

## Memory bank's now full

Back in another time in my life, I worked in an office where a longtime employee spent a lot of time on the road. He always left a note with his schedule in his typewriter.

One day, about 10 minutes after leaving, he came tearing back into the office, grabbed the note and with coattails flying in hasty retreat said



Joyce Ore

over his shoulder, "I forgot where I was going." Funny? I, along with the rest of the 30 something staffers, thought it was hilarious. Not so anymore. I finally understand. Early in our lives, we simply do not have the experience to be selective about what to remember and what to discard in favor of saving space for future events. Little did I realize a few decades back that it wasn't important to remember for the rest of my life the name of the movie we saw on our first date or what I had for dinner the day we were married.

Once a piece of information has been filed, no way can it be discarded and replaced with something more pertinent, such as remembering to take my driver's exam.

Determining what to put in your memory cells and what to forget is a little like having a set amount of money to spend at a sidewalk sale. Do you spend it on the first few things you see or save it for later?

I used up all my memory cells quite early. In my memory bank are such important bits of information as how much money I received from the fairy for my first tooth, all the words to Catalina Magdalena and cheerleading moves to the Melbeta High School fight song.

While these things are important, I would rather remember if I really own a big wooden platter or if I just think I do, our grandsons' birthdays and the name of the woman I just spent 45 minutes reminiscing with about the good old days.

Joyce Ore of Hastings is a columnist for the Tribune. Contact Joyce at 402-461-7327 or jore@windstream.net.

### State

#### SENATOR NAMED

LINCOLN — Gov. Dave Heineman has named a pilot and former Air Force lieutenant colonel to fill the Nebraska's Legislature's vacant District 10 seat representing northwest Omaha.

Heineman announced Friday that Robert Krist, 52, will fill the seat. It came open last month when Mike Friend left to become the first director of the new Nebraska Office of Violence Prevention. *The Associated Press*

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2by2 ..... Red 5-25, White 7-20

# LRNRD holds line on tax request

LEVY RATE DROPS  
WITH BIG INCREASE  
IN VALUATION

ANDY RAUN

araun@hastingstribune.com

ALMA — Zero growth in property tax requirement plus large growth in taxable valuation will equal a lower levy rate to support the Lower Republican Natural Resources District budget for 2009-10.

That was the word from here Thursday as the LRNRD board of directors approved the budget for the new fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.



Clements

The district encompasses all of Harlan, Franklin and Furnas counties, plus most of Webster County and southern Nuckolls County. Overall taxable valuation of the district has increased from \$1.49 billion in 2008 to \$1.76 billion this year — a year-over-year increase of roughly 18 percent.

Mike Clements, district general manager, told the directors that with the property tax

requirement for the budget remaining unchanged from a year ago at \$760,100, the increase in tax base was bound to lower the tax rate.

"The valuations did go up considerably," he said.

The new year's tax rate is 4.32 cents per \$100 taxable valuation — down from about 5.1 cents per \$100 for 2008-09.

No one testified during Thursday's public budget hearing at the LRNRD offices in Alma. Clements touched briefly on highlights of the document, which carries a bottom line of \$4,548,793.

That bottom line is up 1.9

percent from the 2008-09 total of \$4,461,945. But both numbers are artificially inflated by a line item — \$2.41 million for the new year, \$2.55 million for 2008-09 — that is not for spending so much as it is for return to the taxpayers, Clements said.

The story, he said, is that the line item designated for water purchases in connection with Kansas' dispute with Nebraska over Republican River water actually represents money the district collected in past years through a special property tax levy and an occupation tax on irrigated land in the district.

The legality of both the prop-

erty tax and the occupation tax, which were authorized by the Nebraska Legislature under LB701 in 2007, has been challenged in court. The Nebraska Supreme Court already has ruled the property tax to be unconstitutional.

A legal challenge of the occupation tax remains pending. For the second straight year, it will not be collected.

Clements said district officials would like to get at least the unspent proceeds of the nullified property tax returned to landowners, but aren't sure how to accomplish that at the present time.

Please see BUDGET/page B1



AMY ROH/Tribune

Jake Kluver, 7, scored a hole-in-one recently at the Holdrege Country Club.

## One up on Tiger Woods

AREA 7-YEAR-OLD  
HITS HOLE IN ONE

CHARIS UBBEN

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DONIPHAN — Jake Kluver knows that he's one year younger than his favorite professional golfer, Tiger Woods, was when he made his first hole in one.

"He was 8 and I was 7," Jake said.

