



Preschoolers enjoy variety of activities at museum. Page C6

Hastings Tribune



Soccer Tiger teams drop games to North Platte. Page C1

Blue Hill residents frustrated over care issues

ASSISTED LIVING CENTER
HOUSES PATIENTS
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

TONY HERRMAN
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BLUE HILL — The meeting room inside the city building here was full Tuesday of citizens concerned about the level of supervision for residents of a local assisted living center.

David Kusek, administrator of Belle Amis Residential Care, said he has been employed there since 2005. He said the business has been open for about 15 years, first as a care facility for the elderly and now providing care for Medicaid patients who do not require

complex nursing. Blue Hill City Councilman Andy Alber wrote a letter to Nebraska legislators and Gov. Dave Heinemann expressing his frustration over an issue that includes patients wandering around Blue Hill, trespassing and loitering.

"Our local county sheriff has spent thousands of our local tax dollars dealing with the problems that these people at Belle Amis are creating," he wrote. "I believe his frustration with the situation equals mine. I am sure there are better ways to take care of these people than treating them as common criminals. I believe that this problem belongs to the state and they have transferred to us."

The figure \$14,000 was mentioned as a cost to the sheriff's office to retrieve

Belle Amis residents who've strayed from the building.

Webster County Sheriff Jim Disney said that does not touch the money his department has spent on Belle Amis-related situations.

"It is really bogging us down in the sheriff's department," he said. "My gripe is not with Belle Amis or with (a facility in) Inavale — it's with the former governor, current governor and lieutenant governor."

In his letter, Alber shared his concern about the behavior of some Belle Amis residents, including one who recently offered a sexual act in exchange for a cigarette.

He encouraged comments to be directed to Kimberly Divis, investigator for the Nebraska Health and Human

Services System.

"I don't know if I can stop this thing by myself," he said. "I don't know if you want it stopped or want to help it, but you can voice your opinions."

When asked what "this thing" is, he said the mistreatment of Belle Amis residents, to which many in the audience groaned in disagreement.

Several Blue Hill residents expressed the sentiment that they hold no grudge against those in Belle Amis, but are worried about the possibility of sex offenders and people with a tendency for violence living in the facility.

"I'm worried about the citizens of the community as far as little kids going to school right down here," Blue Hill resident Jake Tenhoff said. "I just want to make sure we don't have crim-

inals in there, we don't have sex offenders in there."

Kusek said he thought many people in the audience were jumping to conclusions about the care and capabilities at Belle Amis.

"This is not a lock-down facility," he said. "We're not going to mandate when they wake up and when they are going to bed. I can beg and plead with these individuals till I'm blue in the face; I can talk to their guardians. (The) bottom line is, I can't give you 'this is the concrete answer about what to do.'"

To prevent trespassing and loitering, Belle Amis owner Ivan Worley encouraged Blue Hill residents not to give Belle Amis residents any food or money.

Please see BLUE HILL/page B3



THE SCIENCE OF WEATHER



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

Top left: Eddy Weiss shows the Doniphan-Trumbull fifth-grade class his storm-chasing vehicle during a presentation Tuesday. Above: Daryk Fisher checks out the inside of "Dorothy" during Weiss' presentation on storm chasing.

STORM CHASER GIVES KIDS WHIRLWIND LOOK AT STORMS

TONY HERRMAN
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DONIPHAN — Eddy Weiss drove his best friend to town Tuesday and used her to teach storm safety and disaster preparation to schoolchildren.

Weiss is a professional storm chaser who travels the country giving weather-related presentations to schools and civic organizations.

He goes from destination to destination in a black and yellow 1992 Chevrolet Blazer he's named Dorothy.

"I think kids always enjoy meeting Dorothy and seeing science from a different perspective," he said.

He's outfitted Dorothy with radar that he said can track a hurricane in Africa or could zoom in on the intersection just north of the Doniphan school.

The truck is covered with dents from hail, trees, bricks and shingles. It is also equipped with added weight on the bottom to keep it from tipping over in high winds and with a yellow platform attached to the front grill to give Weiss some added height for taking photos.



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

Eddy Weiss has the class point to him during a demonstration on how radars can only track tornadoes so well, which is why there is a need for storm trackers, during a presentation at the Doniphan-Trumbull School Tuesday.

"Without this, I could not take pictures of storms when the corn is high," he said.

Weiss' stop in Doniphan is part of a 32-school tour.

His operation, Chasing 4 Life, is a part of The Rest Project — of which he is director — is based in northern Illinois.

Please see WEATHER/page B3

LBNRD to require special permits for big water users

ANDY RAUN
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DAVENPORT — The heaviest consumers of groundwater — industrial users such as ethanol plants — will be required to obtain special pumping permits for new or expanding operations under revisions to management rules and regulations for the Little Blue Natural Resources District.

The permit will be required of any water user intending to consume more than 500 acre-feet per year pumped from a new or replacement well or series of wells, or for anyone planning to increase yearly consumption from an existing well or series of wells by 250 acre-feet per year or more.

For all practical purposes, the requirement will apply to industrial water users, not irrigators, said Mike Onnen, LBNRD general manager. And the grandfather clause will apply, so existing plants will not need the permit.

"We can't impose any regulations on things that are already in place," Onnen said.

To put water consumption numbers into perspective, an irrigation well that provides 12 inches (or 1 foot) of water to a 160-acre field in one growing season has consumed 160 acre-feet of water for that year.

Unlike with irrigation, which is seasonal in nature, most industrial plants require water every day of the year.

The Little Blue district, headquartered in Davenport, encompasses all of Thayer County and parts of Adams, Webster, Clay, Nuckolls, Fillmore and Jefferson counties.

District directors approved a package of additions and amendments to the district's groundwater management rules and regulations by a 16-0 vote Tuesday following a public hearing at the district office. The changes take effect May 4.

Please see LBNRD/page B3

Local slaughterhouse faces \$180,900 in fines for alleged violations

ANNA JO BRATTON
The Associated Press

OMAHA — Four months after beef from a Hastings slaughterhouse was rejected in South Korea over fears of mad cow disease, the slaughterhouse owner faces \$180,900 in fines related to 37 alleged safety and health violations.

The citations against Premium Protein Products by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration include failure to inspect and correct deficiencies in anhydrous ammonia systems at the facility.

"This employer is well aware of the standards that protect employees from the hazards we found during our inspection, yet did not comply with them," said Charles Adkins, OSHA's regional administrator in Kansas City, Mo.

Steve Sands, CEO of Premium Protein, said Tuesday the company learned of the alleged violations a few days ago and will meet with OSHA officials next week.

"We'll contest a number of them," Sands said. "It's very

early in the process, and we expect to get a significant reduction in the dollar amount."

OSHA said the company failed to provide refresher training for hazardous material technicians, did not provide personal protective equipment and did not develop an emergency action plan.

The company also was cited for failing to use seat belts on powered industrial trucks, not training truck drivers and failing to replace damaged and exposed welding leads. It also is accused of not properly recording injuries and illnesses.

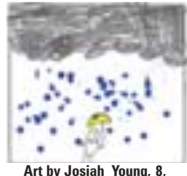
The company has 15 working days to contest the citations.

"We do recognize that we do work in a dangerous industry, and we welcome the suggestions from OSHA," Sands said. "Every one of the charges will be addressed."

South Korea said late last year it would suspend beef imports from the Premium Protein slaughterhouse after inspectors found bone fragments in a shipment, a violation of an agreement related to mad cow disease.

Weather

Lo: 32
Hi: 50



Art by Josiah Young, 8, Christ Lutheran School

ONE-LEGGED HEIST

POMONA, Calif. — A man accused of using a chain and pickup truck to yank a 1,500-pound ATM from a market failed to escape police when his prosthetic leg fell off during the getaway.

Nation

Gregory Daniels, 48, was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of burglary for the attempted heist from Pomona Ranch Market, police said. Authorities say Daniels and another man drove up to the market about 3 a.m., smashed a window, wrapped a chain around the ATM and used

the pickup to rip it from the floor. After loading the cash machine into the truck, the pair drove off. Officers chased the truck into a residential neighborhood. Daniels' prosthetic leg fell off when he attempted to flee on foot.

The Associated Press

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Obituaries

MYRON KERSENBROCK

Hildreth resident Myron Kersensbrock, 77, died Tuesday April 10, 2007, at the Golden Living Center in Franklin after a long struggle with Lewy Body disease.

Services are 10:30 a.m. Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hildreth with the Rev. Sylvia Karlsson officiating. Burial will be in Hildreth Cemetery. Visitation is 3-5 and 7-8 p.m. Thursday at Jelden-Craig Funeral Home.



Kersensbrock

Myron was born February 26, 1930, to John and Grace (Bunger) Kersensbrock at their home in Saline County near Crete, Nebraska. At the age of two he moved with his parents to Wilcox, Nebraska. There he attended the Moline Country/District 52 School through the 8th grade and then Wilcox High School for one year when he and his parents moved to the Hildreth area. Myron graduated from Hildreth High School in 1947. While attending high school he was very involved in 4-H where he showed cattle. After graduation he worked for the REA Company. In 1951, Myron enlisted in the Air Force, where he was stationed at Sheppard AFB in Texas. On May 11, 1952, he married Lorenna Bungler. They made their home in Murfreesboro, Tennessee while Myron was in the military. After the military, they returned home to the Hildreth area where he farmed

and also worked for Wendel and Frecks Inc. Later Myron worked for Olson Bros. land leveling and drove truck hauling cattle for Riney Olson. Myron then worked for Schwartz Bros. Implement and finally for the Franklin County Department of Roads as a road grader and heavy equipment operator from which he retired in 1998.

Myron was a member and served on the Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council and later became a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Hildreth. Myron was a member of the American Legion Post # 0378 for over 50 years. He was a member of the Hildreth Lions Club. He served on the Hildreth Volunteer Fire Department, the Hildreth Town Board and the Salem Township Board. He loved fishing, hunting, being and playing with his family and anybody who was ready with a joke. Myron's personality was full of life which always made it a joy to be around him. Myron will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Lorenna; two daughters, Lori Hodson and husband Jeff of Hastings, Lisa Nerud and husband Randy of Lincoln; two sons, Nile Kersensbrock and wife Bobette of Hildreth, and Reuben Kersensbrock also of Hildreth; six grandchildren, Jade, Jalynda and Christian Hodson, Seth, Libbie and Cade Nerud and one step-granddaughter, Kayla (Hodson) Miller and husband Joe of Iowa. He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

RUSSELL W. 'WES' SEMM

Former area resident Russell Wesley "Wes" Semm, 76, of Kingman, Ariz., died Thursday, April 5, 2007.

Services are 2 p.m. Friday at St. John's Methodist Church in Kingman, Ariz.

Memorials may be given to St. John's United Methodist Men's Group, 1730 Kino Ave., Kingman, AZ 86409, or Kingman Regional Medical Center Hospice Center, 3269 Stockton Hill Rd., Kingman, AZ 86409.

Sutton Memorial Funeral Home in Kingman, Ariz. was in charge of arrangements.

Wes was born October 17, 1930, in Grand Island. He married Donna Jean Richards on February 9, 1950, and Wes and Donna celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary this past February. They moved to Buena Park, Calif. in 1957 and later moved to Kingman, Ariz. in 1987. Wes was very involved in the community. He loved to work with others especially those individuals associated with the Elks Lodge where he was involved in assisting with Thursday Night Bingo and Col-



Semm

lege Scholarship programs, participated and promoted local blood drives and was a member of the St. John's United Methodist Church men's group. He was always there to fry the eggs for the men's breakfasts. Wes was full of life. He adored his wife and best friend, loved his immediate and extended family, appreciated and respected his friends, and was always there to help others and make you laugh with one of his jokes. He loved Johnny Cash and Hank Williams and shared his love of music with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Donna; children, Bob (Rhonda) Semm, Terry (Roger) Ueda, Larry (Linda) Semm, Gary Semm; grandchildren, Donna (Gabe) Esquibel, John Trotter, Todd Semm, Travis Semm, Jenna Semm, Rocky (Luke) Meadows, Marc Morris, Jason Ueda, Jamie Ueda; great-grandchildren, Devin Serrano, Gabriel Esquibel, Estevan Esquibel, Marissa Esquibel, Matthew Esquibel, Manny Esquibel, Daulton Meadows, Addyson Meadows; nieces, nephews, other family members and his many, many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Russell Wilbur and Theresa Semm; and brothers, Gordon and Cecil Semm.

LOUISE C. LEBOW

Former Hebron resident Louise C. Lebow, 57, died Saturday, April 7, 2007, at her home in Lincoln.

Rosary services are 7 p.m. today at Hebron Memorial Funeral Home. Services are 10 a.m. Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hebron.

ANNA K. 'KAY' NELSEN

Anna Kathryn "Kay" Nelsen, 84, died Monday, April 9, 2007, at her home in rural Smith County, Kan.

Services are 2 p.m. Thursday at Simmons-Rentschler Mortuary in Smith Center, Kan. with Pastor Dan Stouffer officiating.

Visitation is till 7 p.m. today at the funeral home. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery at Hebron.

Memorials may be given to Coalition for Pet Protection, P.O. Box 23165, Lincoln, NE 68542.

Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery in Smith Center, Kan. Visitation is 9 a.m. until services Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be given to Smith County Memorial Hospital.

FLORENCE FICHTNER

Former Edgar resident Florence (Woodhead) Fichtner, 99, died Friday, April 6, 2007, in Billings, Mont.

Services are 2 p.m. Friday at

Edgar Cemetery in Edgar. Visitation is 10 a.m. until services Friday at Williams Funeral Home in Edgar.

SHAROL K. GRIESS

Sutton resident Sharol Kay (Shrock) Griess, 67, died Monday, April 9, 2007, at her home.

Services are 2 p.m. Thursday at Federated Church in Sutton with the Rev. Baldeo Singh officiating. Burial will be in the Sutton Cemetery. Visitation is until 9 p.m. today, 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Thursday at Sutton Memorial Chapel, and one hour prior to services at the church.



Griess

Sharol was born May 21, 1939, to Donald and Lucille (Mussman) Schrock in Ong. She graduated from Ong High School in 1957. On March 22, 1957, she married Donald R. Griess from Sutton. She lived in Sutton for the rest of her life where she was active in her

children and grandchildren's lives. She and her husband Don spent the winter months each year in Texas, Arizona, and Mexico. Sharol enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, traveling, fishing, turkey hunting, and farming. She also enjoyed making hamburgers and sandwiches for her farming family. She spent a lot of time making special blankets, cross stitching, and bowled for many years.

She is survived by her husband, Donald R. of Sutton; sons, Lonnie Griess of Sutton, Scott Griess and wife Karla of Sutton; daughter, Kim Griess and husband Wes of Sutton; parents, Don and Lucille Schrock of Hastings; brother, Duane Schrock and wife Mary of Kearney; sister, Sharon Ebert and husband Bob of Clay Center and 12 grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by a son, Kevin Layne Griess.

Fire destroys Johnny Cash's longtime lakeside Tennessee home

The Associated Press

HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn. — Johnny Cash's longtime lakeside home, a showcase where he wrote much of his famous music and entertained U.S. presidents, music royalty and visiting fans, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday.

One firefighter was injured in the blaze, authorities said.

Cash and his wife, June Carter Cash, lived in the 13,880-square-foot home from the late 1960s until their deaths in 2003. Barry Gibb, a former member of the Bee Gees, purchased the home in 2006 and had hoped to remodel it and eventually write songs there with his wife.

"So many prominent things and prominent people in American history took place in that house — everyone from Billy Graham to Bob Dylan went into that house," said singer Marty Stuart, who lives next door and was married to Cash's daughter, Cindy, in the 1980s.

When Cash moved there, the road was a quiet country lane that skirts Old Hickory Lake. Kris Kristofferson, then an aspiring songwriter, once landed a helicopter on Cash's lawn to pitch him a song. Roy Orbison was his next-door neighbor for a while.

"It was a sanctuary and a

fortress for him," Stuart said. "There was a lot of writing that took place there."

Dixon built the three-story house in 1967 for his own family, but Cash fell in love with it. Dixon was reluctant to sell, but Cash kept after him.

"It was a very, very unusual contemporary structure," said Cash's brother, Tommy Cash. "It was built with stone and wood and all kinds of unusual materials, from marble to old barn wood. I don't think there was a major blueprint. I think the builder was building it the way he wanted it to look."

The fire, in this suburb about 20 miles northeast of downtown Nashville, started around 1:40 p.m. Fire trucks arrived within five minutes, but the house was already engulfed in flames, Hendersonville Fire Chief Jamie Steele said.

Just a few hours later, there was almost nothing left except stone chimneys.

The cause is unknown, but Steele said the flames spread quickly because construction workers had recently applied a flammable wood preservative to the exterior of the house. The preservative was also being applied inside the house.

Leeza Gibbons: 'What if we demand a recount?'

The Associated press

LOS ANGELES — Leeza Gibbons didn't want to leave "Dancing With the Stars."

"What if we demand a recount," she asked Tuesday when she learned that she and her professional partner, Tony Dovolani, would be eliminated

from the ABC dance-off.

Still, the perennially perky TV personality kept a smile on her face as she thanked her three children and Dovolani for their support.

"I believe just showing up for your life anytime makes you a winner," Gibbons said.

NewsMakers

Perfect strangers



DIANE BONDAREFF/AP

Halle Berry and Bruce Willis arrive to the premiere of their movie "Perfect Stranger" Tuesday in New York, which opens in the U.S. Friday.

FORMER GRATEFUL DEAD MANAGER SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON

LOS ANGELES — A former manager for the Grateful Dead has been sentenced to five years in federal prison for tax evasion, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Ronald Leon Rakow, 69, was ordered to begin his prison term in June for evading payment of \$2.2 million in taxes owed to the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Rakow was convicted in July of one count of tax evasion. During his two-week trial, prosecutors presented evidence showing Rakow hid his assets to prevent the IRS from collecting taxes dating back to 1985.

Prosecutors said that from 1998 to 2003, Rakow transferred about \$5.2 million in income from consulting fees, stock and assets under his control into accounts held in other names.

SHERYL CROW TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING

NEW YORK — Sheryl Crow, riding aboard a bus that uses biodiesel fuel, is on an 11-stop college tour to raise awareness about global warming.

Accompanying the Grammy-winning singer is Laurie David, who produced the film on climate change, "An Inconvenient Truth," which won the Oscar for best documentary earlier this year.

Each stop on the tour will include remarks by David, a short performance by Crow, clips from "An Inconvenient Truth" and a dialogue with students, according to Crow's Web site.

"The more I learn about global warming, the more I know that we all have to do something to be a part of the solution," Crow, 45, said in a statement. "I am thrilled Laurie and I have the opportunity to go on the road and combine our efforts to educate the next generation on how they can make a difference."

BIRTHDAYS

Former New York State Gov. Hugh Carey is 88. Ethel Kennedy is 79. Actor Johnny Sheffield is 76. Actor Joel Grey is 75. Syndicated columnist Ellen Goodman is 66. Movie writer-director John Milius is 63. Actor Peter Riegert is 60. Actor Meshach Taylor is 60. Movie director Carl Franklin is 58. Actor Bill Irwin is 57. Country singer Steve Azar is 43. Singer Lisa Stansfield is 41. Actor Johnny Messner is 37. Actor Vicellous Shannon is 36. Singer Joss Stone is 20.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If we were to wake up some morning and find that everyone was the same race, creed, and color, we would find some other causes for prejudice by noon."

— U.S. Sen. George Aiken, R-Vt. (1892-1984)

The Associated Press

Tribland

Adams County Judge Michael Offner Tuesday sentenced Douglas Lane, 46, of Grand Island, to 30 days in jail, \$525 in fines and one-year drivers license revocation for second-offense driving under the influence of alcohol and failure to stay in lane Aug. 7, 2006. Lane pleaded guilty Jan. 5, and prosecutors reduced the blood-alcohol content on the DUI charge, reducing it from a Class 1 misdemeanor. Second-offense DUI is a Class W misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$500 fine.

Mow yards, 20 years experience. Reasonable. 463-9741. -Adv.

1st half of 2006 taxes will be delinquent May 1. Adams County Treasurer. -Adv.

B.L.U.E. Preview, Friday, April 13, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Chapman gym. Pre-register for E-Z Check-out. -Adv.

Grasshopper open house April 13, 14. Special discounts. Hi-Line Motors, Kenesaw. -Adv.

Adams County District Judge Stephen Illingworth recently granted a decree of dissolution to the marriage of Krystal L. Enck and Keith A. Enck, Francisco Javier Rubles-Cardenas and Marie Elena Alvarez, Larry Donald Paulson and Nellie Marie Paulson, and Krista J. Rizzo and Mark A. Rizzo.

Congratulations to Bryan Bieck, Sr. of Trumbull and Steve Lang of Hastings...the winners of the Gold Rush Days Contest! Each won a six month subscription to the Hastings Tribune. -Adv.

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

Korky Lightner Auction, all new items, now at Mike's Auction, Thursday, April 12, 5:00. -Adv.

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

Vehicles reportedly driven by Emily N. Cannon, of 420 S. Woodland Ave., and Nicole A. Henrichs, of 1610 W. Sixth St., collided Friday on 15th Street near Burlington Avenue.

The Kenesaw Village Board will hold a special meeting Tuesday, April 17, 7:30 p.m. at Village Office. Agenda is available at Clerk's Office. -Adv.

Lawn mowing. Call 462-9725, please leave message. -Adv.

Ramon G. Smith's obituary in Tuesday's Tribune...visitation is 4:00 to 9:00 Wednesday at Campbell Funeral Home. -Adv.

Correction

A mailbox owned by Matthew T. Pershing, of 1405 N. Arapahoe Ave., was reportedly struck Saturday by a hit-and-run driver on Arapahoe Avenue near 14th Street. Information about the report appeared incorrectly in Tuesday's edition of the Tribune.

Danielle Reineke, of 2225 W. Bateman St., reported Monday that her vehicle window was damaged at her residence.

Eagles bingo Thursday, 7:00; \$300 pig, 55 number bonanza. -Adv.

Area funerals

Thursday, April 12

◆ Louise Lebow, 57, of Lincoln, 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hebron.

◆ Ramon Smith, 73, of Campbell, 10:30 a.m. at Westminster United Presbyterian Church in Campbell.

◆ Sharol Griess, 67, of Sutton, 2 p.m. at Federated Church in Sutton.

◆ Anna Nelsen, 84, of rural Smith County, Kan., 2 p.m. at Simmons-Rentschler Mortuary in Smith Center, Kan.

Friday, April 13

◆ Myron Kersensbrock, 77, of Hildreth, 10:30 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hildreth.

◆ Florence Fichtner, 99, of Billings, Mont., 2 p.m. at Edgar Cemetery in Edgar.

◆ Henry Soukup, 89, of Superior, 2 p.m. at Megrue-Price Funeral Home chapel in Superior.

