



Janet Soucie poses with four calves and their mother at her farm near Deweese Friday afternoon.

BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

the FANTASTIC 4

Quadruplet calves born on Deweese area farm

ANDY RAUN
Hastings Tribune

DEWEESE — At mid-afternoon on a Friday, three chocolate-colored calves and one black one sprawl out in the grass under some trees in Paul and Janet Soucie's farmyard — each looking for a little shelter from the burning July sun. Then, a little grain in the bottom of a feed pan entices a cow

to the middle of the pen. Soon, all four calves are up on their feet and crowding around her, jockeying for position at her side. That's right — all four calves have the same mother. And, more incredible still, at 10 days of age, all seem strong and healthy. Three of the calves are heifers, and the fourth is a bull. The littlest weighed 38-40 pounds at birth, while the other three were in the 48- to 52-pound range, Paul said. Normally, single calves born on

the Soucie farm weigh in at 75-90 pounds, while twins weigh 65-80 pounds apiece, he said. The cow, for her part, is 4 or 5 years old and shares the chocolate coloring of three of her four newborns. She is getting along OK — although the recent births seemed to put a strain on her, said Janet, who supplements each of the calves' nutrition with a bottle of milk replacer twice every day.

"I think that first day or two she looked tired," Janet said. **RARE EVENT** The live birth of quadruplet calves is exceedingly rare. Paul said he discussed the case with Gary Rupp, director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Great Plains Veterinary Education Center near Clay Center, and that Rupp thought the chances might be around 1 in 750,000. *Please see QUADS/page B2*

49 dead in blasts in Egypt

MULTIPLE CAR BOMBS HIT RESORT OF SHARM EL-SHEIKH

LEE KEATH
The Associated Press
CAIRO, Egypt A series of explosions, including at least four car bombs, struck the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh early Saturday, hitting several hotels packed with European and Egyptian tourists and killing at least 49 people in the deadliest attack in Egypt in nearly a decade. As many as seven explosions in quick succession starting at 1:15 a.m. shook windows miles away. Smoke and fire rose from Naama Bay, a main strip of beach hotels in the desert city at the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula, also popular with Israeli tourists, witnesses said.

Please see EGYPT/page B2

First SCCA national event in Hastings

Hastings Tribune

A Hastings track has been selected as the site for the first-ever national RallyCross racing event for the Sports Car Club of America. SCCA officials announced Friday that Motorsports Park Hastings would be the site for the SCCA RallyCross National Challenge October 14-16. The track still is in its early development on property on the southeast corner of the U.S. Highway 6 and Showboat Boulevard intersection. "We are excited for the opportunity to add another chapter into SCCA's long history," said Howard Duncan, SCCA vice president of competition programs and region development, in a news release. "We wanted to elevate our RallyCross program to the next level, and we feel Hastings and SCCA Nebraska region provide what our national RallyCross program needs for a successful launch, thanks to the amazing community support of other SCCA events." *Please see SCCA/page B2*

Spring Ranch's history told in cemetery

MARK CODDINGTON
Hastings Tribune

SPRING RANCH — In a dense grove of trees two miles south of Nebraska Highway 74 in southwestern Clay County lie a crumbling brick vault, a small concrete shed and the rotting wood of a fallen building. They are virtually all that remain from Spring Ranch, once a thriving Oregon Trail town. The buildings sit among knee-high weeds peppered with beer cans and even a discarded truck cap. Only the fading wooden signs marking the sites of former buildings give visitors any indication that this site once was one of vitality and excitement. Yet for a few former residents, the ruins bring memories of a small-town life full of community gatherings and notorious legends, and like the town's remains, their numbers are declining. "There aren't many of us old-timers left," said Alvin Paus, 83, who lived in the Spring Ranch area until 1996, when he and his wife, Alice, moved to Good Samaritan Village in Hastings. The Paus, along with others scattered throughout southern Clay County, are

Editor's note

Hastings Tribune intern Mark Coddington is doing stories this summer on area cemeteries, particularly those the public may not know about.

among the last remaining former residents of the home of some of Tribland's oldest recorded and most fascinating history. The town's roots began in 1863, when James Bainter set up a store and inn along the Little Blue River for Oregon Trail travelers. About 300 teams a day passed through in 1865 on the trail, which ran through what would become Spring Ranch. In 1870, the town formally began when Nebraska's second post office was built there. By the early 1900s, the population grew to more than 100. The town never had a mayor or a sizable population, but it was a minor hub for many area farmers, who would travel up to 100 miles to grind their grain at its mill. After the 1930s, the town slowly began to decline — buildings were torn down, churches were closed and residents grad-

"To me, it just seemed like at one time it was really a booming town. But every year, something would happen to one of the buildings, and no one was around to stop it, and the whole town went to pot."

