Bowl madness: Georgia, Missouri, USC make statements. — *Page C1*

Budget surplus

Lawmakers split as what to do with $542 million in extra cash.

Page A5

Hastings Tribune

SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS

Winter storm

Northern states hit hard by New Year's snow.

Page A3

20 pages | http://www.hastingstribune.com | Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008 | Home delivered 29 cents | Newsstands 50 cents

State shuts down HRC program

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY UNIT STILL IN OPERATION

SHAY BURK
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A lack of patients and the recommendation of a Legislature-appointed committee led to the closure Tuesday of the juvenile mental health program at the Hastings Regional Center.

For the last several months, the mental health program, known as Trailblazers, has had, at the most, just a few juvenile patients in the program who shared space with the Juvenile Chemical Dependency Program at HRC.

This morning, Scot Adams, director of the Division of Behavioral Health with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, said several factors led to the program's closure.

"We had the dynamics of LB542, a dropping census and an obligation to use the state's resources wisely," he said.

At the end of the 2007 Legislative session, the Children's Behavioral Health Task Force, formed as a result of LB542, was created to study and make recommendations on the future of children's behavioral health in Nebraska.

LB542 originally was written to transition all juveniles treated at HRC to community-based, private treatment programs. The $10.5 million in funds designated for juvenile programming at HRC would then have been moved into the Enhanced Services and Capacity Expansion Fund for Juveniles.

While the facility's closure was removed from the final bill, the future of the regional center's programs were a major issue within the task force's recommendations.

Please see CLOSE*/page A6*

First baby of New Year

HASTINGS COUPLE MAKES TWO TRIPS TO HOSPITAL BEFORE AFTERNOON DELIVERY

TONY HERRMAN
therrman@hastingstribune.com

It took two trips to the hospital before the first baby of 2008 was born at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital. Jeff and Kari Vyhlidal spent New Year's Eve at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital, only to be sent home at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday. It wasn't long before they were back at Mary Lanning.

"I went home and was like 'um nope, she wants to come,' " Kari said. "I knew I was getting close."

The couple returned at 11:30 a.m.

"When I came back, they said in 20 minutes you're having a C-section, and I was like 'all right,' " Jeff said.

When Emma Louise Vyhlidal was born at 12:36 p.m., her parents were surprised to learn she was the hospital's first baby of the year.

"We didn't know because it was in the afternoon, we're like 'we're the first, really?' " Kari said. "It was exciting."

Emma weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and was 19 inches long.

The baby's due date was Jan. 18.

"I just knew it was coming, because she was getting bigger," Kari said.

Jeff said he could tell that his wife was getting uncomfortable.

"It was good she came when she did," he said.

Emma shares a birthday with her great-grandmother.

"She was really excited about that," Kari said.

Inside

State's first baby born 10 seconds after midnight.
— Page A5



AMY ROH/*Tribune*

Emma Louise Vyhlidal was the first baby born in Hastings in 2008.

One of Emma's most noticeable features is her thick, black hair.

"Everybody keeps talking about how much hair she has," Kari said.

Emma's middle name, Louise, is a family name on both sides.

"Before we even got engaged or got married, we picked baby names if we had kids," Kari said.

The couple, whose wedding was in July, both just graduated from Hastings College. Kari received degrees in English literature and sociology, while Jeff's is in music education. He has been a student teacher at Morton and Watson elementary schools.

Please see BABY*/page A6*



AMY ROH/*Tribune*

Jeff and Kari Vyhlidal welcomed their daughter, Emma Louise, into the world at 12:36 p.m. on New Year's Day.

Senators keeping an open mind

STATE LAWMAKERS UNSURE WHETHER STATE FAIR SHOULD STAY PUT OR MOVE

ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

OMAHA — A significant number of state lawmakers say they aren't sure whether the State Fair should stay put or move to another site to make room for a University of Nebraska research park.

The chairman of the Legislature's Agriculture Committee, Bayard Sen. Philip Erdman, has said he wants the issue resolved during this year's session. The committee heard hours of testimony Dec. 14 but offered no recommendation.

A consultant hired by the ag committee found it would cost upward of $175 million to build a new, top-shelf state fair and fairgrounds in another location, compared with $31 million for sprucing up State Fair Park to make the fair more of a draw.

Please see LAWMAKERS*/page A6*

NATI HARNIK/*AP*

Youngsters enjoy a ride at the Nebraska State Fair in Lincoln on Aug. 23, 2003.

New law requires young drivers hang up when driving

ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

LINCOLN — Jake Brennan has no problem with a new state law that makes it illegal for drivers under 18 to use a cell phone while operating a vehicle.

The 15-year-old Omahan just wonders why the law doesn't apply to everybody.

"It's just as dangerous for someone 50 years old driving and talking on the phone at the same time," Brennan said Monday.

Five states do ban cell phone use for all drivers. Restrictions for novices are more common, however. On New Year's Day, Nebraska joins 16 other states and the District of Columbia in requiring teen drivers to put down their phones.

Last year, drivers ages 15 through 19 were involved in 36 of the 101 accidents in Nebraska attributed to cell-phone distraction, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Since the state began tracking such accidents in 2002, 37 percent have involved teen drivers.

Fred Zwonechek, Nebraska highway safety administrator, said that's an alarmingly disproportionate figure — teens make up only 7 percent of all drivers in the state.

And Zwonechek said he suspects there are quite a few more accidents attributable to cell phones that go unreported.

"It's like falling asleep behind the wheel — people generally don't want to admit it," he said.

Please see LAW*/page B2*

Weather

Lo: 13
Hi: 25

Sunny today; winds increasing to 15-20 mph tonight.



Art by Elizabeth Whitehead, 8, Longfellow Elementary

Nation

CAMPED-OUT CANDIDATE

ATLANTA — A television reporter turned political candidate said he plans to remain on a small scaffold near the top of a tower to focus attention on his long-shot bid to unseat a U.S. senator.

Dale Cardwell was hoisted more than 300 feet up the Corey Tower near downtown Atlanta on Tuesday morning. He said he expects to remain there "for days," sleeping in an insulated sleeping bag and eating military rations. A Webcam tracks his limited movements. Overnight temperatures are expected to drop into the 20s.

Cardwell, who hopes to unseat Republican Saxby Chambliss, said he thinks the publicity stunt won't hurt his credibility, but will make people curious about his message: that politicians should pay more attention to the concerns of working people and less to those of wealthy corporate interests.

The Associated Press

Inside

Agri/Business	B 3	Entertainment	C 5
Bridge	C 5	Obituaries	A 2
Classified	D 2	Opinion	A 4
Comics	C 4	Senior Focus	C 6

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Obituaries

Ruby Hollister

Former Hastings resident, Ruby Hollister, 72, of Edgar died Sunday, December 30, 2007, at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital.



Hollister

Burial Office will be 10 a.m. Friday, January 4, 2008, at Butler-Volland Funeral Home chapel in Hastings with The Very Rev. Robert Neske officiating. Burial will be in Parkview Cemetery in Hastings. Visitation is 5-9 p.m. today; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday; and 8:30 a.m. until service time Friday with family present, all at the funeral home.

Memorials may be given to Saint Mark's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral.

Condolences may be sent to www.lbvfh.com.

***

Ms. Hollister was born October 2, 1935, in Hastings, Neb., to Lloyd and Ada (Overton) Hollister. She attended schools in Hastings and retired as a laboratory aid from Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital after 30 years. In 2002, she moved to Edgar, where she resided until her death. Ruby had a giving heart, loved the Lord and will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Ms. Hollister was preceded in death by her parents.

Survivors include sister and brother-in-law, Ben and Mary Cannon of Kenesaw, Neb.; nephews, Frank Jenkins of Omaha, Neb., Brian Jenkins of Omaha, Neb., and Kevin Jenkins of Cheney, Wash.; and niece, Anne Morris of Hastings, Neb.

Betty J. Johnson

Hastings resident Betty Janelle (Selby) Johnson, 85, died Monday, December 31, 2007, at Good Samaritan Village Perkins Pavilion in Hastings.



Johnson

Services are 1:30 p.m. Friday, January 4, 2008, at the Christian Church in Clay Center. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery at Fairfield. Visitation is 4-9 p.m. today; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday; and 9-11:30 a.m. Friday at McLaughlin Funeral Home in Clay Center.

Memorials may be given to the Clay County Christian Church (new building fund), 31371 Woodland Rd. Clay Center, NE 68933; or to the Clay Center Lions Club, for the eye bank, P.O. Box 173, Clay Center, NE 68933

***

Mrs. Johnson was born August 28, 1922, at the home of her parents, Lloyd and Jessie (Jacobs) Selby near Glenvil, Neb. She was baptized in the Fairfield Christian Church in 1934 and graduated from Fairfield High School in 1940. She worked and attended colleges in Lincoln, Neb., and Cincinnati, Ohio. She entered the cadet nursing program at Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing in Plainfield, N.J. in the fall of 1945, graduating in 1948. She returned to Fairfield and was employed as a registered nurse at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in Hastings. Betty married B. Charles Johnson of Fairfield on November 26, 1948. They spent that winter in California and then moved back to the area west of Fairfield where they lived until their retirement from farming in March 1987. They managed a motel in Hastings for a short time and then traveled the United States in their motor home until 1990 at which time they settled in Hastings. The Johnsons were active members of the Christian Church in Clay Center.

Survivors include her husband, Charles; four children, Lee and Linda (O'Connor) Johnson of Fairfield, Rebecca (Johnson) and Bruce Blair of Beaverton, Ore., Keith and Teresa (Bitterman) Johnson of Glenvil, and Wayne and Janis (Johnson) Johnson of Clay Center; one sister, Lydia and Donald Beckenhauer of Reedley, Calif.; 14 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Johnson was preceded in death by her parents; and her siblings, Harriet Tolliver of Fairfield, Charles W. Selby of Columbus, Ohio, Lloyd Selby Jr., of Fairfield, and Dorothy Selby of Hastings.

James L. 'Jim' Standley

Former Hastings resident James L. "Jim" Standley, 55, of Clarks Summit, Pa., died Tuesday, December 25, 2007, at Mercy Hospital.

Lawrence E. Young Funeral Home in Clarks Summit was in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be sent to the Dr. James L. Standley Scholarship Fund at Hastings, College, 801 Turner Ave., Hastings, NE 68901.

Condolences may be sent to www.lawrenceeyoungfuneralhome.com

***

James was born in Kinsley, Kan., to Ruth Standley and the late James L. Standley. He grew up in Hastings, Neb., graduating from Hastings College in 1974. In 1975, he married Judy Metcalf. In 1978, he joined the Met Life computer team in Wichita, Kan., as a programmer. After moving to Clarks Summit in 1996, he rose to Senior Systems Analyst/Architect. As a member of Clarks Green United Methodist Church, Jim sang with the church's Gospelaires and Sunday choir as well as serving as an instrumentalist and a member of the music committee. He was a devoted family man of great character and intellect, with a deep love for music.

He is survived by his wife, Judy; daughter, Laura; son, Nathan; and granddaughter, Emma of the home. Emma was a special joy to him. Other survivors include his mother, Ruth; a sister, Nancy Standley of Billings, Mont.; a cousin, Suzan Cox of High Bridge, N.J.; and extended family in Nebraska and Kansas.

Marlene C. Middendorf

Former Roseland resident Marlene C. Middendorf, 74, of Topeka, Kan., died Saturday, December 29, 2007, at Midland Hospice House.

Services were today, January 2, 2008, at Mater Dei's Assumption Church. Burial was be in Penwell-Gabel's Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the American Cancer Society and may be sent in care of Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home, 800 W. 6th St., Topeka, KS 66603.

Verena Z. Seberg

Topeka, Kan., resident Verena Zeller Seberg, 95, died Sunday, December 30, 2007, in Topeka.



Seberg

Rosary by Daughters of Isabella and a parish rosary were today, both at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home in Topeka. Mass of Christian Burial is 10 a.m. Thursday, January 3, 2008, at Christ the King Church. Burial will be at 1 p.m. Thursday in Sacred Heart Cemetery at Paxico.

Memorials are suggested to Christ the King Church in Topeka and Sacred Heart Church in Paxico. They may be sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka, KS 66614

Condolences may be sent to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com

***

Verena was born November 1, 1912, in Paxico Kan., the daughter of Michael and Mary Meinhardt Zeller. She graduated from Mount St. Scholastica Academy in Atchison in 1931 and received her diploma as a registered nurse from St. Francis Hospital in Topeka, Kan., in 1934. During the spring of 1935, Verena served with the Red Cross in the dust bowl area of western Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas panhandle. After that she was assigned to general duty at Fort Riley, Kan., on civilian status. Verena was commissioned in the Nurse Corps of the Army Medical Department at Fort Riley in June 1936 and remained there three years. She was transferred in July 1939 to Sternberg Army Hospital in Manila, Philippine Islands. She was assigned as assistant chief nurse at March Air Force Base, Calif., until 1944, when she was transferred as chief nurse to Walla Walla Air Force Base, Wash. From there she went to Brandley Air Force Base, Conn., as chief nurse and then to Mitchel Air Force Base, Long Island, N.Y., as chief nurse. Verena completed the Flight Nurses course at the School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas in June 1946 followed by a year at Columbia University. Following that Verena served almost a year on a regular Army Integration Board in the Pentagon reviewing records of applicants for the regular Army Nurse Corps and presenting the recommendations to the Integration Board. Following that assignment, she served with the Military Air Transport Service in air evacuation of patients from Europe to the United States and from coast to coast in the United States. She was then assigned to the Air Surgeon's office in January 1949 when the Air Force established a separate medical service and she was designated acting chief nurse of the Air Force Nurse Corps. In August 1951, she became Chief of the Air Force Nurse Corps and was promoted to the grade of colonel. Among other citations, Verena was awarded the Legion of Merit upon retirement. During Verena's tenure as Chief of the Air Force Nurse Corps, she traveled extensively, visiting Air Force nurses assigned to Air Force bases world-wide. This took her to England, Germany, Tripoli, North Africa, Casablanca, Saudi Arabia, Hawaii, Okinawa, Philippines, Japan, Korea, Alaska, Greenland, Newfoundland and Air Force bases in the continental United States. On December 28, 1949, Verena and Col. Marco Pettoruto were married. He died in 1976. On June 23, 1990, Dr. G. Herbert Seberg and Verena were married. He survives.

Other survivors include, Herbert's children, George H. Seberg, Jr. of Honolulu, Lewis A. Seberg of Ayr Neb., Sara Gotchey of Manhattan; five grandchildren; a sister, Mercedes Sayler of Topeka; brother, Alvin (Margaret) Zeller of Paxico; a sister-in-law, Matilda Zeller of Topeka; brother-in-law, Dr. L.J. Caponergo of Hicksville, N.Y.; and 32 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by siblings, Sr. Maxine OSB, Florian Zeller, Mildred Degenhardt, Louise Dedonder and Thelma Caponegro.

Myron D. Fangmeyer

Deshler resident Myron Dean Fangmeyer, 65, died Thursday, December 27, 2007, at Thayer County Health Services in Hebron.

Services were December 31 at Peace Lutheran Church in Deshler with the Rev. Phillip Nielsen officiating. Burial with military honors by Deshler American Legion Halfman Post #352 was in Peace Lutheran Cemetery. Deshler Memorial Funeral Home in Deshler was in charge of arrangements.

Births

Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital

◆ **Sheryl Pamela Lagunas**, a 7-pound, 12-ounce girl, was born to Emma Arellanes Cepeda and Rogelio Lagunas, of 231 E. South St., Dec. 18.

◆ **Claire Ann Brown**, a 7-pound, 12-ounce girl, was born to Crystal (Grummert) and Chad Brown, of 408 E. 12th St., Dec. 19.

◆ **Jaina Christine Muth**, a 7-pound, 10-ounce girl, was born to Tina (Shultz) and Dan Muth, of 1218 N. Seventh Ave., Dec. 19.

◆ **Zane Scott Thomsen**, a 7-pound, 6-ounce boy, was born to Renee (Denaeyer) and Travis Thomsen, of 1343 Hewett Ave., Dec. 19.

◆ **Matthew Gabriel Brailita**, a 5-pound, 12-ounce boy, was born to Minodora (Benea) and Daniel Brailita, of 3410 Parklane Drive, Dec. 20.

◆ **Xavier David Crooks**, an 8-pound, 13.2-ounce boy, was born to Dorie (Clark) and Sky Crooks, of 811 E. Sixth St. No. 2, Dec. 20.

◆ **Jack J. Davis**, a 6-pound, 5-ounce boy, was born to Karla (Wall) and Scot Davis, of DeWitt, Dec. 20.

◆ **Jared Paul Stoner**, an 8-pound, 1-ounce boy, was born to Amber (Hartman) and Paul Stoner, of Red Cloud, Dec. 20.

NewsMakers

USC's No. 1 fan



KIM JOHNSON/*AP*

Actor Will Ferrell waves to the Southern California band during the Rose Bowl football game against Illinois Tuesday in Pasadena, Calif.

Eddie Murphy gets married

LOS ANGELES — Eddie Murphy celebrated New Year's Day by tying the knot with film producer Tracey Edmonds.

The pair exchanged vows Tuesday on a private island off Bora Bora in French Polynesia in front of a small group of family and friends, their representatives told People magazine.

Murphy, 46, has five children from his marriage to Nicole Mitchell Murphy, who filed for divorce in 2005. He also has a daughter with Spice Girls singer Melanie Brown.

Edmonds, 40, has two sons from her 13-year marriage to Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds. As head of Edmonds Entertainment Group Inc., she has produced the film and television series "Soul Food."

Murphy's film credits include "Dreamgirls," and the "Beverly Hills Cop," "Nutty Professor," "Shrek" and "Dr. Doolittle" movies.

He still can act

LOS ANGELES — Tom Bosley wants to show he still has it at 80.

Last year, the actor best known for playing Richie Cunningham's father on "Happy Days" co-starred with Michael Learned in a seven-month national tour of "On Golden Pond."

Now he's starting off the new year with a starring role in the TV movie "Charlie & Me," airing Saturday on the Hallmark Channel.

Bosley plays a charismatic grandfather who, despite suffering a near-fatal heart attack, is determined to mend the relationship between his workaholic, widowed son and his feisty 12-year-old granddaughter before he dies.

"Although I love my home, my family and everything about my non-work life, I also want to keep acting as long as God will let me," said Bosley, who played Father Frank Dowling on "Father Dowling Mysteries."

Birthdays

Former television evangelist Jim Bakker is 69. Actress Wendy Phillips is 56. Actress Gabrielle Carteris is 47. Actress Tia Carrere is 41. Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. is 40. Model Christy Turlington is 39. Actor Taye Diggs is 37. Actor Dax Shepard is 33. Actress Paz Vega is 32. Country musician Chris Hartman is 30.

Quote of the day

"It is the tragedy of the world that no one knows what he doesn't know — and the less a man knows, the more sure he is that he knows everything."

– Joyce Cary, British author (1888-1957)

The Associated Press

Fact of the day

Frederick Douglass was the first African American to receive a vice presidential nomination, with the Equal Rights Party in 1872, but he neither campaigned for nor acknowledged it.

Number of the day

466 — number of books written by Isaac Asimov, according to his memoir.

United Media

Tribland

Adams County Judge Robert Ide Monday sentenced Daisy M. Jarvis, 27, of 101 E. Fourth St., to seven days in jail, a $400 fine and six-month drivers license revocation for driving under the influence of alcohol Oct. 4, 2007. Jarvis pleaded no contest Nov. 2, 2007. DUI is a Class W misdemeanor punishable by up to 60 days in jail and a $500 fine.

It was reported Sunday that a 20-year-old Hastings man was cited with minor in possession of alcohol on Burlington Avenue near 13th Street.

A vehicle reportedly driven by Carolyn J. Golick, of 1326 N. Pepperidge Drive, Sunday struck a mailbox owned by Lei-Hwa Yen, of 826 W. North Side Drive, in the 800 block of West North Side Drive.

It was reported Friday that a vehicle window owned by Kaleen E. Vanis, of 1322 W. E St., was damaged and her purse was taken in the 300 block of West Second Street. A purse owned by Haley Skinner, of 1322 W. E St., also reportedly was taken from the vehicle.

A parked vehicle owned by Jason B. Vuong, of 212 E. B St., reportedly was struck Friday by a hit-and-run driver on B Street near Pine Avenue.

Vintage signs, license plates at Retro and Collectibles, 520 East Side Boulevard. 463-5150. -Adv.

It was reported Friday that items were shoplifted at Radio Shack, 4103 N. Osborne Drive West. The value of items taken was $150.

It was reported Friday that an unknown motorist left Timesaver, 500 S. Burlington Ave., without paying for $86 in fuel.

It was reported Thursday that an unknown motorist left Uncle Neal's Country Convenience Store, 2815 W. Park Lane Drive, without paying for $30.34 in fuel.

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.

A vehicle reportedly driven by Colette M. Parr, of Ayr, Friday struck a parked vehicle owned by Diane L. Hynes, of 18440 W. Cimarron Road, at 3803 Osborne Drive West.

It was reported Thursday that an unknown motorist left Ampride Convenience Store, 1414 N. Burlington Ave., without paying for $50.02 in fuel.

Certificate of Deposit Special from Hastings State Bank thru January 14...earn 4.70 Annual Percentage Yield on 5-month CD. Requires minimum deposit of $2,500. Penalty for early withdrawal. Member FDIC. -Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Joshua R. Adams, of 1113 N. Bellevue Ave., and David L. Baker, of 1118 N. Hewett Ave., collided Sunday on Burlington Avenue near 13th Street. Baker, 40, was treated and released at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital.

Tiffany Kimminau, formerly of Kutt N Dry Salon, now taking appointments at Ariston Salon, 461-6655. -Adv.

Stephanie J. Erickson, of 1503 W. Fifth St., reported Friday that her baby cereal, bottles and cigarettes were taken from her residence.

Amber L. Edwards, of 910 N. Denver Ave. No. 3, reported Friday that several items were taken from her residence.

A vehicle reportedly driven by Trevor W. Ritz, of Ashton, Sunday struck a parked vehicle owned by Gary L. Woolsey, of 1402 N. St. Joseph Ave., on St. Joseph Avenue near 14th Street.

It was reported Friday that a glass door owned by Regency Heights Apartments, 1040 S. Wabash Ave., was damaged at the business.

A vehicle reportedly driven by Scott W. Peck, of 514 S. Lincoln Ave., Saturday struck a parked vehicle owned by Timothy E. Reams, of 506 S. Lincoln Ave., on Lincoln Avenue near C Street.

30- to 70-percent off men's and women's clothing now at Gary Michael's Clothiers. -Adv.

A vehicle reportedly driven by Enrique Espinoza Jr., of 522 S. Baltimore Ave., Saturday struck a parked vehicle owned by Kenneth A. Zoucha, of 1700 N. Apache Ave., at 1400 W. 16th St.

Knights of Columbus stag Thursday, January 3, serving roast pork and lamb fries 6:00 to 8:00; $9.00. All welcome, no membership required. -Adv.

Michael T. Brooks, of Elizabeth Town, N.C., reported Sunday that his wallet was taken at 1630 W. 16th St.

It was reported Saturday that an 18-year-old Hastings man was cited with minor in possession of alcohol at 210 E. Fifth St.

It was reported Friday that an unknown motorist left Uncle Neal's Country Convenience Store, 734 S. Burlington Ave., without paying for $38.75 in fuel.

Family Friday at Hastings Museum, January 4, with "Fred Claus," the museum and Little Caesar's Pizza, at one low price. Reservations due January 3, 1-800-508-4629, option zero. -Adv.

Area Funerals

Friday, Jan. 4

◆ **Ruby Hollister**, 72, of Edgar, 10 a.m. at Butler-Volland Funeral Home chapel in Hastings.

◆ **Betty Johnson**, 85, of Hastings, 1:30 p.m. Friday at the Christian Church in Clay Center.

Nation

POLAR BEARS CLUB

NEW YORK — Hundreds of hardy swimmers braved the 42-degree Atlantic Ocean on Tuesday for a traditional New Year's Day dip.

"It was a fantastic day," said Louis Scarcella, president of the Coney Island Polar Bears Club.

About 300 club members went in the water off Coney Island, raising $30,000 in pledges for Camp Sunshine, a camp for seriously ill children and their families in Casco, Maine, Scarcella said.

Another two dozen members of the Ice Breakers took a dip off nearby Brighton Beach, member Bob Stewart said.

"The cold water clears our minds and bodies so we can experience the new year in a more fresh and relaxed way," he said.

SMUGGLED BIRDS

LEWISTON, N.Y. — Border agents pulled four live birds from the pockets of a pigeon collector and a traveling companion trying to enter the United States from Canada.

The pair were stopped Sunday at the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge border crossing, where they told inspectors they were on their way to visit an uncle in LeRoy, outside Rochester, Customs and Border Protection spokesman Kevin Corsaro said.

Inspectors found the pigeons wrapped and taped from neck to tail in pockets of the pair's coats after they asked the men from Uxbridge, Ontario, to remove their jackets.

One man told CBP officers he is a pigeon collector who belongs to a club that trades and sells birds of various colors. He said he was taking the birds to trade or sell to his uncle.

The men, whose names were not released, were fined $1,000 and the case was referred to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and United States Department of Agriculture inspectors for possible criminal charges, Corsaro said.

People bringing pet birds into the country are required to arrange for a veterinary inspection at the border three to five days before entering to protect against the transmission of communicable diseases such as bird flu.

TATTOO SHOOTING

CHAPARRAL, N.M. — Getting a tattoo can be a painful proposition, but usually it's just the needle you have to worry about.

Two men trying to trace a loaded .357-caliber Magnum as a pattern for a tattoo accidentally shot themselves, the Otero County Sheriff's Department said Monday.

Robert Glasser and Joey Acosta, both 22, were treated at a hospital in El Paso, Texas, after the shooting Thursday evening in nearby Chaparral.

Authorities said Glasser was struck in the hand when the gun accidentally went off, and Acosta was hit in the left arm. Their injuries were not life-threatening, authorities said.

PACKERS FAN

GREEN BAY, Wis. — A boy who hasn't stopped wearing his Brett Favre jersey since Christmas four years ago has finally attended his first Green Bay Packers game.

David Witthoft, 11, of Ridgefield, Conn., traveled with his family to Lambeau Field to watch the Packers' 34-13 victory over the Detroit Lions on Sunday.

Witthoft admits he will probably soon have to hang up the jersey, which he got for Christmas in 2003.

"I thought I would keep wearing it as long as I could get it over my head," Witthoft told the Green Bay Press-Gazette after the game. "But I'll probably take it off in the next year, certainly. Then I'll hang it up in a frame or maybe send it to the (Packers) Hall of Fame."

His mother, Carolyn, washes the jersey every two days and has had to mend it.

The Associated Press

Tribland five-day forecast

Art by Elizabeth Whitehead, 8, Longfellow Elementary



SUNNY TODAY
High: 25 **Low:** 13
Wind: South 10-15
South winds increasing to 15-20 mph tonight.



SUNNY THURSDAY
High: 35 **Low:** 16
Wind: South 15-20
South winds decreasing to 10-15 mph at night.



PARTLY CLOUDY FRIDAY
High: 41 **Low:** 25
Mostly sunny, south winds 10-15 mph.



SUNNY SATURDAY
High: 40 **Low:** 24
Mostly sunny, south winds 10-15 mph.



PARTLY CLOUDY SUNDAY
High: 47 **Low:** 25
A 30-percent chance of rain and snow in the evening.

Today's weather records

High: 72 in 1997
Low: -15 in 1911

Local weather

From 7 a.m. Dec. 31 to 7 a.m. Jan. 2

High Monday	31
High in 2006	34
Overnight low	20
Overnight low in 2006	19
High Tuesday	21
High in 2007	34
Overnight low	0
Overnight low in 2007	18
Precipitation last 48 hours	.00
Jan. precipitation	.00
Jan. 2007 precipitation	.00
Year-to-date precipitation	.00
Jan. to Dec. '07 precipitation	30.81
Snowfall last 48 hours	.00
Dec. snowfall	11.40
Jan. 2008 snowfall	.00
Seasonal snowfall	12.40
Seasonal snowfall 2006-07	.60

Winter storm hits northern states

The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — Snow fell across parts of New England for the third day in a row today, adding to last month's record accumulations and closing schools.

Flurries also extended into the Ohio Valley, and some children had an extra holiday as classes were canceled in parts of West Virginia and Ohio.

Temperatures fell to freezing levels as far south as the Florida Panhandle, and wind chill readings were below zero in parts of northern Kentucky.

Following the snowiest December on record, many areas of New Hampshire got about a foot of snow on New Year's Day, with a couple of inches added during the night and a couple more likely today. Storm totals could reach 18 inches in parts of Maine and New Hampshire and up to a foot in Vermont.

The latest snowfall in New England followed a storm on Monday that made for the area's snowiest December in decades. December's snowfall at Concord, N.H., totaled 44.5 inches, toppling a record of 43 inches that had stood since 1876. Burlington, Vt., got 45.7 inches, far above its 17.2-inch December average, and Portland, Maine, amassed 37.7 inches for its third-snowiest December on record.

"It's been unbelievable. It just keeps coming," said Bill Swain, spokesman for Maine's Sugarloaf USA ski area, which got 70 inches of snow in December.

The snowfall delayed the start of the 2008 state legislative session in Augusta, Maine, from this morning until the afternoon.

On the southern fringes of the storm today, snow was scattered from Ohio through eastern Kentucky and West Virginia into parts of Virginia and Maryland.

Up to 6 inches of snow was possible today at higher elevations of West Virginia and eastern Kentucky, although 1- to 2-inch accumulations were likely in most areas, the weather service said.



TODD McINTURF/*AP*

Scott Hagen (far left), John Dolzynski (center), and his son, John Dolzynski, II, push this Grand Prix out of the ditch in Lake Orion, Mich. on Tuesday. A fast-moving New Year's Day storm dumped more than a foot of snow on southeastern Michigan, a record blast that made driving hazardous, snarled the flight home for holiday travelers and threatened to do the same in New England. The New Year's storm created the fourth-biggest snowstorm in southern Michigan history, dumping up to 16 inches in some areas.

At least 40 of West Virginia's 55 counties closed all public schools today because of snow-covered roads and freezing temperatures.