Nation

FOREVER STAMP

WASHINGTON — The "forever" stamp will go on sale Thursday, with an opening day ceremony at the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.

The stamp, which carries an image of the Liberty Bell, will sell for 41 cents and will remain valid for first-class postage regardless of future rate increases.

The current 39-cent price for first class mail rises to 41 cents May 14, but buyers can use the forever stamps before that if they wish.

The stamps will be sold in booklets of 20 and postal officials said there is no limit on purchases.

When postal rates go up in the future, the cost for the forever stamp will also rise, but old ones will still be valid for mailing a letter.

The forever stamps are expected to remain in sale, well, forever.

The post office will also continue to offer "definitive" stamps at a particular rate. For first-class rates, for example, the U.S. flag has been used repeatedly in different designs and is popular with buyers.

TIFFANY DIAMOND

WASHINGTON — Light flashes across the 82 facets of the Tiffany Diamond, highlighting the brilliance of the giant gem at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

One of the world's largest yellow diamonds, the stone is on loan from Tiffany & Co., from Wednesday through Sept. 23. It joins such famed jewels as the Hope Diamond, Hooker Emerald and Oppenheimer Diamond.

The Tiffany Diamond weighs 128.54 carats and is in a cushion cut. Perched on it is a gem-encrusted bird known as the "Bird on a Rock," designed in the early 1960s by Jean Schlumberger. The bird is gold and platinum with white and yellow diamonds accented by a ruby eye.

"It's the largest diamond on public display in the United States," Jeffrey E. Post, curator of gems at the museum, said.

ASTRONAUT ARRESTED

ORLANDO, Fla. — A police search of former astronaut Lisa Nowak's car turned up bondage photos on a computer disk, British currency and pills, according to documents released Tuesday by prosecutors.

A judge last week agreed to unseal some of the documents in the Nowak's case. She is accused of trying to kidnap a rival for a space shuttle pilot's affections.

Nearly all of the 16 images found on the disk depicted bondage scenes, according to a forensic examination report by the Orlando Police Department. Some of the images showed a nude woman while others were drawings.

The documents did not make clear whether Nowak was the woman in the photos or who the disks belonged to.

Also found were nearly \$600, 41 British pounds and four brown paper towels with 69 orange pills. State law enforcement are testing the pills to determine what they are, authorities said.

SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

CHICAGO — A 15-year-old boy faces adult charges after a handgun he got past school security went off in a classroom, injuring him and another boy playing with it, police said today.

Police did not release the teenager's name, but officer Hector Alfaro said he faces one count of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon on school grounds.

Authorities were still trying to determine how he got the 9 mm handgun past metal detectors at Chicago Vocational Career Academy and into a science classroom, where it went off as one teen passed it to the other Tuesday afternoon. One boy was hit in the thigh and the other near the knee, said Robert Lopez, an assistant deputy police superintendent.

The Associated Press

Companies pull advertising from Imus' show

DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Staples Inc. and Procter & Gamble Co. have pulled their advertising from Don Imus' radio show in the wake of the furor caused by his comments about the Rutgers women's basketball team.

The two companies on Tuesday added to the fallout that began when the now-suspended radio show host called the players "nappy-headed hos" on his April 4 show.

"Because of the recent comments that were made on the program it did prompt us to take a look at our decision to advertise on the program and we have decided to stop advertising," Staples spokesman Paul Capelli said Tuesday night.

"Once we became aware of the comment, we sort of stepped back and took a look at it," he said, declining to disclose the dollar amount of the advertising involved. "We weren't on today and are not planning on being on going forward."

"I can't speculate on what we might do in the future," he said.

P&G spokesman Terry Loftus said the company pulled ads from the show as of last Friday. Another sponsor, Bigelow Tea, said in a statement posted on its Web site that the remarks have "put our future sponsorship in jeopardy."

Calls for the radio host's dismissal have been growing, including from groups such as the National Organization for Women and the National Association of Black Journalists.



MIKE DERER/AP

Members of the Rutgers women's basketball team are shown during a news conference held on campus in Piscataway, N.J., Tuesday to react to derogatory remarks directed at their team made on air by radio personality Don Imus.

The 10 members of the Rutgers team spoke publicly for the first time Tuesday about the on-air comments, made the day after the team lost the NCAA championship game to Tennessee.

Some of them wiped away tears as their coach, C. Vivian Stringer, criticized Imus for "racist and sexist remarks that are deplorable, despicable, abominable and unconscionable." The women,

eight of whom are black, called his comments insensitive and hurtful.

"It kind of scars us. We grew up in a world where racism exists, and there's nothing we can do to change that," said Matee Ajavon, a junior guard. "I think that this has scarred me for life."

The women agreed, however, to meet with Imus privately next Tuesday and hear his explanation. They held back from saying

whether they'd accept Imus' apologies or passing judgment on whether a two-week suspension imposed by CBS Radio and MSNBC was sufficient.

Several players said they wanted to ask him why he would make such thoughtless statements.

Junior forward Essence Carson said she had done some research on Imus and his past inflammatory and derogatory

statements about other people.

"Just knowing that this has happened time and time before, I felt that it might be time to make a stand," she said today on NBC's "Today" show.

"He doesn't know who we are as people," Carson said. "That's why we are just so appalled with his insensitive remarks, not only about African-American women, but about women as a whole."

Tribland five-day forecast

Art by Josiah Young, 8, Christ Lutheran School



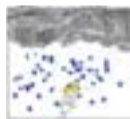
CLOUDY TODAY

High: 50 Low: 32
Wind: Northwest 20-25
Partly cloudy tonight.



SNOWY SATURDAY

High: 48 Low: 32
Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow.



RAINY THURSDAY

High: 50 Low: 35
Wind: North 10
A 20 percent chance of rain showers in the afternoon.



SUNNY SUNDAY

High: 60 Low: 38
Mostly clear Sunday night.



SNOWY FRIDAY

High: 38 Low: 32
Rain with snow likely.
Snow accumulation around 1 inch.

Today's weather records

High: 91 in 1996
Low: 18 in 1997

Local weather ♦ From 7 a.m. April 10 to 7 a.m. April 11

High Tuesday	44	Year-to-date precipitation	4.06
High in 2006	81	Jan.-April 2006 precipitation	3.84
Overnight low	41	Snowfall last 24 hours	.00
Overnight low in 2006	56	April snowfall	.50
Precipitation last 24 hours	.23	April 2006 snowfall	.00
April precipitation	.29	Season-to-date snowfall	15.60
April 2006 precipitation	.78	Season-to-date 2006 snowfall	34.30

Prosecutors to drop all charges against Duke lacrosse players

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — State prosecutors will drop all charges against three Duke lacrosse players who were accused of sexual assaulting a stripper at a team party, a person close to the case told The Associated Press today.

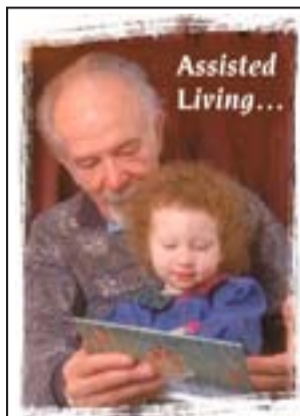
The person spoke to The AP on a condition of anonymity because a formal announcement has not been made. The North Carolina Attorney General's office, which took over the case in January after the local district attorney was accused of ethics violations, said it would have an announcement on the case at 2:30 p.m.

The decision to drop all

charges would end the troubled criminal prosecution of Reade Seligmann, Collin Finnerty and David Evans.

The three were indicted by a grand jury on charges of rape, kidnapping and sexual offense last spring after a woman told police she was assaulted at a lacrosse team party where she had been hired to perform as a stripper.

It also would turn the focus of the sensational case toward the future of Durham County District Attorney Mike Nifong, who has been charged by the state bar with several ethics violations connected to his handling of the case that could lead to his disbarment.



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Tuesday, April 17th
3 p.m.

Medical Services Building, Lower Level



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A day to thank HRC employees

Hastings Tribune

Since 2002, it has been a seesaw ride for employees of the Hastings Regional Center: up and down, bad news countered with bits of hope.

Lucky for the Hastings area and other parts of the state that have benefited from their care and services, many of those employees haven't chosen to get off the ride, yet. For that, they deserve our thanks and some community encouragement.

Thursday's HRC Employee Appreciation Day event in Hastings is designed to offer gratitude and support to those workers who continue to stick it out, even though the axe threatens to fall with each new legislative session. Community members are invited to join HRC employees from 1-4 p.m. at the Chamber Development Center.

HRC employees could definitely use a pat on the back right about now. Life as a regional center employee has never been easy. It's a tough job for tough people: verbal, physical and sexual abuse from some patients isn't uncommon.

But the stress level has been upped lately as the remaining programs at HRC are on the chopping block and employees are bracing for job losses. In addition, HRC employees have been the target of below-the-belt comments from state politicians and community-based providers who have no clue about what these employees' workdays are like.

Now that HRC's adult residential services are closing, about 100 HRC employees are getting the pink slip. Some of those workers may be transferred within the Health and Human Services System; others will have to find another line of work or go to another city where they can fulfill their specialties. That means uprooting families, selling homes, finding new schools. Talk about adding stress to stress.

We encourage the community to attend Thursday's event in force. Let's show our support for HRC and for the people who make it work.

After all, these are the people who live near us, go to church with us, share our schools and volunteer in this community.

They need to see that we're rooting for them, and that we'll be there for them no matter what the seesaw does next.

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.



Hastings Tribune

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One dog can steal your whole heart

His name is Oliver, which if you ask me — not that anybody did — sounds a bit dignified for something so full of the devil.

He's only a baby — a toddler, really — just shy of his 1st birthday. He's got big brown eyes, short bowed legs, a pointy little nose and a face that lights up like the Fourth of July at the sound of my feet at his door.

Also, he is fascinated by my every move. I'm serious. He can't take his eyes off me.

It's been a while since I've garnered that much attention and I admit I rather like it.

But talk about a handful. Watching Oliver in action is like watching a Road Runner cartoon set on fast forward.

I knew that. But I did not understand all it would entail, until I agreed to take care of him for four days.

What was I to do? My daughter was going on vacation and did not want to leave him with strangers. He's her baby. I'm her mother. It's natural that I'd be her first choice to care for him in her absence.

Besides, it was cheaper to fly me in than put him in a kennel.

That's right. I'm playing "Nana" to a miniature dachshund. I've had harder jobs, but none as I recall that got my face licked as often.

My daughter left treats — a few for me, tons for Oliver — and several pages of



Sharon Randall

detailed notes to answer every question I would never think to ask.

I glanced over them quickly noting the warnings ("Do not leave anything that you want to keep where he can get to it or he will chew it to shreds") and set them aside to read later.

Then I left for 10 minutes to buy myself a few more treats, and when I got back, he had chewed the notes to shreds and scattered them throughout every inch of the apartment.

Fine, I said. I had reared three whole children without notes. How hard could one dog be?

That is a question that I shall now attempt to answer:

1. One dog, given enough time, can completely trash your life. First, it was the notes. Next, a whole roll of toilet paper. Then it was my shoe or rather, a ridiculously expensive orthotic insert that he managed to chew into ridiculously expensive bits. My cell phone might've met a similar fate, had I not pried it out of his little bear-trap jaws.

2. One dog, given enough toys, will still demand full attention. If I sat at the computer, he'd sit up on his haunches like a fire hydrant, begging me to hold him. If I watched TV, he'd

chew my hair. If I read in bed, he'd burrow under the covers and lick my feet until I'd give up and tell him a bedtime story about a dog that misbehaved and got sent to doggie prison.

3. One dog, given enough treats, can recycle them in ways that will make you wish you had not been dumb enough to keep feeding them to him. Never mind the details.

4. One dog, given enough leash, can drag you for blocks, until your ankle swells up like a cantaloupe because you aren't wearing the orthotic insert that he chewed into little bits.

5. One dog, given enough room, can scare the bejeezes out of you. I woke one night to a strange sensation: Tiny dog toenails scratching at my back. When I ignored him, he barked in my ear. I waited for my heart to start beating again, then I whirled over to face him.

"Bad dog!" I hissed. "What exactly do you want?"

What he wanted, it seems, was to tuck his nose in my neck — the way my daughter would do as a baby — and fall asleep.

And that is what he did.

One dog, given half a chance, can steal your whole heart.

Oliver is not my grandchild. But he will do, until the real thing comes along.

Sharon Randall is an award-winning columnist. Her e-mail is randallbay@earthlink.net.

Voice of the People

FAMILIES SUPPORT LB542

Families CARE is a nonprofit advocacy agency for families with children who struggle with severe emotional disorders. After reading articles in the Tribune, I felt I needed to add the family perspective to the issue.

The \$10.5 million that it takes to continue to maintain the Hastings Regional Center budget is money allotted to children's mental health. It is money for kids.

Best Practices has redefined the nature of how we serve children and families in the most effective manner. Although there was a time HRC served its purpose, times have changed.

We have learned how to better serve children and families with better outcomes. We know that by having an array of community-based services, we are not only better able to maintain children in their home environments but also have a better ability to transition youth back to home when an out-of-home placement is needed.

Residential placements need to be near families to enable them to participate in the clinical progress of their child as well as maintain family bonds.

Rather than dumping \$10.5 million back into the HRC budget, we need to look at how that money can best be spent on the needs of our youth.

Although residential treatment is indeed a need at times, we should be providing that service in geographical proximity to families.

About half the youth at HRC are from Omaha and Lincoln. Families are already forced to work their way through a maze of services that is complicated by admission criteria and financial restrictions.

Having to send a child far from home just adds to the inconveniences and problems the family faces. Families are forced to miss more work to access the care for their children, thus

impacting the family's financial needs. One problem leads into another problem.

Families would like to see more community-based services they could access within their own communities.

I realize rural Nebraska presents some geographical challenges to this goal, but we need to find a way to serve all Nebraska children effectively.

Community-based services enable families to access the services they need more readily and in a more timely fashion. Getting children's needs met when they need the help has been proven to be a more cost-effective way of preventing needs to escalate. Serving families and children within less restrictive environments presents a cost savings in itself.

Nebraska has the knowledge and foundation to complete the building of a children's mental health system of care that fully addresses the needs of children and families in a truly effective way. We have come a long way in educating ourselves to eliminate stigma toward mental health challenges, but it is time we put our money where our mouth is and translate our new wisdom into real, tangible services for kids within their home communities.

This \$10.5 million would go a long way toward developing community-based services. We need to do the right thing for the children of our state. LB542 gives the funding to move in the direction children's mental health needs to go.

I am not discounting the effects of closing HRC. The employees have served well. Money is a precious commodity. There is only so much of it.

We already know that no new money will be available for children's mental health, so we are obligated to look at the dollars we have and how they are spent.

We need to put those dollars to the best use

and look to proven Best Practices. Families support LB542.

Harriet Lambrecht, executive director of Families CARE Kearney

FUNDING THE WAR

In November 2005 while addressing the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., in his "National Strategy for Victory in Iraq" speech, President Bush declared, "There will not be a signing ceremony on the deck of a battleship" (as on the deck of the Battleship Missouri at the end of World War II). A year and 1,000 American lives later, on Jan. 11, 2006, Bush again used the same metaphor, "There will be no surrender on the deck of a battleship." Another year of stay the course. An odd choice of words for a war where we're bogged down in the desert. Victory was not defined.

When a president assumes the role of commander in chief of the Armed Forces (not the country at large) it is not unreasonable to expect statesmanship, competence, leadership, truthfulness and a knowledge of history in the performance of his office rather than entrenching himself in the White House and sending others to do his talking for him.

While it is indeed unfortunate for Congress to threaten cutting off unlimited funding for prosecution of the Iraq War, which was started by President Bush, perhaps many in Congress feel the same sense of desperation as their constituents and are using one means at their disposal to get the President's attention. This might explain, in part, why Sens. Hagel and Nelson voted as they did.

In the end, funds will be appropriated as long as our men and women are in Iraq.

For the record, I have served in the U.S. Navy, the Nebraska Air National Guard and the U.S. Air Force.

John A. Coover
Ayr

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Region

BACK TO THE

DRAWING BOARD

HOLDREGE — Following a public hearing here Tuesday, the Tri-Basin Natural Resources board of directors tabled any decisions on a number of proposed changes to the district's groundwater management plan.

John Thorburn, TBNRD general manager, said the board instead placed the proposed changes back in the hands of the planning committee for further consideration.

"The changes concerned groundwater quantity issues," Thorburn said. "One of those issues was a triggering point. Five people testified before the board concerning these issues. One person from the Lower Republican NRD came to testify in favor of groundwater transfer from the Platte River Basin into the Republican Basin."

Another piece of the rule change involved the possible necessity of a permitting process for high-capacity wells for industrial use, such as those needed for ethanol production. The Little Blue NRD board dealt with a similar issue Tuesday, as well.

Thorburn said another hearing on the changes probably wouldn't happen until June because the planning committee first would review and approve further revisions and bring them before the board its May meeting for provisional approval.

Notice of the new public hearing will need to be advertised for at least three weeks as required by law.

State

ELLIS SENTENCED

OMAHA — The man charged in the slaying of 12-year-old Amber Harris has been sentenced to 60 years in prison on an unrelated crime.

Roy Ellis Jr., 53, was sentenced Tuesday on a witness tampering conviction as a habitual criminal. Officials said he will not be eligible for parole for at least 35 years.

Ellis has nine felonies on his record dating back to 1975, including two sexual assaults of children.

Ellis is set to go on trial this fall for the death of Amber Harris, whose remains were found May 11 in Hummel Park in far northeast Omaha — six months after she was last seen getting off her school bus.

Prosecutors say they have DNA evidence linking Ellis to the girl's disappearance and death.

BABY KILLED

OMAHA — A teenager charged with killing his 6-month-old son has asked a judge to throw out the charges against him.

Christopher Hudson was 18 years old in February 2006 when police say he shook and threw the baby to the ground.

Hudson's lawyer argued before a judge on Tuesday that prosecutors waited too long to bring Hudson to trial. Attorney Glen Shapiro said prosecutors have six months to go to court for trial, but it has been almost a year since Hudson was charged.

The Associated Press

Calendar

HASTINGS

◆ **Alcoholics Anonymous**, noon, 5:15 and 8 p.m. Thursday, 521 S. St. Joseph Ave.

◆ **Alanon**, noon Thursday, The Kensington.

◆ **Bloodmobile**, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, First Congregational United Church of Christ.

◆ **Narcotics Anonymous**, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, 422 N. Burlington Ave., rear entrance.

◆ **Traumatic Brain Injury Support Group**, 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital Medical Services Building, Classroom D/E. Topic: Review of state convention info.

JUNIATA

◆ **Alcoholics Anonymous**, 8 p.m. Thursday, United Methodist Church basement.

Lotteries

WINNING NUMBERS

Tuesday
Nebraska Pick 3 **7-4-3**
Kansas Pick 3 **7-8-2**
Nebraska Pick 5 **11-15-19-23-35**
Jackpot: \$94,000
2by2 **Red 3-16, White 13-25**

HRC staff defends youth programs

SHAY BURK
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Staff at the Hastings Regional Center defended the importance of their adolescent programs during a public discussion Tuesday at the YWCA Adams County.

Marj Colburn, facility operating officer for HRC, spoke about the current situation of the regional center during the YWCA's regular Food and Forum luncheon event.

Colburn said the two biggest issues facing the center are the implementation of the adult mental health reform stem-

The future of HRC

ming from LB1083, which was enacted in 2004, and the current debate about LB542, a legislative bill before the Nebraska Legislature that would discontinue funding to HRC's two juvenile programs. The bill, proposed by Sen. John Synowiecki, of Omaha, would reallocate the funds to create the Enhanced Services and Capacity Expansion Fund for Juveniles, which would move the juveniles to community-based programs

for treatment of mental health and chemical dependency issues.

"As the bill is currently written, as Sen. Synowiecki proposed, the bill actually calls for all services for the adolescents to be moved off of the regional center campus," she said. "So in effect, it would close the regional center."

Colburn said she understood Synowiecki was writing some revisions to the bill but said she was unaware of what those revisions were.

The bill was heard by the Legislature's Appropriations

Appreciation Day

◆ **What:** Hastings Regional Center Employee Appreciation Day open house. HRC employees and members of the community are invited.

◆ **When:** 1-4 p.m. Thursday
◆ **Where:** Chamber Development Center, 301 S. Burlington Ave.
◆ Refreshments and cookies will be provided

Committee on March 19 and is currently under its consideration.

Please see HRC/page B2



AMY ROH/Tribune

Cooper Beahm, 4, shows a rubber worm to his cousin, Henry Schreiner, 3, during Mud, Seeds, Sun and Fun Preschool Playday Tuesday at Hastings Museum.

Playday a hit

CHILDREN USE PAINT, PRODUCE TO CREATE ART

TONY HERRMAN
therman@hastingstribune.com

Instead of playing with mud outside in the rain Tuesday, many young children were doing it inside at the Hastings Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

Seventeen children attended the Preschool Playday, one of the final ones of the school year, where they planted marigold seeds; painted pictures using dirt, water-soluble paint and produce; and constructed pinwheels.

Lynn Zeleski, acting education coordinator for the museum, said the goal of the day was to educate the 3- to 5-year-old children about the wonders of dirt, water and seeds.

"They need soil and water to grow things, plus it's a muddy day," she said.

Zeleski began the day by reading "The Tiny Seed" to the children and ended it by reading "Diary of a Worm," giving the children dirt cups — crushed cookies and gummy worms.

Please see MUSEUM/page A6



AMY ROH/Tribune

Claire Kjolbasa, 3, paints with a carrot during Mud, Seeds, Sun and Fun Preschool Playday Tuesday at Hastings Museum.

New fair activities announced

WILL VRASPIR
wvraspir@hastingstribune.com

Three major new attractions will be included in the Adams County FairFest this year — professional bull riding, an auctioneering contest and monster truck rides.

Sandy Himmelberg, FairFest manager, announced the new attractions Tuesday at a press conference at the Adams County Fairgrounds.

She said the new attractions will join entertainment from Trace Adkins, Josh Gracin and the Little River Band to make a great event.

"Everybody's going to FairFest 2007 to see some of the best entertainment," Himmelberg said.

The Professional Bull Riding Enterprise Tour will compete July 28 at the Adams County Fairgrounds.

Himmelberg said the top bull rider in the country is expected to perform, as well as three or four other riders in the top 10.

"We should have a great bull riding show," she said. "I think that's going to be phenomenal."

The Nebraska Auctioneers Association will hold a bid calling competition July 29.

Himmelberg said this will be the first year the contest has been in Hastings.

She said the contest usually draws 18-20 contestants, who each will auction off three items. The top three auctioneers will proceed to the second round, where they will answer questions about auctioneering to compete for the Nebraska State Auctioneer title.

