

Hot movies

'Potter' leads parade of holiday film franchises.

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# Hastings Tribune

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## Gang raids yield 14 arrests



NATI HARNIK/AP

Weysan Dun, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the Omaha Office, announces at a news conference in Grand Island Thursday that federal and state officials have arrested 12 people in a combined operation targeting suspected members of a local gang with international ties.

THREE HASTINGS POLICE OFFICERS PARTICIPATE IN G.I. ROUNDUP

Staff and wire

**GRAND ISLAND** — State and federal law enforcement officers launched a massive operation against a central Nebraska gang with international ties, arresting 14 suspects in Grand Island, authorities said Thursday.

Officials said the roundup of suspects — some of them arrested before dawn Thursday

— largely decapitated the local gang that was blamed for much of the crime in Grand Island.

Local officials welcomed the effort to rein in gang activity, but law enforcement offered few details about its continuing investigation into the East Side Locos, which has ties to the international Surenos gang based in Southern California. Officials refused to discuss specifics of the gang's activities and origins Thursday.

"I am all in favor of everything we can do to make sure that any gang members feel unwelcome in Grand Island," Mayor Margaret Hornady said.

Police say gangs have been active in Grand Island since at least the mid-1990s, but their strength and influence has varied. Hall County Attorney Mark Young and other officials promised to keep up pressure on gangs across central Nebraska through a recently expanded law enforcement task force.

"Our next step is to continue disrupting the activity of this group and any other group that may be out there," Young said.

On Wednesday, an FBI SWAT team captured a 24-year-old Grand Island man indicted on 11 federal weapons charges and

three federal drug charges. Another 11 suspects were captured between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. Thursday as teams of officers served arrest warrants throughout the area. Two more were arrested Thursday evening after police received a tip.

The 14 indicted men face a combination of federal weapons and drug charges or state drug and gang recruitment charges. They all lived in Grand Island and were either U.S. citizens or legal residents.

About 120 officers from the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and law enforcement

*Please see RAIDS/page B1*

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS



AMY ROH/Tribune

Colton Hatch, 11, and his brother Parker, 5, watch as the downtown lights are switched on during the Celebration of Lights Thursday in downtown Hastings.

AMY ROH/Tribune

Santa Claus sings Christmas carols with Amberleise Meyer, 1, during the Celebration of Lights Thursday in downtown Hastings.



## Santa big draw at annual event

WILL VRASPIR

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**C**hilly winds didn't stop people from watching Santa and Kool-Aid Man take the stage Thursday evening for the city's annual Celebration of Lights, organized by the Downtown Center Association.

Vicki Neiman, co-owner of South Central Taekwondo and emcee for the event, said there was a good turnout despite the cold weather.

"It's a little cold out, but I have faith that when the lights come on, they'll fill this street," she said.

And they did. As Santa and the Kool-Aid Man counted down to turning on the lights on buildings downtown, hundreds of attendees packed the street around the stage.

Of course, children also had the chance to visit Santa Claus' booth and Kool-Aid Man paced the street occasionally.

*Please see CELEBRATION/page B2*

## Hastings loses 'real visionary'

FORMER DUTTON-LAINSON PRESIDENT DIES AT 98

TONY HERRMAN

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Harry "Hal" Ackley Lainson Jr., a man with varied talents and interests who oversaw operations at the Dutton-Lainson Co. for more than a quarter of a century, died today at the age of 98.

"He was a unique individual, first of all," said Jerry Daniels, who retired in 2009 from his position as vice president of Dutton-Lainson, where he worked for 44 years. "He had so many talents from an artistic side, a business side, a connecting-to-people side. That was just part of his way of living."



Lainson

Lainson, who was born Aug. 7, 1912, in Fairbury, moved with his family to Hastings was he was 2 years old. He graduated from Hastings High School in 1930.

He attended Iowa State University and Northwestern University before returning to Hastings and graduating from Hastings College in 1934 with a bachelor of arts degree in English.

He became president of Dutton-Lainson in 1950, succeeding his father, Harry Ackley Lainson Sr. He gave the presidency to his son-in-law, Charles R. Hermes, in 1978.

Lainson served on the Hastings College Board of Trustees from 1944-78 and was chairman of the board from 1951-78.

*Please see LAINSON/page B2*

## Local businesses competing for investment capital

CHARIS UBBEN

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One Hastings business and another with local stakeholders are competing today for \$50,000 of investment capital, in the 2010 East 2 West Venture Competition.