Dozens of schools also were closed today in southeastern Michigan, where a six-hour burst of snow early Tuesday dumped as much as 16 inches in a three-county area north of Detroit, the weather service said.

"This will be a memorable storm for the amount of snow it dumped in such a short amount of time," weather service meteorologist David Shuler said. He said it was the region's heaviest New Year's Day snowstorm on record.

The storm blacked out 10,000 customers Tuesday in northeast Ohio, where 15 inches of snow fell at in Pierpont, east of Cleveland. About 4,000 more lost power Tuesday evening in southwest Ohio when circuit breakers failed because of the cold.

There were no immediate reports of deaths blamed on the weather. Snow covered a highway in northeast Indiana where a van overturned early this morning, killing two women, but State Police Cpl. Derek Fisher said he could not say if the weather contributed to the crash.

Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, one of the nation's busiest, canceled about 150 flights Tuesday and reported delays of about 45 minutes because of blowing snow. Passengers also experienced morning delays at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, but operations were back to normal by the afternoon, spokesman Michael Conway said.

Utility officials reported scattered power failures affecting more than 36,000 homes and businesses.

The storm also blacked out 10,000 customers in northeast Ohio, mainly in areas east of Cleveland, said Chris Eck, a spokesman for FirstEnergy Corp. Wind gusted to 51 mph at Cleveland's Burke Lakefront Airport, the Weather Service said.

Candidates try last-minute appeals to voters before Iowa caucuses

LIZ SIDOTI
The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Uplifting appeals largely replaced stinging insults Tuesday as Democratic and Republican candidates did the only thing left to do in Iowa races that are too close to call — encourage supporters to vote for them.

"The polls look good, but understand this — the polls are not enough. The only thing that counts is whether or not you show up to caucus," Democrat Barack Obama told a fired-up crowd of young and old packed into a high school gymnasium.

Amid murmurs of "Amen!" at a pizza parlor in Sergeant Bluff, Republican Mike Huckabee urged hundreds: "Don't go alone. Take people with you. Fill up your car. Rent a van. Hijack your church's bus, whatever you've got to do to get people to the caucus who are going to vote for me."

Candidates made the pitch repeatedly as they canvassed the state for Thursday's caucuses, the first votes of the presidential nominating process. At least 130,000 Democrats and 80,000 Republicans are expected to participate in 1,781 neighborhood meetings at schools, fire stations and community centers across Iowa on what is forecast to be a clear but cold night.

New polls show both races competitive, the outcomes extraordinarily unpredictable.

Among Democrats, Obama, an Illinois senator, is fighting with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York for the lead as former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina gives them strong chase. Two former governors, Huckabee of Arkansas and Mitt Romney of Massachusetts, are vying for first on the Republican side.

Given the tightness, turning out voters will be critical.

Thus, hordes of volunteers made thousands of get-out-the-vote phone calls Tuesday, the campaigns rolled out uplifting television ads and the candidates made their pitches on the first day of 2008. The efforts were intended to maximize media exposure and voter outreach.

There were signs that Democratic voters are more energized than Republicans.

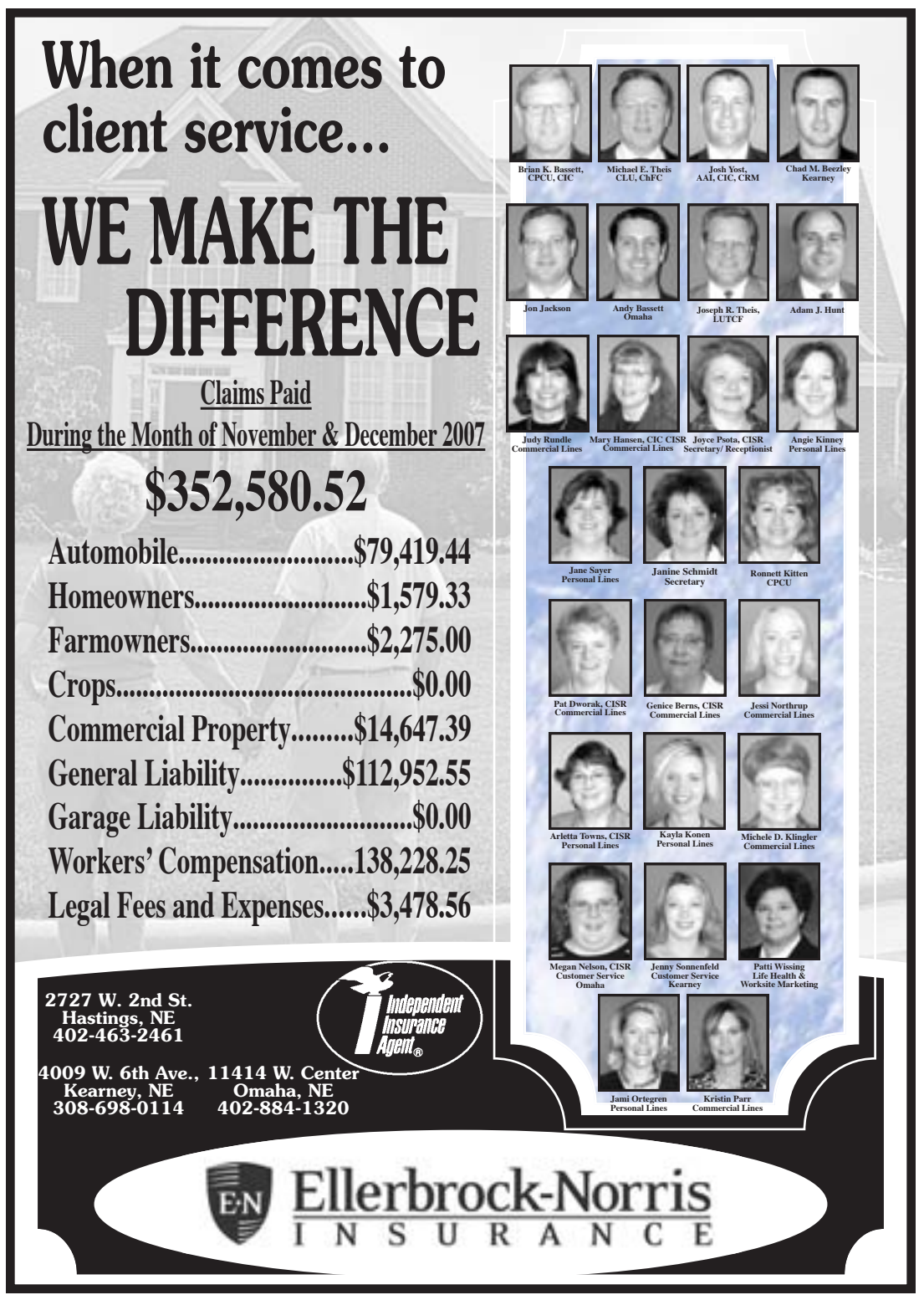
Democrat Joe Biden, who ranks in the low single digits in polls, attracted 500 people to a noontime event at a Des Moines brewery — a bigger crowd than any Republican candidate usually gets.

Obama's campaign drew at or over capacity crowds. When he asked for a show of hands, many people said they'd never been to a caucus. In a boost for Obama, Democrat Dennis Kucinich asked his supporters to support Obama if he doesn't meet the cutoff point for voting in the caucuses.

As they campaigned in Iowa, all but one candidate, Romney, shunned the negativity that spiked in recent weeks.

Obama, Clinton and Edwards played nice. Huckabee made good on a promise to clean up his act, the day after he held a news conference to say he wouldn't run a critical ad against Romney — but then showed it to a room full of reporters and cameramen.





Caucus proves what?

Scripps Howard News Service

The Iowa presidential caucuses have become such an accepted part of the political calendar it's easy to forget what bizarre rituals they are.

But on 6:30 Thursday, if turnout is as expected, 150,000 Iowa Democrats and 80,000 Republicans will gather in public libraries and church basements in 1,784 precincts to propel one or more of a dozen possible candidates to their party's nomination. Or not. Some years, like 2004 and 2000, it works. Other times it doesn't.

The numbers are only a fraction of the Iowa electorate and an infinitesimal percentage of the national electorate, and, being disproportionately over 55 and female, unrepresentative of both. There's some concern that given easy residency and ID requirements the results might be affected by the hundreds of out-of-state campaign workers in Iowa.

But like little Peterkin and the famous battle, everybody says the caucuses are important, so they are.

The two parties' caucuses operate by slightly different rules, with the Democrats' predictably being more complicated. The Democratic rules for caucus chairs run to 13 pages.

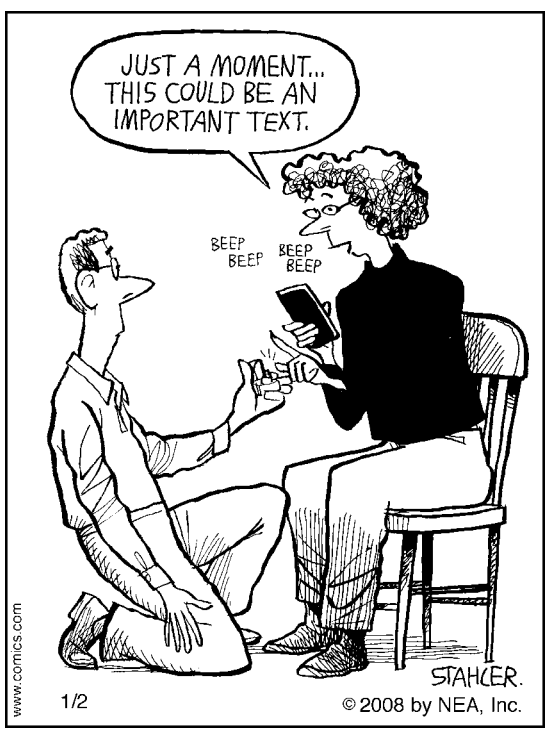
Straw polls are taken with candidates required to get at least 15 percent of the vote to be considered "viable." Failing that, "supporters of nonviable candidates have the option to join a viable candidate group, join another nonviable candidate group to become viable, join other groups to form an uncommitted group or chose to go nowhere and not be counted." And all that has to be done within 30 minutes. Iowans are serious about their civic duties but they're not going to take all night performing them.

The caucus chair then multiplies the number of members in each preference group times the number of delegates allotted that precinct and divides by the number of eligible attendees at the caucus. The candidate with the most delegates wins — sort of.

What the caucus is doing is electing delegates to a later county convention, which in turn chooses delegates for a district convention, then the state convention and finally the national presidential nominating convention by which time Iowa has been all but forgotten.

One other thing: The choice of candidate is nonbinding on the delegate.

The chair is instructed to adjourn the caucus with, "Thank you all for coming." And we do thank you. We think.



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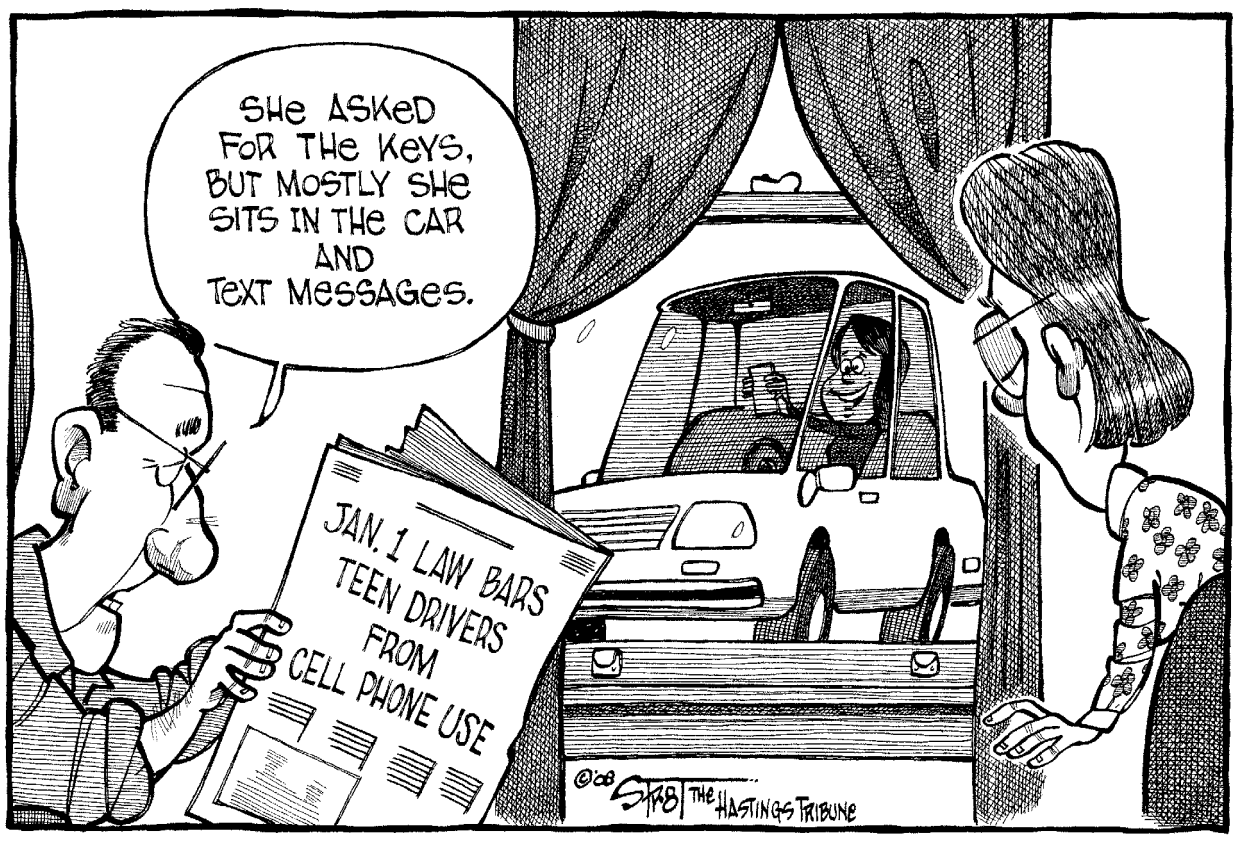
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Yesterday

2007 — More than 15,000 people in South Central Nebraska were without power after a weekend of rain, ice and snow that broke tree limbs and power lines.

1998 — Husker fans in Hastings were celebrating Nebraska's Orange Bowl victory over Tennessee, which led to a share of the national championship with Michigan.

1988 — The two colleges in Hastings each received $1,000 as Rep. Virginia Smith (R-Neb.) divided her congressional pay raise among Third District schools of higher education.

1978 — Beginning today, new drivers licenses were required to have a picture. Cameras, which were provided by the state, would be placed in county treasurer's offices.

Getting rich off disasters American way



Dan K. Thomasson

One can only hope that the holiday season brings good cheer to those who lost everything two years ago from the hurricanes Katrina and Rita, especially those who were at the mercy of charlatans who stole more than $500 million of government aid and the Lord only knows how much in relief funds donated by private citizens with big hearts and often small pocketbooks. That is $1 out of every $10 in government aid alone.

A Government Accountability Office report issued last February actually estimated that as much as $1.6 billion was improperly spent on Katrina-related relief alone. The money went for such necessities as guns, strippers and tattoos among a whole list of other things not related to what the donors intended. Perhaps if the money had been properly spent the Gulf Coast recovery would be much further along than it is.

Every few weeks, the television networks air another travelogue on the progress of recovery in New Orleans and surrounding environs in Louisiana and Mississippi. Stories abound about the Ninth Ward and the devastation still evident there. Celebrities flock to the area with ideas for rebuilding the houses destroyed by the breach of the seawalls protecting the city. One would think that it all had occurred yesterday. Movie star Brad Pitt recently launched a project to sign up big-time architects for reconstruction of the blighted area and Wynton Marsalis and Harry Connick Jr. have been building houses for musicians.

Well, from the statistics put together by the GAO, the auditing and investigative arm of Congress, they had better hold on to their wallets. The Department of Homeland Security awhile back said that it is trying to recover as much of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's misspent money as possible. That amounts to $494 million in aid given to 134,000 people who were allegedly victims of the hurricanes and flooding. That, of course, doesn't count the horrendous amount of wasted money in what must be a textbook example of bureaucratic inefficiency by FEMA. More than half of the money went to people who couldn't prove residency. Overpayments and duplicate payments make up the rest of the improper outlays.

So as the New Year begins, what could have been an example of America's ability to recover from natural disaster — our specialty when it happens elsewhere in the world — is still an embarrassing failure. If the Bush administration should be judged harshly for anything outside of foreign policy blunders, it is the abysmal way it has handled this domestic tragedy. The rest of the world has watched in disbelief at the sight of all those downed trees, uprooted houses and debris-littered vistas that still dot the Gulf Coast. How is it that it has taken the major gambling casinos along the coast only a short time to become once again new and improved palaces as if nothing ever happened? Maybe FEMA should hire these entrepreneurs.

More than that, Americans themselves should be appalled, realizing as they must that if the government with the vast resources of the most technologically and economically advanced society on Earth can't deal with this natural disaster, how in the world could it be counted on to handle a major terrorist attack that included a nuclear device or some other weapon of mass destruction? How much of whatever relief that was forthcoming would be diverted as though this was the poorest Third World country run by a corrupt despot?

History shows that it is the American way for some to get rich off disaster. Certainly, that has been the case in most of the nation's wars where taking advantage of the need for quick response and reconstruction has become a way of life. New Orleans, whose reputation as a dangerous place is well documented and deserved, has never been shy about bilking its tourists. Hotel prices in the downtown area now are as high as any place in the nation. A mid-February rate after Mardi Gras at a chain-operated hotel when taxes are counted can cost $400 a night and that's for a fairly standard room.

So let us toast the good, unfortunately displaced people of New Orleans who have survived all the suffering, realizing that some have done so quite better than others. One should be very cautious about reaching deeply into one's pocket without substantial investigation, no matter how that plight is depicted in the media.

If the urge to do so overwhelms you, go down there and hand it out personally.

Dan K. Thomasson writes a column for Scripps Howard News Service.

It's Richardson who should step aside



Jay Ambrose

In reacting to the assassination of Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan, only one of the presidential candidates, Bill Richardson, said something totally, irrevocably, scarily stupid, although a couple of others managed to make ninnies of themselves.

Richardson, the New Mexico governor seeking the Democratic nomination for president, demonstrated that his current job is as big as he should try to handle when he called on Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf to vacate his office, a sure-fire way to unleash further chaos in the country.

The possible consequence? Nothing less than helping Islamic radicals achieve power while putting the rest of the world in increased danger from the country's nuclear weaponry. That's the really, really big issue for the United States in Pakistan — the threat of a couple or more of its 50 nuclear weapons landing in the hands of terrorists who just might smuggle them to our shores, blowing up a city or two or three.

There's more. If Pakistan becomes an al Qaeda-Taliban haven, that's the sure-enough future for Afghanistan, as well, military analysts predict.

A nuclear war with India? That might happen, too.

As Richardson himself seems to concede, it's Islamic radicals — members of al Qaeda itself— who were almost certainly behind the Bhutto murder. They are the ones with the most to gain from it, certainly not Musharraf, who has himself had to dodge assassination attempts and is likely out of office if he cannot contain the terrorism and all that issues from it — the riots, the violence, the rampant disorder.

Musharraf slips and slides, as almost anyone surely would in the terrorist-ridden environment discussed so blithely by cozily safe U.S. critics, but he is a mostly reliable ally, and a leader who has brought both economic and social progress to a land where 46 percent of the people think Osama bin Laden is an OK guy.

The main thing is that if we lose him, we could lose a lot more, which is where Richardson comes in. Concerning his step-aside idea for Musharraf, we ought to listen to a couple of others seeking the Democratic presidential nominations, such as Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. A spokesman of his has flatly said the Richardson proposal is "wildly irresponsible" because Musharraf's absence "would leave a huge power vacuum at a time of crisis."

Even former Sen. John Edwards, whose own reaction to the Bhutto murder is not wholly reassuring, once said that if the Musharraf regime should collapse in a land where radical Islam has great power, "There is absolutely no way to know what kind of government would take its place."

U.S. military officers interviewed by newspapers meanwhile have forecast more suicide bombings to come, and say it will be imperative to get behind Musharraf in the fight against the Taliban and al Qaeda if we're to keep nukes out of itchy hands. The United States has plans to work with the Pakistani army to protect those weapons if necessary, but that army, observers have written, includes jihadists who might well prove a more-than-minor obstacle if Islamic radicals gain the upper hand politically.

Other candidates on the subject? They've all called for Pakistani democracy, and Edwards, by his own report, went further: He gave Musharraf a phone call and apparently a mini-lecture on the need to continue the march toward democratic norms. Some commentators have cheered what others of us might see as a vote-getting gimmick that usurped a prerogative that is rightly President Bush's and that could conceivably create confusion in a nation that has quite enough at the moment, thank you.

On the Republican side, Mike Huckabee has seemed utterly flummoxed, mostly, in my view, in his warning that the United States should be on the lookout for Pakistanis coming into America. Why, exactly, is this man running for president?

But at least Huckabee's suggestion wouldn't run the risk of helping to get hundreds of thousands of us killed if acted on, and so let's focus on Richardson, who is himself running not so much for president as to be Hillary Clinton's vice presidential running mate.

He's always saying nice things about her, and there is this, too: He served as secretary of energy and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in her husband's administration. That last post might seem to qualify him as a foreign relations expert, but his words reveal otherwise and make you think he should not be in line as a Hillary successor if there ever is such a thing.

Jay Ambrose is the former Washington director of editorial policy for Scripps Howard newspapers. Reach him by e-mail at SpeaktoJay@aol.com.

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State

Missing man

BEATRICE — A motorist found a missing 21-year-old who had been the subject of a helicopter and ground search.

Gage County authorities said 21-year-old Seth Bartholomew, of Hardy, was found walking along U.S. Highway 136 early Tuesday afternoon, a couple of miles southwest of Beatrice.

He was described as being in good condition despite the stiff winds and subfreezing temperatures endured during his winter morning's hike.

A sheriff's office spokesman said earlier that Bartholomew was last seen at a New Year's Eve party at a rural residence.

The search began about 5 a.m. Tuesday.

'Romper Room'

OMAHA — Sharon Anderson, who starred in Omaha's version of the "Romper Room" TV show in the 1960s and early 1970s, has died. She was 64.

She died Monday of cancer, said her husband, Howard Anderson.

Dozens of cities had their own local "Romper Room" stars, and Omaha's ran for years on what is now WOWT-TV.

Howard Anderson said people would say to his wife, "'I know I know you, but I don't know where I know you from.'"

Sharon Anderson was born in Omaha. She attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, where she earned an education degree.

After "Romper Room," Anderson worked for a short time as a reporter at the station, then became an elementary teacher.

In the 1980s she started her own window treatment business.

She is also survived by two daughters, a son and seven grandchildren.

Services were scheduled for Friday.

Johanns moves

OMAHA — Mike Johanns will live in Omaha as he campaigns to become Nebraska's next senator.

Johanns and his wife, Stephanie, considered living in Lincoln — where Johanns was mayor for eight years.

But campaign manager Chris Peterson said Johanns decided to buy a condominium in a historic building in downtown Omaha.

Johanns is one of two Republicans seeking the seat to be vacated by Chuck Hagel, a fellow Republican. Schuyler businessman Pat Flynn is also running.

Tony Raimondo, CEO of Behlen Manufacturing, of Columbus, changed his party registration for a possible run for the Democratic nomination. He says he'll make a decision in the next few weeks.

Scott Kleeb, who lost the Third District Congressional race last year, also is considering a Senate bid.

The Associated Press

Calendar

Hastings

- **Al-anon**, noon Thursday, The Kensington.
- **Narcotics Anonymous,** 6:30 p.m. Thursday, 422 N. Burlington Ave., rear entrance.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous,** noon, 5:15 and 8 p.m. Thursday, 521 S. St. Joseph Ave.

Juniata

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

Lotteries

Winning Numbers

Monday
Nebraska Pick 5 . . . . **9-18-19-30-37**
Jackpot: $66,000
2by2 . . . . . **Red 3-12, White 16-21**
Nebraska Pick 3 . . . . . **8-6-8**
Kansas Pick 3 . . . . . **6-7-9**
Super Kansas Cash . . **2-9-14-15-25**
Super Cashball 4
Tuesday
Kansas Pick 3 . . . . . **8-3-4**
Nebraska Pick 3 . . . . . **5-5-2**
Nebraska Pick 5 . . . . **8-25-27-33-38**
Jackpot: $70,000
2by2 . . . . . **Red 6-22, White 5-6**

Senators split over $542 million surplus

NATE JENKINS
The Associated Press

LINCOLN — The Capitol cookie jar is full, and state senators appear ready to fight over whether to raid it.

Strong tax revenues are building up a rainy-day cash reserve fund of historic proportions — $542 million by the end of this fiscal year, if revenue meets projections.

"That's probably as high as it's ever been," said Mike Calvert, head of the Legislature's Fiscal Office.

What to do with all that cash?

Gov. Dave Heineman has suggested the money should stay in the bank in case of an economic downturn. And a majority of state senators who responded to a survey by The Associated Press agreed.

But support is far from unanimous, with some influential lawmakers signaling a willingness to spend some of the money while still leaving the state a sizable cushion.

"I believe in keeping enough money in the cash reserve to provide a safety cushion for potential future revenue shortfalls but believe we must address the need to fund our capital roads construction projects," said Sen. Mike Flood of Norfolk, speaker of the Legislature.

The state is bracing for a reduction in federal dollars, possibly $80 million less next fiscal year, for road construction. Cities and counties could get hit hard as well, to the tune of about $30 million less than what they might normally expect from the federal government.

At the same time, construction costs are rising, and revenue to build and maintain roads is expected to remain flat.

Some senators also say they would consider using the reserve to pay irrigators in the Republican River basin. Irrigators still haven't been paid about $9 million they are owed for water they left off their crops and instead sent down the river to Kansas to help comply with a three-state compact Nebraska has struggled to meet.

Still others say some of the money should maybe be used

Please see SURPLUS*/page B1*

Budget surplus

The Associated Press

Nebraska state senators were asked the following question about the state's projected budget surplus:

- 1. Fiscal estimates show the state is on track to have a record surplus of about $540 million next year. The governor has suggested the money stay in the bank in case of an economic downturn. Do you agree?
- Yes: 20 (Adams, Aguilar, **Carlson**, Christensen, Engel, Fischer, Harms, Heidemann, Howard, Hudkins, Janssen, **Karpisek**, Kopplin, Kruse, Langemeier, Louden, Nelson, Pedersen, Rogert, Stuthman)

No: Some of the money should be used for tax relief or other purposes: 9 (Dierks, Erdman, Flood, Friend, Fulton, Hudkins, **Johnson**, Pahls, Wallman)

- Unsure: 6 (Ashford, Cornett, Hansen, McGill, Nantkes, Pankonin)
- Not responding: 0
- Not participating: 15 (Avery, **Burling**, Chambers, **Dubas**, Gay, Lathrop, Lautenbaugh, McDonald, Pirsch, Preister, Raikes, Schimek, Synowiecki, White, Wightman)
- Hudkins answered twice



TED KIRK/*AP*

Tamara Grunke-Kenning holds new daughter Emily as she smiles Tuesday at husband Aaron Kennin at St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln. Mom and dad are wondering if little Emily Elizabeth is the first baby born in Nebraska this new year —maybe even the first born in the Central time zone, if not the nation.

Baby born 10 seconds into 2008

At 6 pounds, 3 ounces, arrival four weeks early

NELSON LAMPE
The Associated Press

LINCOLN — Mom and dad are wondering whether little Emily Elizabeth is the first baby born in Nebraska this new year — maybe even the first born in the Central time zone, if not the nation.

Emily arrived at 10 seconds after midnight at Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln.

Hospital spokeswoman Jo Miller said Emily was born to 31-year-old Tamara Grunke-Kenning and 35-year-old Aaron Kenning of Beaver Crossing.

Miller said Emily arrived about four weeks early but weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 19¾ inches long.

The time of the birth was checked against a computer that gets its time from an Internet time site, Miller said.

Although the birth was a Zroutine, natural delivery, Miller said, the last few weeks of pregnancy were difficult for Grunke-Kenning.

"Mom said she was on quite a journey, but she said it's been worth it," Miller said.

Tuesday afternoon, the somewhat rested new mother said she had gone into labor on Thanksgiving Day and spent more than two days in the hospital before medications stopped the premature contractions.

They started up again on Dec. 5, so she returned to the hospital and remained until Dec. 27.

Contractions continued intermittently until Monday, when Grunke-Kenning had a morning appointment with her doctor.

"He said I would be delivering within a day, so my husband and I got a bite to eat and walked around for a little bit," Grunke-Kenning said. "We called him back when (the labor pains) got worse, and he said to just go to the hospital."

She was admitted Monday afternoon with contractions four to six minutes apart, she said.

Emily was staying with her in her room, Grunke-Kenning said. "She's doing really good right now. We're trying to get her to start eating a little bit."

Husband Aaron Kenning is a fire sprinkler designer in Lincoln, and she works for an insurance company in sales support.

She hopes to take Emily home Thursday to meet brother Joey, who is 4, and sister Lilly, who is 1.

Only Valium found in Von Maur gunman's system

The Associated Press

OMAHA — Only an anti-anxiety medication turned up in toxicology tests done on the body of the 19-year-old gunman who fatally wounded eight people before killing himself last month at an Omaha mall.

The autopsy report on Robert Hawkins revealed the presence of diazepam in his system. The tranquilizer is better known by its market name Valium.

Douglas County Attorney Don Kleine told the Omaha World-Herald in a copyrighted story Tuesday that authorities sometimes "see people who have abused drugs or alcohol to give them the ability to carry out their misdeed."

"In this case," Kleine said, "it doesn't appear he had abused either." His blood revealed only therapeutic levels of the medication.

The autopsy report also said Hawkins killed himself on Dec. 5 by a single shot from his assault rifle. It was fired from under his chin, up through his head and brain.

Before committing suicide, Hawkins had gone into the Von Maur store at Westroads Mall and taken an elevator up to the third floor. There he opened fire, fatally wounding eight people. Five other people were hit by bullets or bullet fragments, two seriously.

