

Local

QUILTS ON DISPLAY

Three Hastings area quilts will soon be sent to Washington, D.C., to be displayed at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

These quilts from the collection of the Hastings Museum of Natural and Cultural History will be on display with numerous other quilts from the area as part of a display titled "Going West! Quilts and Community Along the Great Platte River Road."

The exhibition will feature 55 quilts, bedcovers, costumes, dolls and doll beds from across the state. The pieces are being used to help share the experiences of the pioneers who traveled to the Nebraska territory.

The quilts and other pieces will be on display in Washington, D.C., from Oct. 5, 2007, through Jan. 13, 2008. They will be taken to several other venues before they will be returned in December 2008.

Three other quilts from Hastings Museum also will be photographed for a book being produced in conjunction with the Smithsonian exhibit.

CRYSTAL COMPASS AWARD

Jessica Jungck, project coordinator for the Hastings/Adams County Convention and Visitors Bureau, received the Nebraska Association of Convention and Visitors Bureau's Crystal Compass award recently at the State Tourism Travel Conference.

This is the only award that NACVB gives each year. Jungck was chosen because of her efforts and dedication in promoting tourism on a local and state-wide basis.

Region

RECYCLING PROJECT

MINDEN — The public's empty laser and inkjet cartridges and used cell phones can help boost Minden's Head Start program under a recycling project that helps the program obtain needed technology, classroom equipment and cash.

Under the FundingFactory Recycling Program, Head Start supporters collect the cartridges and old cell phones and send them to FundingFactory in exchange for their choice of technology and recreation products or cash.

Companies interested in supporting Head Start in this way can participate free of charge in the FundingFactory Business Support Program. FundingFactory will send each participating business free, postage-paid shipping boxes for the return of collected cartridges and cell phones.

Community and business supporters also can drop off cartridges and cell phones at the Minden Head Start classroom, 506 S. Nance St.

FundingFactory, established in 1997, works with a variety of schools and nonprofit organizations throughout the continental United States and Ontario, Canada.

For information contact Jenni Caldwell in Minden, (308) 832-2303 or hsminden@mncna.net, or visit www.FundingFactory.com or call (888) 883-8237.

Calendar

- ◆ "March of the Penguins," 7:15 p.m. Saturday, Lied Super Screen Theatre in Hastings Museum.
- ◆ Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:30 and 10 a.m., noon, 7 and 8 p.m. Saturday, 521 S. St. Joseph Ave.
- ◆ Alanon, 9 a.m. Saturday, The Kensington.

Lotteries

- WINNING NUMBERS**
- Thursday**
Nebraska Pick 5 11-14-30-35-38
Jackpot: \$106,000
2b/2 Red 11-18, White 13-17
Nebraska Pick 3 6-8-6
Kansas Pick 3 7-8-9

Coalition works to prevent drug use

WILL VRASPIR
Hastings Tribune

After spending a year organizing, the South Central Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is starting to offer programs for parents and children to keep them drug and alcohol free.

"We have to get up and running and make the community aware of the programs we have to offer," said Anne Kohl, outreach coordinator for SCSAPC. "Our goal is to reduce substance abuse among youth 12-17."

A program called All Stars works with youth to create positive norms, developing goals for the future, building strong relationships and promoting school, community and parental bonds. All Stars began earlier this year and takes place at the Hastings Police Department in coordination with the After School Zone program. In January, Kohl said more organizations will join the All Stars program.

To develop preventative measures for youth and their families, Parenting Wisely will begin Nov. 6 at the YWCA Adams County, 604 N. St. Joseph Ave. A second session will be Nov. 13, and both sessions will run 1-5 p.m.

This program is open to families in Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster counties. Parents can learn techniques to help

prevent their children from staying out all night, hanging around the wrong crowd and abusing drugs and alcohol.

"This is a highly interactive parenting program which has proved effective in improving family relationships, building respect among family members and reducing the number of fights and arguments," Kohl said. "It demonstrates the most common problems reported in families by illustrating nine typical problems and common ways in which parents try to handle them."

