For the last 3 1/2 years, I have been seeing a woman I'll call "Marilyn." My problem is I have proposed to Marilyn on two occasions, and she has said no both times — yet she continues our relationship. I am 49 and she is 45.



Dear Abby

Marilyn has never been married and never left home. She lives with her mother and 15-year-old daughter. We all get along great. I guess my question is, do I continue with the way things are, or should I try to meet someone else, take a chance and start all over again? — WANTS A WIFE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR WANTS A WIFE: You're asking the wrong person the wrong question. You should be asking yourself why you're continuing to pursue a woman who has rejected you twice. If you're happy as things are, I won't dissuade you. However, if it's a wife you're after, you should move on. As my grandfather used to say, if you're looking for trout, you won't find it fishing in a herring barrel.

DEAR ABBY: I love my fiancé. We're supposed to be married soon. I can envision myself with him in the future, but I have never really been out on my own to experience life.

I think I may be bisexual. I have been attracted to a woman at work for about a month now, and I can't get her off my mind. I do want to be with my fiancé — just not right now. But if I tell him I want a break to explore who I am, I'm afraid I'll lose him forever. Please help. — LONGING FOR SPACE

DEAR LONGING: You may love your fiancé, but you are not ready to make a lifetime commitment to one person right now — male or female. To do otherwise would be unfair to both of you.

The time has come to level with your fiancé. It may — or may not — spell the end of the relationship, but it could also be the beginning of something more important: getting to know yourself.

Under no circumstances should you take a vow "to forsake all others" until you're absolutely sure you're able to follow through.

DEAR ABBY: I am 45 years old and in great shape. I have always taken care of myself by watching what I eat and exercising on a daily basis. I take pride in my physical and mental health, and take steps every day to achieve my goals.

People often tell me I don't need to worry about my weight, etc. Actually, I look the way I do because I DO worry about my weight!

So why do these comments bother me? And why do people make these comments? — FULLY ALIVE AT 45

DEAR FULLY ALIVE: The remarks bother you because they negate the fact that you work hard to be the person you are. And people make them because they fail to appreciate that being mentally and physically in tip-top condition takes discipline and is an ongoing process.

Pauline Phillips, a.k.a. Abigail Van Buren, and Jeanne Phillips are columnists for Universal Press Syndicate. Write Dear Abby at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Rubes

By Leigh Rubin

The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



That day, Koko learned a new hand gesture not usually found in the standard curriculum.



2-9

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Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



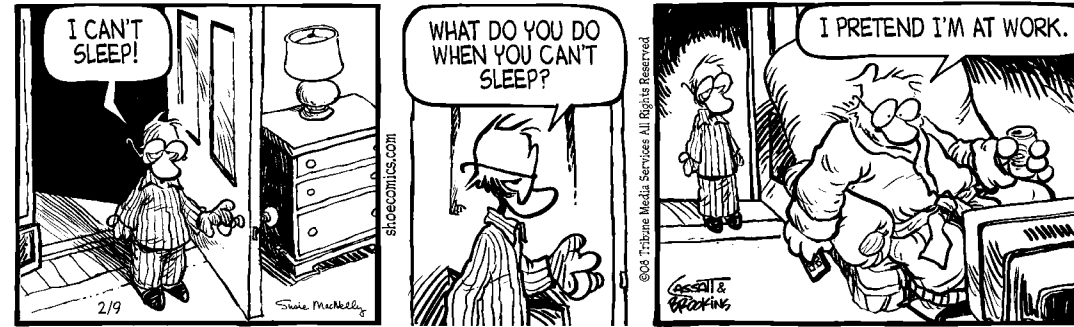
Grizzwells

By Bill Schorr



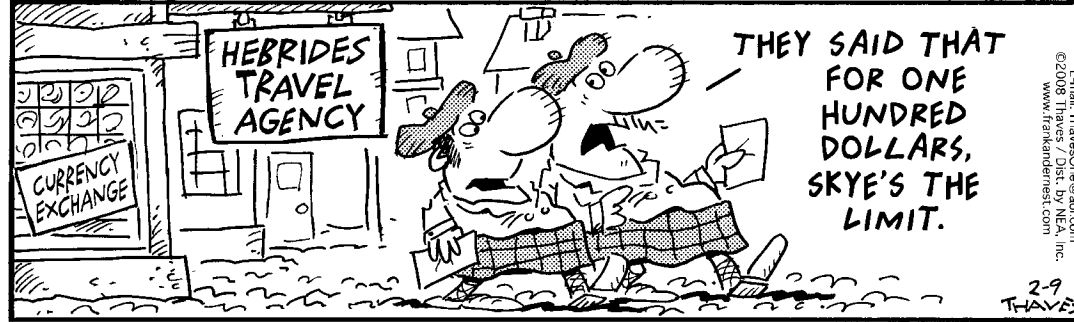
Shoe

By Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



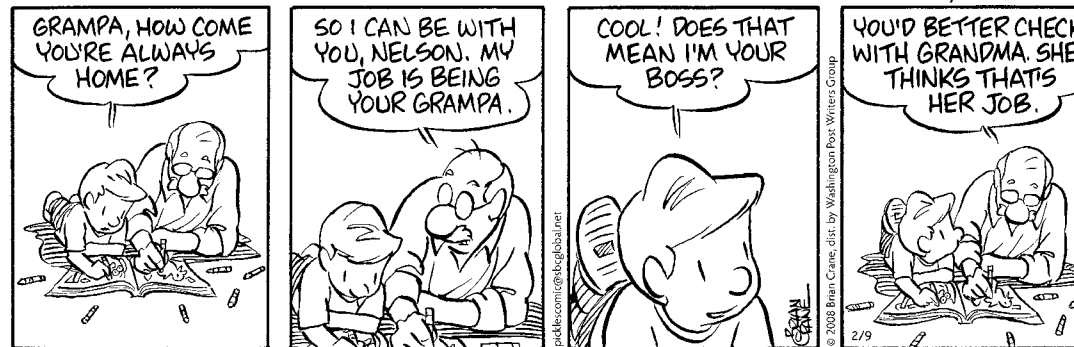
Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



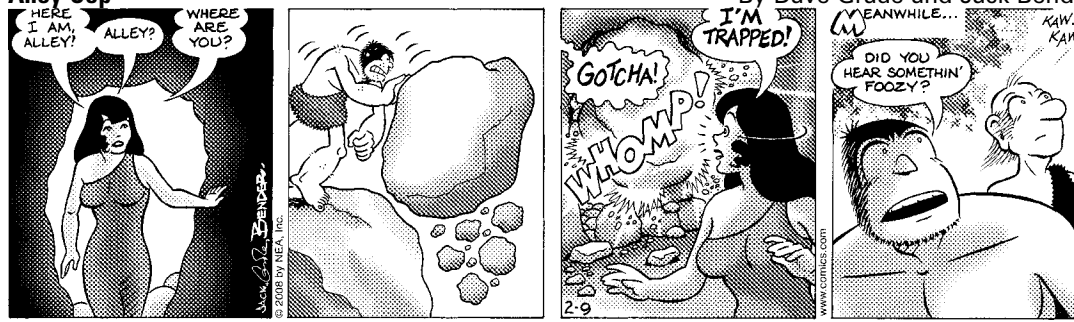
Pickles

By Brian Crane



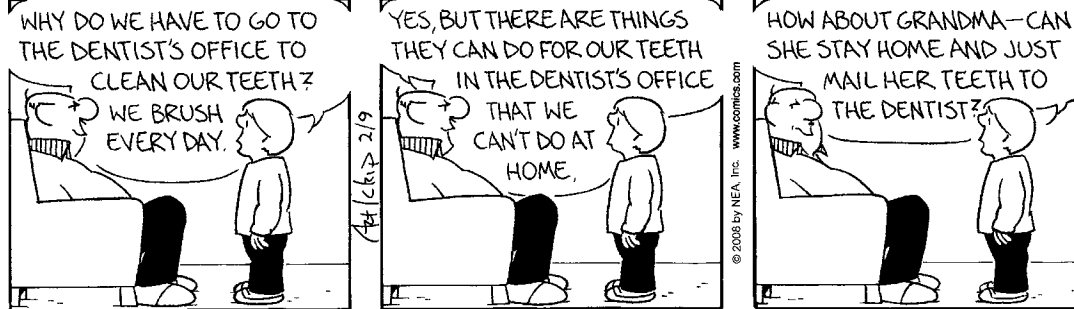
Alley Oop

By Dave Graue and Jack Bender



The Born Loser

By Art and Chip Sansom



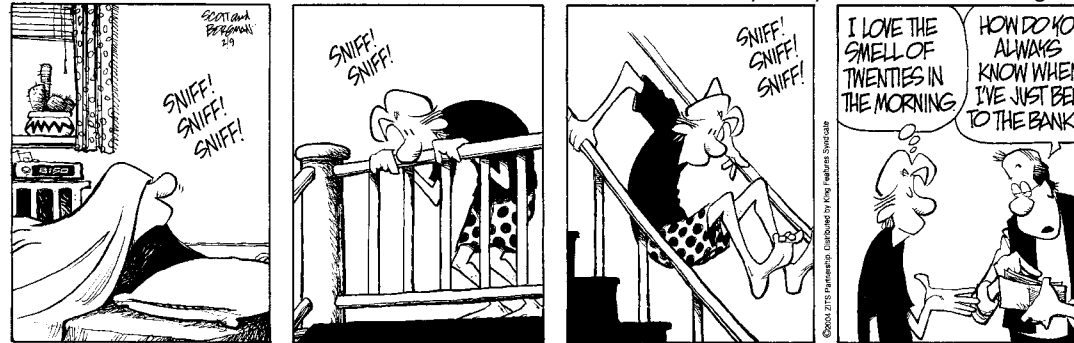
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Zits

By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Astrograph

SUNDAY, FEB. 10

By studying things of interest for which you have an immediate use, you will find that education and learning will come easier in the year ahead. Expanding your knowledge will be both gratifying and profitable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) If you are just skating through life and merely trusting to luck to carry the load for you, don't expect any big returns. Rewards will come only in direct proportion to the efforts you expend.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) There are no free rides in life, even when it comes to dealing with loved ones. Small, thoughtful gestures, however, will yield big returns. Do something considerate so that those close to your heart know you care.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) When working on something in unison with another that is turning out well, don't attempt to take all the accolades. Sharing the glory and rewards must be equally distributed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) When you make decisions based upon existing, realistic facts, the outcome will be excellent. Conversely, shy reasoning that impairs your judgment will only lead you far from your goal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Avoid inclinations to blow small difficulties out of proportion and make them far more overwhelming than they actually are. Instead, use that splendid imagination of yours in positive ways.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Taking your business or financial problems to someone you know on a social basis is not only out of line — it would be a big mistake. It's much wiser to use an objective banker who knows how to advise you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If you can hit your stride, you will be a productive, industrious performer. But that is iffy, especially if you are looking for a free ride. To succeed, you must first have a sense of purpose and then total focus.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A discussion with friends can prove to be enlightening, but if it leads to advice about a business or financial arrangement, take what they have to say with a grain of salt. Thoroughly investigate all deals independently.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You are likely to get off to an ambitious start with a project, but you could quickly become disenchanted if you overreach or go after something beyond your skills. In this case, you will not finish what is begun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Upon occasion, we can do a bit of harmless exaggerating and nothing will come of it. But a lack of candor now, especially with co-workers, will lead to a serious situation that will be difficult to untangle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Even small financial dealings and transactions with others must not be taken frivolously; otherwise, you could be more concerned with their interests than with your own and give away the store.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You must be careful not to behave in a superior or condescending manner when dealing with others. Although all looks well on the surface, you're on shaky ground and could trip over your own feet.

