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Hall for sale

Knights of Columbus seeking buyer for building.

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Weekend Tribune

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Defense propels Tigers over Scottsbluff.

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Scoville appears in court

FOURTH ADULT IN LONDON PAYNE CASE HEARS CHARGES AGAINST HIM

TONY HERRMAN

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MINDEN — Dustin Scoville, the fourth person charged in the Dec. 22, 2009, death of 4-year-old Landon Payne, appeared before Kearney County Clerk Magistrate Randy Eckhoff Friday afternoon for arraignment. Scoville, 23, was charged Sept. 2 and is the fourth person charged in the case.



Scoville

According to court documents, Scoville allegedly caused or permitted Landon to be put in dangerous situations, including physical abuse, cruel punishment and starvation, leading to his death. Scoville also is accused of volunteering false information to a law enforcement officer with intent to interfere in the investigation.

Kearney County Deputy Attorney Bryan McQuay read the charges Friday against Scoville: aiding and abetting child abuse resulting in death; and accessory to a felony.

Aiding and abetting child abuse resulting in death is a class 1B felony and carries a penalty of 20 years to life imprisonment.

Accessory to a felony is a Class 3 felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine.

"Do you understand the charges?" Eckhoff asked him.

"I understand them but I disagree with them," Scoville responded.

Scoville is currently incarcerated in the Buffalo County Jail in Kearney held on a \$1 million bond subject to 10 percent. Eckhoff maintained that bond and appointed Kearney lawyer Charles Brewster to represent Scoville.

Scoville was among the four adults who lived with eight children in a rural house southeast of Minden at the time of Landon's death.

Husband and wife, Charles and Sharon Turnell, 38 and 37 respectively, and Sharon's daughter Katie Payne, 19, were all charged in the case on July 15.

Sharon Turnell is Landon's aunt. Landon and his sister apparently had lived in the household since August 2009 because Sharon's brother Clinton, who is Landon's father, was incarcerated.

The Turnells are both

Please see **SCOVILLE**/page A6



AMY ROH/Tribune

Lydia Schukei, 6, plays on a see-saw with her sister Elise, 3, Friday at The Barn south of Hastings.

Up in the air

BARN FESTIVALS' FUTURE IN LIMBO WITH BUSINESS BEING OFFERED FOR SALE

JOHN HUTHMACHER

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Barn Festival visitors may be witnessing the end of an era this weekend. Now in its 17th year, the annual arts and crafts festival at 3045 S. Marian Road may well be discontinued. That is, unless owners Brian and Marla Anders find a buyer interested in preserving the tradition.

The couple has put both of its two businesses — the Festival Barn and the Candle Barn — up for sale as a result of the slumping economy.

For the thousands who visit the Barn Festival each year, that is sad news indeed. A haven for those who appreciate things made with a personal touch, the unique business is chock full of hand-crafted items and gourmet eatables, most of them products of Nebraska.

From hand-painted greeting signs to woodwork, picture frames and art, indoor and outdoor decor, and more, the event has something of interest for practically anyone. As gifts go, there are few businesses in Nebraska that can compete with the volume of unique craft and gourmet food offerings on display.

The understated rustic charms of the grounds and gourmet sandwich and desert offerings of the Barnyard cafe provide a welcoming backdrop for visitors to pass an afternoon in style. For many, it has become a gathering place for family and friends to meet each year and catch up.

"People just come out and enjoy the day," Marla Anders said. "They have the luncheon in the Barnyard Cafe, then have all the little buildings to shop in. A lot of times they make a road trip with their friends, or it's families who come out."

Laurie Clark of Brady chose the festival as a sort of middle ground location Friday to meet up with her mother, Jewel Schultz, sister Jan Rickersent, both of Gothenberg, and sister, Sharon Auld of Geneva.

"We like to come here," she said. "We usually make it once or twice a year when they are open. I like the fun craft stuff and neat decorations."

A wood and craft artist herself, she finds the Barn's ample inventory of innovative merchandise inspiring. Among her purchases on the day: A metal flower crafted from mechanical shop parts, a cloth snowman ornament, and a wood-carved "Joy" sign.

"I like these flowers," she said. "Clean up shop and you can make all kinds of stuff out of your junk. I thought, 'My daughter is very crafty, maybe she can make some of these.'"

Please see **BARN**/page B4

Mental health provider fears budget slashes

Editor's note — Six years ago, the Nebraska Legislature, under the leadership of then-Gov. Mike Johanns, passed LB1083. In April 2010, the Legislature's Performance Audit Committee revisited LB1083 to review the progress that had been made. The audit found many inadequacies, across the board. This is the fifth in a series of stories that will examine not only the report and the response from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, but also the current status of mental health services in the Hastings area.

