

Crossing another bridge

Game's been going on for 30 years.
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Hastings

Tribune



NFL News
Vick a new breed of quarterback;
Boeriger scores another TD
Page B1

Monday, Dec. 2, 2002

Home delivered 28 cents Newsstands 50 cents

One killed in 2-vehicle accident

BRENT
McCOWN/
Tribune

Hastings
rural fire-
fighters walk
around the
scene of a
two-vehicle
accident at
the inter-
section of
Showboat
Boulevard
and J
Street this
morning.



Smallpox vaccine coming

The Associated Press

LINCOLN — Nebraska's chief medical officer expects federal approval of the state's first 1,500 doses of smallpox vaccine within the next 30 days.

With those initial doses, the state will be ready to vaccinate health-care providers and other officials as soon as the necessary vaccine is licensed and approved by the federal government, Dr. Richard Raymond said.

The state's smallpox vaccination plan, which has earned national recognition, calls for first vaccinating health-care providers, law enforcement officers and other officials who would respond to a smallpox outbreak. The plan includes progressively more officials for vaccination, depending on the amount of vaccine available.

The second stage of state's plan calls for vaccinating all of the state's 1.7 million residents. That would only take place in the event of an actual smallpox outbreak.

Federal officials are still debating whether to speed up the process of offering vaccine to any resident who wants it.

Some argue that it would be foolish to wait for an actual outbreak or biological attack. Others say the vaccine has caused severe reactions in some people, and there is no reason to rush into full vaccination, especially while vaccine is still being tested and licensed.

President George W. Bush has delayed a decision on whether to make smallpox vaccine available to the general population, but is expected to order vaccinations for military personnel and civilian medical workers.

Raymond said Nebraska is ready to vaccinate the state's entire population if that becomes necessary.

"If they call today with 1.7 million doses, we're ready to roll," he said.

In an outbreak, vaccinated health-care workers would hurry to the scene and assist patients who may be infected. Nonvaccinated health-care workers who came in contact with victims would be quarantined and treated to avoid spreading the disease further.

Please see SMALLPOX/page A6

School Supplies



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

Above: Dorrel Lipker of Oak looks over a stack of chairs and desks before the auction begins at the Nelson Elementary School Saturday. Top right: Four-year-old Madyson Schmidt of Ravenna plays with some blocks while her mom, Holly, (not pictured) watches items being auctioned off at the school in Nelson Saturday.

AUCTION EVOKE MEMORIES, SADNESS

LISA COBLE
Hastings Tribune

ELSON — Residents here saw the writing on the walls as they walked through the classrooms of the old grade school at 340 S. Maple St. Saturday.

"I really miss this school. Love always, ?," one blackboard read.

"John was here" and Goodbye Mrs. Hansen, Class of 2000, were scribbled on another.

Sentiment could be heard in the school's hallways. It could also be seen out-

side, where an auction was under way. After four years of collecting dust, thousands of old school supplies and equipment that once helped children here learn their reading, writing and arithmetic were sold.

Please see AUCTION/page A6



Rocker calls Midwest region 'moral compass'

JEAN ORTIZ
The Associated Press

LINCOLN — A rock star's campaign to enlist the financial support of the U.S. government in stopping the spread of AIDS in Africa started in the American Midwest.

For a very good reason, said U2 lead

singer Bono.

"There is a sense of community, of family, a certain decency that we need to convince the politicians," Bono said Sunday. "There is a moral compass in this part of the country that reads clearly when it knows the facts."

Please see BONO/page A6

Weather

Lo: 18
Hi: 25
Mostly cloudy tonight. Flurries possible Tuesday.



Art by Erick Espinoza, 8,
Longfellow School

SINGING SURGEON

PITTSBURGH — Dr. Ronald Johnson is a breast cancer surgeon, but he does some of his best work with his voice.

The 44-year-old staffer at Magee-Womens Hospital in Pittsburgh is drawing kudos from patients for his

musical bedside manner. He sings during rounds and sometimes asks his patients to join him to break the ice.

"The message is that your doc is a human being and not a robot," said Johnson, who croons tunes from Bruce Springsteen, Kenny Rogers and others. "It makes everybody

relax. I don't wear a grim face."

"He's just a delightful man," said Angie Lutton of Monroeville, whom Johnson treated for breast cancer two years ago. "I would hear him coming to the room and there was always a song."

The Associated Press

Nation

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The Associated Press

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Local

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Hastings College Choir and members of the campus community will present the Festival of Lessons and Carols 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 in French Chapel at Hastings College.