MONDAY, FEB. 11

You will be given more opportunities than usual to expand your social contacts and interests in the year ahead. Those you meet and become close to will turn out to be valuable friends who can open doors for you in fresh areas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Whatever you decide to take on will be something that is done in a manner that will benefit others as much as it does you. You are luckier when working along with others, so don't hesitate to team up.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) There are indications that you will get a second shot at something that you had previously failed to take advantage of. There may not be a third chance, so don't let this opportunity slip by once again.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) The busier you are, the better you'll like it and the more you are apt to get done, so plan a full agenda and see how well you can perform. Probably a lot better than you ever thought possible.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) One of the things you do best is to organize situations for everybody who works at your side in a manner where all will perform at their peak. Just don't be pushy or bossy about it and they will happily comply.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) What is your secret to success is relying upon the same methods or tactics that recently worked out so effectively for you. Don't change horses in midstream because you are onto something.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Your greatest rewards will come from getting involved with others in some kind of joint endeavor. Working collectively will help you operate within your strengths while letting others do what you can't.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) A painful, personal past experience can be employed advantageously when you use it to avoid making a similar mistake once again. Although you might not want to recall it, it will be wise to do so.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your knowledge and expertise can be used effectively, but you might have to toot your own horn in order to make others aware of your abilities. Even if it is a bit embarrassing, it is the smart thing to do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) One of your best assets is your ability to reorganize things others have bungled, whether it is a massive undertaking or merely minuscule. The important thing is to do so as tactfully as possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Although there might be one little fly in the ointment, on the other hand, things are really quite good, so don't let that tiny bug stop you from sticking to your original objectives and doing your thing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Don't hesitate to contact an associate of yours who is a clever thinker if there is a project that needs something you're missing. He or she is likely to be the one who can fill in the omitted pieces.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) The sweet scent of money is in the air if you're alert enough to sniff it out when it is in your proximity. Don't turn your back on anything just because you weren't looking for it.

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Conversation about splits in Baptist church

As Bill Clinton tells the story, it wasn't your typical Baptist prayer breakfast.

The guest of honor at the White House was the Rev. Ed Young, the Southern Baptist Convention's new president. The two men went jogging near the National Mall and had breakfast on the Truman Balcony with Vice President Al Gore. The three Southern Baptists didn't agree on everything, but the atmosphere was friendly — in large part because the president admired Young's preaching so much.

But the crucial exchange in that 1993 meeting centered on a question about the Bible, said Clinton, speaking to last week's New Baptist Covenant Celebration in Atlanta. This unprecedented summit drew about 10,000 Anglo, African-American, Asian-American and Hispanic Baptists from 30 North American conventions and organizations linked to the Baptist World Alliance.



Terry Mattingly

Continuing a lengthy story that he turned into a parable, Clinton said that Young "looked at me and he said, 'I want to ask you a question, a simple question, and I just want a yes or no answer. I don't want one of those slick political answers. ... Do you believe the Bible is literally true? Yes or no.'"

"I said, 'Reverend Young, I think that it is completely true, but I do not believe that you, or I, or any other living person, is wise enough to understand it completely.' He said, 'That's a political answer.' I said, 'No, it's not. You asked a political question.'"

The audience in the Georgia World Congress Center cheered, which isn't surprising since the New Covenant gathering served as a rally for Clinton and other Baptists anxious to build a progressive network to stand opposite the conservative Southern Baptist Convention.

Also, it isn't surprising to learn that Young has a radically different take on what happened that morning. He agrees it was a friendly meeting, but doesn't remember eating breakfast. However, the preacher said all of those logistical details are beside the point.

"The main thing is that I have never asked anyone on this earth that question," said Young, who continues to lead Second Baptist Church in Houston, which draws about 25,000 worshippers to services each week on five campuses throughout that giant metropolis. "I have no doubt that someone, somewhere has asked Bill Clinton if he thinks the Bible is literally true, but it wasn't me."

"That isn't a question I ask. I mean, Jesus says, 'I am a door.' ... How do you claim something like that is literally true?"

In fact, Young doesn't remember mentioning "biblical inerrancy" during that White House meeting, the theological term at the heart of 30 years of conflict in the 16-million-member Southern Baptist Convention, America's largest non-Catholic flock.

However, the men did discuss the divisions in their church, Young added, and Clinton offered an articulate defense of his more liberal approach to the Christian faith. They also talked about specific moral and political issues, the kind of hot-button issues that are causing splits in many mainstream churches these days.

Clinton and other New Covenant speakers talked openly about the SBC's fault lines, including abortion, gay rights, the ordination of women, cloning accounts of creation, global warming, the death penalty and the separation of church and state.

For Baptist conservatives, Clinton insisted, the theological foundation for their public activism was the "proposition that the Bible was literally true and that, once you understand its literal meaning, it was possible to know what God intended us to do about every conceivable political question alive in this day. And, that knowing God's will, if we did not do it, we had committed not just a political error, but a religious heresy."

But when it comes to politics, the former president said Baptists should focus on the verse in the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians in which he stresses that it's impossible to understand everything about God's will because, in this life, "we see through a glass, darkly."

Terry Mattingly is a columnist for Scripps Howard News Service. Contact Mattingly on-line at www.tmat.net.



HOWARD YANES/AP

A spiritual guide closes the eyes of Andrea Gomez during a Santeria ceremony near Sorte Mountain, Venezuela, Dec. 21, 2007.

Santeria surges in Venezuela

JORGE RUEDA
The Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — The man says he is possessed by a god. He shouts, his body trembles and he lifts a sacrificed lamb to his lips, drinking its blood from the jugular.

This initiation ceremony, seldom witnessed by outsiders, has become increasingly common in Venezuela, as the Afro-Cuban traditions of Santeria and other folk religions gain followers.

The rituals have become an attractive option for Venezuelans seeking a unique spiritual path, including healing ceremonies aimed at curing everything from illness to heartache. Some even believe certain gods will offer protection from Venezuela's rampant violent crime.

The surge in Santeria, which is practiced by many in Cuba, can partly be explained by the arrival of thousands of Cuban doctors in Venezuela. President Hugo Chavez has been providing Cuba with subsidized oil in exchange for thousands of physicians who come to the South American country to treat poor people.

Santeria priests are also making annual predictions for Venezuelans and issuing warnings — just like Cuban "santeros" do in Havana. Last month, one group of priests said the gods have indicated that the twice-divorced Chavez would be a more effective leader with a woman at his side.

It's a familiar pattern. Santeria has grown in popularity in New York, Miami and Puerto Rico in the past following influxes of Cubans, according to Margarite Fernandez Olmos, a professor at City University of New York who has researched the religion.

In overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Venezuela, many shops have sprung up in recent years selling roosters, goats and other animals to be sacrificed in Caracas' working class barrios. In the city's churches, believers can be seen in head-to-toe white, praying to their gods before statues of Catholic saints.

Santeria was born in Cuba among Yoruba slaves from West Africa. They were forbidden to practice their own religion, so they fused their beliefs with the Catholicism of their masters, starting a tradition that has spread throughout the



HOWARD YANES/AP

Faithful light candles to the Virgin of Las Mercedes Church in Caracas, Venezuela, Oct. 24, 2007. Within the Santeria religion, the Mercedes Virgin is considered a deity and receives the name of Batata. Every year on Oct. 24, Catholic priests allow the Santeria followers to enter the church and worship the virgin.

Americas. Catholic leaders consider the rituals idolatrous, but have come to tolerate the popular practice.

Santeria has been present in Venezuela for decades, though some experts say it is more out in the open now due to the political situation.

"The current political ambience created by a populist government with its emphasis on nationalism has made Santeria more visible," said Leslie Desmangles, a religion and international studies professor at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

Along with Santeria, Venezuela is home to other folk religions, such as the sect surrounding the Indian goddess Maria Lionza, which has also been flourishing.

Believers in Maria Lionza make quick dashes through highway traffic in Caracas to reach a statue of the goddess in a highway divider. They lay offerings of flowers, liquor or coins at the foot of the statue, which depicts the naked goddess riding atop a tapir, a jungle animal.

The Santeria movement nowadays cuts across racial groups and class lines, and includes lawyers and other professionals as well as the

unemployed among its adherents. In spite of rapid economic growth propelled by Venezuela's key oil industry, people here face problems from crime to inflation.

"Santeria is on the rise because there are many people who need the help of higher powers to overcome their problems," said Belkis, a 51-year-old "santera" who declined to give her last name, saying true followers prefer anonymity.

She was among hundreds of white-clad believers who recently crowded into a Catholic church, praying before a statue of the Virgin de Las Mercedes, a manifestation of the Virgin Mary, who they said represents Obatala, a patriarch in the pantheon of Yoruba gods.

Black magic practitioners known as "paleros" are known to gather human bones from cemeteries in order to seal pacts with the dead, to call upon their spirits for vengeance.

At least some of the grave-robbing that plagues Caracas' main cemetery is thought to be due to the paleros, who according to some Santeria followers offer up to \$5,000 for a skull.

In contrast, those seeking enlightenment and healing often visit the mountains of Sorte in rural north-central Venezuela, a key site for followers of the Maria Lionza sect.

The patchwork of other folk rituals in Venezuela includes lighting can-

dles and leaving fruit and cups of liquor at makeshift altars among the tombstones at Caracas' largest cemetery. Others pray using idols that range from toy dolls to wooden statues of "malandros" — street hoodlums who serve as protector spirits on streets where killings are frequent.

One santero, a 40-year-old named Wilfredo who would not give his last name, said that while Santeria attracts many for positive reasons, there are those who use it for black magic "because they think they can go kill and rob and nothing will happen to them."

Black magic practitioners known as "paleros" are known to gather human bones from cemeteries in order to seal pacts with the dead, to call upon their spirits for vengeance.

In his sermon, titled "I Am the Bread of Life," Neske draws attention to the "I Am" sayings of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. As one who knew Jesus in his more personal way than his three gospel evangelist counterparts, John is able to impart a clearer understanding of his mission in the world.

"Whenever John records Jesus using one of the 'I am' sayings, John, too, is making a



ED REINKE/AP

An exhibit depicting two archaeologists coming to very different conclusions while unearthing the same skeleton is part of what will become the Creation Museum, now under construction near Petersburg, Ky., seen in this July 6, 2006, file photo.

Book calls evolution theory racist

DYLAN T. LOVAN
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The founder of a popular Kentucky Christian museum that rejects evolution says in a new book that Darwin's theory fuels racism and genocide.

Ken Ham, who opened the Creation Museum last year, and co-author Charles Ware, president of Crossroads Bible College in Indianapolis, have written "Darwin's Plantation: Evolution's Racist Roots," arguing that the theory inspired the Nazi belief in racial superiority and the murderous policies of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

"What Darwinian evolution did I would say is provide what people thought was a scientific justification for separation of races," Ham said in an interview.

Ham is not the first to try to tie Darwin with racism. The charge has been made for years.

It came up last month in arguments over science curriculum at a South Carolina state school board meeting. In 2001, Louisiana's state legislature considered a bill that said Darwin supported racist ideologies.

David L. Schultz, associate professor of biology at Nicholls State University in Louisiana, said Darwin was egalitarian and had a history of speaking out against slavery. "Darwin was not a racist," he said.

Ham runs the Christian group Answers in

Genesis and has already made an impact with his \$27 million high-tech museum in Petersburg, south of Cincinnati.

The complex has attracted more than 300,000 visitors with exhibits that treat the Bible's creation story as natural history and contend that evolution theory is wrong because it contradicts the Old Testament. The Creation Museum asserts that the earth is just a few thousand years old, dinosaurs coexisted with man and Adam and Eve were the first humans.

In the new book, Ham says that Darwin's theory that natural selection caused gradual biological changes over time, puts some races "higher on the evolutionary scale" and others "closer to the apes."

"Although racism did not begin with Darwinism, Darwin did more than any person to popularize it," Ham writes.

Ham further contends that the theory fanned the flames of "ethnic superiority."

"Stalin, Hitler and Mao were responsible for the deaths of tens of millions — and it can be shown they did this because of the influence of Darwinian naturalism..." Ham writes.

Eugenie Scott, executive director of the National Center for Science Education, a California group that defends teaching evolution in public schools, said Hitler rarely mentioned evolution.

"Darwinian evolution is based on natural selection, which means that any population can adapt to its environment," Scott said. "The ironic thing for the creationists is that Hitler grounded Aryan superiority as a God-given quality."