Investigators will try to find out whether Hawkins had a prescription for the Valium, Kleine said. A former friend has said Hawkins sold Valium, and a neighbor girl in Bellevue said Hawkins had tried to sell her some.

It was unclear Tuesday what charges might await anyone who might have illicitly supplied Hawkins the Valium. Kleine did not immediately return a phone call from The Associated Press. His office was closed to the public for the New Year's holiday.

Dr. Todd Stull, director of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's drug and alcohol program, said diazepam is often given to people who have anxiety attacks or insomnia.

"It's a calming kind of medicine," Stull said. "A lower dose can help with anxiety."

People can get high on it, he said, but "it's not a very common addiction."

Hawkins was not a patient of Stull, the doctor said, and he added that he would not be able to tell from autopsy results whether Hawkins was a diazepam addict.

Juvenile court records and friends say Hawkins regularly smoked marijuana, but Kleine said there was no evidence of it or any other drugs in Hawkins' blood. Marijuana's presence can also be detected through urine tests, but autopsy technicians couldn't get enough urine from Hawkins' body to check for marijuana.

Subdivision may get street lights

HASTINGS TRIBUNE
tribune@hastingstribune.com

The Westbrook Subdivision may get street lights this year, after all.

The Hastings Utilities Board of Public Works is scheduled to consider a proposal to move forward with lighting the subdivision at a cost of $50,500.

The board first discussed the idea more than a year ago when several Westbrook residents expressed interest in having them.

The HU board had made plans to move forward with lighting Westbrook in 2008 and 2009; however, after the Hastings City Council directed HU to pay half the costs to light U.S. Highway 281 north of Kansas Avenue, the Westbrook project was pushed back.

HU board member Bob Poppe expressed concerns about delaying the project since it had been promised. There is currently $25,000 and $40,000 in the 2008 and 2009 contingency budgets, which could be used for the Westbrook lighting project.

The board meets 8 a.m. Thursday at HU, 1228 N. Denver Ave.

The board will also:

◆ Consider writing off uncollectible accounts.

◆ Discuss trees in the community.

◆ Consider approval of an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Roads for gas main relocation on Burlington Avenue between Seventh and Ninth streets.

Lawmakers: Senators keeping open mind

Continued from page A1

In a pre-session survey of lawmakers by The Associated Press, 19 said they were unsure whether the fairgrounds should remain adjacent to the university's city campus, move elsewhere in Lancaster County or to another location in the state.

Six senators said they favor moving the fair, six prefer refurbishing the fairgrounds and two believe the fair should be left as it is.

Four senators opted to not answer the question. Twelve did not participate in the survey.

The ag committee, in its report to the Legislature, said a bill would be introduced to repeal a statute that requires the fair be in Lincoln. Passage of such a bill would give the Legislature an opportunity to consider all options.

Lincoln Sen. Tony Fulton said he likes the idea of a research park, but the cost is a concern.

"If there is some way to achieve an affordable, public-private accomplishment in this regard, it is certainly a generational consideration with merit," he said. "However, there exists a fiscal investment high enough that a research park will not pay for itself. It stands to reason that such a number should be discerned by both the public and private sectors before moving forward."

Sen. Bill Avery of Lincoln, a professor at UNL, was more decisive, saying, "It is essential that UNL have room to expand its research facilities." "Doing so would be a tremendous investment in future growth and economic well being for the state.'

Sen. Gwen Howard of Omaha said she's open to whatever fits best from a funding standpoint.

University officials have said that if the fair were not moved to make way for a research campus, the state would miss out on a chance to enhance the state's economy and create jobs that would help keep young people in Nebraska.

A successful research campus is a safe bet, said NU President J.B. Milliken, because it has been done in other states and the university already has a strong enough research presence to attract companies.

Milliken and others believe the research campus would spur economic growth by attracting companies that depend upon high-level scientific research.

The cities of Grand Island and North Platte have made pitches to ag committee members, saying they would be good locations for the fair because of their agricultural roots, plentiful space and proven record for drawing people to large events.

Survey responses

The Associated Press

Nebraska state senators were asked the following question about the State Fair:

Should the fair be moved, refurbished or left as is?

◆ Move: 6 (Aguilar, Avery, Cornett, Howard, Louden, Nantkes)

◆ Refurbish: 6 (Kopplin, Kruse, Nelson, Pankonin, Pedersen, Stuthman)

◆ Left as is: 2 (Hansen, Heidemann)

◆ Unsure: 19 (Adams, Ashford, **Carlson**, Christensen, Engel, Fischer, Flood, Friend, Fulton, Harms, Janssen, **Johnson, Karpisek**, Langemeier, Lautenbaugh, Pahls, Raikes, Rogert, Wallman)

◆ Not responding: 4 (McGill, Hudkins, Erdman, Dierks)

◆ Not participating: 12 (**Burling**, Chambers, **Dubas**, Gay, Lathrop, McDonald, Pirsch, Preister, Schimek, Synowiecki, White, Wightman).

Baby: Couple pleased to learn newborn was hospital's first

Continued from page A1

Earlier this year, they were featured as an engaged couple in the Tribune's Valentine's Day series "Through the Ages."

The Vyhlidals plan to move to Denver, Kari's hometown. Jeff is from Fremont.

For having the first baby of the year, the Vyhlidals received a gift basket from the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce and customized blanket and baby outfit from Mary Lanning.

Emma joined Kearney's first baby, a boy, whose parents live in Broken Bow, and was born in Good Samaritan Hospital at 1:44 a.m., and Grand Island's first baby, a girl, born to Grand Island parents at St. Francis Medical Center at 4:47 a.m.

Close: HRC program shut down

Continued from page A1

When the recommendations were released Dec. 7, recommendation No. 8 called for the closure of the mental health program at HRC. The task force document was forwarded to HHS to make its own report. All that information will go to the Legislature to form any necessary legislation during the 2008 session, which starts Jan. 9.

Adams, who serves on the task force, said the task force's recommendation coupled with the lack of patients in the program ultimately led to its closure.

The juvenile mental health program was moved from the Lincoln Regional Center to Hastings several years ago. At the time, there were around 11 or 12 juveniles in the program.

Since that time, the numbers have slowly dropped. The number of beds in the program was reduced from 16 to eight in last October.

Marj Colburn, operating manager at HRC, said this morning that the peak number of patients was last spring and early summer when there were about a dozen children in the program.

"Then, during the fall, we had maybe three," she said. "At one point, we had one adolescent over there."

Adams said the dramatic drop in the number of youths in the program was partly because of an increased ability to place the children in community-based programs.

When the mental health program was first moved to HRC, Adams said it was considered to be a safety net for children who could not, for whatever reason, be placed in community-based programs.

Those children were observed on a daily basis by psychiatrists who monitored their behaviors and medications, but that changed when the initial psychiatrists left and no replacements were found, Adams said.

"When the psychiatrists left and with our inability to find replacement psychiatrists, our ability to be a safety net really changed," he said.

Without a full-time psychiatrist on staff at HRC, Adams said, psychiatrists from Lincoln met with each child at HRC once a month. This regular check-up by a psychiatrist allowed the HRC program to be licensed as a residential treatment center, similar to the licenses held by many community-based programs.

"We are, at the residential treatment center level of licensure, like any other private provider in terms of treatment of kids, so we don't have much other ability to manage the difficult kids," Adams said. "That role and function as a safety net at the regional center ended with the psychiatrists."

While HRC won't be taking any more juveniles with mental health problems, Adams said, fewer children are leaving the state for acute mental health care.

Just a few years ago, more than 70 children were being treated outside of the state. Now, that number has been reduced to about 25.

Adams attributes that drop to a number of factors, including that private providers are "more interested, willing and capable" to take these children.

Additionally, Adams said, he is seeing a drop in the number of youths who are being put into psychiatric hospital-type settings.

"A psychiatric hospital is no place for children," he said.

That is why HHS is working to help treat children and intervene in situations earlier to keep children from going into deep-end situations.

While part of the plan of the original LB542 was to remove state dollars from HRC and transfer them to community-based programs, it is still unclear how much of the $10.5 million goes to the mental health program.

Adams said that media reports that HRC program's annual budget was about $3 million aren't necessarily accurate. He said that is only an accounting number, as many of costs within the budget are shared between the mental health and chemical dependency programs.

"In general, the budget is $2.9 million and change, but there are a number of shared costs, including receptionists, maintenance, food service and laundry, which all are pooled and shared," he said.

There are also the rental costs for the facilities that go to the state's Department of Administrative Services and the cost of utilities.

Colburn said she couldn't really say what the true budgeted amount was for the mental health program.

"It's a facility," she said. "You can't say one program gets this much and another program gets this much. It's a blending of programs."

"How do you split the heating bill, when it's all in one building?"

In all, the annual budget for HRC was about $10.5 million in 2007.

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Local

QUIET HOLIDAY

Local law enforcement agencies didn't have many problems over the New Year's holiday with alcohol-related incidents.

Hastings Police Sgt. Jim Baldwin said the holiday was "pretty quiet," with two minor in possession citations and three arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol.

"I don't think that's unusual," he said.

Icy road conditions did cause a few problems for motorists, however.

The Adams County Sheriff's Office reported six vehicles stuck in ditches on Monday and Tuesday. No one was injured in the accidents.

At the police department, three accidents were reported Monday and one accident was reported Tuesday.

ROLLOVER ACCIDENT

A 22-year-old Hastings man is in the hospital in fair condition this morning after a rollover accident Sunday.

Israel Padilla was driving southbound on U.S. Highway 281 about 1:30 a.m. Sunday when he lost control of his vehicle, drove into the median and rolled, according to the Nebraska State Patrol. Padilla was ejected from the vehicle.

Padilla was taken to Saint Francis Medical Center in Grand Island before being transferred to Good Samaritan Health Systems in Kearney, where he was listed in fair condition.

State

OMAHA HOMICIDE

OMAHA — Homicide detectives are investigating the gunshot death of a 33-year-old man in northeast Omaha.

A police news release says officers responding to a call at 2:18 a.m. Tuesday found a man who had been shot. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

He was identified as Shawn King of Omaha.

Police have reported no arrest but are still investigating.

VEHICULAR HOMICIDE

OMAHA — A 19-year-old Omaha woman has been booked for felony motor vehicle homicide in connection with a crash on Interstate 80.

Analilia Sandoval-Avila lost control of her westbound 2004 Ford Contour about 8:15 p.m. Friday and struck the concrete wall along the north shoulder of westbound I-80 near 42nd Street. The vehicle hit a light pole along the shoulder before stopping.

For unknown reasons, police said, Sandoval-Avila reversed her car across the westbound lanes of I-80 and was struck on the front passenger door by a 1998 Honda CRV.

Kyllie Rosas, a front-seat passenger in the Ford Contour, suffered critical injuries and died at a hospital.

The driver and three passengers in the Honda were treated for minor injuries, as were two other passengers in the Contour.

Sandoval-Avila was booked after being treated.

Nation

RARE PEARL

LAKE WORTH, Fla. — A Florida man was about halfway through a plate of steamed clams when he chomped down on something hard — a rare, iridescent purple pearl.

George Brock and his wife, Leslie, had been spending a day at the beach Friday in South Florida and stopped at Dave's Last Resort & Raw Bar for a bite. Their find could be worth thousands.

The gems occur most frequently in large New England quahogs, clams known for violet coloring on the inside of their shells. The clams in the $10 plate came from Apalachicola in the Florida Panhandle, said restaurant manager Tom Gerry.

Red kettles draw more gold, silver

VALUABLE COINS DONATED ANONYMOUSLY

The Associated Press

LINCOLN — Two more extra valuable and shiny coins were spotted in Lincoln's red Salvation Army kettles during the last week of the 2007 holiday fund drive.

A 1998 $5 coin that contains about $100 worth of fine gold was dropped by an anonymous donor, said Leta Powell Drake. She's director of development and community relations for the Salvation Army's Lincoln chapter.

Another anonymous benefactor left a 1989 American Silver Eagle $1 coin in a kettle. Its 1 ounce of fine silver makes it worth about $500, Drake said.

"The Salvation Army has always depended upon the kindness of strangers, and this is proof positive when donors drop valuable coins in the Salvation Army kettles during Christmas and wish to remain anonymous," she said.

Last week, two more gold coins were found in Lincoln kettles.

One was a South African Krugerrand worth about $200. The other was an 1889 "Liberty" coin worth more than $500.

Drake said those two were the first gold coins ever donated in Lincoln.

A Lady Liberty gold coin worth about $200 was found in a Grand Island kettle.

The Omaha Salvation Army found three gold coins in its red kettles this holiday season, including two Krugerrands.

Gold coin kettle donations are something of a tradition in some parts of the country. In Chicago, for example, more than 300 gold coins have been donated over the past 25 years.

Salvation Army officials also have reported getting an Indian head gold coin in Barre, Vt., and 1-ounce American Eagle coins in Prescott, Ariz., and Fargo, N.D.

Elsewhere, large bills are sometimes secreted into the kettles.

During each holiday season since 1978 in Morgantown, W.Va., someone has covertly stuffed a $1,000 bill into a kettle. This year it was found wrapped inside a $1 bill.

Rose Parade full of sights, sounds

THOUSANDS JAM SIDEWALKS IN PASADENA, CALIF., TO WATCH CELEBRATION

SOLVEJ SCHOU
The Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — A giant blossoming rose, a pick-up truck that morphed into a spacecraft, and a Chinese dragon undulating in the breeze brought cheers from thousands of spectators as those floats and others rolled by Tuesday in the Rose Parade.

Those who spent New Year's Eve camped curbside were joined at dawn by giddy visitors arriving by car, bus and train. The city estimates more than a million people visit Pasadena during the parade and Rose Bowl game festivities.

Gail Paulson was drawn to the parade route, although she is blind.

"There's a lot a blind person can appreciate at this parade. There's electricity in the air, the smell of the flowers, the clomping of the horses," Paulson, 64, of Oxnard, said as her guide dog, Alton, led her to a seat.

The 119th edition of the Tournament of Roses began as sunshine bathed the 5 1/2-mile parade route. This year's theme was "Passport to the World's Celebrations."

One of the biggest crowd pleasers was American Honda's "Passport to the Future." It featured a pickup truck that changed in a cloud of smoke into a spaceship.

"It was awesome — what it looked like after it transformed. It looked like it was a rocket ship," said Noah Herndon, 10, from Glendale.

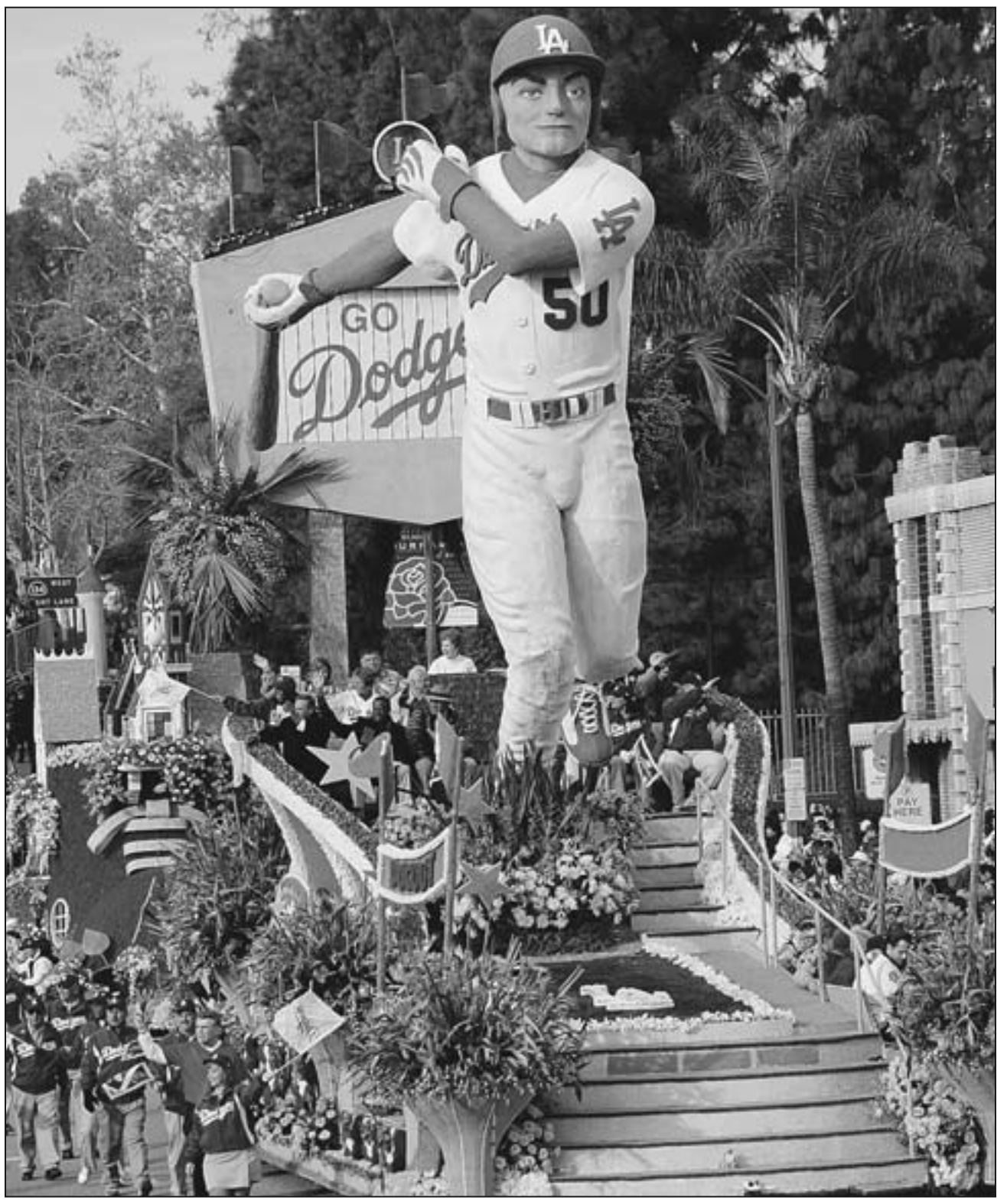
Some 1,200 law enforcement officers were assigned to the parade to deal with any disruptions. Twenty-three people were arrested, many during the night for drunk-in-public violations, police said.

Two groups were protesting at the parade. Dozens of war protesters led by "Peace Mom" Cindy Sheehan staked out spots across from television cameras, hoisting signs reading "Impeachment is Patriotic." The protesters were booed by parade watchers sitting in the grandstand.

"This is not the occasion for this," said Mary Feichtel, 63, of Florida.

One protester was arrested for holding up a sign and obstructing others' view of the parade, Pasadena Police Department Lt. Keith Jones said.

After the parade finished, a group of more than 100 war protesters marched down the route. Sheehan spoke to a gathering of protesters at Pasadena City Hall.



REED SAXON/AP

The Los Angeles Dodgers float "Celebrating America's Favorite Pastime," is seen in the 119th Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif., Tuesday.

"We are all here for accountability," Sheehan said. "You didn't ruin anybody's parade, they got to see the truth."

Members of the Chinese Falun Gong spiritual movement protested a float honoring the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Demonstrators wanted people to turn their backs on the float as it rolled along the route, though few appeared to join in the protest.

"I don't know enough about it to turn my back," said Marcia Thoop, 55, of Arcadia as she watched the float, adorned with Olympic mascots and flanked by plate-twirling acrobats, drive by.

Many in the crowd were from Illinois to watch the afternoon Rose Bowl football game, which ended in disappointment for the visitors. No. 6 Southern California beat No. 13 Illinois 49-17 in a lopsided game.

Illinois native Jenny Sweer, 43, cuddled up in a sleeping bag in a beach chair waiting for the parade to begin.

"I'm cold and tired. I didn't get much sleep. It's a good year to be here because we're from Illinois," Sweer said.

Surplus: Senators mulling use of extra funds

Continued from page A5

to cut taxes.

"I think we should have at least $500 million in reserve, so I would like to take a little out for tax relief," said Sen. Russ Karpisek of Wilber.

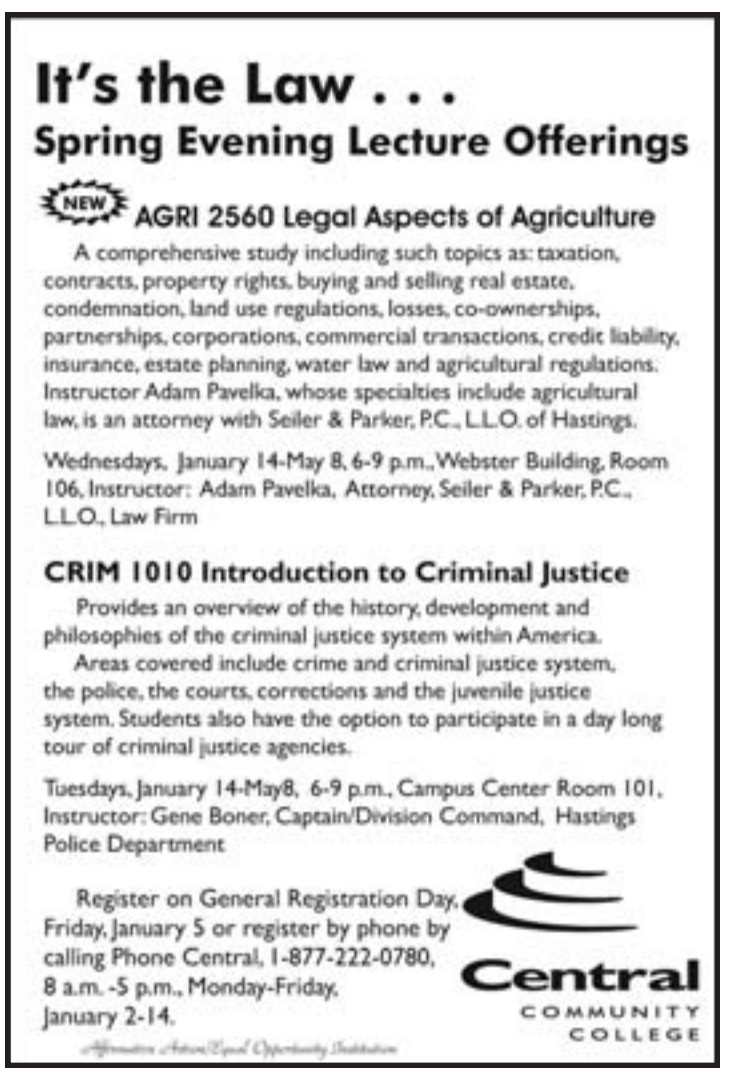
But survey responses suggest that the fervor last year over reducing taxes has subsided. Lawmakers last year clamored about property tax relief and ended up approving tax credits equal to 8 cents for every $100 of property value.

It was part of a broad tax-cut package worth about $425 million over the next two years.

"Cutting taxes should be done whenever it is fiscally prudent to do, and I am not convinced that we should make additional cuts at this time," said Sen. Greg Adams of York.

Adams was one of 20 senators who said the cash reserve should not be tapped; nine lawmakers said it should be used for tax relief or other purposes, and six said they were unsure.





Law: Young drivers must hang up cell phone when behind wheel

Continued from page A1

The Legislature passed the bill in April over the veto of Gov. Dave Heineman, who said the provisions about cell phone use were unfair to teenagers because distracted driving is a problem for all drivers, regardless of age.

Minnesota imposed cell phone restrictions for teen drivers two years ago. Though statistics on crashes attributable to cell phones have not been kept, the law has brought awareness to the issue, said Katherine Burke Moore, deputy director of the Minnesota Office on Traffic Safety.

"Whenever there's a crash with teens and a cell phone was seen as part of the cause, it's seen in the media," Burke Moore said. "It's a big, strong message to parents to talk to your kids about cell phones."

Tom Brennan, Jake Brennan's father, said he likes Nebraska's new law. Jake already has passed his driver's test, so he can start driving alone when he turns 16 in March.

Tom said just having his oldest child driving causes him enough worry. He said it eases his mind, at least a little, to know that there should be one less distraction for Jake.

"Kids need to focus on the road and not texting or talking," Tom said. "It's probably not a good idea for adults to be using the phone, but especially for kids who are still learning how to drive on the fly."

Jake, a sophomore at Millard North High School in west Omaha, said he suspects a lot of young drivers will ignore the law and continue to talk and send text messages.

But he said he won't.

If his phone rings, Jake said, he probably will let it go to voice mail or tell the caller he's driving and call him or her back later.

Young drivers aren't the only ones who momentarily take their eyes off the road, whether it's because of dialing a phone, adjusting the radio dial, putting in a CD or even eating. But safety administrator Zwonechek said such distractions can cause greater repercussions for novice drivers because of their inexperience.

Jake Brennan doesn't disagree. But he said he all too often sees drivers of all ages using cell phones and many times they are weaving in traffic.

"Or you see them turning really slow or going the incorrect speed," he said. "You pull up next to them, and they're on the phone. It's typical."

Cell phone use by novice drivers will be a secondary violation in Nebraska, meaning the law won't be enforced unless the driver is stopped for another offense. Penalties can include fines, loss of permits and restrictions on how soon teens can reapply for permits.

Zwonechek said he couldn't predict the level of enforcement, but the law will give leverage to parents in warning their young drivers about avoiding distractions.

"They can stress to their teen that, 'Look, I don't want you to do it, and now it's against the law to do it,' " he said.

THE BIGGEST STORIES OF 2007

JANUARY

INTERNATIONAL



NATIONAL

Feb. 5
NASA astronaut, Lisa Nowak, is arrested and accused of trying to kidnap a rival for the affections of a space shuttle pilot.



Feb. 8
Tabloid bombshell Anna Nicole Smith, 39, dies in Florida of an accidental drug overdose.

Feb. 12
A teenage gunman shoots nine people, killing five, at a mall in Salt Lake City before he is fatally shot by police.

April 4
Radio host Don Imus makes offensive remarks about the Rutgers women's basketball team, CBS later fires Imus.

April 16
Former student Seung-Hui Cho kills 32 people on the Virginia Tech campus in the deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history.



Cho

June 1
The FDA warns that toothpaste made in China may contain a poisonous chemical used in antifreeze.

June 5
Scooter Libby is sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison for lying and obstructing the CIA leak investigation.

July 15
Los Angeles' Catholic archdiocese says it has agreed to settle sex-abuse cases for $660 million.

Aug. 1
Minneapolis bridge collapses during evening rush hour, killing 13 people.



Aug. 6
Crandall Canyon Mine in Utah collapses, trapping six. Three rescuers later killed in cave-in, rescue called off.

Sept. 14
Jena Six defendant, Mychal Bell's conviction is overturned; thousands march peacefully.

Sept. 16
O.J. Simpson is arrested in an alleged armed robbery of sports memorabilia collection in Las Vegas.

Oct. 3
President Bush vetoes expansion of a children's health care program.

Oct. 21
Wildfires driven by powerful Santa Ana wind burn several homes near San Diego and in Malibu, Calif.

BUSINESS

Jan. 3
Crude oil prices open the new year at $58.32 a barrel.

Jan. 25
Ford Motor Co. says it lost $12.7 billion in 2006, the worst loss in the company's 103-year history.

Feb. 14
ConAgra recalls all Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter made at a Georgia plant, due to a salmonella outbreak.

Feb. 27
Dow Jones industrial averag drops 546 points, the worst since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

March 18
Dog and cat food products sold under multiple brand names are recalled because of pet illnesses and death.

May 5
"Spider-Man 3" snares audiences with a record $59.8 million on its first day in theaters.



Columbia Pictures

May 14
DaimlerChrysler says it is selling almost all of Chrysler to private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management for $7.4 billion

June 29
Apple begins to sell the first new iPhones.

July 17
Dow Jones industrial average crosses 14,000 for the first time.

July 21
"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the final volume of J.K. Rowling's wizard series, goes on sale.

Aug. 14
Mattel recalls millions of Chinese-made toys because of lead paint and harmful tiny magnets.



Sept. 20
The U.S. dollar reaches parity with the Canadian dollar and falls to record lows against the euro.

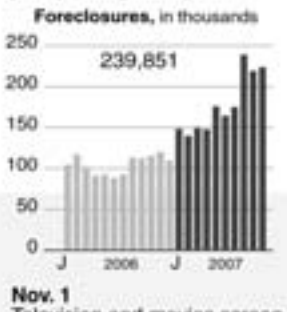


Sept. 24
United Auto Workers walk off the job at GM plants in the first nationwide strike during auto contract negotiations since 1976.

Oct. 24
Turmoil in the mortgage markets sends sales of existing homes plunging.

Foreclosures spiked this year peaking in August.

Foreclosures, in thousands



Nov. 1
Television and movies screen writers say they will go on strike for the first time in nearly 20 years.

Nov. 23 Oil prices soar worldwide

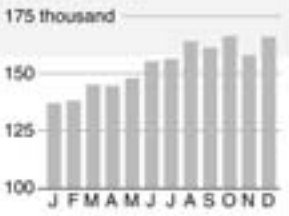
POLITICAL

Jan. 23
In the state of the Union address, President Bush implores Congress to give his unpopular plan to send more U.S. troops to Iraq "a chance to work."



U.S. troop surge in Iraq takes effect: violence drops but does not halt.

Average U.S. troop level in Iraq, through Dec. 6
Nov. is estimate



April 23
Boris Yeltsin, the first freely elected Russian president, dies. He was 76.

May 6
Conservative Nicolas Sarkozy wins the French presidency with a mandate to make economic reforms.



Sarkozy

June 27
Gordon Brown succeeds Tony Blair as British prime minister.

July 12
Bush administration assessment says the Iraqi government is achieving only spotty military and political progress.

Aug. 27
Attorney General Alberto Gonzales resigns.

Oct. 22
Bush asks Congress for $46 billion more for the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than $455 billion has been spent on the wars since 2003.

Oct. 28
Iowa Democrats vote to move the leadoff precinct caucuses to Jan. 3.

Nov. 8
The Senate confirms Michael Mukasey as the nations's 81st attorney general.

Nov. 30
Man takes hostages at a Hillary Clinton campaign office in New Hampshire.

SPORTS

Jan. 9
Tony Gwynn and Cal Ripken Jr. are elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Jan. 29
Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro is euthanized due to medical complications.