When asked what he thought about that, Jake said "It probably makes it cooler."

It happened like this: Jake was out golfing with his parents, Klay and Michelle, his 9-year-old brother, Luke, and his grandparents, Bill and Pam Patterson, at the Holdrege Country Club Aug. 30. He was grouped with the ladies while the others played one hole ahead. That is, until the guys stopped at hole 16 to search for a ball and waved Jake and the women on. Hole 16 is 126 yards, par 3.

"Mom's (ball) landed three feet outside the hole. I said 'Grandma, I'll hit,' and then I hit the ball and it went in the hole," Jake said.

With the men lined up behind them to watch, everyone in the family saw Jake's first hole in one, Michelle said. It was a pretty good shot, too.

"He flew the ball all the way to the green and it actually made a pitch mark," Klay said. "So, it was a good-looking shot."

"A lot of it is luck, but he hits the ball pretty good," Klay added. "It's just surprising it (the hole in one) happened so soon."

Each of Jake's parents and grandparents has hit his or her own hole in one, some of them more than once. But Luke hasn't reached that goal yet — though he tells Jake he soon will — which made the experience even more special for this second-grader at Doniphan-Trumbull Elementary School.

Both brothers put in their practice

time. Jake said he's probably been golfing since he was 3. He practices at a hole set up in the family's backyard, as well as at local country clubs.

"I bet you he plays a couple times a week. We're pretty avid golfers in our family," Michelle said. "Both boys have played competitive golf the past few summers. They're members of the Nebraska Junior Golf Tour."

Playing with the NJGT means the boys compete in tournaments all over Nebraska during the summer. Usually, Luke comes away with the lower score.

"He's always been in his brother's shadow a little bit. So, from a parental standpoint, it was pretty cool," Michelle said.

"Another cool thing about Jake is, when he was 3 1/2, he and his brother were fishing and he got a fish hook in his eye," she added. "So, he's basically blind in his right eye. But it doesn't really affect golf at all, because he's left eye dominant and his left eye is over the ball."

## Merchant: 'Climate' right for new clothing store

SCHREINERS PLAN  
BUSINESS CATERING  
TO YOUNG PEOPLE

JOHN HUTHMACHER

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Is downtown Hastings on the verge of becoming a hip hub for fashion-conscious teens and young adults? It is, if Hometown Variety owners Jason Schreiner and his wife, Alex, have any say in the matter.

Climate, a clothing store geared primarily toward high-schoolers and young adults, ages 16-25, is looking to open its doors in mid-November at 537 W. Second St. in the Farrell Block Building next door to Jimmy John's sandwich restaurant.

The store will specialize in mid-tier clothing offerings that will ideally appeal to all ages, Jason said.

Jason, who has invested more than 20 years in the clothing

business, is pooling his experience with his wife's sense of fashion style in a business venture he believes strongly will meet a local need.

With the recent exit of stores like The Buckle and Vanity from the local shopping scene, the couple is hoping to capitalize on a void that has driven many young adults out of town in search of the latest casual fashion trends.

"I think there's a need for mid-tier price points in town, especially in denim and fashion tops," Schreiner said Friday morning. "The key thing is that we're going to offer what we think is a good selection of brands and styles here in Hastings so people won't have to travel."

The plan is to also include upper-tier and value-priced denim offerings in the mix as well, he said.

An extensive inventory fea-

turing popular name-brand products is expected to arrive at the store in October, he said. Though the store's shelves likely will feature more items for women than men, Jason said the about 1,500-square-foot store will be divided pretty evenly down the middle, with ample offerings for both sexes.

Jason and Alex moved back to Hastings from Kearney about three years ago. The idea of putting Jason's decades of experience at The Buckle and Edison Brothers to use in a bold new endeavor has long been part of their plan, he said.

The store's name reflects the couple's concern for environmental issues, Jason said.

"Our environment and the world that surrounds us is important," he said. "We felt like it was a good name that fit in with that line of thinking. By using antiques and some fixtures made of recycled wood

products, we're going to try to do a little bit to be environmentally conscious in the store."

In spite of the current economic downturn, Jason is confident the new store will be an instant hit within the downtown Hastings shopping locale.

"We just saw a need for this kind of store in town right now in Hastings," he said. "We didn't look at the economy as being quite as relevant in the decision because we think this business is needed. When gas prices are still a little expensive, we'd rather see people not have to drive an hour and a half to buy clothes."

Jason said he and Alex opted to locate their new store downtown because of its resurgence in recent months. That, coupled with the Farrell Building's yesterday charm, made it an ideal match for their vision, he said.