Ham said he came to the topic because he was upset by the unfair treatment of aboriginal tribes in his native Australia and the racism he saw in the United States when he arrived here in the 1970s. He said he experienced a backlash from some church groups after he wrote an article critical of biblical-based arguments against interracial marriage, which made him even more determined to tackle the issue.

"I got more what I would call hate mail from people, supposedly Christians in the church, than for any other article I've ever written," Ham said. "So to me I just had a real burden that I wanted to educate the church on this matter."

But Schultz called the argument "a ploy to get evolution out of the curriculum."

"Of course everybody's against teaching children racism, so if you call it racist, you can have it removed," said Schultz. He testified before a Louisiana legislative panel that took up the bill that would have tied evolution with racism. The measure was eventually stripped of any reference to Darwin.

Jesus offers sustenance as 'Bread of Life'

JOHN HUTHMACHER
johnh@hastingstribune.com

A lesson on heavenly sustenance by the Very Rev. Robert Neske of St. Mark's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral opened the 36th annual Sermons a La Carte Series Wednesday at St. Mark's.

The six-week series held from 12:05-12:30 each Wednesday of Lent features sermons by ministers from area churches. This year's series centers on the theme, "Signs of Our Lord."

The event includes a meal served for a nominal fee by women's groups from each of the churches represented. The first meal of the series was served by the Women of St. Mark's.

In his sermon, titled "I Am the Bread of Life," Neske draws attention to the "I Am" sayings of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. As one who knew Jesus in his more personal way than his three gospel evangelist counterparts, John is able to impart a clearer understanding of his mission in the world.

"Whenever John records Jesus using one of the 'I am' sayings, John, too, is making a

point," Neske said. "And the point the fourth evangelist would have us understand is that when Jesus begins a statement with the words 'I am,' he is very much speaking as the Son of God."

The first "I am" saying, found in John 6:35, pertains to the Lord's claim that he is "the bread of life." Taken in context with earlier text in the same chapter, Jesus aims to clarify to the 5,000 people he has just fed with five barley loaves and two small fish that his mission on earth is to feed their souls first and foremost.

As spoken in the Lord's Prayer, "give us this day our daily bread," it is God's desire to satisfy not only the physical needs of his people, but also their spiritual hunger, as well.

"At the same time, there is one thing that is true for all people, and that is that beneath the physical hunger there is another hunger," Neske said, "one that is equally necessary for the maintenance of life and equally demanding; the spiritual hunger and longing for God which is shared by all of us. Or, as St. Augustine rightly observed, 'Our souls are restless until they find their rest in thee.'"

"The manna provided by God to his people in the desert, Jesus longs to fill the hearts of all who seek him, not merely on a temporary basis — as in the feeding of the 5,000 — but for all eternity.

"The people who had been present at the miracle of the loaves and fish went looking for Jesus because they sought a commodity," Neske said. "Yet what Jesus offered them was something more than manna, more than the common bread that keeps a person alive for a time, but it does not give life; it does not feed, nourish or sustain the soul.

"The bread of life Jesus offered then and offers to each one of us now is himself."

In all things, Jesus aims to satisfy the hungry heart, both through the sacrament of Communion and with his word, the scripture. The sustenance provided through each is sufficient for one's journey here on earth, Neske said.

"We who have put on Christ in baptism, have received Christ that we might have life and immortality," he said. "But we have also received Christ in order that we might serve God and one another."

"It's a demanding way of life, and we can never know where God will lead us or have us go, but we know he will go with us and feed us along the way, for he is the bread of life."

"I Am the Light of the World" will be the topic of next week's sermon by the Rev. William G. Nottage-Tacey of First Presbyterian Church. Lunch following the sermon will be served by the Presbyterian Women. The sermons and lunches will all be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral, 422 N. Burlington Ave.

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GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1832 W. 9th St., Hastings, NE 402-463-5696 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Reverend Jim Miller and Lee Wigert	PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 906 N. California, Hastings, NE 402-462-9023 Worship 9:00 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Reverend Marcus Mackay
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NEW YORK AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 402 New York Avenue, Hastings, NE 402-462-9903 or 462-5379 Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m. Jim Donley, Lay Minister	SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL PRO-CATHEDRAL 5th Street and Burlington 402-462-4126 Holy Eucharist Saturday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 8 & 10 a.m. Church School at 9 a.m. Wednesday 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist The Very Rev. Robert Neske, Dean
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NORTH SHORE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 700 West 33rd St., Hastings, NE 402-462-5742 Sunday Mornings at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Sunday Evening at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday Family Night at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Youth at 7:00 p.m. at 405 W. 2nd St.	LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, ELCA 1338 Saunders, Hastings, NE 402-463-2087 Sunday Worship at 9 a.m. Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. Broadcast Sunday 6:30 p.m., Wednesday 10:30 a.m., on Channel 12 Pastor Del Klover
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NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP 102 S. Lincoln Ave. 469-1855 or 469-0756 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship time following service welcometownville.homestead.com Pastor Steve Markle	SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 400 S. St. Joseph Ave., Hastings, NE 402-463-3338 Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Dr. W.T. "Bud" Israel
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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 9th and Chestnut Streets, Hastings, NE 402-463-5044 Sunday Worship at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Education Hour at 9:15 a.m. Pastors Carl H. Rehwaldt & Paul Dunbar	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 7th and Hastings Ave., Hastings, NE 402-463-6733 Worship Saturday at 6 p.m. in Jones Chapel Church School at 10:00 a.m. Sunday Prayer Worship at 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Alan Davis
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FIRST ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 501 W. Burlington Ave., Hastings, NE 463-1329 Saturday Worship at 6 p.m.; Traditional Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.; Contemporary Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Education Hour at 7:30 a.m.; Service Broadcast over KHAS Radio at 11:00 a.m.; Telecast on Channel 12 on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. Rev. Joel Remmers & Rev. Adam White	WATERMARK COMMUNITY CHURCH 1814 W. B. St., Hastings, NE 402-463-0478 9:00 a.m. Bible Study for all ages 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Pastor Scott Paris
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GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 219 N. Hastings Sunday 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday • 7:00 p.m. "Patch the Pirate" Club • Ages K-4th Pastor Rob Thornton • 461-3054	VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH 1204 West 5th, Hastings, NE 402-469-6093 Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m. The Rev. Bill Arnold
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ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA A friendly open-country church 2 miles west of Glenvil on Assumption Rd. 462-771-2257 9:15 Sunday School (Sept.-May); 10:30 Worship Youth, Men's and Women's ministries Pastor Renee Johnson	SOUTH STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST 200 E. South, Hastings, NE 462-5804 Sunday Services Bible Classes at 9:30 a.m. Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. http://goibay.com/churchofchrist
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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 204 W. Johnson, Clay Center, NE 402-762-3723 Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.	FATH COMMUNITY TABERNACLE 503 N. Lincoln Ave., Hastings • 402-460-0631 Sunday Johnnith Javga Breakfast 9-10 a.m. 9:30 a.m. Sunday Service Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Men's Prayer Sunday 10 a.m. and Bible Study 11 a.m.; Women's Prayer and Bible Study Sunday 4 p.m. Pastor Edward MacDonald www.fathcommunitytabernacle.com
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LIFEHOUSE 11.2 miles South of Hwy. 6 on Marian Road in the Barn Warehouse Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m. www.lifehouse.org 469-5827	JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH 900 N. Platte Ave., Juniata, NE Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. American Family Radio Sponsor 91.7 FM Thomas Murray, Pastor Herbert Scott, Co-Pastor
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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 465 S. Marian Rd. Hastings, NE 68901-7401 Saturday Worship 6:00 p.m. Bible Study & Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Service Broadcast over KHAS Radio) Vacancy Pastor Greg Volzke	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 Dr. Judith Allen
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ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 6th Street and Kansas Ave., Hastings, NE 402-463-1336 Mass Monday-Friday
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Anniversaries

SWEET 80TH



Katherine and Clement Sweet will observe 80 years of marriage on February 15, 2008. They met at a dance in Decatur, Nebraska, and continued to dance most of their married life. Katherine Orr and Clement Sweet were united in marriage in the parsonage of the Methodist pastor in Decatur on February 15, 1928. They lived in Decatur for the first 60 years of their marriage. For the past 20 years they have resided at Good Samaritan Village in Hastings. They will observe their anniversary at a Sweetheart Dinner held in Perkins Pavilion where they now reside. Their children are Anita Willis and Phil and Evelyn Sweet, all of Hastings. They also have 6 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Their address is 300 So. 1st Avenue, #218, Hastings, NE 68901.

OCHSNER 40TH



Jack and Marie Ochsner of Hastings will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on February 10. Their family includes one son, Tracy, and daughter-in-law, Michelle Ochsner, of Hastings. They also have three grandchildren, Jarrett, Jaden and Jenna Ochsner. Jack Ochsner and Marie Kleir were married February 10, 1968, at Faith Lutheran Church in Hastings.

TAYLOR 40TH



Mike and Vonda Taylor of Edgar will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on February 11. Cards may be sent to P.O. Box 171, Edgar, NE, 68935. Their children are Bryan and Kristin Taylor of Dekalb, Illinois, Kirby and Josalyn Taylor of Milford, and Jason and Danielle Taylor of Lansing, Kansas. They have eight grandchildren.

SCHAKAT 60TH



Dorothy and Art Schakat will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on February 12. Their children, Carolyn, Bev, JoAnn, John, and their families, would like to honor them with a card shower. Anniversary wishes may be sent to: 1325 Pepperidge Dr., Hastings, NE 68901. Dorothy Mann and Art Schakat were married February 12, 1948 in Omaha.

Birthday

PETERSEN 75TH



The family of Jerry (Hinrichs) Petersen requests a card shower in honor of her 75th birthday on February 16. Cards may be sent to: 1222 N. Colorado, Hastings, NE 68901.

Oyster bar milks Super Bowl win

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Not only has the pride of New England been created by the New York Giants in Super Bowl XLII, so has the region's namesake chowder — at least at one city restaurant.

The Grand Central Oyster Bar is changing the name of its New England Clam Chowder to "Giants Clam Chowder" for the week.

The restaurant's owner, Mike Garvey, called it an "appropriate tribute."

The Giants beat the previously undefeated New England Patriots 17-14 on Sunday night to win their third Super Bowl title.

Five generation

JURGENSMEIER FAMILY



The birth of Keira Schneider brings the number of generations in the Jurgensmeier family to five. From left: Theresa Schneider, of Hastings, great-grandmother; Eric Schneider, of Omaha, father, holding Keira; Lyle Schneider, of Lincoln, grandfather; and Bea Jurgensmeier, of Hastings, great-great-grandmother.

Engagements

JURANEK – KELLY

Dale and Jan Juranek of Blue Hill and Tom and Michele Kelly of West Point are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Nikki Leigh Juranek of Tempe, Arizona and John Eugene Kelly of Chandler, Arizona. A March 7 wedding at St. John's Church at Creighton University in Omaha is being planned.

Miss Juranek is a 2004 graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and is expected to graduate from Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health in Mesa, Arizona with a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree in May 2012.

Kelly is a 2003 graduate of the University of Nebraska at



Lincoln with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a 2006 graduate of Creighton University School of Law with his Juris Doctorate. He is employed as a Deputy County Attorney for the Maricopa County Attorneys Office in Phoenix, Arizona.

NIENHUESER – HAAHR

Craig and Sharon Nienhueser of Kenesaw and Roger and Shirley Haahr of Laurel announce the engagement of their children, Sheena Marie Nienhueser to Nathan Allen Haahr, both of Hastings. A March 29 wedding at Faith Lutheran Church in Hastings is being planned.

Miss Nienhueser is a 2001 graduate of Kenesaw Public School and a 2005 graduate of Hastings College with a degree in Professional Accounting. She is employed by Heartland Veterinary Supply in Hastings.

Haahr is a 1997 graduate of Laurel-Concord High School, a 1999 graduate of Northeast Community College with an A.A.S. in Agronomy and a 2001



graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a B.S. in Agronomy. He is a Corn Research Associate for Monsanto Corn Research in Stromsburg.