Barbaro

Feb. 4
The Indianapolis Colts win the Super Bowl, beating the Chicago Bears 29-17.

April 2
Florida wins its second consecutive college basketball championship, beating Ohio State 84-75.



April 11
Prosecutors drop all charges in the Duke lacrosse rape case.

May 5
Street Sense roars from next-to-last in a 20-horse field to win the Kentucky Derby.

June 9
Rags to Riches becomes the first filly to win the Belmont Stakes since 1905.

June 14
The San Antonio Spurs win their fourth NBA title in nine years.

July 8
Roger Federer wins his fifth consecutive Wimbledon and 11th Grand Slam.

Aug. 7
Barry Bonds hits record-breaking 756th home run, later indicted in steroid investigation.

Aug. 12
Tiger Woods wins the PGA Championship, his 13th major.

Aug. 24
NFL suspends Michael Vick after pleading guilty to running a dogfighting operation.

SCIENCE

Feb. 2
A panel of international scientists says global warming is "very likely" man-made.

April 6
A panel of international scientists say millions of poor people will suffer from hunger, thirst, floods and disease unless drastic action is taken against global warming.



Aug. 8
Space shuttle Endeavour launches with teacher-astronaut Barbara Morgan on board.



Oct. 23
Space shuttle Discovery blasts off to international space station.

Nov. 3
Two astronauts begin a spacewalk to save a ripped space station solar wing.

Nov. 20
Scientists have developed a way to create embryonic stem cells out of ordinary human skin cells.



Michael Vick

Dec. 10
Al Gore accepts the Nobel Peace Prize.



Oct. 29
The Boston Red Sox win the World Series, sweeping the Colorado Rockies in four games.

JUNE

Sept. 27
A suicide bomber strikes Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan within earshot distance of Vice President Dick Cheney, who was rushed to a bomb shelter.

March 6
A state Department report calls the ongoing genocide in Sudan's Darfur region the world's worst human rights abuse in the past year.

March 23
Iran seizes 15 British sailors and Marines in the disputed Shatt Al-Arab waterway between Iran and Iraq; released 12 days later.

APRIL



May 21
Israel launches new airstrikes against Palestinian rocket squads in the Gaza Strip, killing five militants.

June 19
Attack on a Shiite shrine in Baghdad kills at least 87.

JULY

July 7
A truck bomb devastates a public market in Armili, Iraq, killing at least 115 people.

July 14
North Korea shuts down its sole operating nuclear reactor after receiving a South Korean oil shipment.

Aug. 14
Suicide truck bombings target northern Iraq; 500 are thought to be killed.

Aug. 16
Earthquake in Peru kills more than 500 people and wrecks 40,000 homes.

AUGUST

Sept. 6
Famed tenor Luciano Pavarotti dies.

Sept. 13
President Bush orders gradual reductions in U.S. forces in Iraq but rejects calls to end the war.

SEPTEMBER



Sept. 17
Iraqi government revokes the license of the Blackwater USA security firm following a shooting that killed eight civilians.

OCTOBER

Oct. 2
North Korean leader Kim Jong Il greets South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun in the second-ever summit between the two Koreas.

Nov. 15
Cyclone Sidr kills more than 3,200 people in Bangladesh.

NOVEMBER

Dec. 10
The first elected female president of Argentina, Cristina Fernandez, is sworn into office.

DECEMBER

Growing uncertainty

A killing rampage in Virginia. A highway bridge in Minnesota collapsed. The war in Iraq rages on. Global warming became ubiquitous. Oil prices soared. The dollar's value plummeted. The sports world was littered with scandal. And the political season is just getting started.



The nation experienced severe drought conditions this year. Areas hardest affected were typically in the South.

SOURCES: RealtyTrac Inc.; NYMEX; National Drought Mitigation Center

Phil Holm; Jake O'Connell • AP



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Markets

Wednesday's noon local markets

Corn	4.43
Soybeans	11.49
Milo	4.32
Wheat	9.08

Stocks of local interest

The following stocks of local interest were traded today:

	Last	Chg.
BN Santa Fe	83.40	+.17
Berkshire Hathaway A	138,000	-3,600
Berkshire Hathaway B	4,600	-136
ConAgra	23.28	-.51
Eaton Corp.	94.844	-2.106
Ingersoll Rand	45.30	-1.17
Level 3	3.045	+.005
McDonald's	58.40	-.51
PepsiCo	75.17	-.73
TierOne	21.98	-.17
Tricon Global Restaurants	37.75	-.52
Union Pacific	124.59	-1.03
Wells Fargo	29.48	-.71
Williams Cos.	36.04	+.26
Wal-Mart	46.93	-.60

Personal data being stolen or lost more

MARK JEWELL
The Associated Press

BOSTON — The loss or theft of personal data such as credit card and Social Security numbers soared to unprecedented levels in 2007, and the trend isn't expected to turn around anytime soon as hackers stay a step ahead of security and laptops disappear with sensitive information.

And while companies, government agencies, schools and other institutions are spending more to protect ever-increasing volumes of data with more sophisticated firewalls and encryption, the investment often is too little too late.

"More of them are experiencing data breaches, and they're responding to them in a reactive way, rather than proactively looking at the company's security and seeing where the holes might be," said Linda Foley, who founded the San Diego-based Identity Theft Resource Center after becoming an identity theft victim herself.

Foley's group lists more than 79 million records reported compromised in the United States through Dec. 18. That's a nearly fourfold increase from the nearly 20 million records reported in all of 2006.

Another group, Attrition.org, estimates more than 162 million records compromised through Dec. 21 — both in the U.S. and overseas, unlike the other group's U.S.-only list. Attrition reported 49 million last year.

"It's just the nature of business, that moving forward, more companies are going to have more records, so there will be more records compromised each year," said Attrition's Brian Martin. "I imagine the total records compromised will steadily climb."

But the biggest difference between the groups' record-loss counts is Attrition.org's estimate that 94 million records were exposed in a theft of credit card data at TJX Cos., the owner of discount stores including T.J. Maxx and Marshalls. The TJX breach accounts for more than half the total records reported lost this year on both groups' lists.

The Identity Theft Resource Center counts about 46 million — the number of records TJX acknowledged in March were potentially compromised. Attrition's figure is based on estimates from Visa and MasterCard officials who were deposed in a lawsuit banks filed against TJX.

The breach is believed to have started when hackers intercepted wireless transfers of customer information at two Marshalls stores in Miami — an entry point that led the hackers to eventually break into TJX's central databases.

TJX has said that before the breach, which was revealed in January, it invested "millions of dollars on computer security, and believes our security was comparable to many major retailers."

With wireless data transmission more common, hackers increasingly are expected to target what many experts see as a major vulnerability. Eavesdroppers appear to be learning how to bypass security safeguards faster than ever, said Jay Tumas, the head of Harvard University's network operations, at a recent conference for information security professionals.



GARY KAZANJIAN/*AP*

Dairyman and raw milk producer Mark McAfee looks at one of his many free range, milk producing cows Dec. 22, 2007, at his dairy near Fresno, Calif.

California dairy rules raw issue

CONSUMERS TAKE ISSUE WITH BACTERIA LIMITS IN NEW STATE STANDARDS

MICHELLE LOCKE
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — Many raw milk consumers are opposing new dairy standards set to take effect next week in California, saying they could outlaw some of their preferred products.

The new law does not create an outright ban on raw milk, but producers believe it could dry up supplies by setting new bacteria limits they say are difficult to meet.

Mark McAfee is founder of Fresno-based Organic Pastures Dairy Company, the larger of two raw milk producers in California. He said consumers "are fed up with the government being in their kitchens, and they want to be able to make their independent choices about food they want to eat."

State officials, on the other hand, say producers should be able to meet the standards, which they maintain are necessary for consumer safety.

The new standards takes effect on Jan. 1, setting a limit of no more than 10 coliforms per milliliter. Coliforms are a group of bacteria commonly found in the environment, most of which do not cause disease. Pasteurization, in which milk is heated, kills many bacteria, which are still alive in raw milk.

"We found that coliform count is indicative of a healthy and clean and wholesome production process for raw milk," said Steve Lyle, spokesman for the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

But raw milk producers say their product is already tested for dangerous bacteria such as E. coli and salmonella. They contend that the presence of other coliforms in their milk are simply part of what makes their product unique and, in their view, healthier by promoting a stronger immune system.

"There's a bacteria paranoia in our country which is just out of control," McAfee said.

Raw milk producers and consumers say they were not told about the change until after the new law passed quietly earlier this year.

Others states already have adopted the 10-coliform standard, and supporters of the stricter standards say it will not necessarily spell trouble for the raw milk industry.

"Raw milk is legal in California and continues to be legal in California," said Lyle, adding that testing showed that raw milk producers can meet the new standards.

Twenty-eight states allow sales of raw milk for human consumption, according to the Washington-based Weston A. Price Foundation, a natural-foods advocacy group.

California officials say some children fell ill last year after consuming Organic Pastures products. Five children reportedly were sickened, and officials discovered a possible sixth case.

However, testing at Organic Pastures did not detect the strain of E. coli that sickened some of the children, McAfee said.

He said there was no connection between the sick kids and his products and that state officials admitted that and signed a settlement agreement this summer.

Dr. Kevin Reilly, deputy director of the California Department of Public Health, said health officials still believe there is a compelling argument for an epidemiological link because all the children had consumed raw milk products.

But fans of raw milk, who say it helps with everything from asthma to digestive troubles, do not want to see the product disappear from store shelves.

"It is just real food the way God made it, the way it was intended to be," said Organic Pastures customer Linda Edin of Fresno. "It hasn't been messed with in any way."

Stocks fall after lackluster report on manufacturing

TIM PARADIS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks fell Wednesday after a weaker-than-expected reading on the manufacturing sector triggered concerns of a further slowdown in the overall economy. The Dow Jones industrials fell more than 100 points.

The Institute for Supply Management's report that its manufacturing index fell to 47.7 percent for December from 50.8 percent in November raised concerns that the economy could be slowing at a quicker pace than some investors had estimated. The reading below 50 signals economic contraction, whereas readings over 50 indicate expansion.

Analysts polled by Thomson/IFR had anticipated that manufacturing would expand modestly in December.

The reading was unwelcome for investors wading into the first trading session of 2008 and indicated the concerns that weighed on stocks in the second half of 2007 will for now persist.

Wall Street remains uneasy over the economy, specifically the state of the housing market and tightness in the credit markets brought on by fears of faltering mortgage debt. In addition, the health of the consumer is again in focus as investor are awaiting the government's December employment report, due Friday.

But first, investors are hoping to obtain some insights into the mood at the Federal Reserve. The minutes from the central bank's Dec. 11 meeting, when policy makers lowered key interest rates by a quarter point, could upset investors if they signal the Fed is struggling to balance concerns about inflation and slowing growth.

The arrival of the new year will be accompanied by a return of more of Wall Street's regular players. The recent weeks surrounding the holidays have seen light trading volume, making it hard to draw any meaningful reading on the market's mood. Moves higher or lower tend to be exaggerated amid light sessions.

In midmorning trading, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 117.38, or 0.88 percent, to 13,147.44.

Broader stock indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slid 9.29, or 0.63 percent, to 1,459.07, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 13.15, or 0.50 percent, to 2,639.13.

Bond prices surged after the ISM report. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 3.94 percent from 4.03 percent late Monday. The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices rose.

Light, sweet crude rose $1.85 to $97.83 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange following violence in the oil-producing nation of Nigeria and speculation that inventory figures will show drops in levels of U.S. supplies.

Aurora Co-op reports record business year

HASTINGS TRIBUNE
araun@hastingstribune.com

The Aurora Cooperative has announced sales and related income of $476.5 million for fiscal year 2007 — a 40-percent increase over the previous year.

Sales volume increased in all core businesses, with higher grain, energy and fertilizer commodity prices also affecting total dollar sales, the company said in a news release Dec. 20.

Earnings from core businesses and other ventures totaled $9.6 million. In addition, the liquidation of FCStone stock earned an additional $19.9 million, resulting in total earnings of $23.5 million before income taxes.

Patronage refunds of $12 million have been authorized by the board of directors to be distributed to patrons, with $4.2 million of that total to be paid as cash patronage.

The co-op also revolved $1.4 million of members' equity in fiscal 2007, bringing the total cash payments to members to $5.6 million.

Aurora Cooperative is a grain marketer and ag supplier serving central Nebraska and northern Kansas. The business has locations at Blue Hill, Byron, Carleton, Chester, Clay Center, Doniphan, Edgar, Geneva, Hardy, Harvard, Hubbell, Keene, Minden, Ong, Roseland, Sedan, Superior and Upland in Tribland.

Pizza Hut serves up campaign snippets in new commercial

The Associated Press

Pizza Hut is turning the 2008 election campaign into an ad campaign. The Yum Brands Inc. subsidiary has released a new commercial for low-priced pizza featuring sound clips of the presidential delegates and asking viewers to "please vote" just as the primary voting season is set to blast off with the Iowa caucuses.

The 30-second commercial uses a bewildering series of snippets of debate chatter to try and answer the questions, "What is your plan to improve the U.S. economy?" and "Are people seeing lower prices now?"

The ad, which is airing nationwide, then asks viewers if they are "Confused?" and presents a Pizza Hut pie as an easy cost-saving choice.

"We are also using our marketing clout to remind Americans to vote in this important presidential election, no matter their political affiliation or who they support," in addition to selling pizza, said Scott Bergren, Pizza Hut Inc. president, in a company news release.

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PETER KRAMER/*AP*

Honoree Wesley Autrey of New York, poses with his daughter Shuqui Autrey and hero award backstage for jumping on the subway tracks and saving a man's life who just had a seizure, at the first ever CNN Heroes Awards, honoring everyday people and their extraordinary accomplishments at the American Museum of Natural History, Dec. 6, in New York.

Hero who saved life of a man in New York subway reflects on year in spotlight

Busy year included TV appearances, recognition dinners

KAREN MATTHEWS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The train was bearing down, and Wesley Autrey Sr. was trying to lift Cameron Hollopeter off the wet, slippery subway tracks where the young man had fallen after suffering an epileptic seizure.

Recalling the heroic act that earned him the nickname "subway superman" one year ago, Autrey described how he "bear-hugged" Hollopeter and told him: "Whatever you do, please don't push me up. I'm going to be the one that's going to get it, and you're going to be OK."

The train passed over both men, grazing Autrey's hat, while Autrey's two young daughters watched in horror.

Dapper in a leather fedora and a sporting a tiny hoop earring, Autrey was patient and soft-spoken as he recounted the events for the hundredth time, or perhaps the thousandth, over cafe con leche Tuesday at his favorite West Harlem restaurant, steps from the subway station where the Jan. 2, 2007, rescue unfolded.

It's been a busy year for Autrey, 51, a laborer and shop steward who works Monday through Friday at an apartment building under construction nearby, takes care of his daughters on the weekends and gives all the speeches and interviews he can squeeze in.

No time for the trip to Disney World he was promised during the rescue's dizzying aftermath, no time for the Playboy mansion, where he was invited by Hugh Hefner because he was wearing a hat with a Playboy insignia the day of the rescue.

But he has been on David Letterman's and Ellen DeGeneres' shows; flown to Germany for Letterman's late-night equivalent there, Johannes Kerner; and been feted at City Hall and at the Super Bowl.

He's been to the White House twice, during a trip to attend the State of the Union address and for a Black History Month commemoration.

There's been controversy, too. Autrey and his lawyer settled lawsuits against each other over a contract they signed to exploit his name and heroism.

"The only thing that I can say is that it was a very costly learning experience for me as far as trusting people," he said.

Autrey said his daughters, Shuqui and Syshe, now 7 and 5, are doing well. The Writers Guild strike has delayed movie deals, but a children's book and an adult book are in the works.

He spoke with Hollopeter, a film student, and Hollopeter's mother on Thanksgiving.

"They're a very private family," he said. "The mother just thanked me and thanked me and thanked me. He's doing fine."

Hollopeter suffered his first seizure on the platform, and two women joined Autrey in trying to help the 19-year-old, he said.

"When he fell onto the track he went into a second seizure," he said.

Autrey glanced at the women who had helped earlier.

"I didn't even have time to tell them to watch my daughters. I just pointed at them and gave them a look. And when I saw them grab my daughters around the waist and they went and sat on the bench, I knew that they was OK. A voice from somewhere said, 'Go save that life, don't worry about your own, don't worry about your daughters."'

An artist later showed him a picture he had painted of an angel holding Autrey as Autrey held Hollopeter. "And that's exactly what went down," he said.

On the one-year anniversary Wednesday, Autrey planned to report to work at 7 a.m. as usual. Construction work has its own rewards, he added.

"I drive around the city a lot," Autrey said. "I tell my daughters, 'Dad worked on that building.' At the Waldorf back in February there was a dinner in my honor. Ten years ago I was hanging on a scaffold 40 stories in the air outside that building, little knowing that someday I'd be in that building and they'd be recognizing me for what I'd done."

New Orleans deadlier in 2007

Homicide numbers put city on track to be nation's bloodiest

MARY FOSTER
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The bloodiest city in the country in 2006, reeling from crime in its struggle to recover from Hurricane Katrina, got even worse in 2007.

New Orleans registered 209 homicides last year, a nearly 30 percent increase from the 161 recorded in 2006.

The FBI's rankings for 2007 will not be out until much later in the year, but New Orleans' population is thought to be 295,450, which would mean a rate of about 71 homicides per 100,000 people.

Even the most generous population estimate in 2006 put the number of people in the city that year at 255,000. That meant a real homicide rate of 63.5 per 100,000 residents. To compare that number with some other notoriously bloody cities, the rate for Gary, Ind., was 48.3 and Detroit's was 47.1.

The killings are drug-related or retaliatory for the most part, police have said. The upswing comes despite continued patrols by the National Guard and state police and the addition of two new classes of police recruits in the past year.

But beefed-up policing efforts can only do so much, said Rafael Goyeneche, executive director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission of Greater New Orleans.

"The police and the criminal justice system is expected to clean up the mess, but they didn't create the mess," Goyeneche said. "They aren't responsible for the social problems of the city, the failure of the school system, the degeneration of the family unit. And until the city does something to rectify those problems, crime and murder will continue to be a problem."

There are hopeful signs, however, Goyeneche said, pointing to improved schools in the city since the 2005 storm, grass-roots efforts to tackle crime, and a growing effort to upgrade city life.

"This city is beginning to do some things that I've been waiting 25 years to see," Goyeneche said. "I think there is a renewed sense of purpose; people are focused and demanding more than what was in play before Katrina hit."

New York's and Chicago's 2007 homicide totals were the lowest in more than 40 years, and in Philadelphia, slayings dipped slightly after reaching a nine-year high in 2006. But in several other big cities, homicides increased, including in Atlanta, Miami, Dallas and Baltimore.

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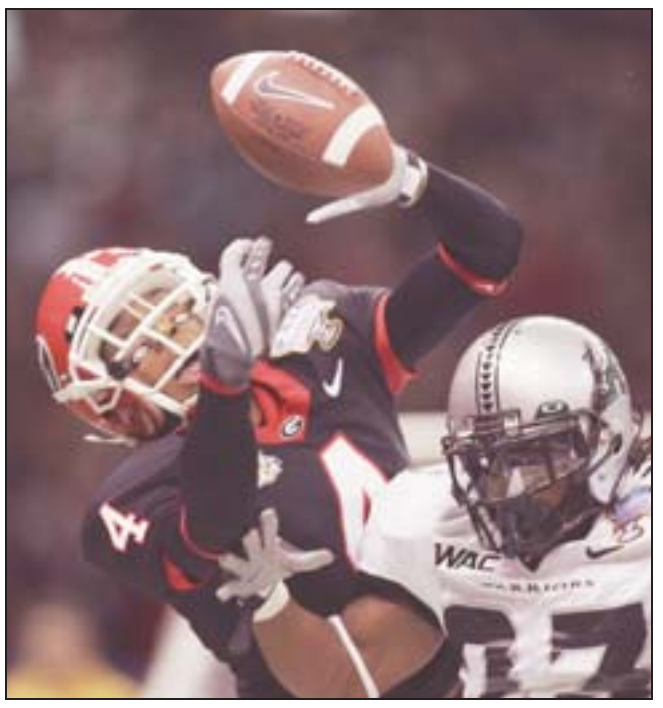
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Georgia ends Hawaii's perfect season with rout

DAVE MARTIN/*AP*



Georgia's Sean Bailey (4) tries to make a catch over Hawaii defensive back Gerard Lewis (23) during the first half of the Sugar Bowl at the Superdome in New Orleans Tuesday.

PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — After beating up on unbeaten Hawaii, the Georgia Bulldogs sounded a bit miffed about getting passed over for a shot at the national championship.

Patience, guys.

Next season could be your year.

Showing off a dazzling array of young talent Tuesday night, fourth-ranked Georgia closed its comeback of a season with a dominating 41-10 rout of Colt Brennan and the BCS-crashing Warriors.

At every turn, a freshman or sophomore made a huge play for the Bulldogs, be it Knowshon Moreno (two touchdown runs), Rennie Curran (two sacks), Matthew Stafford (a TD pass) or Asher Allen (nine tackles, two interceptions).

While Florida and Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow are the early favorites for next season, keep an eye on the Gators' Southeastern Conference rival. The Bulldogs certainly provided a tantalizing glimpse of their 2008 potential against Hawaii, which came in seeking perfection and left thoroughly whipped.

"It was the fastest team I've probably ever seen," said Warriors quarterback Colt Brennan, a Heisman finalist whose college career ended with a thud.

Georgia coach Mark Richt wasn't about to make any bold predictions, but he conceded the obvious.

"We're going to return a very good football team," he said. "We'll be more of a veteran team than we've had in a while. We'll have some good depth. We'll have a chance to make a run at it. But so do about six or seven others in our league."

Georgia closed the season with seven straight wins after a sluggish start, the last of them on the very same field where Ohio State will meet LSU in the national title game next Monday.

The Bulldogs (11-2) feel they're as deserving as either of those teams — and they'll certainly get no argument from Hawaii (12-1), which failed to pull off another Boise State Miracle.

"We're No. 1," Georgia safety Kelin Johnson proclaimed. "We're supposed to be in the national championship game. The nation knows it, everyone knows it."

Moreno ran for a pair of touchdowns in the opening quarter and the Bulldogs' swarming defense made life miserable for Brennan, a Heisman Trophy finalist and catalyst for the nation's highest-scoring team. He was sacked eight times, threw three interceptions and lost two fumbles, one of them recovered for a Georgia touchdown.

After getting slammed to the Superdome turf one last time by Geno Atkins, Brennan staggered to the sideline, his night mercifully done. The junior had the worst showing of his career in a game played to the finish, going 22-of-38 for just 169 yards, less than half of his 348-yard average this season.

Please see SUGAR*/page C2*

Tech rallies past Virginia

TRAVIS REED
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Facing swirling wind and a 41-yard field-goal try with 2 seconds left, Texas Tech's Alex Trlica wasn't worried. He had experience with game-winning kicks.

The senior's last try as a Red Raider was good Tuesday, and so was Tech's outrageous comeback story. Down by 14 in the fourth quarter, the Red Raiders rattled off 17 points in about 6 minutes to stun Virginia 31-28 and win the Gator Bowl.

So what went through Trlica's mind during Virginia's timeout to ice him?

"I try not to think about it," Trlica said.

Tech's Graham Harrell had 44-of-69 for 407 yards and three TDs, All-American Michael Crabtree had nine catches for 101 yards and a touchdown and the Red Raiders did just enough to win.

They were lucky to have a chance, after nearly giving the game away with costly penalties and a fumble. Harrell moved the ball, but Tech's high-octane offense couldn't put up points through three quarters. Though they won, the Red Raiders actually had fewer points than all but two games this year, both October losses to Missouri and Colorado.

"Those guys are hard to hold down, and we held them down for a long time," Cavaliers coach Al Groh said. "There were two possessions where we should have had the ball that we didn't — the onside kick to start the second half and fumble at the end of the game."

The teams together shredded the 63-year-old Gator Bowl record book, as Harrell set new marks for passing yardage, attempts and completions, and Virginia tailback Mikell Simpson broke off a 96-yard TD run. It was the longest in NCAA bowl history by a running back, and second-longest in history behind Oregon State QB Terry Baker's 99-yard scamper in the 1963 Liberty Bowl.

Tech seemed sunk after a 73-yard drive in the fourth quarter failed to produce any points. It ended on Virginia's 1 yard line with an incomplete pass to Crabtree, with the clock at 5:38.

But the Cavaliers couldn't get a first down the next possession, so Tech had another chance. Harrell took them 51 yards in nine plays to make it 28-21, completing the drive with a 20-yard TD pass to Crabtree.

Then, Virginia practically handed the Red Raiders a score. The ball was knocked out of the hands of backup Virginia quarterback Peter Lalich at the 4-yard line, Tech recovered and Aaron Crawford's run a play later tied it at 28.

"I feel like we got better and better as the game went on," Tech coach Mike Leach said.

Virginia wasn't the same after losing Jameel Sewell at the start of the fourth quarter. He was running the offense well, completing 14-of-23 passes for 78 yards and running nine times for 32 yards.



KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/*AP*

Above: USC wide receiver David Ausberry (9) celebrates his touchdown with teammate Ronald Johnson during the fourth quarter against Illinois at the Rose Bowl Tuesday in Pasadena, Calif. Below: USC coach Pete Carroll reacts to an interception by Cary Harris.

USC rolls past Illinois 49-17

EDDIE PELLS
The Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Southern California wishes the season would never end. Seriously.

After an overwhelming performance in the Rose Bowl that ended with a 49-17 victory over Illinois on Tuesday, the sixth-ranked Trojans were claiming they might be the best team in the nation.

Who's to argue? Certainly not the Illini after allowing a Rose Bowl-record 633 yards of offense and matching the most points surrendered in the 94 years of the game.

USC coach Pete Carroll has long been an advocate of a playoff. He wasn't backing away from that after this one.

"We just wish we could keep playing, and I know these guys would," Carroll said. "We would play long into the springtime if we had to, if they'd let us."

What a schedule that would be. It would probably include No. 4 Georgia, a 41-10 winner over Hawaii in the Sugar Bowl, also on Tuesday. And surely LSU and Ohio State, the teams meeting Monday in the national title game, would be included.

But that's only a dream. And because the Rose Bowl insisted on a traditional Pac-10-Big 10 matchup, the Trojans (11-2) got Illinois.

"I would love to play one more," USC defensive lineman Sedrick Ellis said. "I don't think any team in the NCAA could beat us right now. Not Ohio, not LSU."

Freshman tailback Joe McKnight, touted as the next Reggie Bush, finished with 170 total yards, including a 65 yard run on a broken play that broke the game open. USC improved to 5-1 in its last six bowl games, all BCS affairs, and the blowout gave the Trojans 11 wins for an unprecedented sixth straight season.

They have arguably been the country's best team over that span, and might have been the best this season, too. But they'll have to be happy with their overwhelming display in Pasadena.

Please see ROSE*/page C2*





MATT SLOCUM/*AP*

Missouri tailback Tony Temple (22) scores a touchdown against Arkansas in the third quarter of the Cotton Bowl Tuesday in Dallas.

Temple leads Missouri over Arkansas

Senior RB rushes for 281 yards, four TDs

JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Chase Daniel is bracing for a lecture about the importance of pretending to still have the ball after handing off to try confusing the defense.

Daniel usually is good about such nuances of playing quarterback. He ditched the fakes Tuesday, though, because he wanted to stand still and watch teammate Tony Temple run.

And run. And run. And run some more.

Temple ran for 281 yards and four touchdowns, both records in the 72-year history of the Cotton Bowl, to carry No. 7 Missouri past Arkansas 38-7.

"All I did was run through the holes," Temple said.

Guys who say that usually are being modest. Not Temple. He truly had wide open spaces thanks to the No. 25 Razorbacks dropping practically everyone into coverage because they feared Daniel, the Heisman Trophy finalist, more than Temple, the 5-foot-9 senior who is lobbying the NCAA for a sixth season of eligibility.

"He was running on air, guys," said Arkansas interim coach Reggie Herring, who had been the defensive coordinator until Houston Nutt resigned in late November. "We never play the run that poorly."

Temple's memorable performance was a nice exclamation point to the greatest season in school history, with a record 12 wins and their first No. 1 ranking since 1960.

The Tigers were atop the poll after beating Kansas and before playing Oklahoma in the Big 12 title game. Had they won it, they would've gone to the national championship game. Instead, they lost and wound up out of the BCS, stuck in Dallas on New Year's Day while the rival Jayhawks they beat got an at-large invitation to Miami for the Orange Bowl.

"We were upset for a couple of days," said Martin Rucker, Missouri's All-American tight end. "We just felt we'd deserved, we'd earned to be in the BCS. But the Cotton Bowl is a great bowl and we were honored to be in it."

Coach Gary Pinkel kept his team's spirits up by having them put together a list of reasons why Dallas was a great place to be. Recruiting and appeasing their largest out-of-state alumni base likely were near the top.

Please see COTTON*/page C3*

Basketball

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	26	3	.897	—
Toronto	17	15	.531	10½
New Jersey	14	16	.467	12½
Philadelphia	14	17	.452	13
New York	8	21	.276	18

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	22	11	.667	—
Atlanta	15	13	.536	4½
Washington	15	14	.517	5
Charlotte	11	18	.379	9
Miami	8	23	.258	13

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	24	7	.774	—
Indiana	15	17	.469	9½
Cleveland	14	17	.452	10
Chicago	11	18	.379	12
Milwaukee	11	19	.367	12½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	21	8	.724	—
Dallas	20	11	.645	2
New Orleans	20	11	.645	2
Houston	15	16	.484	7
Memphis	8	22	.267	13½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	18	12	.600	—
Portland	18	13	.581	½
Utah	17	16	.515	2½
Seattle	9	22	.290	9½
Minnesota	4	26	.133	14

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	22	9	.710	—
L.A. Lakers	19	11	.633	2½
Golden State	19	13	.594	3½
Sacramento	11	18	.379	10
L.A. Clippers	10	19	.345	11

Wednesday's Games

New Jersey at Orlando, 6 p.m.
Memphis at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Detroit at Washington, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Cleveland, 6 p.m.
Chicago at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
Milwaukee at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Houston at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
Sacramento at New York, 6:30 p.m.
Portland at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Utah, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Portland at Chicago, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Denver, 8 p.m.
Seattle at Phoenix, 9:30 p.m.

