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Hastings Tribune

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No comment

Republican River Basin NRDs mum on report of proposal to shut down irrigation wells.

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Stepdad: Girl held 18 years enjoys 'happy' reunion with family



BRUCE CHAMBERS/AP

William Carl Probyn holds a picture of his stepdaughter Jaycee Lee Dugard in Anaheim, Calif., on Thursday.

JULIET WILLIAMS

The Associated Press

PLACERVILLE, Calif. — A man suspected of snatching an 11-year-old girl and hiding her for nearly two decades in his backyard faced a court appearance today, as the woman's family reunited with their daughter and met the two children fathered by her alleged abductor.

Jaycee Lee Dugard, who was 11 when she was abducted from a South Lake Tahoe street in 1991, was kept behind a series of fences, sheds and tents, even giving birth to her suspected abductor's children in the suburban backyard compound less than 200 miles from her childhood home.



SOURCE: ESRI AP

Dugard's stepfather told CBS' "Early Show" this morning that he spoke to his wife late Thursday after she reunited with Dugard and everyone was "doing great."

"I think they're pretty happy," Carl Probyn said, noting six people were at the reunion: Jaycee Dugard, her two daughters, her sister, mother and another relative.

He said the most surprising thing to his wife was that Dugard looks almost like she did when she was taken.

"She looks very young, she looks very healthy," Probyn said. "She told me that Jaycee feels really guilty for bonding with this guy. She has a real guilt trip."

Phillip Garrido, 58, is being held for investigation of various kidnapping and sex charges. Authorities said his 54-year-old wife, Nancy Garrido, was with

him during the kidnapping in South Lake Tahoe and she also has been arrested.

Dugard was taken directly to the house and sheltered from the world in a secret, leafy backyard, investigators said Thursday. Her abductor, investigators said, raped her and fathered two children with her, the first when Jaycee was about 14. Those girls, now 11 and 15, also were kept hidden away in the backyard compound behind the Antioch home.

"None of the children have ever been to school, they've never been to a doctor," El Dorado County Undersheriff Please see KIDNAPPED/page B2

3rd Nebraska woman dies of H1N1 virus

JOSH FUNK

The Associated Press

OMAHA — Nebraska health officials on Thursday reported the state's third swine-flu death and say there are outbreaks of the virus in four cities.

The latest case involved a woman in her 20s. The unnamed woman died Wednesday at an Omaha hospital. The woman also had a chronic medical condition that contributed to her death, according to Douglas County health officials.

The woman, who had a neuromuscular disorder, had been sick for less than a week and was confined to her home before being hospitalized, said Dr. Adi Pour, director of the Douglas County Health Department.

A spokeswoman with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services couldn't immediately say when the woman went to the hospital.

The news comes a day after state health officials reported Nebraska's second death from swine flu, also known as the H1N1 strain. An Adams County woman in her 50s with chronic medical issues — including

heart disease, asthma and diabetes — died late last week, health officials said Wednesday.

Last month, the state reported the death of a Custer County woman in her 50s who also had underlying medical problems.

The H1N1 virus can cause a fever of more than 100 degrees, body aches, coughing, a sore throat, respiratory congestion and, in some cases, vomiting and diarrhea.

The swine flu has proven to be especially serious for those with chronic conditions, like heart disease and asthma, or for those who have compromised immune systems, said Dr. Joann Schaefer, the state's chief medical officer.

Most people who contract the virus can recover on their own. Only those who are moderately or severely ill should see a doctor, health officials have advised.

Outbreaks of the H1N1 flu have been reported in and around Omaha, as well as Crete, Chadron and Loup City, state health agency spokeswoman Marla Augustine said. However, she said, the disease is present statewide.

Franklin Co. hospital to dedicate expansion

TONY HERRMAN

therman@hastingstribune.com

FRANKLIN — When the new Franklin County Memorial Hospital expansion and renovation project is dedicated Sunday, everyone involved will be glad to see the completion of a long construction job.

"It's a big relief to all of us who have been displaced by construction," said Jerrell Gerdes, hospital administrator. "We're pleased to see the new facilities and people interested in our new facilities."

The dedication ceremony for the \$4.1 million project will begin 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the hospital in Franklin. Dignitaries on hand will include Gov. Dave Heineman and Russ Reno of Lincoln, grand master of the Grand Lodge of

Nebraska Masons, as well as county and city officials.

Tours of the new addition will be offered from 2:30-4 p.m.

Construction on the hospital, which includes the 14,000-square-foot expansion of its outpatient center, began in March 2008. It was the first major renovation of the hospital since a 1975 expansion.