TERWEY – SIMMONS

Cliff and Jennifer Terwey of Juniata, and Randy and Cammie Simmons of Kenesaw, announce the engagement of their children, Kylee Jo Terwey and Robert Edward Simmons, both of Hastings. They are planning an April 12 wedding at Grace United Methodist Church in Hastings.

Miss Terwey is a 2003 graduate of Adams Central High School and a 2006 graduate from Central Community College in Hastings with a degree in accounting. She is employed by Hastings Irrigation Pipe Company in Hastings.

Simmons is a 2001 graduate of Kenesaw High School and a



2004 graduate from Central Community College in Hastings with a degree in agriculture. He is employed by Woodward's Disposal and J & M Home Improvements in Hastings.

ANDERSEN – BROWN

Eric and Mona Andersen of Jamestown, Kansas, along with Mark and JoAnn Brown of Sutton, announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their children, Jaime Andersen and Dave Brown.

Jaime is a 2002 graduate of Concordia High School and a 2006 graduate of Hastings College. She will receive her Masters degree in Economics in May 2008 from Kansas State University.

Dave is a 2001 graduate of Sutton High School and a 2005 graduate of Hastings College. He will receive his PhD in Economics in May 2009 from Kansas State



University. The couple will be married on July 26, 2008, at the First United Methodist Church in Concordia, Kansas.

FRAZIER – ROLFSMEYER

Deb Frazier of Grand Island, formerly of Blue Hill, and Bill Rolfsmeyer, of Litchfield, announce their plans for a March 28 wedding at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Hazard.

Parents of the couple are Bonnie Doyen and the late Dwight (Shorty) Redinger of Hastings and Regina Rolfsmeyer and the late William Rolfsmeyer of Litchfield.

Children of the bride are Lance and Bree Frazier of McCook, Todd and Becky



Rehtus of Minden, Steph and Justin Brader of Glenvil and Spencer and Leslie Frazier of Blue Hill.

Firefighters free boy stuck in washer

The Associated Press

DOVER, Ohio — Talk about an oversized load: A 4-year-old boy got stuck when he climbed into his family's top-loading washing machine, and firefighters had to use a metal cutter to slice into the appliance to get

him out. Donovan Hasseman, who wasn't hurt, was wedged up against the agitator with a knee folded against his chest, while the machine was empty and not running Sunday night, Dover Fire Capt. Mike Mossor said.

Wedding

SHONKA – GREEN

Kelli Shonka of Omaha and Nathan Green of Stacy, Minnesota were united in marriage on August 11, 2007 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Norfolk with Father Dave Belt officiating.

Parents of the bride are William and Sue Shonka of Norfolk. Kelli's maternal grandparents were the late Lowell and Bernice Helmick and the late Betty Helmick, all of Kearney. Her paternal grandparents are Lucile Shonka of Columbus and the late Glenn Shonka. Parents of the groom are Jack and Joyce Green of Omaha. Nathan's maternal grandparents were the late Jake and Rose Jelden of Hildreth. His paternal grandparents are Lorine Green of Middletown, Delaware, formerly of Cairo, and the late Melvin Wayne Green.

Matrons of honor were the bride's sisters, Stacy Brus of Bloomington, Indiana and Becky Miller of Wahoo. Bridesmaids were Tricia Mattke of Omaha, friend of the bride, Andrea Green of Omaha, sister of the groom and Molli Miller of Wahoo, niece of the bride.

Flower girl was Natalie Miller of Wahoo, niece of the bride. Ring Bearer was Jake Miller of Wahoo, nephew of the bride.

Best man was Jack Green, father of the groom. Groomsmen were Randy Sayre of Omaha, friend of the groom, Josh Johnson of Upland, friend of the groom, Jay Helmick of Lincoln, cousin of the bride, and Grant Bradshaw of Littleton, Colorado, godson and cousin



of the groom. Candelighters were Dena Bradshaw and Jenna Bradshaw of Littleton, Colorado, cousins of the groom.

Ushers were David Jelden of North Aurora, Illinois, cousin of the groom, John Bradshaw of Littleton, Colorado, cousin of the groom, and Rex Brown of Omaha, friend of the groom.

Host couple was Mike and Connie McIntosh of Omaha, friends of the groom. Program/bubble attendants were Matthew and Mitchell Jelden of North Aurora, Illinois, cousins of the groom.

The bride graduated from Clarkson College in Omaha and is employed by Aegis Rehab in White Bear Lake, Minnesota as a Physical Therapist Assistant.

The groom, a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney, is attending Century College in White Bear Lake in the Orthotics and Prosthetics Practitioner Program.

Nathan and Kelli spent their honeymoon on Amelia Island in Florida and are now home in Stacy, Minnesota.

Spruce up your laundry room

ROSEMARY SADEZ FRIEDMANN

Scripts Howard News Service

If you had to guess as to which room in a house occupied by a big family was the most used, what would you say? The kitchen? The family room? The bedroom? How about none of the above!

The correct answer is the laundry room. OK, so the other rooms are used a lot, but the laundry room, out of necessity, is used even more. With this knowledge in mind, let's explore ways to make the room more attractive and user-friendly. Here are some makeover plans.

According to Pat Simpson, host of HGTV's "Fix It Up!," the makeover should start from the walls and work outward. So what do we do with the walls other than creative painting or whimsical wallpaper? How about cedar planks? The cedar makes a statement, rendering the room statelier, and the aroma helps make the room inviting and pleasing to be in. If you have to do laundry, you might as well make it a pleasant experience. Cedar planks are available at most building-supply home stores and the project is a rather easy do-it-yourself one. Installation is simple as all you need is a tape measure, a hammer, nails, a saw and a level. A little patience helps, too, but I don't think you can purchase that at the home store.

Popular now are the front-load washer and dryers. They are usually taller, up to 60 inches in height. That height can make it difficult to reach the standard 12-inch cabinetry that goes over them. But there is a solution. Make the cabinetry deeper so it protrudes more from the wall. If you prefer to use the 12-inch cabinetry because it is standard and less

expensive, simply frame behind the cabinets so they project farther from the wall. This is called "firing-out."

In the building-supply home store you bought the cedar planks, you also will find hanging rod/dowels with brackets. Or, if you prefer, wire shelving with a hanging rod attached. Either of these is ideal for hanging clothes to air dry, or to hang clothes fresh out of the dryer to keep them from wrinkling. The wire shelving also provides storage on top. And as we all know, you can never have enough storage.

Here's another option. If you have or are purchasing a standard-size washer and dryer, storage bases can be placed underneath the appliances.

Are you in the market for a new washer? If so, look for the ones that require less water to complete the wash cycle. These appliances make for great water conservation.

NEW SOCIAL GUIDELINES

- There is a charge to publish all wedding, engagement and anniversary announcements.
- All announcements will be handled by the advertising department. All announcements must be paid for when placing ads. Please call ahead, 462-2131, to schedule an appointment to submit your information. Forms may be picked up in the advertising department or may be filled out when placing your announcement.

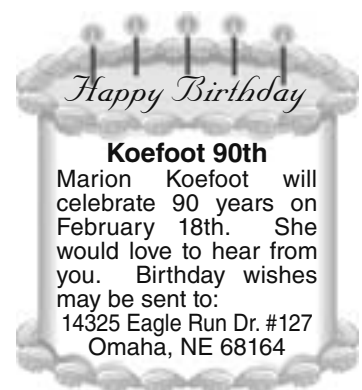
- **Deadline for the Saturday Tribune Social Page is Monday at 4:00 p.m.**
- **Proofs must be returned or approved by 4:00 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to publication. The Tribune cannot be responsible for errors after this deadline.**

• The Tribune cannot print copyrighted photographs without written consent of the copyright owner.

• Photos may be picked up at the Tribune after the item is published or returned by mail with a self-addressed, stamped envelope only.

• The Tribune is not responsible for photos that are lost or errors caused by illegible handwritten reports.

• All announcements may be edited for clarity. For information, call (402) 462-2131.



Koefoot 90th

Marion Koefoot will celebrate 90 years on February 18th. She would love to hear from you. Birthday wishes may be sent to: 14325 Eagle Run Dr. #127 Omaha, NE 68164

Ultimate in power walking developed

DEVICE ON KNEE CAN
PRODUCE ELECTRICITY

RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Call it the ultimate power walk.

Researchers have developed a device that generates electrical power from the swing of a walking person's knee.

With each stride the leg accelerates and then decelerates, using energy both for moving and braking.

Max Donelan and colleagues reasoned that a device that helps the leg decelerate could generate power without requiring much additional energy from the person.

It's sort of like the way that some hybrid-electric cars produce electricity from braking.

With the device, a minute of walking can power a cell phone for 10 minutes, Donelan, of Simon Fraser University in

Burnaby, British Columbia, said in a telephone interview. Other potential uses include powering a portable GPS locator, a motorized prosthetic joint or implanted drug pumps.

Donelan and colleagues at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Michigan report development of the new device in Friday's edition of the journal Science.

The first practical use for the generator is likely to be in producing power for artificial limbs, said Donelan, who with his co-authors has founded a company to develop the device commercially.

The generator weighs about 3.5 pounds so users do burn energy carrying it on their knee, but they don't notice whether it is switched on or off when walking on a treadmill, he said.

However, they miss it when it's removed because they get used to its extra braking action, he added.

With one generator on each knee, peo-

ple walking on a treadmill were able to generate about 5 watts of power.

Lawrence C. Rome of the University of Pennsylvania called the development "extremely clever."

Other people have thought of rotational devices around joints, Rome said, "but what's really clever is these guys only turn on resistance when person trying to brake, so it helps you."

Rome, who was not part of the research team, previously developed a backpack that generates electricity from the movement of the person carrying it.

The backpack was comfortable so it was an easy sell, he said. Whether the new knee generator is practical will depend on it being comfortable so people will want to wear it, he said in a telephone interview.

Arthur Kuo, an associate professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Michigan and a co-author of the report, called the device "a cocktail-napkin idea."

"There is power to be harvested from various places in the body, and you can use that to generate electricity. The knee is probably the best place," Kuo said in a statement. "During walking, you dissipate energy in various places, when your foot hits the ground, for example. You have to make up for this by performing work with your muscles. ... We believe that when you're slowing down the knee at the end of swinging the leg, most of that energy normally is just wasted."

The prototype is bulky, he said, but the energy generation part itself has very little effect on the wearer.

"We hope to improve the device so that it is easier to carry, and to retain the energy-harvesting capabilities," he said.

The research was funded by the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and the Canadian Institute of Health Research.

Senior menu

Adams County Senior Services Inc. provides noon meals Monday through Friday at the Golden Friendship Center, 509 S. Bellevue Ave., and Good Samaritan Village Goldbeck Towers, 721 S. First Ave., for people 60 and older. Reservations must be made by calling 402-463-4439 by 2:30 p.m. one day in advance.

◆ Tuesday: Pepper steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, three-bean salad, wheat dinner roll and banana pudding.

◆ Wednesday: Ham, baked sweet potato, cauliflower with cheese sauce, perfection salad, cornbread muffin with honey, and fruit cocktail cake with whipping topping.

◆ Thursday: Oven-fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, boiled cabbage, green bean salad, wheat dinner roll and frozen fruit cup.

◆ Friday: Beef stew with vegetables, cranberry relish salad, one-half deviled egg, biscuit with honey, bread pudding with raisin with lemon sauce.

◆ Feb. 18: Closed

Noon meals also are served at the Kenesaw Senior Center on the second Thursday of the month; at the Roseland Town Hall on the first and third Tuesdays of the month; and at Juniata the third Thursday of the month. Reservations may be made by calling the Golden Friendship Center by the Friday before the serving day.

SOCIAL GUIDELINES

◆ The deadline to submit social announcements and club news is Monday for same-week publication.

◆ Club news items must be received no later than one month after the meeting.

◆ Five-generation photos will be published.

◆ The Tribune cannot print copyrighted photographs without written consent of the copyright owner.

