

Region

FATALITY ACCIDENT

FAIRFIELD — A Sidney man was killed early today in a one-vehicle rollover accident near here, Clay County Sheriff Jeff Franklin reported.

Nathan F. Flamig, 22, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident on Clay County's Road D, a half-mile south of Nebraska Highway 74, Franklin said in a news release.

The emergency call came in at 2:46 a.m. Flamig was heading southbound on Road D when he lost control of the 1999 Honda Accord he was driving, Franklin said. The vehicle entered the west ditch and rolled at least twice.

Flamig was not wearing a seat belt and was thrown from the vehicle.

Fairfield fire and rescue units responded to the accident scene, along with the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

Flamig was a student at Central Community College-Hastings, the sheriff said.

The accident remained under investigation this morning.

ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED

SUPERIOR — A nonprofit group planning to supply refurbished computers to the people of South Sudan now is set up to receive monetary donations through a Superior bank location.

Richard Nelson, president of the Superior branch of Central National Bank, announced Monday that a checking account had been established there for the Superior Pawnee Computer Society's Sudan Project.

The account is named SPCS — Sudan Project. Nelson said funds may be wired to that account, or checks can be mailed or delivered to the bank at 411 N. National Ave., Superior, NE 68978.

SPCS is a 501(c)(3) charity — meaning donations to it are tax-deductible. The group began work Monday refurbishing donated computers for use in South Sudan.

Moses Kong, a Sudanese national, is in charge of the project. He and his family recently moved to Superior from Lincoln.

The first 300 computers committed to Sudan are expected to be ready by Dec. 1.

Larry Yost, SPCS vice president, said donations would be needed to help with transportation and other incidental costs.

State

CORN HARVEST NEAR COMPLETE

LINCOLN — Corn harvest was almost complete and producers were busy with fall field work and winter preparation, the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service said Monday.

Meanwhile, cattle were feeding on cornstalks, the service said in its weekly report.

Measurable precipitation was reported in the eastern third of the state but the rest of the state received little or no moisture.

Temperatures ranged from 7 degrees to 1 degree above normal. Soil moisture levels improved slightly because of recent precipitation and cooler temperatures.

The statistical service said that corn harvest progressed to 98 percent complete, ahead of last year at 89 percent and the average of 95 percent.

Wheat conditions were rated as 2 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 59 percent good and 5 percent excellent. This matches last year and is above average.

BRENT MUSBURGER PAYS FINE

LINCOLN — ABC Sports' play-by-play man Brent Musburger has paid \$144 rather than fight his citation from the city of Lincoln for drinking a beer in a vehicle he was riding in.

Musburger, 66, was cited on Sept. 17 outside Memorial Stadium after calling the University of Nebraska game against Pittsburgh, which the Huskers won 7-6.

He was one of several people who were cited for similar alcohol offenses that Saturday, Lincoln police said.

According to records from the Lincoln city attorney's office, Musburger paid \$144 on Oct. 20 rather than show up in court to contest the citation. The \$144 added up from \$50 for the open container of alcohol, \$50 for drinking from it and \$44 in court costs.

BODY ON TRAFFIC MEDIAN

OMAHA — Police found the body of an Omaha man on a traffic median in midtown Omaha early Monday morning.

Officers say the man had been shot and died there. The area is southeast of what was Ak-Sar-Ben racetrack property.

The victim was identified by police as Jerry M. Trecek, 42, of Omaha.

Trecek's death was being investigated as a homicide, a police news release said.

The Associated Press

Calendar

HASTINGS

- ◆ Alcoholics Anonymous, noon, 5:15 and 8 p.m. Wednesday, 521 S. St. Joseph Ave.
- ◆ Gamblers Anonymous, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital Education Building, Room D.
- ◆ Alanon, 8 p.m. Wednesday, First United Methodist Church.

Lotteries

WINNING NUMBERS

Monday	
Nebraska Pick 3	5-0-2
Nebraska Pick 5	5-14-21-22-33
Jackpot: \$190,000	
Red 1-10, White 1-20	
Kansas Pick 3	3-8-6
Super Kansas Cash	8-18-23-30-32
Super Cashball 18	

City planners back dog kennel

TONY HERRMAN
Hastings Tribune

It's been a long process, but a Hastings woman won early approval for a kennel west of Hastings.

Laura Zade received approval from the Hastings Planning Commission for a conditional use permit to house 30 dogs despite opposition from several neighbors.

Zade has operated a commercial dog kennel for the toy breed Papillon at her home, 2375 N. Osage Ave., since 1997. Until annexations last year, her home was part of the county's jurisdiction.

The Zade kennel has been opposed by neighbor Todd Hoines, 2455 N. Osage, for more than two years. A lawsuit filed by Hoines was dismissed because the property now falls within the city's two-mile jurisdiction.

Tamara Babcock, development services director for the city, said her concern about Zade's conditional use permit application was that it didn't address noise mitigation.

She recommended approving the application with an additional condition requiring a 6-foot fence that weighs at least 4 pounds per square foot.

"This mitigation will greatly reduce noise from the source and

help limit noise in its transmission," she said.

