

Making choices in life

Last week, our oldest grandson chose to participate in the state track meet rather than attend his graduation ceremonies.

He had just turned 18 and on the brink of adulthood. His parents wisely let him make the choice, and he made it easily. He was taking his abilities in the pole vault to state competition where he was confident that his chances for winning a medal were good.

During a practice jump just moments before the beginning of the pole vault competition, he heard a pop, then felt pain in his leg as he landed.

The choice he made earlier no longer mattered. Fate intervened. He was out of the competition, and that was that.

We humans make such a big deal over making our own choices. We discover this wonderful ability long before we understand it. Early on, we decide it is greater fun to play in the water in the toilet bowl than to occupy ourselves with the \$89.99 farm set or limited edition stuffed aardvark Santa brought for Christmas.

Mom or Dad hear the dreaded sound of splashing water, and within moments after discovering this delight activity, we find ourselves out of the bathroom and next to a boring toy or in the bedroom taking a nap for the third time that day. So much for having a choice. A higher power intervened.

It is a lesson that we never quite learn.

The human race is resilient. We keep trying, and along the way we begin to learn about good choices and bad choices and how our choices affect others. We often learn the hard way that there are repercussions that come along with making bad choices. We also discover a feeling of confidence that comes along with good choices.

We still yearn for the day when we can make all of our own choices without Mom and Dad or some other authority figure coming along and intervening with a shake of the head or firm "no."

Then one day arrives we hear those wonderful words, "It is your choice."

And we finally have control over our own life — that is, until fate intervenes.

Joyce Ore of Hastings is a columnist for the Tribune. Contact Joyce at (402) 461-7327 or e-mail at jore@alltell.net

Calendar

HASTINGS

- ◆ **YWCA School of Dance recital**, 2 p.m. Sunday, Masonic Temple.
- ◆ **Alcoholics Anonymous**, noon, 1:30 and 8 p.m. Sunday; and noon, 5:15 and 8 p.m. Monday, 521 S. St. Joseph Ave.
- ◆ **Alanon**, 8 p.m., Sunday and 8 p.m. Monday, First United Methodist Church, and noon Monday, The Kensington.
- ◆ **Sunday Sundaes**, 2-3 p.m. Sunday, College View Assisted Living, 1100 N. Sixth Ave. Open to public ages 55 and older.
- ◆ **"The Shaggy Dog"**, 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Lied Super Screen Theatre at Hastings Museum.
- ◆ **Gamblers Anonymous**, 6:30 p.m. Monday, basement at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital Education Building, Room D.
- ◆ **Overeaters Anonymous**, 5-6 p.m., Monday, basement of Mary Lanning Medical Center.

Lotteries

WINNING NUMBERS

Friday
Kansas Pick 3 2-2-7
Nebraska Pick 3 6-4-3
Nebraska Pick 5 . . . 15-24-25-29-33
Jackpot: \$70,000
2by2 Red 2-26, White 14-15

Development keeps HU busy

SHAY BURK

sburk@hastingstribune.com

As construction continues throughout the city, Hastings Utilities is just as busy installing new electrical, water and sewer lines to the new developments.

HU Assistant Manager Al Meyer presented a construction update to HU's governing body, the city Board of Public

Works, during its meeting Friday.

"It's very, very busy around town," he said. "We're kind of at a peak right now."

One of the larger projects HU is completing is the moving and upgrading of the North Denver Substation.

With construction completed, Keith Leonhardt, director of

engineering, said he was focusing his efforts on landscaping around the substation.

During a March meeting, HU Manager Marv Schultes said HU staff had met with the adjacent neighbors prior to the project. Many of the neighbors said one of their main concerns was how the area would look.

Schultes said HU was con-

cerned about landscaping for the sake of the neighbors and the Hastings Museum, which sits adjacent to the property.

As such, Leonhardt presented the board with a landscape proposal during Friday's meeting. He said that proposal could cost about \$32,000 in its current state.

Leonhardt said trees, grasses

and mulch would cover the full length of the lot along 14th Street from Hastings Avenue to St. Joseph Avenue. Landscaping would also be done south of the substation, as well.

Leonhardt said he expected the landscaping project to be completed by sometime in August.

Please see HU/page A6



Joyce Ore



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

Jordan Groff (left) and Jeff Hermann bolt together tires Friday that will be used as soft barriers at Motorsport Park Hastings.

Teens burning rubber for MPH

SAFETY BARRIERS BEING BUILT
LOCALLY FOR TRACK

SHAY BURK

sburk@hastingstribune.com

In a metal warehouse not far from the Adams County Fairgrounds, a group of teenagers are burning rubber from tires.

George Anderson, local businessman and track developer for Motorsport Park Hastings, hired the teenagers to take old tires and convert them into safety barriers for racers at the future track, which is being built near the U.S. Highway 6 and Showboat Boulevard intersection.

They spend the day drilling through the tires and bolting them together.

"Dirty job but somebody's got to do it," said MPH operations manager John Fern.

In fact, their work area is covered in small bits of rubber from the tires and the room has a distinct smell of burnt rubber.

"Yeah, I get to smell burning rubber every day," said Casey Gilbert, a senior at Hastings Senior High School.

It was his love of racing and cars and need for a summer job that brought Gilbert to work on this project. And, if his racing dreams come true, maybe he'll be competing at MPH someday.

Currently, Gilbert makes the trip to Kearney every other weekend to race at Kearney Raceway. He is also in the process of rebuilding a 1973 Ford Maverick.

