



Jump... rope, that is.

Page B10



Hastings Tribune

Big stick

Hastings High's Hannah Melvin breaking team records. Page B1



20 pages http://www.hastingstribune.com

Thursday, Oct. 9, 2003

Home delivered 28 cents Newsstands 50 cents

'We're just fortunate'

ADAMS COUNTY HAD NO ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES IN 2002; FATALITIES HIGH IN CLAY COUNTY

JEFFREY GAUTREAUX
Hastings Tribune

With four traffic fatalities in 2002, Clay County topped other Tribland counties for the number of crash-related deaths in 2002.

According to a report released this week from the Highway Safety Section of the Nebraska Department of Roads, two of those deaths in Clay County were alcohol-related.

Still, those numbers are low compared to the traffic fatalities that have occurred this year. Clay County Sheriff Jeff Franklin said there have been 10 fatalities in the county in 2003.

"This is the highest number we've ever had for fatalities,"

Franklin said. "We've never had a triple fatality before."

A head-on collision April 11 claimed three lives and a Sept. 18 one-vehicle accident claimed two more.

Six of the 10 victims died in accidents on U.S. Highway 6.

Franklin said about half of the fatalities this year likely will end up being attributed to alcohol or drugs.

Meanwhile, Adams County had two traffic fatalities in 2002, and neither was related to alcohol,

according to the Department of Roads report.

Those numbers are better than average, according to Adams County Sheriff Gregg Magee.

"We're just fortunate," Magee said. "Most of all, we were fortunate that there were no youth fatalities involving alcohol."

Hall County had 15 people die on roadways in 13 crashes, with four of those accidents related to alcohol.

Please see **FATALITIES**/page A7

Fatality accidents

The Nebraska Department of Roads recently released statistics for 2002, detailing the number of fatality accidents in each Nebraska county and the number of those which involved alcohol. In Tribland, the number of fatalities is marked in blue; the number of those involving alcohol is marked in red.

0/0	2/0	4/2	2/0
Kearney	Adams	Clay	Fillmore
3/1	0/0	1/0	3/0
Franklin	Webster	Nuckolls	Thayer



In the LINE of DUTY



COMMUNITY REMEMBERS POLICE OFFICER KILLED 10 YEARS AGO TODAY



BRENT McCOWN/
Tribune

Left: Hastings Police Capt. Gene Boner holds a plaque in memory of Joel Conklin at the Police Department Wednesday. Conklin was killed 10 years ago today while responding to a domestic disturbance call. Top left: Conklin's initials and badge number are stitched onto the Hastings Police Department badges. Above: In this photo by Rick Houchin, roses accompany a U.S. flag and a picture of Joel Conklin on top of his casket during his funeral Oct. 13, 1993.

JEFFREY GAUTREAUX
Hastings Tribune

Since he was 14 years old, Joel Conklin wanted to be a police officer.

His mother, Agnes Cromer of Hastings, said the dream began when he read a book about law enforcement.

The dream became a reality in 1990 after Conklin graduated from the 106th Basic Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Camp and was hired by the Hastings Police Department.

"He loved being a policeman," said Cromer, who lives at Good Samaritan Village. "He knew the dangers, but he went ahead. He was willing."

"He loved being a policeman. He knew the dangers, but he went ahead. He was willing."

- Agnes Cromer, Joel Conklin's mother

The dream ended 10 years ago today, when Conklin was killed in the line of duty in Hastings. A decade later, Conklin is remembered as a man who always had a smile on his face and was thrilled

to be doing his job.

Hastings Police Capt. Gene Boner, who was hired within a month of Conklin's hiring, characterized Conklin as fair, aggressive and diligent, and, of course, excited to do his job.

An active officer, Conklin regularly led the department in arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol.

"That was his forte, his passion, getting drunk drivers off the streets," Sgt. Mathew Workman said.

Retired Hastings Police Chief Jim Ruberson, who hired Conklin, praised Conklin for how he helped the chemistry in the department.