College officials and students will read nine lessons that tell the story of Christmas and Hastings College Choir will offer choral responses to each.

Hastings college Crimson Connection will serve wassail and cookies at Hazelrigg Student Union following the event.

The event and reception are free and open to the public.

Region

LIGHTING CANDLE

Bereaved families around the world are invited to light a candle Sunday in memory of deceased children.

The Worldwide Candle Lighting, coordinated by The Compassionate Friends organization, is meant to create a "24-hour wave of light" that encircles the globe.

Families are asked to light their candles at 7 p.m. local time, either at home alone or somewhere else as part of a group.

This means the first candles will be lighted in New Zealand. Every hour, candles in the next time zone to the west will be lighted.

A special memorial page on the World Wide Web will be set up Sunday at The Compassionate Friends' site, www.compassionatefriends.org. Families are invited to post a message.

The Compassionate Friends has local chapters in Tribland.

State

UNL CRACKING DOWN

LINCOLN — Stepped up enforcement of anti-drinking rules at fraternities and sororities along with new awareness programs have helped reduce alcohol-related problems at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, campus leaders say.

"Over 16 years, I've got to say we've made a tremendous amount of progress," said James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs.

It used to be common four years ago for on-campus parties to have kegs and multiple cases of beer at a party, said Mitch Walden, president of the Interfraternity Council and an Alpha Gamma Sigma member.

The Associated Press

Bono: Rocker kicks off World Aids Day

Continued from page A1

Bono, whose given name is Paul David Hewson, said he didn't come to lecture. Instead, the Irish rocker wanted to hear what Nebraskans are willing to do to help convince their lawmakers to divert government funds toward the AIDS crisis in Africa.

"These people ... are the ones that will send the message to Washington that we're looking for," he said.

Bono also wants the American government to forgive the debts of African nations so that money can be channeled to fighting the disease.

His year-old organization — Debt, AIDS, Trade Africa — received the moral support from the world's second richest man, Omaha billionaire Warren Buffett.

"I welcome him and I welcome his ideas," Buffett said

Accident: Hastings man killed

Continued from page A1

Vculek and Bay were wearing seat belts; it has not been determined whether Fraiser was wearing a seat belt.

Alcohol and speed were not factors in the accident, Shada said.

Shada said the intersection has a history of accidents.

"That intersection is a hazardous intersection for some reason," he said. "The state and county have worked to make it safer. The one element we don't have any control over is the human element."

The Adams County Sheriff's Office, Hastings Rural Fire Department, and Hastings Fire Department responded to the accident.



BRENT McCOWN / Tribune

Hastings rural firefighter Tim Grothen looks inside one of the vehicles involved in a two-vehicle accident at Showboat Boulevard and J Street this morning.

Auction: Memories, sadness at event

Continued from page A1

REMEMBERING

Bernita Ostdiel of Nelson gazed out of the tall school windows. She remembers cherishing the view of the countryside to the west and rooftops to the east.

Ostdiel was a custodian at the school for eight years before it closed in 2000.

"I always did like the big rooms and windows, having all the light, and you could look out forever," she said.

For some, the view out of those windows Saturday was disheartening.

"It's kind of sad. It's a depressing deal, but you know it was coming," said Joe Wehrman, president of the Nelson Board of Education.

Buyers on Saturday looked at old desks that had students' names carved in them or gum stuck underneath. They saw old books belonging to the library that children visited before the school closed.

"I think a lot of people came just to go through the building and remember the times they were here," he said.

About 150 people signed up to bid during the auction, but there were many others, like Ostdiel, who strolled the halls and reminisced.

Jerome D. Mazour of Nelson graduated from the school in 1946.

The building was Nelson High School at that time. A smaller, stuccoed grade school was north of it on the same lot.

"It's kind of fun to go through and see what I remember," Mazour said.

He remembered that half of the second floor was an assembly room with a stage on the north end. Everyone sat in rows, with the freshmen closest to the west windows and the seniors closest to the door.

The gym was in the basement. It still is.

Mazour remembered there was no hot



BRENT McCOWN / Tribune

People gather around one of the three trailers loaded with items to be auctioned from the elementary school in Nelson Saturday.

lunch program. He walked to his aunt's house for lunch each day.

"It was a nice experience," he said. "Our teachers as a rule were sort of old because it was during the war."

The building was used as a high school until 1969, when it was converted into a grade school. The grade school to the north was torn down in the '70s.

