

The Hastings Family Times™

A FREE Weekly Publication for Families

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P.O. Box 1361, Hastings, NE 68902

Teenagers Study Old Testament Before School

by Andrew D. Callahan, Editor

Seven area high school students meet before dawn every school morning at a local church to study the Old Testament. Pictures of familiar Old Testament stories such as Daniel in the lion's den, Jonah and the whale, and Noah building the ark greet the still somewhat sleepy teenagers as they straggle into class just before 6:30 on a recent morning. The class meets for 45 minutes and always begins with a song or a hymn and a prayer. After the 35 to 40 minute lesson the class ends with another hymn and a prayer.

"I think the critical thing about the class is that it offers balance," said instructor Sue Marten of Hastings. "There are so many pressures in people's lives these days that it's hard to keep everything in balance, especially the spiritual aspect. And here is an opportunity for these kids to come to this class, and the wonderful thing is that they actually get up early and come!"

"This is my third year," said a 16-year old junior at Hastings High. "I really enjoy it. Starting the day with two prayers and two hymns helps me keep my priorities straight throughout the day. It's definitely a positive start to the day."

"The students participate in class and interact with one another," said instructor Sue Marten. "They seem enjoy it and are having fun. Learning is always easier when it's enjoyable." Part of the class time each week is reserved for "Scripture Mastery" in which the students work together or individually to memorize important scriptures, sometimes playing games or having various challenges to see who can find a verse fastest, or who can identify a passage from the fewest clues. A freshman boy told me that he has memorized



Area high school students at their early morning Old Testament study class, (from left) Kamille Lau, Holly Snowder, Joy Mullally, Anthony Allen, and Paul Lopez.

the names of all of the books of the Old Testaments as well as the entire Ten Commandments.

The class also tries to draw parallels from the scriptures to the lives of the students today, encouraging them to incorporate the lessons learned into their daily lives.

The class currently has seven registered students from three area high schools, and Sue said there are spaces available for a few more students. Any area high school student is eligible to register for the class, but a commitment to regular attendance will be required. To register parents or students should call Sue Marten at 463-8757.

Selected Upcoming Events

Preschool Playday at the Hastings Museum, Sept 9 at 10 am and Sept 13 at 1 pm, *Shake, Rattle and Roll*, for children ages 3 to 5, parents are encouraged to attend with their child. Reservations required: call 461-4629.

Most Beautiful Baby contest, Sept 20 at the Imperial Mall - call for 462-6671 for information.

Sept 2 & 4 - South Central Nebraska **Children's Choral try-outs** at Hastings College Fuhr Hall, 800 Turner Ave - 4:30-7:30 pm - call 463-1076 for more information.

Sept 5 - **Back to School Bash Middle School Dance** - 8-10pm - YMCA - 463-3139

Glow Golf on Sept 13 - 9:30 pm - Champions Sports and Recreation - 462-6220.

Fall Soccer begins at the YMCA also on Sept 13 and **Session I swimming lessons** for ages 6 mos thru adult start Sept 14 - 463-3139

The above calendar listings are not in the Hastings Senior Times; for a more comprehensive listing of events around town, please see the Community Calendar in the Hastings Senior Times.

Home Is Where the Family Is

by Andrew D. Callahan, Editor

Our family moved to Hastings just over a year ago to be near my wife's parents. As I have written repeatedly in The Hastings Senior Times, we love it here. This is the best place we've ever lived, partly because we are with family.

I ran into my friend Joe Spader the other day. Joe is moving back to South Dakota after a year of living in Hastings managing the Central Nebraska Home Care store. Both Joe and his wife are from South Dakota and have family and strong ties to the area. Joe is leaving a good job that he loves to be with family. He said it wasn't an easy decision, but he's sure it's the right one. So am I. Joe told me his priorities in life are, in order: family, church, job. Good going, Joe. We'll miss you.

