

Patrol the halls

New dean of students helping students at Hastings Middle School.

Page A5



Tribune

Weekend

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Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008

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Cost standing in way of quiet zones

SHAY BURK

sburk@hastingstribune.com

When it comes to keeping the train horns silenced in Hastings, the cost seems to be the biggest issue.

"The two things I've heard are cost concerns and people saying, 'can we still make it happen,'" Hastings City Council member Everett Goebel said Friday.

Goebel first proposed the idea of establishing quiet zones along the BNSF Railway line, which runs through the center of Hastings, in the fall of 2006.

On Monday, the City Council received a 45-minute report from Matt Rief, a consultant with Olsson Associates, on the feasibility study for creating a quiet zone in Hastings.

The biggest questions raised regarding creation of a quiet zone are related to the \$2.3 million Rief estimates it could cost.

Quiet zones are at least a half-mile long and have other measures put in place to alert pedestrians and drivers that a train is coming without the use of the train horn.

Hastings Mayor Vern Powers, who took his oath of office an hour after the presentation, said he and a lot of people were shocked by the high cost.

"We just can't swing the \$3-4 million cost at

this point, especially with everything else the city is dealing with," he said. "This would have to happen over a 10-15 year period. We've got so many things in town we need to work on."

At Monday's City Council meeting, one of the main concerns raised was regarding a pedestrian crossing on Marian Road near Hastings Middle School, 201 N. Marian Road. The pedestrian crossing was not suggested in the feasibility study; however, an overpass was proposed at the crossing on Marian Road.

"Maybe something we can do quickly is a pedestrian overpass," Powers suggested in phone interview Friday.

He said a pedestrian crossing would be less costly and take less time than the construction of an overpass, which could take at least three or four years to plan and build that type of a structure.

Powers said he thinks people thought the council was going through with the implementation of quiet zones without knowing the costs.

Now that everyone knows the costs, Powers said he hopes the council will take time to consider the proposal and maybe go a different direction, due to the costs.

"We've got too many other projects like streets and the like," he said.

Please see RR/page A6



AMY ROH/Tribune

A BNSF engine crosses at California Avenue Thursday. The intersection is one being considered as a railroad quiet zone.

White House promises auto rescue

DAVID ESPO

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With Congress gridlocked and the economy floundering, the Bush administration declared Friday it would step in to prevent the "precipitous collapse" of the U.S. auto industry and the disastrous loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs sure to follow.

A day after the sudden demise of rescue legislation in Congress, carmakers were talking with the administration and the Federal Reserve about how they could still get the billions of dollars they say they need to survive. The talks included conditions that automakers would have to meet, said GM spokesman Greg Martin.

The administration said no decisions had been made on the size or duration of the new bailout plan, or what type of concessions might be demanded from the struggling automakers, their workers, stockholders or others.

In a reversal, the most likely rescue option under consideration involved billions of dollars originally ticketed for the bailout of the financial industry. President George W. Bush had earlier declared that money off-limits to the beleaguered automakers.

Please see AUTO/page A6



SHAY BURK/Tribune

Our Lady Virgin Mary (Leticia Garcia) speaks to Juan Diego (Daniel Marez) during a play depicting the story of St. Juan Diego.

A colorful celebration

NOVENA OF
GUADALUPE
CULMINATES WITH
MASS AND FEAST

SHAY BURK

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For Mexicans, Mexican Americans and other Hispanic Catholics, the Virgin Mary is more than just the virgin mother of Jesus Christ.

"We believe Mary has a special love for the marginalized, the poor and the oppressed," said Fr. Jim Benton during a feast at the Knights of Columbus hall Friday night.

The feast was the culmination of the Novena of Guadalupe, a four day celebration honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, who appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531.

Friday night hundreds of Hispanic Catholics filled the Holy Cross Monastery at the former Crosier Monastery to celebrate Our Lady and her coming to Juan Diego.

"These people are the lowest," Benton said as he looked around the room. "They take the lowest pay and the hardest

jobs. They don't have rights and often don't have language."

He said the Mexican people, who were being oppressed by conquistadors in 1531, have seen the Virgin Mary as their champion, a woman who came to lift them up when others were pushing them down.

"Mary lifted them up in dignity," Benton said.

According to the story, Juan Diego, an indigenous Catholic man in Mexico, walked miles each day to mass. En route one day, the Virgin Mary appeared to Diego and told him that a church was to be built in that place to honor her and encourage devotion to her son Jesus.

When Diego told the priest the story, the priest didn't believe him and asked for a sign. Diego again saw the virgin and asked for a sign. Virgin Mary directed him to pick the roses on the ground near her in a place roses do not grow.

Diego placed the roses in his tilma, or cloak and took them to the priest. He dropped the roses in front of the bishop and there on the tilma was the image of Our Lady as Diego

Please see MASS/page A8

'Hastingsopoly' hits store shelves for holidays

CHARIS UBBEN

cubben@hastingstribune.com

"Hastingsopoly" hit store shelves just in time for the Christmas shopping season, thanks to the efforts of Jerammie and Nikki Uecker.

The game, which is serving as a fundraiser for Zion Lutheran School, is similar to Hasbro's "Monopoly," but "Hastingsopoly" features properties bearing the names of local businesses.

Businesses purchased the right to have their name printed on one of the board's properties for \$300 each. Two paid \$150 to claim what "Hastingsopoly" calls Fate cards, known as Chance and Community Chest cards in the original game.

Others paid the \$150 to place their name in the center of the board, and Five Points Bank gave \$500 to emblazon its logo on each note of the game's

money supply.

Every business featured on the board is within Hastings, Nikki said, except for Blue Hill Furniture.

The Ueckers, who are parents of Zion students, began selling spaces on the board during the third week of June this summer and finally finished at the beginning of October, just before sending the game to production.

Please see GAME/page A8



AMY ROH/Tribune

"Hastingsopoly" based on Hasbro's board game Monopoly, is in stores to raise money for Zion Lutheran school.

Weather

Hi: Brisk and partly cloudy today. Mostly clear tonight.
52
Lo:
25



Art by Anahi Chacon, 8, Lincoln Elementary

'GANGSTER' SHOOTING

CLEVELAND — Cleveland police say they have arrested an 11-year-old boy who shot and wounded his 8-year-old brother while the two were playing "gangster" Friday morning.

Nation

Police say the boys were playing with a gun they found in their grandmother's car.

The 8-year-old is being treated at MetroHealth Medical Center for a gunshot wound to his upper chest. His condition wasn't immediately available, but police Lt. Thomas

Stacho says the wound does not appear to be life-threatening.

He says the 11-year-old is being charged with felonious assault and the grandmother will be charged with failure to secure a deadly weapon.

The Associated Press

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Obituaries

LEROY 'DUTCH' HASSLER JR.

Sutton resident LeRoy "Dutch" Hassler Jr., 77, died Thursday, December 11, 2008, at Memorial Hospital in Aurora, NE.

Memorial services are 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at the Federated Church in Sutton with Pastor Eric Biehl officiating. Burial will be in Sutton Cemetery with military honors provided by the American Legion Post # 61 of Sutton. There will be no visitation. Cremation has taken place. Sutton Memorial Chapel in Sutton is in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be directed to any veteran organization.



Hassler

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and the American Legion. Dutch enjoyed watching Nebraska Husker football games and especially enjoyed watching Husker girls' volleyball. He was well known for having a huge garden and sharing the wealth with family and friends.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Doris (Felton) Hassler of Sutton, NE; son and daughter-in-law, Butch and Suzy Hassler of Sutton, NE; daughter, Linda Hassler of Sutton, NE; grandchildren, Sonia and Ron Zimmerman, Brandon Hassler and friend Jessica Epp, and Brent and Sara Hassler, all of Omaha, NE; Kendra Hassler of Goshen, NY; great-grandchildren, Dylan and Bryson Zimmerman and Jasmin and Brayden Hassler, all of Omaha; sisters and brothers-in-laws Nancy Jung, Pauline and Gene Kemmerer, Carol Ann and Dennis Eisenhart, all of Pennsylvania; and brother-in-law, Paul and Harriet Felton of Lincoln, NE.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother-in-law, Jerry Jung; and was greeted in Heaven by his son, David Hassler.

WILLIS C. TAYLOR

Minden resident Willis C. Taylor, 83, died Thursday, December 11, 2008, at the Bethany Home in Minden.

Memorial services are 11 a.m. Monday, December 15, 2008, at Westminster United Presbyterian Church in Minden with the Rev. Dr. Berke Landrum officiating. There will be no visitation. Layton-Craig Funeral Home in Minden is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials are suggested to the church.



Taylor

Willis was born November 2, 1925, on a farm near Minden to Roy and Bertha (Wirth) Taylor. He attended District #14 School southeast of Minden. From 1947 until 1948 he worked in south Omaha at Wilson's Packing Plant. In 1949, he came back to Minden

and farmed. He farmed for 55 years.

On April 19, 1953, he was united in marriage to Rose Marie Bergstrom in Wilcox, NE. To this union two children were born, Linda and Larry.

Willis loved the land, animals, playing cards and very much loved his children and grandchildren. He was a member of the Westminster United Presbyterian Church in Minden. He served on the Coop Elevator Board in the 1960's.

Survivors include his wife, Rose Marie of Minden; one daughter, Linda Dryden and her husband Ron of Buhler, KS; one son, Larry Taylor and his wife Cindy of Minden; four grandchildren, Crystal Thiesen and her husband Jacob, Carissa Bock and Shae and Colton Taylor; one sister, Eleanor Trine of Minden; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by three brothers; and three sisters.

WILBUR W. FOWLER

Former Fairfield resident, Wilbur Willis Fowler, 86, died Friday, December 12, 2008, at Rosebrook Care Center in Edgar.

Graveside services, with military honors provided by American Legion Post # 256, are 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at Fairfield Cemetery with Pastor Lloyd Boyce officiating. Visitation is 1-8 p.m. Monday at McLaughlin Funeral Chapel in Clay Center.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Community Presbyterian Church in Fairfield, American Legion Post # 256 of Fairfield, NE or to the donor's choice.

1942, until September 26, 1945. After his service duty, he returned to Fairfield and was a partner of Fowler Brothers Repair Shop. Wilbur also farmed and worked as a rural substitute mail carrier for 30 years. On February 14, 1979, he married Fay E. (Larson) Albrecht. He was a lifelong resident of Fairfield until ill health forced him to move into Rosebrook Care Center in Edgar, NE.

He was a permanent member of the American Legion Post # 256 of Fairfield, NE, and a life member of VFW Post # 10045 of Dewese, NE.

He is survived by one sister, Ruth Kempf of Hastings, NE; step-daughter, Lynda Rhodes of Dewese, NE; step-son, Craig Albrecht of Valley Village, CA; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Fay E. (Larson) Albrecht Fowler; three brothers; and 3 sisters.

CAROLINE G. GREEN

Inland resident, Caroline Garbers Green, 96, died Friday, December 12, 2008, at her home.

Memorial service is 2 p.m. Tuesday, December 16, at Inland United Methodist Church. Burial will be in Parkview Cemetery in Hastings, at

a later date. Livingston-Butler-Volland Funeral Home and Cremation Center in Hastings is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be given to the family.

Condolences may be sent to www.lbvfh.com.

GARNET L. DALLMANN

Former Minden resident Garnet L. Dallmann, 92, of Glendale, Ariz., died December 5, 2008, in Glendale.

Services are 10 a.m. Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at Macon United Methodist Church in Macon with the Rev. Neil Kloppenborg officiating. Burial will be in Macon Union Ceme-

tery at Macon. Visitation is 9-10 a.m. Tuesday at the church. Hutchins Funeral Home in Franklin is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be given to Wycliffe Bible Translators, P.O. Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862, or ministry of your choice.

OBAMA INSPIRED TV STAR

NEW YORK — President-elect Barack Obama inspired many young people this election season, but even someone too young to vote felt a breeze of hope.

Thirteen-year-old Nat Wolff, star of the Nickelodeon TV series "The Naked Brothers Band," said Obama is "the coolest guy ever" and meeting the former Senator led Nat to write a song called "Yes We Can," which will be featured on the TV show's Christmas special, airing Dec. 13.

"I just saw him and it was the most inspirational thing. He made me feel like he could make America so cool," Nat said in a recent interview.

The Obamas, including daughters Sasha, 10, and Malia, 7, have listened to the tune.

"He got to hear the song and his daughters called me up and I talked to them and it was so cool," Nat said.

"The Naked Brothers Band" is a hit program featuring Nat and his younger brother, Alex, 10, as members of a rock band. For the show's Christmas special, Whoopi Goldberg and Natasha Bedingfield will guest star.

The tween star feels that having the song debut on his TV show will get more kids excited about politics and what's to come as Obama heads to the White House.

"It's cool that kids are going to be able to hear it because kids need to be part of politics because it's their world as well," Nat said.

CELEBS: BUY A BOOK, KILL SOME TIME

NEW YORK — Jon Stewart, Barbara Walters and some other famous people would like you to buy books during the holiday season.

"Books make great gifts because they're an amazing way to kill time while your Web site is buffering," Stewart jokes during a two-minute video that is part of an industry campaign, www.BooksAreGreatGifts.com, organized by the Association of American Publishers to boost books during an especially bleak economy.

The association announced Thursday that sales for October, based on results from 80 publishers, dropped 20 percent from the month before.

The video, produced by Random House Inc. and featuring authors from several publishing houses, can be viewed on YouTube and on numerous retailer Web sites, including Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble.com and the Fact & Fiction bookstore in Missoula, Mont., www.factandfictionbooks.com.

Also featured on the video are Martha Stewart, Maya Angelou, Nora Ephron, Julie Andrews and many others bearing seasonal advice.

"The Da Vinci Code" author Dan Brown: "Books make great gifts because they can unveil hidden secrets."

Fox News Channel's Bill O'Reilly: "Books make great gifts because you can prove your point with them. Give opinions!"

ACTOR INJURES HIMSELF

VIENNA, Austria — An actor's suicide scene became a little too real for comfort when he accidentally stabbed himself in the neck during a performance after a stage prop was replaced with a sharp knife at an Austrian theater.

Daniel Hoevels of the Thalia Theater company from Hamburg, Germany, was

NewsMakers

In the company of greatness



JACQUES BRINON/AP

Irish singer and activist Bono (center) poses with 1993 Nobel Peace Laureate F.W. de Klerk (left) and 1983 Nobel Peace Laureate Lech Walesa after Bono was awarded with the Peace Summit Award during the ninth Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates Friday in Paris.

supposed to be using a knife blunted for use onstage, but the knife had been switched with a sharp one for the show Saturday night.

Vienna police said Thursday they were investigating "bodily injury caused by negligence."

The theater company said the original prop knife was damaged and that instructions to blunt the replacement had been "carelessly" disregarded. It did not specify who it thought might be responsible.

Hoevels received stitches for his injury at a hospital and was back on stage at Vienna's prestigious Burgtheater the next day. He was playing the role of Mortimer in Friedrich Schiller's "Mary Stuart."

ANISTON POSES FOR GQ

NEW YORK — Jennifer Aniston wears a tie — and nothing else — on the January cover of GQ magazine.

The 39-year-old actress strips down and shows off her toned body next to the headline: "Is it just us or is Jennifer Aniston getting hotter?"

Joking about the relentless media coverage of herself, ex-husband Brad Pitt and Pitt's partner Angelina Jolie, Aniston tells the magazine: "The funny thing is that people don't realize we all go away to the Hamptons on the weekends."

Not exactly. Says Aniston: "But can you imagine? That'd be hysterical: I've got Zahara on my hip, and Knox ..."

As for Jolie's past remarks about falling for Pitt on the set of "Mr. & Mrs. Smith," Aniston says: "No daggers through the heart. I laugh. Am I surprised? ... Considering the source, nothing surprises me."

BIRTHDAYS

Former Secretary of State George P.

Shultz is 88. Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 83. Actor Christopher Plummer is 79. Actor Robert Proske is 78. Country singer Buck White is 78. Music/film producer Lou Adler is 75. Movie producer Richard Zanuck is 74. Singer John Davidson is 67. Actress Kathy Garver (TV: "Family Affair") is 63. Singer Ted Nugent is 60. Rock musician Jeff "Skunk" Baxter is 60. Country musician Ron Getman is 60. Actor Robert Lindsay is 59. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 59. Actress Wendie Malick is 58. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is 55. Country singer John Anderson is 54. Singer-songwriter Steve Forbert is 54. Singer-actor Morris Day is 52. Actor Steve Buscemi is 51. Actor Johnny Whitaker is 49. Actor-comedian Jamie Foxx is 41. TV personality Debbie Matenopoulos is 34. Rock singer-musician Thomas Delonge is 33. Actor James Kyson Lee is 33. Actress Chelsea Hertford is 27. Rock singer Amy Lee (Evanescence) is 27. Country singer Taylor Swift is 19.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"My theory is to enjoy life, but the practice is against it."

— Charles Lamb, English essayist (1775-1834)

The Associated Press

FACT OF THE DAY

Mexican artist Diego Rivera painted a fresco on the RCA Building at Rockefeller Center in 1933; however, it was destroyed shortly after completion because it contained a portrait of Vladimir Lenin.

NUMBER OF THE DAY

7 — Mary Todd Lincoln's age when her mother died; Abraham Lincoln's mother died when he was 10.

Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Tribland

It was reported Thursday that a mailbox owned by Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1053 S. Wabash Ave., was damaged at the post home.

Gary Michael's open 9:30 to 5:30 today. Ladies Day was held Wednesday, the 10th. - Adv.

The following couples recently applied for marriage licenses at the Adams County Clerk's Office: Timothy James Paling and Cheri Lynn Paling, and Brandon Alan Durgan and Peggy Ann Beale, all of Juniata; Jovey Dean Olena and Trista Lynn Pierce, and Kip Allen Uden and Shona Renee Lubken, all of Trumbull; William Steven Griepenstroh and Lindsay Jo Swanson, and Kenneth Dale Maudlin and Brenda Louise Harrison, all of Hastings; and Jack Porter Morgan and Judy Carol Magner, both of Harvard.

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

Attention! Tribune's final Football Contest will run Monday, December 15, with the deadline of Friday, December 19, at 5:00 p.m.!

2006 Ford Freestar van, 28,000 miles. Below book at \$12,975. Jackson's Car Corner - Adv.

Crab legs at Taylor's this weekend. 462-8000. -Adv.

Adams County Judge Jack Ott Friday sentenced Danielle G. Dericks, 26, of 715 E. Third St. to one year probation, a \$400 fine, 60-day drivers license impoundment and a victim impact panel for driving under the influence of alcohol March 21. Dericks pleaded no contest Aug. 18, and prosecutors dismissed charges of possessing drug paraphernalia and possessing marijuana. DUI is a Class W misdemeanor punishable by up to 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Kids! Santa photos today 9:00 to 2:00; packages \$20. Winkelbauer's, 462-4171. -Adv.

Karaoke tonight at 9:00 at Vincent Michael's. -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Leslie A. Kober of Roseland, Blaine S. Bulas of Juniata and Barbara L. Beran of 743 N. California Ave. collided Thursday at Second Street and Denver Avenue.

Four years interest free financing at Jacobi Carpet One thru December 31. Purchase now for new year installation. -Adv.

See the "People Yule Know" contest winners and answers today on page B4. -Adv.

Don't miss Joseph Hall appearing as Elvis December 21 at City Auditorium. Tickets are going fast! Call 402-984-6476 for tickets and information. - Adv.

It was reported Thursday that an unknown motorist left West Second Best Stop, 2304 W. Second St., without paying for \$23 in fuel.

1996 Oldsmobile LS, leather, 26,000 one-owner miles. Exceptional. Jackson's Car Corner -Adv.

It was reported Thursday that an 18-year-old Arnold woman, 18-year-old Holdrege woman, 18-year-old Orleans man, 19-year-old Franklin man, 19-year-old Loomis man and a 20-year-old Hastings man were cited with minor in possession of alcohol at 203 E. Third St.

St. Michael's breakfast this Sunday, 8:00 to 11:00. Benefit South Central Right to Life. - Adv.

Saturday only special: Jacobi Carpet One, holiday door mat \$25. 3rd and Denver. -Adv.

Hastings Tribune has an immediate opening for a motor route driver in the Glenvil, Dewese and Fairfield areas; afternoons and Saturday mornings. Call Circulation, 461-1220 or 1-800-742-6397. -Adv.

Gift certificates available at Bath Bliss Gifts, 536 West 2nd -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.

A 16-year-old Hastings girl reported Monday that her purse and contents were taken from a vehicle at Ninth Street and Briggs Avenue.

25-percent off any tanning package at Sassy's, 463-1665. - Adv.

Area funerals

Today

◆**Thomas Brewer**, 75, of Hansen, 10:30 a.m. at Livingston-Butler-Volland Funeral Home chapel in Hastings.

◆**Claus Goos**, 97, of Hastings, 1 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Blue Hill.

◆**Matt Schoof**, 26, of Ruskin, 10 a.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Ruskin.

◆**Lois Uhrmacher**, 84, of Lincoln, 11 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church in rural Hastings.

Monday, Dec. 15

◆**Albert Duesterhoeft**, 94, of Blue Hill, 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Blue Hill.

◆**Duane Schroeder**, 76, of Hastings, 10:30 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Glenvil.

◆**Willis Taylor**, 83, of Minden, 11 a.m. at Westminster United Presbyterian Church in Minden.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

◆**Garnet Dallmann**, 92, of Glendale, Ariz., 10 a.m. at Macon United Methodist Church in Macon.

◆**LeRoy "Dutch" Hassler Jr.**, 77, of Sutton, 2 p.m. at the Federated Church in Sutton.

◆**Wilbur Fowler**, 85, of Edgar, 10:30 a.m. in Fairfield Cemetery at Fairfield.

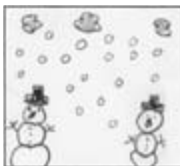
Tribland five-day forecast

Art by Anahi Chacon, 8, Lincoln Elementary



BRISK TODAY

High: 52 Low: 25
Wind: South 15-25
Gusts up to 35 mph this afternoon.



SNOWY SUNDAY

High: 25 Low: 5
Wind: Northwest 20-30
Windy and colder with a 30 percent chance of snow.



SUNNY MONDAY

High: 14 Low: 3
Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow Monday night.



SNOWY TUESDAY

High: 17 Low: 7
Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow.



SNOWY WEDNESDAY

High: 22 Low: 11
Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow.

Evidence links remains to toddler's home

TAMARA LUSH

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — A medical examiner found evidence among a child's remains that link them to the home of a missing toddler, the county sheriff said Friday, offering the strongest indication yet that the remains may be those of Caylee Anthony.

Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary said investigators searched the home early Friday after the medical examiner found "some clues that came out of the remains" that "linked it to the house." He would not say what clues were found.

"We took some things out of the house that the forensic people are very interested in," he said.

The remains were found Thursday by a utility worker on a wooded lot less than a half-mile from the house where 3-year-old Caylee lived with her grandparents and her mother, 22-year-old Casey Anthony.

Casey Anthony was charged in October with first-degree murder, even though the toddler's body hadn't yet been found. She has insisted that she left the girl with a baby sitter in June, but she didn't report



Orange County Sheriff's Office/AP

This undated photo shows Caylee Marie Anthony. A utility worker discovered a child's skull Thursday less than a half-mile from 3-year-old Caylee Anthony's home in some woods that, until recently, had been flooded.

Caylee missing until July.

Beary said his investigators and the FBI would work around the clock and through the weekend to identify the child.

Asked if he believed if the remains are Caylee, Beary said: "I think it's a good possibility, but I have to wait seven to 14 days for the DNA analysis." There are no other similar miss-

ing-child cases in the area.

"I say my prayers every day and one of them is to solve this case," said Beary, who is retiring in January. "I just hope that we solve the case on my watch."

A judge denied a motion Friday filed by the defense to inspect the remains, saying they must wait for a positive identification.

If the skull found in an area that had until recently been flooded proves to be Caylee's, prosecutors will have the crucial evidence they need to convict Casey Anthony, legal experts said.

"If the defense had been able to go to trial without a body being discovered, hopes for reasonable doubt might have been compelling," former U.S. Attorney Kendall Coffey said. "(But) if the body proves to be Caylee, then it immediately becomes an uphill case for the defense."

Prosecutors announced last week that they would not seek the death penalty against Casey Anthony. Even if the remains are Caylee's, experts said it was unlikely the state would reverse its decision because prosecutors still have not determined a motive.

SEC seeks to salvage assets of Wall Street financier

LARRY NEUMEISTER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The implosion of a Wall Street firm whose owner is accused in a \$50 billion swindle left regulators scrambling to seize control of its assets Friday as dozens of investors worried that they had gone from rich to poor overnight.

The collapse of Bernard L. Madoff's company came just hours before his arrest Thursday

on a single securities fraud count. Madoff, who allegedly told his employees he was running a "giant Ponzi scheme," was freed on \$10 million bail.

Officials with the Securities and Exchange Commission were due in federal court Friday after a judge put a temporary hold on some assets of the firm until a court-appointed receiver could take control of its finances.

Fear ran deep for investors in

Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC. Stephen A. Weiss, who said he had spoken to at least 30 of them, said some entrusted all of their savings to Madoff, who had delivered steady returns for decades.

"They were living comfort-

able lives and serene retirements and by the late afternoon their lives were thrown into a spiral of horror," Weiss said. "These people are panicked. These people are sorrowful. These people are angry. And many are now destitute."

One investor, Lawrence Velvel, 69, dean of the Massachusetts School of Law, said he and a friend may have lost millions of dollars between them.

"This is a major disaster for a lot of people," Velvel said in a telephone interview from his

Andover, Mass., office. "You work all your life, you finally manage to save up something, and somebody who's entrusted with it, it turns out suddenly he's a crook. Lots of people are getting fully or partially wiped out."

One less thing to worry about. SM



Joe Theis



Patti Wissing



Mike Theis

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Chasing pirates to their lair

Scripps Howard News Service

The only effective way to deal with the increasing danger posed by Somali pirates is to do so on land, arresting the pirates and demolishing their bases and boats.

Normally, that would be the duty of the Somali government. But Somalia doesn't really have a government except in a small part of the country protected by Ethiopian soldiers — and the Ethiopians are getting ready to leave.

So the Bush administration is circulating a draft U.N. Security Council resolution that would allow nations whose shipping is affected to conduct anti-pirate operations on Somali soil. The Somali government, such as it is, would have to approve these operations, but since it is completely dependent on foreign aid, approval is pretty much a given. And various foreign navies already enter Somali territorial waters.

Some U.N. members, especially the African nations, are apprehensive about the sovereignty issue of letting foreign militaries especially those of the United States and Western Europe operate in an African country.

Somalia may soon get a government that will deal with the pirates, but it's not one terribly acceptable to the United States and others. The Islamic Courts movement is again extending its hold and its brand of radical Islam over the country. The Islamic Courts ended the pirate problem once before until they were beaten back. They would do so again, but at the price of a government relentlessly hostile to the West and one likely to provide a haven for violent Islamic extremists.

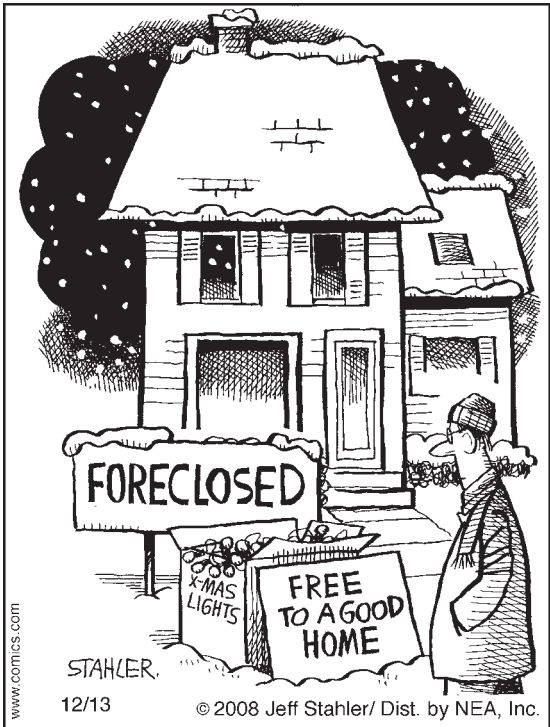
The United Nations should put aside its reservations over sovereignty and approve foreign militaries going ashore to hunt pirates. The pirates have been refreshingly candid that they are in the business of hijacking ships not to make a religious and ideological point but solely for the money. They are even now holding for ransom a Saudi supertanker loaded with \$100 million worth of oil.

The piracy has been conducted with remarkably little loss of life so far. But as was demonstrated earlier this month when pirates blazed away at a cruise ship with 600 passengers in an unsuccessful attempt to board it, it is only a matter of time before their trade turns deadly.

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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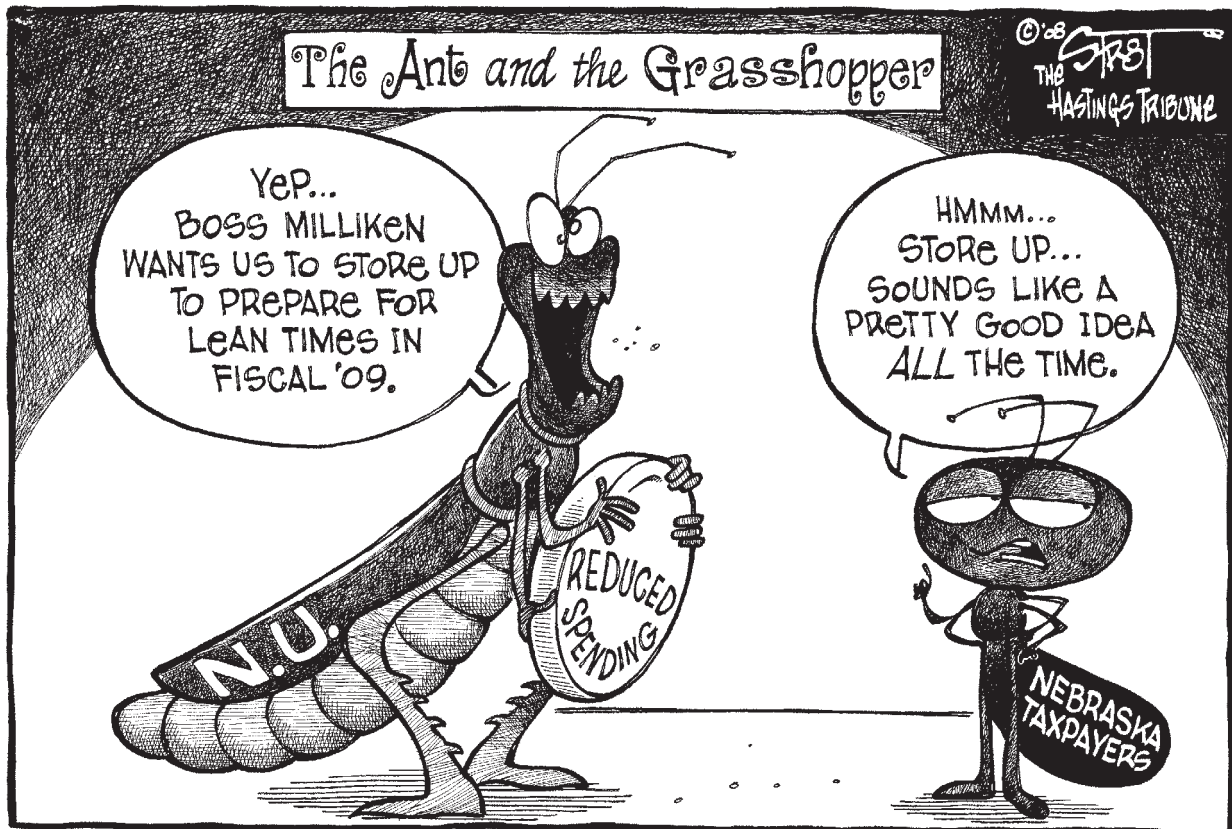
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Yesterday

2007 — Construction of an ethanol plant near Carleton was suspended with an announcement that it would resume March 19, 2008.

