

Local

BPW MEETING

The Hastings Utilities Board of Public Works will hear a report on utility operation during the season's first blizzard at its meeting Friday.

"The big news was that we had very little operation disturbance," said Al Meyer, HU assistant manager. He said there were scattered outages, but "really nothing too major."

The board also will hear a report from the Hastings Economic Development Corporation.

The board will vote to approve three real estate improvement contracts.

The meeting will be at 8 a.m. Friday at the North Denver office, 1228 N. Denver Ave.

State

I-80 COLLISION

**KILLS MOM, INFANT LINCOLN** — A mother and her son are dead after a three-vehicle accident on Interstate 80 near Greenwood.

Around 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jessica Ketelsen, 26, lost control of her Saab going westbound on Interstate 80 just east of the Greenwood exit near mile market 422. The Saab crossed the median and was hit by two eastbound vehicles, the Nebraska State Patrol said.

Her son, 1-year-old Jeremy Ketelsen, was a passenger in the vehicle. Both were wearing seat belts.

The two other drivers, Chelsea Thomalla of Omaha, 27, and Lynne Haecker of Lincoln, 56, were taken to BryanLGH Medical Center West with nonlife-threatening injuries, the State Patrol said.

It was unclear whether the snowy conditions contributed to the accident, the patrol said.

JEWELRY STORE SHOOTING

**OMAHA** — The 18-year-old man killed and the 17-year-old boy wounded in a shooting at a pawn shop Tuesday were trying to rob the business, Omaha Police said Wednesday.

One of the owners of Benson Jewelry and Loan, Ken Blankenship, said he shot Kendall Tealer and Brandon Bowie during the botched robbery.

Blankenship and the store's other owner, Norm Sargent, were inside when Tealer and Bowie entered and attempted to rob the business at gunpoint. Blankenship said he grabbed a gun hidden behind a shop counter and shot the suspects.

Tealer died on the scene and Bowie was taken to the Nebraska Medical Center. A representative at the medical center did not comment on Bowie's condition Wednesday.

State

RECALL EFFORT

**LINCOLN** — An effort to recall all of Greenwood's village trustees resumed after a potential compromise fell through.

Kevin Smith filed recall affidavits against Village Board members Leslie Krings, Jennifer Roberts Johnson, Rod O'Rourke, Rich Franzen and Fred Starr in October.

Calendar

HASTINGS

♦ **Alcoholics Anonymous**, noon, 5-15, 7 and 8 p.m. Friday, 521 S. St. Joseph Ave.  
♦ **"Shy High,"** 7:15 p.m. Friday, Lied Super Screen Theatre, Hastings Museum of Natural and Cultural History, 1330 N. Burlington Ave.

Lotteries

WINNING NUMBERS

**Wednesday**  
Powerball . . . . .19-23-27-42-52-P81  
(Power Play: 5; Saturday's jackpot: \$75 million)  
Nebraska Pick 3 . . . . .3-8-3  
Nebraska Pick 5 . . . . .4-5-8-30-33  
Jackpot: \$60,000  
2by2 . . . . .Red 13-14, White 13-21  
Kansas Pick 3 . . . . .5-1-2  
Super Kansas Cash . . . . .1-3-10-11-22  
(Super Cashball: 25)  
Hot Lotto . . . . .3-4-14-25-26  
Hot Ball 7

Motorsport Park plans set in asphalt

TONY HERRMAN  
Hastings Tribune

Motorsport Park Hastings officials hope to be able to play host to asphalt races in summer 2006.

One big step toward accomplishing that goal was reached when MPH signed an engineering agreement with JEO Consulting Group Inc. of Hastings Nov. 22.

"We asked for bids from quite a few companies, and they have been involved from Day One," said George Anderson, MPH managing partner. "We're very proud to have them helping us."

Anderson said the park is already booking race groups. Rocky Mountain Vintage Racing of Estes Park, Colo., will

bring 150 vintage automobiles the third weekend of July.

"They will be returning from one of the largest vintage races in country, in Indiana, during the second weekend of July," he said. "They already sent a nice deposit check."

MPH also will host motorcycle races in July and September as part of the TrackAddix Great Plains Roadracing Championship.

In the meantime, Anderson said JEO will work directly with MPH officials and track designer Alan Wilson of Wilson Motorsport Inc. to get the track ready.

JEO will do the engineering for the grading, roadway and drainage plans.

Please see MPH/page A6

Anderson runs into legal roadblock

Hastings Tribune

Motorsport Park Hastings needs to change a state law before it can play host to any races on asphalt. George Anderson, MPH managing partner, said he contacted the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality about using 20,000 tires for a safety barrier around the track.

"I was assuming I'd be received with open arms for this wonderful, beneficial use of tires," Anderson said. "They were kind, but they said I couldn't do it."

The tires can't be used as a safety barrier at the track because it is not officially a beneficial use for tires in Nebraska.

NDEQ officials suggested Anderson go to the state Legislature. He said he is meeting with Sen. Carroll Burling of Kenesaw today to "craft very

specific words to change the law."

"Here I am doing something great, and I ran into a roadblock," Anderson said. The law must be changed during the legislative session which begins Jan. 4.

In addition to making a race-track safety barrier a "beneficial use" for tires, Anderson also must change the maximum amount of tires that can be used in one place.

The current amount is 500. "I'm 100 percent certain that I'll get full cooperation," he said. "It has too big of an economic impact for people not get involved."

"Hopefully it is a no-brainer enough for (the natural resources committee) to say this is good for everybody," he said.



