

## Now this takes the fruitcake

Either no one bakes fruitcake in this area, therefore supermarkets don't order the necessary ingredients, or there are hundreds of closet fruitcake-makers who go to the grocery store in the darkest hours of the night and clear off the shelves. Unless you are an avid fruitcaker — yes, Virginia, there is such a word, I just made it up — you have no idea how frustrating it is to search high and low, near and far, here and there, and find no candied lemon rind or green cherries or bitter citron.

I experienced this frustration several weeks ago when I got up early on a Saturday morning and knew that the time had arrived. In fact, it was almost past time. Fruitcake is like a husband. It takes time to mellow.

Making pancakes on a Saturday morning is an easy manner. You reach for the pancake mix and add a cup of water. You can do this in your sleep.

One can not just make a fruitcake. It involves going to the store to get the once-a-year ingredients, in this case, several stores.

Grocery clerks under the age of 75 have no idea what you are talking about when you ask where the fruitcake ingredients are located. That area which falls between the forehead and nose is blank. Tell them it's dried fruit and they lead you to raisins and dried apricots. Tell them it's candied, and they point to the orange slices.

"We probably don't have it in, yet," said one grocery clerk who surely has to ask permission from his parents to stay out past 9 p.m.

"You must have received it," I said. "It's already the first of November. If I wait any longer, it's going to be too late to make it."

"Then maybe we're out of it," he said. Like I said earlier, I don't think I'm the only fruitcaker out there.

Somewhere there are hundreds of fruitcakes setting in dark places mellowing.

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Joyce Ore

# PETA offers \$1,000 reward

## TORTURE OF CAT IN HASTINGS DRAWS NATIONAL ATTENTION

LISA COBLE  
Hastings Tribune

A non-profit organization in Norfolk, Va., has taken an interest in a Hastings incident in which an adult cat was taped to stop sign.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is offering up to \$1,000 to anyone who can provide information about the person or persons who duct taped the cat, which was euthanized Wednesday.

The money will be distributed through the Hastings Police Department's Animal Control Division.

The adult beige and cream-colored, short-haired cat was found at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday taped on the stop sign on the northeast corner of California and Park avenues.

"Our jaws dropped when we heard about this," said Martin Mersereau, PETA cruelty case worker. "It's one of the most cowardly and pathetic acts our

office has come across."

An officer was able to free the cat. It was taken to the Animal Clinic, 2905 W. U.S. Highway 6, where it was euthanized.

The cat had head trauma and its body temperature was 87 degrees. Normal body temperature for an adult cat is 101.5.

The cat's owner has not been found, said animal control officer Judy Glantz of the HPD.

There are no suspects, she said. The case is under investigation.

Anyone with any information regarding the suspect or suspects in this case can call Glantz at (402) 461-2380.

Cruelty to animals is a Class 1 misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

## Farm, ranch strategies for success

### ADAMS COUNTY'S FIRST AG 'COLLEGE' DRAWS CROWD

DOTTI GRAMKE  
Hastings Tribune

Area farmers and ranchers took time out to learn a little more about their chosen occupation Friday.

Ron Seymour, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension educator for Adams County, said 65 people came to the first Farmers and Ranchers College conducted in Adams County.

"I think it's a really good turnout," Seymour said.

The Farmers and Ranchers College is a series of educational workshops for agricultural producers.

The program has been offered previously in Fillmore, Thayer and Clay counties. Participants have learned about ag economics, risk management, commodity marketing and production practices.

On Friday, farmers and ranchers took part in "Strategies for Success: Part I."

The program featured speaker Steven Johnson, a farm and ag business management specialist from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. Johnson focused on the economics of the 2002 Farm Bill and grain marketing, helping producers learn the best options for their operation.

Sixteen-year-old Lauren Gemar of Sutton talked to producers about her experiences learning about agriculture with her father, Scott, on a trip to Brazil and Chile.

Ken Franzen, conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Adams County, spoke on the conservation and equipment portions of the 2002 Farm Bill.

Seymour said he attended Farmers and Ranchers College programs in Clay County in the past and was amazed at how many people attended the workshops.



RICK HOUGHIN / Tribune

Steve Johnson of Des Moines tells farmers and ranchers about dealing with commodities during the Farmers and Ranchers College Friday at the Adams County Fairgrounds.