1998 — Marvin Fink was the first Hastings recipient of a Grand Master's Humanitarian Award from the Nebraska Masonic Lodge.

1988 — All-terrain vehicles (three-wheelers and four-wheelers) were being described as Nebraska farmers' new workhorses — "a tremendous work saver, almost a necessity."

1978 — Dr. and Mrs. Clyde Kleager received the Hastings Sertoma Club's Service to Mankind Award for more than 20 years of helping people in the area.

A day in the life of Santa Claus

You ever wonder what I do the 364 days between Christmas Eves when I'm not delivering toys? Mostly, I try to figure out what your kids will want this Christmas. You'll notice that Mrs. Claus and I don't have any kids. Tell the truth, we don't even like them that much. Why do you think I come by in the middle of the night? Because they're asleep, that's why.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining about the job. I pick my own hours, and I'm my own boss. Besides, what else would I do at my age? Become a barista at Starbucks. A greeter at Wal-Mart?

But just like any other job, it has its problems. Maybe you heard about the flooding this past summer? No ice at the North Pole for the first time in history. I've started to move the whole operation to the South Pole just to be safe. The North Pole is just going to be a mail drop for the next few years until I can send out the change-of-address forms. To make up the cost of the move, every present I deliver for the next 50 years will read, "Some assembly required."

The elves threatened to go on strike until I ponied up health insurance and a shorter workweek. Who do they think I am? Google? Someone's got to pay for all that. Money doesn't grow on Christmas trees, you know.



Jim Mullen

Milk and cookies don't pay the bills. If it weren't for the "donations" I get from parents, I couldn't afford to buy all the presents. Of course, some people say I'm just running a high-class protection racket aimed at keeping retailers in cash. I know the people who are saying that. A word to the wise: Your kids will be getting "Shiv Me Elmo" dolls if you don't drop that kind of talk.

I prefer to call it fee-for-service operation. Parents give me the money; I buy the gifts. I take 5 percent, maybe 6 percent off the top for expenses. OK, maybe it's 10 percent or 12 percent. Twenty-two percent, tops, but it's a good value. When the kid doesn't get exactly what they want, who takes the blame? That's right, your old friend Santa.

I'm telling you all this because I want you to know that when Santa's got a problem, you've got a problem. And here it is: I base what presents I buy this year, mostly on what was hot last year. Sure, it's not an exact science, but I pretty much know that if every kid wanted a Wii or Guitar Hero last year, I'm going to need a lot of similar stuff this year. Yeah, every now and then, some Tickle Me or

Cabbage Patch fad comes along that I didn't see coming, but by and large, I get it right.

Last year, I couldn't believe what children wanted for Christmas. One 7-year-old asked me for an American Express gold card, a 50-inch plasma HDTV for her room, a weeklong spa vacation, a Jonas Brothers performance in her bedroom for her and her three best friends, a saddle horse and a fake ID that said she was 11. And that was just the over-the-top stuff. If I didn't get it for her, her parents would. So this year, I loaded up on expensive stuff for this Christmas: video games, iPhones, cameras, Blu-ray players. You name it — I got warehouses full of it at both poles just waiting for the asking. So what happens this year?

I got my first letter of the year today. The kid doesn't want anything for herself; she wants me to give her dad a job. That, I ain't got. The next one says, "Dear Santa, my mom says the way things are going, we won't have a roof over our heads. Could you get us a roof? Thanks, Tracy."

Can't you talk her into a Hannah Montana backpack or something I do have?

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.

Tying Obama to corruption would be mistake

Even as a self-confessed avid follower of such celebrity trials as O.J. Simpson, Paris Hilton and Brittany Spears, I cannot remember a criminal affidavit that literally made my jaw drop in shock and horror.

In all of my four battle-scarred decades of bare-knuckled political and public service in Louisiana, D.C., and across America, I could never have imagined reading, from the first paragraph to the 100th, a more arrogant, irrational, obscene and obscenity-filled case of hubris run rampant. My friend Stephen, a noted lawyer in California, told me to read the entire affidavit. I did. It was the most scandalous thing ever.

Stephen was right. What in the name of all that is holy made Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich think he could put a U.S. Senate seat on the auction block?

There's only one answer: hubris.

This is more than a stain on the good people of Illinois who elected this governor. It threatens President-elect Barack Obama, whom Blagojevich calls by an obscene name that is an insult to all mothers. If a man is known by his enemies, then Obama must take great pride in Blagojevich's sour view of him and his staff.

"I have never spoken to the governor" regarding who will replace him in the Senate, an "appalled and disappointed" Obama stated at a press conference Thursday. Furthermore, Obama firmly stated, he is "absolutely certain" that no one in his office had anything to do with the scandal.

It appears that U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, the brilliant government lawyer who took on the Bush administration in the Valerie Plame fiasco, wanted to get Blagojevich out of office before he could appoint his highest bidder to the Senate seat or execute additional corrupt acts.

Given all the audiotapes that capture the



Donna Brazile

governor's pay-for-play philosophy and negotiations, Fitzgerald should have no trouble establishing a conspiracy and proving Blagojevich's guilt. Of course, like every American citizen, the governor is innocent until proven guilty. But one can imagine the verdict by a jury of constituents who have listened their governor exclaim with heartfelt emotion: "The Senate seat is a 'f—ing valuable thing! You just don't give it away for nothing!"

Blagojevich is toast. But he is not my concern.

Come January, this country has a lot of important work to do. We do not have the luxury of playing the old-school political game of "what did the president know and when did he know it" for four years. Heck, we don't have the luxury of playing those old-school politics, period.

The last thing the president-elect and the American people need right now is to become distracted by a scandal-tarred governor who should immediately abdicate his office and allow Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn to appoint someone to serve the remaining four years of Obama's term in the Senate.

A dead man walking, Blagojevich has ignored Obama's repeated calls for him to step down and the warning from Senate Leader Harry Reid that the Senate will not let him appoint a new senator.

I couldn't care less about the corrupt governor demanding kickbacks he never had a snowball's chance in hell of extracting — except maybe in the befuddled imagination of a "Candidate No. 5" supporter, who allegedly offered to raise "\$500,000 or even a million dollars" in campaign contributions for the governor in exchange for a Senate

appointment.

In this post-Watergate political landscape, the party out of power always nurses pipedreams of a scandal bringing down the administration of its opposition. Republicans are at this very moment working nonstop to try and connect dots that just do not exist.

As a nation, we simply cannot afford to go down the rabbit hole with them. We cannot afford another partisan Whitewater-style witch hunt designed to unseat a president. This will not only distract Obama and Congress, it will also be a drain on the funds, resources and focus needed to pull the country out of its economic freefall.

The problems we face as a nation — two wars, a record deficit, our financial and auto industries in crisis, health care in need of urgent reform, a national recession teetering on the edge of a full-blown depression and a global recession — do not allow for any such partisan foolishness.

Last month, the country elected a new leader who offered a new brand of American politics. Blagojevich represents old politics and the Illinois that originated the motto, Vote early and often. Obama represents new politics and the Illinois that shaped statesmen like Abraham Lincoln, Adlai Stevenson and Paul Simon.

Let us hope that a partisan web of Chicago-style old politics is not woven to trap and ensnare our newly elected president. If members of a certain party are spinning plans for one, then they will be caught in their own device. And it won't be pretty.

Meanwhile, Blagojevich is finished in politics. And that is something to celebrate this holiday season.

Donna Brazile is a political commentator on CNN, ABC and NPR.

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Out with the old, in with the old

After several years of seeing small white Christmas lights on trees and hanging from roofs of homes and businesses, I say boring. I am ready to go back to the brighter world of multi-colored.

After several years of decorating our Christmas trees with snowmen, I see same ole same ole. I am ready to go back to the classic vintage ornaments we used during our younger years. Of course, I no longer have either the multicolored lights or the vintage ornaments, which weren't vintage when I placed them on our Christmas tree, but are now. These same ornaments probably are setting somewhere in an antique shop with a big price tag attached.

My mother never gave away anything, but she didn't need to. Unlike her daughter, who seems to have a short attention span and tires quickly of things, mother never appeared to have that problem. She continued to use her belongings until they no longer were useable. I never heard her use the word bored.

This frugality most likely came from having lived through the Depression. I am beginning to sense that perhaps this was a good practice and one that may be put to use again by my generation and those following.

It's not only the old-fashioned ornaments that I wish I had kept. I recently cleaned out a drawer in the living room and found a big green bulb like those I remember hanging on the Christmas trees of my childhood. Obviously, I hadn't cleaned out that drawer for a few decades since those miniature blinking lights have been around for a long time. Just holding that big green bulb gave me a feeling of comfort and well-being. The bulb felt substantial, not easily shattered like today's small, fragile blinking Christmas lights.

In today's troubled times, perhaps there is a reason to return to the comfort and reassurance of those old fashioned days.

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



Joyce Ore

Ground broken for firefighter monument

WILL VRASPIR

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Organizers with the Nebraska Firefighters Foundation broke ground Friday for a new museum that will be constructed west of the Great Platte River Road Archway Monument near Kearney.

Hastings Fire Chief Kent Gilbert said he believes the museum will be a good way for people to learn about the history of firefighting, including some of the tools that were previously used.

"In order to know where you're going, you've got to know where you've been," he said.

He said local firefighters could have an interest in the project, considering their connection to historic events such as downtown fires in recent years.

"They're going to all be part of history," he said.

Lindsay Schluntz, executive coordinator of museum activities for the Nebraska Firefighters Museum and Education Center, said the museum items were originally located at the Stuhr Museum in Grand Island, but they were looking to build their own facility. Recently, Archway officials invited the group to move to the nearby area.

"This has always been a dream of the group's," she said. "It's finally coming to a reality now."

While the group has only collected \$1.5 million of their \$3.5 million goal, Schluntz said the museum will start with a 10,000-square-foot building and add on later as additional funding arrives.

She said the group is hoping to have the beginning structure completed by the summer of 2009.

Norman Hoeft, chairman of the board of directors for the organization, has been a member of the group since the foundation started about 30 years ago.

"It's finally coming to pass," he said about building the museum. "It's a wonderful feeling."

He said the foundation considered the museum to be an important project because of the amount of historic artifacts from Nebraska fire departments that had been leaving the state. He said the antiques can be better used to teach history.

"It's our prime project to educate our children, and us bigger children, as to how things used to be," he said. "It's quite a story we can tell."



AMY ROH/Tribune

Dean of students Neil Rusher visits with eighth-graders during lunchtime at Hastings Middle School Wednesday.

New dean patrols halls at HMS

CHARIS UBBEN

cubben@hastingstribune.com

Neil Rusher and his wife, Kathe, chose to move to Hastings because they'd be closer to their grandchildren and he could coach football at the college, he said.

But with 33 years experience as teacher, coach and athletic director in Colorado, Rusher has found himself back in the public school system, as the new dean of students at Hastings Middle School.

He believes he has the dean's job for a reason.

"Your life is cyclical, you move through different times," he said. "I don't think I'm here by chance. This job has opened up because I think I have things to do here."

Rusher moved to Hastings in July 2007. He was an assistant football

coach for Hastings College, where both his sons played ball, for the last two seasons. He also acted as a substitute teacher for Hastings Public Schools last year and was hired as seventh- and eighth-grade physical education teacher at HMS in August.

Rusher was candidate for the newly-created dean of students position for several reasons, including his background as athletic director. He holds national certification in athletic administration and filled that role for a Colorado school district for 15 years, actively involved in the state Colorado Athletic Directors Association.

HMS Principal Jeff Schneider and Assistant Principal David Essink had been splitting athletic director responsibilities among themselves, on top of their administrative duties at the school. When Rusher was hired as dean, they transferred these responsibilities to him.

"Which I thoroughly love. I enjoy the athletic administration part, and feel very confident in that," he said.

A head football coach for 31 years, he feels he can offer HMS coaches — some of them relatively new to coaching — wisdom from his own experiences. And, he can make their jobs easier by getting new athletic programs up to speed and taking care of the logistics.

"I think I could provide a lot of leadership for them," he said. "I hope to facilitate so that they can do their job coaching."

Aside from his work as AD, the rest of the dean job really is "everything under the sun," Rusher said. From supervising lunch, to discipline referrals, to classroom emergencies, anything that comes up, as the dean of students, he runs to do it.

Please see HMS/page A7

Harvard nurse has novel published

TONY HERRMAN

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HARVARD — Kris Sedersten's recently published novel "Spirit Seekers" is splattered with untimely deaths, haunted cemeteries and farmhouses.

The back cover of "Spirit Seekers" states that the book "speaks to her love of horror and paranormal fiction."

"It just always has," the Harvard woman said about why the paranormal interests her. "I think it's really intriguing. With a lot of the equipment they use nowadays, I think it's interesting to listen to those (recordings of alleged spirits). Who knows what they really are?"

She listed authors Stephen King, Dean Koonz and John Saul as her biggest influences.

Sedersten finished writing "Spirit Seekers" in March. It was published in August.

The story, which refers to Giltner and Grand Island, is set in a small, fictional Nebraska town called Emerson.

"Spirit Seekers" is the story of a group of high school students preparing a documentary about local hauntings for their journalism class. The students have several ghostly encounters while researching the project.

Sedersten has some personal



Courtesy

Kris Sedersten recently published a novel "Spirit Seekers," which is about untimely deaths, haunted cemeteries and farmhouses.

experience spirit seeking. "Back in my younger days, some friends and I would go haunted-house hunting," she said. "It's (the story) fiction. A lot of those things didn't happen."

One of the story's characters' frequent topics of conversation is the legend of Wing Head.

"Just above the rows of corn was a ghostly white head of some kind, glaring at him with

deep dark hallow-looking eyes," the book states. "The eyes seemed to engulf him, and he was unable to turn away. The face was somewhat like that of a skeleton but larger and more alive. It was surrounded by a dim light that moved with it. The thing flitted from one end of the field to the other in a matter of second and then reappeared in the

Please see SEDERSTEN/page A7

Calendar

HASTINGS

- ◆ **Sunday Sundaes**, 2-3 p.m. Sunday, College View Assisted Living, 1100 N. Sixth Ave. Open to public ages 55 and older.
- ◆ **Free Community Meal**, 5 p.m. Sunday, Crossroads Center, 702 W. 14 St. Volunteers also welcome.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Alcoholics Anonymous**, noon and 8 p.m. Sunday; and noon, 5:15 and 8 p.m. Monday, 521 S. St. Joseph Ave.
- ◆ **Narcotics Anonymous**, 8 p.m. Monday, 401 N. Lincoln Ave.
- ◆ **Overeaters Anonymous**, 5-6 p.m. Monday, Mary Lanning Medical Center basement.
- ◆ **Gamblers Anonymous**, 6:30 p.m. Monday, Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital Education Building basement, Room D.
- ◆ **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 **6-7-5**
Nebraska Pick 5 **16-28-29-30-33**
Jackpot: \$74,000
Nebraska Pick 3 **8-7-8**
MyDaY **3-27-86**
2by2 **Red 5-26, White 5-16**

Goodfellows 2008



Monetary donations may be mailed to the Hastings Tribune at P.O. Box 788, Hastings, NE 68902; and new toys or cash may be delivered to the Tribune offices at 908 W. Second St. The Tribune subscription payment box located in the parking lot behind the Tribune building may also be used for cash donations.

New toys may also be dropped off at the following locations: Bank of Doniphan, 800 N. Burlington Ave.; Dollar General, 705 W. Second St.; Hastings Federal Credit Union, 707 N. Marian Rd.; Hometown Variety, 620 W. Second St.; Lincoln Federal Savings Bank, 631 W. Second St.; TierOne Bank, 700 N. Burlington Ave.; Wells Fargo Bank, 747 N. Burlington Ave.; Kmart, 3001 W. 12th St.; Roger's Inc., 1035 S. Burlington Ave.; Hastings Middle School, 201 N. Marian Rd.; Hastings Senior High School, 1100 W. 14th St.; Hawthorne Elementary, 2200 W. Ninth St.; Watson Elementary, 1720 Crane Ave.; Lincoln Elementary, 720 Franklin Ave.; Morton Elementary, 731 N. Baltimore Ave.; Zion Lutheran School, 465 S. Marian Rd.

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God bless the brave who serve, past, present and future.	
Hastings American Legion Post No. 11	\$100.00
Lyle & Diann Fleharty	\$500.00
Total to date	\$7,713.00

Region

FATALITY ACCIDENT
KEARNEY COUNTY — A 51-year-old Aurora man was killed Friday morning when the car he was driving collided with a semitrailer truck west of Minden, the Kearney County Sheriff's Office reported.

Leland A. Cyr was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident, the junction of U.S. Highway 6/34 and Nebraska Highway 44 seven miles west of Minden and two miles east of Axtell.

According to a news release from the Sheriff's Office, Cyr had been southbound on Highway 44 in a 2002 Ford Taurus and was attempting to cross U.S. 6/34 when he was struck by a westbound 2005 Kenworth truck driven by Kevin C. Kober, 33, of Roseland.

The accident was reported to authorities at 7:37 a.m. Kober was not injured.

The accident is being investigated by the Nebraska State Patrol. The Sheriff's Office, Kearney County Attorney Dave Wondra, Axtell Fire Department, Minden Police Department and Nebraska Department of Roads all provided assistance.

CATTELMEN'S TOUR
EDGAR — Members and guests of the South Central Cattlemen will tour several area producers' operations Monday and then end the day with a supper and meeting in Edgar.

Monday's tour will begin 2 p.m. at the Anderson Angus Ranch north of Guide Rock, located four miles north of the junction of U.S. Highway 136 and Nebraska Highway 78 (Showboat Road), then 1 3/4 miles east.

Subsequent tour stops are the John Greer farm, the Ron Lindvall farm and finally the Bill Schlichtman feedlot on the edge of Edgar.

The evening meal will be served at the Edgar Legion Hall, with social hour at 6 p.m. and supper at 6:30. Speaker Duane Gangwish of the Nebraska Cattlemen will address requirements placed on livestock producers by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

For more information or a supper reservation, call Troy Anderson at 402-257-7104.

Adams County
bookmobile

- Monday**
- ◆ 500 block of Oswego Ave., 9:45-10:15 a.m.
 - ◆ 1500 block of N. Kansas Ave., 10:25-10:55 a.m.
 - ◆ HPS Preschool at Longfellow, 1:30 p.m.
 - ◆ PAC 2, 1:50 p.m.
 - ◆ College View, 2:10 p.m.
 - ◆ Pooh Corner College, 2:30 p.m.
 - ◆ 100 block of Paul Street, 2:55 p.m.
- Tuesday**
- ◆ Silver Lake Elementary (Bladen), 9:30-11:30 a.m.
 - ◆ Zion Lutheran School, 1:45-2:45 p.m.
 - ◆ 900 block of Glenwood Ave., 3 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- ◆ 600 block of N. Platte Ave., (Juniata), 9:15-9:40 a.m.
 - ◆ Saint Michael's School, 9:50-11 a.m.
 - ◆ Homestead, 11:05 a.m.
 - ◆ Wallace School, 1:15-2:50 p.m.
- Thursday**
- ◆ Children's Ark, 9:15-10 a.m.
 - ◆ Pooh Corner North, 10:15 a.m.
 - ◆ Juniata School, 1:15-2:45 p.m.

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RR: Cost stands as barrier in quiet zone issue

Continued from page A1

"The numbers are pretty high, but that is the nature of a engineering study because it's really general," Goebel said Friday. "It's a shotgun report. You throw everything out and see what the results are."

He said the consultants designed the study in a way that the City Council could break this into three separate projects.

Additionally, Goebel said \$825,600 could be cut out of the project if needed. That cost is for the replacement of the crossing pads, which make up the surface between the rails that vehicles drive over at the crossings.

In the report, Rief said the crossing pads at six of the nine discussed crossings are in need of replacement.

"But the crossing pad replacement really isn't part of what is necessary for a quiet zone, really it's roadway improvement," Goebel said. "And it's an ongoing problem with as many rail crossings as we have."

The changes needed to silence train horns in Hastings are the addition of medians, changing some streets to one way or simply building overpasses.

One option that was initially discussed more than a year ago was the idea of a wayside horn, which is a horn placed at each of the crossings and is aimed at traffic to sound when a train is coming.

In Monday's meeting, Rief told the council that once these horns are installed, the city would be responsible for a cost of \$5,000 or more per horn per year for insurance and maintenance costs.

"I think for our purpose, the wayside horn is not the way to go," Goebel said Friday.

He said in the past he's visited Kearney's downtown area where there are wayside horns installed. Goebel said the horn was necessary there and very loud.

"For us in the downtown business district, the wayside horns would certainly not be a good thing," he said. "At Murphy's, with his new outdoor area,

there would not be much advantage in having the wayside horns instead of train horns."

Goebel said he was glad that the consultants looked at the horns and got the information; however he said they just aren't the right thing for Hastings.

Instead, Goebel said he was very excited about the idea of building an overpass at Marian Road as a way to connect the north and south sides of town.

"There are a ton of possibilities out there. From what I've looked at, that would be a great place to put in an overpass with a connecting street back into south Hastings. It would take care of the kids and a quiet zone."

Hastings City Engineer Dave Wacker said overpasses like the five proposed in the feasibility study are a long-term construction option for completely removing the grade crossing.

In discussions with BNSF representatives, Wacker said they expressed concerns about children trying to cross the tracks on Marian Road, especially when trains are present and stopped on the tracks.

"The biggest fear is if there is a train there and that kids need or want to get to the other side, the kid could crawl under the train and if the train was getting ready to switch or move, it could kill someone," he said.

Railroad officials said they would like to see the Laird Avenue crossing closed and for an overpass to be built at Marian Road.

In the feasibility study, if an overpass was built on Marian Road, Rief told the council that South Street should be relocated.

The street, which is technically on the BNSF right-of-way just south of the tracks, should be moved further south and be paved from Burlington Avenue to Marian Road. Then people would still have access to the road from the overpass.

Wacker said he also thought the ideas of an overpass over the BNSF railroad at Baltimore Avenue and on Showboat Boulevard were also good.

Quiet zone changes

These are suggestions from the Hastings Railroad Quiet Zone Feasibility Study for each of the nine crossings and what could be done to implement a quiet zone in each of the three areas. The recommendations do not include the proposed overpasses.

Crossings West of Burlington Avenue

- ◆ Southern Hills Road: No changes recommended.
- ◆ Marian Road: Widen the road near the tracks and install medians between lanes on both sides of tracks.
- ◆ Laird Avenue: Widen and repave portion of street, install medians between lanes on both sides of track and possibly move South Street further south.

Downtown Crossings

- ◆ Lincoln Avenue: Make all traffic go north from South Street to Seventh Street. Put both cross arms on south side of tracks.

He said the Baltimore Avenue overpass makes a lot of sense because the street goes through the center of town and would connect South U.S. Highway 281 with Burlington Avenue and north to Lochland.

But where does the money come from?

With the overpasses, Wacker said the city might be able to secure five or 10 percent funding from BNSF if the overpass led to the closure of another crossing, such as a Marian Road overpass, which would likely close the Laird Avenue crossing.

Otherwise, Wacker said if an overpass was put in on a federal secondary road like Marian Road, Baltimore Avenue or Showboat Boulevard, it could qualify for the 80 percent funding from the federal government.

However, for any overpass to be built, state law requires the city to hold an election to decide if the overpass can be built.

"You might have more people vote for it if they know they only have to pay 20 percent of it," he said, referring to the federal funding.

When it comes to implementation of

- ◆ Hastings Avenue: Make all traffic go south from Seventh Street to South Street. Put both cross arms on north side of tracks.
- ◆ Denver Avenue: Make all traffic go north from South Street north to Seventh Street. Put both cross arms on south side of tracks.
- ◆ Colorado Avenue: Resurface portion of roadway and install medians between lanes on both sides of the tracks.

East Hastings Crossings

- ◆ Pine Avenue: Install medians between lanes on both sides of track.
- ◆ California Avenue: Widen and resurface street. Install medians and new sidewalks on both sides of street.
- ◆ Elm Avenue: Widen and resurface street. Install medians and new sidewalks on both sides of street.
- ◆ Showboat Boulevard: No changes recommended.
- ◆ Blaine Avenue: No changes recommended.

the quiet zones using medians and one-way streets, Wacker said that would likely be at the city's expense.

"You could try to get some assistance from the railroad. Of course one of their bargaining chips is, 'we'll help you with this one if you close this other one,' " he said.

Quiet zones are just one of the concerns the city has, Wacker said. Among the problems facing Hastings are the city's aging streets.

That's one of the reasons Goebel said he would like to get a committee put together comprised of Wacker, several council members, Mayor Powers and possibly City Administrator Joe Patterson to go over the figures and find out what is most necessary for the community. From there, Goebel said the committee could find the most efficient ways to establish quiet zones and maybe even find ways to cut some of the costs.

Wacker said the copy of the study as presented to the council Monday was only a draft copy. The final copy, including plans for Powers' suggested pedestrian overpass, should be finished within the next few months.

Auto: White House promises rescue

Continued from page A1

General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC have warned they are running out of cash and face bankruptcy without some form of assistance. Ford Motor Co., which is in somewhat better shape financially, has been seeking access to a line of credit.

Underlining its difficulties, GM announced Friday it would cut another 250,000 vehicles from its first-quarter production schedule — a third of its normal output — by temporarily closing 21 factories across North America. The move affects most plants in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Many will be shut the whole month of January.

Urgent requests for White House intervention to save the automakers came from President-elect Barack Obama, Republican and Democratic members of Congress and outside groups.

"Under normal economic conditions we would prefer that markets determine the ultimate fate of private firms," White House press secretary Dana Perino said after the failure of a \$14 billion bailout bill in Congress. The legislation died when Senate Republicans demanded upfront pay and benefit concessions from the United Auto Workers that union officials rejected.

Perino added, "Given the current weakened state of the U.S. economy, we will consider other options if necessary including

use of the TARP program to prevent a collapse of troubled automakers. A precipitous collapse of this industry would have a severe impact on our economy, and it would be irresponsible to further weaken and destabilize our economy at this time."

TARP is the \$700 billion Troubled Assets Recovery Program, the financial industry bailout plan enacted in October. All but \$15 billion of the first \$350 billion has been dedicated to troubled banks or insurance companies, and the Treasury Department is barred from dipping into the second \$350 billion without a formal notification of Congress.

No decision has been reached about such a notification, administration officials said. If one is made, Congress could then vote to prevent the action, but it would be unlikely to prevail in a showdown with the president.

Obama, who will inherit the problem next month, even if bailout billions are handed over in the meantime, said, "My hope is that the administration and the Congress will still find a way to give the industry the temporary assistance it needs while demanding the long-term restructuring that is absolutely required."

In a letter to Bush, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi urged the president to demand "the same tough accountability" and taxpayer protections from

the automakers as was contained in legislation that cleared the House at midweek.

Michigan Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, a conservative Republican from a state where Ford, GM and Chrysler are headquartered, said, "With the legislative opportunities now exhausted, I urge the president of the United States to immediately release Wall Street TARP funds to the domestic automakers to avoid their impending bankruptcy and its consequent devastation of working families and the depression of our American economy."

It was unclear what role was left to lawmakers after an extraordinary week in which prospects for industry relief seemed to change by the hour.

A week ago, the government reported the loss of 533,000 jobs in November, the worst monthly showing in more than 30 years.

In the days between then and now, the White House and congressional Democrats agreed on a \$14 billion measure that would have extended short-term financing to the industry while establishing a powerful new "car czar" to make sure the money was used to turn the Big Three into competitive companies. That bill passed the House on Wednesday but immediately ran into opposition from Senate Republicans who said it did not go far enough.

Suspicious letter to
Heineman intercepted

The Associated Press
OMAHA — Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman is one of more than 30 governors targeted by letters containing suspicious powder. Heineman's spokeswoman, Jen Rae Hein, says a letter was intercepted early Friday morning at the main Lincoln post office. She says the FBI has told them preliminary testing shows that the substance was corn starch. The letters, all postmarked

in Texas, began arriving at governors' offices across the country on Monday. The FBI said Friday that field tests indicate the powders were harmless, but further testing is under way.

Hein says the letter was addressed to Heineman at the Capitol.

The Postal Inspection Service, which is working with the FBI, noted that sending hoax letters can result in up to five years in prison.

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Local

NEW CAMERAS
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Local law enforcement agencies received six of 99 in-car camera systems distributed through the state through federal grant funding.

Hastings Police Department was awarded three of the new camera systems that cost about \$3,000 each and can be used to aide in the apprehension and prosecution of drinking drivers.

Other agencies that received a new in-car camera include the Clay County Sheriff's Office, the Fillmore County Sheriff's Office and the Franklin Police Department.

Funding for the cameras was provided by \$330,120.50 in grants from the Highway Safety Alcohol Incentive Funding. The funds were distributed among 42 law enforcement agencies in the state.

In 2007, law enforcement officers arrested 13,437 drivers for driving under the influence, according to the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety.

NEW BREATH
TESTERS GRANTED

The Hastings Police Department received six handheld alcohol breath testing units through a grant from the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety.

The preliminary breath testing units, valued at \$350 each, are used to detect the presence of alcohol in a subject as part of an effort to prevent underage drinking and alcohol-related collisions, according to a press release from the Office of Highway Safety.

Markets

Friday's closing
local markets

Corn	3.35
Soybeans	7.93
Milo	2.58
Wheat	4.78

Stocks of local interest

The following stocks of local interest were traded today:

	Last	Chg.
BN Santa Fe	71.38	-3.39
Berkshire Hathaway A	98,330.00	-1,110.00
Berkshire Hathaway B	3,242.00	-97.90
ConAgra	14.48	+0.23
Eaton Corp.	44.50	-0.49
Ingersoll Rand	15.63	+0.32
Level 3	0.75	-0.02
McDonald's	60.59	-0.28
PepsiCo	52.03	-0.68
TierOne	3.42	+0.01
Tricon Global Restaurants	27.86	-0.33
Union Pacific	42.81	-3.79
Wells Fargo	26.72	+0.82
Williams Cos.	14.72	+0.27
Wal-Mart	54.63	-0.16

Hess: Centenarian recalls memories

Continued from page A5

"We ran across a country school," she said. "It was early spring and they had a stove in there. And of course they didn't lock it or anything, so we spent the night in this school house."

The adults made beds for the children out of blankets laid across the student benches. After the children were asleep, Hess said her mother started to play the organ while the other adults sang throughout the night.

The next morning, the family left for the next leg of their trip long before the students arrived for school.

Upon arriving in Montana, Hess said her mother got double pneumonia and caused a lot of fear among the family, who thought she would surely die.

While she survived the bout, Hess said her mother was never the same after that.

"It made her always easy to take colds after that. And she was always afraid of the flu," Hess said.

Hess said when the influenza was going around several years later, her mother got sick. Fortunately, the rest of the family stayed healthy. Hess said many people died that year. It's possible that may have been in 1918, when the Spanish Flu killed somewhere between 20 and 40 million people worldwide.

Even after she was healed, Hess said her mother never liked living in Montana. The family only had to live there for four years until they rightfully owned the land. Then Hess's father planned to sell it to a

relative.

In that four-year span, Hess said she remembered making at least two or three trips back to Missouri on the train to visit her grandmother.

"My mother was a mama's girl, I guess, so she had to go back to Missouri every so often," she said. "There weren't schools out there in Montana, but of course I wasn't quite old enough yet. The last year we were there, they built a new school house. I went one week I believe."

Not long after that, Hess's father sold the land and the family moved back to Missouri.

"My mother was very happy and I don't think my dad was unhappy, either," she said.

Over the next ten years, the family built several new homes and moved to various places in northern Missouri. The family lived in a newly-built chicken house one summer while their new house was being built. Hess was quick to mention that while it was a chicken house, no chickens had lived in it yet.

When Hess was 16, the family built a new home and Hess remembered helping her mother to mix, by hand, the cement that was poured into forms to make the walls of the new basement.

Hess married her husband, Earl, at age 21. The two lived in various cities and towns throughout Missouri and Kansas before moving to Nebraska when Earl became a minister later in life.

