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## Billionaire factor in Osborne's decision

**JOHN HUTHMACHER**  
*Hastings Tribune*

Third District Rep. Tom Osborne, R-Neb., said during his gubernatorial announcement speech Saturday at Hastings College that there were 10 or 12 people whose opinions he sought before reaching his decision to run.

One of them was that of billionaire Warren Buffett. "I met with people all across the state," Osborne told the Tribune shortly after his conference in the Barrett Alumni Center. "Everybody had their input. I don't want to name a lot of names. I'll just give you one: Warren Buffett."

One of the world's richest men, Buffett often is sought to render his opinion in matters of importance; however, in this instance his opinion carried no more or less weight than that of Osborne's other trusted confidants, the 68-year-old former Nebraska football coach said.

Collectively, those opinions had a major impact on his decision to pursue his latest political aspiration. "Everybody had their input," he said. "The thing that was interesting was the amount of commonality. So many of them were saying the same things, so that helped make my mind up."

Ultimately, though, it was Osborne's wife, Nancy, who cast the deciding vote in favor of his running, Osborne said. "She had absolute veto power," he said. "We talked things over and talked to our (three) kids."

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### Osborne platform touts ag, youth

**JOHN HUTHMACHER**  
*Hastings Tribune*

Armed with charts and graphs, a vibrant Tom Osborne hit the ground running, setting some definite parameters for himself in his bid for governor.

For starters, he indicated that he is about 90 percent sure that, if elected, he will not seek a second term. "I'm not going to run for any other office," said Osborne during his news conference Saturday in the Barrett Alumni Center at Hastings College where he announced he was running for governor. "I'm not interested in the Senate. I'm not interested in re-election. That doesn't mean that after four years that if there was some pressing reason for why I would stay that I wouldn't do it. I'm not closing the door entirely."

His sole objective, he said, will be to "set the state on a good course in four years, then get out of the way." Reverting to what he seems to know best — coaching — he stressed the need for statewide unity in matters of importance.

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RICK HOUCHIN/Tribune

Above: Third District Rep. Tom Osborne, R-Neb., smiles at reporters during his announcement he is running for Nebraska governor. Top left: Osborne is the center of attention Saturday at Hastings College.



RICK HOUCHIN/Tribune

Above: A truck takes a wide turn on the dusty track at the east edge of Hastings during the first event at the Motorsport Park Sunday. Below: An older model Datsun turns in the fastest time early in the day.

## First race at Motorsport Park

**SHAY GRAVES**  
*Hastings Tribune*

Local developer George Anderson held a small rally cross event on the dirt Saturday to test his future track and to get feedback from racers.

Despite cold, spring weather, rally cross racers from Iowa, Kansas and Omaha came to Hastings to check out the home of Anderson's future track at the corner Showboat Boulevard and U.S. Highway 6.

With no entry fee and no spectators, Anderson said this weekend's event was strictly a test to see how racing on dirt would work. Although Anderson had no specific number of vehicles or drivers, he did say that there were several truck classes, along with a few cars.

He gave his first try at rally cross by taking his own pickup truck and Geo Tracker for a spin around the dirt track.

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## Interpreting equipment to help local doctors

**Hastings Tribune**

A trip to the hospital could be made easier for some area residents, thanks to new technology at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital that allows an interpreter to convey a Spanish-speaker's health concerns to doctors.

The new system, called Video Medical Interpreting, was launched Saturday at Mary Lanning, as was College Park in Grand Island and Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. Events took place at each site to kick off the program.

The video conferencing system allows health providers to communicate with Spanish speakers through the use of an interpreter. The health provider accesses the interpreter through a computer or TV monitor that's connected to a camera. Both the provider and patient are able to see the interpreter, and the interpreter can see the provider and patient through the equipment. Also, the interpreter is available around the clock.

According to a news release, one in five patients who speak little or no English don't seek medical care out of frustration with the language barrier. Also, health care providers tend to run more tests and conduct more procedures to reach a diagnosis when a language barrier exists.

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### Weather

Clear tonight with areas of frost. Partly cloudy Tuesday.