There is a small fee per family, which covers the cost of a handbook. Financial aid for families is available.

For registration information, contact SCSAPC by calling (402) 463-0524, by visiting at 426 N. Minnesota Ave., or by e-mailing at scsapc@alltel.net.

SCSAPC was formed in January 2004 to address substance abuse issues of youth ages 12-17 in the four-county area and to develop preventative measures for families. The group is funded by a \$125,000 grant from the State Incentive Cooperative Agreement, a state and federal partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

New ethanol plant to be fueled by manure

The Associated Press

MEAD — The \$45 million complex under construction near Mead that will use manure from 30,000 feedlot cattle as the energy source to make ethanol will be the first of its kind, according to the company.

Officials with E3 BioFuels said Thursday their complex will be a "closed loop" system: methane from cow manure will generate power, corn and grain will be used to produce 24 million gallons of ethanol annually and cattle will eat the wet distillers grain that is a byproduct of ethanol production.

"This is the first time all three of these have been done in the same triangle not just in the United States, but in the world," company President David Hallberg of Omaha said Thursday.

Construction has begun on the plant, which is about 35 miles northeast of Lincoln and next to the Mead Cattle Co. lots.

While in its formative stages, the concept attracted national media attention, Hallberg said.

Gov. Dave Heineman and Doug Durante of the Clean Fuels Development Coalition in Washington, D.C., both spoke at Thursday's unveiling ceremonies.

Heineman said the combining of components means economics and energy "can be maximized in ways never before seen" in an agricultural setting.

He said the savings in energy

and transportation costs from having the cattle, the ethanol plant, the feed byproduct and the waste processing all in one place could be as much as 50 percent.

Durante called the project "truly the next generation of what we want to have in our business."

His remarks and those of several state senators and other officials were punctuated by the occasional "moo" from the feedlot and by the downwind scents of silage and a fuel source in its rawest form. The digester is expected to help control odor.

The management team settled on the Mead site because there was a large feedlot already in place and because the manure there drops through floor slats into enclosed pits from the four half-mile-long buildings where the cattle eat.

In more typical feedlots, where the manure falls on the ground, it mixes with sand and dirt, and its energy value falls below a minimum standard.

But construction on the Mead complex began a year later than had been suggested earlier.

"It's been a real challenge," Hallberg said, "because it is a first, especially from the banking side, to get the project done."

Now, "after years of being on the drawing board, it's actually coming to fruition," said Greg Ibach, state director of agriculture.



SHAY GRAVES/Tribune

Susan Elmore, an electronic systems analyst with the National Weather Service, removes an old rotating cup and vane wind sensor so it can be replaced with a new ice-free wind sensor Thursday morning at the Hastings Municipal Airport.

Taking wind's measure

NEW SENSOR TO HELP WEATHER SERVICE

SHAY GRAVES
Hastings Tribune

Personnel with the National Weather Service Office near Hastings spent several hours Thursday at the Hastings Municipal Airport installing a new wind sensor.

Susan Elmore, electronic systems analyst, said the NWS has been using a conventional analog wind system to determine wind speed and direction since it organized in the 1890s.

Elmore and Gary Keller, an electronics technician with NWS, put up the second of three new ultrasonic ice-free wind sensors.

The old sensor, which had been updated over the years, had a rotating cup sensor that spun around to measure the wind speed, and it was essentially a weather vane that determined wind direction.

The sensor had been perched on top of a pole at the airport. While the sensor was accurate in determining the current wind speed and direction, the new sensor can detect a high wind gust or peak wind speed.

The new sensor is three metal poles, or

transducers, sticking out of a center metal piece. While the old sensor turns to measure the wind speed, this sensor is stationary. It measures the time wind takes to travel from one transducer to another by recording the sound that is generated.

While the two systems appear to be different, reports for average wind speed and direction won't change that much, other than being able to compare wind gusts and peak wind reports.

Along with giving more specific gust readings, the new system will be easier for the NWS staff in bad weather. "Ice-free" simply means that even when there is ice, the sensor still works.

With the old analog system, ice would become crusted on the rotating cups and interrupt the readings, Elmore said.