"When he was about 50, he decided to be a minister," she said. "He had thought about it way back, but at that time we thought the school-

ing was too expensive for us."

The couple later learned the church would help pay the costs and Earl followed his dream of becoming a minister. When they moved to Nebraska, Earl served in many area churches in communities including Red Cloud, Guide Rock, Macon, Upland and others.

"My husband could do most anything. I don't know how, but he could," Hess said. "When the war was going on, he learned to be a machinist. And he was always a speaker. He could always get up and talk."

She said Earl had a brother named Mearl, who could also be a prolific speaker. He just chose not to pursue it.

In the few years before Earl retired, Hess said they set up a few mobile homes just outside of Juniata.

"When we retired, we moved into one, but my husband only lived a week after we retired. He died suddenly," she said. "I lived there five years and for some reason, I just wasn't connecting with Juniata."

That's when Hess moved to Good Samaritan Village, a place she said she loved.

"It's been a pretty good life," she said.

Genevie and Earl had two sons, Bob and Don, who still live in the area. The two sons had five boys and one daughter, the only girl in the family.

"I haven't lived too exciting a life. It hasn't been too dull, either," she said.

Listening to Hess's stories, most would agree her life was definitely not dull.

HMS: Rusher patrolling halls

Continued from page A5

Rusher called his work "student relations," saying that it includes discipline, but is much more than that.

"It's a remediation of behavior, as opposed to just dropping the hammer. We try to talk about choices, what we could have done different, how we should handle it next time," he said.

"It becomes a little more time-consuming than just saying, 'well, you did X, you're going to get X.' And sometimes it's cut and dried. I mean, you had a fist fight, it's pretty simple. But even when they come back, we still say 'OK, how can we deal with this next time? What would be a better choice on your part?'"

He is not a counselor and refers cases of that nature to the school's counseling staff, Rusher said, but 36 years as a coach have helped him to understand positive motivation.

"Effective coaches are great psychologists. You know, motivating your team to play hard, motivating your kids to do what maybe they don't want to do, but they understand is for the good of your team," he said.

When it comes to motivating kids, it doesn't hurt that he's still built like a linebacker. More importantly, though, Rusher said it's important that he likes kids, cares about them and is looking out for their good. Kids pick up on that right away, he added.

In his free time, Rusher still loves to be involved in athletics. He is a member of the Elks, where he golfs and completes service projects, as well as an umpire for baseball and fastpitch softball in the summers.

Grandkids in Columbus and Kearney take up the rest of his time, along with social events with Kathe. The couple very much enjoyed the recent "Psychadelic '60s" event hosted by the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce, he said, and they are glad to see their base of friends in this new hometown is growing.

Sedersten: Harvard nurse publishes novel 'Spirit Seekers'

Continued from page A5

same spot again. It did not appear to have any ears; but there were wings, feathers, or something by the side of its head. It was unlike anything he had ever seen."

Unlike most of the novel's plot, Wing Head is rooted in Sedersten's own life.

"We would go Wing Head hunting," she said. "We never found Wing Head, but we had lot of fun trying."

As a mother of four, Sedersten said, her house often was filled with high school students when her now-grown children were younger. That excess of teenagers provided much of the inspiration for the characters in "Spirit Seekers."

"They are combinations of people I know and the ghosts are people I know from the nursing home mostly," she said. "(The characters are combinations of people I know or have known over time."

She said writing the book initially started as a goof, but eventually took on a life of its own.

"It was fun and impulsive," she said.

For three months, Sedersten spent nearly every weeknight and weekend writing her novel.

"I did start out with a bit of an outline, but it didn't end up a whole lot like I intended," she

said. "It just went where it went."

Sedersten said it was not difficult to make the time she needed to write the book.

"It was a passion," she said. "I couldn't wait to get back and work on it. My husband wasn't exactly thrilled."

One of the characters suffers

from depression and schizophrenia, spending time in the Lincoln Regional Center before leaving and becoming homeless.

Sedersten is director of nursing at the Harvard Rest Haven and has psychiatric mental health nurse certification. Advocating for the mentally

disabled is another passion for her.

"It's kind of a passion," she said. "It's tough for folks, especially the elderly, to find the help they need. They fall through the cracks. It's a soap box I get on sometimes."

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Mass: Celebration culminates in style

Continued from page A1

had seen her, a humble young girl with indigenous features. That tilma is still on display to this day in a frame at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

Fr. Benton said the point of this story and his Friday night mass were to tell these people to be charitable and humble servants of Jesus like Virgin Mary. He said it's important for them to go to church and take the sacraments.

During the mass, nearly 20 men, women and children portraying Aztec dancers moved up and down the isle to the beat, dancing to the sound of the drum and the bright red maracas they held.

After performing the traditional dance, three of the dancers presented the offering and gifts to Benton, who led

the parishioners in the Eucharist.

Throughout the mass, there was loud singing led by a guitarist with clapping and cheering as the parishioners celebrated the Virgin Mary.

When the mass was over, five youth group members portrayed the story of St. Juan Diego, who was canonized in July 2002.

Following the mass, many of those in attendance left the monastery to attend a feast which was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 114 E. Third St. While parishioners exited the monastery, the dancers again performed in the cold outside for everyone to enjoy.

At the Knights of Columbus hall, everyone enjoyed an ethnic meal of meat, beans, rice, tortilla shells and a cake to celebrate the Virgin Mary.



SHAY BURK/Tribune

Aztec dancers Guadalupe Marez (left), Delia Marez (center) and Eusebio Graciano perform a traditional dance before bringing gifts to the altar during the Novena of Guadalupe mass Friday night in the Crosier Holy Cross Monastery.

Benton said this was the first year there were dancers and a plan incorporated into the mass celebration. Those two aspects were added at the encouragement of two Mexican Sisters who visit the monastery parish on a regular basis.

"This day they treat it like it's her birthday or something," Benton said of the Virgin Mary. "Among the

Mexicans there's a real strong devotion that she's really present with us. There's a deep love for Mary and of course she's the one who brought our savior, formed him and his heart that was able to be obedient to the father and give himself on the cross for us. We know she's not God but Mary's very special to the Mexican people."

Game: 'Hastingsopoly' hits store shelves

Continued from page A1

"It took about four months to get all the ads sold and then about two months in production," Nikki said.

Nikki personally contacted about 400 businesses to fill the game spaces. Together, she and Jerammie probably spent 150-200 hours selling ads, she said. Though several sponsors signed on to the project back in June, more than half the businesses seen on the board bought their spaces within the last month of sales.

The game finally arrived on the Uecker's doorstep last Thursday, complete with a photo composite Jerammie had designed for the game's box lid, featuring his original photos of Hastings landmarks.

Five hundred copies were produced and about 100 of those were given as souvenirs to participating businesses. The couple hopes its 400 remaining copies are in time to make a

good Christmas present for local families.

"We're hoping that we'll get a majority of them out before Christmas, but it's hard to say how they'll sell," Nikki said.

All money made from this fundraiser over the cost of production will go to purchase technology for Zion students. The school needs to perform maintenance on its mobile laptop lab, purchase new software and keep its five-year-old laptops working, said Wendy Schaefer, Zion principal.

The fundraiser has been a positive experience for Zion, Schaefer said.

"People have been really excited about it," she added.

"Hastingsopoly" is now being sold at Zion Lutheran, Allen's Shopping Center, Russ's Market, Gary Michael's Clothiers and the gift shop of the Hastings Museum of Natural & Cultural History.

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Dreamweaver Basic	Feb. 4 & 11	6:00-10:00
Office 2007 NEW FEATURES	Feb. 4	8:30-5:30
Adobe Acrobat Basic	Feb. 5	8:30-5:30
Word 2007 Basic	Feb. 5	8:30-5:30

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Tree of Memories™ is a trademark name for a concept that was developed by a Nebraska woman wanting to pay special tribute to her deceased father at Christmas. Brand-Wilson Funeral Home was searching for a way to help individuals and families deal with the pain and loneliness that often accompanies the holiday season after losing a loved one. Memories of a loved one are always cherished in the heart, but it can be of great benefit to share those memories with others, to somehow ensure that person is not forgotten. With this in mind, Brand-Wilson



Tree of Memories™ is located on the lower level landing in Allen's Shopping Center.

purchased the trademark name, Tree of Memories™, and established our own tree for your personal usage.

Our Tree of Memories™ was on display at Imperial Mall for the first nine years, until practical considerations disallowed it. Allen's

Shopping Center graciously offered the use of their location so that their customers could share in this beautiful tradition. We are very grateful to them for providing the public venue needed for the tree's purpose, which is to allow the memorialization of

those past to enrich and comfort us today.

Please call 462-5169 or stop by Brand-Wilson Funeral Home with questions or to register your ornament. May the peace and love of this holiday season be yours.

Clemson staff

Tigers coach Swinney
adds three to his staff.
Page B2



Weekend Sports

Roundups

Complete results of
Friday's Tribland action.
Page B3

Nebraska sweeps Michigan

HUSKERS ADVANCE
TO REGIONAL FINAL

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Amanda Gates had eight kills, including the match clincher, and hit .615 for the night as the fourth-ranked Nebraska Cornhuskers swept Michigan in three sets Friday night to reach the NCAA volleyball West Regional finals.

The scores were 25-13, 25-15, 25-18. The Cornhuskers (30-2) will play tonight for the regional championship and a spot in the Final Four against the winner of Friday's other West semifinal between fifth-ranked Washington and No. 12 Utah.

Unranked Michigan, which got to regionals by winning a pair of five-setters last weekend, including an upset

of No. 13 Saint Louis, ended its season at 26-9.

"Our game plan going in was to serve them very aggressively, and we felt we could break down their pressure," Nebraska coach John Cook said. "I thought our team did a super job with the plan. That was an impressive performance."

Jordan Larson led the Cornhuskers with nine kills, and Tara Muller had eight. Sydney Anderson racked up 29 assists and a team-leading 11 digs.

"We always know we have good serves and good first contact," Larson said. "When you have that, it's hard to break us down."

Nebraska was down 3-2 early in the first set, ran off four consecutive points and never trailed again. The Cornhuskers hit .323 for the set, while Michigan wound up at .000 with

eight kills and eight errors.

Likewise in the second set, Nebraska fell into an early 6-3 hole, strung together six points in a row for a 9-6 lead, and Michigan never got closer than two points the rest of the way.

The Cornhuskers never trailed in the third set, which was tied just once at 5-5. Nebraska scored eight of the next nine points for a 13-6 lead and stayed in command.

"It was just another step toward our goal," Nebraska's Kayla Banwarth said. "We all have a common goal, and we know what its going to take to get there."

Michigan was led by the nine kills of Alex Hunt. Julian Paz had eight.

Nebraska hit .347 for the match, including .438 in the third set. Michigan hit just .100 for the match.



KEVIN P. CASEY/AP

Nebraska's Sydney Anderson (1) sets the ball against Michigan during their West Regional semifinal Friday in Seattle. The Huskers swept Michigan.

Bluehawks soar



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

St. Cecilia's Blake Wright (33) gets a good look at the basket during the Bluehawks' game against Doniphan-Trumbull Friday night at Chapman Gymnasium.



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

St. Cecilia's Paul Goedert (11) battles for control of a loose ball with Doniphan-Trumbull's Cale Buhr (5) and Quin Mlinar (32) during their game Friday night at Chapman Gymnasium.

STC boys cruise past D-T

GENE RAY

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It wasn't so much the final score, but more the way the St. Cecilia boys basketball team got Friday night's victory that pleased the Bluehawks' new coach.

STC played vintage Bluehawk defense, dominated in rebounding and closed with balanced scoring en route to a 73-19 win over Doniphan-Trumbull at Chapman Gym.

"We have to play great defense and we did," said Bluehawk coach Kevin Asher, who came to St. Cecilia this

season from Wood River High School. "We caused a lot of turnovers. And I was really pleased with



Prep Boys Basketball

St. Cecilia.....	73
D-T.....	19

the way our kids came out and played."

The Cardinals felt the clamps of the Bluehawk defense from the get-go. STC forced eight Cardinal turnovers in the first quarter while holding D-T scoreless during the first eight-minute span.

Please see BOYS/page B3

Slow start dooms Tigers

HASTINGS HELD TO
5 POINTS IN FIRST HALF

RYAN MURKEN

rmurken@hastingstribune.com

Mike Simmons feels that if his Hastings High boys basketball team can hold an opponent to 42 points, more often than not the Tigers will pick up a win.

That wasn't the case for Hastings on Friday night.

The Tigers fell behind 16-5 at halftime and could never quite recover, falling to Holdrege 42-36 in a defensive struggle at Hastings High.

"When you hold a team to 42 points, you should win a game," Simmons said. "The things that happened to us early — not scoring inside, not shooting very well, and turning it over in the first half — really hurt."

Holdrege shot 33 percent from the field and was just 11-of-28 from the free throw line but managed to hold off a late Hastings High rally to improve to 2-1 on the season.

Hastings High dropped to 1-2 with its second straight loss after opening the season with a win over Class B No. 7 McCook.

"We have come here with some really good teams and haven't won. So a win here I think is a great job by our kids," Holdrege coach Jerry Buck said. "They showed resolve. And even though we played their style of game, we came out with a win."

It's tough to imagine a much tougher start to a game than the one Hastings had Friday.

The Tigers shot 11 percent from the field in the first half, hitting just 2-of-19 shots, and committed 11 turnovers.

Hastings High had scoring droughts of more than seven minutes and four minutes in the opening half, as Holdrege held the Tigers to two points in the opening quarter and three points in the second.

For the game, Hastings shot 23 percent from the field (11-of-46) and was 1-of-10 from 3-point range.

"I thought we did a good job of shutting the lane down and making them shoot outside," Buck said. "Our defensive goal was to hold them under 40 and we got that done, so we are pretty happy."

Hastings High held its only lead of the game at 2-0 when Greg Schlueter scored on a short jumper with 5:35 left in the first quarter. But the Tigers would go 7:15 before they scored again.

Holdrege scored seven straight to take a 7-2 lead before Schlueter hit one of two free throws with 6:10 left in the second quarter.

Hastings missed 11 consecutive shots during the 7:15 scoring draught, including several from point blank range.

"We got the shots that we wanted. We just missed," Simmons said. "We had some great looks at the basket."

Hastings trailed 10-5 when Tres Cusatis converted a layup with 4:02 left before halftime, but Holdrege ended the half on a 6-0 run to take a 16-5 lead into the locker room.

Please see HHS/page B2

Quick start propels Hawkettes over Cardinals

BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

St. Cecilia's Lexi Schmidt (30) blocks the shot of Doniphan-Trumbull's Jena Schlatz (31) during their game Friday night at Chapman Gymnasium.



TYSON HAVRANEK

sports@hastingstribune.com

After a tough loss in its season opener, the St. Cecilia girls basketball team got in the win column Friday night.

The Hawkettes (1-1), who fell at Columbus Scotus 46-43 Dec. 4, took advantage of 24 Doniphan-Trumbull (1-2) turnovers on the way to a 53-37 win at Chapman Gymnasium.

"We played well against Scotus and didn't get the win," STC coach Jahn Kile said. "So it definitely feels good to come out and get a win tonight."

Led by sophomore Charise Farmer, who finished with 13 points, St. Cecilia got its offensive going early with 23 points in the first quarter. "We worked our offense really good tonight," Farmer said. "We wanted to get to the post and get the open shot."

Doniphan-Trumbull turned the ball over 11 times in the first quarter, helping the Hawkettes take a 23-10 lead after eight minutes.

"We're always going to be good in transition," Kile said. "We have a lot speed out there. A lot of girls can run."

"I like to go deep in the bench and keep everybody fresh, and score some easy baskets. But it all starts with defense. You have to get the

ball to get those transition scores."

The Hawkettes got the second quarter started with a 5-0 run, upping their lead to 18 points after a Libby Kissinger 3-pointer.



Prep Girls Basketball

St. Cecilia.....	53
D-T.....	37

Sophomore Abby Jackson gave St. Cecilia a 33-16 lead at halftime with a 3-pointer on the Hawkettes' final possession of the quarter.

"I thought we executed on offense really well," Kile said. "We had a lot of shots that just wouldn't fall for us tonight, and that's going to be the case from time to time. We have to get some putbacks off of offensive rebounds. That will help. We still have some strides to make."

St. Cecilia picked things back up in the third quarter, using a 9-0 run to take a 42-18 lead.

"We worked on some new things this week. We really wanted to execute against Doniphan down the stretch," Kile said. "I thought we had some good moments, but we need put that full game together."

Farmer led the Hawkettes with six points in the third quarter on two 3-pointers.

Please see GIRLS/page B3

Basketball

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	22	2	.917	
New Jersey	11	10	.524	9 1/2
New York	10	12	.455	11
Toronto	10	12	.455	11
Philadelphia	9	14	.391	12 1/2

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	17	6	.739	—
Atlanta	13	9	.591	3 1/2
Miami	12	10	.545	4 1/2
Charlotte	7	16	.304	10
Washington	4	16	.200	11 1/2

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	20	3	.870	—
Detroit	12	9	.571	7
Chicago	10	12	.455	9 1/2
Milwaukee	9	15	.375	11 1/2
Indiana	7	15	.319	12 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	14	8	.636	—
San Antonio	14	8	.636	—
New Orleans	12	7	.632	1/2
Dallas	12	9	.571	1 1/2
Memphis	8	15	.348	6 1/2

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	15	7	.682	—
Portland	15	9	.625	1
Utah	9	9	.500	5
Minnesota	4	18	.182	11
Oklahoma City	2	21	.087	13 1/2

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	18	3	.857	—
Phoenix	14	10	.583	5 1/2
Golden State	7	15	.318	11 1/2
Sacramento	6	16	.273	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	4	17	.190	14

Friday's Games				
Toronto 101, New Jersey 79				
Atlanta 87, Miami 73				
Cleveland 88, Philadelphia 72				
Memphis 103, Chicago 96				
Detroit 114, Indiana 110				
Boston 94, New Orleans 82				
San Antonio 98, Minnesota 86				
Phoenix 113, Orlando 112				
L.A. Clippers at Portland, Late				
Houston at Golden State, Late				
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, Late				

Saturday's Games				
Cleveland at Atlanta, 6 p.m.				
Detroit at Charlotte, 6 p.m.				
Washington at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m.				
New Jersey at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.				
Indiana at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.				
Oklahoma City at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.				
Orlando at Utah, 8 p.m.				
Golden State at Denver, 8 p.m.				
New York at Sacramento, 9 p.m.				
Houston at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.				
Sunday's Games				
New Orleans at Toronto, 11:30 a.m.				
Miami at Memphis, 3 p.m.				
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, 6 p.m.				
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m.				

Prep Boys Results

Ainsworth 63, West Holt 46	
Alma 66, Wilcox-Hidreth 53	
Amherst 70, Loomis 57	
Aquinas 57, Newman Grove 44	
Archbishop Bergan 99, Yutan 25	
Arnold 59, Stapleton 36	
Axtell 70, Overton 53	
Bancroft-Rossale 58, Walhail 47	
Battle Creek 69, Madison 47	
Beatrice 64, Crete 42	
Bennington 79, Arlington 40	
Bruning-Davenport 80, Silver Lake 39	
Callaway 63, Anselmo-Mema 58	
Clay Center 68, Rising City 18	
Cleaverwater 58, Verdigre 49	
Cody-Kilgore 49, Arthur County 40	
Columbus Lakeview 66, Aurora 49	
Creek Valley 37, Potter-Dix 24	
Crofton 79, Elkhorn Valley 41	
East Butler 53, Osceola 33	
Elm Creek 51, Summer-Edgelyville-Miller 45	
Emerson-Hubbard 64, Omaha Nation 61	
Ewing 98, Niobrara 33	
Falls City 59, Auburn 58	
Fort Calhoun 89, Douglas County West 68	
Giltner 64, Meridian 49	
Grand Island Central Catholic 49, Columbus 38	
Scotus 38	
Hampton 45, Exeter/Milligan 27	
Hartington Cedar Catholic 58, O'Neill 50	
Hastings St. Cecilia 73, Doniphan-Trumbull 19	
Hershey 41, Cozad 40	
High Plains Community 61, Dorchester 58	
Holdrege 42, Hastings 36	
Hovells 61, West Point-Beemer 33	
Humphrey St. Francis 82, Dodge 39	
Keamey Catholic 62, Ord 48	
Lawrence-Nelson 60, Franklin 39	
Leyton 40, South Platte 32	
Lincoln Christian 71, Lincoln Lutheran 49	
Lincoln East 72, Kearney 34	
Lincoln North Star 51, Norfolk 48	
Lincoln Southeast 52, Columbus 41	
Lincoln Southwest 66, North Platte 47	
Lindsay Holy Family 41, Leigh 39	
Loup City 41, Gibbon 27	
Maxwell 68, Wallace 44	
McCool Junction 56, Shickley 46	
Mead 72, Palmyra 45	
Millard 60, Fairbury 49	
Millard West 46, Millard North 41	
Nebraska Christian 41, Elba 27	
Newcastle 46, Coleridge 45	
Norfolk Catholic 65, Bishop Neumann 35	
Norris 43, Sevard 40	
North Bend Central 73, Lyons-Decatur Northeast 42	
Oakland-Craig 64, Pender 58	
Omaha Brownell-Talbot 32, Prague 29	
Omaha Burke 63, Papillion-LaVista 44	
Omaha Gross Catholic 55, Schuyler 41	

Osmond 39, Wynot 38, OT	
Papillion-LaVista South 79, Omaha Northwest 54	
Pawnee City 82, Nebraska SE Consolidated 31	
Paxton 57, Brady 53	
Pierce 39, Boone Central 22	
Plattsmouth 57, Ashland-Greenwood 50	
Pleasanton 74, Elgin 41	
Reynolds 57, Burnwell 55	
Sandhills/Theoford 77, McPherson County 12	
Sandy Creek 45, Heartland 40	
Scribner-Snyder 59, West Point Central Catholic 47	
Sioux County 46, Minatare 24	
South Sioux City 83, Dakota Valley, S.D. 60	
Spalding/Spalding Academy 68, Arcadia 28	
St. Mary's 50, Elgin 41	
Sterling 61, Diller-Odel 35	
Thayer Central 58, Friend 31	
Tri County 43, Southern 27	
Twin River 43, Shelby 36	
Valentine 86, Todd County, S.D. 65	
Wakarusa 61, Wausa 35	
Waverly 72, Plattview 69	
West Boyd 65, Lynch 59	
Wisner-Pilger 52, Tekamah-Herman 39	

Cattle Trail Tournament				
Championship Semifinal				
Arapahoe 53, Medicine Valley 46				
Hayes Center 63, Dundly County 41				
Consolation Semifinal				
Lyons-Decatur Northeast 58, Southwest 56				
Maywood 51, Hitchcock County 32				
Great Western Lutheran Tournament				
Evergreen Lutheran, Wash. 53, Nebraska Lutheran 43				

Prep Girls Results

Adams Central 49, Centura 44	
Allamakee 67, Gering 21	
Alma 59, Wilcox-Hidreth 41	
Amherst 44, Loomis 39	
Anselmo-Mema 54, Callaway 41	
Aquinas 56, Newman Grove 23	
Auburn 45, Falls City 43	
Aurora 60, Columbus Lakeview 26	
Axtell 55, Overton 45	
Bancroft-Rossale 88, Walhail 18	
Battle Creek 40, Madison 29	
Bennington 51, Arlington 21	
Bishop Neumann 72, Norfolk Catholic 44	
Bridgeport 59, Bayard 20	
Broken Bow 50, Minden 48	
Cambridge 40, Wau नेता-Palisade 37	
Chambers 54, North Central 27	
Clay Center 49, Rising City 37	
Cleaverwater 64, Verdigre 35	
Cody-Kilgore 70, Arthur County 19	
Coleridge 35, Newcastle 22	
Crawford 70, Delights, S.D. 26	
Crete 53, Beatrice 44	
Crofton 56, Elkhorn Valley 22	
Dorchester 49, High Plains Community 26	
East Butler 77, Osceola 46	
Elba 49, Nebraska Christian 27	
Emerson-Hubbard 61, Omaha Nation 26	
Ewing 71, Niobrara 14	
Exeter/Milligan 48, Hampton 30	
Fairbury 58, Millford 38	
Fort Calhoun 61, Douglas County West 20	
Fullerton 54, Cross County 51	
Gibbon 38, Loup City 51	
Giltner 58, Meridian 45	
Grand Island 53, Fremont 45	
Grand Island Central Catholic 38, Columbus 37	
Scotus 37, OT	
Gretna 38, Ralston 35	
Hartington Cedar Catholic 74, O'Neill 26	
Hastings St. Cecilia 53, Doniphan-Trumbull 37	
Hershey 65, Cozad 31	
Holdrege 61, Lexington 51	
Keamey Catholic 56, Ord 30	
Kenesaw 56, Shelton 34	
Lawrence-Nelson 45, Franklin 30	
Leyton 54, South Platte 26	
Lincoln Christian 58, Lincoln Lutheran 40	
Lincoln East 53, Kearney 44	
Lincoln Plus X 65, Hastings 27	
Lincoln Southeast 59, North Platte 41	
Lindsay Holy Family 43, Leigh 22	
Lutheran High Northeast 57, Concordia 42	
McCool Junction 43, Shickley 28	
Mead 50, Palmyra 36	
Millard North 51, Millard West 39	
Morrill 75, Garden County 31	
Mullen 73, Hyannis 20	
Norfolk 37, Lincoln North Star 25	
Oakland-Craig 43, Pender 42	
Omaha Weston 38, Omaha Benson 36	
Papillion-LaVista 68, Omaha Burke 36	
Papillion-LaVista South 64, Omaha Northwest 34	
Pawnee City 45, Nebraska SE Consolidated 26	
Paxton 55, Brady 44	
Perkins County 52, Kimball 49, OT	
Pleasanton 55, Elwood 21	
Pope John 54, Plainview 27	
Potter-Dix 35, Creek Valley 26	
Prague 38, Omaha Brownell-Talbot 28	
Ravena 53, Burnwell 29	
Sandhills/Theoford 67, McPherson County 34	
Sandy Creek 47, Heartland 32	
Scottsbluff 56, Wheatland, Wyo. 53	
Sidney 55, Chase County 35	
Silver Lake 72, Bruning-Davenport 22	
Sioux County 61, Minatare 15	
South Sioux City 78, Dakota Valley, S.D. 40	
Spalding/Spalding Academy 52, Arcadia 33	
St. Edward 49, Palmer 48	
St. Mary's 39, Elgin 22	
Stapleton 42, Arnold 31	
Sterling 45, Diller-Odel 39	
Summer-Edgelyville-Miller 53, Elm Creek 50, OT	
Takamah-Herman 45, Wisner-Pilger 23	
Thayer Central 48, Friend 47, OT	
Todd County, S.D. 63, Valentine 48	
Tri County 47, Southern 23	
Twin River 62, Shelby 15	
Wallace 57, Maxwell 52, OT	
Wausa 44, Wakarusa 31	
West Boyd 81, Lynch 42	
West Holt 73, Ainsworth 31	
Winside 61, Bloomfield 60, OT	
Wynot 36, Osmond 30	

Cattle Trail Tournament				
Championship Semifinal				
Hitchcock County 45, Dundly County 41				
Maywood 47, Arapahoe 37				

Consolation Semifinal				
Lyons-Decatur Northeast 45, Medicine Valley 38				
Southwest 41, Hayes Center 18				
Great Western Lutheran Tournament				
Evergreen Lutheran, Wash. 37, Nebraska Lutheran 32				
Holiday Hoopla, Tulsa, OK, Tournament				
Semifinal				
Ozark, Mo. 47, Bellevue East 26				
Lady Saints, Shawnee, Kan. Tournament				
Semifinal				
Bellevue West 74, Lawrence, Kan. 63				

Football

NFL Standings				
AMERICAN CONFERENCE				
East				
	W	L	Pct	PF
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	615
New England	8	5	0	615
Miami	8	5	0	615
Buffalo	6	7	0	462

South				
	W	L	T	Pct
x-Tennessee	12	1	0	.923
Indianapolis	9	4	0	.692
Houston	6	7	0	.462
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308

North				
	W	L	T	Pct
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769
Baltimore	9	4	0	.692
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308
Cincinnati	1	11	1	.115

West				
	W	L	T	Pct
Denver	8	5	0	.615
San Diego	5	8	0	.385
Oakland	3	10	0	.231
Kansas City	2	11	0	.154

NATIONAL CONFERENCE				
East				
	W	L	T	Pct
x-N.Y. Giants	11	2	0	.846
Bishop Neumann 72, Norfolk Catholic 44	8	5	0	.615
Philadelphia	7	5	1	.577
Washington	7	6	0	.538

South				
	W	L	T	Pct
Carolina	10	3	0	.769
Tampa Bay	9	4	0	.692
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615
New Orleans	7	7	0	.500

North				
	W	L	T	Pct
Minnesota	8	5	0	.615
Chicago	8	6	0	.571
Green Bay	5	8	0	.385
Detroit	0	13	0	.000

West				
	W	L	T	Pct
x-Arizona	8	5	0	.615
San Francisco	5	8	0	.385
Seattle	2	11	0	.154
St. Louis	2	11	0	.154

Thursday's Games				
Chicago 27, New Orleans 24, OT				
Sunday's Games				
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets, Noon				
Tennessee at Houston, Noon				
Seattle at St. Louis, Noon				
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, Noon				
San Francisco at Miami, Noon				
Detroit at Cincinnati, Noon				
San Diego at Kansas City, Noon				
Green Bay at Jacksonville, Noon				
Minnesota at Arizona, 3:05 p.m.				
Denver at Carolina, 3:15 p.m.				
New England at Oakland, 3:15 p.m.				
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 3:15 p.m.				
N.Y. Giants at Dallas, 7:15 p.m.				

Monday's Game				
Cleveland at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.				

College Bowl Schedule

Saturday, Dec.