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Community Theatre Offers Unique Entertainment

Hastings Community Theatre (HCT) recently announced its schedule of productions for the 2003-2004 season. "The Guys," written by Sutton, Nebraska native Anne Nelson is first, with performance dates September 11, 12, 13, 14 and 19, 20 and 21. The play involves a New York City firefighter and a writer who helped him write eulogies to honor his co-workers who who died in the 9/11 tragedy. In March of this year HCT took this drama to the Nebraska Association of Community Theatre's contest and was awarded a first place title.

November will see HCT presenting the musical "Forever Plaid." In February they will perform the funny, yet touching "The Boys Next Door." "How the Other Half Loves," is a delightful farce that will come along in April. The final production of the season will be "Babe: The Sheep Pig" a tale of high adventure in the farmyard that will please children of all ages.

Hastings Community Theatre is currently offering season memberships, which start as low as \$30 and provide a tremendous value. In addition to the substantial savings over box office prices, season members receive a newsletter about the upcoming play before each production, and the opportunity to choose performance dates prior to ticket sales to the general public.

The Hastings Family Times considers Hastings Community Theatre an excellent family activity and strongly encourages families to purchase season memberships.

The Hastings Family Times™ K.I.D.S. Recipe of the Week

Our "Keep It Simple Seniors" Recipe in The Hastings Senior Times has been so well received we are introducing another recipe here, again with simplicity being one of our key requirements. This one is the "Keep It Deliciously Simple" Recipe of the Week. We welcome your contributions. We got this week's recipe comes from a friend.

Cream Fruit Dip

pint of cream
(or an 8 oz. tub of whipped topping)
3 oz. instant vanilla pudding

1 cup milk
fresh strawberries

Measure milk; pour into medium bowl. Add pudding mix and beat for 2 minutes. Chill pudding while you beat cream into soft peaks. (Or for about 5 minutes if you're using the whipped topping). Add whipped cream to pudding; beat until smooth and creamy. Dip the strawberries into the mixture and enjoy!

This particular recipe is a favorite of ours for a variety of reasons. One: it's quick and easy and absolutely scrumptious. Two: it's very versatile. If nobody is particularly watching their calorie intake, you can make the decadent version using real cream and whole milk, but if you want to lighten it up, use light whipped topping, sugar free pudding mix, and skim milk, to reduce the calories, sugar and fat. Three: it's very basic, so you can experiment with different flavors, and fruit combinations. So far, we've tried vanilla, butterscotch (very good with apples) and chocolate fudge and have enjoyed all of them. Our favorite fruit for dipping is strawberries, but bananas, apples and grapes work very well too.

Parent Nutrition Tip:

Low fat or fat free dips can be a useful way to encourage your selective eater to eat more fruits and vegetables.

A Final Thought

Cooking (and cleaning up) together can be a great way to spend more time with your child.

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Sample Personal or Fun ads

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Original & Local Word Search #1

by Dale T. Callahan (age 13)

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L	W	S	L	A	I	R	D	Y	A	T	H	Burlington
I	C	M	U	S	E	U	M	D	U	E	W	Detassel
N	A	H	C	S	V	L	D	P	G	F	O	Fountain
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B	O	M	I	E	M	R	J	N	Y	E	O	Kool-Aid
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4. Times reserves right to reject any ad or offer the Times finds offensive, in poor taste, objectionable, incompatible with Times policy, etc. or unreasonable financially.
5. All ads will be published on a Run-of-Paper "space available" basis. In the event that more than all available advertising space is purchased for a given week, advertisers paying higher rates will be published and those paying lower rates will be held for future weeks. There will be NO REFUNDS for delayed advertisements.
6. To place ad, mail check, a 37¢ stamp, and proposed ad, as well as your name, address, and phone number to: The Hastings Times, PO Box 1361, Hastings, NE 68902. (Postage stamp will be used to send you a confirmation of ad acceptance, or to return your check if ad is rejected.) Or telephone: 461-6355, e-mail: editor@hastingstimes.com
7. Ads accepted for one weekly publication at a time only. Specify either The Hastings Senior Times, or The Hastings Family Times. Ads accepted for The Hastings Table Top Times may be in combination with one of the weekly publications (additional fee required).

Effective thru Dec, 2003, subject to revision/cancelation. Business offer valid only to Adams County based businesses, i.e. principal office/business is here.