The dimensions of the fence were taken from fences used to mitigate street noise.

"I would never say it will be silent, but the world we live in is not silent," Babcock said.

The permit included five conditions: the applicant shall operate the facility as described in the application; the applicant may have no more than 30 adult dogs on the premise at one time; the applicant shall have 10 additional dogs debarked within three months of the application's approval; the applicant shall build a 6-foot high fence that weighs at least 4 pounds per square foot with no gaps; the development services department shall inspect the kennel for compliance with these measures semi-annually for two years and annually thereafter.

"We're willing to agree with all conditions and some of those are pretty strict," said Brad Moncrief, attorney for Zade. "We're going to make sure to follow all the rules."

There was comment from people who supported and opposed the permit.

Dave Lynn spoke on behalf of his

daughter, Irene Wendell, who lives directly south of the Zade property at 2255 N. Osage Ave., and he said noise has never been an issue.

Loren Wehling of 2040 N. Osage Ave. said that to say 30 barking dogs don't make noise is a lie.

"You don't want your neighbor to have 30 dogs unless you love dogs, and I'm not into dogs," he said.

He also said the dogs don't bother him.

Dave Hartmann of 3175 N. Osage Ave. lives one-half mile north of the Zade property. Like Wehling, Hartmann said the barking doesn't bother him at home, but he empathizes with Hoines.

"I've stood in (Hoines') driveway when the dogs are barking and people can't even talk," Hartmann said.

Bob Parker, attorney for Hoines, said his client has been patient throughout the conflict, which began in October 2003 with a written complaint from Hoines to the county.

"By golly, if I had a neighbor with 30 dogs I wouldn't be as patient as he has been," Parker said.

Hoines said putting up a brick wall without enclosing it would make the sound resonate as if it was

coming out of a horn.

Many of the commissioners were concerned about the cost to Zade to meet the conditions, but she said the dogs are the most important thing to her.

"It's been a long two years and I'll comply with anything you people tell me to do," Zade said. "This is not about dogs. This is about a vendetta against me."

The commission approved recommending the application to the Hastings City Council 8-0. Commissioner Josh Yost was absent.

The item will go before the council at its Dec. 12 meeting.

In other business, the commission:

- ◆ Approved the request of the development services department to amend chapter 34 of the city code, which creates a mandate to not accept applications for the harboring of animals without meeting the minimum lot size, which is one acre.
- ◆ Unanimously approved the application of Pat Randolph for final plat approval of Skye Loch 10th Subdivision.
- ◆ Unanimously approved the application of Alan Anderson for final plat approval of Lakeview Second Addition.
- ◆ Unanimously approved the application of Allen Investments LLC for final plat approval of Allen Second Subdivision.



Ron Johnson poses for a picture next to the solar panels on the roof of his home in Omaha Nov. 7.

PHIL JOHNSON/AP

SOLAR POWER

OMAHA MAN HAS LOW LIVING COSTS IN HIS SUN-POWERED HOME

The Associated Press

OMAHA — A house of glass in the Ponca Hills neighborhood of Omaha shimmers in the late-day sun. This is Ron Johnson's answer to the energy crisis of the 1970s — and the high heating bills expected this winter.

His home has no furnace and no air conditioner. Instead, it uses solar panels, insulation and earth packed up against exterior walls to maintain an even, comfortable environment.

Year round, he runs a fan and opens windows because the small house easily becomes humid. Using those controls, the temperature inside hovers around 70 degrees all year.

Before he built the house in 1978, Johnson traveled frequently.

"After I got done traveling I decided I had to have a place to live," he told the Omaha World-Herald. "I decided on a solar home because the least it cost me to live, the least I have to work."

Savings from his solar house have provided money for investment and travel.

His untamed beard and mop of red-going-to-gray hair instantly convey the look of a laid-back eccentric. The 54-year-old further cultivates that impression when wearing one



This Nov. 7 photo shows the living room of Ron Johnson's solar home in Omaha.

PHIL JOHNSON/AP

of his hundreds of Hawaiian shirts. Johnson, who lives with his two black labs, built the house on his parents' property on Kelby Road for \$30,000 and with the help of friends.

He designed the house to face due south for the full effect of the sun. Soil 10 feet deep partially encases the sides and back of the home.

From the front, the house is a wall of windows. To the right of the front door is a bank of solar panels on the roof and greenhouse windows to the end of the

wall. To the left are five floor-to-ceiling windows.

Once inside, there's an airlock, a space where air gets trapped to help keep the cold out. To the right is a door to the greenhouse and another airlock.

The living space, excluding the greenhouse, is 1,050 square feet. That gives Johnson four rooms — bedroom, kitchen, living room and bath — arranged in a rectangle, with partitions providing privacy and storage without blocking

warm air flow near the ceiling.

The dynamo for this concrete-walled home is the 7-foot-wide by 21-foot-long greenhouse built along the front half of the house.

Solar panels heat water stored in tanks inside the greenhouse, set into a pit a few feet below the home's floor level.

A solar-powered pump runs antifreeze through a closed-loop pipe system to heat another tank that provides warm water for cooking and cleaning.