Tribland boys basketball roundup

Adams Central 65, Centura 40
CENTURA — Adams Central defeated Centura 65-40 Friday.
Connor Lyons led AC with 21 points and nine rebounds. Teammates Zach Hunt and Jordan Barrett both added 11 points.
Adams Central (1-2)14 20 17 14 — 65
Centura (0-2)8 14 15 5 — 40
Adams Central (65)
Nate Arlt 1, Brady Barrett 7, Nick Stine 6, Kramer Lyons 6, Zach Hunt 11, Jordan Barrett 11, Matt Overmiller 2, Connor Lyons 21
Centura (40)
Alec Monter 17, Jake Stutzman 10, Chase Woltz 1, Jake Coover 6, Josh Atken 2, Eon Lemberg 4

Tescott 41, Rock Hills 36
TESCOTT, Kan. — Rock Hills fell to Tescott 41-36 Friday.
Zane Hesting led Rock Hills with 14 points. Teammate Brice Ost added 12 points while Travis Boyles tallied five points.
Rock Hills (1-2)7 11 10 8 — 36
Tescott (2-1)12 9 7 13 — 41
Tescott (41)
Kary Lamberger 17, Josh Martin 12, Scott Base 4, Richard Gonzales 2, Tyler Adams 2, Kody Wood 2, Zach McQuire 2
Rock Hills (36)
Zane Hesting 14, Brice Ost 12, Travis Boyles 5, Riley Konen 3, Joe Zalina 2

Lawrence-Nelson 60, Franklin 39
NELSON — Lawrence-Nelson defeated Franklin 60-39 Friday.
Gage Biltoft led L-N with 13 points. Teammate Drew Cassell added 12 points while Steven Schroer tallied 11 points.
Franklin's Garrett Kahrs had nine points while Derek Hammer and Alec Sindt both tallied seven points.
Franklin (1-2)5 14 12 8 — 39
Lawrence-Nelson (2-0)18 10 17 15 — 60
Lawrence-Nelson (60)
Steven Schroer 11, Andy Peterson 8, Gage Biltoft 13, Garret Svoboda 4, Drew Cassell 12, Ryan Schroer 5, Zach Ault 2, Derek Harrington 5
Franklin (39)
Jacob Johnson 2, Adam Vetter 2, Derek Hammer 7, Shane Siel 3, Colten Muir 4, Alec Sindt 7, Ben Olerich 5, Garrett Kahrs 9

McCool Junction 56, Shickley 46
MCCOOL JUNCTION — Shickley fell to McCool Junction 56-46 Friday.
Philip Hochstetler led Shickley with 14 points. Teammate Michael Reinsch tallied nine points while Bret Carlson added eight points.
Shickley (2-1)46
McCool Junction (1-2)56
Shickley (46)
Philip Hochstetler 14, Landon Spurling 1, Luke Schweitzer 3, Bret Carlson 8, Michael Reinsch 9, Derek Swartzendruber 7, David Hochstetler 4

Hampton 45, Exeter-Milligan 27
EXETER — Exeter-Milligan fell to Class D-2 No. 3 Hampton 45-27 Friday.
Ethan Kattes led E-M with eight points. Teammates Travis Young and Dillan White each added four points.
Hampton (4-0)14 13 5 13 — 45
E-M (0-3)7 5 7 8 — 27
Hampton (45)
Alex Dose 2, Marcus Garrison 4, Dwayne Wall 6, Collin Friessen 3, DJ Barnesberger 9, Carson Klute 3, Cy Friessen 3, Austin Peters 6,

Chris Arnett 9
Exeter-Milligan (27)
Mitch Home 2, Ethan Kattes 8, Greg Pribyl 3, Josh Sluka 2, Dillon Rischling 2, Travis Young 4, Dillon White 4, Tanner Odvody 2

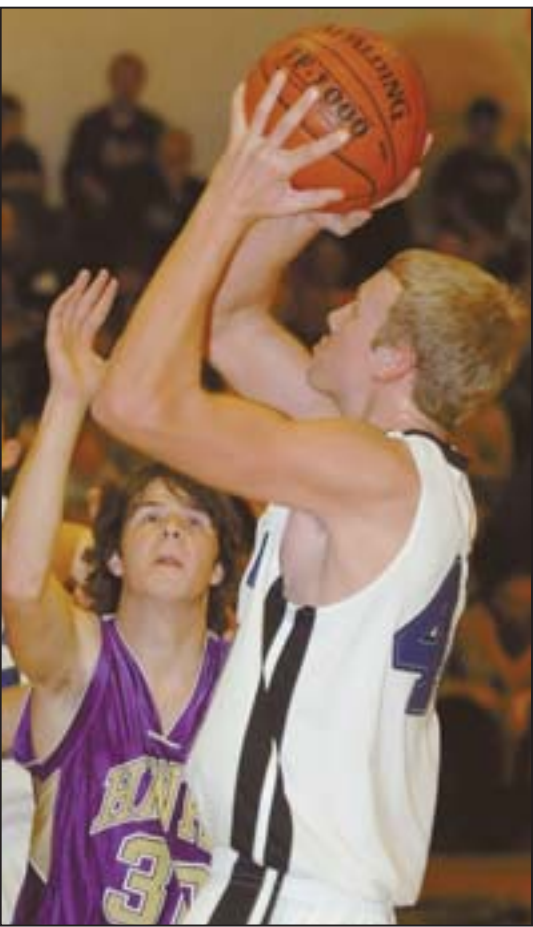
Sandy Creek 45, Heartland 40
FAIRFIELD — Sandy Creek defeated Heartland 45-40 Friday.
Jordan Hakanson led the Cougars with 13 points. Teammate Jordan Juranek tallied eight points while Ethan Lang added seven points.
Heartland (0-3)14 12 3 11 — 40
Sandy Creek (2-2)13 4 15 13 — 45
Sandy Creek (45)
Christian Garcia 2, Brett Kehn 4, Jordan Juranek 8, Jordan Hakanson 13, Ethan Lang 7, Chase Murren 5, Matt Skalka 2, Eric Kohlmeischer 4
Heartland (40)
Jesse Nissen 2, Spencer Friesen 8, Jason Sherman 22, Nick Heinrichs 8

Bruning-Davenport 80, Silver Lake 39
ROSELAND — Class D-1 No. 7 Bruning-Davenport defeated Silver Lake 80-39 Friday.
Brent Houchin led B-D with 23 points. Teammate Garrett Hoins added 21 points while Nathan Meyer tallied nine points.
Silver Lake's Dallas Thompson had 11 points while Sawyer Monroe, Reid Choquette and Ryan Sluka all tallied eight points.
B-D (3-1)18 16 16 30 — 80
Silver Lake (0-4)2 12 15 10 — 39
Bruning-Davenport (80)
Broderick Bowman 2, Mitchell Schroeder 6, Spencer Dowdy 8, Jason Jagels 2, Ethan Pearson 5, Garrett Hoins 21, Lon Schoenholz 4, Nathan Meyer 9, Brent Houchin 23
Silver Lake (39)
Dallas Thompson 11, Sawyer Monroe 8, Reid Choquette 8, Connor Morris 2, Ryan Sluka 8, Jacob Trausch 2

Clay Center 68, Rising City 18
CLAY CENTER — Clay Center defeated Rising City 68-18 Friday.
Jair Perez led the wildcats with 11 points.
Rising City (0-2)5 2 5 6 — 18
Clay Center (1-2)17 13 18 20 — 68
Clay Center (68)
Rudy Martinez 3, Jordain Franklin 6, Dakota Hoyt 5, Phil Cossier 2, Jair Perez 11, Brett Peshak 4, Luke Marques 8, Jesse VonSpreckelsen 2, Matt Johnson 2, Kyle Knight 9, Brodderick Dillon 6, Garrett Calhoun 2, Matt Nolan 8
Rising City (18)
Nick Kula 2, John Potter 4, DJ Kant 2, Trent Sutton 6, Keaton Zysset

Thayer Central 58, Friend 31
HEBRON — Class C-2 No. 10 Thayer Central defeated Friend 58-31 Friday.
Seth Wiedel led Thayer Central with 15 points. Teammate Caleb Kenner added 12 points for the Titans.
Friend (0-4)8 7 9 7 — 31
Thayer Central (1-2)15 20 13 10 — 58
Thayer Central (58)
Will Goldhammer 3, Nick Burkhardt 2, Trevor Wit 8, Seth Wiedel 15, Derrick Gandara 2, Caleb Kenner 12, Braden Burkley 6, Micah Mumm 6

Kenesaw 56, Shelton 51
KENESAW — Kenesaw defeated Shelton 56-



BJ FICTUM/Tribune

Exeter-Milligan's Dillan White (40) rises out of the lane for the jumpshot as Hampton defender Cy Friesen (32) tries to avoid fouling White in the first quarter Friday night in Exeter.

51 Friday.
Brandon Steven led Kenesaw with 20 points. Teammate Evan Bender tallied 13 points. Jeremy Shurigar and Matt Cline added eight points each in the win.
Shelton (1-2)9 12 17 13 — 56
Kenesaw (2-1)12 13 12 19 — 51
Kenesaw (56)
Brandon Stevens 20, Evan Bender 13, Matt Cline 8, Jeremy Shurigar 8, Brody Rossow 5, Kade Clark 2
Shelton (51)
Robert Portillo 16, Dalton Thyaft 17, Cody Webben 8, Trevor Cornelius 6, Ty Schoefeld 4

Giltner 64, Meridian 49
GILTNER — Class D-1 No. 9 Giltner defeated Meridian 64-49 Friday.
Brock Hinrichs led Giltner with 19 points. Teammates Nate Most and Drew Ott each tallied 18 points for the Hornets.
Meridian (2-1)9 12 11 17 — 49
Giltner (4-0)16 13 16 19 — 64
Giltner (64)
Ben Harmon 4, Brock Hinrichs 19, Shay Hinrichs 5, Nate Most 18, Drew Ott 18
Meridian (49)
Andrew Rohr 18, Jonah Jorderling 10, Brian Heisman 3, Eric Bartels 3, Reid Vanwestan 5, Dillon Wolfe 6, Dustin Rohr 2, John Aude 2



BRENT MCCOWN/Tribune

St. Cecilia's Danielle Nikkila (32) and Kristine Batenhorst (34) double-team Doniphan-Trumbull's Kayla Gruener (35) during their game Friday night at Chapman Gymnasium.

Girls: STC picks up first win

Continued from page B1

After the Bluehawks took a 47-23 lead into the fourth quarter, the Cardinals outscored St. Cecilia 14-6 in the final period. Kayla Gruener scored six of her team-high 10 points in the period.
"Doniphan plays really hard," Kile said. "You've got to give a lot of credit to them. They really work hard and make us work harder to do things."
The Hawkettes likely will have a much tougher challenge tonight in a home game against Class C-2 No. 9

Blue Hill, which is off to a 3-0 start. "Their 3-0 and you know they're going to be gunning for us," Kile said.

St. Cecilia (1-1)23 10 14 6 — 53
Doniphan-Trumbull (1-2)10 6 7 14 — 37
St. Cecilia (53)
Tessa Chalupa 2-4 0-0 4, Hailee Wright 1-1 0-0 2, Abby Jackson 2-6 0-0 5, Brooke McWhirter 5-7 0-0 10, Charise Farmer 5-10 2-2 13, Audrey Gaspers 1-1 0-0 2, Lexi Schmidt 5-13 2-2 10, Danielle Nikkila 1-4 0-0 2, Kristine Batenhorst 1-2 0-0 2, Libby Kissinger 1-2 0-0 3, Team 24-50 2-4 53.
Doniphan-Trumbull (37)
Taylor Handorfelt 1-1 0-0 2, Tiffany Jones 0-4 0-0 0, Jocelyn Utecht 0-2 0-0 0, Ashley Schmitz 2-3 0-0 4, Dayna Katman 3-12 1-1 7, Jena Schlatz 3-6 0-0 6, Andrea Toben 4-7 0-0 8, Kayla Gruener 5-7 0-0 10, Team 18-42 1-1 37.
Three-point field goals — STC 5-12 (Chalupa 0-2, Jackson 1-3, Farmer 3-5, Kissinger 1-2), DT 0-5 (Kathman 0-4, Toben 0-1). Rebounds — STC 24 (Schmidt 4), DT 34 (Schlatz 6). Turnovers — STC 14, DT 24. Total fouls — STC 8, DT 3. Fouled out — none. Technicals — none.

Adams Central 49, Centura 44
Adams Central defeated Centura 49-44 Friday.
Lindsey Colburn led Adams Central with 15 points while Jami Fowler added nine points and Breanna Bohlen finished with seven points for the Patriots.
Jenna Smidt and Sharidan Rayburn each had six points for Adams Central.
Adams Central (2-2)9 17 12 11 — 49
Centura (2-1)8 11 9 16 — 44
Adams Central (49)
Keli Shuck 4, Lindsey Colburn 15, Jami Fowler 9, Breanna Bohlen 7, Jenna Smidt 6, Jalynda Hodson 2, Sharidan Rayburn 6
Centura (44)
Syntech 6, Sonnenfeld 6, Krowlowski 4, Moss 4, Lytle 6, Turk 18

Pius X 65, Hastings High 27
LINCOLN — Hastings High fell to Class B No. 7 Lincoln Pius X 65-27 Friday.
Taylor Power led the Tigers with seven points.
Hastings High (0-4)6 2 7 12 — 27
Pius X (2-0)17 19 14 15 — 65
Pius X (65)
Tera Grosserode 6, Bailey Nelson 2, Natalie Braun 11, Lindsey Determan 22, Alex Grant 7, Kelli Rice 7, Kelsey

Nealon 2, Camri Seier 5, Clare Griffin 3
Hastings High (27)
Taylor Powers 7, Kirsten Pawloski 2, Allison Kern 4, Liz Krueger 2, Alex Price 4, Hannah Rundle 3, Kaylin Cook 3, Ashton Pawloski 2

McCool Junction 43, Shickley 28
MCCOOL JUNCTION — Shickley fell to McCool Junction 43-28 Friday.
Stephanie Swartzendruber led the Longhorns with seven points. Teammates Megan Alfs and Caressa Reinsch both added six points.
Shickley (1-2)2 9 8 9 — 28
McCool Junction (1-3)10 11 11 11 — 43
Shickley (28)
Megan Alfs 6, Makenna Coy 4, Cynthia Mick 5, Stephanie Swartzendruber 7, Caressa Reinsch 6

Clay Center 49, Rising City 37
CLAY CENTER — Clay Center defeated Rising City 49-37 Friday.
Stephanie Hoyt led the Wildcats with 20 points, four rebounds, four steals, two assists and three blocks. Teammate Abby Sorensen added 10 points and 15 rebounds while Ashley Boman tallied eight points two steals, six rebounds and four assists.

Rising City (1-2)0 7 15 15 — 37
Clay Center (1-3)13 12 14 10 — 49
Clay Center (49)
Stephanie Hoyt 20, Ashley Boman 8, Abby Sorensen 10, Jill Baxa 4, Jessie Sorensen 3, Brooke Yates 2, Breanna Bailey 2
Rising City (37)
Ashley H. 10, Brooke F. 1, Kacy S. 3, Kala K. 19, Kristin P. 2, Chantal H. 2

Giltner 58, Meridian 45
GILTNER — Class D-1 No. 5 Giltner defeated D-1 No. 4 Meridian 58-45 Friday.
Lisa Lockmon led Giltner with 13 points, four rebounds, three assists and three steals. Teammate Stasia Ott added 12 points, five rebounds and four steals while Chelsie White tallied eight points and eight rebounds.
Meridian (3-1)8 12 7 18 — 45
Giltner (3-1)12 19 12 15 — 58
Giltner (58)
Julie Happold 5, Alex Hosier 6, Lisa Lockmon 13, Molly Ocker 2, Bridget Meyer 6, Gretchen Kreutz 3, Khyia Shaff 3, Stasia Ott 12, Chelsie White 8
Meridian (45)
B. Sykes 13, T. Johnson 3, A. Hansel 5, A. Johnson 4, B. Hofstetter 4, H. Dutton 7, S. McCord 9

Sandy Creek 47, Heartland 32
FAIRFIELD — Sandy Creek defeat-

ed Heartland 47-32 Friday.
Keriann Shaw led Sandy Creek with 17 points.
Teammate Shelby Hinrichs tallied 11 points for the Cougars.
Heartland (0-3)6 13 5 8 — 47
Sandy Creek (3-1)13 13 11 10 — 32
Sandy Creek (47)
Morgan Hinrichs 7, Lisa Beck 2, Shelby Hinrichs 11, Keriann Shaw 17, Kelli Kohlmeischer 5, Danielle Harms 4, Morgan Meyer 4

Kenesaw 56, Shelton 34
KENESAW — Class C-2 No. 8 Kenesaw defeated Shelton 56-34 Friday.
No other information was available.
Shelton (2-3)12 9 7 6 — 34
Kenesaw (4-0)9 20 19 8 — 56

Lawrence-Nelson 45, Franklin 30
NELSON — Class D-2 No. 7 Lawrence-Nelson defeated Franklin 45-30 Friday.
Mackenzie McCartney led Lawrence-Nelson with 19 points. Teammate Kelsey Biltoft added 12 points for the Raiders.
For Franklin, Taylor Lucas had 14

points while Rachel Walton tallied 10 points for the flyers.
Franklin (0-3)8 4 13 5 — 45
Lawrence-Nelson (2-0)14 8 12 11 — 30
Lawrence-Nelson (45)
Jaycee Jacobitz 7, Brittany Miller 4, Chelsie Stemper 3, Mackenzie McCartney 19, Kelsey Biltoft 12
Franklin (30)
Taylor Lucas 14, Rachelle Lennemann 2, Rachel Walton 10, Kersha Karhs 2, Taylor Dreher 2

Thayer Central 48, Friend 47
HEBRON — Thayer Central defeated Friend 48-47 in overtime Friday.
Cody Long led Thayer Central with 17 points while Sheila Heitmann added eight points for the Titans.
Friend (2-2)10 9 16 8 5 — 48
Thayer Central (2-0)13 8 8 14 4 — 47
Thayer Central (48)
Nikki Degenhardt 3, Sheila Heitmann 8, Allie Kenning 5, Michaela Marsh 6, Cody Long 17, Chelsie Baden 4, Lindsay Welch 2, Melissa Bulin 3

Silver Lake 72, Bruning-Davenport 22
ROSELAND — Class D-1 No. 7 Silver Lake defeated Bruning-Davenport 72-22 Friday.
Jami Shaw led the Mustangs

with 21 points while Bailey Morris added 16 points, six steals and three assists.
Teammates Shelby Rupprecht and Cami Bruckman tallied 10 points each in the win.
For Bruning-Davenport, Kelsey Otto tallied 13 points.
B-D (0-5)16 12 4 0 — 22
Silver Lake (3-1)19 16 20 17 — 72
Silver Lake (72)
Jami Shaw 21, McKenzie Mangers 1, Cami Bruckman 10, Bailey Morris 16, Shelby Rupprecht 10
Bruning-Davenport (22)
Kaithyn Krupicka 2, Shelby Garland 4, Lacy Wagner 1, Kelsey Otto 13, Mindy Blunk 2

Exeter-Milligan 48, Hampton 30
EXETER — Exeter-Milligan defeated Hampton 48-30 Friday.
Maddy Emshoff led Exeter-Milligan with 12 points. Teammate Kelsey Moore added 11 points, five steals and six assists.
Hampton (1-3)3 15 9 3 — 30
Exeter-Milligan (1-2)9 7 12 20 — 45
Exeter-Milligan (48)
Maddy Emshoff 12, Kelsey Moore 11, Tina Kassik 7, Claire White 2, Heather Pribyl 6, Mackenzie Thomsen 4, Amber Filipi 6
Hampton (30)
Sadie Shoup 12, Allyn Nissen 2, Caitlin Carlson 1, Kaylee Klute 4, Sarah Steiben 6

Boys: Defense propels Bluehawks past Doniphan-Trumbull

Continued from page B1

St. Cecilia closed with 10 points in the opening period, including two fast-break layups off Cardinal turnovers.
Doniphan-Trumbull finished with 25 turnovers, most of them forced by STC's belly-up man-to-man defense.
"Their pressure was just amazing," Doniphan-Trumbull coach Zac Foster said about the Bluehawk defense. "That's why they won a state championship last year. They make it so hard to even get into anything you want to do. We couldn't get the ball to the wing in the first half and that really caused problems for our perimeter players."
The Cardinals got off only four shots from the floor in the first quarter and 11 in the first half. Meanwhile, STC reeled off 19 second-quarter points to hold a 29-10 chasm at the break.
Doniphan-Trumbull managed to put up only 22 shots from the floor, with Taylor Fjeldheim and Garrett Bunde leading the Cardinal scoring with only five points each.
"It is hard to score when you don't get many shots,"

Foster said. "It is (St. Cecilia's) defense. It gave us fits."
Jake Hamburger led the Bluehawk offense with 17 points, while teammate Dalton Sealey registered 13 points. Paul Goedert tallied nine points, and Blake Wright finished with seven points.
Thirteen of the 14 St. Cecilia players scored as the Class C-1 No. 1 Bluehawks improved to 2-0.
St. Cecilia nearly owned the backboards, hauling down 33 rebounds while D-T grabbed 19. Bluehawk center Matt Sterup led the game with seven boards.
The Bluehawks also used their bench strength, with Asher shuffling in substitutes throughout the contest.
"Our depth wore on (D-T)," Asher said. "You have to have great depth to play the pressure style that we are. By the end of the second quarter into the third quarter, you saw things start to snowball."
Asher said the STC coaching staff will be giving the Bluehawks some additional statistics this season that will highlight defensive effort.
"We're gonna chart deflections, touches on the ball,

hustle plays. Those are some of the things our kids really want to have after the game," Asher said. "People want to be point scorers. But our kids are into the whole team concept, and that's really nice to coach."
While the Bluehawks' defense and hustle will show up well on those charts, St. Cecilia's shooting marksmanship didn't exactly shine in the first half.
STC totaled 35 percent in basket attempts during the first half, making 11-of-31 tries. But in the second half, the Bluehawks improved to 57 percent, going 15-for-26.
"We missed a lot of easy ones early, and we were rushing," Asher said. "Anytime we

got an offensive rebound and a nice touch inside, we were trying to stick in the hole so quick and we didn't balance up. If there's one area where we didn't play very well in was shooting the ball inside in the first half."
It was at the free-throw line that St. Cecilia put in a stellar performance, going 16-for-18. Hamburger led STC at the stripe, finishing perfect in six shots.
St. Cecilia hosts Blue Hill today.
Doniphan-Trumbull (0-3)0 10 9 4 — 19
St. Cecilia (2-0)10 19 22 22 — 73
Doniphan-Trumbull (19)
Corey Telecky 1-4 0-0 3, Cale Buhr 1-1 0-0 3, Ty Law 0-1 0-0 0, Taylor Fjeldheim 2-7 0-0 5, Rhyder Nelson 1-5 0-0 2, Garrett Bunde 2-3 1-2 5, Beau Toben 0-1 0-0 0, Maury Lorence 0-0 1-2 1, Team 7-22 2-4 19.
St. Cecilia (73)
Dalton Sealey 5-8 1-1 13, Craig Farmer 2-5 0-0 6, Jake Hamburger 5-13 6-6 17, Blake Wright 2-7 3-4 7,

Matt Sterup 1-4 0-0 2, Zane Anstine 2-4 0-0 4, Paul Goedert 3-7 3-4 9, Nick Hinrichs 2-3 2-2 6, Joe Ryan 1-2 0-0 2, Beau Schwenka 1-2 1-1 3, Zach Sterup 2-2 0-0 4, Jordan Consbruck 0-0 0-0 0, Team 26-57 16-18 73.
Three-point goals — D-T 3-9 (Telecky 1-4, Buhr 1-1,

Fjeldheim 1-3), STC 5-13 (Sealey 2-3, Farmer 2-5, Hamburger 1-5. Rebounds — D-T 16 (Fjeldheim 4), STC 34 (M. Sterup 7). Turnovers — D-T 25, STC 7. Total Fouls — D-T 14, STC 11. Fouled out — STC (Sealey). Technicals — D-T (team).



2008-2009 LOCAL ELK'S HOOP SHOOT RESULTS

GIRLS
Age 8-9
1st: Daisy Mohler
Age 10-11
1st: McKenna Griess
2nd: Libby Knapple
3rd: Brianna Lebar
Age 12-13
1st: Maci Coffey
2nd: Lili Mohler
3rd: Bailey Petzoldt

BOYS
Age 8-9
1st: Kye Stevenson
2nd: Duang Tang
Age 10-11
1st: Vincent Schmidt
2nd: David Bohlen
3rd: Chance Stevenson
Age 12-13
1st: Zach Merrill
2nd: Kevin Christensen
3rd: Adam Lebar

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4th Item - 20% off

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Television

CNN’s WHITE HOUSE TEAM
NEW YORK — Ed Henry, Suzanne Malveaux and Dan Lothian will become CNN’s White House reporting team when the Obama administration takes office.
Henry has been at the White House for the past two years of the Bush administration. Malveaux worked at the White House previously, while Lothian has been Boston bureau chief.
Jamie McIntyre has left CNN after covering the military for 16 years, saying both he and CNN thought it was time to do something new but couldn’t decide what that would be. Chris Lawrence will be the new Pentagon correspondent.

FUR FLIES
LONDON — The BBC will not televise Britain’s biggest dog show for the first time in more than 40 years after a controversy about canine inbreeding.
The broadcaster said Friday it had suspended coverage of the 2009 Crufts show “pending further investigations into the health and well-being of pedigree dogs in the U.K.”
Show organizers accused the BBC of making “unreasonable demands” that it exclude certain breeds of dog from the show.
The Kennel Club, the show’s organizer, and the BBC have been at odd since September when the broadcaster aired a documentary claiming decades of inbreeding had led to serious health problems in some pedigree dogs.

The Associated Press

Books

TEEN AWARD
NEW YORK — Five novels for teens are finalists for the American Library Association’s first-ever William C. Morris YA Debut Award.
The prize is given for books that “illuminate the teen experience and enrich the lives of its readers through its excellence.”
The nominees, announced this week: Elizabeth Bunce’s (rhymes with once) “A Curse Dark as Gold”; Kristin Cashore’s (ka-SHORE) “Graceling”; James Lecesne’s “Absolute Brightness”; Christina Meldrum’s (MEL-drum) “Madapple”; and Jenny Valentine’s “Me, the Missing and the Dead.”
The winner will be announced Jan. 26.

The Associated Press

Music

NEW YORK POPS
NEW YORK — Conductor Steven Reineke has been named music director of The New York Pops, the nation’s largest independent pops orchestra specializing in popular music.
Reineke is an established symphonic composer and associate conductor of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. His new job begins Oct. 1, 2009.
He succeeds New York Pops founder and former NBC music director Skitch Henderson, who died in 2005.
Reineke is a native of Tipp City, Ohio. He conducted the New York Pops’ 25th birthday gala at Carnegie Hall earlier this year, and will lead the orchestra in the annual telecast of the 2009 Macy’s July 4 fireworks on NBC.
The New York Pops was founded in 1983 to create greater public appreciation of America’s rich musical heritage.

The Associated Press



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ERIC LIEBOWITZ, NBC/SHNS

Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, The Great Gonzo, Camilla the Chicken and Fozzie Bear star on “A Muppets Christmas: Letters to Santa.”

‘Muppets Christmas’ lets Muppets be Muppets

ROB OWEN
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
“A Muppets Christmas: Letters to Santa” isn’t the year’s most original Christmas special — that distinction belongs to last month’s “A Colbert Christmas” — but it is the best Muppets special in quite some time.

The one-hour program, airing at 7 p.m. Wednesday on NBC, shows off better production values than last year’s more traditional “Elmo’s Christmas,” and, most important, it lets the Muppets be the Muppets, unlike 2005’s “Muppets’ Wizard of Oz” and other recent productions that forced them to play other roles.
Better yet, “A Muppets Christmas” finds room for just about all of the classic characters. They may not all get huge roles, but they appear. Balcony critics Statler and Waldorf, The Swedish Chef, Dr. Bunsen Honeydew and Beaker are among the second-tier Muppets who appear alongside the lead players: Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, Gonzo, Fozzie Bear, Rizzo the Rat and Pepe the Prawn.

The songs, by frequent Muppet collaborator Andy Williams, are generic and forgettable. Same goes for the minimal plot: Kermit and the gang attempt to mail letters, get caught up in a post office’s back-room machinery and find letters that haven’t made it to Santa. They embark on a journey to the North Pole to make sure no one’s Christmas wishes go unread.
It’s the journey and humor that make this program worthwhile. Written by new-to-the-Muppets writers Hugh Fink, Scott Ganz and Andrew Samson — all veterans of “The Showbiz Show with David Spade” — and directed by Muppet veteran Kirk Thatcher (“Muppets Treasure Island”), “A Muppets Christmas” features amusing situations that



ERIC LIEBOWITZ, NBC/SHNS

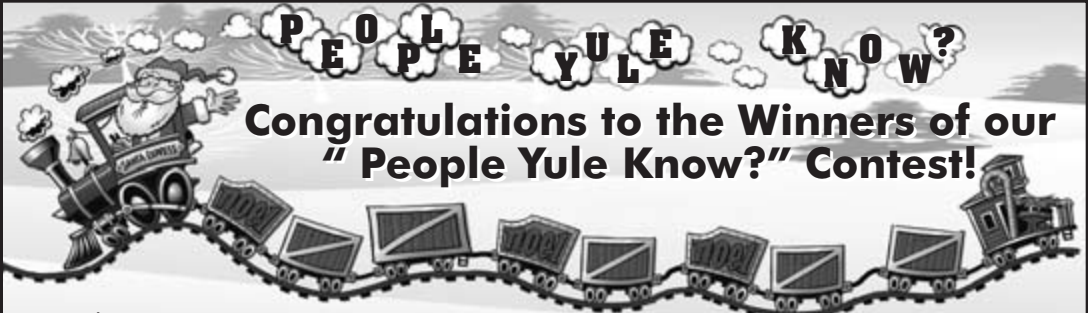
Gonzo, Rizzo, Nathan Lane as Officer Meany, Pepe the King Prawn and Fozzie Bear star on “A Muppets Christmas: Letters to Santa.”

emerge naturally from the beloved Muppet characters.
When they come upon a lever in the post office that should not be pulled, you know Gonzo will pull it. When a potential plot turn requires a public-service announcement, fans know patriotic Sam the Eagle will deliver it with utmost authority (“Opening mail that does not belong to you is a federal offense!”).
“A Muppets Christmas” revisits a gag from last year’s “Elmo’s Christmas” as Rizzo and Pepe visit two wiseguys (Steve Schirripa and Tony Sirico from “The Sopranos”).
“Rule No. 1,” Sirico says. “Never trust a rat!”

A few celebrities make guest appearances, but they’re not showstoppers that distract from the Muppets. Whoopi Goldberg is a cab driver, Uma Thurman is an airline ticket agent and Nathan Lane plays a security agent, who has some funny scenes with Bobo the Bear.
Unlike most TV Muppet shows, a few scenes in this special appear to have been filmed on location outdoors, giving the program more of a real-world vibe.
Between this Christmas special and their recent appearance on NBC’s “Today” — good for the Muppets, bad for NBC News’ credibility — the Muppets appear to be poised for a renaissance under The

Muppets Studio’s Disney ownership (Why this show isn’t airing on Disney-owned ABC is a bit of a mystery to me, too).
If future Muppet endeavors can, like “A Muppets Christmas,” tap into the spirit of the characters as established


by Jim Henson in the 1970s, perhaps the foam puppets will gain a new audience of young viewers and remind their parents — the original Muppets fans — of their continued relevance in the pop-culture continuum.



PEOPLE YULE KNOW?
Congratulations to the Winners of our “People Yule Know?” Contest!

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2nd \$50 - Laurie Heeren, Hastings
3rd \$25 - Tami Jacobi, Juniata

ANSWERS:
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12.P 13.F 14.D 15.A
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He could win, but you should

In yesterday's deal, I mentioned that inexperienced defenders cost themselves numerous tricks throughout the year by winning tricks that they ought to have ducked. Obviously, though, sometimes the opposite will be true, a defender not taking a trick that he should have won. Examples are few and far between — but here is one. After West has led the heart king against four spades, who should win what and when to defeat the contract?



Phillip Alder

Against many pairs, four spades would make. At trick one, East would signal enthusiastically with his heart seven, and West would play another heart. The spade ace would be the third defensive trick, but that would be all. At the end of the deal, East and West would probably agree that there was nothing they could have done. Ha! Or East might say that he should have played his heart two at trick one, and then West would have shifted to a diamond, setting up the ruff. Semi-ha!

West's heart-king lead promises the queen. East has a singleton diamond and the trump ace as a fast entry. East should overtake his partner's heart king and shift to his diamond. Then he should grab the first trump, put his partner on lead with a heart, and await the diamond ruff to defeat the contract. And if West does not give East his ruff, it would surely be justifiable homicide!

When the dummy appears at trick one, both defenders should try to decide from where the necessary number of tricks will come. Here, East can immediately see three: one spade and two hearts. Then, when he wonders about the fourth, a diamond ruff should occur to him.