◆ Photos may be picked up in the newsroom after the item is published or returned by mail with a self-addressed, stamped envelope only.

◆ The Tribune is not responsible for photos that are lost or errors caused by illegible handwritten reports.

◆ All stories will be edited for clarity, brevity and news value. For information, call 402-461-1251.

Clubs

ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

Order of Eastern Star met Jan. 27 at the Masonic Center in Hastings. Kelsey Larsen, Helen Mathew, Marlin Hoffman, Marie Hoffman and Nita Brown were hosts, and Agnes Anderson and Dorothy Heil were guestbook hosts.

Worthy matron Vickie Summers presided at an informal opening of the chapter with all repeating the Lord's prayer, the Pledge and singing the national anthem.

Distinguished guests were introduced.

The installing officer, Mary Louise Gillispie, was introduced along with her assistants: Don Rasmussen, assistant installing officer; Fred Way, installing chaplain; Wihlma Price, installing marshal; and Barbara Sergeant, installing musician.

The following officers were installed for 2008: Dian Larsen, worthy matron; Rick Yates, worthy patron; Shirley Baker, associate matron; Arthur S. Dye, associate patron; Helen Dye, secretary; Gerry Shuman, treasurer; Heather Hartman, conductress; Laura Deininger, associate conductress; Bruce Baker, chaplain; Terry Larsen, marshal; Barbara Zaroban, organist; Susie Baker, Adah; Jeanette Knight, Ruth; Mary Thienel, Esther; Cheryl Yates, Martha; Marilyn Bierman, Electa; Sharron McKnight, warder; Eduardo Casas, sentinel; and Sergeant, assistant organist.

Susie Baker presented Summers with her past matron's card and gift from the chapter and invited her to join the past matrons' club.

Rasmussen presented Bob Summers with his past patron's card and a gift from the chapter and also invited him to join the past patrons' club.

The next meeting is 7:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Masonic Center.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB

The Hastings Christian Women's Club met Jan. 14 at the Knights of Columbus Club.

Margie Oswald, of Lincoln, presented the program "When Life Doesn't Go As Planned, What Then?"

Darla Bruna, of Juniata, provided the music. Vonda Essex, of the YMCA, presented "No Winter Blues, Please."

The next meeting is Feb. 18 at the Knights of Columbus Club. Kris Beckenbach, of Lincoln, will present "Have A Big Flowered Bag, Will Travel" and also will provide the music.

Extension Educator Sue Brown will present "Do You Still Have the Winter Blues?"

For reservations, call Julie at 402-462-4793 or Gloria at 402-463-1270.

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

Gamma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma met Jan. 19 at the I-80 Interstate Holiday Inn.

President Betty Schmidt presided. Rho State President Roxie Lindquist was a guest and reminded the members of the Rho state convention April 11-13 at the Leadership Development Center in Aurora. Members decided to contribute a theme basket for a fundraiser at the state convention.

Delta Kappa Gamma members of 20 and 30 years were honored. Jolene Gardner brought snowmen to be raffled for World Fellowship.

Lisa Cass, a resource teacher at Watson Elementary School and Tricia Suchaland, a Spanish teacher at Hastings Senior High School, were initiated into Gamma chapter at the November meeting. Gamma chapter includes women educators from Adams, Hall and Hamilton counties.

The next meeting is March 15 at the Holiday Inn with Bob and Gwynne Kuhn presenting the program.

GRACE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Dorcas Circle met Jan. 10 at Grace United Methodist Church with eight members present. Dee Runcie presided. Arlene Weiderspan was hostess and also gave the Least Coin devotions "A Voice From Australia." Vi Bruce gave the lesson "For the Love of Children."

Lydia Circle met Jan. 21 at the church with 11 members present. Sharon Selley was hostess, and Carolyn Friesen presided. Joys and concerns were shared, followed by prayer. Friesen gave the Least Coin devotions "Circle of Prayer," and Judy Reimer gave the lesson "Say Welcome; Offering Hospitality to the Sojourner."

Kaleidoscope met Jan. 29 at the church with six members present. Karen Miller was hostess. Members made Valentine favors for Meals on Wheels.

CHAPTER GZ, P.E.O.

Chapter GZ, P.E.O. met Jan 28 at Grace United Methodist Church with Jackie Miller, Jeanne Reynolds and Mary Lou Neumann as hostesses.

Elizabeth Spilinek, a member of the board of directors of the Adams County Historical Society, gave a program on the city of Hastings. She discussed the Central Historic District of Hastings and the periods of its development.

The next meeting is Feb. 9 at the Hastings Public Library with Connie Halloran, Marnie McAuliff and Carol Ott as hostesses.

WELCA MISSION FESTIVAL

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America of First St. Paul's Lutheran Church were hostesses for a Mission Festival Feb. 3 in the Founder's Hall.

President Marge Eitzmann gave the welcome.

Members of Group 2 were the hostesses.

Barbara Murman gave the devotions, "Talking with the Father." Ila Nelson led the singing "Here I Am, Lord" and "Called to Share" to the melody of "The Church's One Foundation." Darlene Veburg was the accompanist.

Rosalie Engelhardt introduced Whitney Burr, a Hastings College senior, as the guest speaker. She is a pastoral intern at First St. Paul's and told of her trip to Africa working as a volunteer as an HIV-AIDS educator. Questions about Kenya followed.

The offering was designated for Kenyan Network of Women with AIDS.

Members of the special events committee were the coordinators of the event.

The Mission Festival closed with the doxology.

The Lutheran World Relief Project day is 9 a.m. Feb. 13 at the Youth and Family Ministry Center.

HARTA

The Hastings Area Retired Teachers Association met Jan. 28 at the Knights of Columbus Club with Margaret Cordle's committee as hosts.

Rick Smidt, investigator for the Hastings Police Department, presented information on identity theft. He pointed out things people should be aware of and to be careful of who and what information people give out.

Leona Anderson showed the 2007 National Dedication Community Service Award that HARTA received.

Several members were recognized for outstanding work on community service.

Dick Kincaid reminded the members that HARTA shirts still are available.

The next meeting is 2 p.m. March 24 at the Knights of Columbus.

The executive board meeting is 10 a.m. Feb. 25 at the Knights of Columbus Club.

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Tax rebates might not spur rash of spending

RACHEL BECK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — “Just Do It,” one of Nike’s ad slogans, might also be something the government should use to encourage consumers to spend their expected tax rebates.

A large part of the economic stimulus plan’s success will hinge on whether Americans go shopping with their newfound cash. Proponents say a surge in buying could kick start the economy from its current dismal state.

But before anyone counts on that, consider why consumers may not blow those rebate checks: Their mounting debts and worries about their economic future may lead to more saving than spending.

It’s a clear sign that times are tough when the government starts looking for ways to use fiscal stimulus to prop up the economy. While it’s still unclear if a recession is upon us, there is evidence that the collapse in the housing and mortgage markets has spilled over to the broader economy. Businesses have begun to clamp down on hiring

and credit conditions have tightened.

The Federal Reserve has been trying to control the situation through monetary measures, including aggressively cutting the federal funds rate — the overnight lending rate for banks — by 2.25 percentage points since September to 3 percent.

Now Washington’s politicians are working on a stimulus plan that includes tax relief for businesses and consumers.

The House has overwhelmingly passed a \$146 billion aid package that includes rebates of \$600-\$1,200 for most taxpayers. The plan would send at least some rebate to anyone with at least \$3,000 in income, with more going to families with children and less going to wealthier taxpayers.

Congressional leaders have been aiming to send the measure to President Bush by Feb. 15, but that date is now in question amid the partisan wrangling in the Senate. Both Democrats and Republicans want to add expensive components to the stimulus package, which includes

rebates of \$500 for individuals and \$1,000 for couples in the Senate’s version.

The earliest the rebates are expected to reach consumers would likely be in the late spring or early summer.

This isn’t the first time that tax rebates have been included in efforts to recharge the economy — they were also used in 1975, 2001 and 2003. But those lump-sum cash payments provided only a “modest stimulus to consumption,” according to a study by the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation.

That view was echoed by a new paper from the Congressional Budget Office, which said “most studies of purely temporary, one-time changes in taxes have suggested that they have only a moderate effect on household consumption.”

The CBO also said in a paper issued in January that “households not facing liquidity constraints will not alter consumption very much in response to a temporary change in income because it has a relatively small effect

on lifetime wealth.”

During the 2001 recession, one-time rebates were paid starting in the third quarter, and consumer spending rose at an 7 percent annualized rate in the fourth quarter. That failed to offset the downturn in business investment, and the economy only grew at a sluggish 1.6 percent annual rate in that quarter, according to the Heritage Foundation. A Washington-based think tank.

By the first quarter of 2002, consumer spending slowed to a 1.4 percent growth rate, hardly enough to trigger faster economic growth.

At the same time, the personal savings rates as the rebates were given out jumped to 3.4 percent from an average of 1.2 percent in the prior quarter. Economists at Merrill Lynch characterized that as a “vivid sign that much of the rebates went into the mattress.”

We could see a similar pattern today, especially given the budget pressures faced by consumers. Gasoline prices are double what they were in 2001, debt-to-income ratios are at 140 percent versus 100 percent back then and

the savings rate has turned negative, according to Merrill Lynch.

Financially strapped consumers are also worried about how economic deterioration in the months ahead could affect their wallets. The Conference Board’s Consumer Confidence Survey fell in January largely due to concerns over the weakening of business conditions and the job market.

That’s why Americans might not eagerly put their tax windfalls toward the kinds of purchases — buying new cars or appliances, sprucing up their wardrobes or taking big trips — that could really recharge the economy’s engines.

Instead, as was the case in 2001, the tax money they don’t save or use to pay down debt could find its way to restaurants, drugstores, bookstores, electronics chains and toy shops, according to Merrill Lynch.

Six years ago, lotteries and casinos also claimed some of those tax-rebate dollars. That’s how some Americans bet on a brighter tomorrow.



DON RYAN/AP

Construction workers pour concrete for a high-rise in Portland, Ore., Tuesday. For the first time in almost five years, the nation’s services sector — including restaurants, travel, banking, construction and retail — contracted in January, stoking rising worries of a recession.

Growth in consumer credit falls in December

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Consumers increased their borrowing in December at the slowest pace in eight months, additional evidence that economic activity was slowing significantly at the end of last year. For all of 2007, consumer credit rose at the fastest clip in three years.

The Federal Reserve reported Thursday that consumer borrowing rose at an annual rate of 2.1 percent in December, a sharp slowdown from an 8.2 percent jump in November. It was the weakest showing since credit had increased just 1.6 percent in April.

The gain was about half of what economists had been expecting. They had forecast that total credit would rise by \$8 billion and instead it increased by \$4.5 billion to \$2.52 trillion.

The report on consumer borrowing was the latest evidence that economic activity was slowing at the end of last year as households were struggling with a prolonged slump in housing and a severe credit squeeze which has prompted

banks to tighten their lending standards.

For all of 2007, consumer credit increased 5.5 percent, up from an increase of 4.5 percent in 2006. The 2007 performance was the best showing since a similar 5.5 percent rise in 2004.

Analysts attributed much of the growth in credit in 2007 to households moving to put more of their purchases on their credit cards as banks tightened up on their lending standards for home equity loans in response to the widening crisis in mortgage borrowing.

Consumer credit, as measured by the Federal Reserve, does not include any debt secured by real estate such as mortgages or home equity loans.

The December report showed that revolving credit, the category that includes credit cards, rose at an annual rate of 2.7 percent in December, a significant slowdown from a 13.7 percent jump in November.

Borrowing in the category that includes auto loans posted a 1.8 percent rise in December, down from 4.9 percent increase in November.

Mortgage rates decline for fifth time in six weeks

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

— Rates on 30-year mortgages dipped slightly this week, the fifth decline in the past six weeks.

Freddie Mac, the mortgage company, reported Thursday that 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages averaged 5.67 percent this week, down from 5.68 percent last week.

The 30-year mortgage, which ended last year at 6.17 percent, has been below 6 percent for five weeks, a stretch that has not been seen since 2005.