"He had a good attitude," Ruberson said. "He worked well with young people and he got along with who he worked with."

Conklin would do whatever was necessary to protect citizens. In fact, on that Saturday night 10 years ago, he was scheduled to go off duty at 10 p.m.

However, because help was needed, Conklin volunteered to work overtime until 11 p.m.

OCT. 9, 1993

Shortly after 10 p.m., Workman said a call went out for police assistance at 514 S. Maple Ave. Conklin was the first officer on the scene.

Please see **CONKLIN**/page A7

Planners OK sign moratorium

TODD NEELEY
Hastings Tribune

It may be a few years before any new billboards go up in Hastings.

Citing a sense of urgency to establish a plan for the north U.S. Highway 281 corridor into Hastings, the Hastings Planning Commission Wednesday moved forward on a proposed off-premise signs moratorium.

The commission voted unanimously to amend city code, which if approved by the Hastings City Council Monday, would set a moratorium within the city's two-mile jurisdiction. That restriction would be effective Oct. 28. Board members Tim O'Keefe, Phyllis Salyards and Dan Dowling were absent.

The proposal came about on the recommendation of an ad hoc committee consisting of city and Adams County officials.

The committee recommended that a moratorium last a minimum of 24 months.

However, the drafted ordinance does not set a timetable. Just how long the moratorium would last depends on how soon a corridor plan could be completed.

"I think this is something we need to do in order to preserve the corridor," said Tamara Babcock, Hastings Development Services director.

Please see **SIGNS**/page A8

It's like a poke in the eye

RESEARCHERS SAY BRAIN AS ACTIVE FROM SOCIAL REJECTION AS FROM PHYSICAL PAIN

PAUL RECER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — To a part of the brain that registers pain, the distressful reaction from social rejection is just as great as from a poke in the eye, according to researchers who measured the neural reactions of people who thought they had become outcasts in a game.

In an experiment at UCLA, researchers monitored the blood flow in the brains of people who had been led to believe that other players in a computer ball game were intentionally excluding them and refusing to let them play with the group.

The shock and distress of this rejection registered in the same part of the brain, called the anterior cingulate cortex, that also responds to physical pain, said Naomi I. Eisenberger, a UCLA researcher and first author of the study appearing this week in the journal *Science*.

"The ACC is the same part of the brain that has been found to be associated with the unpleasantness of physical pain, the part of pain that really bothers us," Eisenberger said.

Please see **RESEARCH**/page A7

Weather

Lo: 50s
Hi: 85



Art by C.C. Lau, 7, Doniphan-Trumbull

Nation

TOO RACY

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The cover of a University of Kansas calendar featuring women from the university is too racy for one bookstore.

Bill Muggy, owner of Jayhawk Bookstore, is pulling the store's sponsorship of the 2004 Women of

KU calendar, saying the annual calendar was on its way to becoming Playboy magazine-type material.

But the woman pictured in the cover photo, senior Shannon O'Connor, said she considered the photo "PG-13 rated" and tastefully done. O'Connor, a student manager for the University of

Kansas basketball team, said she is a role model for young girls.

The photo shows O'Connor sitting on what appears to be a basketball court, with a basketball between her legs. She wears red shorts and a red tank top, with a strap partly down her left arm.

The Associated Press

Inside

Agri/Business	A 8	Entertainment	B 5
Bridge	B 5	Nation	A 9
Classified	B 7	Opinion	A 4
Comics	B 4	Tribland	A 2

Vol. 99, No. 8 ©2003, THE SEATON PUBLISHING CO., INC. HASTINGS, NEBRASKA

Conklin: Hastings remembers

Continued from page A1

"Joel checked out and shortly thereafter the com (communications) center was trying to get a hold of him," Workman said. "Then there were reports of shots being fired, and then my gut instinct or my intuition kicked in, and I knew something was wrong."

Workman said he, Officer Tony Scaccia and now-retired Officer Chuck Morgan arrived at the scene at the same time and found Conklin.