- Lucille Schliep

ually moved out. By the early 1950s, it was virtually abandoned. "To me, it just seemed like at one time it was really a booming town," said Lucille Schliep, 67, who was only a young girl when the town fell apart. "But every year, something would happen to one of the buildings, and no one was around to stop it, and the whole town went to pot." The reasons for Spring Ranch's decline are difficult to pin down, but two causes stand out among its former residents: floods and the economic difficulty of the Great Depression. *Please see SPRING RANCH/page A6*

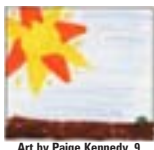


SHAY GRAVES/Tribune

Duane and Lucille Schliep pose next to an ornate headstone at the Spring Ranch cemetery Friday afternoon.

Weather

Hi: Sunny, breezy and hot today. Clear tonight.
103
Lo: 75



Art by Paige Kennedy, 9, JITTER Club

Nation

ART CONTROVERSY
FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — An art gallery director says she was fired for talking on television about a sexually explicit caricature involving President Bush, an Arab sheik and a barrel of oil. Susan Buzzi was the Broward Art Guild's executive director and had worked with its gallery for more than 10 years. Buzzi and Alfred Phillips, who painted the piece, were among several people interviewed by comedian Ed Helms in a spoof news report of the art controversy on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" several weeks ago.

Buzzi said she was told Wednesday that her "services are no longer required" at the gallery. "I certainly didn't expect this," she said Friday as helpers scooped up belongings and loaded them into a waiting car. *The Associated Press*

Inside

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|----------|-------|
| Agri/Business | E 1 | Markets | B 3 |
| Bridge | C 5 | Nation | B 3-4 |
| Classified | D 1 | Religion | E 4 |
| Comics | E 3 | Society | E 6 |

Egypt: Blasts kill at least 45

Continued from page A1

Dazed tourists milled about the darkened streets as Egyptian rescuers searched for dead and injured. Ambulances sped away with victims.

"There seemed to be a lot of bodies strewn across the road" near one cafe, British policeman Chris Reynolds, visiting from Birmingham, England, told the BBC by telephone. "It was horrendous."

At least four car bombs were used in the attack, said a security official in the operations control room in Cairo monitoring the crisis. One went off in the driveway of the Ghazala Gardens hotel, a 176-room four-star resort on the main strip of hotels in Naama Bay, said the governor of South Sinai province, Mustafa Afifi.

The Ghazala was "completely burned down, destroyed," Amal Mustafa, 28, an Egyptian who was visiting Sharm with her family, told The Associated Press after driving by the site. Television

video of the hotel, a three-story complex, showed parts of the building burned out with walls collapsed.

Another car bomb exploded in the Old Market, an area a few miles away, killing 17 people — believed to be Egyptians — sitting at an outdoor coffee shop, the control room official said. Three minibuses were set ablaze. It was not clear if they were carrying passengers, the official said.

Another blast went off near the Movenpick Hotel, said a receptionist there who declined to identify himself.

Although many tourists could have been asleep when the explosions struck, the resort's sidewalk cafes, seafont restaurants and bazaars are usually packed with locals and tourists well into the late summer nights.

Security officials put the toll at 45 killed and about 200 wounded. The Interior Ministry put out a statement putting the toll at 31 people and 107 wounded. Details

of the explosions were sketchy, due to the hour they went off and Sharm's remote location.

The dead in the Sharm blasts included British, Russian, Dutch, Kuwaitis, Saudis, Qataris and Egyptians, a security official said. The officials, including the one in the crisis control center, were speaking on condition of anonymity because they were giving information not yet included in the official statement.