Analysts attributed the declines in mortgage rates to growing fears that the country could be slipping into a recession.

The Labor Department reported that businesses cut 17,000 jobs in January, the first monthly job loss since August 2003, while the Institute for

Supply Management’s index for the service sector dropped sharply in January to the lowest level since October 2001, right after the terrorist attacks.

“Economic news released in the past week showed that the economy continues to be weak,” said Frank Nothaft, chief economist for Freddie Mac.

Another factor pushing mortgage rates lower was the decision by the Federal Reserve last week to cut a key interest rate for a second time in January as Fed policymakers moved aggressively to lower borrowing costs in an effort to keep the country out of a recession.

Analysts are hoping that this low level for mortgage rates will help spur a rebound in the housing market, which suffered steep declines last year in sales of both new and existing homes.

Productivity slows sharply

OVERALL ECONOMIC
ACTIVITY ANOTHER IMPACT IN
RISING LIVING STANDARDS

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Worker productivity, the key factor in rising living standards, slowed sharply in the final three months of the year while wage pressures increased.

The Labor Department reported Wednesday that productivity, the amount of output per hour of work, increased at an annual rate of 1.8 percent in the October-December quarter, down from a 6 percent performance in the July-September period. The slowdown reflected the fact that overall economic activity weakened consider-

ably in the final three months of last year.

Labor costs rose by 2.1 percent in the final three months of the year, after having fallen by 1.9 percent in the third quarter and 1.1 percent in the second quarter.

For the year, productivity rose by 1.6 percent, a slight rebound from a 1 percent gain in 2006 but both years were well below the average annual increases of 3.2 percent turned in from 2000 through 2004.

Productivity determines whether living standards can rise because it allows businesses to pay their workers more because of their increased output without having to raise the cost of their products, which increases inflation.

The country went through a two-decade period of stagnant increases in productivity following the oil shocks of

the early 1970s. However, starting in 1995, productivity began showing bigger improvements, reflecting all of the investments that had been made in computers and other efficiency-enhancing equipment.

Economists are currently debating whether that substantial gain in productivity is now waning or whether the slowdown is just a temporary reflection of the deterioration of the overall economy.

The Federal Reserve closely monitors changes in productivity and labor costs for clues on underlying inflation pressures.

Analysts do not believe the fourth-quarter slump in productivity and rise in labor costs will alarm Fed policymakers who are focused at the moment on fighting the sharp slowdown in overall economic activity rather than worrying about inflation.

Good planning, strategy needed to meet financial goals

DEAR BRUCE: I am 38 years old and have worked hard to accomplish certain financial goals: Pay off my home, have \$1 million to put somewhere and live off the interest without touching the principal. I figure I can reach these markers in five to eight years. I don’t mind living in a modest home. However, I would like to travel and see the world. I think I would need to earn an income of at least \$100,000 per year to live the way I want to. Do you think it is possible to earn this kind of income on interest alone? I have no idea where to invest this kind of money. Where would you put your money if you were in my situation?

— D.M., via e-mail

DEAR D.M.: Sure, it’s possible to have \$100,000 income on interest. You just need to have enough principal. At \$1 million, you’d need a 10 percent return, which is optimistic. Of course, \$2 million at 5 percent would produce the same \$100,000 with almost no exposure to loss. You haven’t mentioned how much you earn, which is a variable as to how fast you get to where you want to be. Interest is strictly a function of the principal amount invested and your ability and willingness to take risk.



Bruce Williams

DEAR BRUCE: I am a widow at 79 years old. I have a son who has difficulties with earning a living, and I help him out from time to time. I pay taxes on the money I give to him. I thought I could give an amount up to \$11,000, and it would be tax-free. I called my tax adviser several weeks ago, and she told me I have already paid taxes on any amount I would give. After your latest advice on gift tax, I am confused. What is a gift tax? Also, what is a lifetime exemption?

— B.J., via e-mail

DEAR B.J.: I am confused, too. You can give up to \$11,000 per year to anyone, and it is totally tax-free for everyone involved. If you give more than \$11,000 in one tax year, there would be gift taxes. You could, however, apply for the benefit against your

lifetime exemption and, unless you have well over \$2 million, there would be no penalty whatsoever. I’m not sure what your tax adviser has told you other than there would be no tax. If it’s more than \$11,000 a year, then claim against your lifetime exemption. Your tax adviser can show you how; it’s a simple procedure.

DEAR BRUCE: I want rental-property investments to be my future nest egg. However, I do not have the best credit scores (or a large sum of money) to get started. Where should I begin? Should I take a real-estate class, or what?

— T.D., via e-mail

DEAR N.D.: It never hurts to take a class. Knowledge in any area, and that certainly applies to real-estate investment, is a necessary tool. That said, a

low credit score and no money are going to make the idea of becoming a rental-property investor a bit of a challenge. In today’s foreclosure market, there may be some creative financing available. The first thing to do is read, read and read some more: Forbes, Fortune and Money magazines and the financial section of your local newspaper on a daily basis. Watch CNBC, and check out The Wall Street Journal and USA Today. The knowledge available is priceless and without it, the likelihood of success is extraordinarily modest. You have to make an investment apart from money, and that’s an investment of your time. Good luck.

Bruce Williams is a columnist for News Enterprise Association. E-mail him at bruce@brucewilliams.com.

Border fence threatens to change Tex-Mex town

MICHELLE ROBERTS
The Associated Press

EAGLE PASS, Texas — With its motto "Where Yee-Hah meets Ole," Eagle Pass is a border town that prides itself on being both Tex and Mex, a community with many cultural and financial ties that bind it to its sister city across the Rio Grande.

But the U.S. government's proposal to build a giant fence along the border threatens to remake the landscape in the name of national security, undermining the relationship between the two cities and, some say, permanently scarring the riverfront.

Local leaders and residents who are fighting the fence have become increasingly frustrated with what they regard as the federal government's heavy-handed tactics, which include threatening letters, lawsuits and swift legal judgments.

"They come in here like storm troopers," Mayor Chad Foster said. "They are steamrolling the people and abusing our liberties and are absolutely out of control."

Residents of Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras, a Mexican city of 143,000 people with an American-style football stadium, cross the river in both directions all the time to work, shop or visit relatives. When a tornado damaged both communities last spring, Piedras Negras sent dump trucks and front-end loaders to help Eagle Pass clean up.

The twin cultures are on display throughout Eagle Pass: On historic Main Street, the stucco Gran Mercado — a Mexican-style general store — stands near the Popular Western Wear store. Elsewhere, a car with a license plate from the Mexican state of Coahuila displays a sticker that reads: "9-11-01. We'll never forget."

A two-story steel wall, if built, would cut Eagle Pass residents off from a park and a golf course on the banks of the Rio Grande. And although bridges will still span the river here, the wall could sever Eagle Pass psychologically from Piedras Negras.

Eagle Pass was the first community to be hit with a lawsuit after the federal government began demanding access to the land to survey it for the fence. A federal judge ruled in favor of the government Jan. 16, the same day the complaint was filed and before city officials had even been served with



J. MICHAEL SHORT/AP

Eagle Pass, Texas, Mayor Chad Foster on Feb. 1 points out playing fields, including the Eagle Pass High School baseball field, which, according to the plans he has seen, would be cut off from the city by the proposed border fence.

legal papers.

The mayor called it a "sucker punch." "Other than trying to make an example out of us, we don't understand what their issue is," said Foster, who suspects his leadership of an anti-fence group called the Texas Border Coalition might have something to do with it.

Eagle Pass leaders had already agreed to allow the Border Patrol to remove a giant weed that can provide hiding places on the riverbank; to widen a golf cart path to support Border Patrol trucks; and to install towers that would bathe the golf course and park in light

around the clock.

"No one worries about border security more than the people who live here," said Foster, a bilingual real estate agent who cuts a cowboy-like profile with boots, a beige Stetson and a steady supply of Marlboros.

The river at Eagle Pass is about 280 feet wide and a muddy 8 1/2 feet deep — too deep to wade, and too dangerous for many people to swim.

The fence, as proposed, would be built to withstand the crash of a 10,000-pound vehicle at 40 mph. The barrier would bisect a property slated for a new riverfront housing develop-

ment and cut in front of the park and golf course, slicing through the grounds of a historic fort built in 1849.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection hopes to construct 670 miles of fence across the 2,000-mile border by the end of the year. Agency spokesman Michael Friel said of the roughly 600 border landowners contacted nationwide, about 100 refused to grant permission to survey their property.

The resistance was particularly strong in Texas. The Justice Department has filed about 50 lawsuits against landowners — 35 in the heavily populated Rio Grande Valley, a dozen in

Arizona and two in California.

The Eagle Pass mayor said his city never refused to allow customs officials to look at the land.

Friel declined to comment on any specific complaints but said lawsuits were a last resort. He also noted that the exact location of the fence has yet to be decided and that gates or other access could be granted for landowners with property between the fence and the river.

A fence "has proven to be an effective tool" for securing the border, said Friel, citing barriers in San Diego, El Paso and Nogales, Ariz.





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MICHAEL A. MARIANT/AP

From left: Ellen Page, Casey Affleck, Amy Ryan, James McAvoy and Marion Cotillard are seen Jan. 30 in Santa Barbara, Calif.

'Virtuosos' discuss Oscars

FIVE YOUNG ACTORS
HONORED IN SANTA
BARBARA

MICHAEL CIDONI
The Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — All of hot young Hollywood is not in this room, but it sure feels that way. Posing for photos on an antique sofa are Casey Affleck, Marion Cotillard, Ellen Page, Amy Ryan, and James McAvoy: four first-time Oscar-nominated actors, and the leading man of an Oscar-nominated Best Picture contender.

They gathered here Jan. 30 for the Santa Barbara International Film Festival's first-annual celebration of "Virtuosos," these rising stars of "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford" (Affleck), "La Vie en rose" (Cotillard), "Juno" (Page), "Gone Baby Gone" (Ryan) and "Atonement" (McAvoy).

In an exclusive sit-down interview, AP Television spoke with the five before they received their fest honors.

AP: So, what was your first reaction when they said, 'You're one of The Virtuosos! Come to Santa Barbara?'

(Laughter...)

Affleck: I said, 'Where's Santa

Barbara?'

McAvoy: Like the soap opera? Excellent! I wondered, 'Can there only be five (virtuosos) in the entire world? Wow, that's incredible.'

(Turning to Ryan) How did you feel? **Ryan:** I was very excited, too. I was very excited by the other four virtuosos, as well. Very good company.

AP: You all seem quite familiar with each other. Do you hang? (More laughter from all.)

McAvoy: We all go WAY back, don't we? (Laughs.) It's kind of like The Brat Pack that never was.

Page: We met in October. Octoberish.

Ryan: Marion and I met on the airplane from Chicago. Casey? Just met.

(More laughs, as the two starred together in "Gone Baby Gone.") **AP:** How has the writers strike affected your take on awards season? Has it taken the edge off?

Ryan: It's added to the excitement. It's still a nail-biter, if it's gonna happen or not. But it's also put it in perspective for me. I feel like, at the end of the day, people's livelihoods are more important than dressing up, or maybe or maybe not getting an award. So, I just hope it settles and the writers get their due, and we all get to enjoy a big night.

So, I kind of want it both ways. Is that too bad?

Page: And like you said the other night, you were like, 'Yeah. A lot of people get nominated for Oscars, but a lot of Oscars you kind of forget. But we'll always be THAT year.'

Ryan: Right. We're in the year where it almost didn't happen. Or it didn't happen.

AP: What's the worst part of working the awards circuit?

McAvoy: I was speaking to an actor who has been through this entire thing this year ... he said that when you make films that you're proud of, like, I think, everybody here, at the moment. And you have an incredible experience. You have an adventure. And you come away with all these incredible stories. But at the end of (awards season), it seems the only reason you had those adventure was so you were able to tell the stories in situations like this. And it just cancels the whole point. It feels like you have reversed the whole point of doing it.

AP: Now, c'mon. Isn't anyone loving getting dressed up and having their picture taken? Ellen?