The hospital originally opened June 6, 1952. In 1972, the medical clinic was built. More inpatient beds were added in 1975.

The clinic was connected to the hospital in 1993.

"(The public) have access to services they may have been going somewhere else for," Gerdes said.

Please see FRANKLIN/page B2



AMY ROH/Tribune

Yikes! performs at downtown's Central Park Thursday.

Downtown alive with music

YIKES! LAUNCHES NEW CONCERT SERIES

WILL VRASPIR

wvraspir@hastingstribune.com

Music filled Hastings' Central Park as the Live! Downtown Concert Series started Thursday evening. The Yikes! band entertained

Please see DOWNTOWN/page B2



AMY ROH/Tribune

Yikes! band members Mike Loveless (left) and Dave Buchholz perform during the Live! Downtown Concert Series Thursday at Hastings' Central Park.

Weather

Lo: 52
Hi: 78

Mostly clear tonight. Mostly sunny Saturday.



Art by Allyson Rowe, 7, Doniphan-Trumbull School

SWALLOWING NAILS

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — A Pennsylvania mental hospital worker has admitted giving four nails to a patient and getting her to swallow them.

Athena Marie Sidlar, a former 28-

Nation

year-old psychiatric aide trainee at Allentown State Hospital, pleaded guilty Wednesday in Lehigh County Court to reckless endangerment.

Police say that in January, she showed an 18-year-old female patient how to swallow nails. Four

nails had to be removed from the patient's stomach.

Sidlar says she has bipolar disorder and swallows nails and other metal objects. Her attorney, Ettore Angelo of Quakertown, said his client is trying to battle her affliction.

The Associated Press

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NOAH BERGER/AP

An FBI agent enters a home in Antioch, Calif., on Thursday. The home was being searched by FBI agents and El Dorado County Sheriff's officers and is believed to be connected to the disappearance of Jaycee Lee Dugard, who was abducted outside her South Lake Tahoe home in 1991.

Kidnapped: Girl enjoys 'happy' reunion

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Fred Kollar said. "They were kept in complete isolation in this compound."

Even a parole agent who visited Garrido's home didn't have an inkling about the hidden compound, Kollar said. Garrido is a registered sex offender on federal parole for rape and kidnapping convictions.

"The way the house is set up, the way the backyard is set up, you could walk through the backyard, walk through the house, and never know," Kollar said.

But neighbors said there were clues even before a parole agent on Wednesday noticed Dugard, now 29, who accompanied Garrido, his wife and the children to a parole office.

Neighbor Diane Doty said she could see the tents and often heard children playing in the backyard, the corner of which abuts her own backyard. She said she even suspected the children lived in the tents, but her husband said she should leave the family alone.

"I asked my husband, 'Why is he living in tents?'" she said. "And he said, 'Maybe that is how they like to live.'"

Dugard's stepfather, who witnessed her abduction and was a longtime suspect in the case, said he was overwhelmed by the news after doing everything he could to help find her.

"It broke my marriage up. I've gone through hell, I mean I'm a suspect up until yesterday," a tearful Probyn, 60, told The Associated Press at his home in Orange, California. He said her family felt troubled by learning



P. Garrido N. Garrido

the facts of how she was forced to live for 18 years.

The case broke after Garrido was spotted Tuesday with two children as he tried to enter the University of California, Berkeley, campus to hand out religious literature. Officers said he was acting suspiciously toward the children. They questioned him and did a background check, determined that he was a parolee and informed his parole officer.

Garrido was ordered to appear for a parole meeting and arrived Wednesday with Dugard, who identified herself as "Allissa," his wife, and two children. During questioning, corrections officials said he admitted to kidnapping Dugard.

Investigators said he did not yet have an attorney.

Police said they had no evidence that Dugard had ever reached out to anyone beyond the compound walls.

"She was in good health, but living in a backyard for the past 18 years does take its toll," Kollar said.

The backyard compound had electricity from extension cords and a rudimentary outhouse and shower, "as if you were camping," Kollar said.

Authorities said they do not know if Garrido also abused his

daughters, but they are investigating.

Garrido's compound was located in Antioch, a city of 100,000 about 170 miles from the Dugard family home in South Lake Tahoe.

People who knew Garrido said he became increasingly fanatic about his religious beliefs in recent years, sometimes breaking out into song and claiming that God spoke to him through a box.

"In the last couple years he started getting into this strange religious stuff. We kind of felt sorry for him," said Tim Allen, president of East County Glass and Window Inc. in Pittsburg, Calif., who bought business cards and letterhead from Garrido's printing business for the last decade.

Three times in recent years, Garrido arrived at Allen's showroom with two "cute little blond girls" in tow, he said.