A new event that will be conducted throughout FairFest weekend will be monster truck rides, Himmelberg said.

Please see FAIR/page A6

Girl who died in plane crash had ties to Hastings

FAA INVESTIGATES MONDAY'S ACCIDENT THAT KILLED TWO

JOHN HUTHMACHER
johnh@hastingstribune.com

A Federal Aviation Administration investigation continued this morning into Monday's plane crash seven miles north of Scottsbluff that killed Gering High School senior Whitney Renae Parr, 18, and pilot Martin Bowen, 64, of rural Mitchell.

According to The Associated Press, Bowen, who was a substitute teacher at Gering High School, reportedly crashed the plane shortly before 4:30 p.m. Monday in a cornfield.

Linda Victory, a close friend of the family, told the Tribune this morning that he had promised to take a group of seniors

up for a ride before graduation. Don Hague, superintendent of Gering Schools, declined to comment this morning.

The kit-type model plane took off from Western Nebraska Regional Airport and had slowed in the air at least twice before spinning to the ground, a witness told the Scottsbluff Star-Herald.

Whitney Parr celebrated her 18th birthday on April 4. She is the youngest child of Norbert and Faye Parr, of Scottsbluff, and sister of Angie, Allison, and Joe, who lives near Hastings.

The valedictorian at Gering, she had secured a full-ride Regency Scholarship to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and was a National Honor Society member and a member of the school's track and golf teams, Victory said. She also wrote for the school newspaper, she said.

Please see CRASH/page A6

Lawmakers signal support for water plan

NATE JENKINS
The Associated Press

LINCOLN — One day Dale Helms was an irrigator. The next day he was mostly a dry-land farmer dependent on what falls from the sky.

After planning and paying for irrigated crops as he has in the past, Helms' farming operation near the Republican River was turned upside down with the recent news that some of the water he planned on sprinkling on his crops instead would be purchased and sent down the river to Kansas.

"It just threw a wrench in things," Helms said.

Despite the hassle and a possible financial hit, the likely consequences of not taking a blow makes Helms favor a multimillion dollar measure before the Legislature. It will likely increase his taxes and force him toward more dry-land farming.

State officials and others fear that without a plan to send Kansas the water it is owed, Nebraska could face financial penalties or have irrigation in the basin shut off by a judge, and Helms agrees.

"I'm just hoping we can keep this whole basin from being shut down," said Helms, of Holbrook. "If we don't step up to the plate and take care of this ... it's not going to do us any good after we're shut down."

The same sentiment was shared by many state senators who spent all day Tuesday debating a historic, tax-heavy measure described by some as pain that must be inflicted on taxpayers to avoid possible catastrophe in the irrigation-reliant river basin.

The bill (LB701) did not get a first-round vote, but lawmakers signaled support for a central piece of the plan. It would allow natural resources districts in the basin to increase their property tax levies by 10 cents and impose a new \$10 per-acre fee on irrigated land. Coupled with millions from the state's general fund, the roughly \$16 million a year the new fees and taxes could generate would be used to buy and save the water Nebraska needs to send to Kansas to comply with the compact.

Please see LB701/page A6

Sex offender notification

HASTINGS TRIBUNE

The Nebraska State Patrol issued public notification Tuesday of a Level 3 sex offender who has a new address in Hastings.

James William Dittmer, 43, lives at 1000 W. J. St. in Room 106. He is 5-feet, 3-inches tall and weighs 125 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes.

He was convicted of sexual assault of a child in Hall County in September 1993, according to the sex offender registry Web site.

The Nebraska Sex Offender Registry is intended to protect members of the public from potential harm. Level 3 offenders are people released from incarceration whom the State Patrol considers a high risk to reoffend.

The Tribune has established

the policy to publish information about a registered offender in Nebraska who has recently moved in the newspaper's coverage area; however, there are other Level 3 sex offenders residing in the area whose addresses are unchanged.

According to the State Patrol Web site this morning, there are 16 Level 3 sex offenders registered under Adams County. Others are registered in the following area counties: Clay (4), Fillmore (3), Franklin (3), Kearney (3), Webster (2), Nuckolls (4), and Thayer (1).

A complete sex offender registry is available on the Internet: www.nsp.state.ne.us/sor/

The State Patrol states on this Web site that sex offender registry information should not be used to retaliate against registrants, their families or their employers in any way. Vandalism and verbal or written threats of harm are illegal and will result in arrest and prosecution.



Dittmer

Landowner files lawsuit regarding 70th Street maintenance

WILL VRASPIR AND SHAY BURK
wvraspir@hastingstribune.com

After more than a year of struggle, a landowner has filed a lawsuit against the Adams County Board of Supervisors and the West Blue Township Board to provide maintenance for 70th Street between Showboat Boulevard and Blaine Avenue.

Dr. Scott Franssen, manager of EMA Investments LLC and owner of land adjacent to the road, filed a complaint March 27 in Adams County District Court.

In the complaint, Franssen asked a

judge to order the Board of Supervisors and the West Blue Township Board to proceed with the appropriate maintenance of 70th Street, a minimum maintenance road between Showboat Boulevard and Blaine Avenue.

A minimum maintenance road is a dirt road that receives little maintenance from a city or county and is designated as the lowest class of road.

Franssen's complaint states the county board is responsible for the maintenance of the road, but the road has been "allowed to fall into significant disrepair rendering the road unusable."

In mid-2006, Franssen requested the closure of the road after he learned he couldn't build a home along a minimum maintenance road. According to state law, the road would either need to be improved or closed for the home to be built.

In the lawsuit, Franssen asked a judge to rule that the state law that allows county boards to remove minimum maintenance roads is unconstitutional, claiming the law denies due process and equal protection under the law.

During the public hearing before the county board on Dec. 5, 2006, Franssen's attorney, Robert Sullivan,

said the one-mile span of dirt road often is used as a dumping site for trash, including everything from old appliances to beer bottles and bags of trash. A methamphetamine lab was even found in a ditch along the stretch of 70th Street in 2003.

On Jan. 16, the Adams County Board of Supervisors passed a motion to close the stretch of road. At that point, the decision went to the West Blue Township Board, which had the option to either take over control of the road or allow for its closure.

The township board passed a motion March 13 to accept the relinquishment

of the stretch of road and chose to keep it open in its current condition.

In the lawsuit, Franssen also asked the judge to find 70th Street between Showboat Boulevard and Blaine Avenue still under the control, supervision and authority of the Adams County Board of Supervisors.

On Tuesday, Adams County Attorney Donna Fegler Daiss said she had not received the complaint and couldn't comment about the case.

Franssen's attorney, Robert Sullivan, said he couldn't comment on the lawsuit until people involved were served notice.

AC board looks at hiring two new teachers

DEANN STUMPE
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Facing growth in student enrollment numbers, the Adams Central Board of Education began the process of possibly hiring two additional teachers.

During the regular board meeting Tuesday night, Dave Barrett, junior and senior high school principal, presented information that showed a growth in student enrollment and in curriculum offerings, both of which have made it imperative for the district to hire more teachers.

Barrett told the board that in the last four years, student enrollment has grown by 65 students, which has caused a need for an additional teacher

to keep classes small.

Barrett asked the board if he could pursue advertising for a teacher with a middle school endorsement. A middle school endorsement means a teacher can teach any subject matter for grades four through nine.

"That endorsement is very flexible," Barrett said.

The board agreed that the need was there and asked Barrett to start looking at how to fill that need.

Barrett also presented information regarding the Spanish curriculum. Barrett told the board that 118 students are signed up to take Spanish I next year. More students are signed up because the course is being offered to freshmen next year,

with the anticipation that the school will eventually offer a Spanish IV class.

"That's 10 classes with one teacher, and we only have seven periods in a day," Barrett said.

Barrett told the board that at this time, there's not a need for an additional full-time Spanish teacher and that Spanish teachers are difficult to find, especially this late in the year. Barrett said he'd like to look into sharing a teacher with another district.

Board member Bill Lindsteadt said that would probably suit the district the best at this time and the board agreed.

The board did not take any direct action on hiring additional teachers, but asked Barrett to advertise for an additional teacher

and to look into possible arrangements with other school districts to share a Spanish teacher.

In action relating to school staff, the board approved the following employment of new teachers to replace teachers that will retire at the end of this school year:

- ◆ Amanda White as an English teacher.
- ◆ Rod Hartman as an English teacher.
- ◆ Zeb Noyd as an industrial arts teacher.
- ◆ David Harper as an industrial arts teacher.

The board also ratified new contracts for Barrett and Alyson Bohlen, elementary principal.

A two-year contract was ratified for Shawn Scott, who will serve as AC's superintendent after Mel Crowe retires in June.

Bids approved, completion date set for new AC track

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Bids were approved and a completion date was set for the new track at Adams Central Junior-Senior High School on Tuesday.

Steve Wolford, of W Design Associates Inc., 2626 W. Second St., presented bid numbers to Adams Central Board of Education members Tuesday and informed them that the completion date for the new track would be Sept. 13.

Three contracts were up for bids: lighting, surfacing and paving.

Wolford said the surfacing bid was straightforward. He recommended awarding the contract to the low bid supplied by Fisher Tracks, of Boone, Iowa. Wolford said its bid of \$75,315 included the materials, laying and painting of the track surface.

For the paving contract, Wolford recommended awarding the contract to Vontz Paving, of Ayr, for the

amount of \$392,160, which does not include adding stairs and a handicap-accessible ramp to the grandstand. Wolford said Vontz Paving was working on finding a different subcontractor to do the stairs and ramp for a lower price than the \$90,000 bid that was first given to Vontz Paving.

For the lighting bid, Wolford recommended awarding the bid to Gene's Electric, of Milford, contingent upon receiving additional information that showed the bidder could satisfy all components of the contract.

Wolford said Gene's Electric was the lowest bidder, but said he needed to check on a few things before awarding the contract to Gene's Electric.

"I'm still working on getting some more data from them," Wolford said.

Board member Dave Lynn questioned Wolford about the quality of the new track.

Please see TRACK/page B2

Architects to present Superior auditorium plans

BETH BOHLING
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SUPERIOR — Architectural plans for renovating the Superior City Auditorium will be presented to the Superior City Council at a public town hall meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Vestey Center.

Public input as to whether the city should continue with the renovation will be invited.

The council voted in August 2006 to spend \$70,000 over the next two years to hire an architect to proceed to 35 percent

with the design for renovation.

The Architectural Partnership of Lincoln was retained, with owner Jim Dyck as principal architect. Among architects assisting with the planning is Debra Hansen, a Superior native.

They will be in Superior on Thursday to present the plans the firm has completed.

The council specified that the plans to be exhibited should include exterior drawings and interior elevations.

The council also asked the

architect to provide cost estimates in sufficient detail to be submitted to grant and endowment foundations. Also requested was sufficient facts to determine the feasibility of closed loop heating, cooling and ventilation systems, solar power panels and sound systems.

Originally, the auditorium committee had asked the council to approve spending \$35,000 of sales tax revenue on auditorium restoration annually until the present sales tax expires in April 2021.

Auditorium committee chairman Stan Sheets said the committee anticipated it would be able to raise the rest of the cost, now set at \$2.67 million, from foundations, grants and other donors.

Council members had indicated they were reluctant to pledge the money without hearing the will of the people.

They agreed to spending \$35,000 this year and next in order to obtain plans and information upon which the feasibility of continuing could be based.

Library board discusses creating disaster plan

SHAY BURK
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As the threats of pandemic flu, natural disasters and terrorist threats continue to rise in this country, so do the plans to protect people from such threats.

The Hastings Public Library's Board of Trustees met Tuesday to discuss the creation of their own disaster preparedness plan.

Board member Emily Dunbar led a discussion on the Nebraska Library Board Manual's chapter on planning as required for the board's continuing education.

In discussing the chapter, Dunbar questioned if the staff had a disaster plan in case of emergencies.

Library Executive Director Linda Rea and Assistant Director Pam Bohmfalk said they had an old plan that indicated what to do and where to

go in case of a fire or tornado.

Otherwise, Rea said, the library had no up-to-date disaster plan to address issues like violence or threats to staff or guests.

"We need to have something like this with children in our building," board member Mary Seiler said.

She said all of the Hastings schools have disaster plans. Staff and children practice leaving the building and going to a secure location once during each school year.

With a children's room and a teen area, which teenagers frequent after school, Seiler said the library board should strongly consider adopting a disaster preparedness plan.

"I think in coming up with a plan like that, the schools would be a good resource," she said.

Board member Jeanette

DeWalt asked if staff swept the building each morning and evening to ensure there were no members of the public still there.

Bohmalk said staff sweep the building each night; however, there have been several situations in the past where guests hid until the building was locked for the night and then came out and slept on couches.

She said many of those hiding places have been removed with the locking of rooms and the removal of walls and hiding areas.

As for sweeping the building each morning, Bohmfalk said there was no policy in place to do that.

Rea said she was unaware of any issues with anyone trying to stay overnight in the library in the past several years.

The only security issues she was aware, she said, were a

recent string of vandalisms in the second-floor men's handicap restroom. There has been graffiti put on the walls nearly every day for the past several months, she said.

Rea said she also is looking into the cost of a security system to install cameras throughout the library.

Due to the recent restroom vandalism, she said video cameras would allow for staff to monitor all areas of the library and hopefully prevent some of the bathroom loitering.

Rea said she plans to put in a request for the security camera system into her proposed budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

The board decided to postpone further discussion on creating a disaster preparedness plan until mid-summer, after the library's budget has been submitted to the city and county.

Sherman County residents object to ag office closings

The Associated Press

LOUP CITY — Sherman County residents who testified made it clear: Don't close our agriculture service offices.

"I believe that closing these offices will be a failure of a government of the people, by the people and for the people," said Rich Peters, a bank loan officer, at Tuesday's hearing.

He was referring to plans that would close Loup City's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources

Conservation Service offices.

Twelve of Nebraska's 81 Farm Service Agency field offices will likely close as part of a U.S. Department of Agriculture plan to consolidate the offices nationwide.

The FSA, which proposed closing nearly a third of its 2,351 offices nationwide before scuttling the plan last year, helps administer government payments to farmers and manages other agricultural programs.

The National Resources Conservation Service, another USDA program, plans to cut five of its 81 Nebraska field offices.

Under the FSA restructuring plan, field offices would be cut in Banner, Boyd, Deuel, Dixon, Dundy, Frontier, Garfield, Greeley, Hayes, Sarpy, Sherman and Thomas counties.

The public comment on the proposals ends April 27. Then officials will discuss final pro-

posals that will be presented to national managers.

For Tuesday's hearing, the county's economic development board made a presentation that included testimony by several farmers, business owners and community leaders.

They said the consolidation wouldn't increase the agencies' efficiency and instead would harm agency employees, county ag producers and Loup City's economy.

Please see COUNTY/page B2

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Track: Board approves bids

Continued from page B1

"Are we getting the Chevy or the Cadillac?" Lynn said.

Wolford and board member Tom McKinney said the track surface was the only lower-line part and that it could easily be upgraded in the future by adding a coating to the surface of the track.

"We're a Chevy on the track surface, but everything else is top of the line," McKinney said.

Wolford said the difference in price between track surfaces would cause the project to be over budget and that putting the protective coating on the track surface in about 10 years was a better idea for prolonging the life of the track.

Local

TEACHER RESIGNS

After an executive session Monday night, the Hastings Public Schools Board of Education voted to adopt a resolution regarding the resignation of a teacher.

The board voted 8-1, with Nicky Ockinga dissenting, to adopt a resolution that accepted the resignation of Kristopher Morehead and approved a resignation agreement with Morehead.

HPS Superintendent Craig Kautz said the action simply allowed the board to accept Morehead's resignation and approve a resignation agreement between the district and Morehead.

Monday's board meeting was a special meeting held to review and accept applications into the now-defunct Early Retirement Incentive Program. A new ERIP was adopted by the board on March 19.

HU BOARD TO MEET

The Hastings Utilities Board of Public Works will discuss the impact of the late December ice storm on utility bills Thursday.

The board plans to discuss future electric rates and any effect the Dec. 30, 2006, ice storm may have.

The ice storm left thousands of Nebraskans without power for days and even weeks in some cases after the ice storm took down lines and snapped poles.

Crews from Crete, North Platte and Fairbury were called into help HU crews restore power to about 1,000 HU customers. HU serves electricity to about 12,000 customers.

The board meets at 8 a.m. Thursday at the Pollution Control Facility, 2120 E. 26th St.

- The board also will:
- ◆ Consider approval of the water connection agreement with Kenneth and Julie Craig.
 - ◆ Consider approval of the ordinance to eliminate geothermal (pump and dump) water source heat pump systems.
 - ◆ Hear an update on the activities of the Public Power Generation Agency in charge of building Whelan Energy Center Unit Two.
 - ◆ Tour the Pollution Control Facility.

State

FREMONT SLAYING

FREMONT — A Fremont man has been found guilty of bludgeoning to death a 68-year-old acquaintance last year. Milton Edgar Smith Jr., 37, on Tuesday pleaded no contest to second-degree murder.

He had been charged with first-degree murder, burglary, use of a weapon to commit a felony, and possession of methamphetamine. Those charges were dropped in exchange for his no-contest plea.

Second-degree murder has a minimum sentence of 20 years, a maximum sentence of life in prison.

An autopsy determined that Robert Berry died in September 2006 from blunt force trauma to his head. What Smith used to hit Berry has not been found.

Smith and Berry were acquainted, and Dodge County Attorney Paul Vaughan said Smith may have lived with Berry at one time. They were not living together when Berry was killed.

Smith originally denied that he had killed Berry, but later admitted the crime.

The Associated Press

HRC: Staff defends program at public discussion

Continued from page A5

The committee has the option to amend the bill and send it to the full Legislature, kill the bill or indefinitely postpone it.

The two juvenile residential treatment programs currently housed at HRC are the Hastings Juvenile Chemical Dependency Program and Trailblazers, the behavioral health residential program.

Dr. Michael Judson, the psychologist overseeing adolescent services at HRC, also spoke Tuesday. He said the most important goal in working with youth at HRC is to motivate the adolescents to change their behaviors.

"When you start working with youth who have had multiple failures in school and multiple failures with community providers, what you're not trying to do is cure, because we know curing addiction is really not realistic," he said. "But one thing you try to do is motivate change, any kind of change."

He said it's important to find ways to improve a child's strengths and help them find successes in their lives.

"What we see is there is a remarkable amount of flexibility and potential for change and growth with adolescents," he said.

Judson said Gov. Dave Heineman and family advocacy groups support adolescent programs because the programs have the best chance of making a positive change in the child's life.

"It might not be a total fix, but we can make some changes that in many ways start the process of success and avoid the devastating consequences of prison — a life without any type of employment and criminal behaviors," he said.

Judson was speaking most specifically of the adolescent substance abuse pro-

gram, which only treats male juveniles from the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center in Kearney. The program has 40 beds, all of which are currently in use, Colburn said.

Boys with chemical dependency issues are sent from YRTC to the controlled facility at HRC for treatment, Colburn said. If there are any significant behavioral issues or outbursts, Colburn said the boys are immediately transferred back to YRTC.

"All of these youths have failed in less restrictive programs in the community," she said of their chemical dependency treatment.

Some supporters of LB542 have said the boys could receive their necessary treatment in community-based programs closer to their homes.

In addition to the substance abuse program, HRC also has 22 beds for the adolescent psychiatric services in the acute and residential programs. These programs are for both boys and girls.

Colburn said there are six beds designated for the acute program, which is for youth in imminent danger because of psychiatric issues. While the beds are there, Colburn said they cannot be used because HRC doesn't have a psychiatrist on staff, which is required for the acute program.

A psychiatrist must meet with each youth six of the seven days each week.

The residential mental health program only requires the adolescents to meet with a psychiatrist whenever needed.

With the addition of a video conferencing system at HRC, nurses and

patients are able to communicate with psychiatrists at the Lincoln Regional Center on a regular basis.

Colburn said all the juveniles at HRC are wards of the state, have failed in community programs and come from all over the state.

In information Colburn presented to the audience, she said 35 percent of youth currently in the chemical dependency program come from Region 6, which includes Omaha; 17.5 percent come from Region 5, which includes Lincoln; and 20.5 percent come from Region 3, which includes the Tri-Cities. The remaining percentage come from the remaining three regions in the state.

As for the mental health program, 33 percent come from Region 6; 17 percent come from Region 5; 17 percent come from Region 3; 17 percent come from Region 1, which includes the panhandle; and none come from the other two regions.

Supporters of LB542 have said most of the youth come from Lincoln and Omaha, arguing they should be able to receive treatment closer to their homes.

Colburn said she believes the chemical dependency program is properly located, as it has close proximity to Kearney where the youth come from.

In addition to treating the boys from Kearney, Colburn said there has been discussion about creating a chemical dependency program for the girls who live at YRTC-Geneva.

"If we did that, it would be very handy to have the treatment program between the two youth facilities,"

Colburn said.

During the question-and-answer period, Colburn answered a question addressing concerns about the youths being forced to clean the facilities because of recent layoffs at HRC. On May 1, 100 employees will no longer work at HRC because of the closure of the adult psychiatric program.

Colburn said the adolescents do help to clean the facilities at HRC and are responsible for cleaning their rooms and other areas.

"We have a residency program for adolescents, and in many residential programs for youths, including Kearney and Geneva, they don't have housekeepers," she said.

While the youths do clean certain areas, she said HRC has certain parameters it must follow to allow the youths to work there.

She said giving the adolescents the responsibility of cleaning their rooms and other places is the same as if they were living at home.

Some of the youth also receive pay for doing their chores, similar to receiving an allowance.

Judson said some of the adolescents come in with high school diplomas or General Educational Development diplomas.

He said they are creating vocational programs for those youth, where they can be paid to work and help maintain the facilities.

With the adult programs, Judson said there were vocational programs and the staff that organized those programs will be helping to establish more vocational programs for the youth.

The younger adolescents still in school will be focusing primarily on school-based activities, rather than participating in vocational programs.



Judson



Colburn

Youth Leadership Academy students shadow leaders

DEANN STUMPE

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Students of the Youth Leadership Academy had a special opportunity to shadow community and business leaders Monday during the job shadowing portion of their April meeting.

Members of the academy shadowed various jobs, including firefighters and a dentist.

Tracey Ellis, a sophomore at Adams Central Junior-Senior High School, shadowed Dr. Charles Bauer and even got some hands-on experience.

"He had me suck the spit and water out of a guy's mouth," Ellis said. "I got to dress up and wear a mask and gloves, so that was fun."

Ellis said she had a root canal as a young child and, since then, she has been fascinated with the field of dentistry.

"It's funny, because my mom absolutely hates going to the dentist," Ellis said.

After the job shadowing, students returned to the fire station for lunch and more group activities.

Brent Schirmer, a financial adviser with Edward Jones Investments, led a team-building activity called, "The Egg Drop."