Scott Kleeb, co-owner of Hastings-based Energy Pioneer Solutions, and Cody Butler, Hastings native and owner of CornFinger, had 15 minutes to present their business plans to a panel of seven judges today, followed by 15 minutes of question-and-answer discussion.

Judges already have evaluated their written business plans, which count in the contest.

Both EPS and CornFinger are young businesses already meeting with some success.

EPS makes homes more energy efficient, saving the homeowner significant money. The company uses utility information and information about a house to determine, before ever visiting, whether the home is efficient or inefficient.

*Please see INVESTMENT/page B2*

Weather

Lo: 28  
Hi: 38

Partly cloudy this evening. Cloudy and colder Saturday.



Art by Carley Elznic, 10, Shickley Public School

POT ARRESTS

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — Soldiers accused of breaking into a Colorado medical marijuana dispensary and then accidentally locking themselves inside told police they planned to destroy the marijuana — not smoke or sell it.

Nation

The Gazette in Colorado Springs reports a police affidavit says two of the three Fort Carson soldiers told officers they were trying to steal the marijuana so they could get rid of it. Police say the three were arrested Saturday on second-degree burglary charges after they accidentally

locked themselves in the Colorado Springs dispensary during a burglary attempt. Officers say they were on an unrelated call at a nearby business around 2 a.m. when they heard someone banging on glass inside the dispensary. *The Associated Press*

Inside

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# Lainson: 'Real visionary' dies

Continued from page A1

"That's just absolutely incredible to be on the board that long and be chair that long," said Phil Dudley, college president. "He had tremendous influence shaping the vision and mission of Hastings College."

Dudley joined the HC faculty in 1973, and then the administration about the same time Lainson left the board.

Lainson's widow, Gretchen, also graduated from HC. The couple met at the college when he was a senior and she was a freshman.

Gretchen received a bachelor's degree in English in 1937.

"I think probably all faculty knew him," Dudley said. "He and Gretchen were very gracious about hosting faculty and staff at their house."

Dudley said he often called upon Lainson as a resource so Dudley could learn more about the college's history. The men had such a conversation just a few months ago.

"He was always very willing to do that and was gracious with his time," he said.

Between his connection to the HC board and the First Presbyterian Church in Hastings, which founded the college, Lainson had great influence there, Dudley said.

Lainson served as a trustee, deacon and elder at First Presbyterian. He also served as director of the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.

The college saw several new buildings constructed and an increase in enrollment during

Lainson's tenure on the board.

The Lainsons always were strong supporters the college, Dudley said — especially the school's fine arts departments. The couple purchased several pieces of art for the college.

Lainson was a man of broad interests, Dudley said. Those interests extended to everything from world affairs to fine arts.

"He was a real visionary," Dudley said. "He had a strong vision of where he wanted Hastings College to go and also the Dutton-Lainson Co."

Kenneth Morrison, 89, who founded Morrison Enterprises in 1947, said he had known Lainson since Morrison moved to the community in 1947.

Morrison said his company purchased parts and supplies from Dutton-Lainson.

"He was a very prominent man and fair man, and he did a lot for Hastings," Morrison said. "He was involved in the decision making of the city in many ways and the college and anything connected to the city and was very supportive of anything going on."

Daniels said Lainson was one of the most important people in his life. Lainson saw Daniels' talent and promoted him to a career in advertising.

Daniels had not intended to stay in Hastings long when he began work in the Dutton-Lainson manufacturing division. A few months into the job, Daniels began making sculptures during his breaks there by welding together pieces of scrap metal.

"I made what he thought were interesting creations out of

scrap pieces. He called me into his office to see what I was up to," Daniels said. "It led to a job in the advertising business."

Other employees throughout the Dutton-Lainson operation had stories similar to his own, Daniels said.

"He was a great mentor and had the ability to nurture people along and get the best out of them," he said. "On top of that, he had a great sense of humor."

That sense of humor also stuck with Dudley.

"He had a good wit," Dudley said. "I just remember when we were talking about the college, he would talk about humorous things that happened. I always enjoyed that chance to talk about things that happened during his time as board chair."

Lainson had numerous involvements and awards. He received the Nebraska Independent College Foundation Higher Education Award in 1973, he was the national treasurer for Church Men for Church Colleges, he received the Nebraska Business and Industry "Man of the Year" in 1961, and he was honored with the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award in 1987. He was a member of the first Hastings Planning and Zoning Commission and first Civil Service Commission.

"He was involved in so many things over the years," Daniels said. "It was quite a legacy, and he will be sorely missed."

Services are pending with Livingston-Butler-Volland Funeral Home.