In April 2008, Garrido registered a corporation called Gods Desire at his home address, according to the California Secretary of State. During recent visits to the showroom, Garrido would talk about quitting the printing business to preach full time and gave the impression he was setting up a church, Allen said.

"He rambled. It made no sense," he said.

Garrido gave a rambling, sometimes incoherent phone interview to KCRA-TV from the El Dorado County jail Thursday in which he said he had not admitted to a kidnapping and that he had turned his life around since the birth of his

first daughter 15 years ago.

"I tell you here's the story of what took place at this house, and you're going to be absolutely impressed. It's a disgusting thing that took place from the end to the beginning. But I turned my life completely around," he said.

In addition to kidnapping allegations, court records showed both Garridos were being held for investigation of rape by force, lewd and lascivious acts with a minor and kidnapping someone under 14 with intent to rape. Phillip Garrido also faces allegations of sexual penetration.

The AP, as a matter of policy, avoids identifying victims of alleged sexual abuse by name in its news reports. However, Dugard's disappearance had been known and reported for nearly two decades, making impossible any effort to shield her identity now.

Garrido has a long rap sheet dating to the 1970s.

He was convicted of kidnapping a 25-year-old woman whom he snatched from a South Lake Tahoe parking lot, handcuffed, tied down and held in a mini-warehouse in Reno, according to a November 1976 story in the Reno Gazette-Journal.

He also has a conviction for rape by force or fear stemming from the same incident, and was paroled from a Nevada state prison in 1988, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Jaycee Lee Dugard has retained custody of her children and was staying at a Bay area motel, authorities said.

Franklin: Hospital expansion to be dedicated Sunday

Continued from page A1

Franklin County Memorial Hospital now can provide aquatherapy.

The hospital installed a SwimEx Therapy Pool that offers resistance exercise and therapy. The area also has new dressing rooms and shower rooms.

The cardiac rehabilitation facility has been expanded to provide a warm-up area, cardiac-stress testing room and improved monitoring of the patients. Radiology services have added a four-slice computerized tomography scanner, which has fixed housing in the new building, eliminating the present service that had been provided in a trailer in the hospital parking lot.

In addition to the aquatherapy, cardiac rehabilitation and physical therapy expansion, a new hospital laboratory has been constructed. Prior to the project, FCMH staff had to provide professional services in the basement of the hospital using about 400 square feet. The addition is 1,200 square feet with a permanent phlebotomy room addition.

Gerdes said the hospital's new services will create four full-time jobs.

He anticipates the hospital's

new services will officially open Tuesday, following final approval from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

The hospital has three full-time physicians, an emergency room physician, three nurse practitioners and a physician assistant. The staff roster also includes 27 other physicians, six of whom have clinics at the hospital.

Franklin County Memorial Hospital serves most of Franklin County and parts of Webster County and Smith County, Kan. In all, the hospital serves a population of about 6,000 people.

Besides in Franklin, the hospital also works with clinics in Campbell, Hildreth, Red Cloud and Blue Hill.

Gerdes said these hospital additions are good for main street because someone might come into town for health care services and then stay for shopping or a meal.

"We find patients are a lot more compliant if they have access to the services and don't have to travel," he said.

Already, the hospital additions are popular among area residents, Gerdes said.

"It's spacious and of course new — that always makes a difference," he said.

Lynching victim's casket to go to Smithsonian

DON BABWIN

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A casket that helped trigger the civil rights movement and decades later was discarded like trash is now heading to the Smithsonian Institution.

On the very spot where in 1955 the brutalized remains of 14-year-old Emmett Till were put on display in Chicago, his family on Friday announced plans to give the casket to the Washington, D.C., museum complex.

"Part of the responsibility of a national museum is to help people to remember, and through this donation we will ensure that future generations will remember how the death of a child, a mother's courage, helped to transform America," said Lonnie Bunch, the director of the Smithsonian's planned

National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The news conference at the church on Chicago's South Side follows last month's discovery of the tattered, dented and rusty casket in a garbage-strewn storage shed at a suburban cemetery where former workers are charged with digging up corpses and reselling burial plots.

The former workers are not accused of disturbing Till's grave. However, while detectives were investigating the cemetery desecration, they found Till's casket that had been pulled from the ground when his body was exhumed in 2005 as part of an investigation into his death. Till's body was then buried in another casket and the family was told the original casket would be kept for a memorial.

Downtown: Yikes! kicks off concert series

Continued from page A1

the crowd of about 175, featuring a variety of music including covers of popular rock and country songs like "Back in the USSR," "Happy Together," "Your Mama Don't Dance," "Brandy (You're a Fine Girl)" and "Old Time Rock and Roll."