Schirmer did a presentation on leadership and what it means to be a leader. Then the students broke out into groups to try and build a contraption that would keep an egg from breaking after an eight-foot drop.

Schirmer said the point of the activity was to show that leaders should try new ideas and learn from ideas that don't work.

"When you go into the work world, you find there's not that one right answer," Schirmer said. "If we learn something from our mistakes, that's how leaders become successful."

The students also worked in their committees to continue the planning process on each of their community service projects.

The Crime Reduction Committee is planning an assembly for seventh- and eighth-graders about meth and drug addiction.

The Activities for Youth Committee is

planning a high school party at Lake Hastings on May 11. They are partnering with the South Central Substance Abuse Coalition to make the party fun and alcohol free. The party will include food, games and prizes.

The Community Development Committee is planning to complete some fix-up work at Chatauqua Park this summer, including adding horseshoe pits and repainting the wagon at the park.

On April 21 and 22, the Economic Development Committee will host a life-size Chutes and Ladders game at Imperial Mall in honor of the Week of the Young Child.

The groups are still asking for donations to help make the projects possible.

Deuel: Man encounters setbacks with weight

Continued from page A6

Deuel said he's not purposely avoiding the scale.

"I'd weigh myself if I could find one," he said.

He pointed out that he requires the special scale used by his physician, Fred Harris of Sioux Falls.

"I'm not the right size yet to use a bathroom scale," he said.

Harris said that although Deuel is overdue for an appointment, the 44-year-old seems to have done a good job taking care of himself. If a patient loses 50 percent of his or her excess weight after gastric bypass surgery, it is considered a success, Harris said.

"Patrick has lost much more than that," Harris said. "If he truly is trying to get off smoking, and is successful at it, I can accept him gaining 50 pounds. But if he's fallen off the wagon and is (overeating), my dietitian and I will be taking him to the woodshed next time we see him."

Deuel said he has a number of stressors that have contributed to his weight gain.

The biggest has been his effort to quit smoking, he said. He has smoked a pack to a pack-and-a-half of cigarettes a day for years.

"When I was more sedentary, I'm sure the smoking affected my breathing, but I

didn't notice it as much as I do now," Deuel said. "Smoking is impeding my progress."

He said he feels anxious because he and his wife, Edie, are preparing to move. Edie works at a school on the nearby Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota and is looking for a counseling position in Nebraska.

Deuel said he hasn't seen his doctor since late July or early August. He said he and Edie, who also had gastric bypass surgery, were due for appointments in January or February.

Edie's job obligations and financial problems have kept the couple from making the trip, Patrick said.

Harris, bariatric medical director at Avera McKennan Hospital, was not immediately available to comment.

Patrick was doing well through the fall and attended a Cornhusker football game as the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's guest.

The holidays were tough, he said.

"Everybody decided to visit me for Christmas," he said, "and they all brought candy, cake and cookies. It was so cold, and I wasn't able to get out, so I thought I would enjoy the holiday season. I have a feeling that's when a lot of the weight went on."

County: Residents object to closing of ag service offices

Continued from page B1

"You're passing the buck from Washington to us poor guys back here in Sherman County," said farmer Paul Kusek.

State FSA executive director Brian Wolford the proposed closings were born by cutbacks in the number of FSA employees paid by the state: from nearly 700 more than a decade ago to 374 today.

The state calculates that Sherman County's FSA office had enough work for three full-time employees and one part-timer — too few to retain the separate office.

Under one proposal, the

Sherman County office would consolidate with the one in Buffalo County, but the state would let Sherman County farmers choose whether they wanted to conduct FSA business in Valley, Custer, Howard or Hall counties.

The National Resources Conservation Service cutbacks are also results of tight funding, said State Conservationist Steve Chick.

"We've cut corners in every way we possibly can in the last few years," Chick said. "We cannot sustain these kinds of cuts for very long."

The conservation service

ranked its 81 Nebraska offices by workload, then proposed cutting the five lowest.

Loup City's office has the lowest workload among the Lower Loup NRD's eight offices, Chick said.

Some of the Sherman County residents said forcing farmers to another county for government services would pose burdens that would keep many out of the programs.

"If we have to go to Ord or someplace, I'm not going to bother. I'm sure of that," said farmer Eldon Kieborz, who also is chairman of the county board of commissioners.

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Gas prices surge to ease after springtime

H. JOSEF HEBERT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Drivers may find gasoline a little cheaper this summer compared to last, despite a 64-cent-a-gallon jump since January.

The Energy Department said Tuesday that the recent sharp rise in gasoline costs is likely to slow in the coming weeks with prices averaging \$2.81 a gallon over the vacation driving season, about 3 cents lower than last spring and summer.

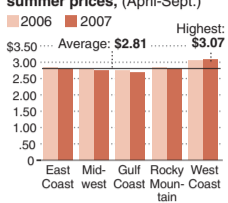
But the Energy Information Administration forecast is anything but assured.

Only a month ago, the agency said it believed the cost of regular-grade gasoline would peak in June, averaging \$2.67 for the month, a price already eclipsed last week.

Summer fuel outlook

The price of regular gas is projected to average \$2.81 a gallon through the summer, 3 cents lower than last year.

Regional regular gasoline summer prices, (April-Sept.)



SOURCE: Department of Energy AP

The latest forecast calls for prices to peak with an average \$2.87 a gallon for the month of May, then decline. Last summer's peak was an average of

\$2.98 for the month of July.

"We think the forecast is about on track," said Geoff Sundstrom, a spokesman for AAA. He said based on current market trends he doesn't see another summer of \$3 gasoline nationwide.

Prices have soared beyond \$3 in each of the last two summers: During Hurricane Katrina in 2005 that disrupted Gulf Coast supplies and last July when the Israeli invasion of Lebanon caused crude prices to spike to \$76 a barrel with \$3-plus gasoline quick to follow.

The forecast assumes no new international crisis this summer.

Since January, the price of regular grade gasoline has gone from a weekly average of \$2.16 a gallon to \$2.80 last week. Prices across much of the West Coast have been over \$3 a gallon.

Gasoline prices normally increase in advance of the April-to-September heavy driving season, but this time the price climb came shockingly early — in the dead of winter.

The government attributed the unusual early price surge to higher crude oil prices, unplanned refinery outages, declining imports from Europe and an increase in demand.

"Although gasoline prices began their seasonal increase about a month earlier than usual, the rapid rate of price increase is projected to slow over the next few months," said the energy agency.

Despite the higher prices, motorists show no signs that they're staying off the roads.

The forecast said motorists are expected to use nearly 400

million gallons of gasoline from April to September, a 1.2 percent increase over the same months last year.

"Demand for fuel is strong. We've not seen a reduction in fuel use," said Sundstrom. Nor have there been gasoline shortages as imports make up the shortfall in domestic refinery output.

The automobile association won't make its formal prediction of summer travel until next month. But Sundstrom said it appears that people seem to be adapting to the higher prices.

"One has to ponder if \$3 a gallon is the new threshold to pain," said Sundstrom.

That may be the case among many vacationers, according to a survey of 2,518 owners of RVs, travel trailers, boats and motorcycles by Nationwide Mutual

Insurance Co.

Nearly seven out of ten of the survey's respondents "say they will not change their vacation plans because of high (fuel) prices," according to the Columbus, Ohio-based insurer.

The government report said it expects crude oil prices to average \$65 a barrel over the summer because of "tight oil markets and continued international uncertainty" including tensions involving Iran.

Crude oil for May delivery rose 38 cents Tuesday to settle at \$61.89 on the New York Mercantile Exchange after sliding nearly \$3 on Monday.

Meanwhile, high gasoline costs — and an anticipation of large profit figures from major oil companies — has already spurred talk in Congress about price gouging.

LBNRD: Large-scale water users need special pumping permits

Continued from page A1

Up to now, the Upper Big Blue NRD, which is headquartered in York, has been the only NRD in Nebraska to require a special permit of this type. But other districts have been considering similar requirements, said Kevin Orvis, the district's project manager and point man for water quantity issues.

The Tri-Basin NRD, headquartered in Holdrege, conducted a public hearing on a somewhat similar proposed measure Tuesday evening. No action to approve that requirement was taken at the Tri-Basin meeting.

As approved, the Little Blue regulation requires that someone applying for a high-volume groundwater consumption permit first obtain a hydrologic evaluation of the area.

The purpose of the evaluation, which would be done at the applicant's expense, would be to determine what impact the intended withdrawal would have on current groundwater users and how it might affect the groundwater table for potential new wells over the next 20 years or more.

The regulation also specifies that, in considering whether to grant the permit, the NRD board should give first priority to domestic water uses, second

priority to agriculture, and third priority to industry and manufacturing.

Permit applications will be considered first by the NRD board's water resources committee, and then by the full board, which may approve it, deny it or approve it with conditions.

Some of the conditions specifically mentioned as possibilities include limiting the rate or volume of pumping, requiring offsets for depletions to groundwater tables, requiring annual pumpage reports, allowing NRD personnel access to the well site for inspection of the well and flowmeter, installation and maintenance of groundwater observation wells in the area, and limitations on where, how and at what rate water could be discharged following an industrial use.

The regulation states that, as a matter of district policy, the high-volume water user should reclaim as much of the pumped groundwater as possible for further uses and avoid waste to the greatest possible extent.

The applicant will be charged a non-refundable fee of \$250 and also cover the costs of peer review for its hydrologic evaluation.

Onnen said the Upper Big Blue NRD would be willing to perform the peer

reviews on an at-cost basis under a contract with the Little Blue district.

The new regulation will not apply to any future high-volume water users who have plant development projects in the works and already have worked with the NRD in securing arrangements for their water supply, Onnen said.

Ethanol plants in the works or discussion stage near Carleton and near Roseland already have their water supplies secured, Onnen said.

He also said he was unaware of any non-ethanol industrial projects in the works anywhere in the district that might be affected by the regulation.

In the future, Onnen said, the NRD may approach officials of existing ethanol plants to talk with them about ways they and the district could work together to keep tabs on how the groundwater tables in their area are being affected by industrial pumping.

"That would be more voluntary than anything," he said.

The package of amendments approved for the LBNRD Tuesday addresses transfers of groundwater to other parcels of land. When transfers are made, the parcel to be watered may not be larger than the parcel on which the well stands.

High-volume users intending to transfer water from one parcel to another would be required to obtain a hydrologic evaluation just like they would if their well was on the same property as their plant. But no more than a handful of such situations exist in all of Nebraska, Onnen said.

"We just wanted to cover our bases," he said.

The proposed rule and regulation changes attracted testimony from two members of the public Tuesday.

Rex Biegert, a Shickley area farmer, commented on several wording issues that were noted by the district staff for the next time the rules and regulations are reviewed.

John Taylor, of Clay Center, a former NRD board member, said it would be helpful if industrial water users could estimate how much water they anticipated consuming on a monthly and yearly basis.

If possible, he said, it would be nice if such users could schedule maintenance shutdowns for times like mid-summer when the water table is under the heaviest pull from irrigators.

"That would be good public relations and good for the water table, as well," Taylor said.

He suggested that the high-volume water use permits be made subject to suspension, revocation or amendment if problems arise, and that permit-holders be told upfront of that possibility.

"If it's determined or becomes apparent there are conflicts ... you should have the ability to go back and adjust the conditions on that permit," he said.

In addition to the high-volume permits and transfer issues, other matters addressed in the rules changes approved Tuesday include procedures for appeal when requests for variances are denied.

"If there's something we missed, we want to give (people) a chance to properly voice their concerns," Onnen said.

The board also addressed concerns about the way acres are certified as irrigated in areas where such certifications are required or may become required in the future.

The LBNRD board last amended its groundwater management rules and regulations in March 2006. Reviews of the rules may be fairly frequent in the future, given concerns about water quality and quantity and the changing state regulatory landscape, Onnen said.

"Our rules and regulations are kind of an ongoing process," he said.

Blue Hill: Residents express concerns with care center

Continued from page A1

Tenhoff later said he had a lot of problems talking to Belle Amis officials.

"My whole problem is the way the facility is being run," he said. "I'll never get answers. I can call down there, and it's like talking to a brick wall."

Blue Hill resident Connie Lienemann, who volunteers at Belle Amis nearly every evening, said she was ashamed of how some Blue Hill residents treat those in Belle Amis.

"These people (Belle Amis residents) come to me and ask, 'Why don't they like us? Why do they treat us like that when we come in?'" Lienemann said. "One went over for a job and he (the property owner) said get off my property now. The kid wanted a job."

"It's sad they don't have any-

body but us. What are they doing to you people, coming into your places and looking for work and trying? I'm not scared of any of them. They're decent people. I don't treat them like scum because they're over there."

Toward the end of the meeting, Lienemann's husband Duane — who is the Webster County extension educator — said he thought the community had gone through a "semi-healing process" just with the dialogue at the meeting.

He also encouraged area residents to contact state officials with concerns about Belle Amis.

"It's good because it's been festering for a long time," he said. "Jim (Disney) hit the nail right on the head. This was given to us not just in Blue Hill but across the state in many

communities because the regional centers have been closed. We as taxpayers, we as citizens, have a voice, maybe a concerted voice. To me, (the) proper way would be to consult with legislators and the governor. If there are tax monies that are involved, I have a vested interest because our office gets shorted with money. I look at it from that standpoint; Jim is the same way."

In an interview this morning, Kusek said he thought there was tremendous community support for Belle Amis, but he also described Tuesday's meeting as a witch hunt.

"I feel as if this was just slammed in our face as 'you are housing a group of animals and we want them out of our town,'" he said during the meeting.

Weather: Storm chaser teaches science of tornadoes

Continued from page A1

But, he said Nebraska is his favorite state. He has family in Wood River, but it is his favorite for another reason also.

"Did you know that Nebraska has the best storms?" he asked the children.

Weiss' presentation is a mixture of science and safety. He explained how radar works, showed photos of tornadoes, told students to follow the instructions of principals, teachers and parents, and encouraged students to ask for storm radios.

To demonstrate radar, Weiss had children point to him at the front of the room. Then, he had them close their eyes as he moved.

A storm chaser is like the child who cheats and follows a storm between radar readings.

"You don't want me to take a photo and leave it alone for six minutes," Weiss said.

For Weiss, neither school nor

weather appeared on his radar until the seventh grade when he found himself pushed tightly next to the girl he had a crush on during tornado drills.

"I didn't think those were tornado drills, I thought we were cuddling," he told the students.

His interest was piqued when a tornado actually did hit his school that year.

"I realized science, math and geography are important and I didn't think that before," he said.

Weiss explained to the children that a storm does not qualify as a tornado until it touches down. Prior to making contact with land the storm is a funnel cloud.

Once his presentation was over, Weiss led the students outside and let them get an up-close look at Dorothy.

"I think it's great, he's making them aware of the danger

of a tornado, and what to do during bad weather," third-grade teacher Virginia Rainforth said.

Third-grade student Jake Ediger said he liked Weiss' presentation.

"It's cool, cause we can see tornadoes and stuff," Ediger said. Having a tool — and a friend — like Dorothy makes work a lot easier for Weiss.

"Nobody wants to hear about disaster preparedness," he said. "Dorothy gets their attention. Folks come and see her and because of her they'll see me."

"If I could juggle and ride a unicycle it would probably be just as effective."

For more information about Weiss or The Rest Project visit www.restproject.com.

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Local

NEW EMPLOYEE

Husker Auction and real Estate Inc., of 2727 W. Second St. Suite 104, recently announced that Tom Reichert has joined the company.

Reichert is a Hastings native with more than 12 years of experience in remodeling, specialization in paint/decor of homes and commercial property, which will help him serve future clients.

Reichert and his wife, Kim, have five children.

TECH PREP

Individuals from 57 central Nebraska high schools attended the spring tech prep coordinator meeting March 28 at Central Community College-Hastings.

The high schools are members of the Central Nebraska Tech Prep Consortium. Through Tech Prep, students who successfully complete approved high school courses won't have to retake them when they enroll at CCC, as long as those courses are applicable toward their planned major at CCC.

At the meeting, coordinators learned about the college's cooperative programs with high schools, the Strengthening Transitions into Engineering Programs (STEP) project, the proposed softball and golf programs at the Columbus campus, and the heating, air conditioning and refrigeration and diesel programs at the Hastings campus.

The following area individuals attended the meeting:

- ◆ Melanie Denney, Adams Central; Colleen Jeffery, Blue Hill; Abie Ott, Doniphan-Trumbull; Clark Vetter, Franklin; Pat McConnahay, Hastings; Tracy Adrian, St. Cecilia; Tom Budnick, Kenesaw; Connie Porter, Lawrence-Nelson and Sandy Creek; Betty Choquette, Minden Robin Peterson, Red Cloud; Chris Shuka, Silver Lake; Randy Fuerhoff, Superior; Sharon Zoucha, Sutton

JOB FAIR

Area nursing students and business representatives attended the 17th annual Job Fair for Nurses March 9 at Central Community College in Grand Island.

The event gave CCC nursing students enrolled in its associate degree in nursing program in Grand Island and its practical nursing programs in Columbus, Grand Island and Kearney an opportunity to meet representatives from hospitals, nursing homes, colleges and other institutions in Nebraska.

Local health care representatives who attended:

- ◆ Hastings — Jodi Sowl, Creighton University School of Nursing, and Julie Brodrick and Jody Gartner, Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital;

Area nursing students who attended:

- ◆ Blue Hill — Rebecca Kearney; Franklin — Sheri Chemak; Glenvil — Anita Lounsbury; Hastings — Kassie Bender, Ann Calhoun, Anna Ellis, Candi Fox, Tristana Hamilton, Amanda Kyle, Mary Taylor and Jennifer Thomas and Catherine Rinn; Minden — Tiffany Cowden-Christiansen

Markets

Wednesday's noon local markets

Corn	3.35
Soybeans	6.62
Milo	3.19
Wheat	4.46

Stocks of local interest

Stock	Last	Chg.
Alltel	61.91	-60
BN Santa Fe	87.66	-33
Berkshire Hathaway A	109.450	-350.00
Berkshire Hathaway B	3,644.00	-21.00
ConAgra	24.89	-23
Eaton Corp.	64.64	-29
Ingersoll Rand	44.12	-47
Kinder Morgan	106.77	-12
Level 3	6.05	-10
McDonald's	46.55	+24
PepsiCo	63.19	-22
TierOne	25.70	-20
Tricon Global Restaurants	59.40	-31
Union Pacific	106.35	-1.16
Wells Fargo	34.20	-21
Williams Cos.	28.41	-18
Wal-Mart	47.76	-18

Property values increase about 6.5 percent

STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASES FIGURES FOR 2007

NATE JENKINS
The Associated Press

LINCOLN — Many people in the state may see higher property tax bills even with no changes in their local tax levies. On average, the land many people own is worth more than it was last year.

The state Department of Property Assessment and Taxation released figures Tuesday showing that the value of real property in Nebraska increased about 6.5

percent from 2006 to this year, with most of the growth — 4.64 percent — due to higher values. The rest came from new construction.

Higher values often result in higher property taxes, unless local governments decrease their levies to offset increases. Property owners will also have the opportunity to appeal changes in valuations of their land.

County assessors will mail valuation notices by June 1 to all property owners whose valuations changed. The valuations then can be appealed to the local county board of equalization from June

1 to June 30. Those boards have until July 25 to act on the appeals.

Those decisions can then be appealed to the state Tax Equalization and Review Commission. Appeals must be filed with the commission by Aug. 24.

The total increase in real-property values from 2006 to this year was about \$7.5 billion, \$5.3 billion of which was due to higher values of existing property. While many are likely to receive a bigger tax bite because of the increase, it may not be as big as the previous year.

Values in the state jumped 9.7 percent from 2005 to 2006, the highest increase since a 9.9 percent jump in 1994.

The increase from 2004 to 2005 was 7.6 percent, 5.6 percent from 2003 to 2004, and 7.3 percent the previous year.

Though total property values increased in most counties over the past year, a few saw decreases, including: Sioux (-11.3 percent); Kimball (-3.86 percent); and Banner (-1.61 percent).

The five counties where the steepest increases occurred were: Grant (14.44 percent); Keya Paha (13.88 percent); Hooker (13.51 percent); Polk (12.26 percent); and Douglas (11.81 percent).

Value of agricultural land in the state increased by 3.35 percent.

Swift & Co.: Sales recovering after hit from raids

The Associated Press

GREELEY, Colo. — Meat processor Swift & Co.'s net sales declined 6.9 percent to \$2.09 billion in the third quarter, the company reported Tuesday, saying it is recovering from production declines caused by December immigration raids at six plants, including one in Iowa.

Sam Rovit, Swift's president and chief executive officer, said pork production returned to normal in March and beef pro-

duction was expected to recover by summer.

He said the company is also benefiting from cost and operational improvements.

"We are well on our way to a full recovery," Rovit said in a written release.

The privately held company said Swift Beef sales declined 15.8 percent in the three months ended Feb. 25 while Swift Australia sales rose 14 percent and Swift Pork sales rose 2.9 percent.

The company said its third-quarter earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) was negative \$9 million, a \$21 million improvement from negative \$30 million in the same period a year ago. EBITDA improvements in Swift Beef and Swift Australia more than offset a decline in Swift Pork, Swift said.

Swift said in January it was looking into strategies for its future ranging from refinancing to a sale or initial public offering. Executives said they began

reviewing the options after they received some unsolicited inquiries over the past six months.

The Dec. 12 raids hit Swift plants in Greeley; Grand Island, Neb.; Cactus, Texas; Hyrum, Utah; Marshalltown, Iowa; and Worthington, Minn. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents arrested 1,282 workers. Nearly 250 face state or federal identity theft charges and the rest face immigration charges.

In January, Swift said its pre-

liminary estimate of the one-time impact of the raids included \$20 million, mostly in lost operating efficiency as new employees are retrained, plus up to \$10 million to retain workers and offer hiring incentives to add back production employees.

"The widely reported government raids on our domestic production facilities early in the third quarter reduced the sales and profitability of our U.S. beef and pork segments in the period," Rovit said Tuesday.

Idaho newspaper wants access to Cabela's tax records

CABELA'S GRANTED A SALES TAX EXEMPTION BY STATE

The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — The Idaho Statesman says the public has a right to know why the Idaho Tax Commission granted outdoor retailer Cabela's a sales tax exemption for online and catalog sales.

At a court hearing Monday, the newspaper argued for the release of tax commission records and other details related

to its approval of Cabela's special request.

"Because we are an open society, Idaho taxpayers have a right to know why there is a disparity in treatment and a right to know why this large corporation obtained its special status," Chuck Brown, the newspaper's lawyer, told 4th District Judge Michael McLaughlin.

The newspaper is suing the tax commission after the agency denied a public records request earlier this year.

State law says companies that have a substantial presence in the state must begin collecting

sales tax from online and catalog customers. But Cabela's sought an exemption, arguing that the "substantial presence" provision did not apply because the retail operation is a separate company from its online and catalog division.