AMY ROH/Tribune

The brass choir from First United Methodist performs during the Celebration of Lights Thursday in downtown Hastings.

# Celebration: Santa big draw

Continued from page A1

Amber Scheeder of Clay Center brought her 2-year-old daughter, Sydnee, to see Santa.

"She's been dying to see Santa," she said. "I decided to bring her because she was old enough to know who Santa is. She's excited to see the Kool-Aid man too."

Though shy, Sydnee agreed that she wanted to see Santa.

"I want to tell him 'Hi,'" Sydnee said. Six-year-old Ashton Ground of Hastings said he wanted to ask Santa for WWE 2011 and Megamind games for the Playstation 3.

His mother, Malinda Ground, said Ashton also enjoyed the inflatable activities and played on each six to eight times.

"What? They were fun," Ashton protested. Malinda said she also enjoyed the festivities and thought it was good to have children's activities.

"We need good things around here for kids and this is a good place to do it," she said. "I

think it's great this year."

Activities during the event included horse-drawn carriage rides, a children's train ride, face painting and food vendors along with a variety of live stage entertainment through the evening. Despite the cold temperatures, there were still lines for the activities.

Kristi Boutin and Melissa Hohlfeld of Hastings brought their children to the event. They rode the carriage and children's train, played on the inflatables and drank hot chocolate with marshmallows from Zion Lutheran School.

"We like to help out the fundraising efforts," Hohlfeld said.

Hot chocolate was a popular item through the event with temperatures in the 40s.

Gretchen Townsend, treasurer of the Zion Parent-Teacher United, said the goal was to spread the word about the school.

"We want to get more kids to come out to Zion," she said. "We're a private school, so we don't get as much advertising as other schools."

# Investment: Businesses compete

Continued from page A1

In the home, EPS uses tools like infrared cameras and blower doors to determine where energy is leaking out of the house, then creates a list of recommended improvements. EPS subcontractors with local construction companies to make these improvements to the home and, in Hastings, customers pay for it through their utility bill.

"They don't have to go find a loan, they don't have to find a general contractor who can insulate for them, it's a one-stop shop here," said Kris Vrooman, resource development coordinator.

Vrooman said EPS has audited and improved 320 homes in Hastings and the surrounding area. The average cost to homeowners has been \$1,540 and the average savings \$450-\$600 per year. With on-bill pay through Hastings Utilities, that excess amount will continue to be collected by the utilities company until EPS has been reimbursed for its work.

"In three years, that's completely paid for, and you just get to keep that \$450. That's \$450 less that's leaking out," Vrooman said.

Vrooman said Hastings Utilities is the first utility company in the world to agree to an on-bill payment option for its customers to make these improvements. The U.S. Department of Energy is taking notice, she said.

EPS was awarded more than \$800,000 this August by the Department of Energy's Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program, which it plans to use to audit and retrofit at least 250 homes in Hastings. The retrofitting should reduce utility bills by an average of 25 percent, equaling a savings of about \$60 per month, Kleeb has said. The program will save the city energy, as well, reducing annual carbon dioxide emissions by an average of 4.9 tons.

EPS signed a contract with Broken Bow and Central City within the last month for on-bill pay with their utility companies, Vrooman said. If the company wins the East 2 West Venture Competition, EPS plans to use the \$50,000 for start-up costs in these two towns.

"It costs quite a bit of money to provide all the tools needed in each location, and hire and train the staff," Vrooman said.

CornFinger, a company started by Butler and his younger brothers, Cannon and Cass, began in July 2008 as a hand gesture. The brothers were dis-

cussing the fact that the Huskers have no identifiable gesture, like the Texas Longhorn steer.

"Originally we just thought, 'Wouldn't it be cool if we were the ones who came up with the hand gesture that was unique and specific to the Nebraska Cornhuskers?'" Cody said.

The "corn finger" gesture makes the hand look like a half-shucked ear of corn by holding up the hand as if swearing an oath, relaxing the thumb and bending the pinkie at the middle knuckle.

The Butlers decided to communicate their gesture by selling red foam fingers, which Cody said have already earned \$25,000 in revenue. The finger shows a yellow ear of corn on one side and the CornFinger sign on the other. They are available locally at Allen's.

Now, the Butlers plan to use their growing brand identity to link Nebraska and its best-known commodity to a lesser known byproduct: Clothing.

Cody said Nature Works, a Blair company, is the only manufacturer in the world that extracts sugars and starches from corn and turns them into textiles. The clothing has been viable for seven years, but Cody said it is not well marketed in the U.S.