Dave Buchholz, keyboardist and vocalist for the band, joked with the audience between some of the songs.

"For those of you who like what you hear tonight, we're called Yikes!" he said about halfway through the performance.

"For those of you who don't like what you hear tonight, we're called the OK Sisters."

Linda Pedersen of Hastings

was one of those who liked what she heard.

"It's getting better as it goes," she said. "It's nice when Hastings offers something for people to come out and do."

She also thought the weather helped increase the attendance.

By the time the concert started, the park was shaded from the sun by the building to the west. A light breeze through the two buildings kept temperatures in the lower 70s.

Randy Chick, director of the Business Improvement District, which sponsored the concert, said the weather helped make the event a success.

"The weather is great," he said. "We have a good crowd, good music. I think people

enjoy it."

Jay and Delores Ziegler of Riverton said it wasn't the type of music they listened to growing up, but they decided to come to Hastings to hear members of the former Blackberry Winter band. Four of the five Yikes! band members had been in Blackberry Winter.

Delores said she thought the park worked well for the concert.

"It's the perfect place to have it," she said. "The acoustics of the buildings keep the music in."

Eileen Penrose of Hastings said being outdoors helped create a nice atmosphere for the concert.

"Most bands play too loud to

be inside," she said. "I like this setting."

Dale Shotkoski of Grand Island said he and his wife enjoy outdoor concerts and came to the city because they remembered Blackberry Winter.

"We like this atmosphere," he said. "Odds are, we'll be back."

Next Thursday, David Hugh Adams will be the second artist of the series. The singer, songwriter and surfer just released his latest album, "Diving for Pearls."

On Sept. 17, the Pawnee Creek Band will conclude the concert series with a mix of traditional acoustic styles including bluegrass, country and country swing.

Governors say 'No thanks' to mystery laptops

LAWRENCE MESSINA

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Even during tight budgetary times, a growing handful of state governors are proving too wary to accept laptop computers that have shown up at their offices this month, unsolicited.

Officials in West Virginia, Vermont, Wyoming and Washington state have reported receiving between three and

five laptops, each over the course of two separate deliveries — but none had ordered any of them.

"They immediately raised a red flag," said Matt Turner, spokesman for West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin. "No one said, 'Hey, we got a free gift.'"

The laptops were made by Hewlett-Packard or come from its Compaq brand. The world's leading PC maker intercepted a ship-

ment to at least one other state, according to a bulletin issued by the National Governors Association in response to the suspicious deliveries.

"HP is aware that fraudulent state government orders recently have been placed for small amounts of HP equipment. HP took prompt corrective action to address the fraudulent orders and is working with law enforcement personnel on a

criminal investigation," the Palo Alto, Calif.-based company said in a statement, declining further comment.

Hewlett-Packard has contracts to provide computer equipment to Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

The National Governors Association warning also said Vermont's laptops were paid for with a credit card issued in the name of Gov. Jim Douglas.

Village of Ayr IN Adams County, Nebraska	
NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY	
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-513, that the governing body will meet on the 7th day of September 2009 at 8:00 o'clock, P.M., at Village Hall, Ayr, NE for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the following proposed budget. The budget detail is available at the office of the Clerk during regular business hours.	
Maxine Strasburg, Clerk/Secretary	
2007-2008 Actual Disbursements & Transfers	\$ 22,955.64
2008-2009 Actual/Estimated Disbursements & Transfers	\$ 33,168.23
2009-2010 Proposed Budget of Disbursements & Transfers	\$ 142,010.44
2009-2010 Necessary Cash Reserve	\$ -0-
2009-2010 Total Resources Available	\$ 142,010.44
Total 2009-2010 Personal & Real Property Tax Requirement	\$ 6,974.03
Unused Budget Authority Created For Next Year	\$ 5,183.76
Breakdown of Property Tax:	
Personal and Real Property Tax Required for Bonds	\$ -0-
Personal and Real Property Tax Required for All Other Purposes	\$ 6,974.03
NOTICE OF SPECIAL HEARING TO SET FINAL TAX REQUEST	
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Section 77-1601.02, that the governing body will meet on the 7th day of September, 2009 at 8:15 o'clock P.M., at Village Hall, Ayr, NE for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request at a different amount than the prior year tax request.	
2008-2009 Property Tax Request	\$ 6,725.12
2008 Tax Rate	\$ 0.292535
Property Tax Rate (2008-2009 Request/2009 Valuation)	\$ 0.292535
2009-2010 Proposed Property Tax Request	\$ 6,974.03
Proposed 2009 Tax Rate	\$