"There would be hundreds of people there," he said.

Seymour started asking Fillmore County Extension Educator Terry Hejny and Clay County Extension Educator Chuck Burr how they put together the programs.

Seymour said he liked the way the college worked with local sponsors to educate farmers.

"Our sponsors are our local lending institutions and the University of Nebraska," he said. "These are people that have an interest in seeing our farmer improve."

Seymour said farmers could learn how to best increase their business and

make the most money possible from their crops and animals.

The Farmers and Ranchers College started in 2000. Hejny said at least 11 workshops had been conducted between Fillmore, Thayer and Clay counties.

"We focus on providing continuing education for farmers and ranchers in a timely fashion," he said.

The programs feature well-known speakers who are specialists in their fields, Hejny said.

"We want to provide the education our producers need to make their business successful and to make our communities successful," he said.

## Yilk, Glen to be sworn in

Hastings Tribune

Two newly elected Hastings City Council members — Tom Yilk and Roger Glen — will be sworn in and join the council Monday.

Matt Rossen and Jim Ruberson, who were re-elected in November, will also be sworn in.

Glen will replace Dave Rosenberg in a 2nd Ward seat, and Yilk will replace Marilyn Will in the 4th Ward.

After the new council members are sworn in, a council president and vice president will be elected.

The meeting in which new council members will be sworn in will be called to order shortly after the last regular meeting this year.

Prior to the swearing in, the council currently serving will have a regular meeting.

The council meets Monday at 7 p.m. at the City Building, 220 N. Hastings Ave.

During the regular meeting, the council will:

- ◆ Consider directing the city engineer to place no-parking-any-time signs on the south side of A Street between Hastings and Denver avenues.

- ◆ Consider the request of Jim Guthmann Kenyon-Ross LLC, to utilize city right-of-way for parking on A Street and Lincoln Avenue.

- ◆ Consider authorizing the continuation of the distribution of the cable fees such that 4 percent of the gross receipts are paid to the city and 1 percent is paid to the Hastings Public Access Corporation during 2003.

- ◆ Consider an ordinance adopting and imposing an additional one-half cent city sales tax to fund a new aquatic center.

- ◆ Consider authorizing the issuance of aquatic center sales tax revenue bonds in the amount of \$4.7 million to pay the cost for construction and furnishing the necessary equipment and apparatus.

- ◆ Consider creating a street improvement district on Baltimore Avenue from Parkwest Drive to 241 feet north of E Street.



Glen



Yilk

## Residents seek different futures for Burlington, Lincoln

### PLANNERS TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS ON BOTH SIDES

KATHERINE GOTTO  
Hastings Tribune

Two back-to-back groups of properties are showing up together at the Hastings Planning Commission meeting Monday, but the requests for each are different.

On one side — North Lincoln Avenue — property owners are hoping to get a less dense zoning. On the other side — North Burlington Avenue — a local businessman is looking to make residential properties more commercial.

On Lincoln, residents recently learned that their property was zoned multiple-family residential (R-3).

The R-3 zoning allows for apartment-style housing and homes that have been converted from a single-family home to sev-

eral separate apartments.

That zoning is the source of a little discomfort for some of the residents in the 800 block of North Lincoln Avenue, and they are asking to have the zoning changed back to R-1, single-family residential.

Judy Reimer of 811 N. Lincoln Ave. has made a request on behalf of the entire block to have the zoning changed to protect the neighborhood.

"Most of us either restored or maintained our homes as single-family dwellings," Reimer said.

Many of the homes in the area are old, and Reimer said a lot of effort has gone into preserving them. It's something residents don't want lost to new development.

"It is a neighborhood effort," Reimer said in an interview earlier this week. "We realize that this is a historic district of Hastings."

The Hastings Planning Commission will consider the request to rezone the homes Monday.

During the same meeting, the commission will consider a request from local businessman Tom Lauvetz to amend the city's future land use plan on Burlington Avenue. Lauvetz has identified the strip between Seventh and Ninth streets as the potential site of office buildings.

Lauvetz is requesting that the land use for several properties be changed from residential medium/high density to downtown/regional commercial.