The tax commission agreed and granted the exemption.

The Sidney, Neb.-based retailer opened its first Idaho store last August in Boise and has a history of seeking such tax concessions from states where it has opened brick-and-mortar stores. Cabela's has a \$1 billion online and catalog business and has

won similar exemptions in 19 other states.

The tax commission contending that information contained in Cabela's application meets the standard for protected tax information.

Deputy Attorney General Ted Spangler, representing the tax commission, cited two documents in question: a request from the company asking the commission about its exempt status and the agency's ruling. As part of its review, Spangler said the commission ordered Cabela's to disclose the same information

required for an audit or tax return.

The tax commission is providing the documents to the judge for review.

"If you look at the ruling, you'll see a lot of discussion of how this particular taxpayer goes about doing business," Spangler said.

Brown contends the newspaper has no interest in the company's private tax information, just agency materials related to the Cabela's request.

McLaughlin said he would review the documents before ruling.

Cold, damp soil keeps farmers out of fields

AVERAGE TEMPS 14 DEGREES LOWER THAN NORMAL

The Associated Press

LINCOLN — Cold weather and damp soil kept producers out of the fields last week, according to the latest Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service report.

Soil temperatures dropped as much as 10 degrees last week.

In southwest and central Nebraska counties, as much as 7 inches of snow blanketed the area, and the cold, wet conditions kept livestock producers busy caring for newborn calves.

The week started out warm, with temperatures as high as the low 80s in the southeast district but turned frigid with single-digit lows recorded in the north-central district.

For the week, temperatures averaged 14 degrees below normal across the state. Precipitation was limited except for snow, with the driest soil still in Panhandle counties.

Alfalfa conditions were rated 3 percent very poor, 19 percent, 36 fair, 37 good and 5 excellent, well below last

year's levels.

Wheat conditions declined and rated 2 percent very poor, 4 poor, 34 fair, 52 good and 8 excellent, still above last year.

Oats planted increased to 32 percent, ahead of last year's 25 percent but behind the average 44. Six percent of oats had emerged, ahead of last year and near the average.

Sugarbeet planting was 14 percent complete, ahead of last year's 7 percent. Pasture and range conditions rated 4 percent very poor, 13 poor, 40 fair, 41 good and 2 excellent, well below last year.

Cattle and calf conditions rated 9 percent poor, 24 fair, 61 good and 6 excellent. Spring calving was 82 percent complete, with calf losses reported as 3 percent below average, 84 average and 13 above average.

Tainted wheat gluten sent to Canada

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The pet food recall expanded further Tuesday to include products made at a Canadian factory recently found to have used an ingredient tainted by an industrial chemical.

Menu Foods previously had recalled only cat and dog food made at its plants in New Jersey and Kansas, saying they were its only facilities to have taken delivery of imported wheat gluten later found contaminated with melamine.

However, Menu Foods discovered Monday that some of the tainted wheat gluten had made it to Canada. It was prompted to account for the ingredient by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which told the company that tests had detected the chemical in pet foods made at its Streetsville, Ontario, plant.

Menu spokesman Sam Bornstein said the amount accounted for just 1 percent of the adulterated Chinese wheat

gluten purchased by Menu Foods. It was used in pet foods made in December and January.

Among the products covered by the expanded recall is Royal Canin Canada's Medi-Cal Feline Dissolution Formula canned diet, made by Menu Foods and sold only through veterinarians. A single production lot contained the contaminated wheat gluten, the company said.

"After being repeatedly reassured by Menu Foods, as reinforced by FDA public statements, that none of the contaminated wheat gluten had made its way to Canada, we were completely shocked to learn yesterday that this was not the case," Xavier Unkovic, Royal Canin Canada's chief executive officer, said in a statement.

Menu Foods was the first of at least six companies to recall pet food and treats made with the tainted Chinese wheat gluten. It alone has recalled 100 brands of pet foods, sold throughout North America under its private and major labels. It posted

Tuesday an updated list of recalled products on its Web site, <http://menufoods.com/recall/>.

The FDA has blocked wheat gluten imports from a Chinese company while it investigates how melamine could have contaminated the vegetable protein.

This week, a large veterinary hospital chain says it recorded a 30 percent increase in kidney failure among cats during the three months that pet food contaminated with melamine was sold.

Those results were reported Monday by Banfield, The Pet Hospital, based upon an analysis of records collected by its more than 615 veterinary clinics.

The analysis suggests that out of every 10,000 cats and dogs seen in Banfield clinics, three developed kidney failure during the time pet food contaminated with melamine, a chemical used to make plastic kitchenware, countertops, fertilizers and flame retardants, was on the market. The chemical appears to have been more toxic to cats than to dogs.

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Gordon hits first major league home run

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Alex Gordon showed his power for the first time, and Zack Greinke was the beneficiary.

Gordon hit his first career home run, helping the Kansas City Royals beat the Toronto Blue Jays 6-3 Tuesday night to stop a three-game losing streak.

The former Husker was hitless in 13 at-bats and 1-for-24 (.042) this season when the rookie hit a two-run homer in the sixth against Josh Towers (0-1) that boosted Kansas City's lead to 4-1.

"It felt good to finally hit a ball hard," said Gordon, who intends to give the ball to his younger brother. "It felt good rounding the bases, coming in and slapping hands with the guys. Hopefully, there's more to come."

Greinke (1-1), who pitched in just three games last season because of depression and social anxiety, allowed one run and six hits in six innings, struck out five and walked none.

"We're all real happy for him" Bell said. "His issues are well documented, and it's nice to see he's doing so well."

The 23-year-old right-hander is pitching with renewed confidence.

"I have a better mind-set," he said. "I'm just confident and always take the mentality that I'm going to do better than the hitter or that I'm better than the hitter if I make my pitches."

Greinke handled himself well against Toronto's potent lineup. Vernon Wells, Frank Thomas and Troy Glaus combined to go 1-for-12 with five strikeouts.

"He carved us up pretty good," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said.

Rookie Joakim Soria pitched two perfect innings for his first career save, ending Toronto's three-game winning streak.

"He didn't throw many pitches in the eighth and I just thought, 'Why not?'" Bell said.

Towers allowed six runs — three earned — and 10 hits in 5 2-3 innings, struck out six and walked none. Last year, he lost his first nine decisions and finished 2-10 with an 8.42 ERA.

"I don't know if I found anything

positive today," Towers said. "There were a lot of things that went wrong. We didn't play the best baseball game, and it's kind of frustrating because I don't know how much positive I got out of today."

One night after a sellout crowd of 50,125 watched Toronto's home opener, the game drew 22,106 to Rogers Centre.

Mike Sweeney's sacrifice fly put Kansas City ahead in the first. Greinke escaped trouble in the bottom half after Alex Rios led off with a double and moved to third on a Lyle Overbay's grounder, with Vernon Wells flying out and Frank Thomas taking a called third strike.

David DeJesus tripled in the third and scored on Mark Grudzielanek's single, but Alex Rios had a two-out RBI single in the fifth.

Gordon homered after Mike Sweeney reached on a throwing error by third baseman Troy Glaus, and Tony Pena Jr. hit a run-scoring triple that chased Towers. DeJesus, who had three hits, added an RBI single.



AARON HARRIS/AP
The Kansas City Royals' David DeJesus (9) is congratulated after scoring by teammate Alex Gordon during first inning against the Toronto Blue Jays in Toronto on Tuesday. Gordon later hit a two-run homer to help lead the Royals to a 6-3 win over the Blue Jays

TOUGH LOSS

HHS boys fall in OT

RYAN MURKEN

rmurken@hastingstribune.com

The Hastings High boys soccer team got a cruel reminder Tuesday evening that soccer can be a game of inches.

North Platte's Eric VanBoening slipped a header just past the fingers of Hastings goalkeeper Brandt Bottolfson four minutes into overtime for his second goal of the game as the Bulldogs defeated Hastings 2-1 on a cold and wet evening at Hastings High.

The loss dropped Hastings to 5-2 on the season and was the first setback for the Tigers since they dropped a 1-0 decision to Norfolk in the season-opener back on March 17.

North Platte improved to 5-1 with the victory and ran its winning streak to four games.

"We were in a tough battle tonight, and I think the teams were very even," HHS coach Mike Nanfito said. "We didn't come out with a win, but we learned something from this game. We are here to play, and I think we are a good team."

Please see BOYS/page C3



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

Above: Hastings High's Israel Espinoza (15) dribbles the ball past North Platte's Nick Bornschein (1) during their match Tuesday at the Hastings High soccer fields. Right: Hastings High's Yannick Thiel (11) celebrates his goal in the first half Tuesday.



Tiger girls miss opportunities in loss to North Platte

**BULLDOGS SCORE TWO
FIRST-HALF GOALS
EN ROUTE TO SHUTOUT**

RYAN MURKEN

rmurken@hastingstribune.com

The North Platte girls squad completed the sweep Tuesday, downing Hastings High 2-0.

The North Platte girls soccer team got a pair of first half goals from senior Alison Kenny and held of several late scoring chances by Hastings High to defeat the Tigers 2-0 Tuesday. With the win, North Platte improved to 5-1 on the season.

Hastings High dropped to 5-2 with both of its defeats coming at the hands of Class A schools.

"I love playing all these Class A teams because it prepares us for the postseason," Hastings coach Greg Vuagniaux said. "North Platte is a very good team, but we have to believe that we are the best team on the field. The only team

right now I think that can beat us is ourselves, and we definitely beat ourselves in the first half."

North Platte took a quick 1-0 lead on a breakaway goal by Kenny 16 minutes into the first half.

The Bulldogs then upped their lead to 2-0 just four minutes later when Kenny scored again this time from point blank range off a free kick by teammate Jordan Hedgecock.

Hedgecock's shot glanced off the hands of Hastings goalkeeper Sara Perdue and Kenny was there to put it away.

North Platte nearly scored again less than two minutes later but Perdue made a great play, tipping a shot from Kenny over the crossbar.

"Mentally, we were not very strong in the first 40 minutes and that is not typical of these ladies this year. Mentally, they are usually very strong. They just had a lapse," Vuagniaux said.

Please see GIRLS/page C3



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

Hastings High's Melanie Menning (18) battles for control of the ball with North Platte's Taylor Voycheske (5) Tuesday.

Huskers hold off Iowa rally

HASTINGS TRIBUNE

sports@hastingstribune.com

LINCOLN — Dan Jennings earned his first career victory, while Jake Opitz and Jeff Tezak drove in two runs apiece, as Nebraska held off Iowa for a 7-6 win on a soggy Tuesday evening at Haymarket Park.

Jennings turned in the best performance of his career in a spot start, allowing one earned run over four pre-determined innings for his first career win. The left-hander from West Des Moines, Iowa, scattered five hits and struck out a career-high four after learning he was going to make his first career start 20 minutes before the game when the tarp was pulled.

"Jennings gave us a good start," NU coach Mike Anderson said. "We know he was going to throw the amount he did whether it was starting or out of the bullpen. We really liked what he gave us and he filled the zone with strikes."

Opitz and Tezak both had two hits in the victory, as Opitz's two-run single in the bottom of the third helped NU overcome an early 2-0 deficit while Tezak's sixth-inning solo homer gave NU (20-12) a seemingly safe four-run lead.

Iowa fought back in the ninth, taking advantage of four walks and a pair of wild pitches to pull within 7-6. The Hawkeyes had the bases loaded with two outs, but Matt Foust finally thwarted the Hawkeye comeback by getting Kevin Hoef to foul out to first baseman Andrew Brown to end the contest and earn his second save.

The Huskers now embark on a four-game road trip beginning tonight, as they travel to Wichita to face the No. 11 Shockers. First pitch is set for 7 p.m. and the game will be carried on MyTV (Ch. 17 on Charter Communications).

Broncos drop pair to UNK

HASTINGS TRIBUNE

sports@hastingstribune.com

KEARNEY — The Hastings College baseball team was swept by the University of Nebraska at Kearney on Tuesday, losing the first game 8-6 and dropping the second contest 4-0.

In the first game, the Broncos held a 5-3 lead before the Lopers scored four runs in the bottom of the fourth. Tyler Moos took the loss for the Broncos, giving up four runs — only one of which was earned — in 2/3 innings of relief. Starter Tim Stroman went three innings, allowing four hits and one earned run. The Broncos committed three errors in the game as five of the eight runs they allowed were unearned.

At the plate, designated hitter Jeremy Cox led the Broncos with two hits. Pat Morey and D.J. Yeager each drove in two runs.

In the second game, Hastings recorded just four hits. UNK took control with three runs in the third inning off starter Rob Wiehman, who took the loss.

HC dropped to 11-25 with the losses while UNK improved to 16-15.

Game 1	
HC	120 210 0-6 8 3
UNK	012 401 X-8 8 4
W	Josh Hagel, L—Tyler Moos, S—Nick Hall
ZB	HC, Joe Jeanjaquet, Jeremy Cox, Josh Tomayer; UNK, Blake Cover, Nate Swearer 2. 3B—UNK, Ryan Bucher.

Game 2	
HC (11-25)	000 000 0-0 4 2
UNK (16-15)	003 010 X-4 6 1
W	Andrew Spracklin, L—Rob Viehman
ZB	UNK, Leon de Winter. 3B—UNK, Swearer, Trey Howell.



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

Hastings High's Thien Vo (12) and Blake Sadd (7) battle for the ball during their game against North Platte on Tuesday.

Boys: Tigers fall in OT

Continued from page C1

North Platte took an early 1-0 lead on a goal by VanBoening just nine minutes into the game. Hastings got the equalizer just before halftime on a goal from senior forward Yannic Thiel, who took advantage of a free kick as he put the ball around a wall of defenders and found the left side of the goal. "They know and they have been taught to play with their heart and that is what drives them and pushed them along," Nanfito said. "They were determined to find a way and ultimately they found a way to tie the game up. But, unfortunately, we came up short." The game remained tied throughout the second half with Hastings missing several scoring opportunities in the second 40 minutes. The Tigers had 10 shots on goal compared to just seven for North Platte but couldn't

convert any scoring chances in the second half. "We are learning that when we get opportunities to go to goal and score, we have to find ways to finish them," Nanfito said. "Unfortunately, right now we are not finishing all our chances that we get. We just need to find away to put a couple more away." North Platte scored the game winner four minutes into the first of two 10-minute overtime periods off a corner kick. Nate Southard put the corner kick toward the back post, where VanBoening managed to head the ball past a diving Bottolfson. "We were just a little unlucky," Nanfito said of the overtime goal. "We had pretty good marking on their corner kick and I think the ball just kind of bounced around and their kid came up and finished it." HHS had several chances to tie the game. Its best opportu-

nity come on an indirect free kick by Jorge Olivias. Olivias put the ball over the wall and in front of the goal where Nathan Woodward had a chance to put the ball away, but the North Platte goalkeeper just got a hand on it and was able to control the ball. "It was a very good play and a smart decision by Jorge that he saw something they could play," Nanfito said. "We had the opportunity to put one on frame and score, and we were unlucky." The loss snapped a five game-winning streak by HHS and was the Tigers' second loss against Class A competition this spring. Hastings High is now 3-2 against teams from class A. "It's good that we play the competitive schedule that we do. I believe that these boys can go up against anybody and play against anybody and beat anybody," Nanfito said. "I think it's good for the boys."

Texas' Durant to enter NBA draft

JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press
AUSTIN, Texas — By the look of his Texas tank top and shorts, Kevin Durant might have fooled someone into thinking he'd changed his mind. Was it a hint he might stay in college? No chance. The kid is leaving for the NBA. Durant, an 18-year-old freshman and The Associated Press Player of the Year, said Tuesday he will leave the Longhorns to enter the June draft, bringing a quick end to what was a short but spectacular college career. "I just thought it was time to go," Durant said at a news conference to announce his decision. "It's been my dream for a while. I felt I was ready." After an All-American season in which he swept the major player of the year awards, few expected Durant to stay at Texas.

Durant's parents, Wayne and Wanda Pratt, said his year in college was invaluable. "The University of Texas has been very good to him," Wayne Pratt said. "He's matured a lot." So much so that the player whose diet often consisted of too much candy, who was so down humble he'd keep stats at team managers' pickup games, said he's ready to matchup up with Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan and the rest of the NBA's best. "You trying to scare me?" Durant said. "It will be a challenge ... I don't want to be just a player in the NBA. I want to have an impact." Durant's attire at his news conference suggests he never wants to leave the basketball court. Announcing a pro career sure

to bring millions of dollars in playing and endorsement contracts might call for a new suit or at least a shower. Instead, Durant's skinny arms poked out of his practice uniform as he sipped on a sports drink. He looked somewhat eager to get back on the court for a pickup game with his teammates when he was done answering questions. "I'm still a part of this team," Durant said. "I'm proud of him," point guard D.J. Augustin said. "I saw what he was going through. I know it was a tough decision." Durant was one of the country's most heralded recruits when he arrived on campus. An NBA rule change required players to be 19 and out of high school for a year before they could enter the draft.



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

Hastings High's Hannah Wray (7) dribbles past North Platte's Megan Tuenge (1) as she tries to get a good look at the goal during their game Tuesday.

Girls: HHS shut out by North Platte

Continued from page C1

"I challenged them in the second half to have a better game mentally because technically and tactically we were a very good team. We moved the ball around very well, and we had our opportunities." HHS had several opportunities to get on the board in the

first half with its best chance coming when Melanie Johnson's shot was deflected by North Platte goalkeeper Robyn Lopez. Hannah Wray had a rebound shot but was just wide. The Tigers had more chances in the second half but could not convert on several opportunities from within 10 yards.

"We had our chances and in soccer when you have those chances, you have to capitalize on them," Vuagniaux said. "It's a funny sport, and you really have to fight. When you miss those easy opportunities, you have to learn to just forget about those and concentrate on next ones you are going to have."

HC men finish second at own invite

HASTINGS TRIBUNE
sports@hastingstribune.com

GRAND ISLAND — For the first time in the past three seasons the Hastings College men's golf team finished in the top three at its own invitational. The Broncos turned in a 313 Tuesday at Jackrabbit Run Golf Course in Grand Island to finish with a two-day total of 615, eight strokes behind champion Grand View College Hastings, which held a two stroke lead after the first round on Monday, held of GPAC rival Midland Lutheran, which finished third at 616. Southeast Community College shot a 316 on Tuesday to finish in fourth place at 623 while the Hastings College "B" team finished in sixth place with a two-day score of 633.

with a score of 156 and Jon Chorney shot an 82 on Tuesday to finish in a tie for 24th with a score of 158.

Team Results
1, Grand View College 607; 2, Hastings College "A" 615; 3, Midland Lutheran 616; 4, Southeast Community College 623; 5, Friends University 631; 6, Hastings College "B" 633; 7, Dakota Wesleyan 636; 8, Concordia University 637; 9, Briar Cliff 643; 10, Doane College 647; 11, Hastings College "C" 649; 12, York College 657; 13, Bethel College 660; 14, Union College 671; 15, McCook Community College 677; 16, Hastings College "D" 748.

Individual Results
1, Ron Harder, Midland, 143; 2, Brian Primavera, HC "A", 149; 3, David Oldham, SCC, 151; 4, Michael Nedved, Grand View, 151; 5, Graeme Mulloy, Grand View, 152; 6, Paul Wahlmeier, HC "A", 152; 7, Kenneth Evans, York, 152; 8, David Roan, Grand View, 153; 9, Mike Kulzer, Concordia, 153; 10, Brian Allison, Grand View, 153.

Hastings College "A" Results
Brian Primavera 149, Paul Wahlmeier 152, Robert Shannon 156, Jon Chorney 158, Mike Haman 175.

Hastings College "B" Results
Wayne Beevers 158, Jon Tanner 158, Kyle Janky 160, Brian Loyd 160, Josh Janky 161.

Hastings College "C" Results
Andy Wiengardt 159, Aaron Gartner 160, Evan Fisher 164, Michael Povell 168, Nathan Gile 171.

Hastings College "D" Results
Scott Scheef 181, Lloyd McIntyre 185, Rob Gilmore 189, Russ Erdman 193.

HC WOMEN'S GOLF
LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Hastings College women's golf team finished third at the Baker University Spring Invite

held Monday and Tuesday at Alvar Golf Course.

Park University won the event with a score of 713 followed by host Baker University with a 764 and Hastings College with a two-day score of 765.

The Broncos were led by Danielle Bernt, who shot rounds of 97 and 85 to finish in third place with a score of 182. By finishing in the top five, Bernt was named to the all-tournament team. Katie Johnson of Park was the top individual with a low score of 164. Teammate Ashley Nicks was second with a 167.

Ashley Johnson finished tied for 10th for Hastings College with a two-day score of 194.

Team Results
1, Park University 713; 2, Baker University 764; 3, Hastings College 765; 4, Missouri Valley 768; 5, Peru State 795; 6, Baker University JV 806.

Individual Results
1, Katie Johnson, Park, 164; 2, Ashley Nicks, Park, 167; 3, Danielle Bernt, HC, 182; 4, Beth Taylor, BU, 185; 5, Meghan Gauthier, MV, 185; 6, Nikki Potter, MV, 186; 7, Nicole Wiehe, Park, 188; 8, Laura Baker, BU, 190; 9, Rio Deal, KKWU, 191; 10, Ashley Johnson, HC, 194.

Hastings College Results
Danielle Bernt 182, Ashley Johnson 194, Jenny Andrew 195, Capri Timm 196, Samantha Myers 201.

Goodell's policy gets support from around NFL

DAVE GOLDBERG
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Roger Goodell isn't alone. Almost the entire NFL supports the commissioner's get-tough stand on off-field misbehavior. "I think the commissioner is trying to make a statement, and I think it's good," Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy said Tuesday after Goodell suspended Tennessee's Adam "Pacman" Jones for the 2007 season and Cincinnati's Chris Henry for the first half of it. "I'm sorry for the two guys it happened to, but I think down the line it will help us. I've read through the whole conduct policy, and I'm behind it 100 percent."

The policy to which Dungy was referring is the NFL's new policy on conduct, announced a few minutes after the suspensions, which came under the old policy. Among other things, it toughens suspensions — although it didn't specify by how much — and it holds teams responsible for the conduct of their players, something that could result in the forfeiting of cherished draft picks. The suspensions and the get-tough stand were the result of problems that bedeviled Goodell in the seven months since he succeeded Paul Tagliabue: numerous arrested players, including nine Cincinnati Bengals. Jones and Henry, teammates

at West Virginia, were two of the three poster children for that. The third, Tank Johnson of the Bears, is currently serving four months in jail for violating probation on a weapons charge. League officials said Tuesday that Goodell plans to meet with Johnson after he is released. "I must emphasize to you that this is your last opportunity to salvage your NFL career," Goodell wrote Jones and Henry, emphasizing they must end their wayward behavior to have a chance to play in the league again. It's also a hit to their wallets: Jones will forfeit his \$1,292,500 salary; Henry will lose \$217,500.

