

Region

METH SENTENCE

A 47-year-old York man was sentenced to 10 years and one month in prison Thursday for his role in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in Fillmore, York, Hall and Platte counties.

According to U.S. Attorney Mike Heavican, U.S. District Judge Richard G. Kopf sentenced Brian D. Robson to prison time, followed by five years of supervised release and 250 hours of community service.

Robson also was ordered to pay \$1,987 in restitution to the Nebraska State Patrol. The restitution is for repairs to an unmarked State Patrol car which Robson struck with his pickup as he fled from a rural Benedict residence in November of 2000.

At the time of the incident, officers from several law enforcement agencies were serving a search warrant at the rural Benedict house which Robson shared with others.

Robson pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge June 24.

State

BIKER DEATH

BRIDGEPORT — A Sidney man died nearly 24 hours after he was severely injured in a motorcycle accident on a curve of U.S. Highway 385.

Gary Dishong, 46, lost control of his motorcycle about eight miles southeast of Bridgeport late Wednesday night, Morrill County Sheriff John Edens said. No other vehicle was involved.

Dishong died Thursday night at Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff, Edens said.

Edens said Dishong was wearing a helmet.

The death brought the number of people killed on Nebraska roads this year to 237, compared to 180 by Oct. 11, 2001.

FATHER'S MURDER

CENTER — A 15-year-old boy from Crofton will stand trial on charges of killing his father with a shotgun, but the judge must first decide whether the boy will be transferred to juvenile court.

Christian Boecker is charged as an adult with first-degree murder and a related weapons charge in the July 1 shooting death Loren Boecker at their rural Crofton home. The boy was 14 at the time.

Boecker's attorneys have asked that the case be transferred to juvenile court. Knox County District Judge Patrick Rogers said Thursday that he will consider the request before scheduling the trial. A similar motion was denied July 19 by a county court judge.

108-YEAR-OLD DIES

FALLS CITY — Matilda Zimmerman broke her hip while scrubbing her apartment floor seven years ago. Some might have thought that spelled the end for the centenarian.

She would live on to 108, proving any doubters wrong.

The restaurant cook who never drove a car died Tuesday at Midland Villa Nursing Home, where she had lived since the 1995 mishap.

"She never complained about anything, even up to the last she never complained," said her grandson, Donald Woolen of Liberty, Mo.

Woolen said the broken hip meant Zimmerman had to use a wheelchair. Still, she recovered nicely from gall bladder surgery at 103.

The Associated Press

Calendar

HASTINGS

◆ "October Sky," 7 p.m. Saturday and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Lied SuperScreen Theatre at Hastings Museum.

Lotteries

WINNING NUMBERS

Thursday
Kansas Pick 3 5-6-4
Nebraska Pick 5 2-7-8-10-22
Jackpot: \$212,000

LINDA GARCIA
Hastings Tribune

The Hastings Tribune, the first Nebraska newspaper to offer news and advertising information online in 1995, is now the first in the state to offer the entire newspaper on the Internet.

As of this morning, 14 subscribers had signed up for the online edition, said Cary Beurskens, Tribune circulation manager.

He said the online edition, found at www.hastingstribune.com, will prove most valuable to subscribers who receive the Tribune by mail. The online subscription rate of \$1 a week for a year is less than a traditional subscription.

"If you live in Texas or

Arizona, it takes three days to get the paper, and it comes two or three days at a time," Beurskens said. "We're kind of at the mercy of the post office. With the online edition, they cannot only save money, but also can receive the paper the day it is published."

The new site was offered at no charge for just over a month so browsers could get familiar with it and to allow time for the newspaper to fine-tune things. Charging for access to the new online edition has resulted in many complaints by e-mail to the newspaper.

Doug Edwards, Tribune operations manager who created the new online edition, said it would have been difficult financially to put the entire newspa-

per online for no fee because it is essentially the same as what is delivered to the front porch.

"If we were to put up the paper (for free), we would lose more subscriptions, and it's expensive to do it," he said.

In August, the old Tribune Web site, which mostly offered only two main stories, a sports story, obituaries and classified ads, had more than 50,000 hits, including visits from 39 countries such as Japan, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and Germany.

Other newspapers across the country are beginning to explore subscription on-line editions, including the Christian Science Monitor, Edwards said. The Web site requires a PayPal account for security.



BRENT MCCOWN / Tribune

Hastings Postmaster Dana Ferguson (middle) presents Jessica Morrow (left) with a plaque Thursday afternoon at the Hastings post office while Hastings Police Capt. Gene Boner looks on. Morrow was recognized for calling the police and following the youths that broke into the post office and stole mail trucks in May.

WATCHFUL CITIZEN

DOTTI GRAMKE
Hastings Tribune

A Hastings resident was recognized Thursday for her quick actions that helped police solve a crime and helped the Hastings post office get back stolen mail trucks earlier this year.

Jessica Morrow smiled shyly as Hastings Postmaster Dana Ferguson honored her efforts during a brief ceremony at the post office, 300 N. Kansas Ave.

On the evening of May 25, Morrow was stopped at a stop sign near Second Street and Pine Avenue when she saw two mail trucks speed by her on Second Street.

"I knew that something was wrong because it was late and it looked like kids were driving the trucks," she said.

Morrow said she was concerned for the safety of the kids driving the mail trucks and of other people on the road.

"They were all over the road and I could smell that they were rodding the trucks," she said. "It was dangerous to other people and to the kids."