President Hosni Mubarak has a residence at a resort several miles outside Naama Bay and spends weeks there at a time in the winter. But during the summer, he stays at a residence in the northern city of Alexandria.

A London police officer, Charlie Ives, who was on holiday, told BBC Television that he was in a cafe about 50 yards away from two of the explosions.

"It was mass hysteria really. We tried to calm people down," he said. He said the blast was so strong, "We were virtually

thrown from the cafe."

Another British tourist, Fabio Basone, was in Naama Bay's Hard Rock Cafe when he heard a small explosion, then a larger one.

"We went outside on to the street where we were met with hundreds of people running and screaming in all directions," he told BBC. "I saw the front of a hotel had been blown away... There were two bodies on the floor but I don't know if they were dead."

Scores of ambulances from cities in the northern Sinai and the Suez Canal cities of Suez and Ismailiya were headed to Sharm to help with casualties.

Khaled Sakran, a resident, said he saw one explosion from the Old Market. "I saw the saw the fire in the sky," he told The Associated Press. "Right after, I saw a light in the sky and heard another explosion, coming from Naama Bay."

Thousands of tourists are drawn

to Sharm for its sun, clear blue water, and coral reefs. It also has been a meeting place where world leaders have tried to hammer out a Mideast peace agreement. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas met there in February and agreed to a cease-fire.

Egypt has been the site of several deadly attacks on places frequented by tourists. In October 2004, a series of explosions hit several hotels in the Sinai resorts of Taba and Ras Shitan, about 100 miles northwest along the Gulf of Agaba coast, killing 34 people. Egyptian authorities said that attack was linked to Israeli-Palestinian violence, prompting a wave of arrests in Sinai.

Saturday's bombings were the deadliest since 1997, when Islamic militants killed 58 foreign tourists and four Egyptians at the Pharaonic Temple of Hatshepsut outside Luxor in southern Egypt.

Quads: Four calves surprise Deweese farmers

Continued from page A1

Sherrill Echterkamp, a research physiologist in the Reproduction Research Unit at the Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center near Clay Center, said he had heard of a mere handful of quadruplet calf live births in private herds throughout the years.

"I would say it's extremely rare," Echterkamp said. "It's so rare that I'm not sure you could even calculate a probability."

For Paul and Janet's part, there was no inkling of four calves on the way prior to the morning of July 12, when Paul checked the cows in a pasture across the road from their house and found a set of twin calves had arrived without incident.

Eleven sets of twins already had arrived for the Soucies this year, so one more pair was no great cause for excitement. Still, Paul didn't think this cow, a halfblood Tarentaise-Angus who delivered twins in 2004 also, was looking quite right.

"I said, 'She sure looks full for having already had twins. I wouldn't be surprised if she has another calf,'" he said.

The following morning, the Soucies found not one, but two more calves on the ground.

They checked around the pasture, just to make sure another cow had not given

birth and abandoned a calf. But they soon satisfied themselves that both No. 3 and No. 4 were part of the same family.

"Then we did get excited," Janet said, noting the mother had conceived and delivered all four calves with no human intervention whatsoever.

"If we would've known she was going to have four, I'm sure we would've been worried," she said.

The calves have been doing fine so a veterinarian hasn't examined them. But Paul said that through visiting with Rupp, he determined that the cow actually had given birth to two separate sets of twins — one set identical, one fraternal.

The heifer born as a twin to the bull calf probably will be sterile, he said.

"I think we had two pregnancies, one in each horn (of the cow's uterus), and one egg split," he said.

Paul said the mother was a little slow to accept all four calves as her own, but by the next day was feeling more open-minded about her large new family.

"She wasn't claiming them all too well at first," he said. "I think she didn't want to see another calf for a while. It's pretty good she would claim two calves, let alone four."

Now, the Soucies and their calves are becoming the talk of the local community. And Janet has added four new hun-

dry mouths to the 22 she already was feeding a bottle each morning and evening.

"The feed man should like us," she said with a laugh. "We go through an awful lot of milk replacer."

BREED TRAIT

At MARC, Echterkamp and his colleagues study reproduction traits in cattle and other species. As part of their work, they have been selecting cattle for breeding in an attempt to achieve multiple births for about 25 years.

"We had our first set of live quadruplet calves this spring," he said.