Sheila McCartney of Nelson went through grade school in the building. She graduated in 1988 from the junior/senior high school built up the street.

McCartney came back to teach fifth and sixth grades in the building before it closed.

"Coming back and being able to teach here was pretty cool," she said. "I miss the building and the big rooms. The building had character."

Betty McCutchan of Nelson, who also

went to grade school there, was a little sad as she bid on obsolete educational materials and books. The future of the building looks bleak, she said.

"The saddest thing is, probably even this building here will be torn down because there's just no use for it," McCutchan said.

UNIFIED

In June 2000, Nelson joined with Lawrence to share elementary, junior and senior high schools. Financially, the school could do much better sharing staff and facilities, said Wehrman, the Nelson school board president.

After the 1999-2000 school year, the grade school closed.

In small towns like Nelson, population factors into whether the school can stay open.

McCutchan said she was worried about the future of the junior/senior high school in town.

"It's sad that if our population doesn't grow at all we may not have a school," she said.

The Nelson school board had procrastinated in selling the equipment, Wehrman said, but after the utilities were shut off to the building, an auction seemed like the next step.

The board has no plans for the school building at this time, he said.

Originally, the auction was going to include about 24 boxes of trophies and plaques — some dating back to 1925.

"Some of the more significant trophies are kept at the high school. There wasn't room to store everything, as well as the new trophies Lawrence/Nelson has been getting, together," he said.

The trophies were just sitting in the vacant building, but when someone suggested selling them, the public disagreed. So the school board decided to give the trophies to the community club, which will display them around town "as part of the heritage and for the memories of the people," he said.

Don Cassell, school board member, said the school system still was strong. He went to high school in the building.

"We still have a good school system," he said. "The material things are leaving, but the school system is still here."

Some of the items auctioned were brought from other schools in the South Central Nebraska Unified School District No. 5, to which Lawrence-Nelson belongs.

Besides Nelson and Lawrence, the unified district includes the Sandy Creek, Guide Rock and Superior schools.

Members of the Nelson school board were on hand to help transport items being auctioned by Uhrmacher Auctions.

Smallpox: Vaccine to arrive in state soon

Continued from page A1

Vaccinating the general population would come at a cost. If 1 million of Nebraska's residents were vaccinated, about 1,000 would experience minor sickness such as fever and chills, 50 would become seriously ill, three or four would suffer permanent neurological damage and one or two would die, Raymond said.

Those figures assume the entire population is healthy. People with HIV, AIDS or otherwise weakened immune sys-

tems would be more vulnerable to damage from the vaccine. However, in a smallpox outbreak, 30 percent of those infected probably would die.

The last case of human smallpox occurred in 1977, and the disease was declared to be eradicated in 1980. It has been identified as a potential bioterrorism threat. Iraq and North Korea are thought to have smallpox pathogens, and al-Qaida has been pursuing them, according to U.S. intelligence.



Flower and Plant Life
by Russ and Sandy Shaw



THOU SHALT NOT

Among the commandments for ensuring the long life of cut flowers is not to place them near ripening fruit, which releases tiny amounts of ethylene gas that prematurely ages flowers. In addition, never mix daffodils and narcissi with other flowers. They emit latex from their stems when cut. Known as "daffodil slime," it shortens the life of other flowers. In addition, never place flowers in a draft that can chill the flowers. Avoid bright sunlight, which encourages bacteria to breed, and keep floral arrangements away from heating ducts. Finally, resist the notion of putting copper coins, aspirin, bleach, and lemonade in vase water to prolong flower life. Instead, use the flower food provided by the florist. We hope you can benefit

from some of the tips and information we provide in our columns. At **SHAW'S FLOWERS & GREENHOUSE**, we are happy to assist our community in learning about the beauty of plants and flowers. We can also help you to share them with others. Call 402-463-1212, or call us toll free at 888-735-1212 and our friendly staff will help you make an order. We have been proud to serve our community for the past 5 years at 710 W. 16th Street in Hastings, and now you can come see us at our newest location at 706 West 2nd Street, Downtown. Our flowers are always guaranteed.

Hint: Remove dying flowers from arrangements immediately, as they can exert a compromising effect on the remaining flowers.

www.shawsflowers.com

Family

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Critical Needs: Milk, powdered dishwasher detergent, carpet fresh, sugar, household cleaners, women's razors, coffee, creamer, butter, trash bags (all sizes), disinfectant spray, large Rubbermaid totes.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the Christmas dinner, please call Kelli at the Crossroads Center.

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