**Lo: 30s**  
**Hi: 60**



Art by Zachary Pendergast, Minden East Elementary

### BURRITO SCARE

**CLOVIS, N.M.** — A 911 call about a possible weapon at a middle school prompted police to put armed officers on rooftops, close nearby streets and lock down the school. All over a giant burrito. Someone called authorities

### Nation

Thursday after seeing a boy carrying something long and wrapped up into Marshall Junior High School. The drama ended two hours later when the suspicious item was identified as a 30-inch burrito filled with steak, guacamole, lettuce, salsa and jalapenos. It was wrapped

inside tin foil and a white T-shirt. "I didn't know whether to laugh or cry," school Principal Diana Russell said. The burrito was part of an extra-credit assignment to create commercial advertising for a product. The Associated Press

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# Osborne: Buffett helped make choice

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Surrounded by about 60 people — most of them family members and media — Osborne could not have picked a more grassroots setting than Hastings College to announce his candidacy.

Not only did Osborne graduate from HC, but so did his great-grandfather, grandfather, father, brother and son. The college also was where he chose to announce his bid for a congressional seat in 2000.

Phil Dudley, HC president, said he was glad to have the college's most distinguished alumni back in the limelight on campus.

"I'm just always pleased when Congressman Osborne comes back," he said. "He is our most well-known alum. He was just on campus a week and a half ago with his leadership conference. I'd like to think he's always had a strong affection for Hastings College."

Dudley said he thinks Osborne's decision to run was based solely on love of state, not politics.

"Clearly his heart is in the right place," he said. "He wants to do things to improve this state. I think he can influence a lot of people."

Like the rest of the public, Dudley was kept in the dark by Osborne's staff when contacted about the congressman's desire to hold a news conference on campus Saturday afternoon.

"They asked us a couple weeks ago and asked us not to say anything," he said. "Until it (his candidacy) was announced, we had no idea. But I'd heard speculation that he was interested in running for governor, so it wasn't a complete surprise."

Others, like Hastings resident Lee Saathoff, were taken aback by Osborne's announcement.

"I didn't think he was going to run for governor, so I was a little surprised," said Saathoff, who attended HC with Osborne's brother, Jack, in 1962-63. "I thought he'd either run two more years (in Congress) and retire or just retire. But I'm glad he's running."

A father of three area farmers, Saathoff said he shared Osborne's views on the importance of agriculture to the state and the need to re-grow the state's declined population.

"I think he has a genuine concern for agriculture and the pop-



RICK HOUGHIN/Tribune

Third District Rep. Tom Osborne, R-Neb., (left) shares a moment with his brother, Jack, following a press conference announcing Tom's candidacy for governor of Nebraska.

ulation drop in Nebraska," he said. "I hope something can be done to reverse that and keep our kids here."

"I'm concerned with outstate Nebraska, too. Having someone from Hastings concerned ... I hope his concern for outstate Nebraska carries through for agriculture."

Osborne's son, Mike, was among the few people he confided in about his intention to run prior to making his gubernatorial pursuit official.

"My dad told me yesterday

(Friday)," said Mike, who enjoyed success on the gridiron for the Broncos in the mid-1980s. "I think it's great. I think he can probably bring people together in some ways that maybe other candidates couldn't."

Mike said he thinks his father's decision to run for governor was based, in part, on how difficult his frequent commutes to and from Washington have become.

"He's a little tired of commuting to Washington, and I know he feels like there are still a lot of

things that could be done to help the state grow economically," he said. "I know that he likes to stay busy; I'm not very surprised."

With the state's best interest the sole foundation of Osborne's platform, Mike said he likes his father's chances in the 2006 race.

"He doesn't need any more feathers in his cap as far as lifetime achievements," he said.

"What he's up to is genuinely for his greater good, I think."

# Platform: Familiar topics on Osborne's list

Continued from page A1

No "zero sum thinking" allowed, he said.

"As a coach, I've learned to look at things somewhat differently," he said. "The better I was able to get players to put aside their egos, the better we'd get things done. I think some of that can apply to the state as well. I know that when you develop a commonality in purpose, things move on."

The state's decline in population is one issue Osborne intends to address, if elected.

"That brain drain of young people is huge," he said. "At some point, we've got to stop the bleeding."

Osborne offered that one possi-

ble fix would be a homestead act, where students could write off a percentage of their student loans if they relocate back to the state to live for at least five years.

As has been his office's practice in its appearances across the state, Osborne said he would continue to promote the state's economic advantages in an effort to stabilize its waning population numbers.

He offered that given the possibilities of hydrogen fuel cells and ethanol in the next 15-20 years, the state's abundant agriculture and underground water supply could peak the nation's dependency on Nebraska for such resources in coming years.

Other platform issues includ-

ed: support for large-scale mentoring programs, such as his own TeamMates program, to steer youngsters away from alcohol and drug abuse; and an "efficiency in government" strategy that would require the state's 150-plus programs to have "quantifiable, measurable goals through an 'outcome-based accounting' formula."