He agreed with Paul Soucie that multiple births were more a trait of the Tarentaise breed than of the Angus breed.

The Tarentaise originated in the French Alps, where their milk is used to make Beaufort cheese. They graze at high altitudes unsuitable for other breeds of cattle.

The Tarentaise are a dual-purpose breed, for both milk and meat production. They are known for their muscling, and for being hardy and adaptable.

Echterkamp said he didn't have a great deal of experience with Tarentaise cattle, but acknowledged a correlation between cows' producing a lot of milk and tending to give birth to multiples.

Certain breeds are more likely to have

multiples than are others, he said.

"Most of the breeds that came out of the European continent tend to have more twinning than the traditional British breeds," Echterkamp said.

Nutritional factors and the time of year breeding occurs also may affect the rate of multiple births, he said.

"Cows that are bred in the fall have a higher rate of multiple births here at the center," Echterkamp said.

The Soucies' operation includes registered Angus and Tarentaise cow herds — about 300 head in all. In recent years, they have been breeding their Tarentaise cows to Angus bulls to produce crossbred offspring.

Paul said he started incorporating the Tarentaise breed into his operation back in 1977, having been attracted by such characteristics as their temperament, mothering traits, milk production and strong legs and feet.

"Their pelvic area seems to be larger, and they calve easier than some breeds do," he said.

Angus and Tarentaise breed characteristics complement one another as well as anything he has tried in the cattle business, he said.

"We'll try anything that works," he said.

SCCA: First-ever event coming to Hastings

Continued from page A1

George Anderson of Hastings, managing partner of the Hastings track, said many communities in the area already are prepared for the event.

"I can't go anywhere these days without someone asking when the next event is," Anderson said. "Having a RallyCross National Challenge will draw people from all over."

The fan base and support in the Tri-Cities area, which has a combined population of more than 90,000 people, makes Hastings good choice.

"This population base is waiting in anxious anticipation to be involved in SCCA's world," Anderson said.

He said Hastings being selected for the event only can lead to bigger and better things for the future track.

"This is what having a track is

all about — having a national event," Anderson said. "This absolutely identifies Hastings as a racing facility."

Jerry Doctor, SCCA Nebraska region regional executive, said his group would be up to the task of playing host to an event that will feature 10 classes spread over four preparatory levels.

Fans can expect to see a wide range of vehicles, which are required to meet minimal, yet strict, safety standards, according to Curtis Kitchen, SCCA public relations manager. The cars will fall into one of the four categories — street stock, rally street, rally prepared or rally mod.

Since its start in 1997, SCCA RallyCross has evolved from five events in its first year to more than 150 regional events, four divisional events and now national-level competition annually.



Courtesy George Anderson

A racer kicks up dust at the future site of the Motorsports Park in Hastings recently.

RallyCross is an automotive competition on an unpaved, mostly flat surface where turns and maneuvers are connected by short straights that emphasize the driver's car control skill,

as well as car handling and agility rather than speed or power. Competition is based on comparing drivers' times needed to complete the course, and is similar to an off-road autocross.

Ozu: Visitors arriving from sister city

Continued from page A5

Wolzen said that he initially worked with Hastings city officials because Ozu and Hastings are relatively the same size.

Wolzen, who lived in Ozu for almost eight years, said that he was not the only person involved in starting program. Den Kuroda was a city official in Ozu, who worked extensively with the Ozu government to start the program there.

Both he and Sachiko Yonemura will be visiting Hastings for the 10th anniversary. Yonemura was the main interpreter and a major organizer of the program, as well, Wolzen said.

In Hastings, Cindy Murphy and Hastings International Exchange president Dennis Storer also were

instrumental in creating the program, according to Wolzen.

Looking back over the past 10 years, Wolzen said seeing the connections between the children and host families during the first year probably solidified his belief that it would be successful program.

"I'm very pleased and a little surprised at how active Hastings College is," he said.

According to Wolzen, several Ozu students have received degrees from Hastings College since 1995.

As for the future, Wolzen said he would like to see the program continue to grow.

"Obviously, I would like to see a Japanese company set up

in Hastings or in Nebraska somewhere," he said.