When this happened, staff would have to go out to the airport, climb the pole and remove the ice.

The new system has a thin design that prevents the build-up of freezing rain or snow. Even if a little snow or ice were to collect on it, the sensor would still be operational, Elmore said.

"At least we won't be out here in the middle of the winter thawing this thing out anymore," she said with a laugh.

Divers get protection from boats

The Associated Press

LINCOLN — Scuba divers should get added protection and people staying at indoor lodges at state parks should pay more, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission said Thursday.

A new regulation passed by the commission prohibits boaters from going within 150 feet of flags divers use to mark where they are underwater. The regulation must

be approved by the governor and the attorney general.

Currently, divers have to stay within the 150-foot perimeter but boaters can travel through. Under the new regulation, divers would still have to stay within the 150-foot area.

The commission also raised rates for indoor lodging at state parks by between 5 and 10 percent, said Roger Kuhn, assistant

director in charge of parks. The amount of the increase depends on the size of the park and the lodge, he said.

A lodge room with a queen bed at Fort Robinson State Park will cost \$40 instead of the current price of \$35.

The cost of a four-bedroom cabin at Mahoney State Park will increase to \$250 from \$230.

Superior man learns about Sudan's needs

USAID OFFICIALS INVITING REFUGEES HOME TO HELP REBUILD WAR-TORN COUNTRY

BETH BOHLING
Hastings Tribune

SUPERIOR — The need for computers in Southern Sudan is much greater than the original request for 225 computers for education, Larry Yost of the Superior Pawnee Computer Society has discovered.

Yost attended a meeting in Omaha Saturday evening at which five staff members from the U.S. Agency for International Development for Southern Sudan spoke to displaced Sudanese about the needs of the country.

John Marks, who heads that operation, told about 500

Sudanese their help in rebuilding their home country was needed.

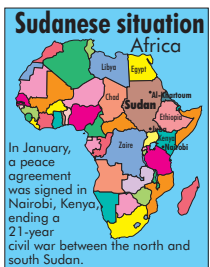
"You've been here, been educated, now we're asking you back," Marks said.

Yost and his wife, Sharon, founded SPCS, a nonprofit organization that refurbishes old computers, outfits them with new software and makes them available to individuals in need.

Earlier this year, through contacts with a congregation of Christian Sudanese refugees in Grand Island, the Yosts met individuals planning to help with the rebuilding of Southern Sudan.

That led to Larry's participation in Saturday's meeting, which he said was inspiring.

"Think of the United States in the 1700s," Yost quoted Marks as telling the Sudanese in attendance. "You are the George Washingtons, the Thomas



Jeffersons, the Patrick Henrys of the new Sudan."

While freedom has come to Southern Sudan, Marks reported, there are no schools, no hospitals and few office buildings, and roads have been destroyed.

Yost reported an overwhelming response from the Sudanese that they want to be there to help.

Marks said any individual or

organization in Nebraska, whether it has ties to Sudan or not, would be welcome to help with the rebuilding.

"If they don't have the money to get there," he said, "we will support them."

Individuals skilled in medicine, education, health training and engineering reportedly are difficult to find.

Yost said he saw a videotape recording Sudan's recent history. "What happened there is comparable to the Holocaust," he said, telling how thousands of children were starved and then massacred.

"In view of the massive decline of the image of the United States around the world in the last several years," Yost said, "Sudan is one of the few immediate opportunities that I see we have left to start rebuilding our image in a positive direction."

Whatever happens in south Sudan in the next few years is going to have a massive impact on all of Africa, Yost said. "We as fellow citizens of this planet owe them better than what they have been dealt in the past."

Other members of the AID team who spoke were Mishana Ferrando, project development officer; Johan Deng, diaspora outreach volunteer; Jinen Kuich, director of development; and Olivio Lomuro, director of health development. All are Sudanese.

Yost said he and Marks were the only Caucasians at the meeting.

Among other deficiencies, the speakers spoke of the lack of computers for keeping medical records or working in businesses.

"Even the government offices don't have computers," one said.

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