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Crossword



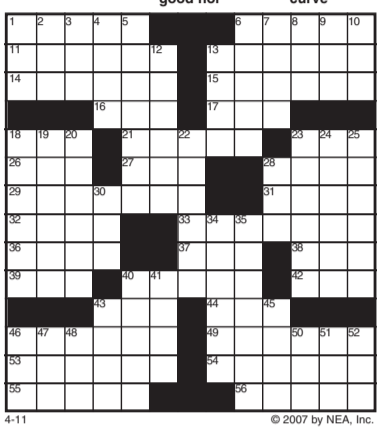
Answer to Previous Puzzle

SHY LILY CIBS
KEA ALOE EATS
TRK PLUTO CRAT
MASKS KITITTY
LEE GAL
VIBE CHOY TIEN
EDIE LABS ODE
TEA KARL TUGS
SAS HIDE ORES
OAR TWO
WHACK ANGLE
ROUTINELY LIP
YOIR IRAN AMI
PAIT BADE DEC

ACROSS

- 1 Gorge
- 6 Panorama
- 11 Stopped
- 13 Paved
- 14 Kind of story
- 15 A martial art
- 16 Pull someone's leg
- 17 Devious
- 18 Droop
- 21 Stylish auto
- 23 Goal
- 26 Function
- 27 Aardvark snack
- 28 Jane Austen title
- 29 Tress
- 31 Cleans the floor
- 32 Omani title
- 33 Toughs it out
- 36 Vinegary
- 37 — Dawn Chong
- 38 Citrus cooler
- 39 Motel room fixtures
- 40 Yellow jackets
- 42 Brown of big bands
- 43 Livy's dozen
- 44 Grassy expanse
- 46 Insult

- 1 Tai — ch'uan
- 2 Leia's love
- 3 Pacino and Unser
- 4 Follow the cookbook
- 5 Annual exam
- 6 Lightweight fabric
- 7 Goopy
- 8 Slalom gear
- 9 Koppel or Knight
- 10 Commotion
- 12 Fillet a fish
- 13 Fastener
- 18 Most reliable
- 19 "I Robot" writer
- 20 Brilliance
- 22 Makes a sound
- 23 Neither good nor
- bad
- 24 Block
- 25 Clumps
- 28 Big bird
- 30 Menacing sound
- 34 City near Pompeii
- 35 Oasis locales
- 40 Hoisting machine
- 41 Staffer
- 43 Lucy
- 45 Memsahib's nanny
- 46 — out (with-draw)
- 47 Back again
- 48 Out of reach
- 50 Nest-egg letters
- 51 Last degree
- 52 Hairpin curve



Astrograph



Your Birthday

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

There is a strong probability you will go through some kind of weeding-out process when it comes to your long-term goals. Because you'll select fewer objectives, you'll be able to accomplish much more.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Normally, it is not a good policy to show partiality, but someone could put you on the spot, preferring you show favor to an old buddy who has proven to be loyal over an untested associate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The best way to get favorable attention from your superiors is not by buttering them up but by performing the tasks and jobs assigned in a superior fashion. Give things your all.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Even though you may be in the position to do so, you won't ask others to do things you wouldn't do yourself. Once they realize that, you'll have their total respect.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Not all material conditions favor you, but you'll be fortunate in figuring out which ones do and don't. Be smart enough to put your money on that which will appreciate in time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) It is important you maintain a sense of humor when it comes to serious situations. By doing so, you can turn frowns into smiles and get everyone working on the same team.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) By giving a job your very best, you won't have to ask for proper compensation; it'll automatically be there. However, your greatest reward will be the ability to relax and enjoy what you're doing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You should do well with relationships at this point in time, even turning someone who has a sour disposition into a happy person. Put your upbeat attitude to work for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Although you might get ample opportunity to take advantage of another, your unselfish nature won't permit it — much to your credit. You'll do for others, not merely for yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Get in touch with someone who is important to you but with whom you haven't had the chance to talk with for quite a while. New developments are brewing that could be beneficial.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Don't judge one unpleasant incident as the tone of the day. Overall conditions look particularly fortunate for expanding matters that pertain to your work and/or earnings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Major personal achievements are possible, but it might require the assistance of another to attain your goals. Be pleasant to all, because you don't know who'll need to step in and help.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Even if it isn't convenient, put your talents and expertise at the disposal of those who need your help. Long-range benefits and rewards could come from that which you do now.

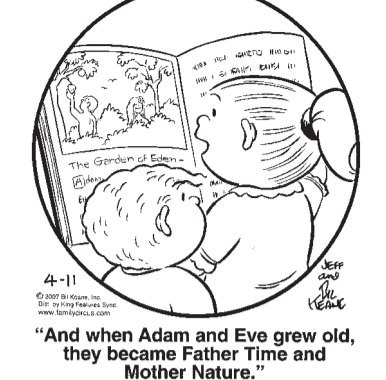
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Rubes



Early market testing

The Family Circus



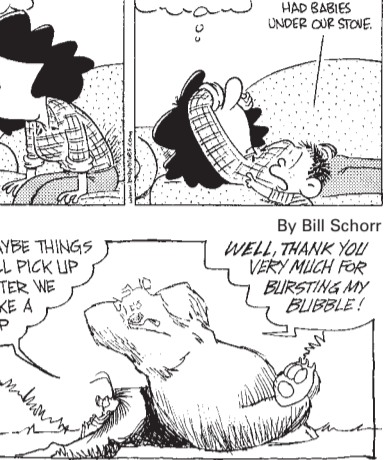
"And when Adam and Eve grew old, they became Father Time and Mother Nature."

Baby Blues



By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott

Grizzwells



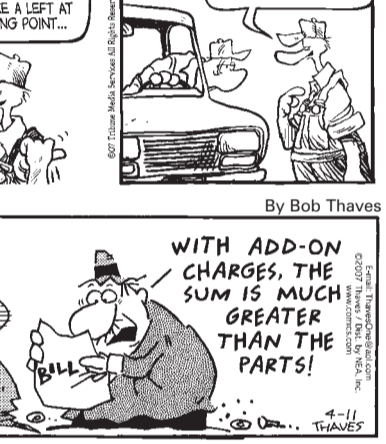
By Bill Schorr

Shoe



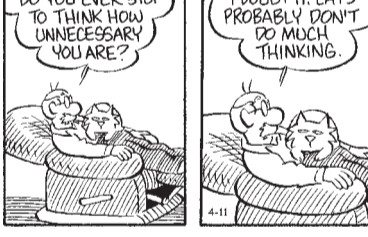
By Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins

Frank and Ernest



By Bob Thaves

Pickles



By Brian Craven

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

Intervention is needed now to stop bully's assaults

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Caleb," has a serious bullying problem. He is 14 and in ninth grade. His teacher has had to meet privately with me three times this week. Caleb will hit, bite, chew, spit on or slap the other students in the classroom. He has even hit his teacher.



Dear Abby

At home, Caleb hits me and bites my arm. He also picks up things and throws them at people. I don't know if I should try to deal with him myself or send him to a psychiatrist. I am worried that my son is becoming a serious problem, and I want to make sure that it doesn't ever go too far. Please help me. — CANT COPE, RICHARDSON, TEXAS

DEAR CANT COPE: It has already gone too far. Your son has a serious problem. By age 14, he should have long ago learned how to control his raging temper. Caleb should absolutely be evaluated by a mental health professional. And if he assaults you, another child or a teacher again, the police should be notified because the young man is a serious danger to others.

SOLDIERS RETURNING

NEED QUIET TIME

DEAR ABBY: Please encourage the families of soldiers returning from the war to be patient and not pressure the soldier upon his/her return by insisting he or she visit relatives, or attend this or that function in their honor.

A relative of mine just returned from the Middle East and regrets each and every time he has visited home because his parents won't let him rest and be quiet. He is now considering no longer coming home on leave.

All he wants is time to adjust and regain some peace of

mind. He often hides out at my house, where there are no pressures, just relaxation and a quiet atmosphere because I place no demands on him. This has been very stressful for my soldier relative — to the point that he has broken down in tears in my presence more than once.

Should I say something to the parents when and if their relative stops coming home altogether? I'm not that close to them, but the relative and I have always been close. — CARING RELATIVE, CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

DEAR CARING RELATIVE: Ideally, the person who should speak to these proud parents is their son. If he can't find the courage to inform them that he's not up to public appearances, then you should do it — now.

And thank you for giving me the chance to point out that upon return from a war zone, our fighting men and women need private time to rest, decompress, and slowly readjust to a lifestyle in which they are not constantly under the threat of danger, where every stranger they encounter is not a potential suicide bomber or terrorist, where the sound of a balloon popping is not a signal to hit the dirt, and they can sleep through the night in a place they are certain won't be a target. (There is no guarantee they won't wake up in the middle of the night still feeling the terrors of the war zone, anyway.)

The pressures to which our service members are subjected in a war zone can leave them with post-traumatic stress problems that take time, and often therapy, to overcome. It's important that families understand and appreciate this, and not overschedule their service member regardless of how well-intentioned the social schedule may be.

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.

Everyday Cheapskate — Never too late to start again

BY MARY HUNT

I love to knit, but I am not very good at it if you consider how many times I have to start over. I just finished a baby cap, but it took four tries. I almost made it on my third attempt, but, just inches from finishing, I made such a blunder that I had no choice but to rip it all out and start over.

Do you know what kept me going even after three failures? Hope. Knowing I could start again gave me hope that I could eventually get it right. In the face of hope, my failures were only temporary setbacks.

Seeing our failures as opportunities to learn what doesn't work is the way to make them temporary situations. You may feel like a financial failure because you can't seem to get out of debt. You tried to stop liv-

ing on credit but couldn't get past the second week without using plastic.

No matter what your "failures" have been, you can see them as dead ends or let them teach you what not to do the next time. And then start over.

Financial failure is not uncommon. That's because there are so many forces that pull us into thinking that it's OK to live beyond our means or that there's freedom in not having to worry about where the money goes. We are prone to believing lies perpetuated by the consumer-credit industry. Bucking that system and thinking for ourselves isn't always easy. It requires stamina, determination and the hope that comes with starting over.

As financial failures go, my hus-

band and I came close to going down in flames. There is just one reason we didn't file for bankruptcy, didn't lose our home and didn't throw in the towel. We grabbed onto hope. Hope that we could change, that we could start over. One step at a time, we came back from being deeply in debt to being at point zero and then on to financial freedom.

Sure, there are scars we will wear forever that remind us where we've been. But the fact remains that our failure was temporary because we had hope; we had the courage to start again.

My goal in writing this column is to offer you tips, tricks, stories and financial strategies so that no matter where you are on the journey to financial freedom, you'll have hope that your life can be better.



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

Paris Hilton (left) and Nicole Richie pose during an interview on set to promote their television show, "The Simple Life," Monday in Los Angeles.

These girls just wanna have fun

HILTON, RICHIE TALK
ABOUT FAME, FRIENDSHIP
AND LIFE ON CAMERA

SANDY COHEN
The Associated Press

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie are famous for having fun.

The world first met them in photos from exclusive parties. Now dedicated packs of paparazzi track their every move, capturing each festive (and sometimes bizarre or law-breaking) moment.

Hilton, 26, and Richie, 25, say the fun continues on "The Simple Life," the reality show that throws the privileged pals into everyday situations. After famously feuding and filming their parts separately last season, the celebantes reunite as camp counselors for the show's fifth installment, which premieres May 28 on E!

Their task? Leading campers through fitness sessions, couples counseling, drama lessons and beauty-pageant preparations — and surviving without cell phones.

Hilton, in a lemon-yellow minidress, and Richie, wearing black jeans and a bustier, talked with The Associated Press Monday about their latest on-camera adventures, their friendship and what they've learned from "The Simple Life."

AP: How did you prepare for camp?

Richie: We actually didn't prepare, which I guess was a problem because we were wearing heels and just not camp-appropriate things. But during the fitness camp we wore sweats a lot which was a nice break.

Hilton: We had fun with everyone who came in. All the camps were completely different. We would have to do all the challenges that they would have to do. We had to stay with them in the same rooms, so basically we were living the camp life. It was hard, you know, not having cell phone service, being away from our friends and our family, but we had each other, so that was a lot of fun.

AP: Neither of you had been to camp as kids. What did you think of the whole experience?

Richie: It was interesting. It's definitely not for me. I'm not a camper. But I'm glad that I did it once. I'm

always up to try anything.

Hilton: I think just being the camp counselors is being a lot different from actually having to go to camp as a kid. But I don't know. I didn't really like the camp life either. I'd rather go to Europe for the summer.

AP: You two have had some ups and downs in your friendship. Where do you stand now?

Hilton: We've been best friends since we were two years old. I've don't have any friend I've had as long as Nicole. She's my sister. Everyone has a fight, you know, it's just not going to be publicized, you know, and have things construed and changed around. You know, we're friends. We know the truth. The media made up a lot of silly stories and you just have to not pay attention to it.

AP: What was the worst media incident and how did you get through it?

Richie: I don't know if there's something that stood out as being the worst, but I mean, people really banked off of it. There were Team Paris and Team Nicole shirts. We didn't make them, you know? And that's not what it's about. If anything, we're making fun of our-

I'm not going to sign them. (Hilton giggles.) It's true! Like, I'm not going to sign a Team Nicole shirt that says, Yeah, I'm against Paris or anything like that, you know? Even though it's public, it's not my choice for it to be public, you know? We just had a falling out and it happened to be public. It wasn't my choice at all. And the fact that we're friends again, the fact that that's public isn't my choice at all. I mean, we're human beings and we get into fights, and, it happens. Well, we had one fight in 23 years, so I guess that's a good thing.

AP: What is it about "The Simple Life" that fans have connected to?

Hilton: Just that it's about two best friends who are together and I think people can relate to that, because everyone has a best friend. We have our secret languages and our secret looks to each other and we just have fun together. I don't know. It's hard to find a group who can be like that together.

Richie: I think that originally people thought "Oh, this is going to be about two spoiled blond girls that don't know how to do anything and make fun of people," and that's not what it's about. If anything, we're making fun of our-

elves. We're very different. We're very opposite, so it's a good balance, you know, between the two... She has strengths where I have weaknesses and I have strengths where she has weaknesses and it really creates a good dynamic.

AP: What has doing the show taught you about life and about each other?

Hilton: I've just been doing the show now five seasons so I've definitely, you know, learned a lot. I've traveled the world and met all these different families and different people and, I don't know, just learning about other people. With Nicole, I've been best friends with her my whole life so I already knew everything about her. I don't know, just that we can survive any situation and we can have fun no matter where we are as long as we're together.

Richie: It's funny because a lot of people, as close as they are, when you spend so much time with someone, it's like you see habits that you know, you're just like ugh, I can't spend this much time with someone. But I love spending time with her and we have so much fun and, you know, I really just look at it as nothing but fun.

The same suit, different problem

Evans Esar, in his Comic Dictionary, wrote, "Statistics: The only science that enables different experts using the same figures to draw different conclusions."

Today's trump suit is the same as yesterday's, but there is a different consideration, which might have crossed your mind when you read that column, but it was not relevant. Now is its time, though.

How should the declarer and the defenders proceed in four spades after West leads the heart ace?

North has 19 high-card points, so "must" bid four spades when his partner shows at least six points and four spades. But with such a "soft" hand (almost half the points in queens and jacks, and 4-3-3-3 distribution), rebidding three spades would not be wrong.



Phillip Alder

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

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ A

South has three top losers: two hearts and one club. So he must play the trump suit without loss. In principle this requires finding East with doubleton king, which, as you can see, he has. But West can keep his side in with a chance of defeating the contract by dropping his nine or 10 when declarer plays a spade to his jack. This gives South the

option of playing West for the doubleton 10-9. If that were the position, declarer would have to lead the spade queen from the dummy on the second round.

What should South do? Against a good opponent, he should ignore West and continue with the spade ace. But if declarer knows that the false-card would never occur to West, South should return to the dummy and call for the spade queen. That would be his only chance.

Phillip Alder is a columnist for Newspaper Enterprise Association.

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Look for it in our Classified Section

Founder of 'Girls Gone Wild' video empire in federal custody after contempt citation

The Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — The founder of the "Girls Gone Wild" video empire was taken into custody by federal marshals early Tuesday to face a contempt of court citation after initially defying a federal judge.

Joe Francis was booked into the Bay County Jail in Panama City, said Ruth Sasser, a spokeswoman for the sheriff's office. "His attorneys continue to work toward a settlement," Ronn Torossian, a Francis spokesman, said in a statement e-mailed to The Associated Press.

Francis, 34, makes an estimated \$29 million a year from

videos of young women baring their breasts and in other sexually provocative situations.

He drew the contempt citation during negotiations in a civil lawsuit brought by seven women who were underage when they were filmed by his company on Panama City Beach during spring break in 2003.

Lawyers for the women told

U.S. District Judge Richard Smoak that Francis became enraged during the settlement talks, shouting obscenities at the lawyers and threatening to "bury them."

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MAUREEN GILMER/SHNS

Canna lilies offer a wide range of leaf and flower color on plants that thrive in wet ground or dry.

Plants that thrive in hardpan lawns

MAUREEN GILMER
DIY Network

Call it hardpan or caliche or adobe, but all these soils add up to is dense ground. And water doesn't penetrate any better than it seeps through a red clay flower pot wall.

Such is the fate of so many homeowners in regions where soils, or subsoil layers, are impervious to water. Or sometimes it's just part of a home site that's problematic. Cut building pads on hillsides may offer nothing but these dense, exposed sub-soils. Even if you till them up and add organic matter, the soils may cement themselves back together again once you add water.

Many plants refuse to grow under these circumstances. But the good news is that some will literally thrive in heavy ground. A good many of these come from habitats around the world that are often flooded, swampy or perennially wet. Some will grow equally well on dry land too, because they are adapted to the ebb and flow of seasonal waterways. Knowing which species enjoy these conditions will save you money, dead plants and a lot of frustration.

Cardinal flower is *Lobelia cardinalis*, a perennial named for the vivid red flower spikes that bloom from July to September. They're also known as hummingbird flowers due to their lure of these tiny

American birds to its copious nectar. It ranges from Canada to most of the eastern U.S. in wetlands, swamps and streambanks. Plants reach two to four feet and are quite cold hardy. Recently breeders have crossed this plant with other *lobelia* species to create the *Lobelia speciosa* hybrids with varying flower color, but the cost is that these are a bit less cold hardy.

Water iris can be found across the globe, with many species native to the American south. These were brought into cultivation and crossed over and over to produce what are today known as the Louisiana iris hybrids. Big, bold and resilient, with a resistance to mucky soils of the deep South, these beau-

ties are the stellar performers of wet ground gardens. Explore the rainbow of truly astounding hybrids and more details on cultivation and purchase of these all-American iris at Zydeco Louisiana Iris Garden in New Orleans or online at www.zydecoirises.com.

Hailing from warmer climates come two outstanding wetland performers. The canna, beloved in Victorian gardens, can be a water garden plant or grow on dry ground. Its double nature is a requirement of the Amazon region of its homeland. Dwarfs or full sized varieties offer a huge range of flower and leaf colors. The black and striped leaves are exceptional to look at even when

out of bloom. The thick, fleshy roots may be left in ground all winter provided they don't freeze, or they can be lifted and stored after the last frost.

And those gorgeous white calla lilies, *Zantedeschia aethiopica*, used in swanky flower arrangements and old time funerary bouquets are natives of Africa. Like the canna they live on riverbanks, thriving in periodic floods but during the long dry season they survive on dry land. The large white callas make outstanding garden plants in heavy clay soils where moisture is prevalent. Smaller forms with a wider range of flower colors are less resilient however, and may prove too fussy for some gardens.

New mowers easier on older generation

JOE LAMP'L
DIY Network

We Americans have a love affair with our lawns. Our desire to have at least some portion of our yards devoted to that lush green carpet of grass apparently still justifies the sacrifices we are willing to take to make it so.

For starters, lawns require a great deal of water, chemicals and, especially, time to keep them looking their best. And the physical act of mowing commands much of that.

Yet in spite of technological, time-saving improvements, a small group of ambitious souls still choose to cut their lawns using an updated version of the old motor-less, push reel mower. In fact, they are even making a comeback in some market segments.

Although certainly not time-saving, they are a great way to combine the benefit of physical exercise while minimizing the environmental impact of noise and air pollution for which gas powered mowers are known. Similarly, others opt for less labor intensive yet more eco-friendly battery powered, electric or even propane fueled mowers.

The largest group of homeowners still opt for traditional gas-powered, walk-behind mowers. Yet no matter which style of mower you prefer, a new consumer study reveals that mowing the lawn can result in a variety of physical ailments — many of which can be avoided.

The national study of 665 adults was sponsored by mower

manufacturer Lawn-Boy as part of its efforts to put a stop to those aches and pains. According to the study, about a third of lawn-mowing consumers reported having a sore back after mowing, while others reported problems with shoulders, arms, hands, legs or feet.

Commenting on the survey results, Joe Hager, senior engineer for Lawn-Boy, said the type of mower you use can make a big difference in how your body feels after mowing. "The right kind of mower helps people benefit from the aerobic exercise of yard work without unnecessary strains."

Developing that "right kind of mowers" today is the result of research that studies how homeowners actually use lawn mowers in their own yards. Engineers document how people exert energy and strain their bodies while mowing, and develop new features to avoid muscle or joint injury.

This research has resulted in the next generation of the classic self-propelled, walk-behind style of mower, all featuring improvements to make mowing easier. Such enhancements include adjustable handles, ergonomic grips, reduced mower weight and easy-turn wheels.

Other user-friendly, low impact features include Lawn-Boy's self-propelled system that automatically senses and adjusts to your walking speed up to 5 miles per hour and grass catching bags that can be removed or replaced with just one hand.



COURTESY HGTV/SHNS

By combining modern finishes and fixtures, exotic colors and fabrics, and functional cabinetry and furniture, this room is now ready for work, play, sleep and endless music rehearsals.

Basement becomes a multipurpose room

CANDICE OLSON
HGTV

Eager for more elbow room, Tina, Kulbir and their two children moved from the city to the suburbs. They renovated most of the rooms in their big, new house with ease, but they were stumped when they got to their cramped and dated basement. Both self-professed computer geeks, Tina and Kulbir wanted the room turned into an efficient home office space.

However, they also wanted it to function on several other levels: as a rehearsal space for budding musician Kulbir and his bandmates; as sleeping quarters for overnight guests; and as a TV and lounge area for the whole family.

So, I geared up to make this room all things to all people — and add some function and style along the way. Taking a cue from Kulbir's background and the couple's exotic and colorful wedding photos, I decided to design this multipurpose space with a spicy, Indian-inspired theme.