The addresses of the properties included in Lauvetz' request are:

- ◆ 820 W. Seventh St.
- ◆ 824 W. Seventh St.
- ◆ 708 N. Burlington Ave.
- ◆ 712 N. Burlington Ave.
- ◆ 718 N. Burlington Ave.
- ◆ 722 N. Burlington Ave.
- ◆ 726 N. Burlington Ave.
- ◆ 730 N. Burlington Ave.
- ◆ 736 N. Burlington Ave.
- ◆ 738 N. Burlington Ave.
- ◆ 740 N. Burlington Ave.
- ◆ 746 N. Burlington Ave.
- ◆ 748 N. Burlington Ave.
- ◆ 750 N. Burlington Ave.

The rezoning request on Lincoln includes all but three homes in the 800 block. The homes not included are 804, 823 and 850 N. Lincoln Ave.

City development services staff has suggested that rezoning a portion of the Lincoln block without those three lots would reduce the effectiveness of the rezone by still allowing multiple family uses.

Staff has recommended that the commission initiate a rezone on the remaining lots and consider the entire block all at once in January.

According to a Planning Commission memo, if the rezone is approved it would create a non-conforming use for 850 N. Lincoln Ave. that is currently a two-family home. The rezoning would affect this property little because it could continue to exist as a legally established non-conforming structure. It could even be bought and sold while maintaining that status.

"We want to show our pride in our neighborhood and we want

to show people we are serious about maintaining our neighborhood and our history," Reimer said.

On Lauvetz's request, staff is recommending that a lower density land use be considered instead.

According to a Planning Commission memorandum on Lauvetz's request, the downtown/regional commercial designation would be compatible with any commercial zoning.

The memo states: "While staff feels that a commercial land use category is appropriate for the proposed properties, the proposed amendment does not fully protect the adjacent residential land uses. The more restrictive professional/administrative category would be more appropriate. The request category is overly broad, especially when the potential for future conflict is well known."

## Former Adams County supervisor dies at age 63

Hastings Tribune

A former member of the Adams County Board of Supervisors was remembered by colleagues as a dedicated, friendly and kind-hearted woman.

Sharon L. (Wathen) Bennett, 63, died Thursday at St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln.

Bennett had lived in Hastings since 1943, graduating from Hastings High School in 1957.

She was elected to the Adams County Board of Supervisors in 1983 and served as chairwoman from 1984-1985.

Morris "Buck" Ellerbee of Hastings served on the board with Bennett.

"Sharon was one of those persons who tended business," he said. "If she had something to say, she said it. It might not suit you, but that's how she operated."

Ellerbee said Bennett had

opposed a long-time county board member's stance on the ambulance controversy during the 1982 campaign and won the election.

"She was a dedicated person, and frankly, I enjoyed working with her for four years," he said. "She was a very friendly person, outgoing. She did a good job of keeping up with what was going on in town."

Hastings resident Monty

Malouf also served on the county board with Bennett.

"She was very dedicated," he said. "She worked hard for the people of Adams County."

Malouf said he enjoyed working with Bennett, and described her as a friendly, kind-hearted person.

After one term on the county board, she ran for Adams County Treasurer, but was not elected.

She was a past-president of the

Adams County Democratic Board and served on the Adams County Election Board.

In 1999, she was appointed by then-Gov. Ben Nelson to the Judicial Nominating Committee for Supreme Court Justices.

She is survived by her husband, Richard A. Bennett of Hastings, and three children, DeNeeta Svoboda, Dawnelle Hansen and Douglas Bennett, all of Hastings.

### Local

#### SEX OFFENDER

The Nebraska State Patrol issued public notification Friday of a previously reported Level III convicted sex offender in Hastings who has moved to a new address.

The offender's name, address, photograph, bio information and sex crime can be found at the State Patrol's Web site at [www.nsp.state.ne.us/sor/](http://www.nsp.state.ne.us/sor/).

The Sex Offender Registry and Community Notification System are maintained by the State Patrol as mandated by state law.

Level III convicted sex offenders have been determined to be at high risk of re-offending, according to the State Patrol.

### Calendar

#### HASTINGS

- ◆ "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Lied SuperScreen Theatre in Hastings Museum.

- ◆ Hastings High School Winter Vocal Concert, 7:30 p.m. Monday, school auditorium.

### Lotteries

#### WINNING NUMBERS

Friday  
Kansas Pick 3 ..... 2-8  
Nebraska Pick 5 ..... 5-8-14-21-35  
Jackpot: \$108,000