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Duncan Field upgrades a hit so far

WEATHER HAS DELAYED WORK; MAY COMPLETION STILL THE GOAL

JOHN MUTHMACHER
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Fluctuating temperatures have not been the friend of construction workers from Carmichael Construction during the Duncan Field renovation project.

Jeff Hassenstab, city parks and recreation director, said the \$3.2 million project is roughly half finished. That is only slightly behind where he and construction crew workers had hoped to be at this point when they broke ground in August 2013.

The delays aren't expected to push back the project's estimated completion date of May 16, however.

"They've had to tent the structures," Hassenstab said. "When you're laying the brick and block you have to keep it at a certain temperature consecutively for seven days so that the mortar can cure. The fluctuation in temperature has kind of slowed them down a little bit."

"They've started to lay the outside block, the colored brick on the outside walls. And they've set the steel columns



The \$3.2 million facelift at Duncan Field, shown Jan. 30, is roughly half finished. LAURA BEAHM/Tribune

in the grandstand area. The roof will be put on these columns, and then the upper concourse and press box will be put on these columns. They're working every day trying to get it done on time."

The field will not be ready when Hastings College opens its 2014 home season the second week of March. But there's a chance that some of the Broncos' season will include games at Duncan.

"Our goal for the whole project is to try to get the field ready for play as soon as possible," Hassenstab said. "To finish up the interior of the building by the May 16 deadline would be great. Hopefully, we can maybe get the college in there toward the end of their season."

Best described as a facelift, the renovation project already is beginning to generate excitement within the baseball community.

The latest upgrades will include: new restrooms, including a newly added family restroom; new home and visitor locker rooms; umpire room; two new concession stands; new entrances; new lighting; new maintenance shed; elevator; over-hanging canopy; four-room press box; and ADA accessibility throughout.

A blend of cream-color blocks and red bricks will accent the exterior buildings. "It's going to be fantastic," Hassenstab said. "I've gotten a lot of compliments already."

Please see DUNCAN/page A3

It's colder than cold out there

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THIS TIME IS ABOUT 40 DEGREES

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The chill that has been in the air lately is out of the ordinary. It's supposed to be cold in late January and February, but not this cold.

In fact, the rock bottom reading of 14 degrees below zero observed at 7:24 a.m. Thursday was an all-time low for the day, shattering the century-old mark of 12-below set in 1914.

Cindy Fay, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Hastings, said that it was the combination of snow on the ground coupled with a passing arctic air mass that fueled the record-low temperature reading. And though no additional records are expected to fall in the foreseeable future, the cooling trend is far from over.

Temperatures are expected to climb above 20 today, then drop back into the low teens to begin the new week on Sunday and Monday.

This much cold is unusual for this time of year, as the average temperature historically hovers around the 38-degree mark, Fay said.

Please see WEATHER/page A3

Carrot and stick

THAYER COUNTY JOINS REGIONAL DRUG COURT TO GIVE OFFENDERS ANOTHER CHANCE

TONY HERRMAN
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HEBRON — As he progressed through a drug-related case with 14 defendants, Thayer County Attorney Daniel Werner decided he wanted to try a new approach.

Thayer County became the fifth county to join Southeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court when 21-year-old Christopher Brungardt of Beatrice, one of those defendants, was ordered to appear Jan. 27 at the Saline County District Courtroom for drug court. Thayer County joins Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson and Saline counties in the program.

"Generally it's for people who are addicted to controlled substances and it's generally limited to the people who are in possession," Werner said. "Only people that sell narcotics simply to support their habit may be decided to be eligible. At that point, the county attorney makes the initial determination that that's the case; then the drug court itself reviews it to make sure they agree. Only then is someone who sells narcotics able to get into this program. For that reason, 13 out of the 14 are not in the program."

Brungardt was charged with intent to deliver a controlled substance, a class 3 felony that was amended to attempt to deliver a controlled substance, a class 4 felony.

Please see COURT/page A3



Children including (from left) Emma Schultes, 8, Katherine Greenland, 7, and Mary Howie, 8, watch as a lightbulb held by Hastings College seniors Alyssa Beman (center) and Molly Mullervy (right) illuminates as energy is transferred from a tesla coil held by Mullery Friday morning during a Science Day Camp at the Hastings Museum. LAURA BEAHM/Tribune

Science not just for school

STUDENTS SPEND VACATION DAY AT HASTINGS MUSEUM

SHAY BURK
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"Put on your goggles and get ready." Those were the words of advice Hastings College senior Travis

Morrow gave as a group of seven young scientists walked up to his table.

"At this station we're going to be talking about the three states of matter," he said.

Morrow's lesson on solids, liquids

and gases was part of a science camp hosted by the chemistry club at Hastings College.

Senior Emily Wright said the group primarily brings speakers to the HC campus and wanted to reach out to the community more. That's why members decided to organize the day camp.

The camp Friday morning coincided with a day off for students at both Hastings Public and Hastings Catholic Schools.

About 50 kids in second through fifth grades came out to learn about everything from inertia to photosynthesis and lasers to space.

At Morrow's table, students learned

about the three states of matter and got a close-up look at how gases work with liquid nitrogen.