Page: If I had say what my top five favorite things are in the world to do, (walking the carpet) might ... it may just miss out on the list. But just by a little. (Laughs from the

other four actors.) So, but, I understand that that's a part of it, that it's a part of being a part of this, and it's a huge gift to be a part of this. And it's something that people really strive for. And we've all really gotten a role that has led to, basically, this moment.

AP: And what do you think you'll most remember about this time of your life?

Cotillard: I would say all the people I've met, and all the people I've humbled to find yourself in situations where it's run of the mill to see Daniel Day-Lewis, you know? What's going on in your life when THAT happens?

Page: I've gotta say, it's kind of the same (for me). It's extremely humbling to find yourself in situations where it's run of the mill to see Daniel Day-Lewis, you know? What's going on in your life when THAT happens? **Ryan:** I would also add, one thing about the awards circuit is that you're kept so busy there's not really a chance to take a breath, and really take it in and wonder how you do feel. So I've been enjoying watching my family for the first time, take it in. It's the first time that, you know ... they've celebrated things for my career. But this is as much for the home team.

TV highlights (and lowlights) for the week ahead

FRAZIER MOORE
The Associated Press

New York City under water ... the Amazon rain forest baked by droughts and wildfires ... Himalayan glaciers just a memory.

Those could be some of the devastating consequences of an increase in the average global temperature of just 6 degrees Celsius (or 10.8 degrees Fahrenheit), according to scientists' forecasts. Meanwhile, the scientific community is in general agreement that an increase of 3 degrees Celsius would be a tipping point that could irreversibly change life on Earth — and that it could happen as soon as 2050 without significant changes in the production and consumption of energy sources.

"Six Degrees Could Change the World," a new documentary on the National Geographic Channel, stunningly visualizes the potential ecological impact of each degree increase in temperature.

"Each degree means a radically different future," says Alec Baldwin, who narrates the program. It travels to five continents to decipher the signs of global warming that already are visible today.

The two-hour film also proposes solutions, ranging from

simple to extreme.

"Global warming doesn't just mean the slow increase in average temperatures," says author Mark Lynas. "It completely changes the way the Earth's system operates, which is why we can see droughts in one place, floods in another, or even a succession of drought and flood in the same exact location."

Inspired in part by Lynas' new book, "Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet," the program premieres Sunday at 7 p.m.

Other shows to look out for:

◆ The Whitest Kids U'Know are more colorful (and off-color) than ever as they begin a second season of outrageous comedy. Composed of Trevor Moore, Sam Brown, Zach Cregger, Timmy Williams and Darren Trumeter, this Brooklyn-born troupe offers a unique blend of pot-and-potty humor in a weekly half-hour of sketches and music videos. On the season premiere, catch the rousing "Dino Rap" (complete with partying dinosaurs), a network pitch session for demented new TV shows, and a young man at dinner trying to impress his girlfriend's parents — with his mouth farts. "The Whitest Kids U'Know" returns Sunday at 10 p.m. on the Independent Film Channel.

◆ He's the curly haired shrieker from the legendary rock band Led Zeppelin. She's a bluegrass superstar. Now Robert Plant and Alison Krauss are sharing the stage on the next edition of "CMT Crossroads." From their new album, "Raising Sand," they perform the songs "Please Read the Letter" and "Rich Woman," as well as Alison Krauss and Union Station's "The Boy Who Wouldn't Hoe Corn" and Led Zep classics "Black Dog" and "When the Levee Breaks." It airs Monday at 7 p.m. on CMT.

◆ Everyone knows about the 1960s race to the moon between America and the Soviet Union. But few know that, at the same time, both superpowers conducted covert space programs to launch military astro-

nauts on spying missions. The Americans and Soviets were on the verge of war and desperate for intelligence on each other's nuclear capabilities. The United States had a manned orbiting laboratory that, unbeknownst to the public, was designed to be an orbiting spy station. The Soviets designed a similar manned spy station called Almaz, which was equipped with a cannon designed to destroy hostile satellites — or to attack American astrospies. "NOVA" travels to Russia to report on the cosmonauts and their long-restricted space facility, and obtains candid interviews with astronauts in the American military space program, in "Astrospies," airing Tuesday at 7 p.m. on PBS (check local listings).

◆ CNBC takes viewers on a lap through Nike, the world's largest shoe and apparel company, on "Swoosh! Inside Nike." Reported by CNBC sports business correspondent Darren Rovell, the one-hour special includes an interview with Nike co-founder Phil Knight, who explains how the Nike name was chosen and how he paid a design student \$35 to create the iconic "swoosh" logo. The audience will also meet shoe fanatic Melo Rosario, who owns more than 350 pairs of Nikes and displays some of them in his

Chicago barbershop. It premieres Tuesday at 9 p.m.

◆ Celine Dion stars in a one-hour concert special on CBS. The multi-platinum recording star sings hits including "Because You Loved Me," "My Heart Will Go On" and "Taking Chances" during the program, which was taped last month before a live audience at the Wilton Theatre in Los Angeles. Her special guests are singer-songwriter Josh Groban and will.i.am of the Black Eyed Peas. "Celine Dion: That's Just the Woman in Me" airs Friday at 8 p.m.

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LOU ROCCO, ABC/SHNS

Rebecca Budig (left) and Debbi Morgan star in "All My Children."

Soap stars make return engagements

TERRY MORROW

Scripps Howard News Service

How does ABC plan to get back viewers who have strayed from daytime serials? Entice them with actors they have loved but lost:

◆ Rebecca Budig recently returned to the role of Greenlee on "All My Children." Though the role had been recast, Budig's desire to get back to the part and an audience still pining for her to do so opened the doors.

◆ Emmy winner Debbi Morgan has stepped back into "AMC's" Pine Valley as Angie, after more than a dozen years away.

◆ Darnell Williams, whose character, Jesse, was killed off 20 years ago on "AMC," resurfaced no worse for the wear in late January. In the 1980s, Angie and Jesse were one of the few black "super-couples" on daytime.

◆ Sarah Joy Brown, who was wildly popular on "General Hospital" as the original actress to play Carly, also came back in January — but as a new character.

Returning popular characters and actors to daytime serials is a staple of the 60-year-old genre. However, the knack for doing it has come in particularly handy for ABC Daytime this time.

"The (writers') strike actually helped us in terms of luring these actors back to the show," says ABC Daytime President Brian Frons. "If you aren't an actor with a steady prime-time gig, you probably won't find (work) until fall of '09. So I think that gives soap operas a chance (for actors) to find steady work."

Frons says the strike is about to cut into "pilot season" in Hollywood, when prospective new shows for fall shoot first episodes for network consideration.

If no new scripted prime-time shows go into production soon for fall of this year, many actors will be looking for work in alternative genres such as daytime.

ABC and NBC are already seeing the fallout. Filmmaker-actor Mario Van Peebles has joined "AMC." He plays a senator who gets involved with diva Erica Kane (Susan Lucci). Van Peebles did daytime more than 20 years ago on ABC's "One Life to Live."

NBC announced recently that Shirley Jones will join the cast of "Days of Our Lives."

Of ABC's three soaps, "GH" has had the most success recently with luring back old favorites. The soap has seen bumps in its numbers with the comebacks of Genie Francis, Finola Hughes and Rick Springfield.

"AMC" Executive Producer Julie Hanan Carruthers says the trick to bringing back old favorites is to not alienate new viewers or the younger audience, both of which might not relate to the histrionics payoff.

"The challenge for us is to make (the returnees) not feel like old characters to the new audience," she says. But for the long-time viewer, "you are tipping your hat to the people who have watched for so many years."

Carruthers and Frons want to use the reintroduction of Angie and Jesse as the cornerstone for more black characters on "AMC."

Daytime is a predominantly white landscape, though research indicates black and Latino audiences are loyal to the genre. Without seeing representation on the screen, though, even the loyalty of minorities will be tested.

Strike or no strike, daytime dramas can use the lift, having seen nearly a 50 percent erosion of their audience in the last 10 years.

Frons doesn't expect merely the presence of former favorites to bring a tidal wave of new viewers.

"I don't think people are going to start to tune in because they hear that people from 20 years ago (are returning)," Frons says.

"The story has to depend a lot on the here and now."

Across

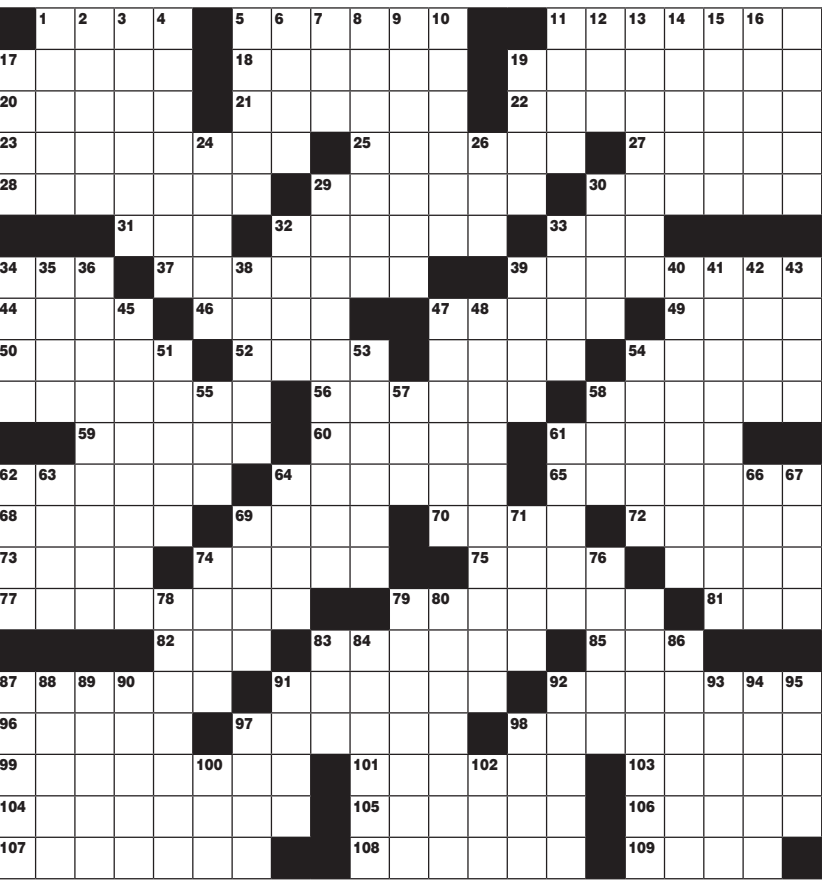
- 1 Artist's digs, maybe
- 5 Totally accurate
- 11 Pineapple desserts
- 17 "___, gorgeous!" (Fanny Brice's comment to herself when looking in the mirror)
- 18 One of wine's Gallo brothers
- 19 Autobiographical short story by Edgar Allan Poe
- 20 Marisa of "What Women Want"
- 21 1974 Mecedades hit
- 22 Careful consideration
- 23 Men's fashion accessories
- 25 Cork shooter
- 27 "Biography" network
- 28 Accelerated
- 29 Threw off the scent
- 30 Check list?
- 31 Canonized mlle.
- 32 More encouraging
- 33 Third word of "America"
- 34 Blue Devils' and Tigers' org.
- 37 Contact lens solutions
- 39 They're better than one
- 44 Elton's Johns
- 46 Blind element
- 47 Stereotypical reaction to Elvis
- 49 Magneto's adversaries, in comic books
- 50 Lugs
- 52 Spread in a spread
- 54 Passé
- 56 Classic Toyota sports cars
- 58 ___ Bradshaw, "Sex

and the City" role

- 59 Wynken, Blynken and Nod, e.g.
- 60 Turf, as opposed to surf
- 61 Dancer Alvin
- 62 Malodorous
- 64 Become part of
- 65 Imp
- 68 Place to get dates?
- 69 Fronded plant
- 70 Fictional submariner
- 72 Civil rights march site, 1965
- 73 Family
- 75 Wise
- 77 Repeated John Gielgud role
- 79 Popular song from Broadway's "The Wiz"
- 81 Titanic message
- 82 Arctic diver
- 83 Runs
- 85 Eponymous German electro-physicist
- 87 Begets
- 91 Things on strings
- 92 Deterge
- 96 Prefix with -zoic
- 97 Sitcom title role for Brandy Norwood
- 98 1997 Jim Carrey film
- 99 What a man and a woman become in marriage
- 101 Two-wheeled covered carriage
- 103 Hops-drying kilns
- 104 Establishing a business
- 105 Hero of Bellini's "I Puritani"
- 106 Anticipate
- 107 Mary Tyler Moore co-star
- 108 Seinfeld, for one
- 109 Feast