North			
♠	9 7 6		
♥	8 5		
♦	A Q 9 8		
♣	K J 4		
West			
♠	5 4 2		
♥	K Q 10 9		
♦	7 6 4 3		
♣	10 8		
East			
♠	A 3		
♥	A 7 3 2		
♦	2		
♣	9 7 6 5 3 2		
South			
♠	K Q 10 8		
♥	J 6 4		
♦	K J 10 5		
♣	A Q		

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ K

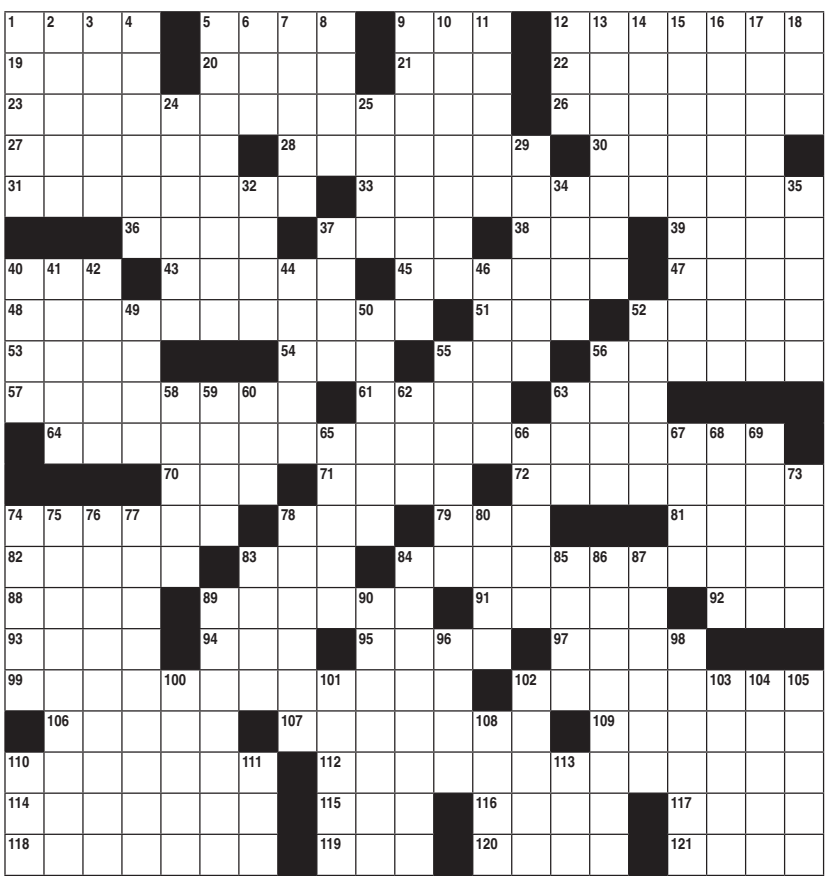
Phillip Alder is a columnist for Newspaper Enterprise Association.

The New York Times Crossword Puzzle

"HEY!" BY JIM PAGE/ EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS
1 Nailed
5 ___ diagram
9 Is in the Vatican
12 Stubborn response
19 Contact sport with a purification ritual
20 Jobs offering of 1998
21 Start of the seventh century
22 Paws
23 *Distinguishes
26 Languished
27 Little fingers
28 Brightest star in Auriga, from the Latin for "little she-goat"
30 Plant with two seed leaves
31 Literary wrap-up
33 *Does a hostler's work
36 ___ onto
37 Bar product
38 Make a choice
39 Sharp rebuke
40 "Taking Heat" memoirist
43 Played out
45 San ___, locale just north of Tijuana, Mexico
47 "The Story-Teller" storyteller
48 *Participates in a bear market
51 Word of dissent
52 English actor Sir ___ Jacobi
53 Suffix with disk
54 Burn cause
55 Card's insignia
56 Formal
57 Like many root vegetables for the winter
61 Home of the Wright Brothers Natl. Memorial
63 It may be illegal to hang one
64 Start of an announcement ... or a hint to what's hidden in the answers to the six

DOWN
1 The Beatles' "___ Why"
2 Give a hint
3 Correct
4 Olympics no-no
5 Scoreboard side
6 911 respondent
7 Busters?
8 Sweet 16 org.
9 How to put a coin in a coin slot
10 Lugs
11 "A Visit From St. Nicholas," e.g.
12 "___ a living"
13 Entertains, as a child at bedtime
14 Accept a bad defeat, in slang
15 Chicken dish
16 Medium of OPEC transactions
17 Some landlocked bodies of water
18 Vacation time in Valois
24 Silvery salmon
25 ___ facto
29 Lacking limbs
32 Give off
34 Moving easily
35 Like Bart Simpson's hair
37 Cabinet head: Abbr.
40 Summer drinks
41 Like some dirt paths
42 "___ old for this!"
44 Residential sign
46 "He-e-ere's Johnny!," e.g.
49 Equatorial land
50 Pulitzer winner for "Russia Leaves the War"
52 Load bearer?
55 Caved in
56 Proofreader's mark
58 Québec traffic sign
59 Barbara of "Mission: Impossible"
60 Co. name ender
62 Midpoint:



Abbr.
63 Bygone TV inits.
65 Examine covetously
66 Brisk
67 Guthrie with a guitar
68 Sweater's place
69 Make a record of
73 Try
74 Isn't serious
75 Stipend
76 Pain along the course of a nerve
77 Junkyard junk
78 Strict disciplinarian
80 Bribes
83 Ballyhoo
84 Seconds, say
85 Temper tantrum
86 Removing, as paint
87 Everything
89 Frauds
90 Plane seating specification
96 Right away

98 Retreats
100 Make it home safely
101 Fingerprint feature

102 Very, in music
103 Nothing
104 "Lady T" singer ___ Marie
105 Lunkheads

108 Answer, shortly
110 Doctrine
111 Overly rehearsed
113 ___ soldier

ANSWERS TO LAST SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

G	R	A	D	E	D	H	T	M	L	D	A	M	P	S	S	A	X
N	O	J	I	V	E	A	R	E	A	E	L	I	O	T	P	R	Y
A	T	O	N	I	C	W	O	N	T	V	I	S	O	R	Y	U	L
R	E	B	A	T	E	S	T	H	E	R	E	S	T	H	E	R	O
U	S	S				D	E	O	D	A	T	O	P	A	C	E	
C	L	A	I	M		E	G	R	E	T	P	E	A	C	H	F	O
L	O	A	M	A	N	D	A	B	N	E	R	A	R	T	Y	P	L
A	B	B	A	C	Y												
G	N	A	T	S		A	N	E	N	T	S	A	L	O	N	S	
O	D	D	S			E	V	A	N	S							
L	O	I	T	A	U	R		P	E	R	S	I	A	N	R	O	G
F	R	I	A	R	T	O	K	E		C	O	A	T	I		E	W
S	C	R	A	P													
P	A	I	N	I	N	T	H	E	B	O	A	T					
I	T	T															
F	E	Z															
F	R	Y															

C-SPAN invites viewers to 'White House'

FRAZIER MOORE
The Associated Press

If you missed the White House documentary on History channel, or if you saw it and want to know more, C-SPAN is hosting a (White) House party, and you're invited.

White House Week is a seven-day TV event that begins with C-SPAN's original documentary, "The White House: Inside America's Most Famous Home." An elegant and informative 90-minute portrait, this film includes lots of scenes of ceremony, workaday life, a splendid tour and archival footage of past presidential occupants.

The film premieres Sunday. With all airtimes 8 p.m., the schedule continues:

◆ Monday: "White House Tours by Presidents and First Ladies." First lady Laura Bush gives viewers a present-day behind-the-scenes look. In addition, you'll see the never-before-aired "President's House," filmed in 1968 with Lady Bird Johnson; the first-ever televised tour of the White House with President Harry Truman in 1952; and Jackie Kennedy's historic 1962 White House tour.
◆ Tuesday: "Behind the Scenes: The Working White



C-SPAN/AP

First lady Laura Bush gives Brian Lamb a tour of the White House in Washington as part of a documentary, "White House Tours by Presidents and First Ladies," airing Monday at 8 p.m. on C-SPAN.

House." Bill Allman, White House curator, provides an insider's look at the many tasks that keep this busy place functioning.

◆ Wednesday: "The Gardens and the Grounds." This survey of the beauty and history of the 18-acre President's Park features

White House grounds superintendent Dale Haney.

◆ Thursday: "The Lincoln White House." Spend an evening at the White House as it was in Lincoln's time, featuring an interview from the Lincoln Bedroom with historian Harold Holzer.

◆ Friday: "The Making of the Documentary," which airs after an encore of "Inside America's Most Famous Home," explains the unprecedented access to the White House that enabled that original film.

◆ Saturday: "Interviews With President and Mrs. Bush."

Chris Brown named top artist of the year by Billboard

NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The accolades keep coming for Chris Brown — this time, he's been named Billboard's top artist of 2008.

"It's bigger than what I can ever imagine. It's unexpected totally, so it's a surprise," Brown said in an interview Thursday.

It shouldn't be too much of a surprise for Brown. He not only nabbed the Billboard honor in

2006, he had a great '08, with solo hits like "With You" and "Forever" as well as successful collaborations, like the Jordin Sparks duet "No Air." Last month, he won three awards at the American Music Awards, including artist of the year.

But the 19-year-old Brown says he's still not used to all the accolades.

"I've had a good year but I still feel like a little insecure in

those parts. I'm like, 'There's little ol' me getting an award' — that's incredible," he said.

The artist's rankings are determined by album sales as well as digital downloads, radio airplay and Internet streams. The No. 2 artist was Lil Wayne, who had a huge year thanks to hits like "A Milli" and "Lollipop"; No. 3 on the list was Rihanna, whose hits included "Take A Bow" and "Disturbia," which was co-writ-

ten by boyfriend Brown.

Rounding out the top five were Alicia Keys and Taylor Swift.

Billboard named Flo Rida's "Low" as the year's top song, followed by Leona Lewis' "Bleeding Love," Alicia Keys' "No One," Lil Wayne's "Lollipop" and "Apologize" by Timbaland fea-

turing OneRepublic. Brown had three songs in the top 10: "With You," "Forever" and "No Air" with Sparks.

The rest of the charts are available on Billboard.com.

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The King is in the virtual world

MICHAEL LOLLAR

Scrrips Howard News Service

Elvis Presley is being resurrected once again — this time as an avatar with fellow singer and Memphis native Justin Timberlake — in a "virtual" world in which visitors can assume the two stars' identities as they network or play online games.

"This is uncharted territory for and other celebrities getting involved," said Graceland spokesman Kevin Kern, who said virtual worlds hold "huge potential for revenue from virtual goods."

Visitors to Gaia Online, one of the biggest virtual world gaming sites in the country, choose an avatar, or character, to represent themselves and can enhance or accessorize the character by buying items that represent the real-life character.

For Elvis, items for sale include blue suede shoes, a pompadour and a guitar. For Timberlake, they include a personalized microphone and a fedora.

Gaia Online vice president Scott Kinzie in San Jose, Calif., said Gaia has used two other celebrities, Snoop Dogg and The Incredible Hulk, as avatars and decided to use rock stars as the next venture. The choices were easy, he said.

"With Justin, well, he's Justin and is popular with everyone right now," Kinzie said. "Elvis is a bit more of a conceptual stretch for our audience, but he's a big part of the culture. So you kind of put icons together, one from the past, one from the present."

For Elvis, new formats are becoming second nature. Graceland has been staging "Elvis Live" concerts for years with Elvis appearing on video with live members of his former band. In death, he has ridden in a convertible with Dolly Parton in a Tennessee tourism commercial and sung a duet onstage with his daughter, Lisa Marie.

Holiday Treats

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III. AG asks high court to declare gov. unfit



Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan discusses removing Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich from office Thursday in Chicago.

CHRISTOPHER WILLS
The Associated Press
SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — In an unprecedented move, the Illinois attorney general asked the state's highest court Friday to strip scandal-plagued Gov. Rod Blagojevich of his powers.

Lisa Madigan took the action as pressure on the governor intensified to step down and lawmakers considered impeachment. And the fallout over the scandal continued Friday as the governor's chief of staff resigned; John Harris was arrested along with the governor on Tuesday.

Madigan said that she took the action with the Supreme Court because she thinks that this is a faster way to strip Blagojevich of his power than through impeachment, which could take several weeks.

"I recognize that this is an extraordinary request, but these are extraordinary circumstances," Madigan said at a news conference in Chicago.

Illinois Supreme Court spokesman Joseph Tybor would not comment on when the court might act on Madigan's motion, saying only that it "will be properly considered." The justices also have the discretion to deny the attorney general's request.

The move came as the governor prayed with several ministers in his home before heading to his office, telling them he is innocent and will be vindicated "when you hear each chapter completely written," according to one of the pastors.

The attorney general asked the court for a temporary restraining order or an injunction that prevents Blagojevich from serving as governor. The filing says he is "unable to serve as governor due to disability



Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich departs his home in Chicago Thursday.

and should not rightfully continue to hold that office."

"The pervasive nature and severity of these pending charges disable Mr. Blagojevich from making effective decisions on critical, time-sensitive issues," the filing said.

The filing asks that the lieutenant governor assume Blagojevich's powers.

It is the first time in Illinois history that such an action was taken. The attorney general is applying a rule that was intended to cover cases where a governor is incapacitated for health reasons. Her motion indicates that his inability to serve because of the scandal is akin to a debilitating health issue.

The motion essentially declares that Blagojevich's legal problems amount to a disability that would not be resolved until


he is either cleared of the charges or leaves office.

"Mr. Blagojevich is unable to distinguish between his financial interests and his official duties and between illegal acts and legal conduct, rendering him incapable of legitimately exercising his ability as governor," Madigan says in the motion.

Prior to Blagojevich's arrest, Madigan had already been considering a run for governor.

"His ability to provide effective leadership has been eliminated and the state government is paralyzed."

Just hours after Madigan's news conference, Blagojevich defiantly ignored the pressure to step down and signed a bill that would give insurance coverage to parents of children with autism.



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1 Card of Thanks

THANK YOU

The family of Maybel Scheiding would like to express their sincere appreciation to all who were involved in her care during her recent illness and death.

Special thanks go to Pastor James Witt and Pastor Joshua Lowe for the memorial service at Trinity Lutheran Church in Blue Hill and also to Pastor Greg Volzke for his visits and prayers while Maybel was hospitalized.

We thank the ladies of the Trinity Lutheran Missionary League for the wonderful luncheon they provided for us following the service at the church.

Many thanks go to the physicians and staff on fourth floor at Mary Lanning Hospital for her care while a patient there.

Thanks also go to all the nurses and staff on the 100 wing and the physical and occupational therapists at Perkins Pavilion during her stay there.

A very special thank you goes to all of Maybel's friends for the prayers, cards, flowers, visits and memorial gifts.

We will always remember everyone's loving care and kindness during her illness and since her death.

The family of Maybel Scheiding

8 Happy Ads

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Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 12/13

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FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 12/12

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NEW 2009 Polaris Sportsman 500 HO. Sale \$5,999
NEW 2009 Polaris Ranger 700. Sale Price \$10,599
PAUL SPADY MOTORS (402) 462-4105

48 Business Opportunities

FIRE YOUR BOSS!
Earn the income you deserve. Start a Mini-Office Outlet from home. Computer a must. www.goglobalfromhome.com

50 Employment Agencies

ADVANCE SERVICES
Employment Opportunities
213 S. Burlington
463-6685

51 Professional



Family Partner: Bachelor's degree in a Human Services field and six months experience working with at-risk youth/families. \$28,000.

Mileage provided. Comprehensive benefits package including: medical, dental, short/long term disability, 401k. Visit our website to see minimum requirements and apply online at www.visinetinc.com, call 402-898-8881, or in person at 1020 W. 2nd Street, Grand Island, NE 68801. EOE

Full-time Environmental Health/Safety Trainer/Coordinator

Central Community College, Columbus, Nebraska. **Qualifications:** Individual must have an Associate's degree in a field related to Environmental Health and Safety with a Bachelor's preferred. A minimum of 3 years experience needed working with OSHA regulations, federal guidelines for safety and environmental health, industrial safety regulations, procedures and practices and related topics. Working knowledge and application of water treatment, with water treatment and industrial waste water guidelines a plus. Strong preference will be given to individual with successful industrial training experience and OSHA certification. Prefer individual to have a comprehensive understanding of procedure involving coordinating, facilitating and developing training programs for business and industry. Strong communication, computer and training skills a must. Requires high level of interpersonal skills necessary to communicate effectively with employees and employers at various levels. **Responsibilities:** Setting up and training EH & S topics for business and industry in the Central Community College area. Position requires travel throughout CCC service area. **For more information, contact Douglas Adler by the closing date of: January 12, 2009, at 308-398-7327, email hr@cccneb.edu or check web site: www.cccneb.edu. EOC/AA**

TRIBUNE CLASSIFIED It works to sell used items every day. Call 461-1241.

51 Professional

HASTINGS COLLEGE Writer/Editor
HASTINGS COLLEGE has an opening for a full-time writer/editor. The person hired for this position will be responsible for writing and editing internal and external communications materials, including media releases, advertising copy, newsletters, and feature stories. This individual will work closely with all members of the college communications office. The successful candidate will have a college degree in a related area and excellent writing and editing skills. Experience in writing/editing in an educational setting desired. The ability to handle multiple projects and adapt to changing requirements/needs is essential.

Named a Great College To Work For (2008) by The Chronicle of Higher Education. Hastings College is an independent, coeducational, Presbyterian-related, nationally-ranked liberal arts college with an enrollment of over 1100 students.

Application Procedures
Candidates meeting the qualifications are encouraged to send a cover letter, resume, three samples of published writing, transcripts of all college and university work, and names of three professional references to:

Richard Lloyd,
Vice President
for College Initiatives,
P.O. Box 269,
Hastings College,
Hastings, NE 68902-0269
Phone (402) 461-7360.
Fax: (402) 461-7778.
E-mail: rlloyd@hastings.edu
To be assured full consideration, all materials should be received by January 5, 2009. To learn more about Hastings College, please visit our website at www.hastings.edu E.O.E.

List your ad, call 461-1241!



Full-time position to assist in maintaining information systems. Excellent salary and benefit package. Applicant must have skills in word processing, internet, networking, PC, and servers. Bachelor's or Associate's degree is preferred. See our website at www.thayercountyhealth.com Send resume attention Malissa Sittler, Director Human Resources, 120 Park Avenue, Hebron, NE 68370. For more information, call 402-768-4641. TCHS is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age.

DO YOU Want to earn cash for your Handyman services? Advertise in "A t Your Service". Call the Tribune for details. (402) 461-1241.

52 Educational

Part time Agribusiness Instructor
Central Community College, Hastings, Nebraska. **Qualifications:** Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture, Business, or a related degree. One year of occupational experience in farm management is required. **Responsibilities:** Agribusiness Instructor to teach a Farm Management lecture starting January 12 for the Spring 2009 semester on Monday and Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. **For more information contact Douglas Adler by the closing date of: December 23, 2008 at 308-398-7327, email hr@cccneb.edu or check web site www.cccneb.edu. EOC/AA**

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS and substitute paraeducators for school-age special needs classes for ESU #9. Teachers must have valid teaching or substitute certificate. Substitute paraeducators earn \$7.75 per hour. Mileage also paid. For application, contact Jan at 463-5611.

HAVE A Service to offer? Do you lay carpet, cater banquets, give music lessons? Call 461-1241 to advertise your specialty; ask for Joyce.

53 Health Care

CNA
Certified Nurse Aide positions available at Blue Hill Care Center. Flexible hours. If you enjoy working with seniors, give us a call and check out what's available. Apply at 414 N. Willson or call 756-2080, ask for Julie Ellis. EOE

FRONT OFFICE position with busy medical office. Must have proficient people skills with a caring and cheerful attitude. Multiple office tasks. Requires organizational skills and computer knowledge. Wage negotiable. Send resume to Box O, Hastings Tribune, P.O. Box 788, Hastings, NE 68902.

FULL-TIME position for RN/LPN for local medical practice. Benefits include 401k, pension profit sharing and cafeteria plan. Please send resume to: Box C, Hastings Tribune, P.O. Box 788, Hastings, NE 68901

A FINE BARGAIN can be found in the Classifieds. Call The Hastings Tribune, 402-461-1241.

53 Health Care

HELP WANTED: Full-time housekeeping and CNA/MA; full-time to part-time dietary aide; and part-time transportation driver. Apply at Grandview Manor, 148 Broad Street, Campbell, NE. 402-756-8701

MENTAL HEALTH Worker or Med Aide. Every other weekend. All shifts. Call 402-463-6021

MT/MLT: Memorial Community Health, located in Aurora, Nebraska, has an excellent opportunity as a full-time Laboratory Supervisor/Medical Technologist. Management experience preferred. Weekend and call rotation with response time of 15 minutes required. Join a friendly, team-oriented environment with a focus on patient satisfaction. Competitive wage and benefits offered. Please send resume to: Laurie Andrews, HR Supervisor at landrews@hamilton.net or call 402-694-8201.

NURSES

Craig HomeCare is looking for RNs and LPNs to provide in-home nursing care for children in Hastings. Full-time or part-time night shift available. Competitive wages, flexible scheduling and individualized training. For information, call Meghan, 877-382-1884 or apply at www.craighomecare.com

WANTED: FUN, HAPPY PERSON CNA or MA
Part-time hours
Inquire within at The Kensington, 233 N. Hastings Ave. No calls please.

54 Office/Clerical

Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital DEPARTMENT SECRETARY: Full-time position in our Auxiliary Department working Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Office reception, various clerical duties, excellent communication and customer service skills are required, computer skills are also necessary. Benefits include Health and Dental Insurance, Flexible Spending Account, 401(K) Retirement Plan, Disability Insurance and Life Insurance. Please apply in person in the Human Resource Office or on-line at www.mlmh.org. EOE.

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

54 Office/Clerical

FULL-TIME Receptionist position for local medical practice. Quick learner. People skills a must. Insurance knowledge helpful. Benefits include 401k, cafeteria plan. Please send resume to Box M, Hastings Tribune, P.O. Box 788, Hastings, NE 68902.

55 Sales

SALES CAREER
Seeking aggressive, people-oriented individual with lots of energy to market our product in rural areas. Travel 4 days and be home for 3. Intense company training, \$3,000 monthly training incentive, advancement opportunities and \$55,000+ first year income potential. For more information and/or interview, call Dan O'Mara, 866-326-4309.

TRIBUNE CLASSIFIED It works to sell used items every day. Call 461-1241.

57 Technical & Trade

BODY SHOP Technician: Full benefit package, new modern facility, latest equipment, outstanding compensation. Apply to Craig Melvin at Paul Spady Motors, 2850 Osborne Dr. East, Hastings.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
Immediate opening, developing wind-energy product line. Experience, PLC programming, AC/DC line and control wiring. Full time. Benefits. Apply at Merrick Machine Company, 104 Apollo Ave., Alda, NE 68810. 308-384-1780, Ext. 164.

ADVERTISE 16 words for 27 days in the At Your Service section of the Tribune and 4 weeks in the Encore! for only \$49 monthly. Call (402) 461-1241 for details.

NOW HIRING
Apply now to join a leader in agriculture serving 29 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 a reliable, hard working individual, apply today! Please call Brooke at (402) 463-5148 or visit any of our locations.

POSITIONS OPEN WITH CPI:

Campbell:	Plant Operator
Giltner:	Outside Grain/Fertilizer Tire Technician
	Outside Grain
Hayland	Custom Applicator
Minden:	Mechanic
Sutton:	Outside Grain/Fertilizer Tire Technician
Trumbull:	

BENEFITS:
• Health, life and dental insurance
• Two separate retirement plans
• Competitive wages
• Paid vacations and holidays

EOE/M/F
Chemical testing required
CPI
Cooperative Producers, Inc.

DHHS
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Central Service Area
Child & Family Services Specialist Supervisor #254-34112/Grand Island, NE
Salary \$19,435/hour-12/23/08
Bachelor's Degree Required-Bilingual Preferred
Supervise staff including Child & Family Service Specialist for Children, Adult & Juvenile Services, Case Aides & clerical support. Hire, evaluate performance, staff development, etc. Work with the community (schools, courts, law enforcement, county attorney and other resources) in developing relationships and partnerships for care of adult protective services and/or children and family services.
Requirements: Bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, sociology, counseling, human development, education or closely related fields & experience performing casework in any of the following areas: Counseling, protective services & safety, alcohol/drug abuse, juvenile justice/probation or social services delivery. Prefer experience as supervisor or assisting a supervisor within a protective service/case management function or program. Valid driver's license or the ability to provide independent authorized transportation. Bilingual skills in English and Spanish preferred.
New application is required for all applicants. Excellent benefits include health ins., paid leave, holidays & more. Please log onto www.wrk4neb.org for complete description of the position & to apply online. Application & supplemental forms are also available from your Workforce Development Office or call 402-460-3161.
AA/EOE/V

57 Technical & Trade

FORTUNE 500 Company seeking account representatives in the local area. We offer:
*Average first year of \$27,000 - \$35,000
*Advances
*Renewal commissions
*Performance bonuses
*Stock bonuses
*Management opportunities
*An excellent training program
*Incentive trips, awards, contests and much more
Previous sales experience is not required. For a confidential interview, please call 402-984-1679.

58 Ag Related

FULL-TIME FARM hand wanted. Irrigated row crop operation. Grand Island area. Experience necessary. 308-379-4568.

FULL-TIME FARM position available. Experience operating farm equipment and mechanical abilities preferred. We offer friendly atmosphere and competitive wages. 402-768-8306 or 365-4204.

59 Trucking

WANTED: OTR Grain haulers to lease on with NAS Trucking. Call Nate. 308-379-0963.

60 General

60 General

FRONT DESK AGENT
I-80 Holiday Inn has a full-time and part-time front desk position available. Applicant must have excellent customer service skills, and enjoy working in a fast-paced position. We offer competitive wages with excellent benefits. Apply at I-80 Holiday Inn.

Save up to 30%!
BY PREPAYING YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS.
461-1241

HASTINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS is accepting applications for the following positions:

-CLASSROOM PARAEDUCATORS (Prefer to have 48 hours of college credit to meet Federal guidelines)

Interested individuals may submit a letter of application to:
Human Resources Office
Hastings Public Schools
1924 West A Street
Hastings, NE 68901
402-461-7502
EOE

Closing date: Open until filled

Sell your unwanted item(s) in the Hastings Tribune Classifieds for quick results. Call 461-1241.

60 General

DIETARY POSITION
Full-time (32 hours) Dietary Aide, day shift. If you enjoy working with seniors, can work every other weekend, are compassionate and energetic, then we have a job for you. Call 402-756-2080 or stop in and see Sue Magarine. Blue Hill Care Center, 414 N. Willson. EOE

NEEDED: 15 PEOPLE
LOSE UP TO 30 POUNDS
30 DAYS \$30
ALL NATURAL
DOCTOR
RECOMMENDED
800-466-5770
30-30DIETPACK.COM

NOW HIRING. Apply in person at Git 'N Split, 819 E. South St. EOE

THE SPOUSE Abuse Sexual Assault Crisis Center has an opening for an advocate to work with victims of domestic and sexual violence and assist with community education. 30 hours per week. Applicants must be trustworthy, outgoing, self-motivated, and able to work with diverse populations. Open until filled. Apply at 220 S. Burlington, Suite 4. 402-463-5810.

Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
INTEGRATED CARE COORDINATION UNIT CARE COORDINATOR NEEDED
Region 3 Behavioral Health Services is seeking a Care Coordinator based out of the Hastings Health and Human Services office to serve children and adolescents with complex needs that are wards of the State of Nebraska through the Protection and Safety System (child welfare and juvenile justice). The wraparound approach and Family Center Practice approach will be utilized. Caseload will average 10 families per care coordinator. Bachelor's degree in social work, counseling, psychology, sociology, human development, education, or a related field is required plus a minimum of 2 years experience working with youth with complex needs. Intensive Wraparound training will be provided and HHS Protection and Safety training.
Region 3 Behavioral Health Services is a family friendly organization, offering competitive salary and generous benefits package. Persons of all colors, creeds, and ethnic backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Bi-lingual preferred. Interested individuals should send a letter of application, resume, and names of three professional references to: Bernie Hascall, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services, PO Box 2555, Kearney, NE 68848. Application deadline is 12/26/2008. EOE/AA

WELLS FARGO
Someday a career, not just a paycheck.
At Wells Fargo, we offer a variety of exciting career paths and opportunities, a diverse work environment and the flexibility to move within the company. That's why BusinessWeek named Wells Fargo one of the Top 25 Best Places to Launch a Career. Seize your someday and visit our career site at wellsfargo.com/careers today.
Join Us Career Fair
Tuesday, December 16
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wells Fargo Bank
747 N. Burlington Ave. Hastings
Visit with a Hiring Manager or Recruiter about
• Open Full Time Opportunities
• Our Tremendous Benefits
• Beginning your career with Wells Fargo
If you are unable to attend our Career Fair
Visit wellsfargo.com/careers
Create your personal profile and complete an application on-line.
Wells Fargo Bank is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer. M/F/D/V

Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital
EXCELLENT CNA OPPORTUNITIES
Excellent opportunity for full time employment with medical, dental, 401k, and many other benefits. MUST be certified in the state of Nebraska to be considered.
HOSPICE: Must be able to work independently while providing patient care and clerical activities in patients' homes. Includes assisting patient with activities of daily living and monitoring of condition, documentation of care activities, and other support services that assist the patient and family in the achievement of physical and emotional comfort. Will communicate with patient and family to ensure appropriate care and services, and will perform personal cares that facilitate receiving sanitary and safe care at home. All activities are performed under the direction of a Registered Nurse following MLMH patient care standards. Must be at least 18 years old, have a Nebraska Driver's License and liability insurance, and experience as a CNA. Full time, 36 hours per week, Monday through Friday.
BEHAVIORAL SERVICES: Full time night position to work with adults. Must be certified as a nursing assistant in the state of Nebraska, be at least 19 years old and have excellent work references. 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with rotating weekends. Experience preferred to be considered.
MED-SURG: Full time night position. Must be certified and be able to work weeknights from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. and rotating weekend nights. Consideration will be given only to those who are able to work full time nights. Experience is preferred; however, proven ability to be reliable with excellent work history is required.
For all CNA positions, professional references will be checked. Applications must be complete with work history and dates of employment. Apply in person in Human Resources or on line at www.mlmh.org.
EOE

Gibbon Packing, LLC
AMERICAN FOODS GROUP
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Gibbon Packing, LLC is seeking skilled Production Workers in Fabrication and Slaughter Departments. Open interviews will be conducted at Holiday Inn Express, 3605 Cimarron Plaza, Hastings, NE on Thursday December 18 from 4:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Benefit Package Includes
Group Health/Dental/Vision
Paid Vacation
Company Matching 401K
Company Paid Life Insurance
Company Paid Short Term Disability
Referral Bonus Potential
For more information contact:
ccase@americanfoodsgroup.com
(308) 468-5771 ext. 279 or ext. 240
(308) 468-5262 Fax
218 East HWY 30 Gibbon, NE 68840
EOE/AA

GREAT PAY, BENEFITS & ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY.
Gibbon Packing, LLC
SEEKING PRODUCTION WORKERS!
Fabrication & Harvest
\$11.80 - \$17.65
General Requirements: Must be able to use a knife in a fast paced environment. Hours vary based on production needs. Some overtime required.
Incentives & Benefits:
• Medical Insurance
• Dental Insurance
• Paid Holidays
• Vision
• 401 (k)
• Life Insurance
• Paid Vacation
• Bonus Potential
AMERICAN FOODS GROUP
American Foods Group is an industry leader that provides its customers & partners with wholesome, safe food. We care for our employees & will give you training resources & benefits to succeed.
Equal Opportunity Employer
Gibbon Packing, LLC
218 East Hwy. 30, Gibbon, NE 68840
Fax 308-468-5262 • Email: ccase@americanfoodsgroup.com

Looking to Join an Industry Leader?
Airgas, largest distributor of industrial, medical, and specialty gases and related equipment in US, has opportunities for an Account Manager and a Warehouse/ Back up Driver in our Hastings, NE location. Candidates with knowledge of the welding process and supplies used in that process are encouraged to apply.
The **Warehouse/ Back up Driver/Inside Sales** will load and unload trailers, handle warehouse and inside counter sales. Candidates will possess a High School Diploma, previous sales experience, and the ability to provide outstanding customer service. Other qualifications include computer/data entry skills, the ability to routinely lift 25-50 lbs and occasionally lift 51-80 lbs, and the ability to read and comprehend material safety data sheets. Class B CDL with Hazmat and clean driving record is also required.
The **Account Manager** will be asked to develop relationships with customers; prepare annual sales analysis, serve as the liaison between our customer and Airgas' internal operations. Account Manager candidates will pursue and acquire, new and competitive accounts as well as expand our existing customer based with all product lines. Candidates will have a high school diploma or equivalent, 3 to 5 years of sales experience, have demonstrated competence in sales and exceptional communication skills.
Qualified and interested candidates are encouraged to submit a letter of interest and resume electronically to northcentral.hr@airgas.com. Please reference Hastings as the position you are applying for on your emails, letters or resumes. Mailed letters/resumes are accepted at:
Airgas North Central
Attn: Human Resources
6191 McKinley Street
Ramsey, MN 55303
Airgas is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and promotes a Drug Free Work Environment.