"Do not take a bath in liquid nitrogen," said 10-year-old Xavier Herman. "It will be painful."

Morrow poured liquid nitrogen into a bowl and rolled a blown up balloon in it to show how the cold impacted the carbon dioxide in the balloon.

The balloon grew smaller and smaller. Then, as soon as Morrow took it out of the bowl and set it on the table, it appeared to reinflate to its original size.

Please see CAMP/page A3

Past Olympic greets light Sochi cauldron

The Associated Press
SOCHI, Russia — One of the greatest goaltenders of all time and an innovative figure skater who won three straight Olympic pairs titles lit the cauldron together Friday night at the opening ceremony of the Sochi Games.

Vladislav Tretiak and Irina Rodnina were given the honor of sparking the cauldron that will burn throughout Russia's first Winter Olympics.

They were handed the torch by Alina Kabayeva, a former Olympic champion gymnast who has been linked romantically with Russian President Vladimir Putin, although the Kremlin has denied it. Other torchbearers in the final group were wrestling great Alexander Karelin, pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayaeva and tennis star Maria Sharapova.

Tretiak was a star on the great Soviet Union hockey teams of the 1970s and '80s, and is usually called the best goalie ever by those who saw him play.

He was the first Russian-born player to enter the Hockey Hall of Fame and won Olympic gold medals with Soviet teams in 1972, 1976 and 1984.

Please see SOCHI/page A3

Weather

Hi: Partly cloudy and not as cold today.
25

Lo: Chance of snow tonight.
6

Art by Danna Rodriguez, 8, Harvard Public School

Offensive letter
SAN FRANCISCO — An international honor society and Bank of America apologized Friday for a credit card offer to a feminist writer that referred to her by a sexual slur.
Golden Key International

Nation

Honour Society spokeswoman Melissa Letzell said on Friday that the group is looking into how the epithet ended up on the letter to Lisa McIntire.
The mailer, which said "Lisa Is A Slut McIntire, you've earned this special offer," offered her a Bank of America credit card tied to her membership in the Berkeley chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society.
Letzell said the organization takes full responsibility.
The Associated Press

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Laura Beahm/Tribune

Eli Engelhardt, 9 (left), Kevin Medina, 10, and Leah Krings, 10, react as a lightbulb gets brighter while they learn about electricity Friday morning at the Hastings Museum.

Camp: Local students' vacation day time to experience science

Continued from page A1

"There's the same amount of air in there, except it gets cold and it shrinks," Morrow said of the balloon. "Once it starts to get warm again, it expands." Next, they used the liquid nitrogen to quickly freeze the ingredients to make homemade ice cream for the students. When asked if he'd ever used liquid nitrogen to make ice cream before, 10-year-old George Arthur answered as he continued eating. "I have not, no," he said. "Never have, but it's pretty good." Seven-year-old Alex Hafer was excited about his ice cream.

"It's good," he said. "I mean awesome." After taking another bite, he exclaimed, "Oh, it's cold." At the friction booth, Hastings College sophomore Halle Bauer used a roll of duct tape to demonstrate how inertia works. "Has anyone ever heard of Isaac Newton before?" she asked. Bauer explained one of Newton's most famous laws: "An object in motion will remain in motion unless acted upon by an outside force." She then rolled the duct tape across the floor to show that the friction of the air and the

carpet slowed the roll and brought it to a stop. Without those outside forces, the tape would roll on forever, Bauer said. The students then got to try their own hand at studying inertia by spinning on a turntable while bringing their arms in and out. "When your arms are out you go slower because you have more inertia and when you pull your arms in you go slower because you have less," Bauer said. Students also visited the planetarium and had the opportunity to view the large format film Space Junk 3-D at the end of camp.

Sochi: Russian sports heroes carry torch

Continued from page A1

But he only got silver after his team was upset by the United States in the "Miracle on Ice" in 1980. In the first period of that game, Tretiak allowed two goals, and legendary Soviet coach Viktor Tikhonov unexpectedly replaced him with Vladimir Mishkin in an apparent move to shake up his complacent team. "It was difficult for me to sit on the bench with the score 2-2," Tretiak said at the Vancouver Olympics in 2010, the 30th anniversary of the upset. "If I played the second and third period, the game

might have turned a different way." Tretiak also was part of 10 world championship Soviet teams. Rodnina won her three gold medals with two different partners at the 1972, 1976 and 1980 Olympics. She also won 10 world pairs titles in a row, matching the great Sonja Henie. She was known for pioneering moves that made her the dominant female pairs skater of her era. After winning the 1972 Olympic title with Alexei Ulanov, she won the following two golds with Alexander Zaitsev.

She moved to the United States in 1990 to work as a coach and guided a Czech pair to a world title. Today she is a member of parliament as a member of Vladimir Putin's United Russia party and an outspoken critic of opposition leader Alexei Navalny. A tweet of Rodnina's from last year — a photo of President Barack Obama doctored to include a banana — drew new attention online Friday. She didn't explain the tweet at the time and later took down the photo, but later defended it with another tweet, saying "Freedom of speech is freedom!"