Football

NFL Playoff Schedule

Saturday, Jan. 5

Washington at Seattle, 3:30 p.m. (NBC)
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m. (NBC)

Sunday, Jan. 6

N.Y. Giants at Tampa Bay, Noon (FOX)
Tennessee at San Diego, 3:30 p.m. (CBS)

Divisional Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 12

Seattle, Tampa Bay or N.Y. Giants at Green Bay, 3:30 p.m. (FOX)
Pittsburgh, Jacksonville, Tennessee at New England, 7 p.m. (CBS)

Sunday, Jan. 13

San Diego, Pittsburgh or Jacksonville at Indianapolis, Noon (CBS)
Tampa Bay, N.Y. Giants or Washington at Dallas, 3:30 p.m. (FOX)

College Bowl Schedule

Monday, Dec. 31
Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth, Texas
Payout: $750,000
California 42, Air Force 36
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payout: $1.9 million
Oregon 56, South Florida 21
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payout: $750,000
Fresno State 40, Georgia Tech 28
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payout: $1.6 million
Kentucky 35, Florida State 28
Insight Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Payout: $1.25 million
Oklahoma State 49, Indiana 33
Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta
Payout: $2.9 million
Auburn 23, Clemson 20, OT
Tuesday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Payout: $3.1 million
Tennessee 21, Wisconsin 17
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
Payout: $3 million
Missouri 38, Arkansas 7
Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: $4.25 million
Michigan 41, Florida 35
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payout: $2.25 million
Texas Tech 31, Virginia 28
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Payout: $17 million
Southern California 49, Illinois 17
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Payout: $17 million
Georgia 41, Hawaii 10
Wednesday, Jan. 2
Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Payout: $17 million
West Virginia (10-2) vs. Oklahoma (11-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)
Thursday, Jan. 3
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Payout: $17 million
Kansas (11-1) vs. Virginia Tech (11-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)
Saturday, Jan. 5
International Bowl
At Toronto
Payout: $750,000
Rutgers (7-4) vs. Ball State (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)
Sunday, Jan. 6
GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Payout: $750,000
Tulsa (9-4) vs. Bowling Green (8-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Jan. 7
BCS National Championship
At New Orleans
Payout: $17 million
Ohio State (11-1) vs. LSU (11-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)

College Summaries

Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
No. 16 TENNESSEE 21, No. 18 WISCONSIN 17

Tennessee	7	14	0	0 — 21
Wisconsin	7	7	3	0 — 17

First Quarter
Tenn—G.Jones 3 run (Lincoln kick), 9:49.
Wis—Donovan 6 run (Mehlhaff kick), 7:33.
Second Quarter
Tenn—Briscoe 29 pass from Ainge (Lincoln kick), 9:45.
Tenn—B.Cottam 31 pass from Ainge (Lincoln kick), 6:15.
Wis—Crooks 4 pass from Donovan (Mehlhaff kick), 1:03.
Third Quarter
Wis—FG Mehlhaff 27, :09.
A—60,121.

	Tenn	Wis
First downs	18	16
Rushes-yards	29-66	41-192
Passing	365	155
Comp-Att-Int	25-43-0	14-25-1
Return Yards	42	21
Punts-Avg.	7-42.1	6-44.7
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	5-60	2-10
Time of Possession	27:30	32:30

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Tennessee, Hardesty 7-35, A.Foster 16-31, Ainge 1-2, G.Jones 3-1, Team 1-(minus 1), Creer 1-(minus 2). Wisconsin, Hill 16-132, Brown 8-29, Smith-Williams 6-23, Donovan 9-18, Team 1-(minus 1), Gilreath 1-(minus 9).
PASSING—Tennessee, Ainge 25-43-0-365. Wisconsin, Donovan 14-24-1-155, Evridge 0-1-0-0.
RECEIVING—Tennessee, Briscoe 7-101, Moore 4-86, A.Foster 4-26, Rogers 3-37, G.Jones 3-34, B.Cottam 1-31, Hancock 1-25, Hardesty 1-21, C.Brown 1-4. Wisconsin, Graham 7-75, Jefferson 3-27, Beckum 2-22, Hubbard 1-27, Crooks 1-4.

Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
No. 7 MISSOURI 38, No. 25 ARKANSAS 7

Missouri	7	7	14	10 — 38
Arkansas	0	0	7	0 — 7

First Quarter
Mo—Temple 22 run (Wolfert kick), 2:29.
Second Quarter
Mo—Temple 4 run (Wolfert kick), 4:35.
Third Quarter
Mo—Temple 4 run (Wolfert kick), 13:38.
Mo—W.Moore 26 interception return (Wolfert kick), 7:37.
Ark—McFadden 3 run (Tejada kick), 3:08.
Fourth Quarter
Mo—FG Wolfert 32, 10:25.
Mo—Temple 40 run (Wolfert kick), 8:33.
A—73,114.

	Mo	Ark
First downs	23	19
Rushes-yards	43-323	50-164
Passing	136	197
Comp-Att-Int	12-29-1	19-33-1
Return Yards	31	14
Punts-Avg.	6-36.7	5-38.8
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	5-4
Penalties-Yards	6-53	6-50
Time of Possession	23:48	36:12

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Missouri, Temple 24-281, Jackson 5-39, Maclin 5-26, Woods 2-11, D.Washington 1-(minus 1), Team 1-(minus 2), Daniel 5-(minus 31). Arkansas, McFadden 21-105, F.Jones 10-45, Hillis 5-20, Mic.Smith 7-12, Jackson 4-8, C.Dick 3-(minus 26).
PASSING—Missouri, Daniel 12-29-1-136. Arkansas, C.Dick 19-32-1-197, Hillis 0-1-0-0.
RECEIVING—Missouri, Franklin 5-77, Maclin 3-32, Rucker 3-19, Coffman 1-8. Arkansas, Hillis 5-52, Monk 4-28, F.Jones 3-65, Davie 3-18, Miller 2-19, Fish 1-8, Jackson 1-7.

Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
MICHIGAN 41, No. 9 FLORIDA 35

Michigan	7	14	7	13 — 41
Florida	7	7	14	7 — 35

First Quarter
Mich—Manningham 21 pass from Henne (Lopata kick), 10:59.
Fla—Harvin 10 pass from Tebow (Ijjas kick), 2:37.
Second Quarter
Fla—Caldwell 18 pass from Tebow (Ijjas kick), 14:48.
Mich—Hart 3 run (Lopata kick), 9:51.
Mich—Arrington 1 pass from Henne (Lopata kick), :08.
Third Quarter
Mich—Hart 1 run (Lopata kick), 12:50.
Fla—Tebow 1 run (Ijjas kick), 7:55.
Fla—Caldwell 14 pass from Tebow (Ijjas kick), 1:26.
Fourth Quarter
Mich—FG Lopata 37, 12:16.
Fla—Harvin 10 run (Ijjas kick), 5:49.
Mich—Arrington 18 pass from Henne (Lopata kick), 4:12.
Mich—FG Lopata 41, 2:21.
A—69,748.

	Mich	Fla
First downs	28	18
Rushes-yards	47-151	32-230
Passing	373	169
Comp-Att-Int	25-39-2	18-34-0
Return Yards	0	50
Punts-Avg.	2-44.5	3-39.3
Fumbles-Lost	4-2	1-0
Penalties-Yards	8-65	9-49
Time of Possession	32:18	27:42

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Michigan, Hart 32-129, Manningham 7-53, Minor 1-(minus 2), Team 3-(minus 5), Henne 4-(minus 24). Florida, Harvin 13-165, Tebow 16-57, Moore 2-9, Team 1-(minus 1).
PASSING—Michigan, Henne 25-39-2-373. Florida, Tebow 17-33-0-154, Henry 1-1-0-15.
RECEIVING—Michigan, Arrington 9-153, Mathews 7-62, Manningham 5-78, Butler 1-65, Hart 1-7, Hemingway 1-4, Moundros 1-4. Florida, Harvin 9-77, Caldwell 4-40, Hernandez 3-31, Ingram 1-17, Murphy 1-4.

Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
TEXAS TECH 31, No. 21 VIRGINIA 28

Texas Tech	7	0	7	17 — 31
Virginia	9	12	0	7 — 28

First Quarter
TT—D.Lewis 10 pass from Harrell (Trlica kick), 9:35.
UVa—Stupar 2 pass from Sewell (Gould kick), 4:48.
UVa—Safety, Harrell intentional grounding in end zone, 1:37.
Second Quarter
UVa—Simpson 96 run (Gould kick), 7:12.
UVa—Safety, Harrell intentional grounding in end zone, 2:32.
UVa—FG Gould 23, :00.
Third Quarter
TT—Amendola 6 pass from Harrell (Trlica kick), 10:01.
Fourth Quarter
UVa—Simpson 11 pass from Lalich (Gould kick), 11:26.
TT—Crabtree 20 pass from Harrell (Trlica kick), 3:31.
TT—Crawford 4 run (Trlica kick), 3:10.
TT—FG Trlica 41, :02.
A—60,243.

	TT	UVa
First downs	24	21
Rushes-yards	20-34	47-249
Passing	407	96
Comp-Att-Int	44-69-0	17-28-0
Return Yards	24	0
Punts-Avg.	4-30.3	8-37.5
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	3-2
Penalties-Yards	9-81	3-25
Time of Possession	29:43	30:17

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Texas Tech, K.Lewis 8-33, Crawford 8-29, Harrell 4-(minus 28). Virginia, Simpson 20-170, R.Jackson 14-52, Sewell 11-38, Albert 1-2, Lalich 1-(minus 13).
PASSING—Texas Tech, Harrell 44-69-0-407. Virginia, Sewell 14-23-0-78, Lalich 3-5-0-18.
RECEIVING—Texas Tech, Crabtree 9-101, Morris 9-77, Crawford 8-28, Amendola 6-68, Britton 5-48, G.Walker 2-44, D.Lewis 2-19, K.Lewis 2-11, Leong 1-11. Virginia, Simpson 5-36, Santi 3-16, Stupar 3-15, Inman 2-11, Jobe 2-7, Covington 1-11, R.Jackson 1-0.

Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
No. 6 SOUTHERN CAL 49, No. 13 ILLINOIS 17

Illinois	0	3	7	7 — 17
Southern Cal	14	7	14	14 — 49

First Quarter
USC—C.Washington 8 pass from Booty (Buehler kick), 10:57.
USC—Reed 34 pass from G.Green (Buehler kick), 8:30.
Second Quarter
USC—C.Washington 3 run (Buehler kick), 2:21.
Ill—FG Reda 28, :38.
Third Quarter
Ill—R.Mendenhall 79 run (Reda kick), 12:33.
USC—Davis 2 pass from Booty (Buehler kick), 5:18.
USC—McKnight 6 run (Buehler kick), 3:42.
Fourth Quarter
USC—Ausberry 15 pass from Booty (Buehler kick), 14:10.
USC—Dennis 3 run (Buehler kick), 5:47.
Ill—Benn 56 pass from McGee (Reda kick), 4:28.
A—93,923.

	Ill	USC
First downs	19	30
Rushes-yards	37-144	43-344
Passing	301	289
Comp-Att-Int	22-36-2	26-38-1
Return Yards	49	46
Punts-Avg.	6-44.7	6-36.2
Fumbles-Lost	6-2	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-66	11-130
Time of Possession	29:20	30:40

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Illinois, R.Mendenhall 17-155, McGee 2-7, Weil 2-1, Dufrene 1-0, J.Williams 15-(minus 19). Southern Cal, McKnight 10-125, S.Johnson 9-104, C.Washington 12-75, Dennis 6-30, Adewale 1-17, Bradford 1-5, Havili 1-5, Booty 3-(minus 17).
PASSING—Illinois, J.Williams 21-35-2-245, McGee 1-1-0-56. Southern Cal, Booty 25-37-1-255, G.Green 1-1-0-34.
RECEIVING—Illinois, Benn 5-80, R.Mendenhall 5-59, Willis 4-74, Cumberland 3-37, Warren 3-25, Gamble 2-26. Southern Cal, Davis 7-87, McKnight 6-45, Havili 4-63, C.Washington 3-12, Ausberry 2-28, R.Johnson 2-15, Reed 1-34, Hazelton 1-5.

Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
No. 4 GEORGIA 41, No. 10 HAWAII 10

Hawaii	3	0	0	7 — 10
Georgia	14	10	14	3 — 41

First Quarter
Geo—Moreno 17 run (Coutu kick), 9:42.
Haw—FG Kelly 41, 4:20.
Geo—Moreno 11 run (Coutu kick), :57.
Second Quarter
Geo—FG Coutu 52, 9:36.
Geo—S.Bailey 11 pass from Stafford (Coutu kick), 8:00.
Third Quarter
Geo—Howard recovered fumble in end zone (Coutu kick), 8:57.
Geo—T.Brown 1 run (Coutu kick), 1:40.
Fourth Quarter
Geo—FG Coutu 45, 14:32.
Haw—Grice-Mullen 16 pass from Graunke (Kelly kick), 10:32.
A—74,383.

	Haw	Geo
First downs	20	19
Rushes-yards	18-(-5)	40-159
Passing	311	175
Comp-Att-Int	35-57-4	14-27-1
Return Yards	8	2
Punts-Avg.	3-34.0	3-48.3
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	1-0
Penalties-Yards	11-90	11-100
Time of Possession	30:39	29:21

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Hawaii, Pilares 7-26, Libre 1-7, Farmer 1-0, Brennan 9-(minus 38). Georgia, T.Brown 19-73, Moreno 9-61, Bryant 1-20, Lumpkin 3-7, Southerland 3-4, Stafford 2-0, team 3-(minus 6).
PASSING—Hawaii, Brennan 22-38-3-169, Graunke 13-19-1-142. Georgia, Stafford 14-23-1-175, Cox 0-4-0-0.
RECEIVING—Hawaii, Rivers 10-105, Bess 7-53, Grice-Mullen 6-37, Hawthorne 4-73, Libre 3-15, Farmer 2-17, Pilares 2-8, Laumoli 1-3. Georgia, Massaquoi 5-54, Durham 3-48, Moreno 2-26, S.Bailey 2-18, Moore 1-17, Chandler 1-12.

GPAC

Monday's Results

Men's Basketball
Westmont 80, Concordia 72
Northwestern 85, Dominican 74
(Holy Names New Year's Classic)
Augustana 79, Dana 57
La Verne 64, Nebraska Wesleyan 59

Hockey

NHL Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	21	14	3	45	92	91
Pittsburgh	21	16	2	44	111	112
N.Y. Rangers	20	15	4	44	97	94
N.Y. Islanders	20	16	2	42	94	104
Philadelphia	19	14	4	42	115	105

Northeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	25	10	4	54	139	110
Montreal	19	13	7	45	116	109
Boston	19	16	4	42	102	105
Buffalo	19	16	3	41	115	107
Toronto	16	16	8	40	116	127

Southeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	20	18	3	43	126	132
Atlanta	19	20	1	39	111	132
Florida	18	18	3	39	98	106
Washington	16	19	5	37	112	125
Tampa Bay	15	21	4	34	115	134

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	29	8	3	61	141	88
St. Louis	19	14	4	42	94	96
Columbus	18	15	6	42	98	94
Chicago	19	16	3	41	114	113
Nashville	18	18	2	38	103	114

Northwest Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	22	14	4	48	105	93
Minnesota	22	15	2	46	103	107
Colorado	21	15	3	45	115	112
Calgary	19	14	7	45	116	117
Edmonton	16	20	4	36	103	122

Pacific Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	23	13	4	50	122	100
San Jose	22	12	5	49	100	89
Anaheim	19	17	5	43	101	112
Phoenix	18	18	1	37	94	101
Los Angeles	15	24	2	32	116	133

Tuesday's Games

Pittsburgh 2, Buffalo 1, SO
Washington 6, Ottawa 3
Toronto 4, Tampa Bay 3, SO
Los Angeles 9, Chicago 2

Wednesday's Games

Atlanta at Carolina, 6 p.m.
Florida at New Jersey, 6 p.m.
Dallas at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Edmonton at St. Louis, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Colorado, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Calgary, 8 p.m.
Columbus at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Washington at Boston, 6 p.m.
Florida at N.Y. Islanders, 6 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.
Toronto at Pittsburgh, 6:30 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
Calgary at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.
Columbus at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

Transactions

Basketball

National Basketball Association
NBA—Suspended Los Angeles Lakers F Lamar Odom one game for being assessed a flagrant foul, penalty two against Ray Allen in a Dec. 30 game against Boston.

Football

National Football League
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS—Signed A.J. Smith, general manager, to a five-year contract extension through 2014.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Placed DT Baraka Atkins on injured reserve. Signed WR Logan Payne from the practice squad. Signed DT Kelly Talavou to the practice squad.

Hockey

National Hockey League
ATLANTA THRASHERS—Promoted Brad McCrimmon to associate coach.
CAROLINA HURRICANES—Placed D Bret Hedican on injured reserve. Recalled D Casey Borer from Albany (AHL).

Tribland

Wednesday

College women's basketball: Southwestern College at Hastings College.....6 p.m.

Thursday

Prep boys basketball: St. Cecilia at Sandy Creek.....7:45 p.m.
Prep girls basketball: St. Cecilia at Sandy Creek.....6 p.m.
Prep wrestling: St. Cecilia at Sutton Dual tournament.....12:30 p.m.
Prep wrestling: Adams Central at Minden Invitational.....6 p.m.
Prep wrestling: Hastings High at Kearney.....6:30 p.m.

Area Schedule

Prep girls basketball
Doniphan-Trumbull at Ravenna
Exeter-Milligan at Southern
High Plains at Shickley

Prep boys basketball
Doniphan-Trumbull at Ravenna
Exeter-Milligan at Southern
High Plains at Shickley

Prep wrestling
Bruning-Davenport/Deshler, Superior at Thayer Central
Doniphan-Trumbull, South Central
Unified District #5 at Sutton Dual Tournament

Wednesday's TV broadcasts

College Football	Station
7:15 p.m., Fiesta Bowl, Oklahoma vs. West Virginia	FOX
College Men's Basketball	**Station**
6 p.m., Rutgers at South Florida	ESPN2
7 p.m., Kent State at North Carolina	ESPN
8 p.m., Penn State at Northwestern	ESPN2
NHL Hockey	**Station**
6 p.m., Atlanta at Carolina	VERS

Wednesday's radio broadcasts

College Football	Station
6:35 p.m., Fiesta Bowl, Oklahoma vs. West Virginia	KXPN (1460 AM)
6:35 p.m., Fiesta Bowl, Oklahoma vs. West Virginia	KICS (1550 AM)
College Women's Basketball	**Station**
5:45 p.m., Southwestern College at Hastings College	KHAS (1230 AM)

Thursday's TV broadcasts

College Football	Station
7:15 p.m., Orange Bowl, Virginia Tech vs. Kansas	FOX
Golf	**Station**
5 p.m., PGA Tour, Mercedes-Benz Championship, first round	TGC
College Men's Basketball	**Station**
6 p.m., West Virginia at Notre Dame	ESPN2
7 p.m., Ohio State at Illinois	ESPN
8 p.m., Villanova at DePaul	ESPN2
9:30 p.m., UCLA at Stanford	FSN
NBA Basketball	**Station**
7:15 p.m., Portland at Chicago	TNT
10:30 p.m., Seattle at Phoenix	TNT

Thursday's radio broadcasts

College Football	Station
6:35 p.m., Orange Bowl, Kansas vs. Virginia Tech	KXPN (1460 AM)
6:35 p.m., Orange Bowl, Kansas vs. Virginia Tech	KICS (1550 AM)
Prep Boys Basketball	**Station**
7:45 p.m., St. Cecilia at Sandy Creek	KHAS (1460 AM)
Prep Girls Basketball	**Station**
5:45 p.m., St. Cecilia at Sandy Creek	KHAS (1460 AM)

Nation

Chargers' Smith gets extension

SAN DIEGO — After building the San Diego Chargers into a consistent playoff contender — if not yet a postseason success — general manager A.J. Smith received a five-year contract extension that will keep him with the team through 2014.

Details weren't announced, but various reports said the extension was worth $11 million. Smith's previous contract was due to expire following the 2009 season.

Odom suspended one game

NEW YORK — Los Angeles Lakers forward Lamar Odom was suspended for one game without pay for committing a flagrant foul in the fourth quarter of his team's 110-91 loss to the Boston Celtics.

Odom threw himself into Ray Allen and knocked the Boston guard to the floor with 2:56 remaining Sunday night and the outcome already decided. Besides the suspension, Odom was assessed a flagrant foul, penalty two, NBA executive vice president Stu Jackson said in a press release.

The Associated Press

Rose: USC rolls to victory over Illini

Continued from page C1

"Everything that was out there for us, we took," Carroll said. "The rest of it is up for discussion. But would I love to still be playing right now? Sure would. We'd go out there any time, any place, any venue and throw our football out there and see what we could do."

Despite the blowout, this game was actually competitive for a bit. Illinois' Rashard Mendenhall broke a 79-yard touchdown run early in the third quarter to trim what had been a three-touchdown deficit to 21-10.

Minutes later, Mendenhall scooted 55 yards with a screen pass from Juice Williams, and Ron Zook's 13th-ranked Illini (9-4) looked as if they might really complete the impossible dream, from 2-19 in his first two seasons to Rose Bowl champions.

But two plays later, Kaluka Maiava popped the ball out of receiver Jacob Willis' hands and USC's Brian Cushing won a scramble in the end zone for one of four Illinois turnovers.

Moments later, came the play of the game, when John David Booty threw a sloppy lateral to McKnight, who didn't catch it, but was able to scoop it up on the bounce and run 65 yards. McKnight was chased down by defensive back Vontae Davis, but four plays later, Booty hit Fred Davis with a 2-yard touchdown pass.

That made it 28-10 and the rout was on.

"You can't imagine how much work it takes for John to throw it like that so it bounces just right," Carroll joked. "But Joe made something out of it. It was exhilarating, the speed he came out with and the play he made."

Booty threw for 255 yards and three scores to set a Rose Bowl record with seven career TDs.

USC linebacker Rey Maualuga had three sacks, an interception and a forced fumble for a defense that allowed only 79 yards in the first half.

McKnight's broken play in the third quarter wasn't the only time the Trojans made something crazy and unexpected happen.

It started in the first quarter, when Booty lateraled to Garrett Green, who is listed as a receiver-quarterback, and Green threw cross-field to Desmond Reed for a 34-yard touchdown and a 14-0 lead.

Mendenhall finished with 214 total yards in what will likely be the last college game for the junior. Williams had 245 yards passing for the Illini, whose last Rose Bowl trip came 24 years ago and ended in a 45-9 loss to quarterback Rick Neuheisel and UCLA.

The score this time was similar, and not totally unexpected.

The Illini were 13 1/2-point underdogs — biggest of any of this season's 32 bowl games — and the final score only added fuel to the fire of those who criticized the Rose Bowl for insisting on its traditional conference pairing.

"We played tremendous all year long," Zook said. "We didn't give up. It didn't go our way. That's how life is. You learn a lot about life playing college football."

Indeed, everyone knows life isn't always fair, and often, college football is a prime example of that.

USC is playing championship-caliber football but will never find out if it could have gone all the way. The Trojans were one of four or five candidates to become the first two-loss team to make the title game. But LSU got the spot, and it was USC's 24-23 loss to 41-point underdog Stanford in October that certainly made the difference.

On this day at the sunsplashed Rose Bowl, it was hard to imagine the Trojans losing to Stanford — or anyone else for that matter.

"Let the argument go out there for the people battling with the BCS process to figure this thing out," Carroll said. "I have no answer for them. I just wish we could keep going."

Sugar: Georgia ends Hawaii's perfect season

Continued from page C1

The Bulldogs led 24-3 by halftime and quickly snuffed out any chance Brennan might lead an improbable comeback, as he did in bringing Hawaii back from a 21-point deficit in their regular-season finale against Washington.

On Hawaii's first possession after the break, Brennan was sacked by Roderick Battle, then picked off by Allen. The Warriors held, getting an interception of their own on a tipped ball, but that merely set up Brennan for more misery.

Marcus Howard, who spent as much time in the Hawaii backfield as the guys wearing white, sped by tackle Keoni Steinhoff like he wasn't even there and crashed into Brennan. The ball rolled loose in the end zone and Howard recovered, giving him as many touchdowns as the vaunted run-and-shoot offense that was averaging 46.2 points a game.

"It just shows it's not always about offense," said Howard, who was named the game's MVP after making three sacks, forcing two fumbles and tipping a pass that was intercepted by teammate Dannell Ellerbe. "Defense wins ballgames, and that's what happened tonight."

The senior end played his final college game, but he knows the Bulldogs are sitting pretty for next season.

"They have a great nucleus coming back," Howard said. "It will be fun to watch them."

Georgia lobbied for a spot in the title game after the top two teams in the BCS rankings lost on the final day of the regular season. But the Bulldogs, who didn't even make the SEC championship game, had to settle for their third Sugar Bowl appearance in five years.

With their title hopes dashed, Richt urged his players to get a good start on 2008, knowing an impressive win over the Warriors would surely set up the Dawgs for a top-five ranking at the start of next season — and better positioning for a run at No. 1.

Consider it done.

Hawaii hoped to follow the lead set by another Western Athletic Conference team. Last season, Boise State capped a perfect season with a stunning overtime win against Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl.

In the locker room before the game, coach June Jones urged his team to "play with confidence, like you belong."

They didn't.

"We've never played in this element," Brennan said. "We got here and we tried as hard as we could to keep it as normal as we're used to, but it just seemed like we weren't used to this kind of venue. We weren't used to the crowd noise. We couldn't get our audibles."

Hawaii finally got to the end zone with 10 1/2 minutes to go and backup quarterback Tyler Graunke running the offense. He tossed a meaningless 16-yard TD pass to Ryan Grice-Mullen while Brennan watched from the sideline.

In all fairness to the Hawaii star, this wasn't really a fair fight. The Bulldogs were so much stronger, so much faster, so much better in so many areas.

Still, it was tough to be serenaded with chants of "Overrrated! Overrated!" by the Georgia faithful.

"They're a great football team," Brennan said. "I'm just really disappointed that we didn't show up and at least play our type of football. We're such a better football team than what we showed tonight."

Penguins win Winter Classic

JOHN WAWROW
The Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Snow, a sold-out football stadium and Sidney Crosby scoring the shootout winner.

The NHL couldn't have scripted a better finish for its showcase event, the Winter Classic outdoor game, to kick off 2008.

Even Sabres managing partner Larry Quinn couldn't complain, even though Buffalo wound up losing, 2-1, to the Pittsburgh Penguins on Tuesday afternoon.

"We did this for the NHL to build the sport," Quinn said, referring to the game being broadcast across North America, on NBC and Canada's CBC. "I was down along the glass for the shootout and at the opening of the game. And the feeling was just hard to describe: The noise, the enthusiasm."

In other NHL games on Tuesday, it was: Washington 6, Ottawa 3; Toronto 4, Tampa Bay 3 in a shootout; and Los Angeles 9, Chicago 2.

At times it was deafening in a game played before a league-record crowd of 71,217 at Ralph Wilson Stadium in the NHL's second outdoor game, after the Oilers and Montreal Canadiens played in Edmonton in 2003, and first held in the United States.

"You look up at the people and there was just this incredible celebration of our team, of our sport, of our city, our winters, everything. I'm so happy to have had that experience," Quinn said. "I just wish we had gotten a lucky bounce."

Oh, that's right. The Sabres lost, leaving them winless in their past four games (0-2-2).

The winners, besides the Penguins, might have been the publicity-hungry NHL, which offered up a perfect backdrop for its sport — falling snow, end-to-end action, and a suspenseful finish that was decided by its star player, Crosby.

"This was a fun afternoon," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said. "Based on the response, on our ability to execute, and the inquiries we're getting from other clubs for similar activities, this is something we're going to look at doing at again."

Crosby was honored to be a part of it, noting that it was bigger than a mere regular-season contest.

"Growing up, I played a lot outside," said Crosby, a Nova Scotia native. "When you see 70,000 people jammed into a stadium to watch hockey, it's a good sign. The atmosphere and environment, I don't think you can beat that."

Crosby set up the opening goal, scored by Colby Armstrong, 21 seconds in. Brian Campbell tied it 85 seconds into the second period. And then it came down to a shootout, with Crosby — the Penguins' third and final shooter — somehow slipping a shot past Ryan Miller.

Cotton: Temple leads Missouri

Continued from page C1

"They found out what a great game the Cotton Bowl is and then embraced it," Pinkel said.

Temple had 159 yards at halftime, then pulled a hamstring in the third quarter and missed several series. He said he was ready to return about the same time Pinkel heard Temple was close to the Cotton Bowl record.

He lasted just one play: a spinning, tackle-breaking 40-yard run into the end zone, then rode back to the bench on the arms of Daniel and a lineman. The lift was part-celebration, part-transportation because Temple tweaked his hamstring around the 5-yard line.

"It was one of the best runs I've ever seen," Daniel said. "That was awesome."

Temple broke the Cotton Bowl rushing record of 265 yards set by Rice's Dicky Maegle in 1954, a performance that's best remembered for him being awarded a touchdown when Alabama's Tommy Lewis came off the bench and tackled him on a breakaway run.

Maegle had three touchdowns in that game, as did Texas' Bobby Layne in 1946 and Syracuse's Jim Brown in 1957.

The more likely record-breaker in this game was Arkansas' Darren McFadden, another Heisman finalist.

He ran 21 times for 105 yards and a touchdown, pushing single-season total to 1,830 yards and his career total to 4,590. Both are school records and second to Herschel Walker in SEC history. He spent the fourth quarter on the bench, perhaps mulling whether this was his last college game.

"That's something I'm going to sit down with my parents and decide in a little while," said McFadden, a junior.

The rest of the Razorbacks made a horrible first impression on incoming coach Bobby Petrino, from the defense allowing the most yards rushing by a single player to having five turnovers — an interception returned for a touchdown and four fumbles.

Freshman kicker Alex Tejada came in perfect on kicks of 40 yards or less, but missed from 35 and 37. In between, a successful fake punt was wiped out because someone called timeout just before the snap; the Razorbacks tried the play again and lost a yard. Then a squib kick to open the second half backfired.