60 General

AVON Cash bonuses. Unlimited earnings. Website. Call today, 1-888-462-AVON, extension 25393.

61 Part Time

ACTIVITY SUPERVISION: Doniphan-Trumbull Public School is seeking a person to fill a part-time position assisting the District with school activity supervision. This position requires afternoon, evening and weekend supervision of school activities. If interested, contact the Superintendent's office for an application.

Head Start Child and Family Development Program, Inc. Part Time

Para-Professional Part time Para-Professional needed for the Hastings Head Start. \$8.05/hour, paid time off, 401k, and training opportunities are available. Bilingual applicants are highly encouraged to apply. Must have a minimum of a high school diploma or GED. An Associate degree in Early Childhood Education is preferred.

For more information, call 402-462-4187 or 1-800-782-7850 or stop by 123 Marian Rd to pick up an application. **Applications will only be accepted until 12/17/08 EOE**

PART-TIME MUSICIAN needed: Contemporary worship. Leadership position with the Praise Band and Singers, directing and planning music for worship in conjunction with the Pastor and Worship Committee. Preference is for someone with experience in contemporary worship music leadership. Contact: gipresby.org; 308-382-0930; Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, 2103 W. Anna St., Grand Island, NE 68803.

UPLANDER HOUNDSMAN DOG BOXES/DOG HOUSES
New and Used
Tim Brewster
1-308-380-6515
Great gift idea for the hunter!

61 Part Time

PART-TIME Medication aide needed. Medical insurance, vision and dental available. Apply in person at The Homestead Assisted Living, 1116 Sycamore Ave., Hastings, NE or online at www.midwest-health.com/careers

PART-TIME WORK
Crop Insurance Adjuster position available. Farm background or prior experience a plus but not necessary. Flexible travel required. Please send resume to:

Crop Insurance Adjuster
Position
Box E
c/o Hastings Tribune
P.O. Box 788
Hastings, NE 68902

WANTED: Someone wanting to earn extra cash by washing/pressing my dress shirts weekly. Live at Lochland. 402-768-3034.

62 Child Care

LICENSED CHILD care has openings. 402-461-6917.

70 Pets

AMERICAN BULLDOG pups: NKC registered. Ready at Christmas. 6 males, 3 females. \$500-\$600. 402-469-7800.

CHRISTMAS PONIES: Gentle, friendly, miniature mares. Delivery on Christmas. \$350. 402-746-2867.

CHRISTMAS PUPPIES: AKC Golden Retrievers ready for Christmas. Shots, dew clawed. 402-768-2662 or 402-768-3595

FOSTER HOMES needed for rescued boxers. Fee required. Email: boxer rescuer@charter.net

MALE and FEMALE Corgi pups: Fawn and white, shots, wormed. \$200. 308-383-1379 after 2 p.m.

SHIH TZU and Griffy puppies. Adult Birman cats. 469-0784

SHIH TZU puppies: 2 females. Ready to go. \$275. 402-984-4930.

TEDDY BEARS, Chihuahua pups ready now. Around Christmas will have Shih Tzu poodle mix. 402-879-3152.

72 Free Pets

FREE PUPPIES to good home: Lab/heeler mix, 12 weeks old. 402-756-2966.

76 Furnishings

USED 3-PIECE furniture set: Couch, sofa, chair. \$100. Gary, 462-4807.

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.

REFURBISHED Gateway E4000 P4 computers, XP Pro. 1999, 984-8001.

81 Musical Items

JUPITER TROMBONE: Used 1 semester. \$250. 402-984-5224.

96 Want To Buy

LOOKING for '67 or '68 Camaro, in any condition, running or not. 460-1848.

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

100 Unfurnished Apartments

1-BEDROOM: 742 S. Minnesota. \$275/month. No pets. 461-4075, message.

2 1-BEDROOMS: Basement. \$275 and \$425 plus electricity. 408-248-1464 or 402-461-0442.

2-BEDROOM apartment in Juniata. All appliances, central heat/air. Tenant pays electric and gas. No pets. \$400/\$200 deposit. References. 402-751-2166

2-BEDROOM: Appliances, laundry hookups. \$365-\$465. No pets. **Embassy Square** 462-4032

2-BEDROOM: Laundry hookups. \$475. Internet furnished. 402-746-2747.

2-BEDROOM: Off-street parking. All utilities paid. No pets. \$375 deposit/rent 402-463-0458.

100 Unfurnished Apartments

BRENTWOOD MANOR

Fully furnished, all inclusive. No pets. Agent. 463-0843.

2 and 3 BEDROOM Duplexes: Everyone knows California Pines and South Pines are great places to live. We are currently 100% full. If a move is in your future give us a call and we'll call you when we have an opening. 402-469-0830. www.perryreid.com EHO

EFFICIENCY 1-BEDROOM: Laundry facilities, garbage pickup. No pets/smoking. \$275 rent/deposit. Utilities paid. 402-463-1854 or 463-0057.



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.

PREPAY YOUR classified ads and save 30%.

100 Unfurnished Apartments

CHATEAU IMPERIAL

Townhomes and Apartments
Call Jeff Today
402-463-4111

EXTRA NICE: Large 2-bedroom penthouse apartment at Depot Plaza. Fireplace, central air, dishwasher, Mexican tile. Call Diane, 469-4777.

HERITAGE MANOR
Affordable living for seniors and persons with disabilities. 1-bedroom units. Community center, laundry facilities available. Utilities paid. We are currently 100% full, but if a move is in your future, please stop by 945 West H for an application. We look forward to serving your housing needs.

PARKLANE APARTMENTS (MALL AREA)

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

2- AND 3-BEDROOM: \$400-\$460 at Regency Heights Apartments. Controlled entry, 100% money-saving electric, large apartments. Call 402-462-5205 or apply online. www.perryreid.com/regencyheights

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

THE TOWNHOUSES

2- and 3-bedroom units available. Income-based housing. Large living space. Utility allowances. Many refurbished units. No pets. Stop by 945 West H for an application.

102 Duplexes For Rent

3-BEDROOM: Central air. Appliances, laundry facilities. Agent. Call 461-6482.

104 Houses For Rent

2- and 3-BEDROOM: 822 E. 2nd and 622 E. 3rd. No pets. Deposit. 463-9748.

2-, 3- AND 4-BEDROOM: Rent to own. Air, garage. \$500-\$950. 402-461-3213.

2-BEDROOM: 1,400 sq. ft. main level, open floor plan, full basement, appliances, 2-car garage, fenced yard. No smoking/pets. \$725 plus deposit/lease. 402-850-0140.

2-BEDROOM: Appliances, off-street parking. References. \$550. 469-3539.

2-BEDROOM: In Minden. Stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer hookup, garage. \$450. 308-440-7258.

2-BEDROOM: Small, very clean. No pets. References. \$450/\$450. 463-3096.

2-Bedroom: 613 S. Lincoln-\$425; 1-bedroom-607 S. Boston \$350. 461-4075

3+ BEDROOM: 2-bath. 2112 W. 6th. No smoking/pets. \$650. 463-2917

3-BEDROOM: 2018 W. 2nd. No smoking/pets. Garage. \$595. 461-4763

IN JUNIATA: 3-bedroom, 2-bath, air, garage. References. \$450. 460-9626.

NEW 3-BEDROOM: No smoking/pets. 460-7047 \$975. cicadadwellings.com

105 Mobile Homes For Rent

HARD TO find another this NICE! 2-bedroom, 2-bath. No smoking. #31 Bonnavilla Plaza. \$495. References. 402-463-8830.

106 Shared Living

ROOM FOR Rent: Use of all facilities, cable. \$400. No smoking. 463-9648.

107 Want To Rent

NEW TO Hastings. Looking for 2-bedroom house to rent. Have pets. Long term. 360-306-1697 or 402-902-9800

109 Business Property

DOWNTOWN RETAIL/COMMERCIAL SPACE 609 W. 2nd. 460-7047.

111 Storage/Warehouse

30'x60' SHOP for rent. Call Diane, 463-8181 or 469-4777.

7,000 SQ. FT.: Offices, fenced area. 113 S. Lincoln. Call 402-461-1785.

NEW WORKSHOPS: 25'x30', heat, water, electricity. Call 402-469-5705.

WORKSHOPS AND storage for rent. Many sizes. Baths. Heated and non-heated. Agent, 462-0594.

113 Lots For Rent

HASTINGS Campground: New ownership. Daily, weekly and monthly rates. Pool, hot tub, WIFI, laundry and game room. 402-462-5621.

LONG-TERM RV lots. Pool and cable provided. Kingswood Plaza, Hastings. 402-201-9670.

115 Acreages For Sale

ACREAGE LESS than 10 miles from Hastings. 3+-bedroom, 2.5-bath ranch with finished loft, fireplace, oversized 2-car garage and heated Morton building. Over 3,500 sq. ft. on 4.25 acres. 402-744-4811.

116 Houses For Sale

2-BEDROOM Townhouse. Very nice. \$49,900. 402-461-1785.

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Legals

Notice of Meeting
The Clay Center School Board of Education will meet Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. An agenda is available at the Superintendent's Office.
David Powell, Secretary
December 13, 2008

Notice

Estate of BARBARA G. DILLIN, Deceased. Case No. PR08-163.

TO: All Persons Interested in Said Estate

Notice is hereby given that on the 9th day of December, 2008, in the Adams County Court, at Hastings, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal probate of the Will of Barbara G. Dillin, Deceased. Steven D. Dillin, who resides at 722 North Baltimore, Hastings, Nebraska, has been appointed Personal Representative of this Estate.

Creditors of this Estate must present their claims on or before the 16th day of February, 2009, or be forever barred.

Dated this 9th day of December, 2008.

Tom Hawes
Clerk of the County Court

Mark A. Beck, #18760
Beck Law Office, P.C.
P.O. Box 10
Hastings, Nebraska
68902-0010

December 13, 20, 27, 2008

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

The following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder immediately inside the South doors of the Adams County Courthouse, 500 West 4th, in the City of Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska, on January 6, 2009, at 1:00 p.m., pursuant to the power of sale granted in the Deed of Trust recorded on the 29th day of December, 2004, as Instrument #20046434 in the Adams County Register of Deeds:

A tract of land in the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section Twenty-five (25), Township Eight (8) North, Range Twelve (12), West of the 6th P.M. in Adams County, Nebraska, said tract being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Northeast Corner of Section Twenty-five (25), Township Eight (8) North, Range Twelve (12), West of the 6th P.M. in Adams County, Nebraska; thence South on the East line of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of said Section Twenty-five (25), a distance of 923.38 feet to the Actual Point of Beginning; thence continuing South along the said East line a distance of 533.79 feet; thence West a distance of 582.01 feet; thence North 26 degrees 07'40" West a distance of 188.73 feet; thence North 01 degrees 00'00" East a distance of 364.36 feet; thence East a distance of 658.70 feet, more or less, to the Point of Beginning, containing 7.9618 acres, more or less, of which 0.4044 acres is presently being occupied by a public road along the easterly 33.0 feet thereof. The above legal description designated as Augustin Acres, a subdivision to the County of Adams, Nebraska and

Lot One (1), Shurigar Subdivision, Adams County, Nebraska according to the recorded plat thereof

The successful bidder for each tract will deliver a non-refundable deposit in the sum of \$10,000.00 on each property in the form of a cashiers check or bank money order made payable to Michael R. Snyder, Trustee, at the time of the auction. The balance of the purchase price is due and payable in full at the office of the Trustee, 4007 6th Avenue, Suite 37, Eagles Nest Plaza, Kearney, Nebraska, at 2:30 p.m. on the day of the sale in the form of cash, cashiers check or bank money order. The sale may be postponed from day to day or time to time without further notice other than notice announced at the time and place of the sale or postponed sale.

Michael R. Snyder, Trustee
November 22, 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2008

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Legals

Public Notice
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Central Plains Energy Project (CPEP) will meet on Wednesday, December 17, 2008, beginning at 10:00 a.m., Central Time, in the Lotus Conference Room, Magnolia Hotel, 1615 Howard Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

An agenda kept continually current is available for public inspection at the offices of the Metropolitan Utilities District of Omaha, Nebraska, 3100 South 61st Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska. The meeting will be open to the public.

Please contact James J. Knight (402) 504-7771, if any additional information is needed.
December 13, 2008

Notice

In the County Court of Adams County, Nebraska Estate of DONALD H. BONNHAM, Deceased. Estate Case No. PR08-156

Notice is hereby given that on November 21, 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 Donald J. Bonham, whose address is 760 South Shore Drive, 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 January 30, 2009, 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
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Attorney for Applicant
November 29, December 6, 13, 2008

Hastings Tribune **YELLOW PAGES**

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Daryl hits slow gear

My husband, Daryl, went out the other day to do chores. I didn't think much of it since it's an everyday occurrence.

We were scheduled to leave for his parents' house as soon as he got done with his chores. I wasn't quite through packing, so I hurried and got that done. Then I made sure we had a couple of pillows and I had a book to read.

He wasn't back inside by the time I was ready, so I sat down and watched television. I'm not usually home during the day and hadn't realized that there was nothing worth watching on a weekday on our four-channel selection.

I decided it would be a good time to change the sheets on our bed. It would be nice to have clean sheets when we got back. I did that and put fresh towels in the bathroom. Then I scrubbed the toilet and cleaned out the bathtub.

He still wasn't back in yet. I looked at the clock and wondered if I should go looking for him. It really shouldn't have taken him this long.

Instead, I got my book out of my baggage and started a new story. I read for a while, then decided I needed a snack. I made my snack and enjoyed it, then went back to my book.

Eventually, I looked at the clock again and decided maybe I should go look for him. I was bundling up in my coat and hat when the back door opened and in he came.

"Are you ready to go?" I asked him.

He shook his head. "I still have to shower and pack my bag."

I didn't know that, or I could have packed his bag for him. I left him to it and went back to my book. The next time I looked up, the better part of an hour had gone by.

"Have you drowned up there?" I hollered up the stairs. "Nope," he hollered back, "I'm just getting out of the bathroom."

I shrugged and started hauling my bags to the car. While I was outside, I cleaned some miscellaneous junk out of the car and then went back in.

There was no sign of Daryl or his bags. I found him in the living room watching one of those judge shows.

"Are you ready to go?" I asked.

Sure, he replied. He just had to pack his bags.

I asked him if he was going to do that yet that day, or were we going to wait until the next day to leave.

He sighed heavily and got

Please see SLOW/page C2



Denise Andersen

Windstream cuts hit Hastings

TWO POSITIONS HERE
TO BE ELIMINATED

JOHN HUTHMACHER
johnh@hastingstribune.com

Two Hastings employees are among the 30 Windstream Corp. employees in Nebraska whose positions will be eliminated in the workforce reduction plan announced last week, corporate spokesman David Avery said Wednesday.

There were no details given as to which positions will be eliminated. The 170 positions disappearing nationwide represent about 2.3 percent of Windstream's 7,400-strong workforce, Avery said.

"There are two reasons for doing this: to adjust to business needs, and to

control expenses in this challenging economy," Avery said. "The communications business is very competitive, and that continues to create revenue pressure on phone companies. We're simply restructuring our workforce to control expenses in this challenging economy."

Local operations manager Cris Wright said Wednesday the company's reduction plan is slated to take effect on Jan 5, 2009. Windstream currently employs 20 workers at the Hastings office.

With its announced cuts, Windstream's Nebraska workforce will dip below 400 employees, with the majority of cuts affecting employees in the Lincoln area, Avery said.

Voluntary buyouts and retirement packages figure to play a significant role

in the reduction process, he said.

"As part of the reduction initiative, we are seeking volunteers in certain locations across the country," Avery said. "We're not disclosing details regarding the volunteer effort, but we expect to eliminate about 170 positions both involuntary and voluntary."

Windstream's decision to eliminate positions reflects both the ongoing economic decline and ever-increasing competition in the communications business. Avery said cable television companies — for the most part — represent Windstream's primary competition, with wireless companies pulling a fair share of business from the younger demographic, as well.

"We're seeing a decline in access lines overall, primarily from increased

competition," Avery said. "As cable TV companies roll out voice services in addition to their Internet and TV services, they are really our primary competition across the country, although you do see some wireless substitution where people are going wireless. That's generally with the younger generation."

The unstable economy will dictate whether additional workforce reductions are deemed necessary in the future, Avery said.

"I can't really speculate," he said. "Everybody is closely watching the economy and seeing what it may do. We're simply trying to anticipate the challenges that we'll face in the tough economy in 2009. The reduction was done with that reality in mind."



ANNA MOSTEK/Tribune

Above: A bag of beef jerky flavored sunflower seeds is packaged, sealed and labeled at the RU Nuts warehouse in Lincoln Thursday. Below: JR's Gourmet Sunflower Seeds come in seven flavors: Beef Jerky, Chicken Noodle Soup, White Cheddar, Hot Cajun, Roasted Salted, Low Salt, Roasted Garlic and Cinnamon Toast is coming soon.

Seeds of success

SUTTON SNACK FIRM
IN GROWTH MODE

TONY HERRMAN
therрман@hastingstribune.com

SUTTON — Local company JR's Gourmet Sunflower Seeds has seen some changes in its operations during the past year.

These changes began when Sutton resident Jim Rolfe approached Sutton native Patrick Kassebaum, a business strategist who now lives in Lincoln, about revamping a staid family business.

"He came to me and said, 'You know what? I'm tired of doing this. It's not going anywhere. What do I need to do?'" Kassebaum said.

So Kassebaum created a to-do list of actions it would take to make the company successful.

"He looked at it and said 'this looks good to me,'" said Kassebaum, who now co-owns the business with Rolfe and others.

Among the changes made to JR's included reorganizing the business's corporate structure. Attorneys and accountants became partners.

"It hasn't been all super easy," Kassebaum said. "Everything just went into place well."

Kassebaum said JR's revenue was doubled in the first 90 days once he took over.

"We brought in all these people; each had their own expertise," he said. "Jim was really



happy. It's better to have 20 percent of \$1 million rather than 100 percent of \$5."

One of the first distribution relationships Kassebaum established was with Randy Ralston, general manager for Lincoln bulk food distributor R.U. Nuts.

Kassebaum brought samples to a meeting, and both men said Ralston made up his mind on the spot to partner with JR's.

"He put them in his mouth, he said 'I'll take them,' and it didn't even take 30 seconds," Kassebaum said.

Ralston is so confident in JR's potential for success that pictures of the company's different flavors — beef jerky, chicken soup, garlic, roasted salt, hot Cajun and low-salt — are on the front of the store page on the R.U. Nuts Web site.

"I've been in the bulk food business for years and years, and I've never seen any novelty food like that," Ralston said.

Please see SEEDS/page C2

Credit problems hurting ag markets

If recent conversations with elevator managers and farmers are even slightly predictive, it's gonna' be a long, cold winter in corn and soybean country because the majority of 2008 grain, they say, is — gulp — unpriced.

Wow.

In my flat, black and beautiful neighborhood, that's a

killer on land that giggled up 200-bushel corn and 55-bushel soybeans this year. June's where's-it-gonna'-end \$7 corn market had many farmers projecting gross revenues of \$1,400 per acre and net revenues between \$500 to \$700 an acre.

Likewise, bean returns were tall, too: \$900 or so gross, \$500 or better net.

Wow.

Today, though, those figures are last night's dream. Local cash corn is \$2.85 and beans

are a dime under \$8. That means gross revenue per acre for either crop is now equal to or less than net just six months ago and net, well, there is no net — literally and figuratively.

Worse, despite strong supply and demand fundamentals, this year's price collapse shows no sign of abating. Since late September, every major commodity market has tanked.

In fact, if you draw downward trend lines from Sept. 23's action on futures price charts for corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, cattle and hogs, every line would be as steep as a playground slide — 30 to more than 45 degrees downward.

The date is no more coincidental than the ensuing steep slide. Sept. 23 was one week after the Bush administration announced its \$700-billion bank bailout package and two days before a clearly divided Congress hoped to vote on it.

The package, like the vote, was unprecedented, and no one knew what it really meant. That was especially true, it turns out, for Congress, the U.S. Treasury, the Federal

Please see GUEBERT/page C2



Alan Guebert

FACES OF BUSINESS: David Biehl



TONY HERRMAN/Tribune

David Biehl's sculpture, "Canyon Bound," is displayed at his business Heartland Veterinary Supply near Hastings.

Veterinarian's passion for art now on display

BIEHL HAS FEEL
FOR ANIMAL FORMS

TONY HERRMAN
therрман@hastingstribune.com

The connection one Hastings

veterinarian has made between his love of art and knowledge of animal anatomy now is on display in a regional venue.

Ten of David Biehl's bronze sculptures are on display in a solo show, "Wildlife and the Animal Human Bond" at the Minden Opera House till Jan. 15. An artist's reception honoring Biehl is planned for 4-6 p.m.



Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that profiles business owners within Hastings. To submit ideas, contact business editor Erik Buderus at 402-461-1257 or ebuderus@hastingstribune.com.

Saturday at MOH.

"I've always had an interest in art, and I used to do some painting," he said. "I started painting actually when I was in veterinary school."

Biehl, 57, said he grew up on a farm northwest of Lexington where there was always plenty of livestock and at least a dozen horses.

Most of the 14 sculptures Biehl has created are of horses.

"Horses are by far the easiest for me to do because those were the animals I was around the most and as a veterinarian that was my specialty," he said.

Biehl, who is not currently a practicing vet, launched his business, Heartland Veterinary Supply, as an online retailer in 1996.

"We're growing every year," he said.

The business currently has 18 employees. Biehl opened a 14,000-square-foot store at 401 W. 33rd St. in December 2006,

Please see FACES/page C2

Great Dames closing soon, owner says

BACK ALLEY BAKERY
TO TAKE OVER LOCATION

JOHN HUTHMACHER
johnh@hastingstribune.com

After five years in downtown Hastings, Great Dames gift store for women is calling it quits.

Despite a fairly steady stream of regular customers, owner Julie Zoucha said, the business located at 609 W. Second St. simply isn't profitable enough to continue.

"I have four kids in college and two juniors in high school, so I decided it was time to do something else to make money," Zoucha said Wednesday. "We've had really loyal customers, and the business as a whole has gone really well. It was just at the end of the lease and time to figure out what to do next."

The "all girls" store, which offers such items as wine glasses, books, jewelry, purses, greeting cards, and humorous novelty gifts,

figures to close its doors by the end of the year or early January, Zoucha said. In its place, the Back Alley Bakery will expand its operation forward inside the building, which will enable customers to access the bakery from Second Street.

Co-owner Charlotte Hamburger, who runs the bakery with her husband, John, and daughter, Ellen, confirmed Wednesday that the store has reached a verbal agreement with building owners Todd and Cody Brown to occupy the soon-to-be vacated space.

"We're very excited, Hamburger said. "People will actually be able to see there is a bakery there and not have to creep down a dark, dangerous alley to find us."

Hamburger said the family will work with the Browns to restore the aged building to its original look. Renovations likely will begin in early 2009 and figure to take about two months to complete, she said.

"That's our plan," she said. "We're going to take the panels off the walls and expose

the historical building."

With the store's new high-visibility presence, the Hamburgers expect to expand store hours to accommodate the anticipated increase in business, she said. Presently, the bakery operates Tuesday through Saturday.

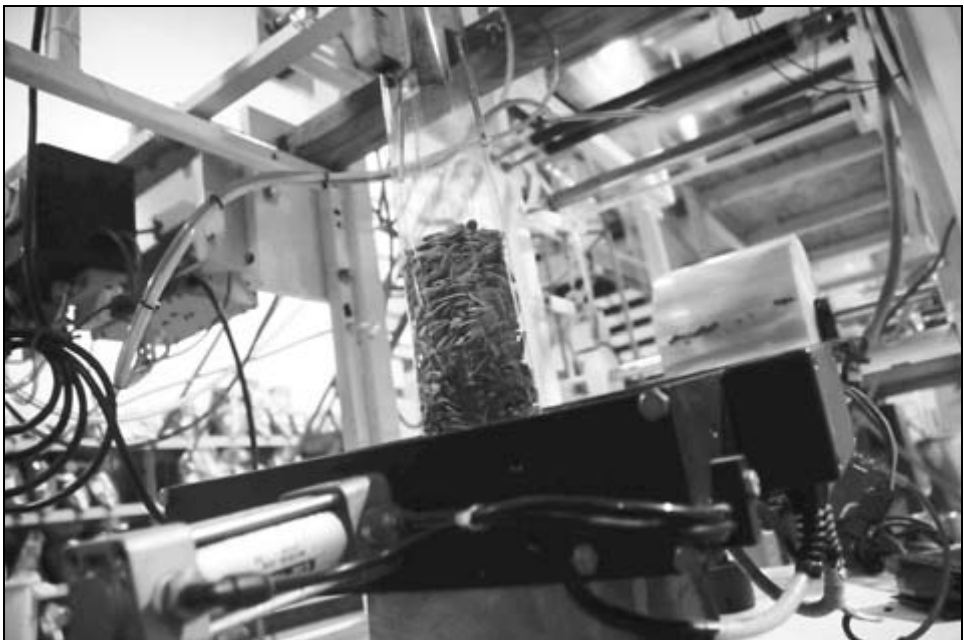
"We're thinking in terms of being in line with the rest of Second Street stores," she said. "Maybe Monday through Saturday."

As Great Dames heads into its final days, Zoucha said, she will offer all the furniture, antiques, and fixtures inside the store for purchase, along with reduced prices on store inventory.

Though her plans remain uncertain, she said, she may look into continuing her education to pursue a career in occupational therapy. She holds a bachelor's degree in counseling from Wayne State College.

Zoucha said she will greatly miss her day-to-day interaction with customers.

"I've loved having a connection with the women coming in," she said. "I've loved every minute of it. I've learned a lot."



ANNA MOSTEK/Tribune

A bag of beef jerky flavored sunflower seeds is packaged, sealed and labeled at the RU Nuts warehouse in Lincoln Thursday.

Seeds: Sutton firm in growth mode

Continued from page C1

The seeds are prepared in Sutton. It's there that production manager Gordy Nuss seasons and cooks them in 50-pound portions.

The seeds then are sent to the R.U. Nuts warehouse in Lincoln where they are packaged into four-ounce bags.

Nuss said it was important to him to get involved with JR's to sustain and grow a struggling local business.

"With everyone throwing a little time at that, then maybe we could get that accomplished," he said. "In a small community, you hate to see any businesses go away."

He said other than a friendship that dates back to high school, he didn't know why Kassebaum asked him to oversee production.

"Jim didn't want to take care of the production side; Patrick asked me if I wanted to oversee the production side," Nuss said.

Besides his nearly life-changing experience with the seeds themselves, Ralston said he wanted to partner with JR's because he liked working with Kassebaum and Nuss.

"We like to support the smaller opera-

tions and they have a novelty product that isn't like anything I've seen," Ralston said.

While sunflower seeds are on the bottom of the snack food totem pole, Ralston said, it won't take long for JR's to change that perception.

"Quickly, I think I'm going to be able to sell thousands, maybe hundreds of thousands of packages of these seeds," Ralston said.

JR's and R.U. Nuts currently are looking at doing some business with Rucker's Wholesale and Service, a Bridgeport, Ill., business that has about 50 distribution centers and supplies several thousand convenience stores nationwide.

R.U. Nuts' primary customers are Nebraska grocery stores. Ralston said about 90 percent of the company's sales come from within the state.

The distributors do annually see about \$100,000 in sales from the Web site.

"All in all, the sky's the limit if we can get these into the hands of the people who make the decisions," Ralston said.

"Basically if they're trying them, they'll have to buy them."

Faces: Biehl's passion for art on display

Continued from page C1

to sell products locally as well as organize an operation that includes a catalog with a circulation of 100,000 copies.

He and his wife, Cindy, have three adult children. Brad is in business with them, Liz is a dentist in Wahoo, and Ben is a fourth-year student in Creighton Medical School in Omaha.

Biehl graduated from vet school at Kansas State University in 1976.

As he attended art shows, he said, he began to notice that bronze sculptures intrigued him more than any other medium.

Biehl was a self-taught artist, but he said he was influenced by the work of former Hastings resident Herb Mignery.

Mignery's bronze sculptures became so popular that he and his wife, Sherry, moved to Estes Park, Colo., to be closer to Art Castings Inc., the foundry in Loveland, Colo., where his sculptures are bronzed.

Art Castings also is where Biehl takes his sculptures.

"When I first saw it I was really taken aback at how good it was for how much experience he had," Mignery said about Biehl's work. "That was a number of years ago, and I was really very much impressed by the

quality of work he was putting out as a beginner. His grasp of animal anatomy was really good for a beginner."

Biehl's ability to translate his knowledge of animal anatomy into sculpture is what impressed Mignery the most about Biehl's work.

"I think probably from what I remember was his grasp of animal anatomy, which is generally accepted as a no-brainer for veterinarians, but that is not always the case," he said. "Just because one is a veterinarian or a doctor means they know their anatomy. That does not mean they can interpret it by their hands."

Mignery also was impressed with the composition — which he defined as the arrangement of content for a maximization of action and movement — Biehl included in his sculptures.

"That is an important fact of sculpture and painting: unless you compose work properly, it will not appeal to the eye," Mignery said. "If it's not composed properly, it will not attract attention. If it is, it will pull the viewers' attention to the center of the piece."

Biehl creates his sculptures out of clay, building them at home in the garage or on the kitchen table during

evenings and weekends.

"I like to finish them and then put them away and not think about them for three or four weeks," he said. "A lot of times I'll see some changes I want to make after I've let it sit for a few weeks. I'll take a final look and then maybe make some minor alterations."

Once the clay sculpture is completed, he'll take it to the foundry, where a mold is created.

"I don't actively seek out buyers, but from word of mouth I've sold quite a few sculptures locally and I've sold some in California, New Mexico, Nevada, the East Coast," he said.

He likes the imagination and hands-on aspect involved in creating sculpture, he said.

"It's relaxing for me to do it, and then there's a sense of accomplishment when you're done," Biehl said.

The exhibit of Biehl's work at the Minden Opera House will be available for viewing during regular MOH business hours Monday through Saturday, as well as prior to scheduled evening public performances. For more information, call 308-832-0588 or visit www.minden-operahouse.com.

Guebert: Credit crunch squeezing ag sector

Continued from page C1

Reserve, and the stunned-silent White House.

The markets knew, though; they did what they always do in times of uncertainty — they sold. And since it was a time of great uncertainty, Wall Street and LaSalle Street sold greatly. That day, the Dow tumbled 372 points to (this is gonna' hurt) 11,015.

The first few days that week, Sept. 22, 23 and 24, also marked the harvest season peak for December corn futures at \$5.72 per bushel, January beans at \$12.03, December wheat at \$7.50, March cotton at 69 cents, December hogs at \$67.35 and December fat cattle at \$104.25.

Since then, holding any market instrument (stock certificates, corn, cattle) has been similar to holding razor wire: a bloody mess. Both the equity and commodity mar-

kets have moved lockstep downward.

Just how lockstep? The two more resemble Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers than independent markets, reckons DTN senior market analyst Darin Newsom.

In a recent analysis, Newsom compared the "correlation between the Dow Jones and Reuters/Jeffries CRB Index," an index, he explained, "of a basket of commodity prices, including energies and grains..." His findings, noted in a Dec. 3 story, show that "over the last year... the two markets mov(ed) together, up or down, 82 percent of the time."

In contrast, the two danced cheek-to-cheek only 59 percent of the previous decade's trading days.

Wow.

When Newsom focused on "just the last six months, the correlation (grew) even

stronger, coming in at 91 percent." A tighter focus on September through November showed "the markets moving together an astounding 96 percent of the time."

Wow. Wow.