"We are really excited about Please see CLIMATE/page B1

## Police get new call about fake officer

WILL VRASPIR

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For the second time in a week, police have received a report of a man impersonating an officer in Hastings.

The report came from a resident Thursday in the 1900 block of West 10th Street.

Hastings Police Chief Larry Thoren said a man who looked about 20 years old with close-cut blond hair was standing in the backyard of a residence. The man reportedly was wearing a uniform and police radio.

"When challenged, the individual said, 'It's OK. I'm a police officer,'" he said.

The man then left and nothing was reportedly stolen, but Thoren said residents need to be alert.

"People should always be cautious and suspicious of unusual circumstances," he said. "If somebody is in doubt, call the 911 call center."

On Sept. 5, a 59-year-old Hastings woman reported that a white man with brown hair and brown eyes in his mid 30s or early 40s with a tattoo on each of his upper arms reportedly identified himself as an officer and entered her residence in the 400 block of South Elm Avenue.

The man took small amounts of hydrocodone and oxycodone, both prescription pain medications, under the pretense of needing to analyze them.

Thoren said there is no evidence to connect the two incidents.

Anyone with information about either incident can contact police at 402-461-2380.

## City Council budget vote set for Monday

SHAY BURK

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The Hastings City Council is scheduled to approve the city's \$39 budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year Monday.

The City Council met for a work session Aug. 18 to review the proposed budget and analyze requests from each of the city's departments.

The council learned at that time that the Hastings Municipal Airport would become a responsibility of the city next year; that the Hastings Museum of Natural and Cultural History has a proposed balanced budget; and that the Development Services Department has continued to see a decrease in building activity in the city.

Even with all that in mind, the tax levy rate will stay the same at 47 cents per \$100 valuation, which it has been at since 2006, when it was at 51 cents. The drop in 2007 was the first time the tax rate had been below 50 cents this decade.

The public will have a chance to speak about the budget prior to the council adopting the budget at Monday's meeting.

The fiscal year begins Oct. 1. The council meets 7 p.m. Monday at the City Building, 220 N. Hastings Ave.

The council also will consider awarding a \$141,700 contract to Diamond Power of Virginia for ash panel equipment for Whelan Energy Center Unit One.

Local

BOOKMOBILE

Monday

- ◆ Good Samaritan Village:
  - Goldbeck Towers, 9:30 a.m.
  - The Villa, 9:45 a.m.
- Hoeger Memorial Library, 10 a.m.
- Perkins Pavilion, 10:15 a.m.
- Village Green, 10:30 a.m.
- ◆ Regency Retirement Residence, 1:10 p.m.
- ◆ YMCA Preschool, 1:30-2 p.m.
- ◆ HPS Preschool at Watson, 2:05-2:25 p.m.
- ◆ HPS Preschool at Morton, 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday

- ◆ Kenesaw:
  - St. Paul Lutheran Preschool, 8:50-9:10 a.m.
  - Kenesaw Public School, 9:15-12:55 p.m.
  - Child Care by Carol, 9:40-10 a.m.
  - Haven Home of Kenesaw, 1-1:15 p.m.
- ◆ Juniata:
  - Christ Lutheran School, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday

- ◆ Gingerbread, 9:15-9:40 a.m.
- ◆ Pooh Corner West, 9:45-10:30 a.m.
- ◆ God Made Me Preschool, 10:40-11 a.m.
- ◆ Tri View Elementary, 1:25-2:15 p.m.
- ◆ Crosier Park, 2:30 p.m.

Thursday

- ◆ Ayr Elementary, 9:30-11:10 a.m.
- ◆ District 15, 1-3 p.m.

State

BURGLARY CHARGES

**FALLS CITY** — A 19-year-old Falls City man accused of breaking into a police chief's home will be sentenced in October after pleading guilty to attempted burglary.

Kyle Martin entered his plea in Richardson County District Court this week.

Authorities said Martin and 20-year-old Jeffrey Murray broke into Falls City Police Chief John Caverzagie's home on June 9 and stole a laptop computer and a police scanner.

Martin's sentencing is set for Oct. 27.

Murray is scheduled for arraignment on Sept. 22.

*The Associated Press*

Deal: Local school boards rework pact

*Continued from page A1*  
members were surprised by the request at first, the superintendents said, but soon settled into a fact-finding mission.

"From Hastings Public's side, we didn't know it wasn't working," Kautz said. "The interlocal's not just about the distribution of revenue; it's also about being a good neighbor. What we were finding was yes, the revenue was being distributed, but it was hurting our neighbor."