He had been shot once from close range with a sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun by Sylvester Frank Pettit of Spring Ranch.

Pettit then took a female hostage and led authorities on a chase across Nebraska to near Republican City, where he killed himself in the early morning hours of Oct. 10.

There had been no indication that Pettit had a gun or was dangerous. The call originally came over the radio as a "remove suspect" rather than a "domestic disturbance," Workman said.

"The most routine call can be the most dangerous," Workman said. "They're dangerous for law enforcement, but it's just as dangerous for the people involved."

In addition to the hostage, another woman, who was Pettit's estranged wife, and four young boys were in the house. One of the boys was injured when Pettit shot the latch off the door to gain entry to the home.

Conklin was 37 years old. He left behind his wife, Debra, and daughter, Tracy, who now live in Omaha. He also left behind every officer at HPD.

"(The officers) lost, more or less, a brother," Ruberson said. "He was a part of a family. Police officers are close."

Conklin's Oct. 13 funeral was attended by more than 500 police officers and hundreds of members of the community.

"(The funeral) was rough," Workman said. "The roughest thing was watching (Conklin's) family and watching my wife who was pregnant with our first child. But at the same time, it was nice to see the support and brotherhood behind you."

A FALLEN BROTHER

Since Conklin died, none of the officers have taken his badge number, 17, and none of the officers have forgotten.

"It drew us all closer together," Boner said. "It's kind of a bond we share. The new officers, hopefully that's a bond they'll never have to experience, but they understand."

Many officers were forced to rethink what they had chosen as a profession, but Workman said he was proud that no one quit.

Conklin's wife, daughter and mother remained close friends of the department.

Tracy Conklin often rode along on shifts with Workman or Scaccia after her father was killed.

"Tracy knew what her dad did and why he did it," Workman said. "She would not have ridden along otherwise."

10 YEARS LATER

Workman admits that he cannot help but think about the incident that claimed Conklin's life. It was only his second year as an officer, so the death influenced him greatly.

"Cognitively, I'm a more safe officer," he said.

Workman said if he finds himself on Maple Avenue, the memories return.

With the placement of The Protector bronze statue outside HPD today, those memories will be ignited once again.

The statue is in honor of all HPD police officers, especially Conklin and officer Clarence J. Balcom, who was killed in the line of duty Aug. 7, 1888.

For Cromer, who lives at Good Samaritan Village, it is hard to describe her feelings.

"Sometimes it seems like it's been 10 years," Cromer said. "Sometimes it seems like it was forever, and sometimes it seems like yesterday."

Fatalities: Numbers high in Clay County

Continued from page A1

Hall County came in third in the state for number of traffic fatalities, behind only Lancaster and Douglas counties.

In Adams County, there were 822 total crashes in 2002.

More than 75 percent of those crashes caused property damage only, and 203 crashes resulted in 283 people being injured.

Magee said Showboat Road and J Street was the only intersection in the county where more than one accident had taken place.

"We've seen a high number of injury accidents at that intersection," he said.

Magee attributed accidents at that intersection to human error and a failure to abide by the traffic lights.

Magee said 2003 is shaping up as a safe year for drivers in Adams County, as well. There have been no traffic fatalities so far this year.

Statewide, 307 people were killed in traffic accidents in 2002, and 23,379 people were injured. That is an average of one death every 29 hours and 64 people injured each day.

Only one in four people who died on Nebraska roadways in 2002 were confirmed to be wearing seat belts, and 37 percent of roadway fatalities were

alcohol-related.

For the second straight year, state seat belt usage held steady at 70 percent. The highest level of seat belt usage was in 2001 when 71 percent of Nebraska vehicle occupants used restraints, the report states.

Drivers in the 15-24 age bracket had the highest involvement of any age group in accidents, with 35 percent, and fatal crashes, 29 percent.

Nearly 50 percent of alcohol-related crashes involved drivers between the ages of 21 and 34. Drivers ages 21 to 24 were involved in 24 percent of alcohol-related crashes, but only about 12 percent of overall accidents.