The final offensive play summed things up: Herring ran about 20 yards asking for a time out, but didn't get it and a fourth-down pass was dropped in the end zone.

"We did everything poorly," Herring said.



REINHOLD MATAY/*AP*

Michigan coach Lloyd Carr is carried off the field after beating Florida in the Capital One Bowl in Orlando, Fla.

Michigan sends Carr out a winner

MARK LONG
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Lloyd Carr's players surrounded him on the sideline, started jumping up and down, waving their helmets and screaming his name.

Carr laughed through the whole thing.

It was one of the many memories he'll cherish from his final game at Michigan.

Chad Henne threw for a career-high 373 yards and three touchdowns, Mike Hart ran for 129 yards and two scores and the Wolverines upset No. 9 Florida 41-35 Tuesday in the Capital One Bowl to send Carr out a winner.

"To come up with that kind of effort and to find a way to win means that we have some memories that we're all going to be able to celebrate for years to come," Carr said.

Buoyed by the emotion of Carr's finale and unfazed by the coaching change and the firing of all but one of the assistants, the Wolverines (9-4) won their first bowl game since 2003.

This one was special.

Michigan's senior class won its first bowl game in four tries and Carr ended his coaching career on a high note.

"It was an amazing feeling for us to send him out the right way," said Henne, who completed 25 of 39 passes.

Henne, Adrian Arrington and Mario Manningham torched Florida's secondary all game. Arrington caught nine passes for 153 yards and two touchdowns, and Manningham added five catches for 78 yards and a score.

The Gators (9-4) kept it close thanks to four turnovers and plenty of big plays by Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow and speedster Percy Harvin.

Playing with a broken bone in his non-throwing hand and facing constant blitzes, Tebow was 17-of-33 for 154 yards and three touchdowns. He also ran for 57 yards and a score.

Harvin ran 13 times for 165 yards and a touchdown, and caught nine passes for 77 yards and a score.

It wasn't enough.

Florida failed to convert a fourth-down play at its 25 yard line, and K.C. Lopata's 41-yard field goal put Michigan ahead 41-35 with 2:21 remaining.

The Gators got another shot, but Tebow threw four straight incompletions to end any chance of a comeback.

"You definitely don't want to end the season on a losing note, so it definitely does take a little bit of the positive out of (the season)," Tebow said.

The Wolverines dumped a bucket of ice water on Carr in the closing seconds, then players started dancing around their retiring coach.

They also carried him to midfield for the postgame handshake and interviews. His players dropped him off and headed straight to the Michigan section for a raucous celebration — one they haven't had after a bowl game since beating Florida in the Outback Bowl.

"We couldn't ask for anything else," Hart said. "We were all happy for him. Any time we get a victory, we're always happy. But we knew it was his last game, the seniors' last game, and when we leave on top like that, it's awesome.

"Obviously it was emotional after the game. It's sad but happy. It was my last game in a Wolverines jersey and his last game coaching. We all had mixed emotions."

Carr announced his retirement Nov. 19, two days after another loss to Ohio State. Michigan hired Rich Rodriguez to replace him, and Rodriguez watched part of the game from the sideline and part from a private box, trying not to be a distraction.

Rodriguez probably liked what he saw. Michigan may have had an easier time with the Gators had it not been for the turnovers.

Hart, who had lost only one fumble in his career, fumbled twice inside the 5 yard line. Henne threw two interceptions.

The Gators, using a fake punt, tied the game at 28 following Hart's second fumble. They capitalized on Henne's second interception and took a 35-31 lead with 5:49 to play.

But it was short-lived.

Henne put Michigan ahead for good with his 18-yard strike to Arrington with 4:12 remaining. He was 3-for-3 passing for 61 yards on the four-play drive that included Arrington's juggling, one-handed catch along the sideline.

"I don't think we coached very well in certain areas," said Meyer, who lost for the first time in his last five bowl games.

The Wolverines had no concerns about their coaching after this one.

"He deserves so much and we really played our hearts out and put everything out on the field and let him go out the right way," Henne said.

Ainge leads Tennessee past Wisconsin in Outback Bowl

FRED GOODALL
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — As Outback Bowl MVP, Erik Ainge insisted on recognizing the contributions of his teammates.

"That isn't a one-man trophy," the Tennessee quarterback said after throwing for 365 yards and two touchdowns Tuesday to help the No. 16 Volunteers beat No. 18 Wisconsin 21-17 for their first 10-win season since 2004.

"It's like coach (Phillip) Fulmer said, that goes to the defense just as much as it does me," Ainge added. "Without them, all those stats don't mean anything."

Tennessee's defense improved dramatically following early-season losses to California and Florida. The unit stopped two fourth-quarter drives deep in Vols territory to finish off Wisconsin.

Antonio Wardlow's interception in the final minute ensured the outcome and helped erase unpleasant memories of a 10-point loss to Penn State in last year's Outback game. The Vols (10-4) improved to 8-7 in 15 bowl appearances under Fulmer.

"Even when we started 1-2 there was reason for optimism for our defense," said Fulmer, who watched his team rebound from the shaky start to win eight out of nine and earn a spot in the SEC championship game.

"We stopped giving people plays," the coach added. "Today we don't win that football game unless our defense has that kind of courage and toughness."

Tennessee played without six players who were declared academically ineligible, including defensive tackle Demonte Bolden, linebacker Rico McCoy and leading receiver Lucas Taylor, who had 73 receptions for 1,000 yards and five TDs this season.

Josh Briscoe took up the slack in the absence of Taylor, finishing with seven catches for 101 yards and one touchdown.

Wisconsin (9-4) was trying to join Michigan as the only Big Ten schools to beat Southeastern Conference opponents in bowl games three consecutive seasons. The Badgers are 9-4 in postseason appearances since 1993, with three of the losses coming in the Outback.

"There's a lot of things we can take from this game," Wisconsin coach Bret Bielema said. "To be able to be in a position that we were, and not come out with a win, it's a difference of little things along the way from the opening snap to the final snap there at the end."

The Badgers fell behind 21-7 before trimming the deficit to a touchdown on Tyler Donovan's 4-yard TD throw to Andy Crooks late in the first half. They pulled within 21-17 on a field goal, but didn't get anything out of drives to the Tennessee 10 and 36 in the fourth quarter.

Donovan shrugged off several big hits, including helmet-to-helmet contact when he dove into the end zone on a 6-yard first-quarter run, to completing 14 of 24 passes for 155 yards. He marched Wisconsin from his own 12 to the Vols 36 before overthrowing receiver Paul Hubbard on the clinching interception.

Bielema was upset about the officiating in general, but was particularly incensed that Tennessee wasn't penalized for Eric Berry's hit that left Donovan down on his back on the quarterback TD run.

Vikings RB Adrian Peterson named top offensive rookie

BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Adrian Peterson ran away with The Associated Press NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year voting the same way he surged past opposing tacklers this season.

The Minnesota Vikings running back, who set the league mark for rushing in a game with 296 yards in a 35-17 victory over San Diego, also had a 224-yarder in a win against Chicago. The key to Minnesota's improvement to an 8-8 record this season, he led the NFC with 1,341 yards rushing, second only to San Diego's LaDainian Tomlinson in the league. His 78 points on 13 touchdowns were second in the conference.

Those numbers, compiled in 14 games, and his overall impact — the Vikings struggled to pass the ball, yet were in the wild-card race until the final game — earned Peterson 46½ votes Wednesday from a nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the NFL. Cleveland tackle Joe Thomas was the only other player receiving votes, 3½.

"I added to things they already had," Peterson said. "I am a playmaker. That's why I say if there is anything I could do to put me out there, just put me out there.

"I wanted to come in and be a difference and help the team turn around. I came with the attitude to do whatever I had to do to get on the field."

Peterson was not a starter until the sixth game, a week after his big performance against the Bears. While veteran Chester Taylor opened the first five games and was coming off a strong year, it was clear that Peterson could be a difference-maker.

So coach Brad Childress had to turn him loose.

"From an early time, a week after the draft when we had about 50 free agents in here, you knew he was going to be a special guy," Childress said.

The seventh selection in the draft, Peterson brought some durability issues with him after suffering several injuries at Oklahoma. He did miss two games with a knee problem and wasn't particularly effective for much of December when he returned to the lineup.

But at his best, Peterson was as good as any rookie runner the league has seen; halfway through the schedule, he was on pace to break Eric Dickerson's rookie rushing record of 1,808 yards.

And even though he slowed because of the injury, Peterson had little competition for the award.

"I knew what I was bringing to the table. I'm pretty sure those guys knew by drafting me," Peterson said. "I came in with the attitude to just contribute any way I could. Get in game shape and be valuable to play."

Wagner taking over W. Carolina

The Associated Press

CULLOWHEE, N.C. — Dennis Wagner, Nebraska's offensive line coach the past four years, has been hired as head coach by Western Carolina University.

Western Carolina's athletic director, Chip Smith, announced the hiring of Wagner on Monday.

Wagner will take the place of Kent Briggs, who was moved to another job at the university after a 1-10 season in 2007.

Wagner was hired at Nebraska by Bill Callahan, who was fired at the end of the 2007 regular season by Husker legend Tom Osborne, who is now athletic director.

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Get wider
6 Stuck out
12 Tend the aquarium
14 Show up
15 Confection
16 Hot tubs
17 Ms. Balin of films
18 Well-worn
19 Closet need
21 Movie rat
23 Vapor
26 Filch
27 Feverish
28 Trial setting
30 Gobbled up
31 Energy
32 Goddesses' statues
33 Uxmal residents
35 Dune buggy kin
37 Morticia's cousin
38 Shorthand taker
39 Ocean
40 Gun grp.
41 Ms. Williams of films
42 Tropical snake
43 Farm enclosure
44 Mamma —!
46 Except
48 Cast members
51 Made amends
55 Christie sleuth
56 Aplenty
57 When mammals flourished
58 Row of shrubs

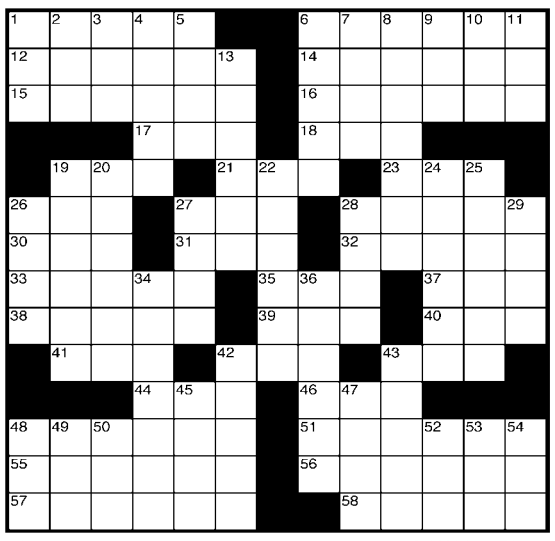
DOWN

1 "When We Was —"
2 Tolstoy's name
3 Aleta's son
4 Beyond zealous
5 007's alma mater
6 He jilted Medea
7 River in Asia
8 Moved wearily
9 Sardines holder
10 NASA
11 — Moines
13 Make possible
19 Turn on an axis
20 Complied
22 Texas border town (2 wds.)
24 Consecrate
25 Hot and humid
26 Collides with
27 — facto
28 "— Las Vegas!"
29 This, in Tijuana
34 From now on
36 Pekoe packet
42 Stitch loosely
43 Pocketed
45 Hair curler
47 Provo's place
48 Goodall subject
49 Sweet murmur
50 Muscle spasm
52 Non-verbal OK
53 Joule fraction
54 Scottish river

Answer to Previous Puzzle

T	O	L	E		T	A	B		N	A	D	A
O	D	O	R		U	M	A		O	R	A	L
M	E	N	U		F	I	R	E	S	A	L	E
	S	E	D	A	T	E		G	O	B	I	
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C	O	L	E		W	O	N	T		R	I	O
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M	E	S	A		A	W	L		Y	E	A	H

GET MORE in the new "**Just Right Crossword Puzzles**" series from Quill Driver. **Call 800-605-7176.**



1-2

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Woman's good fortune is reason to pay it forward



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am one of your faithful readers and have personally related to some of the problems that appear in your column. I have been particularly moved by letters in which people share their personal experiences regarding acts of kindness.

As a foster child, I was lucky to have been placed in a secure and loving home. I try each and every day to pass on the love that I have received (from both my biological family and my extended one) to the people I meet. It can be a gesture as simple as helping to carry someone's groceries to the car, or offering a ride to a mother with small children whose car has broken down or a parent pushing a stroller in the rain.

I hope I will be able to teach this trait to my children. I would like them to help others because it is the right thing to do, not because there is a benefit to be reaped.

So please, fellow readers, pay it forward. Help others not only because it feels good, but also teaches our kids that being a good person is its own reward. — ANDI IN ATLANTA

DEAR ANDI: Thank you for an "upper" of a letter. I am certain that you will pass along to your children the lesson of selfless giving because children learn by example. And lucky they are to have a parent like you.

* * *

DEAR ABBY: When is it OK to correct the mispronunciation of a word? I need to, but I'm not sure how to go about it.

My husband, "Rob," is an intelligent and educated man, but he has no idea how to pronounce some words that he uses on a daily basis. Most of these words pertain to Rob's hobby, which is saltwater aquariums, and I'm afraid his credibility is taking a beating because of it. He talks about his tank a lot. Rob knows what he's talking about, but he doesn't know how to say it. Should I say something to him? — TREADING WATER IN HAWAII

DEAR TREADING: It is no more "snobbish" to say to one's mate, "Honey, I love you, but you're mispronouncing that word," than to tell him that his zipper is open. It shows that you care. When you mention it, do it in private, and be sure to have a dictionary close by. After that, what he chooses to do about it is his choice.

* * *

DEAR ABBY: I was married in November, and one of my co-workers, "Brooke," attended the ceremony. Her gift to me was a vase. When we opened the box, my husband and I discovered that the vase was engraved with Brooke's and her husband's names and their wedding date. Tucked inside the vase was a card from the couple who had given it to them for their wedding.

How should I handle this? Should I return the vase to her, or ignore it and give it to Goodwill? — JENNIFER IN PORT ORCHARD, WASH.

DEAR JENNIFER: Neither. Remove the card, re-wrap the gift, and give it to Brooke on her next anniversary.

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.

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Frugal Living — Learn from your flops

BY SARA NOEL
United Media

After advocating frugality for years and sharing success stories, it's only fair that I mention that frugal strategies don't work equally well for everyone. Whether it's a spouse who's not on board, time restraints, good intentions gone bad or an unwillingness to pinch a penny until it screams, you're bound to take the occasional misstep.

Frugality isn't an all-or-nothing lifestyle. Pick and choose what works for you, experiment and try new things, or jump in with both feet and see where the journey takes you. The important part is acknowledging that, in this consumer-driven and wasteful society, we have options.

Readers often share their frugal failures. I've culled the most popular flops because they're entertaining, and they can guide others in what does and doesn't work.

HOMEMADE LAUNDRY SOAP: Although many people have had positive experiences and said it not only saved them money but outperformed retail laundry detergent, quite a few folks were not satisfied with the results. They reported the ingredients were difficult to find, the soap never had the consistency they wanted, clothing turned gray, it didn't work well with hard water, batches were too large to store and it ended up either a goopy mess or the ingredients collected dust on the shelves. My advice is to give it a try, but mix a smaller batch and test it on rags first.

HOME REMEDIES: Readers are often looking for home remedies for situations such as clogged drains, mild health issues and stain removal. These situations can be disastrous, dangerous and expensive when they go awry. Ask yourself whether you really want to mess around with your health, home repairs or expensive fabrics and clothing. One reader shared how she drank cranberry juice for what she thought was a bladder infection only to find herself in the emergency room.

SALES: Some people buy items because they are on sale or cheap, but they don't actually need them. Garage sales, for example, are fun and offer many great bargains, but if you're buying stuff that you don't need, you're spending money you could be saving. Learn to separate wants from needs and recognize your spending triggers.

Astrograph

Your Birthday

Thursday, Jan. 3

Get involved in as many group involvements as you can in the year ahead, because a great number of unique benefits will come from rubbing shoulders with the right crowd. The more people you know, the more options you'll have.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Because of your inclination to say one thing but mean another, events will prove to be a bit confusing to those with whom you share your day. Clarify your thinking before you speak.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You're a trifle gullible right now, and someone who recognizes this will attempt to distort some facts in the hopes of manipulating you. Make no judgment calls based upon hearsay.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) It is a mistake to focus your worth on material considerations. The most important rewards that the world has to offer cannot be financially evaluated.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Strive to deal with life realistically, especially concerning issues that pertain to your professional life or finances. Confine your thinking to what is concrete and countable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If you anticipate negative responses to matters that are personally important to you, you will do things in ways that would provoke exactly what you expect. Try to think positively.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Keep others out of your confidential affairs, even close friends. Their good intentions will end up being counterproductive.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Someone with whom you are closely associated will unintentionally create an embarrassing development for you unless you pick up on the warning signs and derail it. Be on your toes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) In order to expedite a matter of importance to you, you will be tempted to hasten an endeavor prematurely. Sadly, this will turn out to be a classic example of "haste makes waste."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Usually you strive to be as considerate as possible with people you like, but you will make demands on them that they're unable to fulfill. This will create an unpleasant state of affairs. Be careful.

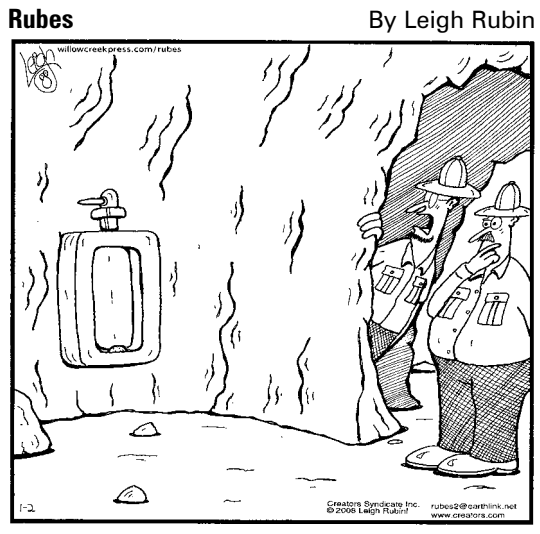
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Owing to last-minute indecisiveness on your part, you will subject yourself to unwarranted delays concerning a matter that is at its final stage. Make completion your goal, not postponement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Should you learn about some unkind things being said about you, the situation will be traced back to something unflattering you said about another. Unfortunately, we reap what we sow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You can come out ahead if you don't fall prey to taking ill-advised risks with your resources. Tune out wishful thinking or advice that comes straight from the uninformed.

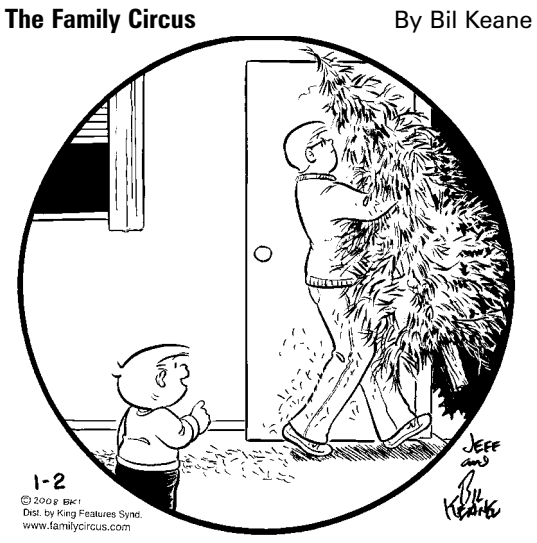
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Rubes By Leigh Rubin



"I'd say the archaeological evidence strongly suggests that the prehistoric occupants of this region stood upright."

The Family Circus By Bil Keane



"Oh, boy! Does this mean we don't have to be good anymore?"

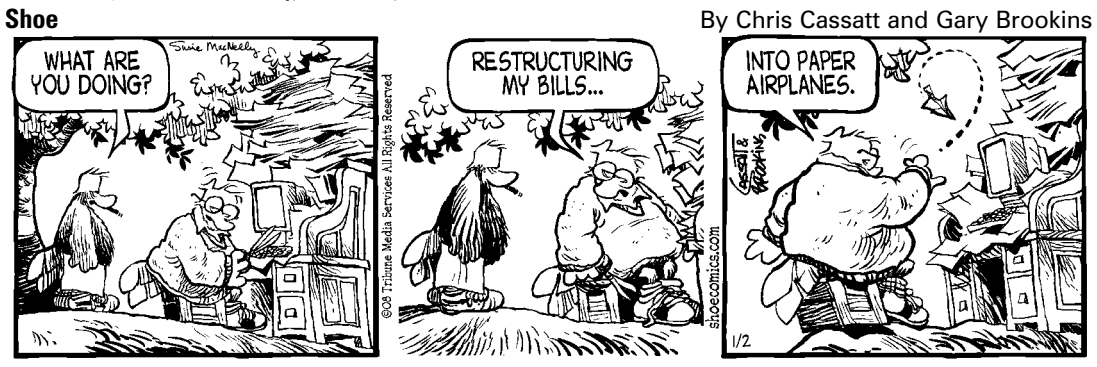
Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



Grizzwells By Bill Schorr



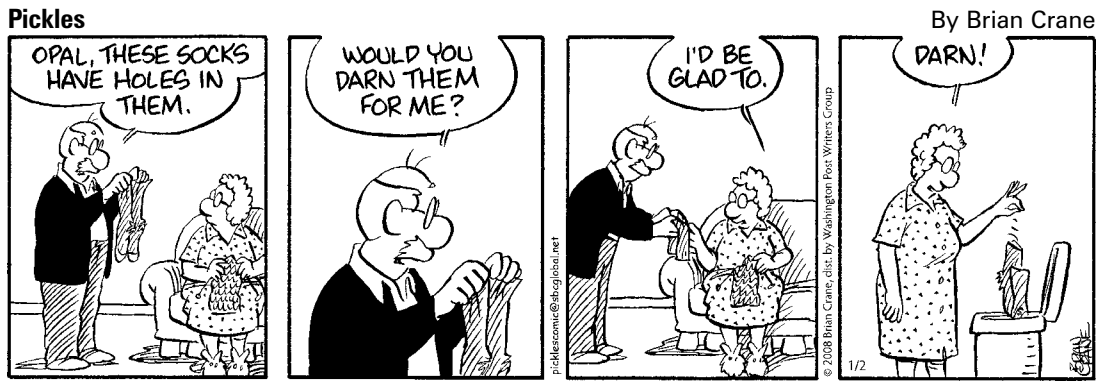
Shoe By Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



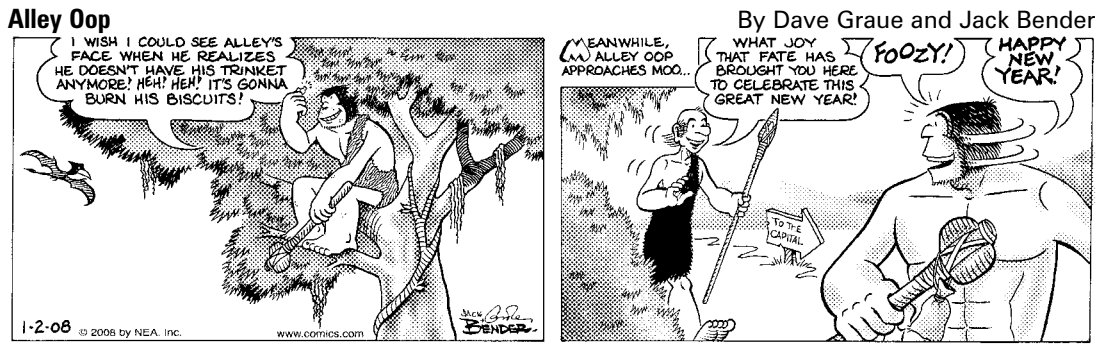
Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves



Pickles By Brian Crane



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Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



How to defend to mislead

On this deal Italian Giorgio Duboin won the prize for the best defense of 2007 from the International Bridge Press Association. Take his East hand in a point-a-board event, where overtricks are very important. (On every board, if your team scores more points than your opponents, you get one point. A tie gains half a point; a loss, zero.)



Phillip Alder

South was in three hearts. Your partner led the club king, dropping South's queen. West shifted to the diamond two. After declarer played low from the board, how would you have planned the defense? Do not think only about this trick, but also further down the deal's road.

South's light opening bid promised 11-15 points. With 16, he would have opened one club, strong and artificial. North's two-no-trump response was natural, inviting game.

Since West had the ace and king of clubs, Duboin (East) knew that South had the ace and queen of diamonds for his opening bid. So East put in his diamond eight.

Declarer won with his queen, cashed the diamond ace, and played a third diamond to East's king. East shifted to a spade, won on the board. South ruffed a club in his hand, then played a heart to dummy's king — Duboin ducked smoothly!

Declarer called for dummy's remaining heart, and East played his 10. South could have guaranteed his contract by playing his queen, but that would have cost an overtrick if West had the bare ace left, as seemed likely. So declarer played a low heart, going down one when West discarded. South lost one club, one diamond and three hearts.

North
♠ A K 3
♥ K 9
♦ J 6 3
♣ 10 8 7 6 2

West
♠ Q 10 9 5 4
♥ 4
♦ 10 5 2
♣ A K 4 3

East
♠ 8 7 6
♥ A J 10 6
♦ K 9 8
♣ J 9 5

South
♠ J 2
♥ Q 8 7 5 3 2
♦ A Q 7 4
♣ Q

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
			Pass
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 NT	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ K

Phillip Alder is a columnist for Newspaper Enterprise Association.



Sony Pictures Entertainment/*AP*

Alex Etel appears in a scene from "The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep."

Life in the loch

'Water Horse' star talks about filming Scottish movie in New Zealand

BETSY PICKLE
Scripps Howard News Service

Don't ask if you don't want to know.

As Angus in "The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep," Alex Etel rides on the mythical title creature, hanging on for dear life as his plus-sized friend carries him above and below the surface of a vast Scottish loch. But that's the movie, not real life.

"It was a jet ski with a big neck on the front of it," says Etel, describing his water mount. "I would sit on the neck acting like a fool, and there would be a stunt man driving the jet ski around."

The cast and crew weren't in Scotland for the water scenes. They were on the North Island of New Zealand at the facilities once inhabited by the "Lord of the Rings" films. And they didn't even use a natural body of water.

"They built a massive, massive tank out on the studio carpark," says Etel, 13. "I don't know why they would put it there, but the studios were big enough."

Etel, who lives in Manchester, England, was excited to win the lead in "The Water Horse," only his second film, now in theaters. He played the younger of two brothers who find a bag full of cash in director Danny Boyle's "Millions" when he was 8.

Filming "Millions" kept Etel close to home, so he was surprised when he learned that, aside from a few scenes in Scotland, he would be shooting "The Water Horse" in New Zealand.

"I was just shocked 'cause it's the other side of the world from where I live, so it was just weird for me," he says. "It's not the normal thing that people say, is it? 'We're going to go to New Zealand to film a film that you're going to be in (that's) supposedly in Scotland.' "

Etel has appeared in one British TV series since "Millions," but this is the first time he's had to do an accent. He worked with a vocal coach even though he has Scottish relatives.

"My granddad's Scottish, but he's a Glaswegian, so it's really noticeably different," he says.

Etel did many of his own stunts in "The Water Horse."

"I think Jay (Russell, the director) just trusted me to do all of them because I like doing things like that," he says. "I like doing all the harness work and stuff. I think he knew that I wanted to do them, and he knew that I would be unhappy if I didn't, so he doesn't want an unhappy actor on his set."

Etel doesn't know if he wants to be an actor when he grows up.

"I'm just taking it bit by bit at the minute and just seeing how much I like it," he says. "I'm only 13; I can make my mind up in a few years.

"I've never really thought of it as a job. It's just like a hobby-type thing."

He felt even less like an actor on "Millions."

"It was weird because I was only 8, so I didn't really know what I was doing," he says. "I was just turning up on a set. It was just a different place and a new experience for me, so it was good."

For now, Etel is interested in "sports and stuff." He's a Manchester United fan and likes such music acts as My Chemical Romance and Nelly. While he enjoys playing videogames between takes on set, at home he prefers to play outdoors.

He says he's outgrown the "cute" label he earned in "Millions."

"No one really says that anymore," says Etel. "They say, 'Oh, what happened?'

"I'm a bit older, and it's not the type of thing to say to a 13-year-old."

Except if the people saying he's cute are girls.

"I've had a few, just a few, people who've made comments," he admits. "That's a good thing. I like that part."

Name change for evolving network: Court TV now truTV

DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Court TV, R.I.P.

The network that burst into public consciousness with the O.J. Simpson trial and other big-name courtroom dramas in the 1990s became part of television history Tuesday, renamed truTV to emphasize its prime-time action programming.

Besides the name, there won't be many immediate changes to what Court TV has become. The six remaining hours of legal-oriented material during the day will remain, labeled "In Session."

The Tuesday premiere of "Ocean Force Huntington Beach O.C." typified the network's direction. The series follows lifeguards on a busy California beach, emphasizing heart-pounding rescues rather than hours spent ogling hot bodies.

That's about as far from swearing in a witness as you can get, but Court TV's viewers are used to the disconnect.

Court TV prime-time has emphasized non-fiction series like the long-running "Forensic Files" and newer shows like "The Real Hustle," which interviews pickpockets about tricks of the trade; the upcoming "Black Gold," about oil prospectors; and "Speeders," which shows tapes of people trying to talk their way out of speeding tickets.

That's part of an intensely competitive television world; "Black Gold" taps into the same fascination with grueling jobs as "Deadliest Catch" on Discovery and "Ice Road Truckers" on The History Channel, for example.

Now the network takes the risk of shedding an established brand for the unknown.

"It's a big concern," conceded Steve Koonin, president of Turner Entertainment Networks, which includes the soon-to-become truTV. "Court TV is a very well-defined programming entity. Unfortunately, it's not as broad and doesn't offer the growth opportunities, we believe, as starting anew."