BRENT MCCOWN/Tribune

Actors on the north stage stand frozen as the courthouse and downtown lights of Minden are turned on during the Nov. 29, 2003, showing of "Light of the World" pageant.

Storm chews up scenery

DAMAGE FORCES PAGEANT'S FINAL PERFORMANCE TO BE LIMITED TO ONE SIDE

Hastings Tribune

**MINDEN** — This year's final performance of "The Light of the World," Minden's well-known Christmas pageant on the town square, will be limited to one side of the square instead of two as originally planned.

The 30-minute pageant will be performed on the north side of the courthouse only, beginning at 7 p.m., the Minden Chamber of Commerce said in a news release.

The pageant otherwise would have been performed on the north and west

sides simultaneously. But scenery on the west side was blown over and damaged in Monday's blizzard, necessitating the change.

"The Light of the World," now in its 59th year, relates the traditional Christmas story based on biblical accounts. The production, and the holiday lighting that goes with it, have earned Minden the title of "Nebraska's Christmas City."

During the pageant, a small army of volunteer cast members act out their parts silently. Pre-recorded narration, dialogue and music are piped through the square via a public address system.

The end of the pageant brings a climactic moment: the illumination of 12,000 colored holiday lights hung throughout the square.

This year's first pageant performance

was Saturday evening. The second was to have been Sunday evening, but was canceled due to rain, snow and strong winds.

This Sunday's performance will be preceded by a gift-wrapping event at the Minden Community Center on the west side of the square.

From 4-7 p.m., visitors can enjoy hot chocolate and dessert and have gifts wrapped for a free-will donation to the TeamMates Program.

Also, the Minden High School chapter of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) will serve a soup supper at the town fire hall, which is one block off the southwest corner of the square.

Serving hours are 5-7 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Minden Police Department's Drug Dog Fund.

*Goodfellows 2005*

Monetary donations may be mailed to the Tribune at P.O. Box 788, Hastings, NE 68902; and new toys or cash may be delivered to the Tribune offices at 908 W. Second St. The Tribune subscription payment box in the alley behind the Tribune building also may be used.

**Donations list**

Kenesaw American Legion Post No. 268 . . . \$100  
In memory of Raymond "Ray" Boutin,  
In memory of Deland Ray Boutin Jr.,  
In memory of Lydia V. Sunday, . . . . . \$50  
In memory of John W. Sunday . . . . . \$1,520  
**Total . . . . . \$1,520**

Heavy stuff

The annual Goodfellow campaign can be a weighty topic. Literally.

The boxes being delivered to the families contain quite a few items — both heavy and light.

An average box contains food items, including canned foods, like tuna, cranberry sauce and vegetables, as well as boxed items like stuffing and cereal, according to Goodfellows organizer Cary Beurskens.

Larger items in a box include bags of fruit, carrots and potatoes.

One small bag of potatoes alone can weigh 5 pounds and if a family is larger, they will get a

10-pound bag. The largest families often get two 10-pound bags.

Beurskens said that all boxes are packed just like bags at a grocery store, with the heaviest items on bottom and the lightest on top.

Some of the lightest items include small boxes of gelatin and gravy packets. Despite the heavy items, Beurskens said everything goes in the box. This includes the gifts and toys.

Based on the limited space for food and toys, Beurskens said they prefer to only have smaller toys rather than large items like bicycles, which are not allowed.

Korean War museum may be moving from Oxford to Edgar

BETH BOHLING AND DIANA LAMBSON  
Hastings Tribune

**NELSON** — The National Korean War Museum has outgrown the space available in the former nursing home at Oxford, Museum Director Kyle Kopitke said here Wednesday.

Kopitke said the Korean War collection had grown from 1,000 items to about 7,000 items, with things still coming in.

On Saturday he announced the closing of the museum at Oxford.

Kopitke moved to Nelson last summer, not long after the dedication of the museum in Oxford. In Nelson, he launched plans for the National Vietnam War Museum in an old school building.

Kopitke said he was moving the Korean War collection to the former Edgar school building, which the NKWM board of trustees recently purchased for \$1.

The Edgar museum is to open on April 11, 2006, in the second and third floors of that building, which Kopitke has

renamed the Edgar Citadel.

The Edgar building has about twice as much floor space as the building at Oxford, he said. The building's first floor needs more work before it can be opened.

Kopitke said he planned to establish a World War I museum in Oxford.

He said he still was negotiating for the high school buildings at Chester and Trumbull, which he would like to include in a Trail of American War Museums.

HARD FEELINGS

Meanwhile, many Korean War veterans are disgruntled by the news the museum is leaving Oxford just a year after Kopitke first met with community leaders there about the idea of establishing it.

Kopitke approached the Oxford Village Board in December 2004 with the idea of establishing a museum in the former Walker Post Manor nursing home at the north end of town.

At the time, he said the building was a perfect location for the first of a string of seven such

museums across Nebraska honoring veterans of different wars and conflicts.

Kopitke said the exhibits, then housed in Hawaii, had outgrown the building there. He said because land was too expensive to purchase for expansion, he decided to relocate to the center of the continental United States for easier access to more people.

The immediate response was good. A large number of area veterans donated memorabilia. Many residents and veterans volunteered hours to set up exhibits, paint and ready the museum for the dedication in April.

Kopitke indicated he expected more than 5,000 in attendance at that event. About 500 showed.

While tourists continued to visit the museum over the summer and some donations were received, Kopitke indicated the numbers didn't add up to what was needed to keep the museum doors open.

Please see KOREAN/page A7