Weather: Biting cold unseasonable, even for February

Continued from page A1

Despite the 3.2 inches of snow that fell between Tuesday and Wednesday, the seasonal inch count remains behind pace for this time of year. At 14.2 inches, the current total is 3.2 inches below the yearly to-date average of 17.4.

That could change ever so slightly between today and Sunday, however. A minor cold system headed this way could produce some accumulation when passing through. "It's not a major system, but there could be some light snow," Fay said.

Normalcy is expected to return by midweek, as a warm air mass figures to push temperatures upward as early as Wednesday. "We'll start to see some melting occur from midweek on," Fay said. "It just looks warmer."

Duncan: Weather slows historic ballpark's facelift

Continued from page A1

They didn't expect it to be what it is right now. It's going to be Top 5 in the state as far as baseball facilities. "I think it'll be a great addition. It was kind of long overdue. We're excited to have the facility in Hastings." Built in 1940 as a public works project, the field, which initially was named Pershing Field, has not been improved upon in more than four decades. Recognized throughout the state as one of Nebraska's premier baseball facilities, the ballpark — which seats 1,300 — is best known for its deep outfield dimensions and signature red brick outfield wall.



Laura Beahm/Tribune

Pallets full of bricks sit in the parking lot at Duncan Field Jan. 30, waiting for use in upgrades to the ballpark.

The park has been the venue for three American Legion Little League World Series events. Several Major League players, including legendary Yankee Yogi Berra, have competed in games there. Today, it is home to Hastings College and American Legion games and St. Cecilia High School football contests. Hassenstab said he expects that roster of activity to expand and include additional uses in the coming years.

"Potentially, this allows the Legion to go out for larger tournaments," he said. "We've talked about maybe even trying to put in a bid for high school state baseball. Currently, it is held in Lincoln and Omaha." While the playing field inside the lines has been unaffected by construction, the foul territory grounds behind home plate will need some serious attention before the project is finished, Hassenstab said. "We'll need to re-grade it and sod it," he said. "The area by the dugouts and behind

home plate is all torn up." While the upgrades figure to change the facility looking pristine, Hassenstab assures purists that its integrity will remain intact. "We're just kind of giving it a facelift," he said. "Kind of a make-over, per se." Funds for the project will come largely from the city's half-cent sales tax increase that went into effect in 2010 and will remain on the books through 2017. The remaining money will come from grants and private donations.

Court: Thayer County joins regional effort

Continued from page A1

A Class 4 felony is punishable by five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Since it was created in October 2007, Southeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court has graduated 49 participants. Drug Court Coordinator Cristy Rivers said possible candidates must be charged with a drug usage-related felony. That could include theft charges as long as the theft pertained to drug addiction. Rivers wrote in an email it is a voluntary program and not an easy way out of incarceration. The program typically lasts 18-30 although it can exceed that duration if the situation warrants it.

Participants who enter Drug Court agree to complete a very long and intense program designed to help participants live a clean and sober lifestyle in an effort for them to become positive, productive members of their families and society. "We find that often our participants are challenged by other factors in addition to drug use, and our goal is to enable them to become more pro-social," she said. "So they are not only clean and sober but learn to live life on a more positive and productive soil."

Participants are advised prior to entering drug court that if they are not successful and are terminated from the program they should expect a sentence of incarceration. Hebron lawyer Joe Murray has had a handful of clients from other counties previously go through Southeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court. "I'm so glad that Thayer County has decided to do it," he said. Most of those clients have been successful. "It is such an intensive procedure that all but one of my clients have been very successful," he said. "They go in, they get tested every week. They're very, very committed to their treatment and recovery. I also had one that was not successful and frankly he went immediately to the penitentiary. It is a heck of a carrot but there is a stick as well if you don't perform."

Incarceration is a possible sanction, Rivers said, but not guaranteed. She said if a participant has a positive test and the drug court team believes jail is appropriate, then that is the sanction. "Then we work to solve that problem," she said. "So we might go back to the drawing board and say 'This person needs a new evaluation. We need to work with their treatment provider and adjust their treatment.'"

Dave Bruning, chairman of the Thayer County Board of Commissioners, said after talking with Werner and officials in Fillmore County the county board agreed to participate in drug court. "They felt it was a really good program and so we thought we would give it a try and if it didn't work out, if we're not happy with it, we could get out of it after a

year," he said. "We felt it was a way for some of these people that got caught up using drugs that if they wanted to make a change in their lives and wanted to try to improve themselves they had the opportunity, a chance to turn their lives around." Murray has a substance evaluation done in advance for clients who are potential drug court participants so the evaluator concurs there is a reasonably good chance of the client being successful. Rivers schedules an interview and goes over research-based assessments, then provides a report to the rest of the drug court team, which includes judges and attorneys, as well as a behavior health specialist, supervision officer and drug technician. They go over all areas in that person's life: Criminal history, education, employment, leisure time, companions, mental, physical issues, learning disabilities. She takes that report to the drug court team. "Based on the decision of the drug court team, they are either accepted or denied," she said. "If they're accepted, then they and their attorney are notified."

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