Koonin oversaw the successful brandings of TNT and TBS. Those networks established clear identities — TNT is for drama, TBS does comedy — while keeping names that are essentially meaningless.

TruTV's identity will be fast-moving programming that tells real stories about real people. There's such a glut of reality programming with a wide range of styles that truTV is making an explicit point of rejecting the term.

TruTV isn't reality, its new slogan states. It's actuality.

"Reality has a connotation of not being real, of being phony," said Marc Juris, executive vice president and general manager of truTV. "We felt that because (our programming) was real, we couldn't call it reality."

"True" was a better word. Or ... tru, as it were.

Deciding to change the name wasn't that difficult, particularly since Turner executives, upon taking over in spring 2006, agreed it was necessary, Juris said.

Changing the identity of a network while keeping that specific a name is next to impossible, he said.

Williams is Letterman's first guest

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Robin Williams will be David Letterman's first guest upon the return of his "Late Show" on CBS today.

NBC's "Tonight" show said Monday that Republican presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee will appear on Jay Leno's first show back today.

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Retirement doesn't mean man slows down

KEITH RYDBERG
The Associated Press

BEATRICE — While Don Ewer will soon end his career of helping customers at Sack Lumber, he plans to continue his years of working with volunteer groups throughout the community.

Starting as a sales representative at Sack Lumber in 1985, Ewer has been the assistant manager at the store since 1995. Although he has an office behind the service counter, Ewer is often the first person customers see when they walk through the door.

Commenting that greeting customers is part of his job as assistant manager, he also joked that, by being an assistant manager, he doesn't have to be responsible for other employees at the store and also doesn't have to report to corporate headquarters.

"I enjoy working with people," Ewer said. "Another thing I have enjoyed about my job has been seeing some of my design plans on paper become houses constructed throughout the city. It's always interesting to see how they come out. There are always changes that are made, but it is still fun to see how it all goes together."

When he is not helping customers with their home improvement decisions at Sack Lumber, Ewer can often be seen at the Beatrice Speedway helping to operate the concession stand on behalf of the Beatrice Sertoma Club.

An active member of the Sertoma Club since moving to Beatrice in 1966, Ewer is quick to note he has had perfect attendance at the club meetings for more than 40 years.

He has also served as secretary and treasurer of the Beatrice chapter for 36 years along with serving in other capacities as needed.

"At one time or another, I've served in about every office in the club," Ewer said.

Sports fans may also remember Ewer as a baseball and softball coach with Youth Recreation Inc. from 1966 to 1996 and as a longtime board member of that organization. While he no longer coaches teams, Ewer continues to assist YRI by finding volunteers to handle measurements for first down yardage in junior varsity and varsity football games, something he has done for 20 years.



MARY ALTAFFER/*AP*

Laurin Maazel conducts the Metropolitan Opera orchestra during a rehearsal Dec. 26 at the Metropolitan Opera house in New York.

Maazel back at the Met

CONDUCTOR RETURNS TO OPERA AFTER ABSENCE OF NEARLY 45 YEARS

RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Lorin Maazel walked down a basement hallway shortly before 11 a.m., was introduced to the orchestra, said hello and started straight into the prelude from Wagner's "Die Walkuere."

Just like that, he ended an absence of nearly 45 years from the Metropolitan Opera.

When he conducts the opening of the revival on Jan. 7, it will be his first appearance at the Met since January 1963 — when he was 32 years old and the Met was still at the old house down on 40th Street. The company believes Maazel's absence is the longest gap between appearances for an individual in its history.

"At that time I don't think there was anybody as young as I am in the orchestra. Now I don't think there's anyone as old in the orchestra as I am," the 77-year-old maestro said after Wednesday's opening orchestra rehearsal. "It's not that I wasn't asked before. But what they proposed was either not to my liking, or I wasn't free."

Maazel will be the first person to conduct at the Met while serving as music director of the New York Philharmonic since Leonard Bernstein led a new production of Verdi's "Falstaff" in 1964. In between opera performances, Maazel will be across Lincoln Center's plaza conducting his own orchestra at Fisher Hall.

His instructions to the Met orchestra were short and precise: This note shorter, than one longer. This one louder, that one softer. No grand pronouncements.

Maazel thinks the sound of the two groups will be pretty much the same when he conducts, although he disdains comparisons, calling them "odious."

"I always thought that a conductor has a sound picture," he said. "In any given work, I can get three or four or five orchestras to respond in a way that is so identical that you could exchange — you wouldn't know that it's Berlin or Vienna or New York. You would know that it's maestro Maazel."

Maazel has conducted opera mostly in Europe. He because the first American to conduct at Germany's Wagner festival in Bayreuth (1960). He led the Deutsche Oper Berlin (1965-71) and the Vienna State Opera (1982-84) and is in his second season as music director at the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia, Spain, where he led Verdi's "Don Carlo" last Friday before flying to Virginia for a Christmas break at his farm. He got up at 4 a.m. to travel to New York in time for the rehearsal.

When he first conducted at the Met, he led 16 appearances in Mozart's "Don Giovanni" and Strauss' "Der Rosenkavalier." from Nov. 1, 1962, to Jan. 19, 1963.

Orchestra seats were $11 back then. They run as high as $275-$295 for his five performances of "Die Walkuere," depending on the day.

Just five members of the Met orchestra remain from then, and only three of those are playing "Walkuere" this season: violinists Sandor Balint and Raphael Feinstein, and violist Marilyn Stroh.

Balint thought Maazel was low-key and had a relaxed confidence about him, both then and now.

"I certainly remember the first rehearsals that we had with him. A lot of the older members of the orchestra at that time wondered whether he had enough opera experience to conduct an opera as complex as 'Rosenkavalier,'" Balint said. "We were all very pleasantly surprised at the very first rehearsal that he was really very well-prepared and he either had been carefully instructed in the opera or just simply, naturally knew how to do it. All our fears

Medical Center's tai chi class helps seniors prevent falls

MEREDITH GARDNER
The Associated Press

GRAND ISLAND — After suffering from a spinal tumor and heart problems, 84-year-old Letha Sonnenfelt of Grand Island had trouble breathing and problems with her back. But a free class provided by St. Francis Medical Center, Movement Improvement tai chi, has helped her feel significantly better.

Sonnenfelt attended the class once a week for three months during the summer and fall, and now does tai chi on her own at home almost every day using a DVD.

"I have gotten a lot stronger since I've been doing that," she said. "My strength has really increased, so I know it's helped me a lot. It makes me more flexible."

And Sonnenfelt is just one of the class's many success stories since it began in April, said Ed Nickel, St. Francis trauma nurse coordinator.

"We really are seeing some positive results with it," he said.

Falls are the No. 1 reason why people visit the emergency room, Nickel said, and the class was created using a grant as part of St. Francis' community outreach to try to lower that statistic.

"We thought ... we need to do something for our seniors," Nickel said.

After doing some research, Nickel decided to start up the Movement Improvement series of tai chi classes, which have been shown to help build strength, flexibility and balance in those who attend.

Tai chi is a series of postures and exercises developed in China as a system of self-defense and an aid to meditation. It is characterized by slow, relaxed, circular movements.

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Victim's words to be used in trial

WOMAN PREDICTED SHE'D BE KILLED BY HER HUSBAND

CARRIE ANTLFINGER
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Julie Jensen will essentially testify from the grave when her husband's murder trial begins this week.

Shortly before her death in 1998, Jensen told police, a neighbor and her son's teacher that she suspected her spouse was trying to kill her, court documents show. She gave a letter to the neighbor that said that if she died, Mark Jensen should be the first suspect.

"I pray I'm wrong + nothing happens ... but I am suspicious of Mark's suspicious behaviors + fear for my demise," she wrote.

Until recent years, using such evidence in court was virtually unheard of because of constitutional guarantees that give criminal defendants the right to confront their accusers.

But the Wisconsin Supreme Court created new rules, prompted by a U.S. Supreme Court decision that laid the groundwork for her accusatory letter and statements to police to be used as evidence in the trial.

At a hearing this summer, it was determined the letter and statements to police should be allowed at trial. Jury selection begins Thursday; opening statements were scheduled for Monday.

The hearing gave a glimpse of what both sides would argue.

The prosecution alleges that Mark Jensen, now 48, poisoned his wife with at least two doses of ethylene glycol, commonly used as antifreeze, so he could be with his girlfriend, now his wife. They argue he got the information on poisoning from doing Web searches.



AP

In this undated file photo provided by the family, Julie C. Jensen and her husband, Mark D. Jensen, are seen in Pleasant Prairie, Wis. Jury selection starts Thursday, for Mark Jensen, 48, accused of poisoning to death his wife Julie Jensen in 1998 with antifreeze. Opening statements were expected Monday.

The defense counters that a depressed and disturbed 40-year-old Julie Jensen did the Internet searches and poisoned herself — to frame her cheating husband.

Special Prosecutor Robert Jambois wouldn't comment on his case. Defense lawyers didn't return a call for comment.

Julie Jensen was found dead in her Pleasant Prairie home in Dec. 3, 1998. Mark Jensen was not charged until 2002, and legal wrangling over evidence delayed the trial.

In March 2004, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a 1980 case that laid out complex rules about when statements can be used without the opportunity for cross-examination. The court said the case complicated a part of the Constitution that guarantees a criminal defendant the right to confront his accusers.

Kenosha County Judge Bruce Schroeder then ruled the letter and voice mails to police were inadmissible, but testimony of the neighbor and teacher could be allowed. Prosecutors appealed and the state Supreme Court ruled previously inadmissible testimony could be used if a judge determined the defendants' actions prevented the witnesses from testifying.

After the hearing this summer, Schroeder decided it was reasonable to believe that Mark Jensen's actions prevented his wife from testifying.

Marquette University Law Professor Dan Blinka said the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturned 24 years of precedent, leaving states and lower federal courts to make sense of the new rules.

Each state has had to deal with the new rules, and their decisions on how to interpret them vary, he said.

"Every criminal prosecution features some use of hearsay evidence against a criminal defendant and the problem for prosecutors and for trial courts and for defense lawyers is to figure out what the boundaries are," he said.

Among the witnesses expected to testify is Tadeusz Wojt, the neighbor Julie Jensen gave the letter to and one of several people she talked to about her marital problems.

During a hearing, he described Julie Jensen as a perfect mom who spent most of her days with her two sons, jumping and laughing in the yard and swimming in the pool.

Wojt said that about two weeks before her death, she told him and his wife that she found syringes in their bedroom. She said the next day her husband tried to force her to drink wine. She suspected he was trying to get her drunk so he could inject her with something, he said.

"He was like going after her from one room to another, pushing her to drink it, to drink it," he testified.

One of Julie Jensen's four brothers, Paul Griffin, said he expects closure from the trial. "I am very strongly confident that the right outcome will happen," he said.

Nation

RICHES RETURNED

NORWICH, Conn. — Reggie Damone just wanted to jot down a phone number when he picked up what he thought was litter on a sidewalk this week. But what he found was an envelope containing a $185,000 check.

Damone, who receives food stamps and works at McDonald's, said he didn't think twice about trying to cash it. Instead, the 47-year-old took a bus Monday from his Jewett City home to a bank and returned the check. He was thanked with a $50 bill.

Damone said he was never tempted to try to cash it and splurge.

He says he remembered his mother's words: If you take something, you lose three times that amount — and if you do something good, something good comes back to you.

JUMP ENDS PURSUIT

CORONADO, Calif. — A man being chased by authorities grabbed a police dog and leaped off a bridge, taking the animal with him into the cold San Diego Bay 200 feet below.

The dog died after the fall from the San Diego-Coronado Bridge, but the fugitive survived and was in serious condition Tuesday with a collapsed lung.

The 27-year-old man will be charged with causing the dog's death, driving under the influence and evading police, authorities said.

The pursuit began Monday evening after an Oceanside police officer saw the man driving a pickup erratically. The officer, accompanied by a 6-year-old Belgian Malinois named Stryker, ordered the driver to stop, but he refused, officials said.

The man led police on a chase on Interstate 5 and onto the bridge, where he stopped and the officer released the dog.

Classified Ads

We accept cash, check or money order
VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER or AMERICAN EXPRESS.

Open 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

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

402-461-1241 800-742-6397
Fax: 402-461-4657

Deadlines for Classified Line Ads

RUN DAY	DEADLINE	RUN DAY	DEADLINE
Monday	Noon Friday	Thursday	10 a.m. Wednesday
Tuesday	10 a.m. Monday	Friday	10 a.m. Thursday
Wednesday	10 a.m. Tuesday	Saturday	9 a.m. Friday

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

1 Card of Thanks

We want to thank everyone for all the flowers, food, money, cards given for George's memorial; the doctors, hospital and Perkins; ladies at the church for the lunch. May God bless you all!
The Vap Family
Annette
Allen, Mary, K.T.
Bruce, Jackie, Matthew
Vanessa and P.J. Schutte
Gary, Casey and Madison

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

4 Special Notices

DOWNTOWN DIVAS inventory for sale. 402-463-8140 after 4 p.m.

SELLING YOUR Car, truck, boat or van? Ask about our Statewide and Worldwide advertising Network. Then call 461-1241 and talk to one of our sales people. We can help sell your item fast. Open 7:45 to 5:00 Monday through Friday.

Tribune Classified
908 West 2nd • 461-1241

Sudoku

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/02

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

MONDAY'S ANSWERS

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

Difficulty Level ★ 12/31

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Classified Ads Sell It Fast!

20 Automobiles

KERSHNER'S AUTO KORNER
A&A AUTO RENTALS, Inc.
www.kershnersautokorner.com

'06 Trailblazer LS: 4x4, maroon, 32,xxx miles, power seat. Books at $19,575. Cash.....$16,975
'06 Impala LT: 3500 V-6, white, 30,xxx miles, nice. $15,475. Cash.....$13,975
'06 Pontiac Cobalt LT: 2-door, 5-speed, blue, 41,xxx miles. Was $13,950. Cash.....$11,975
220 West South Street
402-461-3161

NORTHSIDE AUTO

16th/St. Joe • 463-8008
www.northsideautoinc.net

2000 CHEVY Suburban LT: 4x4, pewter, leather. 95,000 miles.....Sale Price $11,750
2001 CHEVY Suburban LT: 4x4, white, loaded, mint!....Sale Price $12,450
2000 FORD F-250: Diesel, XLT, 4x4, 7.3, clean.....$14,250
2002 CHEVY Silverado LT: Extended cab, 4x4, silver, leather, nice!..$14,250

Above Par Cars
911 W. Highway 6
402-461-3004
aboveparcars.biz

2002 CHEVY Malibu LS: Special Price.....$6,995
THE CAR LOT
East Highway 6

2004 GMC: 1-ton, crew cab, dually, 4x4, Duromax.....$20,000
2002 CHEVROLET: Short box, 4x4, 8-ft. Western snow blade $9,000
2004 CHEVROLET: 3/4-ton cargo van, V-6, automatic.....$6,500

Deveny Motors
1013 S. Burlington
402-462-2719

20 Automobiles

ANDERSON

JERRY SPADY
www.spady.com
402-463-4000

KENESAW MOTOR CO.

FRONTIER FORD
1-800-527-8041

dinsdaleauto.com
Dinsdale

Hajny's
AUTO SALES
2005 CHEVY Malibu LT: 4-door, V-6, full power, nice car, only 35,000 miles. **$8,950.**
2003 CHEVY Cavalier: 2-door, 4-cylinder, automatic, sunroof. **$4,950.**
463-2636

Hoskins Auto Sales
We Buy, Sell and Consign
Highway 6/Hastings Ave.
Hastings, NE 463-1466
Trumbull, NE 743-2255

Jackson's Car Corner
463-0655
See our selection of FUEL ECONOMY cars at jacksonscarcorner.com

YES! We will tow away unwanted vehicles. McMurray Motors, 462-6879.

22 2-wheel Drive Pickups

Jackson's Car Corner
463-0655
See our truck selection at jacksonscarcorner.com

23 4-wheel Drive Pickups

2005 CHEVROLET 1500: Crew cab, Silverado, 4x4, LS, fully equipped, 1 owner.
Hi-Line Motors, Kenesaw
402-752-3498
www.hilinemotors.com

36 Travel Trailers & Motor Homes

Hastings Motor Sales
Dykeman's Camper Place
A PLACE WHERE WE MAKE IT FUN TO DO BUSINESS
Burlington and Highway 6
Call 463-1338
www.dykemanscamper.com

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

38 Motorcycles & ATVs

SUPERIOR OUTDOOR YAMAHA
Superior, NE • 800-333-5161
www.superioroutdoorpower.com

NEW 110cc ATV big kids 4-wheeler. $600. Call 402-469-0703.

47 Financial/ Loans

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

48 Business Opportunities

IF YOU want to change your lifestyle to your dream lifestyle in 6 months, then call me to get started working from home and do just that. Investment required. Call 308-962-4587.

50 Employment Agencies

ADVANCE SERVICES
Employment Opportunities
213 S. Burlington
463-6685

51 Professional

BLUE VALLEY FOODS, Inc. in Hebron, Nebraska is looking for a new Quality Control/Quality Assurance manager to supervise the food safety and sanitation program. A bachelor's degree is required and/or 5 years of experience.
Contact:
susiewiedel@kantnergroup.com
or call 402-768-6131, extension 100.

53 Health Care

CNA/MED AIDE: Ready for a change of pace or a new job? Come join our team of caregivers at Blue Hill Care Center. Full- or part-time, day and evening shifts available. Check us out. Call 756-2080 or apply at 414 N. Willson, Blue Hill. E.O.E.

GRAND ISLAND VETERANS' HOME
Infection Control RN
#257-07558
Quality Assurance RN
#257-07017
Restorative Care Aide
#257-07422
IMMEDIATE OPENINGS
Permanent full time
Generous benefit package
Apply online at wrk4neb.org, or send State of Nebraska application:
2300 W. Capital Ave.
Grand Island, NE 68803
308-385-6252, ext. 207
EOE/V

PART-TIME RN needed to supervise med aids in assisted living facility. Call 402-463-6021.

WANTED: Dental assistant, 3 days per week. Send resume to: David Berkheim, DDS, P.O. Box 594, Sutton, NE 68979.

54 Office/Clerical

ADAMS COUNTY
Register of Deeds Office
Office clerk position, 35 hours per week. Excellent benefit package. Apply in person at 500 N. Denver, Hastings. People skills a must; attention to detail; mapping helpful; multi tasking; typing and computer skills. EOE

56 Restaurant

THE MiLL in Deweese is looking for full- and part-time positions...great starting wage plus tips. Management position possible. Call 402-262-2425 or 402-262-2440.

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

57 Technical & Trade

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

SERVICE TECHNICIAN
Progressive John Deere Dealership is now hiring for a mobile service technician at our Hastings location. Experience in tractors and combines will earn top salary. Mechanical experience and knowledge required. Great environment with a fully-equipped late model Dodge diesel with service body. Quality ownership now in its 4th generation. Benefits include: 401k, profit sharing, health and dental insurance and incentive plan. Send resume to:
ryan@samuelsonequipment.com
402-463-1339

58 Ag Related

YEAR-ROUND FARM and ranch help: Housing available. 308-485-4834.

60 General

29 SERIOUS people wanted to work from home using a computer. $500 to $5,000 part-/full-time. www.earnathomebiz.com

GROCERY STOCKER
Allen's has a full-time stocker position available for a fast, friendly, energetic individual. Early morning shift. Excellent starting wage and working conditions in our exceptionally clean store. Company benefits include paid vacation, holidays, birthday, sick pay, Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance, life insurance, dental insurance, AFLAC, Cafeteria Plan plus valuable employee merchandise discount. Apply office.

1115 W. 2nd St., Hastings

A HOT Bargain can be found here today.

60 General

FOX HOLLOW Motel in Sutton, NE, needs manager for 17 rooms. Very nice living quarters. Cell, 1-562-260-0635, ask for Ron.

23 PEOPLE needed to lose 5-100 pounds!
All Natural
100% Guaranteed
FREE SAMPLES!
Call 1-800-997-5673 or www.energyforu.com

HOLIDAYS GOT YOU BROKE?
$1,000 HIRING BONUS
Full and part time positions
Available now!
$475 - $525 per week
Plus Bonuses.
Call 308-234-5025

LITTLE MIRACLES Day Care in Doniphan has opening for full-time infant care giver. Call 402-845-2766, ask for Amy.

NEED CARE provider in my home for 1 child. 7:45 p.m. to 7 a.m. 461-3013.

WAREHOUSE LABORER II
Linweld, Inc., a leading manufacturer, processor and distributor of welding gases and supplies, has an immediate opening in the Warehouse at their Hastings, NE facility. Duties include receiving, storing, pumping, selling, and distributing gas cylinders and merchandise within the establishment and onto distribution trucks. This position will also back up the route drivers, make deliveries as needed, and assist with inside sales. A Class B CDL with Hazmat endorsement or the ability to obtain one is required. Linweld will help with this process if necessary. Please apply online at http://autohire.careershop.com/linweldDOT. No resumes please. We will be accepting applications through 1/4/08. Contact Tracy at 402-786-2161, opt. 4 for more details. Linweld is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

60 General

APARTMENT MANAGER: Grand Island. Living quarters and small salary. Some maintenance experience. Retired or couples encouraged to apply. Call Rick, 402-461-1907 or 308-384-5858.

DUE TO increased business, Ampride South at 1410 West "J" St. has full or part-time positions available on all shifts. A shift differential is available to overnight employment. **Full** benefit package plus 4¢ per gallon gas discount for full-time employees. **Immediate start**. Applications available at Ampride South, located at 1410 West "J" St. **Come work for the Best!**

61 Part Time

DO YOU want to earn some extra cash and meet people in a fun atmosphere while you're working? The MiLL in Deweese is looking for part-time help...GREAT starting wage plus tips. Call 402-262-2425, 402-262-2440.

61 Part Time

MED AIDE: On-call position. Champion Homes, 402-463-6021.

PART-TIME COOK for assisted living facility, Monday-Friday, 4-6 p.m. Call 402-463-6021.

SELF-Motivated Housekeeper for assisted living facility, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. 463-6021.

62 Child Care

EMPLOYEE TO work maternity leave, 6-8 weeks, 9-5, Monday-Friday. Part-time also available at Gingerbread Daycare. Apply at 2201 W. Second Street.

70 Pets

9-WEEK-OLD female black Chihuahua puppy with white/brindle. $50. 463-6994 or 402-705-6139

ADVERTISE 16 words for 27 days in the At Your Service section of the Tribune and 4 weeks in the Encore! for only $46 monthly. Call (402) 461-1241 for details.

MOSAIC

at Bethphage Village/Axtell
Is now hiring a **Unit nurse.** Day shift, hours vary between 6a and 6p as needed.

Competitive wages, great benefits, tuition assistance.

For an application please contact:
Linda Fecht
Human Resources Manager
P.O. Box 67, Axtell, NE 68924
308-743-2401 Ext. 112;
linda.fecht@mosaicinfo.org

The Genuine. The Original.

OVERHEAD DOOR®

Grand Island Nebraska Division
Second Shift Supervisor

Would you like the opportunity to expand your responsibility and to grow through a new experience? Then **come & join our team!** Overhead Door Corporation is a leading manufacturer in the Door & Operator Industry. We are looking for an **experienced manufacturing supervisor.** Responsible for directing and coordinating assigned departments according to production schedule, to achieve on time delivery of a quality product in a safe operation. Strong teamwork skills and the ability to work efficiently toward common goals desired. Excellent benefits. **Above average salary.**

Please send current resume to :
Attn.: Human Resources
Overhead Door Corporation
P.O. Box 2007
Grand Island, NE, 68801

Overhead Door is an Equal Employment Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer M/F/D/V

76 Furnishings

RECLINER/LIFT CHAIR: 1 year old, used very little. $500. 308-830-1827, days; 308-563-2504, nights.

77 Appliances

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

79 Computers

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

91 Good Things To Eat

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

94 Miscellaneous

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

96 Want To Buy

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

PAYING 62¢/pound for aluminum cans, plus buying aluminum, copper, brass, catalytic converters, electric motors and paying $5 each for junk batteries. Junkman's Recycling, 100 E. 8th St., Kearney, NE 308-236-8996.

100 Unfurnished Apartments

1- 2- and 3-BEDROOM apartments available. Appliances, parking. 463-6686 or 469-3382.

1-, 2-, 3-, 4-BEDROOM: Air, garage. $350, $450, $600. 461-3213/461-4206.

1-BEDROOM: Appliances, new paint/carpet. $240, 1/3 utilities. 402-751-2737.

2-BEDROOM: 1510 N. Lincoln. $350. No pets. Nice area. 461-4075.

3101 VILLAGE DRIVE: Very nice 1-bedroom. No smoking/pets. References. 970-590-1611.

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

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

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

HAVE A Building, garage or shed to rent? Advertise it in the Tribune Classified ads.

100 Unfurnished Apartments

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

CHATEAU IMPERIAL
Townhomes and Apartments
Call Jeff Today
402-463-4111

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT GROUP
402-461-4902

CLEAN, UNIQUE, large apartment: 460-6922. Photos at: cicadadwellings.com

Downtown Location: 2-bedroom. $400. Call Diane 463-8181, 469-4777.

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.

NICE 2-BEDROOM in Hastings: Move-in ready. New paint/carpet. No pets. Lease. Off-street parking. $400. 402-756-6623.

ONE MONTH FREE and only $99 SECURITY DEPOSIT! Regency Heights Apts. Large floor plans, complete kitchens, on-site laundry, controlled entry. You pay only electricity! VISA/MasterCard. New manager, Patti at 1-800-322-4781, will be glad to give you a tour.
www.perryreid.com

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

101 Furnished Apartments

$149.95/WEEK
Rainbow Motel
402-463-2989, 926-6252
TV, HBO, telephone, microwave, refrigerator, wireless internet, in-room coffee, hairdryer, maid, restaurant nearby. No credit check/deposit. Pets allowed. Clean. Low daily/monthly rate available. 1000 West J, Hastings

102 Duplexes For Rent

2-BEDROOM: 2-bath, deluxe kitchen with self-clean appliances, utility room with washer and dryer, 2-car attached garage. $600 plus deposit. 463-1136

102 Duplexes For Rent

3-BEDROOM: 1235 N. Lexington. No smoking/pets. $465. 402-462-2190.

3121 PARKLANE Drive: Beautiful 2-bedroom +. 2-car garage. No smoking/pets. Need references. 970-590-1611.

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.

MEADOWS TOWNHOUSES: Winter special! 3-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath, dishwasher, walk-in closets, washer/dryer hookups, attached garage. No pets. $475/$450. 344 and 348 Walden Circle. NIFA guidelines. EHO. Housing vouchers welcome. A must see! 402-984-9663 U.S. Property.

104 Houses For Rent

1-BEDROOM HOME: 406 1/2 S. Chicago. Private off-street parking. $350 rent/deposit. No smoking/pets. 402-984-3327.

2-3-BEDROOM: 522 E. 5th. No pets. Deposit. Ready 1/1/08. 463-9748.

2-BEDROOM, 2-bath: No pets. $490/$490. References. 463-3096.

2-BEDROOM: 522 S. Sewell. Appliances, air. No pets. References. $400. 463-0688.

2-BEDROOM: 921 W. 10th. $400/month. No pets. Nice area. 461-4075.

2-BEDROOM: Clean. $500. No smoking/pets. Agent owned. 1122 Hewett. 984-2198.

2-BEDROOM: Wood floors, appliances, garage. Some pets. 461-6503.

3-BEDROOM: 1612 W. 4th. Garage. $495. No smoking/pets. 463-2581.

3-BEDROOM: Appliances. No pets/smoking. References and credit report required. 402-463-7153.

3-BEDROOM: In Prosser. 2-car garage, large yard. 308-380-4612.

3-BEDROOM: Wood floors, large yard. Some pets. $550. 461-6503.

714 West E: 2-bedroom. Clean. Garage. No pets/smoking. Licensee owned. 984-2198.

AVAILABLE NOW: 2315 W. 6th. 2-bedroom. $425. 463-2460 or 460-7292.

NEAR-NEW HOME: 2-bedroom, 2-bath, 9-ft. ceilings, main floor laundry, 2-car garage. $975 per month. 469-0733.

NEWLY REMODELED: 2-bedroom with appliances. 1618 Bateman. 984-4270

105 Mobile Homes For Rent

1-BEDROOM: $325; 2-bedroom, $525. Free water, trash and cable. Kingswood Plaza, Hastings. 1-888-880-8510.

3-BEDROOM, 2-bath: Nice, clean park, #17 K & K Plaza. $525 rent, $350 deposit. Blue Ribbon Homes, 402-463-2421.



PATRICK MARKLE
Providing service in real estate you can count on.
FREE MARKET ANALYSIS AVAILABLE
COLDWELL BANKER
TOWN & COUNTRY REALTY OF HASTINGS, INC.
463-4591
700 East Side Blvd.
Serving the area since 1961.

106 Shared Living

MALE LOOKING for male housemate. Call 463-2246.

108 Office Space

NEW BUILDING: Up to 2,900 sq. ft., main. 7th/St. Joe. 462-0594, agent.

OFFICE SPACE
Single office, double office, up to 4 office suites available. Very nice. Conference and meeting room available. 461-4100.
Landmark Center

109 Business Property

A/Woodland: 25'x30'x14' shops, heat, bath, 12'x12' door. 462-0594, agent.

APPROXIMATELY 2,000 sq. ft., office or retail space. Would subdivide. 1008 W. 2nd. 469-0994.

111 Storage/ Warehouse

5,000 SQ. FT.: Office, manufacturing. $500 per month. 461-1785.

HEATED SHOP for rent, 25'x30'. Call Diane, 469-4777.

NEW STORAGE Units: 10'x10', 10'x20', 10'x40'. T&M, 402-462-6330.

116 Houses For Sale

3-BEDROOM, 2-bath ranch. Joyce Schlachter, Broker, 402-462-5794.

RE/MAX FIRST CHOICE
402-462-2525
www.hastingsremax.com

HUSKER AUCTION & REAL ESTATE, INC.
Ron Skrdla, Broker 463-5995

ADVANCED REALTY INC
Kathy Tessman, Broker, 463-3555

Benchmark IV Real Estate
463-2361
2727 W. 2nd Street, Suite 336

HOME
Darla Brown, Broker
461-6930

COLLEGE AREA: 3-bedroom, fireplace, new furnace/air/roof. 1106 University. $69,900. 461-1785.