I started by getting rid of the dated decor, including the acoustical ceiling tiles, the

pine wood paneling and the wall-to-wall carpeting. After sound-proofing the ceiling (to appease Tina while hubby is "jamming"), I put up drywall on the ceilings and walls.

I then painted part of the room in a peppery, reddish-orange color and papered the other parts in a heavy, textured grass cloth. On the floors, I put down super, hard-wearing vinyl that looks like hardwood, but is more durable and really great for basements.

For the room's color palette, I settled on a warm blend of browns, reds and oranges, choosing fabrics in luxurious silks and rich velvets.

Then I got busy dividing the room into zones. I decided to make one end of the room a work zone and one end a play zone.

In the work zone, I installed a long, floating mahogany desk with two separate work areas, each with its own white leather, swivel-based chair and computer. I also installed a lot of streamlined cabinetry — closed shelving for office items and open shelving for accessories.

On the overhead window, I added an

exotic layered dressing: the first layer in deep, chocolate velvet, and the second in a reddish scarf-like treatment.

At the opposite end of the room in the play area, I set up a large screen TV and encased it in a mahogany entertainment unit. I left room for shelving on either side to display artifacts and let the bottom shelf wrap around the window wall to form a bench for extra seating.

Between the work and play areas, I created the lounge zone, with a gorgeous sofa table and a beautiful, cream-colored sectional, which has a pull-out sleeper sofa. For some added flair, I put in a luxuriant coffee table, a funky red chaise, a vivid area rug and an unusual zebra-framed mirror.

I used lighting to help create just the right atmosphere in this space. I put up some recessed lights, some task lights over the desk, and a variety of lamps around the room. I then added some non-traditional hand-blown glass fixtures for a bit of Eastern ambience.

U.S. says Iraqi militiamen being trained in Iran

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iranian intelligence operatives have been training Iraqi fighters inside Iran on how to use and assemble deadly roadside bombs known as EFPs, the U.S. military spokesman said today.

Commanders of a splinter group inside the Shiite Mahdi Army militia have told The Associated Press that there are as many as 4,000 members of their organization that were trained in Iran and that they have stockpiles of EFPs, a weapon that causes great uneasiness among U.S. forces here because they penetrate heavily armored vehicles.

U.S. military spokesman Maj. Gen. William Caldwell would not say how many militia fighters had been trained in Iran but said that questioning of fighters captured as recently as this month confirmed many had been in Iranian training camps.

"We know that they are being in fact

manufactured and smuggled into this country, and we know that training does go on in Iran for people to learn how to assemble them and how to employ them. We know that training has gone on as recently as this past month from detainees debriefs," Caldwell said at a weekly briefing.

EFP stands for explosively formed penetrator, deadly roadside bombs that hurl a fist-size lump of molten copper capable of piercing armor.

In January, U.S. officials said at least 170 U.S. soldiers had been killed by EFPs.

Caldwell also said the U.S. military had evidence that Iranian intelligence agents were active in Iraq in funding, training and arming Shiite militia fighters.

"We also know that training still is being conducted in Iran for insurgent elements from Iraq. We know that as recent as last week from debriefing personnel," he said.

"The do receive training on how to assemble and employ EFPs," Caldwell

said, adding that fighters also were trained in how to carry out complex attacks that used explosives followed by assaults with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms.

"There has been training on specialized weapons that are used here in Iraq. And then we do know they receive also training on general tactics in terms of how to take and employ and work what we call a more complex kind of attack where we see multiple types of engagements being used from an explosion to small arms fire to being done in multiple places," he said.

The general would not say specifically which arm of the Iranian government was doing the training but called the trainers "surrogates" of Iran's intelligence agency.

Caldwell opened the briefing by showing photographs of what he said were Iranian-made mortar rounds, RPG rounds and rockets that were found in Iraq.



ADIL AL-KHAZALI/AP

A teacher stands by the school wall sprayed with shrapnel after a rocket struck in eastern Baghdad, Iraq, today. A Katushya rocket hit a basketball court at a boys' school in eastern Baghdad on Tuesday afternoon, killing a 6-year-old boy and wounding 15 students and two teachers, police said.



CHRISTINE AVLEN/AP

Larry Birkhead smiles and raises his hands in the air in front of a Bahamian court after a paternity hearing in Nassau, Tuesday. DNA analysis released during the hearing has proven that Birkhead, Anna Nicole Smith's former boyfriend, is the father of her infant daughter, an expert in genetic evidence said Tuesday.

'There's only one dad'

BIRKHEAD SAYS HE DOESN'T PLAN TO SHARE LEGAL CUSTODY OF SMITH'S BABY

JESSICA ROBERTSON
The Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas — Larry Birkhead said today he doesn't plan to share legal custody of Anna Nicole Smith's baby, a day after a court announced that DNA tests proved he is the father.

A hearing is scheduled for Friday during which a judge is expected to discuss who will raise 7-month-old Dannielynn. Howard K. Stern, who has been caring for the baby since Smith's sudden death in February, said Tuesday he wouldn't fight for custody, but a

lawyer for Smith's mother, Virgie Arthur, indicated she might.

Birkhead said today he did not want another legal fight.

"We might go from one fight to another, but I'm hoping that's not the case because, you know, there's only one dad, and I have no problem with anyone that has good intentions being allowed to visit the baby and see the baby and be a part of the baby's life," he told NBC's "Today" show from the Bahamas.

Birkhead said, however, he has no intentions of sharing custody of the child.

"It would imply that I'm unfit as a parent, which I'm not," the Los Angeles photographer said. "I'm looking forward to giving Dannielynn everything that she needs and all the

love and support."

Stern said Tuesday he loved the baby despite the DNA results and would support Birkhead.

"I'm obviously very disappointed, but my feelings for Dannielynn have not changed," he said, adding of Birkhead: "I'm going to do whatever I can to make sure he gets sole custody."

Birkhead said he believes Stern gave up his custody fight because he wants what is best for Dannielynn. He said the "dirty laundry" being aired in the courtroom is "something the baby could see one day."

Separately, a hearing was scheduled for Wednesday in the Bahamian Coroner's Court to check the status of an appeal filed by Stern that stalled the inquest into the death of Smith's 20-year-old son, Daniel.

Military spending soars to keep soldiers, Marines in the service

LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The struggle to entice Army soldiers and Marines to stay in the military, after four years of war in Iraq, has ballooned into a \$1 billion campaign, with bonuses soaring nearly sixfold since 2003.

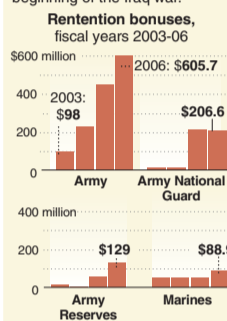
The size and number of bonuses have grown as officials scrambled to meet the steady demand for troops on the battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan and reverse sporadic shortfalls in the number of National Guard and Reserve soldiers willing to sign on for multiple tours.

Besides underscoring the extraordinary steps the Pentagon must take to maintain fighting forces, the rise in costs for re-enlistment incentives is putting strains on the defense budget, already strapped by the massive costs of waging war and equipping and caring for a modern military.

The bonuses can range from a few thousand dollars to as much as \$150,000 for very sen-

Incentives to stay

Bonuses to entice Army soldiers to stay in the military have increased sixfold since the beginning of the Iraq war.



SOURCE: Department of Defense AP

ior special forces soldiers who re-enlist for six years. All told, the Army and Marines spent \$1.03 billion for re-enlistment payments last year, compared with \$174 million in 2003, the year the war in Iraq began.

23 reported killed in two bombings in Algeria's capital

AOMAR OUALI
The Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria — Bombs heavily damaged the prime minister's office and a police station today, killing at least 23 people and wounding about 160, the country's official news agency said.

Prime Minister Abdelaziz Belkhadem, who was unhurt, said that militants — believed to be linked to al-Qaida — were responsible for the "cowardly, criminal terrorist act" as he spoke to reporters outside his wrecked offices.

No group claimed responsibility.

The attacks were a devastating setback for the North African nation's efforts to close the chapter on its Islamic insurgency that has killed 200,000 people. After years of relative

calm, an al-Qaida affiliate recently has recently waged several smaller attacks in the oil- and gas-rich nation.

Belkhadem declined to say how many had been killed or wounded.

The official AP's agency said at least 23 people were killed and 160 wounded in the two attacks, but gave no breakdown. The other bombing targeted the police station of Bab Ezzouar, east of the capital, Algiers, on the road to its airport.

A charred, wrecked car lay on the pavement about 98 feet from the gates of the government building — a modern white, block-like high-rise that also houses the Interior Ministry. It was not immediately clear if the car had been involved in the bombing.



SGT. MATTHEW ROE, U.S. Army/AP

In this image released by the U.S. Army, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., (center) visits the popular Shorja market in central Baghdad, Iraq, April 1.

McCain assails Democrats on Iraq war

LIZ SIDOTI
The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Va. — Republican presidential contender John McCain said today the four-year war in Iraq is "necessary and just" and accused anti-war Democrats of being reckless.

McCain, struggling to reinvigorate his troubled presidential campaign, also criticized President Bush for initially going to war without a plan to succeed. But the decorated war hero staunchly backed the commander in chief's recent troop

increase and said Bush is right to veto legislation that places conditions on the war.

"In Iraq, only our enemies were cheering" when House Democrats enthusiastically passed legislation setting a timetable for a troop withdrawal, the Arizona Republican said in prepared remarks of a speech meant to reinvigorate his troubled presidential campaign.

"A defeat for the United States is a cause for mourning, not celebrating," he added.

Staking his struggling candi-

dacy on the war's outcome, McCain planted himself firmly on the side of the president he hopes to succeed, as well as the three out of every four Republicans who view the war as a worthy cause.

In a speech slated for the Virginia Military Institute, McCain cast himself as the most qualified Republican candidate to counter Democratic calls for withdrawal.

McCain ignored his GOP rivals, all of whom support the president on the war but none

of whom has McCain's military experience or has been as closely aligned with the conflict as the senator. Instead, McCain focused on Democratic critics, saying their pullout policy was politically expedient but strategically disastrous.

Democrats, including the party's presidential candidates, were acting in "giddy anticipation of the next election" instead of in the country's best interests, McCain said.

"Let's put aside for a moment the small politics of the day," he said.

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57 Technical & Trade

MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST

Immediate opening for a 3rd shift maintenance person with general mechanical maintenance skills; electrical and welding experience preferred. Must be self-motivated and an energetic team player with an outstanding work history. Knowledge of machinery and mechanical equipment such as engines, motors, pneumatic tools, conveyor systems and production machinery a must. Actual experience in the printing industry and maintenance of offset printing presses and die cutting machines a plus. Must be able to install, erect, troubleshoot and assist in dismantling and repairing all sizes and kinds of machines. This includes the use of a lathe, drill press and all other power tools. Must be able to do gas welding, brazing and soldering. Must understand electricity and electronic components. Excellent benefits package including ten paid holidays, vacation, health insurance, and a 401k retirement plan. Interested in working for a fast growing, top quality manufacturing plant located in Hastings, Nebraska? Have your resume, a cover letter and salary history with you when applying in person to fill out our application form at the Nebraska Workforce Development 2727 W. 2nd St., Ste. 338 Hastings, Nebraska Application deadline is Wednesday, April 18, 2007. No phone calls please.

Gibraltar Packaging Group, Inc. 2000 Summit Ave. Hastings, NE 68901 EEO-M-F-H

There are some prime rental possibilities in our rental classifications 100-113. Want to place your rental ad there? Call our Classified Department at 402-461-1241 or 1-800-742-6397.

57 Technical & Trade

Stylists Ask about our hire-on bonus!

Hastings Cost Cutters Great pay plus benefits Contact Shannon, 402-463-3002 www.costcuttersne.com

WE ARE looking for EXPERIENCED FRAMERS AND FINISH CARPENTERS. Must have minimum 1 year experience in carpentry with use of nail guns, hand and power tools. Full-time position with competitive wages, insurance, holiday pay, vacation and retirement program available. Apply in person at Wardcraft Homes in Minden, NE, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

List your ad, call 461-1241!

57 Technical & Trade

TRIAD FASTENER in Alda, Nebraska, has a full-time opening for a motivated injection molding set-up technician on day shift. Experience preferred. Candidate must be reliable and able to work overtime as required. Benefit package available and pay is commensurate with experience. Please apply in person at Triad Fastener, Apollo Ave., Alda, NE, or submit resume in confidence to martyn@triadfastener.com.

TRIAD FASTENER in Alda, Nebraska, has a full-time opening for an injection mold repair and maintenance technician. The selected candidate should be motivated and possess the ability to communicate effectively, be a team player and self-starter. Two years of experience preferred and overtime required. We offer a full range of benefits and competitive wage. Please apply in person at Triad Fastener, Apollo Ave., Alda, NE, or submit resume in confidence to martyn@triadfastener.com

WE ARE looking for EXPERIENCED FRAMERS AND FINISH CARPENTERS. Must have minimum 1 year experience in carpentry with use of nail guns, hand and power tools. Full-time position with competitive wages, insurance, holiday pay, vacation and retirement program available. Apply in person at Wardcraft Homes in Minden, NE, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

List your ad, call 461-1241!

59 Trucking

AURORA CO-OP is accepting applications for a seasonal agronomy tender truck driver at Harvard location. CDL preferred. Direct interest to Todd Reichardt, 402-772-3151.

WARDCRAFT HOMES Moving Crew is a 30-year-old local company and seeking Class A or B CDL drivers to join the crew. If being involved in moving 60-ft. houses down the road and setting them on foundations sounds interesting to you, come and apply. A drug test is required prior to being hired. Must be 21 years old and have a good driving record. Full-time position with competitive wages, insurance, holiday pay, vacation and retirement program available. Apply in person at Wardcraft Homes in Minden, NE, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

We currently have positions available for professional drivers at our Hastings and Grand Island locations. Besides operating on a local basis and being home every night, we offer a great benefit package. Must have a valid Class A or B CDL License. 2000 N. Baltimore Ave. Hastings, NE 68901 402-463-1393 or 3440 West Old Hwy 30 Grand Island, NE 68803 308-384-2003

HAVE A Building, garage or shed to rent? Advertise it in the Tribune Classified ads.

57 Technical & Trade

A-1 FIBERGLASS is looking for a full-time welder. Pay commensurate with experience. Excellent benefit package. Apply in person at 4495 S. Gunpowder Circle, Hastings.

Grayson Tool Company, a quality-oriented CNC job shop located in Minden, NE, is currently looking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

Tool Room Machinist: Must be experienced in the operation of conventional lathes, grinders and milling machines. Applicants should be able to perform their own setups, hold close to tolerances and work from blueprints with very little supervision.

CNC Mill and Lathe Machinist: To set up, program and operate CNC lathe and milling machines. Experience with Mazak, Hurco, Okuma and Yasnac controllers a plus. Applicants should possess a trade school degree in Machine Tool Technology or a minimum of one year experience. We offer competitive pay with attractive benefits, including health insurance and a 401k. To apply, call 308-832-2613, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Stylists Ask about our hire-on bonus! Hastings Cost Cutters Great pay plus benefits Contact Shannon, 402-463-3002 www.costcuttersne.com

57 Technical & Trade

WE ARE looking for EXPERIENCED FRAMERS AND FINISH CARPENTERS.

Must have minimum 1 year experience in carpentry with use of nail guns, hand and power tools. Full-time position with competitive wages, insurance, holiday pay, vacation and retirement program available. Apply in person at Wardcraft Homes in Minden, NE, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

List your ad, call 461-1241!

57 Technical & Trade

Authorized Inventory Reduction Sale - Major Discounts!

Paul Spady Motors of Hastings, Nebraska is selling off one million dollars worth of new and used cars, trucks, vans and SUV's manufactured by the General Motors, Daimler/Chrysler Corp., Ford Motor Co., and Select import manufacturers. Program vehicles, auction vehicles, dealer demos, rental and lease returns and local trade-ins will also be available.

VEHICLES WILL START AS LOW AS \$4,995*

PRIVATE SALES EVENT DATES - 5 DAYS ONLY!
Wednesday, April 11 9am - 9pm
Thursday, April 12 9am - 9pm
Friday, April 13 9am - 7pm
Saturday, April 14 9am - 7pm
Sunday, April 15 1pm - 5pm

Due to overwhelming response you are strongly encouraged to set an appointment by calling (256) 454-1863
All credit applications will be accepted on the spot and processed immediately for same day delivery.

TRADE-IN BONUS: Our marketing headquarters GUARANTEES a full buy back of your current vehicle at 10% or \$2,000 over N.A.D.A. Book Value on trade! Your trade may never be worth more! NOTE: YOUR TRADE MAY BE THE ONLY DOWN PAYMENT YOU NEED! * Please bring your trade, title or payment book and all decisions makers.

* Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Trade in allowance will be based on the lesser of NADA loan value plus 10% or \$2,000. ** 2000 Buick LeSabre, stkl#5604A sale price \$4,995

Paul Spady Buick, Inc.
Caring For Our Customers...Where Others Promise - We Deliver
N. Hwy. 281 • Hastings, NE • 402-462-4105

Tribune

Join in the fun and turn one item you don't need anymore into some extra cash. For only \$12.00 you can run your ad for 10 days. Each day you can watch the bids change and wait for that final bid on your special item.

To purchase an ad or bid on an item in the Hastings Tribune Bay you can call 402-461-1235 or 800-742-6397 or email to: tribunebay@hastingstribune.com.

All ads must be prepaid with cash, credit card or check. We must have a photo of the item with the ad. All ads must run full 10 days. You will be assigned a number at the time you purchase the ad so a bidder can call in their bids on that item number. All bidders will be assigned their own personal number when placing bids. When the bidding ends the Tribune will put the seller in touch with the winning bidder. All transactions will be the responsibility of the buyer and seller. All bidding ends at 5:00 p.m. daily and final bid is on the 10th day. The Tribune will have the right to refuse items that are not suitable or in bad taste. The Tribune is not responsible for the merchandise bought or sold on this page.

ONLY \$12.00 for 10 days

JERRY SPADY
www.spady.com
402-461-4009

KENESAW MOTOR CO.
www.kenesawmotor.com
402-461-1241

Hajny's AUTO SALES
2000 FORD Focus ZX3: 2-door, 4-cylinder, 5-speed, 65,000 miles. \$4,850.
2003 FORD Ranger: 4-cylinder, automatic, CD. \$5,250.
463-2636

Hoskins Auto Sales
We Buy, Sell and Consign Highway 6/Hastings Ave. Hastings, NE 463-1466
Trumbull, NE 743-2255

Juniata Motors SALES AND SERVICE
402-751-2610, Juniata

SELLING YOUR Car, truck, boat or van? Ask about our Statewide and Worldwide advertising Network. Call 461-1241 and talk to one of our sales people. Open 7:45 to 5:00 Monday - Friday.

Murray Lawn Tractor - 8 hp, 30", Runs good but needs battery.

Item #119 Starting Bid: \$100
Current Bidder: #135
Final Bid Date: 4/16/07

Apple iMac Computer - 23" MHz, 86 MB memory, 4 GB Hard Drive, keyboard and mouse. Has Appleworks loaded. Bondi Blue, System 9.

Item #118 Starting Bid: \$20
Current Bidder: #133
Final Bid Date: 4/16/07

Call Today This Space Available

Fiberglass tub with Jacuzzi - 1/2 horse pump and motor and plumbing piping with electric switches. Self-contained. Measures 34" x 60"

Item #117 Starting Bid: \$225
Current Bidder: #000
Final Bid Date: 4/16/07

WINNING BID: SOLD
Item #116 Bidder #130 \$175

Hastings Tribune

To Subscribe Call 461-1221

59 Trucking

DRIVERS WANTED for statewide haul, includes some away from home. CDL required. 402-756-1261. Also looking for loader operator in Franklin/Naponee area.

60 General

ALERT!

Major company expansion 18-22 people to start ASAP
\$1,800/month to start \$700 Hiring Bonus
•Shifts begin at 10:30 a.m.
•Weekly pay
•Gas allowance
•Bonuses available
•Full-time and part time
•No layoffs
•Planned advancement program
•Work in distribution department or customer service department
•No experience necessary
•We will train
For immediate interview, call 308-234-4685
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
\$10 PER HOUR supervising; \$12 per hour driving bus this summer. Must be at least 21. Call 984-8674.

23 PEOPLE needed to lose 5-100 pounds! All Natural, 100% guaranteed. FREE SAMPLES www.2benenergetic.com

BANQUET SET-UP position: Must be able to lift 75 lbs. and have excellent customer service skills. Excellent benefits, competitive wages, free meals, flexible scheduling. Apply in person at Award Winning 1-80 Holiday Inn.

Come join our quality, excellence award-winning Holiday Inn. Part-time and full-time front desk positions available. Applicant must have excellent customer service skills; computer experience helpful. We offer competitive wages and benefits. Apply at 1-80 Holiday Inn.

CONCRETE LABORER: Viaero Wireless is seeking qualified concrete workers to join our talented team. Basic construction, concrete forming for tower foundations. Competitive hourly wages plus benefits. Prefer CDL drivers and clean driving record. Travel and some overnight stays required. Apply online at www.viaero.com or send resume to Viaero Wireless, 1224 W. Platte Ave., Fort Morgan, CO 80701.

EARN UP to \$10 per hour detasseling this summer. Call 402-984-8674.

EILEEN'S COOKIES is adding a full-time position to our staff. Some type of cake decorating knowledge is helpful but not mandatory. Apply at 730 W. 2nd.

FULL-TIME help needed for feedlot operation in South Central Nebraska. Experience and references required. Competitive salary, health insurance and 401k. Send resume to: T-L IRRIGATION P.O. Box 1047 Hastings, NE 68902-1047 Pre-employment Drug/Alcohol Test required. EOE/AEE

HELP WANTED
Crane Operators and Lead Warehouse Person: Candidates must be available to work Saturdays and overtime. Successful candidates will be self-motivated, need minimal supervision, and possess a can-do attitude. Individuals will be responsible for product knowledge and quality, as well as basic care and maintenance of equipment and machines. Must have ability to troubleshoot and perform repairs as required. Will train the right candidate. Applications taken in person at Alter Scrap Processing, 1119 E. 4th Street, Grand Island. No phone calls.

HOUSEKEEPER for assisted living facility, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. Call 902-9694 Monday-Friday, noon to 5 p.m. only.

NEED A person to spend nights in my home with one child, 8 p.m.-7 a.m., Monday-Thursday. 461-3013, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

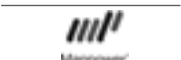
PART-TIME Customer Service Associate: Friendly, enthusiastic individuals. Please apply in person at Cash Spot, 625 S. Burlington. 463-0282.