Even though Wolzen now lives in Lincoln and has a private law practice, he still is involved in the program. He said he plans to visit with Ozu residents during their time in Hastings next week.

Need Money?
WE BUY CARS!
308-210-1704

Home Care & Companions
EST. 1988 - Locally Owned
Serving The Tri-City Area
4 to 24 Hour "In-Home" Care
Call Today
463-1000
1-800-355-3537
www.homecareandcompanions.com

When Your Need is Greatest
Presented by **Livingston-Butler-Volland Funeral Home**
THE COLORS OF MOURNING
If you were to ask Westerners to name the color most associated with death and mourning, they will choose black while people of Asian descent will choose white. Black signifies darkness and the absence of light. White, on the other hand, recalls the color of the bones and the paleness of the corpse. Yet, the line demarcating East from West is not all black and white. For instance, Westerners still fill their graveyards with white tombstones. It is also interesting to note that Chinese tombstones often appear before the death of the person commemorated on the stone. Red lettering indicates that the person is still alive. When the person dies, the letters in the name are repainted white.
At **LIVINGSTON-BUTLER-VOLLAND FUNERAL HOME**, we honor whatever decisions you make regarding the wake, funeral, cremation and/or any other hand, recalls the color of the bones and the paleness of the deceased. We are dedicated to ensuring that you are accommodated in a professional and compassionate manner. We can be reached 24 hours a day, whenever you need us. We have been dedicated to serving the families of the community for many years. Ask us about pre-need options. We are here when your need is greatest.
Quote:
"Difficulties are things that show what men are."
Epictetus
1225 North Elm Avenue
Hastings, NE 68901
800-714-3245 • 402/462-2147
www.lbvfh.com

Local

ADAMS COUNTY BOOKMOBILE

Monday

Good Samaritan Village: Towers — 9:15 a.m.
The Villa — 9:30 a.m.
Circle C — 9:45 a.m.
Hoeger Memorial Library — 10:15 a.m.
Perkins Manor — 10:45 a.m.
Village Green — 11 a.m.
Regency Retirement — 1:15-1:45 p.m.
Imperial Village
900 Block of Glenwood — 2-2:30 p.m.
700 Block of Hickory — 2:30-3 p.m.

Tuesday

800 E. Monument Road — 9-9:30 a.m.
Roseland (Angels Among Us Daycare) — 10 - 10:30 a.m.
Holstein: City Park — 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.
(Story Time 11 a.m.)
Idlewilde Area:
Idlewilde Drive/Valley Road — 1:15-1:45 p.m.
3300 Block S. Southern Hills — 2 p.m.

Wednesday

1900 Block of West 11th St. — 9-9:30 a.m.
Headstart — 9:45 - 10:30 a.m.
Chautauqua Park — 10:45 - 11:30 a.m.
Lochland:
1000 Block Countryclub Drive — 1:15 p.m.
1300 Block Highland Drive — 1:30 p.m.
Randolph Circle/Laurie St. — 2 p.m.
Loch View Drive — 2:30 p.m.

Thursday

Children's Ark — 9-10 a.m.
Pooh Corner North — 10:15-10:50 a.m.
816 West 11th St. — 11-11:30 a.m.
Lochland:
1000 Block Quail Ridge Ave. — 1:15 - 1:45 p.m.
Thom Addition — 2-3 p.m.

State

COUNTERFEITING CHARGES

OMAHA — The manager of a Chadron mobile home park has been indicted on counterfeiting charges by a federal grand jury in Omaha.

Rob Simones, 35, was charged with both making and passing counterfeit money. The indictment accuses Simones of making or passing more than 100 \$10 bills, 50 \$5 bills and small quantities of other denominations between \$1 and \$100.

Federal charges had been expected since his arrest June 6 in Chadron on state drug and counterfeiting charges.

The state patrol received a tip a few weeks before that and an investigation was launched.

CATTLE NUMBERS

DROP

LINCOLN — Nebraska feedlots had 1.82 million cattle on feed on July 1, a drop of 2 percent from the previous year but 8 percent higher than the same period in 2003, said the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service.

The service said Friday that the count is made in those feedlots with 1,000-or-more-head capability.

Feed cattle marketings for the month of June totaled 510,000 head, up 17 percent from last year and 2 percent above June 2003.

The Associated Press