SHAY BURK

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It's been six years since mental health reform was passed in Nebraska, and providers know there still are some major holes in the system — especially funding.

Kim Kern has seen the



Kern

Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital.

And while she finally feels that her facilities have many of the services people need, Kern said, there's still something missing.

With the state of Nebraska now reaching the point of a budget crisis, Kern said, she fears the funds for behavioral health will be some of the first to be cut.

"We will be in a dire situation because we are currently not even funded to cover our costs," she said.

Kern fears the continual cuts

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AMY ROH/Tribune

Bryan Mentzer (back) and Tim Hromadka of Carmichael Construction work on the exterior of a building the 800 block of downtown Hastings Tuesday.

Downtown revitalizes

MEANWHILE, PIZZA

PLACE HEADS WEST

WILL VRASPIR

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Downtown Hastings is seeing a lot of changes recently as more residence space is created and commercial areas are revitalized.

In the middle of the 800 block of West Second Street, John Hamburger is one of the owners restoring a building for resale. The plan is to turn the main floor into a commercial area with residences upstairs. The project started in the spring as a way to fill a short-

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Weather

Hi: 72
Lo: 48

A slight chance of showers and isolated storms this morning.



Art by Lane Wenninghoff, 8, Franklin Public School

MAN FATHERS 23 KIDS

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A western Michigan man accused of fathering 23 children with 14 women and has been sent to prison for at least two years for failing to pay tens of thousands of dollars in

child support.

"Animals procreate. Human beings are supposed to nurture their children," Kent County Circuit Judge Dennis Leiber said Thursday.

Howard Veal, 44, of Muskegon owes more than \$533,000 in child

support, according to the state attorney general's office. He pleaded guilty in July to owing more than \$60,000 to a Grand Rapids woman.

There are 14 child-support cases pending against him in Kent and Muskegon counties.

The Associated Press

Nation

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Budget: Mental health provider says more services needed

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and rising costs could force some outpatient providers to decrease or eliminate services.

The elimination of outpatient services will lead more people into dangerous situations that put them back into the more expensive in-patient programs.

Hastings Sen. Dennis Utter said Thursday that it's still too soon to determine how the state's meager finances will be divided up in January.

With the state facing what is currently projected as a \$757 million budget shortfall over the next two years, Utter said, all programs are in the mix to lose funds.

The next revenue projections will be announced in late October. At that time, Utter said, the Legislature may have a better handle on what funding will be there.

"It will be then that we'll have to take a look at it," he said. "But I think it's too early to put a definitive target out there for funding any state program until we know the funds we're going to have to work with."

And only then will the Legislature go through every department of state government, not just the Department of Health and Human Services, to find places to cut and balance the budget.

The idea of cuts in funding is disheartening for Kern, who said there is a need for a wider variety of services, not a reduction.

One of the needs Kern sees is for step-down services to assist those released from in-patient treatment.

The idea would be to have a service between the in-patient and outpatient services, almost like a sober living house, where a person could be out in the real world, but also still have the stability of the in-patient services.

Susan Henrie, chief executive officer of South Central Behavioral Services Inc. in Hastings, said she was forced to eliminate a half-way house for men because of a lack of funding and staffing.

While funding may be the issue with some agencies, Henrie said, her biggest concern is a lack of professional staff available to fit her needs.

"The staffing is a big issue," she said. "It's just hard to find people who

are qualified."

Regulations state that a therapist must have a master's degree, be licensed provisionally and work under supervision for two years before being licensed as a mental health practitioner.

During that same time frame, many of those people also are going through training to become drug/alcohol abuse counselors.

Henrie said all of that work can take three years and state regulations require many of her people to already have all that work completed, meaning she can't hire many of those who are still working to earn their licenses.

"There's a small workforce that has all the certifications, so if you find people who aren't very good at what they do, that just reduced the workforce," she said. "I think there's a real need."

While South Central was able to hire some people from the Hastings Regional Center, there is still a need for more psychiatrists and nurse practitioners who can do medication management.

Kern agreed, saying she has also

seen high demand and low supply of educated professionals affect south central Nebraska.

She believes one of the biggest needs is in rural Nebraska is for prescribers, whether those be psychiatrists or nurse practitioners who can prescribe medication to the patients. Without these professionals, Kern said, there are segments of the population who aren't receiving the care they need.

"We aren't offering a lot of specialty services, so it's a one-size-fits-all," she said. "There might be a residential service, but you have to be part of the middle group. If you have any type of special need, then you don't fit into their catcher's mitt."