Morrow used her cellular phone to

call police. A dispatcher asked if she could follow the vehicles until police arrived.

"I was driving along telling them when they turned and where they were headed so they wouldn't get away," she said.

Police detained three Hastings boys in the incident, ages 10, 14 and 15. Two of the three boys were scheduled to be sentenced today in Adams County Court.

According to police, four stolen and damaged mail trucks were part of a crime spree in which the boys took part, beginning early in the evening at First United Methodist Church, 614 N. Hastings Ave., where the boys ransacked rooms and took money.

The boys moved on to the Hastings post office where the building was entered, ransacked and mail was opened. Post office employees spent Memorial Day, a couple days after the incident, matching up information on 200 opened parcels and resealing them. The post office included apologies on each item.

The boys apparently took keys to four postal vehicles and drove them. When

the vehicles were later examined, they appeared to have fresh damage, indicating the vehicles had been in an accident. The trucks also were damaged because the emergency parking breaks had not been released as they were driven.

Ferguson presented Morrow with a plaque from the U.S. Postal Service honoring her observation and willingness to help.

"This young woman was instrumental in this situation," he said. "She saw the trucks and realized something was wrong."

Morrow also was presented a certificate of appreciation and a gift from the Hastings post office, presented to her by Peggy Poole, manager of post office operations for Hastings and Grand Island.

Hasting Police Capt. Gene Boner said Morrow did a great job and acted quickly.

"When asked to follow the vehicles, she didn't hesitate and followed in a way that kept her safe," he said.

Morrow said she is grateful for the recognition.

"It's a nice feeling," she said.

Bus crash injures at least 30

NONE SERIOUSLY HURT
WHEN ONE BUS
REAR-ENDS ANOTHER

The Associated Press

MURRAY — Regular classes were planned and school buses were to run their normal routes a day after at least 30 people were injured when one school bus rear-ended another school bus in this Cass County community 26 miles south of Omaha.

Twenty-two students and the bus drivers were taken to hospitals, but authorities said no one was seriously hurt.

The buses, used by Conestoga Schools, collided on the village's Main Street, which is Nebraska Highway 1, just after 4 p.m. Thursday.

Rescue squads were called from more than a dozen surrounding towns.

Superintendent Tim



DAVE WEAVER / AP

A school bus that ran into the back of another school bus in Murray Thursday is shown. Twenty-two students and two adults were taken to the hospital, but no one was seriously hurt.

Hoffman estimated 50 to 60 children from kindergarten through 12th grade were on the buses. The district used lists from the buses to contact parents, many of whom came to

the scene or the school, he said.

"We just feel so fortunate that, at this point, we know of no very serious injuries," Hoffman said.

Counselors would be avail-

able Friday on the bus routes involved in the accident and at school, Hoffman said. The drivers involved in the accident would not be driving, he said.

A bus driven by 52-year-old Mary Peters of Plattsmouth had stopped on Main Street to make a turn when it was hit from behind by a second bus driven by Karen Savage, 48, of Nehawka, the Cass County Sheriff's office said in a release. The accident investigation was to continue Friday.

Several people were treated at the scene for injuries, the release said.

Sixteen grade school children with bumps and bruises were taken to Midland Community Hospital in Papillion where they were treated and released, hospital spokesman Tim Kaldahl said.

Six teenagers and the bus drivers were treated and released from Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, hospital spokesman Ed Sinan said.

including Tribune advertisers who are excited by the possibilities.

"It's a good selling point," said Angela Kinney, a Tribune advertising executive. "They not only get ads in the main paper but they can be pulled up anywhere."

The coupons are valued online as well; permission has been granted to allow customers to print them at home, then use them at the stores, Kinney said.

The advertising rates remain the same.

"We're excited because it's advancing, it's the first in the state," Kinney said. "It's something we can be proud of."

SCREC
closing
painful
decision

IANR CHIEF SAYS

CUT DISTASTEFUL

BUT NECESSARY

ANDY RAUN
Hastings Tribune

LINCOLN — John Owens made no bones about his discomfort Thursday.

As vice chancellor for agriculture and natural resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Owens worked with UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman in forming a Sept. 10 proposal to close the South Central Research & Extension Center in Clay County.

Thursday, it was he who had to stand up first in a public hearing of UNL's Academic Planning Committee, explaining the administration's rationale in proposing the center's closure.

Owens said he valued South Central's work and found the idea of closing it distasteful, but was trying to establish a strategy the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources could follow in hunkering down and surviving the university's current budget crisis.

"Vertical cuts," such as closing South Central, are severe, but actually may be the least harmful to the university and IANR in the long run, he said.

Please see PAINFUL/page A6

Academic
committee
advisory
in nature

GROUP WILL MAKE
RECOMMENDATION ON
SCREC CLOSING

ANDY RAUN
Hastings Tribune

LINCOLN — For Barry Rosson and his colleagues on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Academic Planning Committee, these are difficult days.

The APC, which is made up of elected faculty, graduate and undergraduate student and staff representatives, and administrators, is conducting public hearings on \$7.5 million worth of proposed cuts to UNL's budget.

The cuts are many, so the hearings are many, and emotions sometimes run high. Thursday, the committee took testimony from constituents of the South Central Research & Extension Center in Clay County, which is targeted for closure.

Rosson, an associate professor of civil engineering, is the committee's vice chairman. He ran Thursday's hearing in place of Chairman Craig Eckhardt, professor of chemistry.

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