Little wonder today's commodity markets are bent beyond reality: The failure of the administration's bailout plan to reignite credit markets has all markets following Wall Street's stumbling lead. Commodity markets will climb when the Dow climbs and the Dow will climb when credit loosens.

So, when's that?

I don't know, but I'd bet an avalanche of grain will hit the market about 10 seconds later.

Alan Guebert can be reached at P.O. Box 648, Delavan, IL 61734 or e-mail at agcomm@sbcglobal.net.

Beware of gift cards this holiday season

LESLEY MITCHELL

Salt Lake Tribune

Starbucks is peddling \$100 worth of gift cards for only \$79 at Costco. Outback Steakhouse will give you a bonus \$20 gift card with the purchase of \$100 in gift cards.

A host of other retail and restaurant companies are offering all kinds of perks to get shoppers to buy such cards this year, but should you, given the number that either are going out of business or closing locations?

"If you hear a retailer or restaurant is having trouble and laying off people, you may want

to be a bit cautious about buying a gift card from them," said Bill Hardekopf of LowCards.com, a Web site that tracks the credit card industry.

But how do you know whether a company is in trouble? Obviously, Mervyn's and Linens-N-Things are going out of business. But what about Circuit City, which filed bankruptcy but hopes to reorganize? Or Kmart, which is closing some stores to shore up its financial condition?

It's not likely that you'll get your money back from a gift card should a company go out of business, said Kevin Olsen,

director of Utah's consumer protection unit. Consumers ended up with millions in worthless cards after Sharper Image called it quits.

"Consumers need to understand if the company isn't around after the holidays, that gift card is worthless," he said.

Experts say there are always more financially stable alternatives among retailers.

Target and Wal-Mart, for example, carry much of the same merchandise as Kmart, and Best Buy carries much of the same merchandise as Circuit City.

Advertisement

Business Briefs

PHYSICIANS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE ALTERNATIVE TO STANDARDIZED MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT PLANS IN NEBRASKA

Omaha, Neb., November 24th, 2008 – Physicians Life Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, announced the Nebraska Department of Insurance recently approved its new innovative Medicare Supplement insurance rider for consumers in Nebraska. This new rider works hand-in-hand with Physicians Life's current Plan F Medicare Supplement policy.

The Innovative Discount Rider is a unique, patent pending option designed to save consumers money and provide greater benefits when consumers are likely to need them most. Many consumers realize that as they get older their health care costs will rise. The new Innovative Discount Rider automatically provides customers with increased protection after just a few short years. This increase in protection happens without an increase to the consumers' premium and without having to complete any additional health questions. Also, with the new rider consumers have the freedom to return to regular Plan F benefits and premiums sooner than scheduled by simply notifying the company.

"As pioneers in the Medicare Supplement industry, we thought it was only fitting to develop an innovative option for Medicare beneficiaries which allows them to control both their costs and their coverage," said Physicians Mutual Senior Vice President Melissa Crawford.

According to Crawford, the Plan F with the Innovative Discount Rider is designed for cost-conscious consumers who are just becoming eligible for Medicare or have been on Medicare for a few years. In addition, Crawford said unlike some health plans that limit access to doctors or providers, none of the company's Medicare Supplement plans require the use of a restricted network of health care providers.

"At Physicians Life, individuals always have the freedom to choose their own doctor, hospital or get a specialist's opinion without a referral or prior approval," added Crawford.

About Physicians Mutual: Physicians Mutual Insurance Company and Physicians Life Insurance Company, a member of the Physicians Mutual family, provide a full portfolio of health and life insurance products, as well as financial products. The companies have total assets exceeding \$2.6 billion.

Both Physicians Mutual and Physicians Life consistently receive high grades from independent insurance analysts. They have an A.M. Best rating of "A (Excellent)," based on financial strength. TheStreet.com Ratings gives Physicians Mutual an "A+ (Excellent)" and Physicians Life an "A- (Excellent)" based on financial security.

Founded in 1902, Physicians Mutual headquarters are in Omaha, Nebraska.

MARK JOHNSON RECEIVES ORTHOPEDIC SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab of Hastings (PTSR) is proud to announce that Mark Johnson, PT, OCS, CSCS has been certified as a Clinical Specialist in Orthopedic Therapy by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. Johnson is one of seven Nebraska physical therapists to obtain this certification in 2008. There are currently 11 Orthopedic Certified Specialists outside of the Omaha and Lincoln areas. To obtain board certification, Johnson was required to successfully complete a rigorous written examination demonstrating specialized knowledge and advanced clinical proficiency in orthopedic physical therapy practice.

Johnson graduated from the University of Kansas Medical Center in 1989, spent one year practicing in Iowa and has been an active member of the Hastings community for the past 18 years. Johnson is co-owner of PTSR and also provides volunteer medical coverage at local high schools. Johnson joins Chad Phinney, PT, OCS, CSCS and Brent Weston, PT, OCS, CSC as Board Certified Orthopedic Therapists at PTSR located at 207 S. Burlington Ave. 402-462-8824.



Johnson

NOTICE TO ALL ADAMS COUNTY TAX PAYERS

2008 Real Estate Tax Notices were mailed to Adams County Taxpayers on 12/1/08.


Due to postal regulation changes, many notices are being returned for address corrections.

We are in the process of notifying the Assessor's Office of all address changes and resending the notices to the corrected addresses.

We apologize for the inconvenience and delay in notifying taxpayers who have been affected by this change. If you have not received your notices, please call our office at 402-461-7120 to obtain the tax information until you receive the original notice in your mail.


JULIA MOELLER
ADAMS COUNTY TREASURER

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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pate de foie —
5 "I Walk the
Line" singer
9 Type
12 Opera box
13 Curved mold-
ing
14 "Bien"
opposite
15 Classical poet
16 Nutty
confection
(2 wds.)
18 Overdue
20 Liking
21 Casino town
22 Inquire
23 Cut a wide —
26 Per
30 Historian's
word
33 Confident
34 Board-game
pair
35 Lobster traps
37 Insect eater
39 Hr. part

DOWN

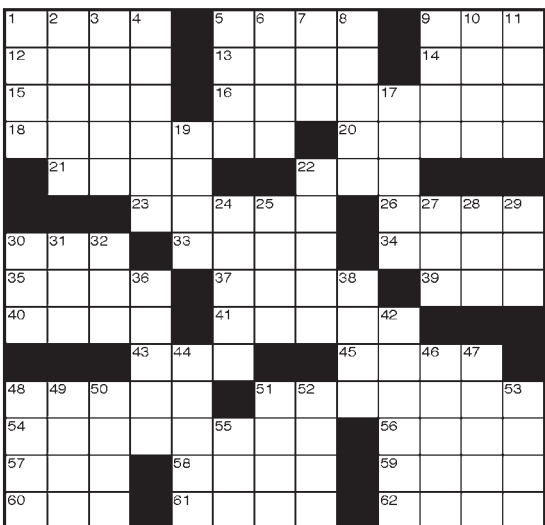
- 1 Dollop
2 Mars explorer
3 Like
4 gymnasts
5 Most taxi cabs
6 Manage okay
7 Like good
cheddar
40 Pledge
41 Weirder
43 Yellow Pages
45 Honda rival
48 Dane's neigh-
bor
51 Marking,
as wild birds
54 Rhythmic
56 Allot
57 Brewer
58 Cheerio!
(nymph.)
59 Paradise
60 Double
helix
61 Wineglass part
62 Solar plexus

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 7 Dry, as wine
8 Warm
9 Brats
10 Cafe au —
11 "Red Balloon"
painter
17 Ready
to streak
18 Hauls
by a chain
22 Toward the
future
24 Cars
25 Crushed
grapes
27 Target
28 A fifth of MV
29 Chick's
parent
30 Gl mail drop
31 Region of
India
32 Baseball's Mel
—
36 Obscure
38 Faculty hon-
cho
42 Helm
44 Dings a door
46 Vacuum tube
47 Bay
48 Wind-driven
mist
49 Caution
50 Best or Ferber
51 — noire
52 "Waterboy"
Sandler
53 Mr.
Roddenberry
55 Mouser

Want more puzzles?
Check out the
"Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books
at QuillDriverBooks.com



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Astrograph

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

The year ahead could see you realize many outstanding achievements and yet, simultaneously, experience some disappointments. Make the most of the good you do, and minimize your frustrations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — A friend to whom you've been most kind tends to think of you and your resources as belonging to him or her. This manipulator might carry things a bit too far, if you're not careful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Verbal commitments could be of small value, so if you're negotiating something important, regardless of who the person is, get things in writing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Someone you've gone out of your way to help numerous times might deliberately look the other way when you reach out for help. Chalk it up to experience, and let it be a lesson to you.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Although you will do nothing wrong, this could be one of those days when supportive friends might side against you. If you see this unfolding, don't try to fight city hall.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — If you take it upon yourself to champion an unpopular cause, you will find yourself standing all alone. It doesn't mean you're wrong, but it would be smart not to say anything further.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — There's a chance a so-called friend hasn't been forthright and is simply using you. If you're smart, you'll have nothing more to do with this person.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — If you believe you are getting a raw deal in a business arrangement, don't be silent. Speak up, and demand your rights. If you don't, no one else will do it for you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — This might be one of those days when partnering with another can be more of a hindrance than a help, especially if you hold divergent opinions. To be effective, your aims must be in harmony.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Just because you were previously able to get another to take on a responsibility of yours, don't depend on getting him or her to do so again. This person has wised up and won't be carrying your water anymore.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — When dealing with friends, try not to get involved in a competitive sport or development of any kind. It might start out as fun and then, as a winner emerges, take on resentful overtones.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Your judgment in competitive situations might not be up to par, so don't get yourself in too deeply. You may think you have the winning cards, but when you go to play the hand, you could be trumped.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — As long as everyone is in agreement, relationships will run smoothly. However, if a dispute arises, there will be no winners, only anger over the other not seeing things the same.

MONDAY, DEC. 15

A number of difficult decisions might have to be made in the year ahead that concern some changes in direction. Fortunately, you should be able to handle these challenges better than you ever thought possible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — If something isn't going the way it should, face that you're going about it all wrong. Unless you can come up with a solution, it might be wiser to dump the entire project.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — There is a strong possibility that you might offer to do something for a friend that you're incapable of. It's wonderful to be helpful, but make sure you can deliver.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — You and another could be poles apart regarding an important interest that involves you both. If you go forward on it anyway, it could end up being a disaster.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Take care not to impose unreasonable demands on cohorts or associates today who are trying to do their jobs. This is an extremely fragile area where an eruption could be in the making.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Don't let others draw you into situations that require extra work on your behalf. It could overwhelm your load to the point that you wouldn't be able get even your basic jobs done.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Think twice before making some concessions to another that could put you in an anti-social position with your cohorts. Find other ways to advance your self-interests that would be acceptable.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — As a Gemini, you commonly consider multiple ways of doing things. This could be either an asset or a detriment, depending upon how you use the knowledge. You might outthink yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — If most contingencies that contribute to your work world are running smoothly, don't upset the apparatus by making unnecessary changes. Leave well enough alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — There are indications that you might strive very hard to bring in some extra bucks, only to realize later the rough path you selected to take had only pennies to offer. You'll know better next time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Should a situation develop similar to one you didn't handle previously, profit from your past mistakes and try something new. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Don't ask to borrow anything of value from a friend, because there is a chance of you being accident-prone. If you take a chance anyway, stop what you're doing at the first signs of carelessness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — You may have the will and the motivation to achieve a huge objective, but having the capability to do so is a totally different story. Don't tackle anything that is beyond your abilities.

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Freeloader takes advantage of helping hand

DEAR ABBY: Four months ago, a guy I know from work asked if he could stay with me for a few weeks until he finished saving for his own apartment. Two weeks later he was fired from his job.

When I told him he could stay, I said I wouldn't charge him rent, but that he would need to buy his own food, toiletries, etc. He did at first, but has since started helping himself to mine.

I have a 7-year-old son who lives with me, and I was recently laid off from my job. I am now living off savings and unemployment, and things are tight.

Abby, this guy isn't even looking for work. All he does is sleep all day and watch TV. Not only that, he tries to dictate what shows I watch and even turns the channel in the middle of a show when I go to the bathroom. How can I get this freeloader out of here? — AT MY LIMIT IN GRAND HAVEN, MICH.

DEAR AT YOUR LIMIT: This man will not leave until you insist upon it. Remind your "houseguest" that he was supposed to stay with you for only a few weeks, the "visit" is now over, and it's time for him to relocate. Do not expect gratitude for the hospitality you have extended, and you will not be disappointed.

If he is not out by the date you set, get some friends together to pack his things for him and put them outside. And if he gives you any trouble, call the police.

DEAR ABBY: I am a senior in high school, and my friends and I are all looking at different colleges. I have one friend whose parents are all about deciding what is right for him and won't let him make the final decision as to where he should go. They believe that choosing a college is all about connections and what careers make the most money.

Shouldn't my friend be able to pursue his dream of becoming a writer and attend the college of his choice? Should his parents be able to make the decision about where he should go? — FRYEBURG, MAINE, SENIOR

DEAR SENIOR: Theoretically, your friend should be able to make his own choice about what career he will pursue and what college he will attend. However, if his parents are paying for his education, he will have to abide by their rules.

The question is, what is your friend willing to sacrifice in order to pursue his dream? If he's willing to work and take out loans for his education, there is nothing stopping him.

DEAR ABBY: My sister has two grandchildren, whom I adore. I would like to take them places and do things with them, but my sister, who has a severe weight problem and is unable to walk, won't let me unless I'm willing to push her around in her wheelchair and take her, too.

I feel bad for the kids because they rarely get to do anything. I have thought about going around my sister to their mother, but it would probably make my sister mad. The children's mother has little money, and the father is not in the picture. Do you think I can justify putting the kids before my sister? — GREAT-AUNT WHO CARES IN THE MID-WEST

DEAR GREAT-AUNT: Your mistake was in allowing your sister to make those children part of a package deal in the first place. You should not exclude her permanently, but there is no reason why she must be included on every excursion. By all means talk to their mother.

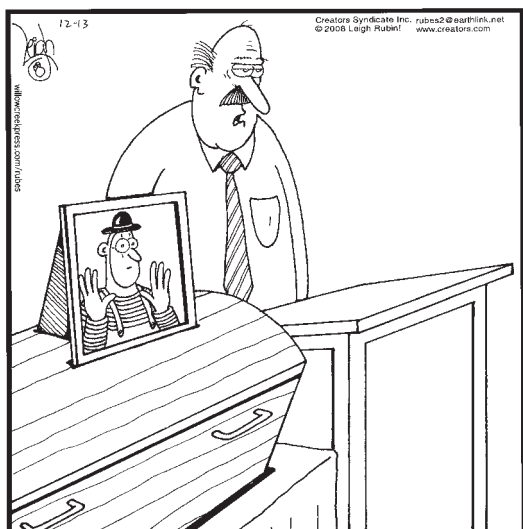
Pauline Phillips, a.k.a. **Abigail Van Buren**, and Jeanne Phillips are columnists for Universal Press Syndicate®. Write Dear Abby at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Dear Abby

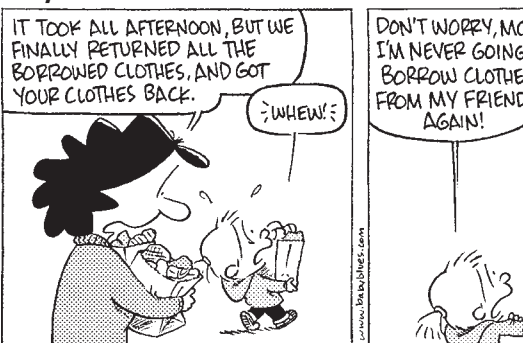
Rubes

By Leigh Rubin



Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



Grizzwells

By Bill Keane



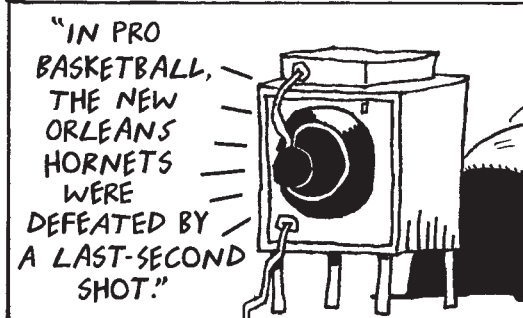
Shoe

By Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



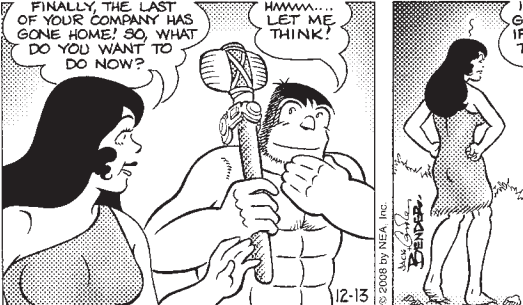
Pickles

By Brian Crane



Alley Oop

By Dave Graue and Jack Bender



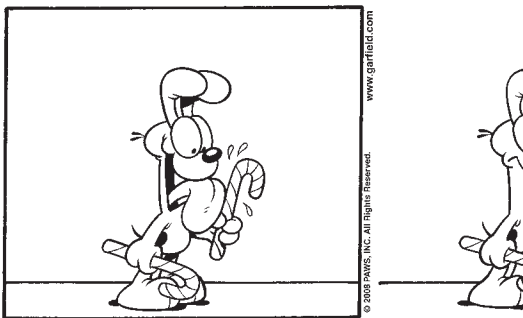
The Born Loser

By Art and Chip Sansom



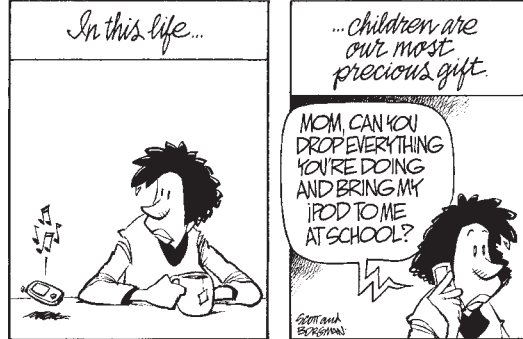
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Zits

By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Some sobering numbers about teen behavior

Take comfort in this: The items on the following "to do" list do not apply to all teens today.

- ◆ Lie to your parents about those wild weekend plans — check.
- ◆ Steal that scarf you want at the mall — check.
- ◆ Download that term paper off the Internet and add a few mistakes to confuse the teacher — check.
- ◆ Inflate your volunteer hours at your church's soup kitchen to pump up that college application — check.

The problem with the Josephson Institute's latest survey — the 2008 Report Card on the Ethics of American Youth — is that it contained so many bad numbers that many readers were tempted to pin an "all of the above" verdict on most teens.



Terry Mattingly

Consider the numbers on stealing. Nearly a third of the students surveyed — 29,760 in 100 randomly selected public and private high schools — admitted stealing from a store during the previous year. Also, 23 percent said they stole from a parent or relative. The numbers were lower for honors students and those who attended religious schools, but around 20 percent of them stole something from someone.

It's easy to criticize the young, but it's also important to know that they're learning these behaviors from the adults around them, said Michael Josephson, founder of the Los Angeles-based ethics center.

"Did you lie about your child's age to save money? Did you provide your child with a false excuse for missing school? Did you lie about your address to get your child into a better school?" he asked in a commentary about the survey. "Most of us stray from our highest ethical ambitions from time to time, but we usually do so selectively, convincing ourselves that we're justified and that occasional departures from our ethical principles are inconsequential when it comes to our overall character."

"Most of us judge ourselves by our best actions and intentions, but the children who watch everything we do may be learning from our worst."

The sobering numbers leaped into headlines nationwide, while the researchers said the truth was almost certainly worse — since 26 percent of the participants admitted that they lied on at least one or two of the prickly questions.

Other results noted by the institute included:

- ◆ More than eight in 10 students — 83 percent — admitted that they lied to a parent about an issue of some importance, while 43 percent of the students in public and private schools said that they have lied to save money.
- ◆ In a 2006 survey, 60 percent of the students said they cheated on at least one test and 35 percent cheated two or more times. This year, the numbers rose to 64 percent and 38 percent on the same issues.

- ◆ The Internet makes plagiarism easy, with 36 percent of the students confessing that vice — up from 33 percent in 2004.
- ◆ Self-esteem is not a problem, since 93 percent of the students reported that their ethics and character were satisfactory and, in a popular quote from the survey, 77 percent said that "when it comes to doing what is right, I am better than most people I know."

Buried deep in the survey form was another question that would be of special interest to clergy and other religious leaders who work with the young. When asked if they had done "things in violation of my religious beliefs" during the past year, 48 percent affirmed a simple answer — never. Another 15 percent confessed to one violation of their personal religious beliefs.

This survey is more proof that something has gone wrong with the way Americans are teaching their young people the meaning of right and wrong, said evangelical activist Charles Colson.

"Instead of being rooted in an objective moral order that exists independently of ourselves, right and wrong are subjective — they're the product of the person's values. In that case, it makes perfect sense that people can lie, cheat and steal and still be satisfied with their ethics," he said in a radio commentary.

"After all, they are not answerable to God or the community, only to themselves. The question isn't, 'How shall we live?', but, 'How do I feel about it?' "

Terry Mattingly is a columnist for Scripps Howard News Service. Contact Mattingly on-line at www.tmattnet.net.



J PAT CARTER/AP

Wellington, Fla.'s, holiday display is outside the community center Monday.

Keeping an eye on holiday displays

GPS, HIDDEN CAMERAS WATCHING OVER BABY JESUS

ERIC GORSKI
The Associated Press

When Baby Jesus disappeared last year from a Nativity scene on the lawn of the Wellington, Fla., community center, village officials didn't follow a star to locate him.

A GPS device mounted inside the life-size ceramic figurine led sheriff's deputies to a nearby apartment, where it was found face down on the carpet. An 18-year-old woman was arrested in the theft.

Giving up on old-fashioned padlocks and trust, a number of churches, synagogues, governments and ordinary citizens are turning to technology to protect holiday displays from pranks or prejudice.

About 70 churches and syna-

gogues eager to avoid the December police blotter jumped at a security company's offer of free use of GPS units normally used to track the application of mosquito spray and implanted it in the latest replacement figurine. After that one disappeared, sheriff's deputies quickly tracked it down.

Sensing opportunity in that kind of success story, New York-based BrickHouse Security is offering up to 200 nonprofit religious institutions a free month's use of security cameras and LightningGPS products it distributes.

Chief executive officer Todd Morris said the idea was born after a few churches asked about one-month rentals instead of longer contracts that are the norm. The first 20 or so applications came from synagogues, he said.

Rabbi Yochanon Goldman of Lubavitch of Center City, a Philadelphia-area branch of the Chabad Lubavitch movement, signed up even though his previous biggest scare involved the wind knocking down a menorah.

"People are very security-conscious, and this is simply a precaution," said Goldman, who will put a GPS on one menorah and a camera on another. "It's sad ... but it's the reality we're faced with."

As members of a minority religion, Jews are probably hit harder when their religious symbols are vandalized, said Deborah Lauter, national civil rights director for the Anti-Defamation League.

"If Baby Jesus is removed, it tends to be seen as a prank," Lauter said. "Vandalism or theft of a menorah is just more sensitive. You feel like you're really being targeted for your religion." The ADL identified 699 incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism in 2007, consistent with recent years.

Philadelphia-area branch of the Chabad Lubavitch movement, signed up even though his previous biggest scare involved the wind knocking down a menorah.

Mormon-owned press releasing Smith journals

JENNIFER DOBNER
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — It's written by a man many consider a confident and charismatic religious prophet, but Joseph Smith's journal immediately betrays an inkling of self-doubt: His first sentence is scratched out.

"He's making this very deliberate effort to keep a record. At the same time, he has this self-consciousness," said Richard Turley Jr., assistant historian for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "So he writes it out, scratches it out, takes a deep breath, writes it again."

By the next line, Smith is on his knees in prayer as he asks for God's help.

For Turley, the picture of Smith — unvarnished and somehow more human than a prophet should be — represents the beauty of the "The Joseph Smith Papers," the first book published by a new Mormon church-owned press.

"What I get from this — besides the information, most of which has been accessible in the past — what I get from this is a feeling for the man," Turley said Monday, when the book was released to the public.

Smith founded the Mormon church in 1830 with just six adherents, most of

them members of his own family. By the time he was shot and killed in 1844, hundreds had joined the church, which was maligned and persecuted for its practice of polygamy and the exhortations of its colorful leader.

Painstakingly transcribed from hundreds of fragile, handwritten pages, the 500-page volume builds on decades of historical scholarship to provide a more accurate and complete look at the early church and Smith's life, Turley said.

The inaugural work of The Church Historian's Press covers Smith's writings from 1832 to 1839 and includes his account of the "First Vision," in which God and Jesus Christ tell Smith he must restore the original church on Earth.

The series is expected to run more than 30 volumes, Turley said.

Dozens of scholars collaborated on the project, looking for new sources of information, fact-checking historical records and crafting explanatory passages, maps and organizational charts to provide a fuller record, he said.

Historians have long criticized the Mormon church for glossing over the unflattering parts of its history and censoring materials of interest to scholars.

Carolers spread Christmas cheer

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH GROUPS, ADULTS SHARE SONGS OF THE SEASON

JOHN HUTHMACHER
johnh@hastingstribune.com

A group of about 60 carolers young and not-so-young from First Presbyterian Church toured Hastings Wednesday night to spread Christmas cheer.

The assembly of singers — which included members of the church's middle and high school youth groups, parents, family members and church volunteers — shared a chili dinner at the church before embarking on a one-and-a-half hour tour that included stops at

two senior centers and the homes of mobility-challenged members of the congregation.

Splitting into two groups, the singers set off in different directions to cover as much ground as possible. One group — comprised of church youth group members — serenaded residents at Perkins Pavilion in Good Samaritan Village before heading off to home visitations. The other, which included children too young for the youth group and adults from the church, sang for residents of College View Assisted Living Center and homebound church members.

For First Presbyterian associate pastor John Curtiss, the tour represented his fourth go-around with the impromptu choir. Far more than a musical night out on the town, the

youth pastor regards the annual event as an opportunity for church members to share the joyful message of Christmas in song and deed.

"I think singing is a very joyful act," Curtiss said. "You can really tell the joy it brings to people, especially those who were singing along with us. It's just a way to spread some Christmas cheer."

Church member Jim Boeve and his daughter, Jennifer, 8, vocalized with the grade 5 and younger group that visited College View and homes. For the Hastings College baseball coach and sociology instructor, the caroling event has become part of his annual Christmas season experience.

"I've done it now for seven or eight years in some form or

another," Boeve said. "I drive one of the buses from the college so we can all go as one group."

"There's a lot to be said about how commercialized Christmas gets. This is something that's not a price tag item, yet it's something you can do whether you are rich or poor, for people who are rich or poor. And I think it does a lot for both the caroler and the people you are caroling for."

As is usually the case, the singers were greeted with warm enthusiasm at every turn, Boeve said.

"They obviously appreciate you coming out," he said. "They seem to enjoy the range in ages, the fact that we have people from first grade on up to adults coming out to sing with them."



NASSER NASSER/AP

A Christian Egyptian walks inside the Virgin Mary Coptic Church in Ein Shams district in Cairo, Egypt, Nov. 26.

Christian-Muslim strains flare in Cairo

MAGGIE MICHAEL
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Early in the morning three Sundays ago, hundreds of Christian Egyptians quietly slipped into a former underwear factory where they had discreetly set up a church and held their first service. Bells rang and hymns were sung.

A crowd of angry Muslims quickly gathered, threw stones at the building and burned banners that said, "No to the church." They tried to storm the gates, clashed with police and chanted, "The church has fallen, the priest is dead," according to witnesses.

In fact, no one died, but 13 people were reported injured. For Egyptians in general, the incident in the blue-collar district of Ain Shams served as a warning that Muslim-Christian clashes, largely confined to the south of the country in recent years, have seeped into the capital.

Temper are flaring as Islamic conservatism gains ground and Christians grow increasingly resentful about discrimination by the Muslim majority. The Ain Shams incident highlights that even in Cairo — seen as more cosmopolitan in its sectarian relations than the rural south — suspicions run between the communities. Muslim and Christian neighbors also are competing over who can set up houses of worship and where.

"We don't want to hear their hymns and for sure, they don't want to hear our prayers," a Muslim woman who lives in the area said as she shopped at a dairy store.

Like other residents, Muslim and Christian, she spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, fearing trouble with police standing nearby. Security agencies often try to prevent discussion of sectarian tensions.

Egypt's government often tries to play down such strains. Police responding to incidents in southern villages usually only intervene when violence gets out of control, often arresting an equal number of people from each religious group. Then authorities force the families involved to reach a behind-the-scenes compromise, without investigating or prosecuting aggressors.

Critics say that only papers over the causes of tensions and say the government is bending to fears among Muslim conservatives that Christians are seeking to undermine what they see as Egypt's Muslim identity.

Those fears lie at the heart of disputes over the building of new churches. Two incidents this summer underscore the problem. In one southern city, a Muslim man was killed in clashes over the expansion of a Coptic Orthodox monastery, and Muslims torched Christian villagers' homes because a priest was seen holding Mass inside a house, according to the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, a rights group.

Christians, an estimated 10 percent of Egypt's 79 million people, have long complained of government restrictions on building new churches.

To build a church or even renovate an existing one, clearance is needed from several security agencies and government bodies, and often is refused.

A church can't be built near a mosque, but "near" is not defined. And nothing prevents Muslims from building a mosque near a church, even without a permit. As a result, most of Cairo's churches are surrounded by mosques, often bigger and taller.

Egyptian Christians don't have enough churches to accommodate their numbers,

so they hold informal services in community centers, bookstores or homes.

"There is this psychological terrorism from Islamists that prevents local authorities from demolishing illegally built mosques and complicates permit procedures for Copts," says Yousef Sidhom, the editor of Watani, a newspaper run by members of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Egypt's main Christian denomination.

In Ain Shams, where about 4,000 Christian families are vastly outnumbered by Muslims, congregants bought the factory three years ago and quietly began setting up their church.

They say they needed a new facility because their 40-year-old Church of the Virgin Mary nearby could only accommodate a quarter of the congregation.

According to Father Anthony, the priest who led the church's first and only service so far, everything was done quietly. No crosses or other religious symbols were put on the exterior.

A Muslim resident who gave her name as Umm Toqa said she never realized what was going on in the building.

Others caught on, however. Muslims bought a parking lot across the street and started building a mosque — one of about five within a few blocks. It was from these mosques that the angry crowd rallied when word spread that the Copts were at prayer.

But at their first service, the Christians announced their presence with bells and hymns — even distributing chocolates outside the building — apparently hoping the church would be accepted as a fait accompli. Instead, the riot erupted.

Anthony ended up being led out of the church protected by police while the mob hurled insults and stones.