"People in the U.S. are just not aware that this is a possibility. Meanwhile, in Japan, this is very popular; clothing made

from corn is popular and well known," he said.

If CornFinger wins the competition, Cody said they'll use the \$50,000 to file for use of Husker trademarks for apparel, novelties and on CornFinger's website and social networking. CornFinger also would subcontract with a Minnesota manufacturer to create samples for clothing designs using the corn-based textile, called Ingeo.

Cody said Cannon, 15, and Cass, 11, are involved with the company to the extent they can be while students at St. Cecilia. Cody, a 2000 STC grad, now lives in Fremont.

Other finalists are MedLetters of Omaha, Deckerton of Lincoln, Welsch's Bale in a Bag of Mitchell and Kristy's Kitchen of Tekamah.

"We have six solid finalists, each showing great promise and building on Nebraska's successes," said Dan Hoffman, Invest Nebraska's executive director. "It's always interesting to see how these entrepreneurs pitch their ideas to the judges, which can be the deciding factor."

The winner must agree to locate the business in Nebraska and to give Invest Nebraska a minority stake in their business in exchange for the \$50,000.

The competition was held at The Old Mattress Factory Bar & Grill in Omaha. Find more information about the New Venture Competition at [www.investnebraska.com](http://www.investnebraska.com).

## Thanksgiving Advertising Deadlines

**RETAIL AND CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISING**

Publication Day	Deadline
Wednesday, Nov. 24	Monday, Nov. 22 at Noon
Friday, Nov. 26	Tuesday, Nov. 23 at Noon
Saturday, Nov. 27	Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 5 p.m.
Encore - Week of Nov. 29	Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 3 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 29	Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 5 p.m.
Preview TV and Social Page for Saturday	Monday, Nov. 22 at 4 p.m.

Color ads for full page or larger ads, please add 24 hours to the above deadlines.

**TRIBLAND ADVERTISING**

Publication Day	Deadline
Wednesday, Nov. 24	Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 4 p.m.

**CLASSIFIED WANT ADS**

Publication Day	Deadline
Friday, Nov. 26	Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 10 a.m.
Encore - Week of Nov. 29	Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 4 p.m.

The Hastings Tribune will be closed on Thanksgiving Day so our employees may enjoy the holiday with their families.

We would like to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving!

www.hastingstribune.com  
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# GM stock slips on second day of trading

**The Associated Press**  
**DETROIT** — General Motors' stock fell the second day it traded, although it stayed above its initial price Thursday of \$33.

GM's stock dipped as low as \$33.11 early today, more than 3 percent below Thursday's closing price, before climbing back to \$33.95 at midday.

Investors and the U.S. government are watching how the market views GM. The company's stock went public Thursday amid an impressive turnaround 16 months after exiting bankruptcy protection.

The second-day stock dip

isn't surprising, although a drop below the IPO price could spell trouble because it would trigger computerized "stop loss" orders to sell millions of shares, said Scott Sweet, senior managing partner of the research firm IPO Boutique. He expects volatility for three or four days before the shares stabilize.

The stock jumped as high as \$35.99 in its market debut before pulling back later on Thursday. Almost 457 million GM shares traded, about one tenth of all trading on the New York Stock Exchange. GM closed up 3.6 percent at \$34.19.

The government is on its

way to getting back at least part of the \$50 billion it spent bailing out GM, which left bankruptcy protection last year with a balance sheet cleansed of its huge debt.

The government and GM's other owners sold 478 million common shares in the IPO for \$33 each, bringing in \$15.8 billion.

The government made \$11.8 billion in the IPO by selling 358 million shares, reducing its ownership stake about 36 percent from 61 percent. It stands to make \$13.6 billion — and lower its stake to 33 percent — if bankers exercise options for 54 million more shares.

If you are from the Hastings area and getting married in 2011 you could be chosen to be

# Bridal Couple 2011

Bridal Guide

## 2011 Bridal Edition

To be published January 27, 2011

A Bridal Couple will be chosen for The Hastings Tribune 2011 Bridal Edition.

If you are interested in being our Bridal Couple, please send the form along with your photo by December 30, 2010 to:

Bridal Couple  
c/o Hastings Tribune  
908 West 2nd Street  
Hastings, NE 68901  
or email complete information to [cnollette@hastingstribune.com](mailto:cnollette@hastingstribune.com) and attach photo.

Bridal Couple 2011 Entry Form

Bride's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Who does the Tribune Contact? \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day and Evening Phone Numbers \_\_\_\_\_

Future Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Tribune employees and families of employees are not eligible.)