LET US design and build a new home for you or see our existing homes in Hastings' finest areas.

JOHNSON IMPERIAL
Your **"GREEN"** Builder
2727 West 2nd - 461-4100

118 Mobile Homes For Sale

2 AND 3-BEDROOM homes for sale. Owner financing available. Blue Ribbon Homes, 463-2421.

2-BEDROOM: 2-bath, completely remodeled in/out, carport. 469-4777.

2-DOUBLE WIDES located in K & K Plaza. 3-bedrooms, 2-baths, lot 18 and lot 33. Financing available. Blue Ribbon Homes, 402-463-2421.

119 Residential Lots

LAKEVIEW LOTS: Lake Hastings. Agent/owner, Alan Anderson, 461-1785.

121 Business Property

RAMBLING ROSE, Bladen Bar & Grill. Max Realty 402-461-3333

122 Investment Property

INVESTMENT PROPERTIES: 201 and 203 N. Bellevue. Each a triplex in good traffic area. Great occupancy. Call Gateway Realty, 402-463-4561.

130 Auction Sales

PARR AUCTION
Dave Parr, associate, Gateway Realty. 756-6135

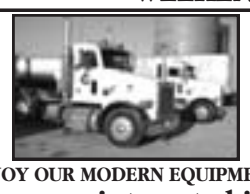
RANDY RUHTER, Auctioneer and Broker, 2837 W. Hwy. 6, Hastings, NE, 402-463-8565.

Ruhter Auction and Realty Inc.

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Gottsch Transport is looking for motivated, dependable & disciplined full & part-time team players to work within our company.

BOTH FULL TIME AND PART-TIME NIGHT AND WEEKEND DRIVERS NEEDED



Our full-time benefit package includes health, dental and life insurance, 401K, Flex plan and pay incentives.

ENJOY OUR MODERN EQUIPMENT

If you are interested in a rewarding career with us call Troy @ (402) 469-4150 or (402) 751-2215.

50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Mid America Bio Energy & Commodities, L.L.C.

Mid America Bio Energy and Commodities is seeking self-motivated employees for its ethanol production facility in Cambridge, Nebraska.

Lead Operator- Minimum 2 years ethanol plant experience required. $20.00 - $25.00 an hour (based upon experience), plus full benefits.
Operator- Minimum 1 year ethanol plant experience preferred. $17.00 - $20.00 an hour (based upon experience), plus full benefits.
Lab Technician- Minimum 3 years ethanol or related field lab experience. $18.00 - $22.00 an hour (based upon experience), plus full benefits.
Maintenance Electrician- Industrial electricians with 4+ year's experience. 4-20ma instrumentation and controls experience required. Nebraska Class A Journeyman license or equivalent. $20.00 - $25.00/hour (based upon experience) plus full benefits.
Maintenance Welder - Maintenance welders with 4+ year's experience. MIG, TIG and ARC welding experience with certifications preferred. Industrial maintenance experience with mechanical, electrical or boiler background a plus. $20.00 - $25.00/hour (based upon experience) plus full benefits.
Maintenance Technician- Maintenance technicians with 4+ year's experience. Industrial pump, boiler and electrical experience a plus. $18.00 - $23.00/hour (based upon experience) plus full benefits.

Please mail, fax, or e-mail a cover letter and resume stating your qualifications to:

Mid America Bio Energy
c/o Summer Parker
P.O. Box 1655
North Platte, NE 69103
Fax: 308-696-0964
sparker@mabe-ethanol.com

Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech, a leading-edge, fast-paced, technology service provider is seeking an employee for the following position

Combination Technician –Courtland, KS –

This individual will work network service orders from the central office to the customer premise. Duties will include mainframe and wiring; cable installation and splicing; installation and removal of network interface, inside wiring, jacks, and CPE; locating cable; and disconnects and reconnects. The employee will assist in troubleshooting other services such as DSL; wireless; and facilities based Internet, IP Video, and special circuits. The employee will also promote the sale of products and features and educate customers on the use of equipment.
Educational Requirements: Associate's Degree in Communications Technology, or the equivalent, plus two years of related work experience. Must possess a valid driver's license.
Equal Opportunity Employer: We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits including health and life insurance, 401(k) and retirement. If you are interested in this full-time position, please submit a current resume, cover letter and three business references by January 11, 2008.

Human Resources
P.O. Box 158
Lenora, KS 67645
v. 785.567.4281
f.785.567.4401
jobapplications@ruraltel.com

RURAL TELEPHONE
NEXTECH A Rural Telephone Company

Legals

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

You are hereby notified that pursuant to a power of sale contained in the deed of trust in the original principal amount of $190,500.00 executed by Richard G. Burr and DeAnne K. Burr, husband and wife, which was filed for record on November 9, 1998, as Instrument No. 19985863 in the office of the Register of Deeds of Adams County, Nebraska, the property described below will be sold by the undersigned at public auction to the highest bidder for cash or certified or cashier's check, in the main lobby of the Adams County Courthouse, 500 West 4th Street, in the City of Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska, at 9:00 a.m. on January 17, 2008:

A tract of land in the Southwest Quarter of Section Nine (9), Township Seven (7) North, Range Ten (10) West of the 6th P.M., Adams County, Nebraska, said tract being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the West Quarter corner of Section 9, Township 7 North, Range 10 West of the 6th P.M., Adams County, Nebraska, running thence Easterly along the North line of said SW1/4 a distance of 41.25 feet to a point on the Easterly right-of-way line of the Adams Central Road; running thence Southerly, along the said Easterly right-of-way line and parallel with the West line of the said SW1/4 a distance of 30.0 feet to the actual point of beginning; thence continuing Southerly along the said Easterly right-of-way line, parallel to and 41.25 feet distance from the said West line a distance of 523.0 feet; running thence Easterly, parallel to the North line of the said SW1/4 a distance of 833.00 feet; running thence Northerly, parallel to the said West line of the SW1/4 a distance of 523.00 feet to a point located 30.0 feet South of the North line of the said SW1/4; running thence Westerly, parallel to and 30.00 feet distance from the said North line of the said SW1/4 a distance of 833.00 feet to the point of beginning.

The highest bidder is required to deliver cash or certified funds to the undersigned by the close of business on the day of sale, except this requirement is waived when the highest bidder is the beneficiary. The purchaser is responsible for all fees or taxes, including the documentary stamp tax. This sale is made without any warranties as to title or condition of the property.

Eric H. Lindquist
Successor Trustee

Eric H. Lindquist, P.C., L.L.O.
Attorney at Law
8712 West Dodge Road, Suite 260
Omaha, Nebraska 68114
December 5, 12, 19, 26, 2007, January 2, 2008

Notice

In the County Court of Adams County, Nebraska

Estate of RALPH C. TRAUSCH, Deceased. Estate No. PR07-162

Notice is hereby given that on December 14, 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 Gerald Trausch whose address is 29045 West 223rd Street, Spring Hills, Kansas 66083, and Lorene R. Trausch whose address is 12104 West Alexander Street, Roseland, Nebraska 68973, were informally appointed by the Registrar as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate.

Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before February 20, 2008, or be forever barred.

Tom Hawes
Clerk of County Court

David B. Garwood
#11450
Garwood Law Office
401 North Webster
Red Cloud, Nebraska
68970
402-746-3613
December 19, 26, 2007, January 2, 2008

Notice

In the County Court of Adams County, Nebraska

Estate of RICHARD G. BURR, Deceased. Estate No. PR07-165

Notice is hereby given that on December 21, 2007, in the County Court of Adams County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate in Intestacy of said Decedent and that Todd A. Burr, whose address is 4785 North Highland Road, Hastings, Nebraska 68901, and Lisa D. Wormstadt, whose address is 7865 North Alda Road, Juniata, Nebraska 68955, were informally appointed by the Registrar as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate.

Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before March 3, 2008, or be forever barred.

Tom Hawes
Clerk of the Court
P.O. Box 95
Hastings, Nebraska
68902-0095

Brad Moncrief
BRAD MONCRIEF, LLC
1239 North Burlington,
Suite 200
Hastings, Nebraska
68901
(402) 462-5353
January 2, 9, 16, 2008

Notice of Trustee's Sale

File No. NE-07-75742-DD
Loan No. 33335688

To whom it may concern: You are hereby notified that pursuant to a power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust in the original principal balance of $55,200.00 executed by Jesse Fielder and Colleen Fielder, wife and husband, as joint tenants, which was filed for record on December 23, 2003 as instrument no. 20039012 in Book ** at Page ** of the Mortgage Records in the office of the Register of Deeds of Adams, Nebraska, the property located at: 1215 North Kansas, Hastings, Nebraska 68901 and described below will be sold by the undersigned at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, certified or cashier's check, at 11:30 a.m., on January 22, 2008, at in the lobby of Adams County Courthouse, Hasting, Nebraska: Property Description: The South half (S1/2) of Lot Five (5), Block One (1), Webster's addition to the City of Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska. Property will be sold subject to any and all (1) real estate taxes, (2) special assessments, (3) easements, covenants, restrictions of record, (4) prior mortgages and trust deeds or record and (5) ground leases of record. The highest bidder is required to deliver cash or certified funds to the undersigned by the close of business day of sale, except this requirement is waived when the highest bidder is the beneficiary. The purchaser is responsible for all fees or taxes, including documentary stamp tax. This sale is made without any warranties as to title or condition of the property. Information concerning such sale may not be obtained prior to 3:00 p.m. on the business day immediately prior to such sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Dated: December 3, 2007 Thomas J. Holthus, Attorney at Law, as Successor Trustee By: Thomas J. Holthus, Esq. Bar #21587. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holder's rights against the real property only. This office is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. ASAP# 950013 December 12, 19, 26, 2007, January 2, 9, 2008



At Your Service

Up to 16 Words for 1 month ONLY $46.00 includes online Call 402-461-1241 for details

Carpet Cleaning

CARPET CLEANING: Steamway Country Cleaners. 15% discount through December 31, 2007. 402-879-4861.

Computer Repair

COMPUTER REPAIR: In-home service. Reasonable rates. Virus, Spyware removal; tuneups; upgrades. 9 a.m-9 p.m. daily. 984-8001.

Counseling

COUNSELING: Alcohol/drug evaluations for adults, minors. Individual counseling. Intensive outpatient weekend program. Peg Mohlman, 462-5556.

Firewood

QUALITY MIXED hard woods, sold by pickup load. 402-746-2886.

Construction

COUGAR MAINTENANCE. Custom woodworking and fence, concrete, decks, handyman, sheds, remodeling, molding and carpentry. 461-4674.

Gutters

HYLDEN CONSTRUCTION. Gutters, siding, trim, windows, doors. Call Steve at 402-462-5439.

Handyman

HANDYMAN: Roofing, concrete, painting, home repairs, snow removal. Insured. 10 years experience. Reasonable. 462-2660/460-6756.

Home Improvement

CHUCK'S BUILDING AND REPAIR. Chuck Wiseman. No job too small. 402-751-2443; cell, 402-984-2544.

Painting

HONEY DO'S. Specializing in painting, interior and exterior. Free estimates. 402-463-7054. Tim and Hank Yurk, owners.

INTERIOR, EXTERIOR painting and staining. Experienced. Reasonable. John, 402-462-9863 or 469-3192.

Tax Preparation

TAX RETURN Preparation. Northern Bookkeeping. $7.00 per hour. 105 North Hastings Avenue, Room 207. Telephone 402-469-6086.

Tutoring Services

HONORS SOCIETY student will do tutoring. Math, reading, science, all subjects. My house or yours. 402-463-1783.

List your ad, call 461-1241!



Farmer's Corner

135 Livestock

NEBRASKA LIVESTOCK SALES OF SUTTON AND BLUE HILL, L.L.C.
Sutton sales on Friday
Blue Hill sales on Saturday
402-756-3111
888-241-8222

137 Hay/Seeds

FULL LINE of crop protection chemicals. Call Pohlmeier Ag Chem, Lawrence, NE, 402-756-7252.

138 Irrigation

J-2 WELL is winterizing and servicing center pivots Call 402-756-6500

To place ad for the Farmer's Corner call 461-1241

— ERRORS —

When placing an ad in person or on the phone, we will read all ads back to you for your approval. If you find an error in your classified ad, please call us before the next day's paper. The Tribune cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Claims cannot be considered unless made within three days from the first date of publication. No allowances can be made when errors do not materially affect the value of the advertisement.

Legals

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The City of Hastings, Nebraska, will receive bids for the construction of the following project:

Hastings Museum
HVAC Project
1330 North Burlington Avenue
HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
Project No. ETI-07-064

until 10:00 a.m. at the Office of the City Clerk of Hastings, Nebraska, on the 22nd day of January, 2008, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. The project consists of installing new rooftop units on existing curb at the facility, adapting duct work to new installation, installing electric steam humidifiers and electric reheat coils in the existing or revised zone ducts, installing a new HVAC control system, and installing new electrical service.

The Contract Documents, including plans and specifications, are on file at the Office of the City Clerk of Hastings, Nebraska. Copies of the plans and specifications may be obtained at the City Engineer's Office, 220 North Hastings Avenue, Hastings, Nebraska, by depositing $50.00 plus $3.25 sales tax and $6.00 postage if mailed, none of which will be refunded.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check, drawn on a solvent bank in the State of Nebraska, or a bid bond in an amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid of all contract construction costs, made payable to the City Treasurer of the City of Hastings, Nebraska, as security that the bidder to whom the contract may be awarded will enter into a contract to build all the improvements in accordance with this notice and give bond in the sum hereinafter provided for the construction of improvements.

No bid shall be withdrawn after opening of bids without the consent of the City of Hastings, Nebraska, for a period of sixty (60) days after scheduled time of closing bids.

The City of Hastings, Nebraska reserves the right to reject all bids or waive informalities.

The successful bidder(s) will be required to furnish a Performance Bond(s) in the sum of the full amount of the Contract within ten (10) days of the date of award. No additional time will be allowed the Contractor for providing the Performance Bond.

A pre-bid conference to discuss project scope will be held January 8, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., at the Hastings Museum, 1330 North Burlington Avenue, Hastings, Nebraska. Questions regarding the project shall be referred to Jon Jackson, Engineering Technologies, Inc., 206 South 13th Street, Suite 800, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508, (402)476-1273 info@eti-engineers.com or Geoffrey McLean, Engineering Assistant, City of Hastings, (402)461-2335 gmclean@cityofhastings.org

DATED AT HASTINGS, NEBRASKA, this 17th day of December, 2007.

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
Connie Hartman, City Clerk

December 19, 2007, January 2, 9, 2008

Public Notice

Adams County Senior Services, 509 South Bellevue, Hastings, Nebraska 68901, is applying for 49 U.S.C. Section 5311 capital assistance to purchase a small bus with two wheelchair stations as a replacement vehicle for the Adams County Public Transportation Program. This program provides transportation to the general public in Adams County Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Interested public or private or paratransit operators are invited to comment by sending a written notice to the Nebraska Department of Roads and to Adams County Senior Services within thirty days. A public hearing will be held on January 9, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at 509 South Bellevue, Hastings, Nebraska.

December 26, 2007, January 2, 2008

Supervisors Proceedings

COURTHOUSE , HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
Tuesday, December 18, 2007

The Board met in regular session and took the following actions:

Took roll call and declared a quorum.
Approved Minutes and heard committee reports.
Set salaries for board members and public defender.
Approved agreement with Boys Town of Grand Island
Approved resolution supporting Nebraska Economic Development Certified Community program.
Approved Conditional Use Permit for David Shafer.
Approved Freeland Creek 3rd Subdivision.
Approved leasing of skid steer loader for courthouse.
Met as Board of Equalization for motor vehicle exemptions.
Approved claims, Miscellaneous Receipts and officers reports.

COUNTY GENERAL

Eldon Orthmann, Mileage	$ 125.13
Charles F. Neumann, Mileage	112.88
Lee Saathoff, Mileage	100.88
Larry Woodman, Mileage	106.70
Jack Hynes, Mileage	123.19
Axis Capital, Inc., Copier	262.00
Heritage Bank, Supplies	60.00
Hastings Tribune, Advertising	396.99
Business World Products, Supplies	8.79
Hometown Leasing, Equipment Rental	224.25
Coast Computer Products, Supplies	107.28
Dugan Business Forms, Forms	597.65
Business World Products, Supplies	159.52
Axis Capital, Inc., Equipment Rental	232.10
Vaughan's Printers, Inc., Stationery	448.09
Jackie Russell, Miscellaneous	15.00
NACO, Miscellaneous	15.00
Mary Johnson, Miscellaneous	15.00
Jim Kuhn, Miscellaneous	15.00
Aaron Hyde, Miscellaneous	15.00
Eakes Office Plus, Supplies	17.94
Dugan Business Forms, Form Printing	672.84
Central District Assessors Association, Dues, Subscription, Registration	20.00
Big G Commercial Hardware, Repairs	109.90
Axis Capital, Inc., Equipment	155.00
Quill Corporation, Supplies	69.99
Hastings Tribune, Publishing	27.81
Adams County Planning and Zoning, Postal Services	5.21
Coast Computer Products, Supplies	202.46
Eakes Office Plus, Supplies	7.08
Culligan of Hastings, Miscellaneous	45.60
Cornhusker Press, Supplies	182.25
Axis Capital, Inc., Equipment Rental	290.00
Franklin County Treasurer, Court Costs	7.83
Platte County Court, Court Costs	16.60
OK Cafe, Court Costs	57.70
MIPS, Inc., Equipment	5,949.00
Holt County Treasurer, Court Costs	92.72
Joyce Hasselbalch, Court Costs	464.75
Adams County Court, Court Costs	292.50
CDW Government, Inc., Supplies	162.65
Eileen's Colossal Cookies, Court Costs	19.50
Shoemaker, Witt and Burns, Attorney Fees	1,852.50
Shoemaker, Witt and Burns, Attorney Fees	1,755.00
U.S. Postal Service, Postal Services	204.00
Jackie Queen, Court Costs	68.25
Langvardt and Valle, P.C., Attorney Fees	65.53
Shoemaker, Witt and Burns, Attorney Fees	585.00
Arthur Toogood, Public Defender, Reimbursement	1,916.38
Arthur Toogood, Public Defender, Reimbursement	1,669.05
Adams County Court, Court Costs	110.50
Richard Alexander, Attorney Fees	908.76
Whelan and Scherr, Attorney Fees	9,024.90
Sam Zeleski, Mileage	132.89
Williams Exterminating, Inc., Miscellaneous	170.00
Don's Plumbing, Repairs	332.20
Howard's Glass, L.L.C., Miscellaneous	25.23
Hastings Utilities, Utilities	7,382.51
Centra Chemical Service, Inc., Miscellaneous	499.50
Business World Products, Supplies	12.27
Aramark Uniform Services, Miscellaneous	28.17
Phillips 66, Fuel	105.98
Young Men's Christian Association, Miscellaneous	67.50
Watchguard Video, Law Enforcement Costs	41.00
Vaughan's Printers, Inc., Printing	141.63
Uncle Neal's Country, Fuel	9.00
Reams Brothers Wrecker Service, Law Enforcement Costs	445.00
RadioShack Corporation, Law Enforcement Costs	133.93
Old Market Firearms, Law Enforcement Costs	48.00
NAPA Auto Parts, Equipment	9.98
Gregg Magee, County Sheriff, Mileage	348.14
Lynn Peavey Company, Law Enforcement Costs	278.38
Kerr Chevrolet Company, Equipment	27.38
Kenesaw Motor Company, Inc., Equipment	413.94
Four Rivers Sportsman Club, Dues, Subscription, Registration	190.00
Eakes Office Plus, Supplies	190.01
Executive Copier Systems, Equipment Rental	260.00
Eakes Office Plus, Supplies	349.40
Big G Commercial Hardware, Law Enforcement Costs	13.30
Business World Products, Supplies	34.97
Adams County Sheriff's Revolving Fund, Reimbursement	415.72
Amsterdam Printing and Literature, Merit Commission	56.51
Allen's of Hastings, Inc., Law Enforcement Costs	16.24
Alltel, Contract Services	100.28
OMB Police Supply, Law Enforcement Costs	333.02
Platte Valley of Hastings, Equipment	242.31
Rene Talamantes, Court Costs	89.77
Jennifer Hynek, Mileage	173.92
Vaughan's Printers, Inc., Supplies	564.49
Software Unlimited, Data Processing	200.00
Nebraska State Bar Association, Dues, Subscription, Registration,	59.00
Lexisnexis, Law Library	39.25
Lancaster County Sheriff, Court Costs	264.88
Hometown Leasing, Equipment Rental	557.76
Hastings Police Department, Blood Tests	200.00
Douglas County Sheriff, Court Costs	3.39
Department of Motor Vehicles, Court Costs	26.00
Dawson County Sheriff, Court Costs	17.00
Clay County Sheriff, Court Costs	168.39
Business World Products, Supplies	136.57
Aspen Publishers, Inc., Law Library	331.67
Elizabeth Nguyen, Matron Fees	308.65
Eakes Office Plus, Supplies	382.02
Thomsen Healthcare, Medicine-Hospital Prisoners	74.90
Tri State Hospital Supply Company, Medicine-Hospital Prisoners	110.00
Isabel Smith, Matron Fees	40.00
Red the Uniform, Uniform Allowance	98.83
Primary Care Center, Medicine-Hospital Prisoners	80.18
Phelps County Sheriff, Board of Prisoners	1,495.00
Pamida Stores Company, L.L.C., Medicine-Hospital Prisoners	185.72
Naden's Pharmacy, Medicine-Hospital Prisoners	6.99
G.A. Micek, D.D.S., P.C., Medicine-Hospital Prisoners	42.00
Kenesaw Motor Company, Inc., Travel Expenses	29.85
Keith's Pharmacies, Medicine-Hospital Prisoners	173.22
Institutional Eye Care, Medicine-Hospital Prisoners	16.60
Hastings Family Practice, P.C., Medicine-Hospital Prisoners	1,034.00
Glaxosmithline FINA, Medicine-Hospital Prisoners	259.10
Franklin County Memorial Hospital, Medicine-Hospital Prisoners	487.20
Franklin County Sheriff, Board of Prisoners	800.00
Marilyn Evans, Matron Fees	20.00
Cornhusker Press, Printing	266.39
Computer Hardware, Inc., Data Processing	299.00
Dr. John A. Coover, Medicine-Hospital Prisoners	685.00
Cash-Wa Candy Company, Supplies	69.25
Cash-Wa Candy Company, Supplies	316.36
Aramark Uniform Services, Miscellaneous	93.70
Adams County Jail, Board of Prisoners	1,066.64
Eakes Office Plus, Supplies	63.92
Culligan of Hastings, Miscellaneous	30.10
Kmart, Supplies	24.06
Business World Products, Supplies	18.09
Axis Capital, Inc., Copier	380.00
Alltel, Telephone	271.68
Covi Sec, Inc., Supplies	129.47
Shelly Boden, Reimbursement	88.66
Eakes Office Plus, Supplies	113.26
Windstream, Telephone	278.82
KT Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc., Supplies	299.92
John Uden, Maintenance	200.00
Loren Uden, Supplies	56.65
Russ's IGA, Supplies	9.00
Presto X Computer, Maintenance	24.00
State of Nebraska, Maintenance	120.00
Hastings Utilities, Maintenance	21.53
Comfort Inn, Dues, Subscription, Registration	140.00
Big G Commercial Hardware, Supplies	403.08
Platte Valley of Hastings, Repairs	272.94
City of Hastings, Telephone	19.85
Doug Putnam, Maintenance	1,000.00
Heaven's Best, Repairs	234.95
Woodward's Disposal Service, Garbage	101.50
Wells Fargo Card Service, Miscellaneous	50.45
3 Points Tire, Tires	444.50
Stetson Building Products, Equipment	325.00
ST&J Cleaning, Custodial	280.00
State of Nebraska, Miscellaneous	240.00
Southern Power District, Electricity	338.62
SourceGas, Heating Fuels	137.79
Erle Seybold, Mileage	7.28
Sanitary Outdoor Service, Inc., Supplies	175.00
PTSR, Miscellaneous	121.00
W.G. Pauley Lumber Company, Materials	687.30
Paramount Linen & Uniform, Supplies	43.64
Orscheln Farm & Home, Supplies	43.47
O'Malley Equipment Company, Inc., Parts	956.54
Olsson Associates, Special Fees	1,850.00
Nebraska Machinery Company, Parts	10,749.07
Nebraska Truck Center, Parts	5.22
Nebraska Peterbilt Ford, Inc., Parts	112.72
NAPA Auto Parts, Parts	345.68
Mid Nebraska Lubricants, Fuel	16,945.40
Mid Nebraska Aggregate, Inc., Materials	402.04
Mainelli Wagner & Associates, Engineering	3,167.17
Kenesaw Motor Company, Inc., Parts	244.98
Johnson Cash-Way Lumber Company, Supplies	46.43
Island Supply, Bulk Chains	76.50
Ideal Electric, Inc., Signals	372.50
Linweld, Supplies	124.18
Hastings Utilities, Electricity	389.80
Hastings Canvas Manufacturing Company, Labor	20.88
Glenwood Telephone Company, Telephone	151.73
General Traffic Controls, Inc., Signals	92.29
F&S Supply Company, Inc., Supplies	74.90
Fleet Pride, Parts	24.67
Samuelson Equipment Company, Parts	99.40
Fairbanks International, Parts	567.51
Executive Copier Systems, Inc., Equipment Rental	230.00
Executive Copier Systems, Inc., Equipment Rental	56.96
Delken Press, Supplies	167.00
Cooperative Producers, Inc., Miscellaneous	114.89
Consumers Service Company, Inc., Heating Fuels	95.60
Consolidated Concrete Company, Materials	646.75
Big G Commercial Hardware, Supplies	112.21
Auto Glass Center, Inc., Supplies	120.00
Applied Controls, Parts	8.42
VISA, Miscellaneous	57.94
Rinder Printing Company, Court Costs	176.68
Preferred Mail Service, Inc., Postal Services	3,000.00
NACO, Dues, Subscription, Registration	1,690.46
Hastings Tribune, Publishing	176.20
Adams County Senior Services, Handi-Bus	2,005.00
Adams County Senior Services, Handi-Bus	19,884.86
Adams County Sheriff's Fee Account, Court Costs	5,988.53
Alltel, Court Costs	102.57
Adams County Court, Jury Payroll	1,012.52
Nebraska Retirement Systems, Retirement Match	25,880.10
Social Security Administration, FICA Match	27,371.96
Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Health Insurance	11,851.52
National Insurance Services, Disability Insurance	967.50
Adams County Board, Salaries	7,877.94
Adams County Clerk, Salaries	12,934.63
Adams County Treasurer, Salaries	25,650.92
Register of Deeds, Salaries	11,139.99
Adams County Assessor, Salaries	21,373.23
Planning and Zoning, Salaries	2,209.00
Data Processing Department, Salaries	8,910.56
District Court Clerk, Salaries	14,913.84
District Court Bailiff, Salaries	2,361.27
Public Defender, Salaries	14,978.17
Maintenance Department, Salaries	17,380.52
Extension Office, Salaries	4,107.84
Microfilm Department, Salaries	1,419.80
Adams County Sheriff, Salaries	59,731.43
Adams County Attorney, Salaries	30,950.08
Corrections and Communications, Salaries	54,981.51
Emergency Management, Salaries	5,017.84
Adams County Surveyor, Salaries	281.33
Adams County Road Department, Salaries	74,959.40
Adams County Weed Department, Salaries	2,671.20
Veterans Service Office, Salaries	6,408.42
COUNTY VISITORS PROMOTIONS	
Business World Products, Supplies	64.98
Big G Commercial Hardware, Repair	7.72
VISA, Supplies	290.75
Modern Methods, Inc., Equipment Rental	255.00
Hastings Utilities, Utilities	111.46
Davis Tree Service, Repair	105.00
City of Hastings, Telephone	10.24
Adams County Telecommunications, Telephone	69.00
Nebraska Retirement Systems, Retirement Match	175.50
Social Security Administration, FICA Match	241.50
Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Health Insurance	106.91
National Insurance Services, Disability Insurance	6.45
Adams County Visitors Bureau, Salaries	3,186.50
HEALTH FUND	
Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Health-Accident	78,861.55
RELIEF - MEDICAL	
Butler-Volland Funeral, County Burials	1,250.00
INSTITUTIONS	
Health and Human Services, Patient Care	1,080.00
INHERITANCE TAX	
West Group, Library	2,753.40
911 EMERGENCY SERVICES	
Windstream, Emergency Phone	2,544.49
Tamco Capital Corporation, Miscellaneous	3,894.00
KACO Supplies, Signs	588.50
INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROBATION BUDGET	
Vaughan's Printers, Inc., Supplies	59.51
Modern Methods, Inc., Equipment Rental	79.00

/s/Chrisella Lewis, County Clerk
/s/Larry Woodman, Chairman
/s/Beverly Johnson, Deputy

Complete minutes available at www.adamscounty.org

January 2, 2008

LEGAL NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

You are hereby notified that the undersigned filed a Petition in the District Court of Adams County, Nebraska on the 3rd day of December, 2007, the object and prayer of said Petition being to change the name of Derrick Paul Bishop to that of Derrick Paul Stafford. You are further notified that the undersigned intends to present said Petition for a change of name to the court on Friday, the 8th day of February, 2008, at 2:15 p.m. before the Honorable Terri S. Harder, Adams County District Court, Adams County Courthouse, 500 West 4th Street, Hastings, Nebraska 68901, or as soon thereafter as the same may be heard. At that time, any person or persons objecting to such change or name may present objections to said court.

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2007.

Derrick Paul Bishop, Petitioner
BY: Erin M. Urbom, #23330
BRAD MONCRIEF, L.L.C.
1239 North Burlington Avenue, Suite 200
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Attorney for Petitioner

December 12, 19, 26, 2007, January 2, 2008

School Board Proceedings
Hastings Public Schools
Work Session
December 13, 2007

No action was taken at the December 13, 2007, Work Session of the Hastings Board of Education.

Brad Cabrera,
Secretary of the Board
Hastings Public Schools

January 2, 2008

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