HPS did retain an eight-percentage point advantage in the deal, because AC can use the annexed land to support a bond initiative, while HPS cannot.

"If it weren't for the way you fund bonds — Hastings Public can never access that ground to support a bond — I think it would be 50-50; a true partnership," Kautz said.

This year, AC cut a check for \$794,114 to HPS out of its cooperative fund, which is dedicated solely to money raised under the interlocal agreement. Had the new percentage split been in effect already for 2008-09, HPS would have received \$181,512 less than it did.

HPS received \$719,788 in 2008, \$588,139 in 2007 and \$478,300 in 2006 under the interlocal agreement.

Another change included in the proposed amendment is that the districts will review their agreement on a regular basis. They are now scheduled to do this during the calendar year of 2012.

"Districts are changing, whether it's state-forced or not, and that's the whole point. We need to assess this interlocal agreement every couple years and say 'Is this still beneficial for both districts?'" Scott said

The superintendents noted that their districts have enjoyed friendly relations among patrons and students in recent years. The administrators have also talked about the possibility of sharing several things, including teachers, in the future.

Music: Festival about tradition

*Continued from page A1*

Some of the artists play their own music during the three-day event, while most play many of the old traditional songs. On Friday, there were even concerts in tribute to Loretta Lynn and Johnny Cash.

Schutz said events like this are very popular. During the producer's forum Friday, different country music event organizers had the chance to advertise their own events on-stage before the audience.

The audience, which is made up mostly of senior citizens, includes people from Wisconsin, Illinois, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado and even one man from Alaska, who drove 3,700 miles to get here.

Schutz said she wishes more younger people would come out to the festival.

"A lot of people don't really have a clue what this is," she said of the festival. "We can tell



Tex and Mary Schutz perform during a Johnny Cash tribute Friday during the Miles of Memories Country MusicFest at the Adams County Fairgrounds.

them what it's about but until they're here, they don't quite get it — the fun and the camaraderie and the atmosphere. It's just a real wholesome and celebrating type atmosphere

because we're celebrating the old music in the best way we can."

AMY ROH/Tribune

Budget: Lower Republican NRD maintains tax request for new year

*Continued from page A5*

"All that money (property tax and occupation tax revenue) is either being challenged in court or there's a ruling that says it's unconstitutional — and there's no clear means to return it," he said.

The tax money was to have paid for river water that was purchased from surface irrigators and sent downstream toward Kansas.

Kansas long has maintained that Nebraska overuses its rightful share of Republican water under terms of a 1943 interstate compact. The dispute has been taken all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, and still is brewing.

Other arrangements to pay for the surface water were made

after the legal challenges to the new taxes arose.

Key features of this year's NRD budget include an increase in the line item for legal services.

Whereas the board had budgeted \$75,000 for legal services a year ago, this year the number was pushed to \$200,000.

Clements said there is no immediate need for extra legal services, but that the board wants to be prepared, given the issues related to the river dispute that are on the horizon.

"We did that because we're at a point where, with the situation in the Republican Basin, you have to have legal assistance because of the complicated issues," he said. "We're putting it in the

budget as a precautionary measure."

In separate action at Thursday's meeting, the board met in closed session with Omaha lawyer David Domina. Clements said the board hired the Domina Law Group Thursday to work with another attorney, Harriet Hageman of Cheyenne, Wyo., on river dispute matters as needed.

In general, Clements said, the 2009-10 budget is a conservative plan for the district.

"We have no new machinery or equipment purchases for the upcoming year," he said.

Director Bill Bose of Orleans cast the only vote against passage of the budget. He did not comment on his reasons during the meeting.

Climate: Hastings couple plans new clothing store

*Continued from page A5*

the new and existing developments downtown," he said. "With the variety of local stores like Gary Michael's, Back Alley, Blue Moon and national chains like Brown's, Jimmy John's and Winestyles, we think Downtown Hastings has started to grow into a shopping center in its own right.

"And the building — with the refinished wood floors and tin ceilings — works great for our look."

Jason said he hopes to coordinate the store's opening with the Celebration of Lights in

downtown Hastings on Nov. 19. Until then, he'll be splitting his duties between Hometown Variety operations and getting the new store ready for customers.

His enthusiasm for the project is tempered with a dose of cautious anxiety, he said.

"I don't know if it's necessarily nerves, but as with anything like this, there's always risk involved," he said. "You just have to kind of push and press to make sure you are keeping everything on trend so your customer is seeing what they want in the store."

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