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1832 W. 9th St., Hastings, NE 402-463-6696 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Matt Fowler & The Rev. Dr. Lee Wigert	PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 906 N. California, Hastings, NE 402-462-9023 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:15-10:00 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Fellowship in Fellowship Hall 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Reverend Marcus Mackay
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 Sunday at 8 & 10 a.m. Sunday Church School Wednesday 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist The Very Rev. Robert Neske, Dean
NORTH SHORE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 100 West 33rd St., Hastings, NE 402-462-5742 Sunday Mornings at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Wednesday Family Night at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Youth at 7:00 p.m. at 485 W. 2nd St. www.northshoreassembly.org	LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, ELCA 1338 Saunders, Hastings, NE 402-463-2081 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 Steven Peeler
GLENVIL IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 403 Sturgis, Glenvil, NE 402-463-3338 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Jeff Glawe, Pastor	SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 400 S. St. Joseph Ave., Hastings, NE 402-463-3338 Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. Dr. W.T. "Bud" Israel
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 9th and Chestnut Streets, Hastings, NE 402-462-5644 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 402-463-5733 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
FIRST ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 501 N. Burlington Ave., Hastings, NE 463-1329 Saturday Worship at 8 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 9:30 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 2:30 p.m. Rev. Joel Remmers & Rev. Adam White	WATERMARK COMMUNITY CHURCH 1814 W. St. Joseph, Hastings, NE 402-463-0478 9:00 a.m. Bible Study for all ages 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Interim Pastor Doug Lee
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 219 N. Hastings 402-5804 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	SOUTH STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST 200 E. South, Hastings, NE 402-5804 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/
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA A friendly open-country church 2 miles west of Glenvil on Assumption Rd. 402-771-2257 9:15 Sunday School (Sept-May); 10:30 Worship Youth, Men's and Women's ministries Pastor Renee Johnson	HASTINGS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH 201 E. St. Joseph, Hastings, NE 402-463-1061 Sabbath School - Saturday 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - Saturday 11:00 a.m. Radio 74 - 103.9
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 204 W. Johnson, City Center, NE 402-762-3723 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. at UCC Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.	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
LIFEHOUSE Imperial Mall 3001 W. 12th St., Hastings (Northwest end) 402-5827 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m. www.lifehouse.org	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
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 166 S. Marian Rd., Hastings, NE 68901-2401 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	EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 2015 N. St. Joseph Ave., Hastings, NE 402-463-1441 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Randy Madison, Senior Pastor Matt Sasse, Adult Ministries Pastor Joel Stark, Student Ministries
ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 6th Street and Kansas Ave., Hastings, NE 402-463-1326 Mass Monday-Friday 7 a.m. and 12:10 p.m. Saturday Mass 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday Mass 8 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Father Joseph Walsh, Father Christopher Goodwin and Father Troy Schneider	BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH 316 N. Lexington Ave., Hastings, NE 402-462-8365 Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m.; A/VANA Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.; Life Groups, Youth Groups Paul Knott, Senior Pastor Jeff Schneider, Associate Pastor
ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 715 Creighton Ave., Hastings • 463-1023 Mass Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. Saturday Mass 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Confession Saturday 3:40 p.m. Reverend Michael Houlihan Father Lee Jirovsky	REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (Wisconsin Synod) 709 N. Baltimore, Hastings, NE 402-462-9623 Sunday School 8:45 a.m. Bible Class 9:00 a.m., Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Pastor Robert Smith
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 700 W. 22nd Street, Hastings, NE 402-463-9776 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Night Ministries for all ages David L. Speicher, Senior Pastor Melinda Runcie, Associate Pastor	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2810 W. 7th St., Hastings, NE 68901 www.fucchastings.org All Sunday School Classes at 9:15 a.m. Reverend Barry Remp Licensed Lay Minister Karen Roback
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 621 N. Lincoln Ave. • 402-462-5147 www.fpchastings.org 8:30 a.m. Worship; 9:45 a.m. Christian Education Hour; 11:00 a.m. Worship Pastor: Reverend Dr. William Nottag-Wacey Assoc. Pastor: Reverend John H.G. Curtiss Proclaiming the Love of Christ in the Heart of Hastings since 1873	ALL ARE WELCOME! IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 5500 W. Oak Ridge Road (3 miles south of Adams Central School) Worship 9 a.m. Education Hour 10 a.m. Pastor Renee Johnson 1-402-771-2257
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 401 N. Lincoln, Hastings, NE 469-1855 or 469-0756 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Pastor Larry Harvey	NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP 102 S. Lincoln Ave. 469-1855 or 469-0756 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship time following service www.conestonville.homestead.com Pastor Steve Markle
If your church would like to be listed in this Church Directory, please call (402) 461-1231 or 1-800-742-6397.	

Birthday

STEIDER 85TH



Lowell Steider of Shickley will celebrate his 85th birthday December 21 with a card shower and open house from 2 to 4 p.m. at Salem Mennonite Church in Shickley, Nebraska. Cards may be sent to him at P.O. Box 64, Shickley, Nebraska 68436. No gifts please.

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.

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: Ham and beans, whole baby parsley potatoes, five-cup salad, corn bread muffin with honey and ginger bread with whipped topping.
- ◆ Wednesday: Roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, apple rings, wheat dinner roll, and birthday and anniversary day cherry cake with whipped topping.
- ◆ Thursday: Oven-fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, broccoli and cauliflower salad, wheat dinner roll and tropical fruit.
- ◆ Friday: Chili soup, one-half ham salad sandwich, peach Jell-O with peaches, wheat bread and crackers and cinnamon roll.
- ◆ Dec. 22: Roast turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, cranberry relish, wheat dinner roll and pumpkin pie with whipped topping.

Noon meals are also 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.

Nation

SENATE SEAT FOR SALE ON EBAY

CHICAGO — For sale: One Senate seat. Goes to the highest BLEEP-ing bidder. Seller's positive feedback rating: since Tuesday, just about zero.

Outraged by the arrest of Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, more than a dozen people have put the state's vacant Senate seat up for bid on eBay.

The offers popped up on the Internet auction site after Blagojevich was accused Tuesday of trying to benefit financially from his power to appoint a Senate replacement to President-elect Barack Obama.

The Associated Press

Weddings

GESSLER – NOLLETTE



Kimberly Jo Nollette and Joseph Andrew Gessler, both of Wichita, Kansas were married October 18 at Church of the Magdalen in Wichita.

Fr. Pat York officiated.

Parents of the bride are Ken and Kathy Nollette of Juniata. Parents of the groom are Carlos and Julie-Ellen Acosta of St. Louis, Missouri and William and Susan Gessler of Derby, Kansas. The couple was given in marriage by their parents.

Matron of honor was Candice Dooley. Bridesmaids were Crystal Douglas and Kendra Nollette.

Best man was Chris Eden. Groomsmen were CJ Acosta and Brian Hipp.

Other members of the wedding party were Alexis Douglas and Brooke Dooley, flower girls; Aidan and Evan Clark, ring bearers; Gordon Braun, Chris Corley and Jason Niebuhr, ushers and Jennifer Farrell and Elisa Acosta, candle lighters.

A reception was held at Beech Activity Center in Wichita.

The bride is a 1996 graduate of Guide Rock High School and a 2000 graduate of Fort Hays State University with a degree in Computer Information Systems. She is a software developer for Flint Hills Resources in Wichita.

The groom is a 1995 graduate of Kapaun Mount Carmel High School and a 2000 graduate of Wichita State University with a degree in Aerospace Engineering. He is a structural engineer for Spirit AeroSystems Inc. in Wichita. The couple resides in Wichita, Kansas.

DONLEY – AYER



Brianna Renae Donley of Omaha and Tanner Jay Ayer of Colorado Springs, Colorado were married September 27 at First United Methodist Church in Hastings.

Alan Davis officiated.

Parents of the bride are Jim and Marcia Donley of Hastings. Parents of the groom are Lloyd and Connie Ayer of Juniata. The couple was given in marriage by their parents.

Maids of honor were Laine Donley and Nicole McDermott. Bridesmaids were Taryn Donley, Kim Larabee and Eliza Donley.

Best man was Paul Woodward. Groomsmen were Joe Hinrichs, Kile Donley, Jonathan Gentert and Shane Vitosh.

Other members of the wedding party were Reese Madden, flower girl; Gage Ashley, ring bearer; Andrew Cunningham, Joe Vasko, Brett James and Bryce James, ushers.

The reception was held at the Hastings Convention

Center in Hastings.

The bride is a 2006 graduate with an Associate of Science in Nursing and a 2008 graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing both from the College of Saint Mary in Omaha. She is an RN at Penrose Saint Francis NICU in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Ayer is a 2004 graduate of Universal Technical Institute in Houston, Texas. He is currently a service advisor at the Lithia Motor Company in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The couple resides in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Engagement

POPPE – WEBER



Gregory and Cammie Poppe of Hastings, Shanda Weber of Hastings, and Paul and Beverly Weber of Glenvil are proud to announce the engagement of their children, Courtney Michelle Poppe and Cody Lee Weber, both of Lincoln. A December 20 wedding is planned at the First Presbyterian Church in Hastings.

Miss Poppe is a 2007 graduate of Hastings Senior High School and is a junior at UNL with French and History majors. She is employed at Runza in Lincoln.

Weber is a 2004 graduate of Hastings Senior High School

and is a senior at UNL with a ceramics major. He is employed by Cabela's in Lincoln.

Dying to support animal rights? Try a PETA coffin

TIM KORTE

The Associated Press

EDGEWOOD, N.M. — For animal rights activists, sticking up for furry or feathered critters is a way of life. Now it can be a way of death, too.

A New Mexico company is building all-wood human coffins in a partnership with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. They bear painted slogans, such as "Lifetime PETA Member" or "I saved 500 animals."

Another serves up a last laugh that plays on a long-running PETA advertisement: "Told You I Wouldn't Be Caught Dead in Fur!"

The coffins, which went on sale last week, are priced from \$620 to \$670, which includes a \$75 PETA contribution. Made of wood, they are designed to be Earth-friendly, with no screws, nails, hinges or animal-based glues.

They are assembled by Dienna Genter, 44, a former

construction worker from Bellingham, Wash., who operates a company called The Old Pine Box in rural Edgewood, about 30 miles east of Albuquerque. She began hand-crafting coffins from pine, cedar, maple and other woods in 2004.

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*Offer valid through
December 31, 2008. Not valid with
any other offers or discounts.*

Clubs

JOB'S DAUGHTERS

Bethel No. 8 Chapter of Job's Daughters International met Dec. 1 at the Hastings Masonic Center with the honored queen as hostess.

Everyone joined in the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance.

Escorts, introductions and honors were given.

The minutes were read and approved.

Reports and communications were read.

Reports were given on helping the Tehama Shrine with its supper Nov. 29.

The meeting was closed and adjourned.

The next meeting is 7:15 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Masonic Center. Installation of officers is 2:30 p.m. Dec. 20.

OUTLOOK BOOK CLUB

Outlook Book Club met Dec. 4 at Marge Sneller's home with 12 members present.

Each member shared personal stories of memorable holiday events and traditions.

The club's annual philanthropic donation was sent to the Spouse Abuse/Sexual Assault crisis center.

The next meeting is 1:30 p.m. Jan. 15, 2009, at Dee Galitz's home with Zelma Fobben providing the review.

FIRST UMC WOMEN

First United Methodist Women met Dec. 3 for a noon luncheon in the church fellowship hall with 54 members present. Chairwoman Mint Miller and work chairs Mary Jo Heishman and Harriett Smith, along with Group 6 were hostesses.

President Nancy Strom greeted and welcomed the members. She read "A Christmas Creed" by Orval Miller before she extended grace.

Spiritual growth coordinator Bonnie Brodersen gave the devotions, "Our Star."

Vice President Norma Fry introduced Tim Grothen, who gave a program in which he sang and accompanied himself using several unique instruments.

Mission coordinator reports were given Shirley Baker on program resources and Heishman on social action.

Strom thanked the retiring officers and directed the installation of new officers: Brodersen, president; Heishman, vice president; Harriet Reinsch, secretary; Dorcas Campbell, membership nurture and outreach; Marcell Lemonds, secretary of program resources; Cathy Fricke, secretary of publicity and public relations; Kathy O'Donnell, spiritual growth; and Barb Peck and Sheila Smith, members to nominating committee.

Peck and Alene Rucker each were honored by the gift of the

Dedicated Light.

Strom closed the meeting by reading "How Far Is It to Christmas."

The next meeting is Feb. 4, 2009, in the fellowship hall.

WELCA ADVENT BRUNCH

First St. Paul's Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America were hosts for the fourth annual Congregational Advent Brunch Dec. 6 in the Celebration Center at First St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hastings. The theme was "Celebrate Advent."

Mona Mueller gave the welcome and was mistress of ceremonies. The Rev. Joel Remmers gave the table blessing.

Mary Jeanne Cooke gave the program, "Christmas Treasures" and told about her memories of life and its relationship to Christmas.

Helen Karloff led a sing-along, accompanied by Darlene Veburg. All joined in singing Christmas carols for the Advent season.

The event was coordinated by the special events committee, including Mueller, Marge Eitzmann, Rosalie Engelhardt, Jeanette Grothen, Colleen Hohlen, Shirley Koger, Gayle Lysthauge, Ila Nelson and Norma Penning.

WELCA members brought cookies to share with the home-bound. Cookie plates will be delivered Dec. 14.

The next meeting is 9:30 a.m. Dec. 17 at the Youth and Family Ministry Center for a joint Bible study.

ROUND TABLE BOOK CLUB

Round Table Book Club met Dec. 2 at Joan Swan's home with Karen Swan Dielman as co-hostess.

Darrel Lloyd reviewed "Vanity Fair" by William M. Thackeray.

The next meeting is 1:15 p.m. Jan. 20, 2009, at Mary Olsen's home with Flossie Sanderson providing the review.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

American Legion Auxiliary met Dec. 1 at the American Legion Club with Lola Kohout as hostess and Helen Rothfuss as co-hostess.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem and Auxiliary Preamble.

Vice president Dolores Busboom conducted the business meeting.

Several members attended the Gift Shop opening Dec. 3 at the Veterans Affairs medical center in Grand Island. They also attended Gifts for Yanks Dec. 9.

The next meeting is 1:30 p.m. Jan. 5, 2009, at the American Legion Club.

Suit details girl's torment at school

STEPHANIE REITZ

The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — The bullying came at school dances and in class, on Facebook and back at the dorm by girls who called themselves "Oprichniki," a Russian attack squad notorious for torturing suspected enemies of a 16th-century czar.

The cruel clique at the exclusive Miss Porter's School allegedly harassed Tatum Bass for months, until two doctors advised her to take a break. That's when her tormentors put a "For Rent" sign on her bed and one of the nation's most selective, all-girls boarding schools threatened to expel her.

Bass and her parents responded with a federal lawsuit that offers a disturbing glimpse into life on the leafy campus in the affluent Hartford suburbs. To match tuition that can cost nearly \$43,000, the school has an A-list of socialites, diplomats, artists and public servants among its graduates, including Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Gloria Vanderbilt.

According to the lawsuit, Bass was on the honor roll, played sports and was elected by her peers to a top position in student government before her trouble began earlier this year. As activities director, she proposed holding the senior prom with other schools nearby.

Opposition to the idea ballooned, leading to bullying and taunts that Bass was "retarded" because she has attention-deficit disorder. Bass said in the suit that the girls turned on her, calling her "stupid" and peppering her with profanity and insults. She said she was bullied in front of hundreds of people at a school dance, in classes, around campus, in text messages and online on the Facebook social networking site.

"This was the first time that negative attention was drawn to her disability at (the school)," the lawsuit said. "Oprichniki members were at the forefront of taunting Tatum in class and advising others about her disability."

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Girls offer needy protection from cold

TODD LEWAN
The Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — There was nothing exceptional about the blanket, really: No shiny, satin trim, no crocheted pattern, no waffled weave. It was just a plain, acrylic blanket, something plucked off a rack at a discount outlet.

And yet, the sight of it in the outstretched hands of a 12-year-old girl, so sweet and simple, startled the man.

"No, thank you, dear," he said, gently. His wife, standing beside him, looked down at the ground. "You see," the man went on, "we at least have our van to sleep in. I think you ought to give that blanket to someone who needs it more."

Indeed, the couple had a Chrysler Caravan. It was an older model, with dents and rust spots and sagging tires. In the rear was a heap of wrinkled clothes, a flashlight, a radio — and two children, no older than 3, bundled in sweaters.

The van, parked at the gates to Lions Park, where this city's homeless tend to congregate, would be their home for the night — for many nights, perhaps, since they had lost their "other" home to foreclosure not a week earlier.

This home, though had no blankets — at least, none that Charlie Zipperer could see through the dirty windows.

"Don't worry," the sixth-grader said. "We have plenty of blankets. And it's going to get cold tonight, you know. My mom even said so." Temperatures, in fact, would dip into the 30s on one of the coldest nights of the year. And holding out the blanket again, she added: "Go on."

Reluctantly, the man accepted the gift. His fingers, dried and cracked, glided smoothly along the fabric, back and forth.

"C'mon," Charlie said to her 10-year-old sister, Sammie, who had been politely listening. "Let's get them some more."

Off they ran to their mother's minivan. They returned minutes later, out of breath, and handed a blanket to each child, then the mother.

For a moment, no one said anything. The mother just ran her hand over the blanket, again and again. It was soft, warm. And full size, too — big enough for her to wrap the little ones in twice.

Maybe this night wouldn't feel as cold.

NO BAD DREAMS

It's possible for people in the Sunshine State to go a winter without glimpsing frost on early morning grass. It's easy to forget that even here, on Florida's southwestern coast, a night spent outdoors can send shivers down your back.

Which is why, for Charlie and Sammie Zipperer, it's so vital that even the homeless get their own blankets.

"Me and Sammie — we both have our favorite blanket," Charlie explains. Hers, she'll tell you, is a powdery pink, trimmed with satin, a comforter her mom gave her three years ago. "So, we figured, wouldn't everyone else need one, too?"

Says Sammie, who won't go to bed without a worn, ragged patchwork quilt that years ago belonged to her dad: "Yeah, this way, when everybody goes to sleep, they'll won't have any bad dreams."

The sisters began distributing blankets to the homeless four years ago. The idea, they say, grew out of charity

work they did with their mother, Sharie, a volunteer in a project called Wake Up America that distributed leftover baked goods from a local supermarket to the homeless.

"Before we were helping other people help people, but now we were doing it ourselves. That's exciting!" Charlie says.

It soon became apparent that the girls had been bitten by the charity

bug, says their mother, Sharie, 46, a secretary in a transport company. Now, "Whenever the girls see homeless people with the signs on the street corners, they clean out whatever's in my wallet to give to them."

Once the 2004 food drive ended, the girls began setting aside half of their allowance money each month for blankets. (The other half was already earmarked for Christmas gifts.) By

Thanksgiving of that year, they'd saved enough to buy 150 fleece, twin-throws at Wal-Mart.

Each weekend they trekked through Lions Park and Centennial Park, doling out blankets to anyone in need. It didn't take long to exhaust their supply: Two weeks before Christmas, they had already run out of blankets.

The following year they bought 200. But even so, their stash had run dry



J PAT CARTER/AP

After taking a sandwich from Sammie Zipperer, Gary Moser waits to get a blanket from her sister, Charlie, in Lions Park in Fort Myers, Fla., Dec. 5. She and her sister started working with their mother to help the homeless four years ago.



J PAT CARTER/AP

Charlie Zipperer, 12, carries a load of blankets into Lion Park in Fort Myers, Fla., Dec. 5 to give to homeless people.

long before the New Year arrived.

Determined to do better, the girls did extra chores around their house. They appealed to their teachers, their principal, the pastor of their church, New Life Assembly. (The church chipped in with 60 blankets, new and used.)

Next, they posted an ad, "Blankets for the Homeless," on the Internet at Craigslist:

"A BLANKET IS A PRICELESS POSSESSION TO A HOMELESS MAN, WOMEN OR CHILD. YES I SAID CHILD. WE ARE SEEING MORE AND MORE FAMILIES ON THE STREETS OF LEE COUNTY. PLEASE HELP US HELP THEM ..."

That year, they collected 350 blankets.

And yet, that still wasn't enough to get them to Christmas.

As it happened, the winds of recession were already buffeting Lee County. Last winter, one in every 41 homes here were in foreclosure — the highest rate in a state that ranks among the top three in the nation in foreclosures.

At the local Salvation Army post and the Fort Myers Rescue Mission, record numbers of homeless families began turning up, seeking a bed for the night. At churches around town, soup lines were stretching longer and longer.

In the parks, the girls notice the difference, too.

Every week "there seems to be six or eight more homeless people in the park," says Sammie. That means that more often now, the girls must cut the blankets they collect in half, to meet the demand.

Another change: Just two years ago, most of the homeless in need of blankets tended to be "regulars" — individuals down on their luck, transients plagued by health issues, people with drug or alcohol problems.

Wait a second: 2008 gets extended by timekeepers

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With a brutal economic slowdown, 2008 may feel as if it will never end. Now the world's timekeepers are making it even longer by adding a leap second to the last day of the year.

Along with the economy, the Earth itself is slowing down, requiring timekeepers to add an extra second to their atomic clocks to keep in sync with Earth's slightly slowing rotation. So an extra second will be tacked on to Dec. 31 after

6:59:59 p.m. and before 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

That extra second will make 2008 — already long with an extra day on Feb. 29 — the longest year since 1992.

The decision to add an extra second was made by an interna-

tional consortium of timekeepers, whose American arm announced it Monday. World commerce and digital technology depend on accurate-to-the-second timekeeping, said Geoff Chester, spokesman for the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington,

responsible for one-third of the world's atomic clocks.

Most cellular phone providers and computer operating systems check with the world's atomic clocks and update their time to add the leap second automatically, he said.

Purdue species name auction offers wild holiday gift idea

RICK CALLAHAN
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Searching for a truly original holiday gift, one that could bestow a bit of immortality on a loved one or a friend?

If so, Purdue University has the goods: The school is auctioning the naming rights to seven newly discovered bats and two turtles. Winning bidders will be able to link a relative, friend or themselves to an animal's scientific name for the ages.

The first of the nine auctions began Monday, when the school put up for grabs the naming rights to a tiny gold and black insect-munching bat found in Central America.

The winning bidder will be announced just before Christmas, said John Bickham, a Purdue professor of forestry and natural resources who discovered or co-discovered the nine species.

He expects the auctions to attract wide interest,

with the chance to include a person's Latinized name in a new species' scientific name — a tradition that dates to the mid-18th century.

"Unlike naming a building or something like that, this is much more permanent. This will last as long as we have our society," he said Monday.

Bickham said the first bat whose naming rights are up for auction is a member of a group of little yellow bats that live in tropical lowlands from Mexico south to Brazil. That flying mammal is the smallest bat so far discovered in Central America, weighing about 3 grams.

"We're talking about a bat that weighs less than a teaspoon full of water," said Bickham, director of Purdue's Center for the Environment.

The nine species were found in recent years by Bickham and colleagues in remote areas of Mexico, Central America, South America and Africa.

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Charge-offs starting to shred credit card issuers

ROBIN SIDEL

The Wall Street Journal

More credit-card holders who fall behind on their payments are eventually defaulting, deepening losses for thousands of banks that issue plastic.

The worsening trend indicates that charge-off rates among credit-card issuers, which stood at more than 6 percent in the third quarter, are poised to rise more than expected in the fourth quarter and into next year. That means additional misery for financial firms already besieged with losses on everything from soured mortgages to bad bets on capital markets.

Card-industry executives are worried about escalating "roll rates," a term that refers to the percentage of cardholders who go from merely late on their payments to not making them at all. Among cardholders who are between 60 days and 89 days overdue, about 20 percent of such card balances eventually are being charged off by card issuers as uncollectible, according to Auriemma Consulting Group Inc., a Westbury, N.Y., financial-services consulting firm. The percentage is up by about a third from last year, before the U.S. economy tipped

into recession.

The problem can be even worse for bundles of outstanding credit-card balances that are securitized by some of the largest issuers. For example, American Express Co.'s roll rate worsened to 47 percent in the third quarter from 35 percent a year earlier, says investment bank Keefe, Bruyette & Woods Inc., which calculated the figures from securities filings. At Capital One Financial Corp., known for its cheeky ads and mass-market strategy, the roll rate has reached 34 percent, up from 28 percent in last year's third quarter. Those figures don't reflect credit-card loans that the issuers keep on their books.

Much of the surge is being blamed on rising unemployment, typically a leading indicator of credit-card performance. November's loss of a half-million jobs will make it impossible for even more cardholders to make their payments on time. Others who already are delinquent in their payments will be unable to catch up.

"They're rolling through a lot faster, and once they go bad, there's nowhere for them to turn," one credit-card industry executive says.

Fed: Household debt, net worth post declines

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. households, hit by declining home values and stock market losses, have cut back on their debt levels for the first time on record as loans remain scarce amid what appears to be a deepening recession.

The Federal Reserve on Thursday released its latest quarterly look at consumer and business finances showing that households reduced their debt levels by 0.8 percent at an annual rate in the July-September period, the first drop on records that go back more than 50 years.

The decline in household debt levels

is evidence of the severe credit squeeze that is occurring as banks, saddled by billions of dollars of losses in mortgage debt, have tightened lending standards and made it harder for people to get loans.

Mortgage debt fell at an annual rate of 2.4 percent in the third quarter, the largest decline on record. Mortgage debt had fallen at an annual rate of 0.1 percent in the second quarter. Those two quarterly declines are the first such drops in the Fed survey that dates back to 1952.

In past periods of tight credit, mortgage and total household debt have

never declined, although the debt growth usually slowed.

The Fed report also showed that households' net worth fell by 4.7 percent in the third quarter to \$56.5 trillion, reflecting the hit Americans are taking as the value of their homes and investments decline.

The drop in household net worth — total assets such as homes and checking accounts minus liabilities like mortgages and credit-card debt — marked the fourth straight quarterly decline since total family net worth hit an all-time high of \$63.6 trillion in the July-September quarter of 2007.

Those three banks had nearly 60 percent of the \$724.44 billion in outstanding loans at the 10 biggest card issuers in the U.S. as of June 30, according to the Nilson Report, a Carpinteria, Calif., newsletter that follows the industry.

Card issuers are scrambling to reverse the trend, with moves that include cut-

ting credit lines to some customers and contacting cardholders before they become delinquent. In a report last week, Meredith Whitney, a banking analyst at Oppenheimer & Co., estimated that card issuers will reduce credit lines by more than \$2 trillion in the next 18 months.

Federal deficit on pace for \$1T

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal government ran a record budget deficit in November, putting Uncle Sam on track to post an all-time high annual shortfall of \$1 trillion or more.

In just the first two months of the budget year that started Oct. 1, the deficit totaled \$401.6 billion, nearly matching the record gap of \$455 billion posted for all of last year, according to Treasury Department data released Wednesday. If the deficit does top \$1 trillion for the current budget year, it also would be a post-World War II high when measured as a percentage of the economy.

The increased red ink stems from both lower tax revenue and increased spending that is a result of the recessionary economy. The government is receiving less in business and personal income taxes while spending more on programs such as unemployment insurance and food stamps.

Elsewhere, emergency aid for the nation's imperiled auto industry was thrown into jeopardy Wednesday as some Republicans revolted against a hard-fought deal between Democrats and the Bush White House to speed \$14 billion to the ailing carmakers.

Then there's the \$700 billion bank rescue program. The Treasury report showed that the government spent \$76.5 billion from the program in November and \$191.5 billion over the past two months.

A congressional oversight panel on Wednesday questioned whether Treasury is following a clear strategy in its use of those funds. The panel, which includes academic and labor representatives, also asked in a report whether the rescue effort has helped any homeowners avoid foreclosure.

The 37-page oversight report offers no specific conclusions, but the questions suggest sharp disagreements with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson's stewardship of the program and echo some of the criticism raised in a Government Accountability Office audit of the program last week.

Many Democrats in Congress have criticized Treasury for not using the funds to help homeowners.

The department said Wednesday that the gap between the government's revenue collections and what it paid out last month totaled \$164.4 billion, the largest deficit ever recorded for the month of November. The deficit was \$98.2 billion in November 2007.

An annual deficit of \$1 trillion would equal 6.7 percent of the gross domestic product, the economy's total output in a single year. That would surpass the previous postwar record in GDP terms of 6 percent set in 1983 when Ronald Reagan was president.

And some economists think the annual deficit will be even higher. David Rosenberg, North American economist at Merrill Lynch, projected that it could reach \$1.5 trillion, depending on how large an economic stimulus package is approved next year.

The Treasury Department plans to use \$250 billion of the \$700 billion program to make direct purchases of bank stock, providing the nation's financial institutions with an infusion of cash in the hopes that they will resume more normal lending practices.

The government provided \$115 billion to eight of the largest financial institutions in October, including Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. Treasury said Tuesday that overall it has provided more than \$155 billion to 77 banks.

Some analysts argue that the deficit is effectively lower than Treasury's figures because the government has received stakes in the banks in return for the capital. The government could get some or all of the money back when it sells those ownership stakes in the future.

The Congressional Budget Office said last week that accounting for the value of those stakes would reduce the combined deficit for October and November to \$267 billion, rather than the \$401.6 billion reported by Treasury.

Besides the \$700 billion rescue package, the Treasury also is making purchases of mortgage-backed secu-



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Former Freddie Mac Chief Executive Officer Richard Syron listens to testimony on Capitol Hill in Washington Tuesday during the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on the financial meltdown.

rities in an effort to bolster demand for these assets. Those purchases totaled \$23.2 billion in November and \$44.7 billion over the past two months.

Still, even budget hawks acknowledge that now is a good time for the government to step up its borrowing. With the Treasury

Department paying the lowest rates on government debt in years, taxpayers will pay less in interest on all the new debt.

In recent days, the Treasury has sold one-month bills at zero percent and three-month bills at rates near zero.

That's because the financial melt-

down has caused large institutional investors to seek out the safety of T-bills, increasing demand and lowering the yield on government debt.

But Robert Bixby, executive director of the Concord Coalition, a nonpartisan budget watchdog group, warned that the low rates won't last forever.

Buying a foreclosed home can be risky, but has rewards

DEAR BRUCE: I just bought a foreclosed home for \$400,000 with a 30 percent discount, a great deal for its size, especially in Southern California. This is the first time I've ever purchased a foreclosure. I was reading a recent column, where you stated, "Foreclosures are risky." Why do you think so?

R.H., via e-mail

DEAR R.H.: Buying a foreclosed home can be very risky. Many times, you're not allowed to inspect the home and you must make a commitment for cash, which has to be met in a short period of time. There are other liens that could block your purchase,

etc. That said, once the foreclosure is done and all of the p's and q's have been attended to, often you can make a wonderful deal. It seems as if you have concluded the transaction — congratulations. I still think the purchase of these properties is a tenuous proposition, and even professionals get burned. It is far more important to pay attention to details that might otherwise be overlooked in a normal transaction.

DEAR BRUCE: I have a total sav-



Bruce Williams

ings of \$17,000 — \$5,000 in the bank and the rest under the mattress. I have some bills with very high interest rates. Should I pay them off and deplete my savings? I'm nervous about not having any money saved for an emergency. What should I do?

R.M., via e-mail

DEAR R.M.: First of all, what are you doing with \$12,000 under the mattress? If it's currency, you may have some explaining to do. If it has been legitimately earned, then deposit it in a bank; you will likely hear from the IRS and have to justify the money, but that shouldn't be difficult. You mentioned you have bills at a high interest rate. Why would you have cash around earning no interest? I

would pay off the bills. You might want to keep a few thousand dollars IN THE BANK or some other interest-earning environment. Under no circumstances should you keep this money in cash; it is simply depreciating in value.

DEAR BRUCE: How long can a collection agency keep reporting an unpaid bill to the credit agencies? Does it go away after a certain amount of time? What bad things can happen if the requests are ignored?

Y.L., via e-mail

DEAR Y.L.: A collection agency can keep reporting an unpaid bill and as long as there is activity, the meter keeps resetting. It doesn't go away unless the company says so. They can

keep it going by simply attempting to collect and reporting the collections to the agencies. What bad things can happen? Well, they can provide you with a terrible credit score, and they can make repeated inquiries as to when you expect to pay. Few things go away by ignoring them. Occasionally, there are people who will stick their creditors by simply ignoring requests and, eventually, if the amounts are modest, the collections will stop. The accounts disappear after eight to 10 years.

Bruce Williams is a columnist for News Enterprise Association. E-mail him at bruce@brucewilliams.com.

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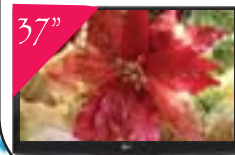
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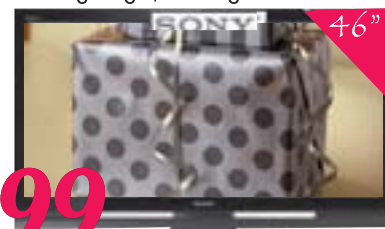
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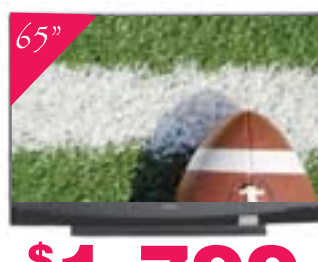
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