One of those specialty services that is lacking is services for the elderly with behavioral problems.

"It was talked about in mental health reform, but it wasn't really developed," Kern said.

She said there are two groups. There are those senior citizens who have battled with mental health issues their entire lives, while others saw the onset

of issues late in life.

Either way, Kern said, most nursing homes aren't equipped with the facilities or staff to deal with those who are severely or persistently ill.

Without the proper services, Kern said, some of these people are put into Alzheimer's units or other areas. Even so, she said, nursing homes don't have the funds or staff to properly address the needs of their residents.

"There are nursing homes that would provide more of those services if they were adequately funded, but you can't provide that programming and then not meet your cost," she said.

In the end, Kern said, it's all cyclical. If a person isn't able to get the services he or she needs in the outpatient facilities, things go awry and that person is then forced to go into the more costly in-patient treatment instead.

"So with mental health reform, I think there were improvements in terms of some outpatient levels that were offered, but some of the specialty services weren't developed or funded," she said.

Changes: Downtown spaces getting work

Continued from page A1

age of construction work.

"We've kind of taken it back to its original shape," he said. "We just thought it would be nice to bring it back to better than when we bought it. The historic downtown is important to bring back for the community."

Hamburger said they have also been working with other downtown businesses to restore storefronts.

Randy Chick, director of the Business Improvement District, said Hamburger's project is only one part of the current activity in the downtown area.

"There's some good projects going on there right now," he said. "There's renovation going on in about five different properties."

At the Strand Center, on the corner of Second Street and Burlington Avenue, storm damage has led to a facade restoration project on the west and south sides of the building.

A former jewelry store on the southeast corner of Second Street and Hastings Avenue is undergoing a facelift. Chick said the corner will be available for commercial space and a condominium will be available on the second floor.

The building at 128 N. Hastings Ave. is being renovated into condominium units with each floor for sale. At 111 N. Burlington Ave., the upper level is being redone as an apartment for the owner to occupy. Another owner/occupant project is being completed at 234 N. Lincoln Ave.

Renovations at 800 W. Second St. will make the second floor a residence for the owner, and the main floor like-

ly will be used for a professional-type tenant, Chick said.

"We're bringing a lot of those residences back down here, which obviously benefits the store owner on main street," Chick said. "We're trying to rebuild the neighborhood that used to be down here and having some good success lately."

Along with the building changes, businesses also are making moves through the area.

A Perfect Gift LLC, 710 W. 16th St., will be moving to the downtown area after renovations are completed at 615 W. Second St. Chick said the business is estimated to move between Oct. 15 and Nov. 1.

A business that recently moved out of the downtown area is Papa Ray's Pizza. The business left its downtown location at 202 W. Second St. for the former Come and Get It BBQ location at 2604 W. Second St.

Owner Paul Dunning said they opened for business at the new location about 5 p.m. on Monday.

He bought the building to expand the business, offer more customer parking, drive-through capabilities and wheelchair accessibility. Papa Ray's Pizza also expanded its hours and will now be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day except Sunday, when the hours will continue to be 4-10 p.m.

After renting the same spot for 50 years, Dunning said he was excited about buying his own place. He added more televisions for a variety of stations.

"It's a lot about ownership, too," he said. "It's a wonderful building."

Scoville: Fourth adult stands before court in abuse case

Continued from page A1

charged with aiding and abetting child abuse resulting in death. Katie Payne is charged with accessory to a felony in connection with the case.

At present, Charles Turnell is incarcerated in the Kearney County Jail in Minden on a \$300,000 bond subject to 10 percent, and Sharon Turnell is incarcerated in the Phelps County Jail in Holdrege on a \$300,000 bond subject to 10 percent.

Prosecutors recently agreed to drop a charge of aiding and abetting child abuse against Katie Payne in exchange for her cooperation in the cases against the Turnells. She is free on a personal recognizance bond.

Payne, Sharon's daughter, often is referred to in court documents as Katie Scoville. Dustin Scoville is her ex-husband.

Landon reportedly was brought by private vehicle with injuries to the Kearney County

Health Services hospital in Minden on Dec. 21, 2009.

The boy then was flown to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, where he died early the next morning from a subdural hematoma.

Scoville, Sharon Turnell and Katie Payne all told authorities that Landon suffered a head injury in a fall from a bunk bed, and that he had been found unresponsive in a bedroom late the afternoon of Dec. 21.

Doctors told authorities that Landon's injuries were inconsistent with a single fall. Medical experts found a number of other bodily injuries in various stages of healing, indicating a pattern of abuse.

Because the medical staff considered Landon's injuries suspicious, the remaining children in the home then were removed and placed in the custody of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.



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