One-fifth of alcohol-related crashes involve drivers ages 15-20, despite the fact that the legal drinking age is 21.

Three out of four drivers in fatal crashes and 57 percent of drivers in all crashes were male. However, 54 percent of victims in all crashes were female.

Franklin and Thayer counties each had three traffic fatalities. One death was alcohol-related in Franklin.

Fillmore County had two traffic deaths, and Nuckolls and Harlan counties had one.

Kearney and Webster were two of the 20 Nebraska counties that had no traffic fatalities in 2002. Statistics showed that the

highest number of crashes occurred between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. The worst day for crashes was Friday and the worst month was October.

October had 4,601 crashes, 380 more than the closest other month. February was the safest month, with 3,231 accidents.

There were 383 motorcycle crashes in Nebraska in 2002, over 100 more than 2000. Fifteen motorcycle accidents resulted in fatalities in 2002. By comparison, there were only three such fatalities in 2000.

Almost 3,000 more motorcycles were registered in 2002 than in 2000.

Research: Social rejection causes pain, too

Continued from page A1

"There's something about exclusion from others that is perceived as being as harmful to our survival as something that can physically hurt us, and our body automatically knows this," the researcher said.

Eisenberger said the study suggests that social exclusion of any sort — divorce, not being

invited to a party, being turned down for a date — would cause distress in the ACC.

"You can imagine that this part of the brain is active any time we are separated from our close companions," she said. "It would definitely be active when we experience a loss," such as a death or the end of a love affair.

The tendency to feel rejection

as an acute pain may have developed in humans as a defensive mechanism for the species, she said.

"Because we have such a long time as infants and need to be taken care of, it is really important that we stay close to the social group. If we don't we're not going to survive," said Eisenberger.

"The hypothesis is that the social attachment system that makes sure we don't stray too far from the group piggybacked onto the pain system to help our species survive."

This suggests that the need to be accepted as part of a social group is as important to humans as avoiding other types of pain, she said.

Just as an infant may learn to avoid fire by first being burned, humans may learn to stick together because rejection causes distress in the pain center of the brain, said Eisenberger.

"If it hurts to be separated from other people, then it will prevent us from straying too far from the social group," she said.



The Flavor of Fall



OWNED AND OPERATED BY HOMETOWN PROUD ASSOCIATES!

<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #f4a460; color: white; padding: 2px;">Value of the Week</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">American Beauty Pasta</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">24 oz., Asst.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold; color: #f4a460;">47¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Limit 2 with \$10 purchase</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Tender Valley Ranch Boneless Beef Rump Roast</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold; color: #f4a460;">\$17.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Lb.</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Washington Red Delicious Apples</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold; color: #f4a460;">78¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Lb.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Save 60¢ Lb.</p> </div>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Green Giant Vegetables</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">12 Pk. Case Corn, Peas And Green Beans</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold; color: #f4a460;">\$4.00</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Save \$6.29</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #f4a460; color: white; padding: 2px;">Delicious Made From Scratch!</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Cracked Wheat Bread</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold; color: #f4a460;">99¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">16 oz. loaf</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Save \$1.00</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Pumpkins</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold; color: #f4a460;">15¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Lb.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Save 10¢ Lb.</p> </div>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Hand Breaded Never Frozen 16 pc. Fried Chicken</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold; color: #f4a460;">\$10.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Includes 4 breasts, 4 thighs, 4 legs, 4 wings</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Save \$3.00</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Scratch Jumbo Muffins</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Several Delicious Varieties 4 Ct. Pkg.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold; color: #f4a460;">\$2.49</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Save \$1.00</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Best Choice Tomato Juice</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">46 Oz. Can</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold; color: #f4a460;">76¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Save 53¢</p> </div>



OPEN DAILY 6 A.M.-MIDNIGHT
7th & BURLINGTON • 463-3574
PRICES GOOD THRU 10-12-03
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