He said his forthcoming campaign, coupled with his day-to-day duties in the House, figure to make the next 18 months a "hard year ... I will try to take Sundays off."

Asked about his opponent, Gov. Dave Heinemann, Osborne was complimentary about the

incumbent.

"I like Dave Heinemann very much," he said. "You will never hear a bad word out of my mouth about Dave Heinemann."

Osborne said he was "surprised" by U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel's endorsement of the governor for 2006.

"I've never really placed much stock in endorsements," he said.

His plan is to campaign in all 93 of the state's counties before November 2006.

"I want to be in a position where people feel that what I'm doing is what I think is best for the state," he said. "If this is what people want to happen, we'll try to make it happen."

# Foundation providing scholarships

The Associated Press

Some 300 high school seniors from nine counties in central Nebraska will receive \$1,000 college scholarships thanks to the Warren and Velda Wilson Foundation.

The Wilsons spent their lives farming in Clay County. Warren Wilson died in 1997 and Velda in 2002.

The couple had no children, but they wanted to help good citizens go to college, said Jack Crowley, executive director of the Central Community College Foundation, which administers the Wilson Foundation.

The scholarship money comes from income provided by the Wilson farmland that the foundation holds, as well as earnings from the couple's investments.

High grade-point averages and college entrance exam scores are not the only criteria used to determine scholarship winners.

Crowley said the Wilsons wanted to reward well-rounded students who display good citizenship, involvement in school and community activities and potential for future academic success.

Recipients are from Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Hall, Hamilton, Nuckolls, Thayer, Webster and York counties.

Scholarship winners must attend an accredited college or university in Nebraska, Crowley said.

Last year the foundation provided 250 scholarships. The number of scholarships each year will depend on how the Wilsons' investments fare, as well as the income provided by their farmland, Crowley said.

Up to 20 percent of each senior class in the nine-county area can apply for scholarships, according to foundation guidelines.

The foundation financed 300 of 380 students eligible this year.

"They've touched a lot of lives and made education more affordable for a lot of families, said Gwen Brown, chairwoman of the Grand Island Senior High counseling department.

# Racing: First event at track

Continued from page A1

Anderson is planning to host a regional rally cross event at the track Oct. 7.

By that time, Anderson said that he may have part of the race on paved track and the other half on the dirt.

He plans for that one to be a spectator event, and he hopes to have grandstands by that time.

Along with testing the dirt surface, Anderson said another goal of Saturday's event was to educate racers and get feedback. Anderson showed them what the track would look like and received input, as well.

"Most of the goal was to get people here and talk about the track and potential for rally cross," he said.

As for the future of the track, Anderson said that in between construction he hopes to have a tractor pull Sept. 14 during Husker Harvest Days.

He hopes to have a dual tractor pull hosting both Busch pullers and the state tractor pullers association.

Even though the tractor pull event has nothing to do with the future track, Anderson said that he will hold the event just to promote the track.

He hopes to bring in many spectators with Husker Harvest Days just down the road in Grand Island.

The future asphalt road race track will be 2.23 miles long with 14 corners.

Anderson said he hopes to start dirt work in preparation for the track by August, with a goal of having the asphalt for the track done by fall, so it can cure over the winter.

Currently, he is in the process of finishing the design and getting ready for bids.

# VMI: Equipment would help doctors, patients communicate

## SPANISH-SPEAKERS CAN GET MEDICAL CARE MORE EASILY WITH NEW SYSTEM

Continued from page A1

U.S. Rep. Tom Osborne, R-Neb., Nebraska Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy and Hastings Mayor Matt Rossen attended Saturday's event at Mary Lanning.

Osborne officially launched the system with the push of a button.

Though there were a few glitches in the launching, officials still lauded the program. Osborne said the video medical interpreting was highly important to the

Hispanic community.

Healthcare providers participating in Hablamos Juntos, a program intended to improve the health care of Latinos, will be the first to receive the Video Medical Interpreting system. In the fall, the system gradually will be expanded to 38 counties served by the Central Nebraska Area Health Education Center.

The service should be implemented statewide in 2006-2007.



RICK HOUGHIN/Tribune

Sharon Hayek, board president for Central Nebraska Health Education Center Inc., shows video medical interpreting equipment to Third District Rep. Tom Osborne, R-Neb., Saturday at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital as Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy (center) and Hastings Mayor Matt Rossen (left) look on.