Down

- 1 Sainted pope of A.D. 683
- 2 Ancient Mexican people
- 3 Evidence of dandruff
- 4 Facilities
- 6 Slips
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- 10 Mathematical sequence of unknown length
- 11 ___ Bator
- 12 A pop
- 13 Na2CO3
- 14 Dental filling
- 15 Literature's Lorna
- 16 Lose little by little
- 17 U.R.L. lead-in
- 19 Israeli P.M. Olmert
- 24 They may be funny or bright
- 26 Neighbor of Switz.
- 29 Educator Maria
- 30 Subatomic particle that is a nuclear binder
- 32 Mideast money
- 33 Bad dancer's handicap
- 34 "Enough!"
- 35 Collected
- 36 Mistress
- 38 Bridges in Hollywood
- 39 The "ten" in "hang ten"
- 40 Reactionary
- 41 Flower also called a naked lady
- 42 Hero maker
- 43 Old dirk
- 45 Unblemished
- 47 Lineage
- 48 Failings
- 51 Breezes (through)
- 53 Quite wrong
- 54 Business position
- 55 Word before



and after "after"

- 57 Cross product
- 58 Geom. figure
- 61 Disco term meaning "galore"
- 62 Punch
- 63 French Sudan, today
- 64 Raspberry
- 66 "___ Angel," 1933 film
- 67 Scratch sheet listings
- 69 Slams
- 71 Fannie ___ (securities)
- 74 Jupiter or Mars
- 76 ___ Gay, W.W. II bomber
- 78 Ointment ingredient
- 79 Subject of the book "Last Flight"
- 80 Setting for "Driving Miss Daisy"
- 83 Call, or call on
- 84 Turkish

pooh-bahs

- 86 Lake ___
- 87 Imagine, informally
- 88 Sectioned, as a window

- 89 Prince Valiant's wife
- 90 Tapestry threads
- 93 Month before Iyar
- 94 "Socrate" composer

- 95 First, in Frankfurt
- 97 Relig. title
- 98 Lady's man
- 100 Anchorage-to-Fairbanks dir.
- 102 Great ball of fire

ANSWERS TO LAST SATURDAY'S PUZZLE



Networks starting to feel effects of writers strike

DAVID BAUDER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As broadcast networks head into the February sweeps period, the prolonged writers strike is starting to be felt in prime-time ratings.

Viewership on ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox was down 9 percent during the first four weeks of the year compared with 2007. CBS and ABC were particularly hard-hit as the stockpile of episodes for favorite shows was depleted.

During a Super Bowl week dominated by Fox, neither ABC, CBS nor NBC was able to average above 7 million viewers last week, according to Nielsen Media Research. During the same week last year, average viewership for the three networks that didn't carry the Super Bowl ranged from 7.4 million to 11.4 million.

"The strike has definitely had a detrimental effect on the ratings," said Marc Berman, an

analyst for Mediaweek. "All of the shows that people watch every week and that they are into aren't there anymore."

The typical prime-time viewer probably didn't even realize there was a strike until after the holidays, said Alan Wurtzel, NBC research chief.

Now it is becoming obvious. CBS has taken the toughest hit, with its audience shrinking 22 percent from year to year. Analysts said CBS appeared to do the least to prepare for the strike. CBS said it purposely held back some of its contingency programming — another season of "Big Brother," a network airing of the Showtime hit "Dexter" — for February.

ABC, which is off 14 percent, has more new programming rolling out. But it has been hit hard by the absence of hits such as "Desperate Housewives" and "Grey's Anatomy," which don't repeat well.

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John Grisham sees himself as an entertainer

DOUGLAS J. ROWE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Some things John Grisham knows: He got 15 rejections before his first book, "A Time to Kill," was published. He made \$9 million last year. He's not James Joyce or William Faulkner. He's an entertainer.

"I'm not sure where that line goes between literature and popular fiction," the mega-selling author says. "I can assure you I don't take myself serious enough to think I'm writing literary fiction and stuff that's going to be remembered in 50 years. I'm not going to be here in 50 years; I don't care if I'm remembered or not. It's pure entertainment."

Grisham is happy to write what he hopes is "a high-quality popular fiction." But that matters not to fans, who gobble every word.

Sometimes he wraps a serious issue around a plot — the death penalty in "The Chamber," insurance reform in "The Rainmaker," homelessness in "The Street Lawyer." Now the self-styled political junkie and former Mississippi state legislator has written a book that's more political intrigue than legal thriller.

"The Appeal" (his 21st book) tells the story of a huge chemical company that loses a \$41 million lawsuit for causing cancer deaths and then essentially tries to buy an election for the state Supreme Court — where, yes, the appeal will be heard.

"I guess every year now is a political year. ... And it just felt like it was time to write this story," Grisham says, alluding to how the run for the White House has become a marathon of sorts.

Grisham, who turns 53 on Feb. 8 and still has the lanky look of an athlete who once chased a baseball career, is a big supporter of Hillary Clinton and says the Democrats have been outmaneuvered by the Republicans.

"I think what the Republicans have done in past elections is brilliant. Because, they've convinced a lot of people to vote for them against their own economic self-interest, and they've done that by skillfully manipulating a handful of social issues, primarily abortion and gay rights and sometimes gun control," he says. "And the Republicans have used those to scare a lot of people into voting for Republican candidates. It's skillful manipulation."

Reviews of "The Appeal" have been generally positive, though some can be reduced to previous assessments of Grisham: fine storyteller but not a particularly good writer.



Grisham



Solarpix, PR Photos/SHNS

From left: Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell, Woody Allen and Colin Farrell of "Cassandra's Dream" at the film festival in Venice.

Colin Farrell on his 'Dream' role

BETSY PICKLE

Scripps Howard News Service

The world may not be ready for Colin Farrell's latest role. After filling his resume with iconic historical figures and larger-than-life action heroes and villains, the Irish actor is playing a normal guy — almost — in "Cassandra's Dream."

"It was very liberating to not have to be cool or pretend like you're cool," says the star of such films as "Miami Vice," "Alexander" and "The New World." "There's absolutely no pomp or circumstance to this

piece at all. It's very bare.

"It's a very raw story about incredibly human men who are suffering from the flaws that all of us have, but to a greater degree."

In writer-director Woody Allen's new film, now in theaters, Farrell plays Terry, a London mechanic with a good heart and a bad gambling addiction.

"Terry's a character that has absolutely no heroic aspirations at all," says Farrell by phone from New York. "He doesn't want to be the best at anything. He doesn't spend his nights or days dreaming about things that are outside of his environment."

Terry's brother, Ian, played by Ewan McGregor, is the opposite.

"Ian's very ambitious, very driven," says Farrell, 31. "Terry ... some would call him a slacker. ... He wants his girl and maybe (to have) a family, have a nice little life, and that'll do him."

Unfortunately, Terry and Ian both need large amounts of cash to get out of their respective jams. Their uncle (Tom Wilkinson), a wealthy plastic surgeon/businessman, has a quick job for them — a favor, really — but carrying it out defies moral as well as statutory laws.

Allen's screenplay incorporates Westerners' thirst for more —

more than they need, more than their neighbors have.

"Everywhere you look — more," says Farrell. "And everywhere you look it's about competition."

"We seem to, as a people in the Western world, spend too much time competing with those to the left, right, in front of or behind us instead of competing with ourselves and trying to realize our own individual potential."

"There's always gonna be somebody better than you, always gonna be somebody worse than you. And we don't really spend enough time just trying to be as good as we can be."

Dishing dirt with 'Clean House' diva

TERRY MORROW

Scripps Howard News Service

"Clean House" host Niecy Nash looked at the ungrateful woman and was ready to throw down.

"I thought, 'Can I slap that woman on TV and get away with it?' " she deadpans in a phone chat.

During nearly 100 episodes, Nash and her makeover show hadn't encountered anyone who outright complained about the results — a newly cleaned home, new furniture and a redecorating — except for the Los Angeles-area mother. When the woman started crying tears of regret, Nash was already at her wit's end.

Now in its sixth season, "Clean House" (9 p.m. Wednesdays, The Style Network) has dug through tons of garbage, cleaned away piles of dirt and sold thousands of dollars' worth of junk in yard sales to benefit folks who want to get their homes in order.

It's an addictive hour of television as cameras go into America's unkempt homes and try to straighten out what Nash refers to as other people's "foolishness." She gets help on her messy missions from Mark Brunetz, a decorator; Trish Suhr, a yard-sale expert; and Matt Iseman, a handyman.

The woman who hated what they had done represented one of the rare moments on a home-makeover show.

In the show's defense, the woman and her

daughter were leery of the whole process to begin with. They didn't want to let go of their possessions and have their home reworked. But they allowed "Clean House" to proceed anyway.

By the time the big reveal came, Nash had had enough.

Why did "House" producers allow the episode to be aired? "They like that kind of drama," Nash observes.

Nash didn't "back slap" the ungrateful woman, though she jokingly says she fought the urge to do so.

Though Nash is known for her streetwise humor on the show, she's never gone as far as assault. Slapping a participant might be a TV first, though. Certainly, Ty Pennington has never done it on "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition."

But then, Nash, a comedic actress also known for Comedy Central's "Reno 911," is not your typical hostess. She shoots from the hip and rarely misses.

Feel-good "House" has its share of tears from grateful families, but not without Nash giving them a strong and straightforward talk about their cluttered ways.

In many cases, however, all that talk may be going out one ear. Nash figures about 40 percent of the people the show goes back to their old ways. Within weeks, the newly restored order is gone.

Meanwhile, Nash is motivated to make sure her home is tidy.

It sounds silly, but is true

Some headline writers, it seems, do not read their output. In December, Reuters had a piece headed by "Pakistan arrests suspect in mosque suicide bombing."

The correct play occasionally looks silly — and when it does, the play is very hard to find. In this textbook example, how would you play in four spades after West has led a low diamond, ducked to your ace?

This deal was reportedly declared by the Italian superstar Giorgio Belladonna during the 1965 European Championships in Ostend, Belgium. But it makes me uncomfortable. I can find it



Phillip Alder

North			
♠ J 9			
♥ K 4			
♦ J 10 8 7 6			
♣ A 7 6 4			
West			
♠ K 4			
♥ Q 10 8 7			
♦ K 9 5			
♣ K Q 9 3			
East			
♠ 2			
♥ A 9 6 5			
♦ Q 4 3 2			
♣ J 10 8 2			
South			
♠ A Q 10 8 7 6 5 3			
♥ J 3 2			
♦ A			
♣ 5			

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South **West** **North** **East**
4♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: ♦ 5

only in "The Bridge Immortals" by Victor Mollo (Faber & Faber, 1967), where there is no mention of bidding or vulnerability. It is tough to devise a sequence to four spades, and even harder to discern why West would lead a diamond instead of the

club king. I would ask Belladonna and Mollo, but they died many years ago. Still, none of this detracts from the winning play.

Note that if you immediately play a heart to dummy's king, East will win with the ace and shift to his trump, after which you must lose one spade and three hearts.

Belladonna played a club to dummy's ace, then called for the heart four! It was the perfect safety-play. Here, West took South's jack with his queen, but could not play a trump without sacrificing his trick there. When West tried to cash the club king, declarer ruffed and played another heart. East took dummy's king with his ace and led a trump, but South rose with his ace and ruffed his heart loser on the board. Belladonna lost only one spade and two hearts.

Phillip Alder is a columnist for Newspaper Enterprise Association.

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