60 General

HELP WANTED: Well drilling, repair. Miller the Driller, Inc., Minden. Contact John, 308-832-2885

Housekeeper

We are currently seeking a Housekeeper at our Long-Term Care facility located in Kenesaw. This is a day position that will include some weekends. We offer generous benefits and competitive salaries. If you are looking for a premier company to work for, WE NEED TO TALK. Send resumes to George at 303-466-2101 or email gwburckley@savasc.com www.savaseniorcare.com EOE



Immediate maintenance positions open at Premium Protein Products in Hastings. Must be able to work with little or no supervision. Pay will be based on experience. Apply today with Manpower at: Premium Protein Products, 1009 West M St., Hastings, NE. **ASK ABOUT THE \$1,750 HIRE BONUS!!!**

LOOKING FOR temporary seasonal helper to start immediately. \$10 per hour to load semi tank trailers. 463-3171. Serious inquiries only.

NOW HIRING Friday and Saturday overnight front desk person, 11 p.m.-7 a.m. Apply at the new Quality Hotel, formerly Holiday Inn.

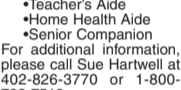
Opportunities are currently available for persons 55 or more years of age to earn minimum wage and contribute to the community while updating job skills. Wages are paid by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor and applicants must be 55 years of age and meet Experience Works guidelines. Opportunities typically include:

- Clerical
- Janitorial
- Receptionist
- Customer Service
- Grounds and Maintenance
- Library Assistant
- Teacher's Aide
- Home Health Aide
- Senior Companion

For additional information, please call Sue Hartwell at 402-826-3770 or 1-800-782-7519.

SECURITY OFFICERS \$7.25/hour Full/Part Time

In Grand Island 401k/Vacation Stock Option/Uniform Provided No Criminal Record Pre-Drug Screening 800-765-2776 EOE/M/F/D/V



We are currently accepting applications for Inside Sales/Order Taker. This position requires a detailed and customer-oriented person with professional phone skills. 2000 N. Baltimore Ave., Hastings, NE 68901; 402-463-1393.

61 Part Time

EXPERIENCED HELP for disabled lady in her home. 463-3735.

HOUSEKEEPER for assisted living facility, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. Call 902-9694 Monday-Friday, noon to 5 p.m. only.

NEED A person to spend nights in my home with one child, 8 p.m.-7 a.m., Monday-Thursday. 461-3013, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

PART-TIME Customer Service Associate: Friendly, enthusiastic individuals. Please apply in person at Cash Spot, 625 S. Burlington. 463-0282.

61 Part Time

BABYSITTER (16 or older) needed after school and Saturdays. \$6.50/hour. 461-3620 after 7 p.m.

TierOne

Taking the extra step

Part-time Teller

Our Tellers serve our most important asset: our customers! We're looking for a reliable, customer-oriented individual to join our team. Will perform lobby and drive-up transactions, balance a cash drawer, assist customers with their questions and promote our bank products/services. Qualifications: effective communication skills, cash handling and customer contact experience, basic computer skills and enthusiasm for sales. Monday-Friday varying hours between 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and every Saturday morning. We offer tuition reimbursement, 401(k), and a professional team environment. Apply on-line at www.tieronebank.com or at the branch through Monday, April 16.

700 N. Burlington EOE/AA

RETAIL SALES Clerk needed for the Sara Lee Food and Beverage Company Old Home Bakery Store. Responsibilities: stocking merchandise, cashier and customer service, processing paperwork, and other duties as assigned. Pay \$8.85/hour on 8-18 hours/week. Must have flexible work schedule to work weekdays and weekends on a rotating basis. Must have a high school diploma or GED and be at least 18 years of age. Please apply in person at NE Workforce Development located at 2727 W. 2nd. EOE

62 Child Care

I HAVE openings for 2 children. Can talk babies. Full time only. 463-8127.

64 In-Home Assisted Living

HOME CARE of elderly. Seeking employment as a companion/live-in to assist in homemaking, supervision and transportation. 402-312-9688.

70 Pets

LAB PUPPIES: 1 yellow, 5 black. 1st shots, wormed. 402-746-3194, 402-984-7131.

77 Appliances

NEW CORN stove: \$1,575; used earth stove, \$500. Refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers. T&M, 462-6330.

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

79 Computers

COMPUTER REPAIR, upgrades. Reasonable rates. House calls. 984-8001.

86 Sporting Goods

KEARNEY GUN SHOW Buy, Sell, Trade Firearms April 21 and 22. Fairgrounds, Kearney, NE Starts 9 a.m.

89 Lawn & Garden

GRASSHOPPER Open House: April 13, 14. Special discounts. HI-Line Motors, Kenesaw 402-752-3498 www.hilinemotors.com

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

89 Lawn & Garden

TORO Grdmaster: 17-hp, 44", bagger. \$1,450. Hastings, 762-4207.

91 Good Things To Eat

1/4 BEEF and 3 butcher hogs. Hogs sell by half or whole. 402-756-7020.

94 Miscellaneous

CAGES for raising 200+ quail with feeders and waterers. 402-463-6135, leave message.

E MACHINES: Desktop PC, flat panel monitor with Lexmark 7100 printer, \$600; king-size pillow-top bed, \$500; new Kenmore washer, dryer, \$700; 3 entertainment centers, \$15 each; Emerson microwave, \$20 or best offers. Much more. 402-984-2017

KOZY HEAT free standing direct vent fireplace. Like new. 402-817-4279.

SEARS TILLER: 5-horse, tuned up. \$150/best offer; Honda 125 4-wheeler. \$600/offer. 402-744-4081.

WANTED: Responsible party to take on small monthly payments on high definition big screen TV. 1-800-398-3970

96 Want To Buy

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

100 Unfurnished Apartments

1- and 2-BEDROOM: Appliances. No smoking/pets. \$250-\$350. 463-2917.

1-BEDROOM: \$325/dep. posit. References. 818 N. Hastings. 462-2305.

1-BEDROOM: Very nice. \$300. See call for details. \$300. Deposit. 984-9269.

SPACIOUS 3-BEDROOM: 1210 N. Baltimore. Appliances, air. No pets. References. \$495. 463-0688.

2-BEDROOM apartments: 121 E. 14th. Appliances and washer/dryer. Free internet. First month free to qualified renters. \$450, with garage \$475. Property Management Group, 461-4902.

2-BEDROOM: \$320 and \$450. No pets. Some utilities. 463-3096.

2-BEDROOM: 4-plex. Appliances, air, parking. Partial utilities. No pets/smoking. \$360/380. 463-9791.

2-BEDROOM: Appliances, dishwasher, laundry hookups, parking. Clean! \$450-500. 460-6792.

2-BEDROOM: Nice, appliances. References, no pets. Rent \$350, deposit \$300. 461-3161/463-2263.

3 BEDROOMS for the price of 2-bedroom apartment! Great one-level town homes with garage, washer/dryer, hookups, lawn care. South Pine and California Pine Apartments, 202 East C St., Hastings. Call for availability. 402-469-0830. www.perryreid.com/southpine

BRENTWOOD MANOR

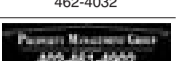
Luxury 2-bedroom, 2-bath, with garage also fully furnished luxury unit on month-to-month basis. No pets. Agent. 463-0843.

CHATEAU IMPERIAL

Townhomes and Apartments
Call Jeff Today
402-463-4111

100 Unfurnished Apartments

2-3 BEDROOM: Appliances, laundry hookups. \$365-\$435. No pets. Embassy Square 462-4032



CLEAN 2-BEDROOM: In 4-plex, garage, patio. No smoking/pets. Lease, references. 462-4228.

CLEAN, UNIQUE: Downtown or schoolhouse. No smoking/pets. 460-6922. Photos: cicadaproperties.com.

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.

2- and 3-BEDROOM: \$200 OFF FIRST MONTH'S RENT at Regency Heights Apartments and you pay only electricity! Great floor plans, on-site laundry, controlled entry. VISA/MasterCard. 402-462-5205. www.perryreid.com/regencyheights

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

SPRING SPECIAL, \$200 off. Townhouse: 1 1/2-bath, dishwasher, walk-in closets, washer/dryer hookups, garage. No pets. \$500/\$500. 323 Cooper Circle, 336 Walden. NIFA guidelines. EHO Call 402-705-0719 U.S. Property; 984-9663.

THE PARKLANE APARTMENTS Parklane is taking applications for openings. The 2-bedroom complex is located in the mall area. Off-street parking, laundry facilities, central heat/air, mini blinds and kitchen appliances. \$495. Garages available. \$40. No pets. Call 461-4100 or evenings and weekends call 460-0053. Check us out at www.parklanehastings.com

2-BEDROOM: Central air, large garage and lot. In Blue Hill. 402-984-2373.

2-BEDROOM: In Juniata. Garage. \$395. References required. 402-460-9626.

2616 W. 6TH: 2-bedroom, appliances, washer/dryer hookups. \$385. 463-3589.

3- and 4-BEDROOM: 128 E. 3rd and 840 N. Kansas. \$475/\$500; 201 W. 7th, \$725. 461-8848. Agent.

4-BEDROOM: 219 E. 7th. References. No pets. Deposit. 402-463-9748.

NICE 2-BEDROOM: Appliances, air. No pets. \$395/\$250. 461-3161/462-9819.

NICE 3-BEDROOM: Air, appliances. No pets. \$475. 463-4322 or 463-0770.

105 Mobile Homes For Rent

NEWLY REMODELED: 2-bedroom in Juniata. Partial utilities paid. 751-2365.

100 Unfurnished Apartments

2-BEDROOM: 410 Woodland, #2. Appliances, air, off-street parking. No pets. References. \$385. 402-463-0688.

101 Furnished Apartments

2 2-BEDROOMS: Well furnished. No smoking/pets. 739 N. Hastings. 402-746-2718 or 402-705-6440.

LOWEST RATE IN TOWN \$149.95/week Cable, telephone, maid, air, laundry, coffee, restaurant. Pets okay. Clean. No contract/credit/deposit.

RAINBOW MOTEL 1000 West J, Hastings 402-463-2989, 926-6252

102 Duplexes For Rent

1-BEDROOM: Appliances, washer, dryer. Available May 1. Off-street parking. No smoking. \$300 month plus deposit. 462-9277.

JUNIATA: 2-bedroom with basement. No pets/smoking. \$425. 402-463-4322.

LARGE 2-BEDROOM duplex: Newly remodeled. In Juniata. 751-2365.

NICE 2-BEDROOM: Laundry facilities. No smoking/pets. 402-469-4724.

103 Town Houses For Rent

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

3-BEDROOM: Appliances, basement, garage, 1.5 bath, \$625; 2.5-bath, family room, \$700. 460-9626.

104 Houses For Rent

1-, 2-, 3-, 4-BEDROOM: Air, garage. \$350, \$450, \$600. 461-3213/461-4206.

1302 McDONALD: 3-bedroom, appliances. Rent/ deposit \$550. References. 402-463-3589.

2-BEDROOM: 921 W. 10th. Garage. No pets. \$400. 461-4075.

2-BEDROOM: Central air, large garage and lot. In Blue Hill. 402-984-2373.

2-BEDROOM: In Juniata. Garage. \$395. References required. 402-460-9626.

2616 W. 6TH: 2-bedroom, appliances, washer/dryer hookups. \$385. 463-3589.

3- and 4-BEDROOM: 128 E. 3rd and 840 N. Kansas. \$475/\$500; 201 W. 7th, \$725. 461-8848. Agent.

4-BEDROOM: 219 E. 7th. References. No pets. Deposit. 402-463-9748.

NICE 2-BEDROOM: Appliances, air. No pets. \$395/\$250. 461-3161/462-9819.

NICE 3-BEDROOM: Air, appliances. No pets. \$475. 463-4322 or 463-0770.

105 Mobile Homes For Rent

NEWLY REMODELED: 2-bedroom in Juniata. Partial utilities paid. 751-2365.

108 Office Space

LARGE OR SMALL office for rent. 1 month free. Call Diane. 469-4777.

SMALL OFFICE at 641 S. Burlington. \$275. Call Alton Jackson at 463-0688.

109 Business Property

BARBER AND beauty shop: 614 E. 2nd. Building \$380 plus utilities; equipment negotiable. 463-2581

BUILDING FOR sale or lease: Prime area. 4,000 sq. ft., parking. 984-1125.

CAN ACCOMMODATE 800 - 3,000 sq. ft. prime office or retail business space at competitive lease rates. Burlington Village. 462-4032.

EXCELLENT RETAIL location: 500 block East Side Blvd. Reasonable rent. 402-460-1409.

111 Storage/Warehouse

10,000 SQ. FT.: Dock height overhead doors. 461-1785.

115 Acreages For Sale

RESIDENTIAL ACREAGE to build your dream home near Juniata! Call Gateway Realty for more information, 402-463-4561.

116 Houses For Sale

1046 S. HASTINGS: 4-bedroom, 2.75 baths, 2,172 sq. ft. Big yard. 402-462-2302.

1106 UNIVERSITY: Fireplace. Zero down with good credit. \$69,900. 402-461-1785

2-BEDROOM: Main floor utilities. Joyce Schlachter, Broker, 462-5794.

3+1 BEDROOM in Clay Center: Corner lot, large master, fenced yard, heated garage, sprinklers. Nice location. 402-469-7262.

www.realtylink.com
Home Realty - 461-3333

PREMIER REALTY & REAL ESTATE, INC.
Don Ward, Broker 463-3298

Advanced Realty Inc.
Call today 463-3955
1239 N. 4th Street

Benchmark IV Real Estate
727 W. 2nd St. Hastings, NE 68901

HOME
461-3333

DirecTV Satellite Installers

No experience required. Seeking hardworking individuals with a strong customer focus. Paid training provided. Local and traveling positions available. Excellent wages, benefits and free DirecTV.

Please call 1-800-411-4374

116 Houses For Sale

RE/MAX
Outstanding Agents,
Outstanding Results

2727 W. 2nd St.
Suite 227
Hastings, NE
68901
402-462-2525

When You Get The Facts...
It's
RE/MAX
First Choice

118 Mobile Homes For Sale

JUST REMODELED!! 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom double wide. 469-4777.

PREPAY YOUR Classified ads and save 30%.

118 Mobile Homes For Sale

NICE OLDER 14'x64': 2-bedroom trailer with appliances. \$4,995. 461-6569.

LOOKING FOR a job? Check classified every day.

119 Residential Lots

LAKEVIEW LOTS: Lake Hastings. Agent/owner, Alan Anderson, 461-1785.

124 Recreation Property

3-BEDROOM: 2-bath home in Republican City on 120'x300' deeded lot, 24'x24' attached garage. \$59,900. Call Kevin, 984-1944

List your ad, call 461-1241!

130 Auction Sales

PARR AUCTION Dave Parr, associate, Gateway Realty, 756-6135
RANDY RUHTER, Auctioneer and Broker, 2837 W. Hwy. 6, Hastings, NE, 402-463-8565.

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461-1241

Legals

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION BRUNA REAL ESTATE, INC.
1. The name of the Corporation is Bruna Real Estate, Inc.
2. The address of the registered office is 200 North Burlington Avenue, Suite 100, Hastings, Nebraska 68901.
3. The general nature of the business is to transact real estate business and any and all other lawful business for which corporations may be incorporated under the law of the State of Nebraska.
4. The authorized capital stock of the Corporation is 100 shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share. The time and conditions on which the capital stock is to be paid in shall be as determined from time to time by the Board of Directors and as permitted by the laws of the State of Nebraska.
5. The Corporation's existence commenced on the filing and recording of the Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State and it shall be perpetual.
6. The affairs of the Corporation shall be conducted by a Board of Directors, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and such subordinate officers and agents as may be appointed by the Board of Directors.
Darla J. Bruna, Incorporator

Richard C. Witt, #16787
Shoemaker, Witt & Burns
Werner-Whelan Plaza, Suite 201
5th and St. Joseph Streets
Hastings, Nebraska 68901
402-463-6671
April 4, 11, 18, 2007

Legals

Notice of Meeting
The Board of Education of the Hastings Public Schools, School District No. 18, Adams County, Nebraska, will hold a regular Board meeting on Monday, April 16, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., the City Council Chambers, 220 North Hastings Avenue, Hastings, Nebraska. An agenda for the said meeting, which shall be kept continuously current, will be available prior to the meeting for public inspection at the Superintendent's Office located in the Administration Offices, 714 West 5th Street, Hastings, Nebraska, during regular business hours.
Brad Cabrera, Secretary
Board of Education
April 11, 2007

Notice
In the County Court of Adams County, Nebraska. Estate of OLINDA A. SCHROEDER, Deceased. Estate No. PR07-21

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for Probate of Will of said Deceased, Determination of Heirs, and Appointment of Galen Winkler as Personal Representative has been filed and is set for hearing in the County Court of Adams County, Nebraska, located at Hastings, Nebraska on April 18, 2007, at or after 9:00 o'clock a.m.
Galen Winkler, Petitioner
7480 North Roseland Avenue
Juniata, Nebraska 68955
(402) 744-4211
Les Seiler, #13759
Seiler & Parker, P.C., L.L.O.
P.O. Box 1288
Hastings, Nebraska 68902-288
Attorney for Applicant
March 28, April 4, 11, 2007

Notice of Meeting
A regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Central Community College Area will be held at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, April 19, 2007, in the Administrative Offices, 3134 West Highway 34, Grand Island, Nebraska. The current agenda for the meeting may be obtained in the office of the President, 3134 West Highway 34, Grand Island, Nebraska.
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April 11, 2007

Legals

Notice
In the County Court of Adams County, Nebraska. Estate of ANNETTE E. FRIEND, Deceased. No. PR07-34
Notice is hereby given that on March 22, 2007, 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 John J. Friend, whose address is 1040 Highland Drive, Hastings, Nebraska 68901, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the Estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before May 29, 2007, or be forever barred.
Tom Hawes
Clerk of the County Court
Adams County
Courthouse
P.O. Box 95
Hastings, Nebraska 68901

Michael E. Sullivan #14103
Helmann & Sullivan, PC
Burlington Center, Suite 305
747 North Burlington Avenue
P.O. Box 43
Hastings, Nebraska 68902
(402) 462-2119
March 28, April 4, 11, 2007

Notice
In the County Court of Adams County, Nebraska. Estate of RALPH A. POWELL, Deceased. No. PR07-41
Notice is hereby given that on April 5, 2007, 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 Greg A. Powell, whose address is 4225 West Prairie Lake Road, Hastings, Nebraska 68901, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the Estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before June 26, 2007, or be forever barred.
Tom Hawes
Clerk of the County Court
Adams County
Courthouse
P.O. Box 95
Hastings, Nebraska 68902

Michael E. Sullivan #14103
Helmann & Sullivan, PC
Burlington Center, Suite 305
747 North Burlington Avenue
P.O. Box 43
Hastings, Nebraska 68902
(402) 462-2119
April 11, 18, 25, 2007

Notice of Meeting
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.....402-462-6682 or 402-469-5761

Husker Auction & Real Estate, Inc. is proud to announce that Tom Reichert is joining our team and is bringing 12+ years of experience in remodeling, specialization in paint/decor of home and commercial property. His experience in this area will help him to serve future clients. He is a Hastings native and is married to Kim with five children and is active in church choir, dramas and has a passion for coaching & officiating youth sporting events at area schools and organizations.
Ron Skrdla, Broker • 463-5995 • Hastings:
Tom Reichert, Sales Associate • 902-9704
2727 W. 2nd, Ste. 104 • Landmark Center

Farmer's Corner

135 Livestock
ANGUS REGISTERED BULLS: AI sired, EPDs. Meyer Angus, Campbell, NE, 402-756-8054.
BLACK SIMMENTAL, Angus and Composite bulls: Yearlings and 2-year-olds. Free care and delivery. Call Hans, 402-469-1966, or Scott, 402-756-7626.
FOR SALE: Registered Angus Yearling Bulls. Popular AI sires. Mo's Angus - Mike Overleese, Riverton, NE. Phone 402-746-3240 or work 402-746-3339.
PERFORMANCE Tested Angus Bulls: AI sired from top bloodlines. Parr Angus at Red Cloud, 402-746-3523 or cell, 746-4528.
REGISTERED GELBIEV and hybrid balancer bulls. Quality, good disposition. AI sired, EPDs. Hilltop Gelbivier, Josh Faimon, Lawrence, NE, 402-756-7351 or 402-984-1623.
HAVE LIVESTOCK, farm equipment, or farm land for sale? Call 461-1241 to advertise your specialty; ask for Joyce.

135 Livestock
REGISTERED 2-year-old and yearling Angus bulls. EPDs available. Hidden Valley Angus, 402-756-1011.
137 Hay/Seeds
BIG ROUND bales: 300 alfalfa, 200 sedan, 250 bean hay, 200 straw. 402-756-7152.
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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
The following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder in the Lobby of the Adams County Courthouse, Hastings, Nebraska on the 2nd day of May, 2007 at 10:00 o'clock a.m.:
The North Ninety-Five (N95) feet of Lot Ten (10), Block Four (4), College Addition to the City of Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska, according to the recorded plat thereof, more commonly known as: 819 North Pine, Hastings, Nebraska 68901.
The property is being sold "as is" and subject to any unpaid real estate taxes, assessments and any lien or interest superior in right which may affect the subject property. The highest bidder will deposit \$500.00 in cash or certified funds with the Trustee at the time of the sale, which shall be non-refundable, and the remaining amount due must be paid in cash or certified funds to the Trustee by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the sale; except this requirement is waived when the highest bidder is the current Beneficiary. The successful bidder shall be responsible for applicable transfer fees or taxes including the documentary stamp tax.
DATED 21st day of March, 2007.
STEFFI A. SWANSON
Substitute Trustee
Law Offices of Steffi A. Swanson, P.C., L.L.O.
1902 Hartlan Drive, Suite 305
Bellevue, Nebraska 68005
(402) 292-7700
March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 2007

To place your ad call 461-1241

AUCTION
SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2007 • 12:00 NOON
510 WEST GAGE STREET, BLUE HILL, NE
East side of Glenwood office

TRUCKS & TRAILERS: 1987 International model F-2275 semi 148" wheelbase, 350 Cummins, Fuller 9-spd., hydraulic wet kit, air dryer and Merritt headcage rack, inspected for 2007; 1979 Trail King trailer, model 1845-1450 60,000-lbs., 45-ft. x 8-ft. drop deck, Tandem axle dual wheel, hydraulic dove tail, hydraulic winch, foldup sides, inspected for 2007; small 2-wheel trailer.
GENERATORS & ELECTRICAL: Onan 55KW generator with transfer panel 981 hours Ford 300 6-cyl. water cooled set for natural gas, 120/240 1 phase; Onan 30KW generator with transfer panel 1182.5 hours Ford 300 6-cyl. water cooled set for natural gas, 120/240 1 phase; Onan 30KW generator with transfer panel 1242.8 hours Ford 300 6-cyl. water cooled set for propane gas, 120/240 1 phase; Onan 15KW generator with transfer panel 1115.7 hours Onan 4-cyl. air cooled set for propane gas,