Each worker has his own job in the process of taking about 15,000 tires and piecing them together into dozens of small walls that will be used to protect the track's drivers.

For many of them, this is a summer job that they hope could lead to another job later on.

"This is tough work," Anderson said. "It's boring, it's hard, but it could lead to jobs at the track."

Wyatt Weber, a senior at HHS, has been hearing about Anderson's project during his automotive class for the past year.

When he learned of the chance to work with Anderson and possibly at the track later, Weber said he jumped at the



BRENT McCOWN/Tribune

Nathanael Nottage-Tacey (left) and Wyatt Weber drill holes in the sidewalls of tires Friday afternoon. They are preparing tires for Motorsport Park Hastings to be used as soft barriers.

chance.

"I'm into old cars that run fast, and I figure this track is a good place to do that," he said.

Weber's job is to drill holes in the tires, a duty that covers him in rubber. While it's messy, he said the job is worth it.

"Like George said the other day, 'We're putting our blood and sweat into this,'" he said.

When asked what he would like to do at the track, Weber said he'd do anything.

"Just working out there would be a blast," he said.

In order to build the tire walls, Anderson received information from Federation Internationale De L'Automobile and track designer Alan Wilson of Utah on how to build the tire barriers.

FIA requires tire barriers for any races associated with the FIA. Anderson's track specifically caters to FIA-sanctioned events.

After each of the tire barriers are bolted together, they will be attached to metal guardrails at MPH and serve as a

buffer in case a driver loses control.

As of Friday, Fern said they had received seven truckloads of tires, totaling about 10,500 tires. He said he expects another three loads for a total of 15,000 tires, which are sorted by size.

In the warehouse, Fern said the workers are only able to build sections of a wall. Once at the track, they will be bolted together to make larger barriers.

When finished, each wall will be five tires high and three tires deep with the tires staggered. The walls will then be covered to prevent water from pooling inside them.

Along the front, Fern said they may put a large piece of conveyor belt to serve as another barrier.

Anderson had originally planned for the project to take about 100 days. He said the project is right on schedule.

They started building the tire walls in late April and expects them to be finished by mid-July.

Anderson's first race is scheduled with the Rocky Mountain Vintage Racing Ltd. is scheduled for July 21.

Second try for Heartland rezone request in Juniata

SHAY BURK

sburk@hastingstribune.com

After the application died during a Juniata Village Board meeting in May, the rezoning of a piece of land owned by Heartland Co-op in Juniata will go before the Adams County Planning and Zoning Commission for a second time Monday.

In May, the commission rec-

ommended the Juniata board approve rezoning part of Heartland Co-op's property on 12th Street in Juniata to industrial to build a grain storage system.

During the village board's public hearing, the motion to approve the rezone application died for lack of a second on the motion. Meanwhile, the board did approve a conditional use

permit to allow Heartland to use the land for temporary grain storage as it did the past year.

At Monday's meeting, the commission is scheduled to reconsider the rezone or consider a conditional use permit for piling grain on the ground.

Currently, Heartland Co-op operates a service station on 12th Street that is zoned as

highway commercial. The goal is to build a more permanent grain storage container behind the station for storing grain prior to shipment. The structure would better protect grain from the elements.

Adams County Planning and Zoning Administrator Dawn Miller recommends approval of the rezone as the conditional

use permit serves more of a temporary purpose. She said that Heartland Co-op believes the conditional use permit does not warrant an investment equal to the cost of a steel bunker system.

During Monday's meeting, the commission is also scheduled to discuss a proposed conditional use permit for a new hippo therapy arena and clinic south of Hastings.

\$100,000 donation

PETITION DRIVE TO
LIMIT SPENDING GETS
MAJOR CONTRIBUTION

SCOTT BAUER

The Associated Press

LINCOLN — Almost all of a \$100,000 donation to a petition drive aimed at capping state spending is being spent on gathering the signatures needed to put the issue on the ballot.

The donation from a group called America at its Best was reported in filings made Thursday with the state Accountability and Disclosure Commission.

The petition drive, working under the name Stop Over Spending Nebraska, seeks a constitutional amendment that would tie state spending to cost of living and population changes.

America at its Best is listed as having a Boise, Idaho, address that happens to be the same address as a group called Idahoans for Tax Reform. The chairman of that group, Laird Maxwell, could not immediately be reached for comment on Thursday.

His group received money for an effort it was spearheading in Idaho from an America at its Best organization based in the Kalispell, Mont. law office of former Republican state Sen. Duncan Scott from New Mexico.

A message left at Scott's home in Montana was not immediately returned.

The only name on the Nebraska campaign filing was the treasurer, Gary Heinze of North Platte. He did not immediately return a message.

Sponsors of the petition drive are listed as Mike Groene of North Platte and Americans for Limited Government of Glenview, Ill. Groene, who is with the Western Nebraska Taxpayers Association and one of the leaders of the effort, said Friday that the group supporting the petition drive consists of term limits backers.

As the term limits movement matured, they began supporting efforts to control state spending, Groene said.

He defended outside money being used to fund the Nebraska effort.

"It's no different than the ACLU coming in," Groene said.

Americans for Limited Government says on its Web site that it promotes freedom and limited government by partnering with local groups nationwide.

Of the \$100,000 that was given to the effort by America at its Best, \$95,000 has been spent on services provided by a Wisconsin-based petition circulating group called Renewal Voter Outreach.

According to that group's Web site, it coordinates petition drives and pays circulators to get the required signatures.

The petition has been circulating in Nebraska for about three weeks. Groene would not say how many signatures had been collected to date, but said he believes it will be successful.