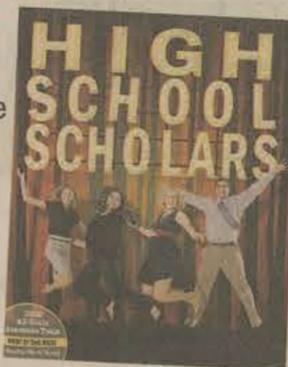


More academic all-stars today in Midlands

More students getting perfect ACT scores
A word from the trophy generation,
Michael Kelly

BEST OF THE BEST

A special section introduces the All State Academic Team and highlights more than 1,000 other high achievers **INSIDE, BEHIND MARKETPLACE HOMES**



Sunday World-Herald

SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2008 IOWA EDITION

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OWNED BY EMPLOYEES

OMAHA.COM BREAKING NEWS 24/7



MUST READ

Reunion tour

With the Police coming to town, it's like the '80s are being revived for fans.
E.T.A.

Winging it

No notes for Nebraska football coach Bo Pelini. He says he speaks from his heart.

Sports



Babies

See photos of 2007 babies and learn why new moms like journaling and scrapbooking.
Special section

omaha.com

Fill out your reading list with Online Extra book reviews. **Living**

COMING MONDAY

'68 race

A look back at 1968, when Nebraska was in the election spotlight.

Iowa weather



Partly sunny and breezy.

High: 62 Low: 44

Full weather report: Page 5B

Index

- Deaths 4B
- Editorials 10-11B
- Kelly 1B
- Motley Fool 3D
- Movies 4E
- Outdoors 10C
- Puzzles 10E



Kay Kiatt, director of the Butterfly and Insect Pavilion at the Henry Doorly Zoo, releases its first residents Thursday. The bright orange butterfly is a monarch and the one below it is Grecian Shoemaker, a native of Mexico and Argentina. The new permanent exhibition opens Saturday.

BUTTERFLIES HAVE LANDED

New pavilion set to open at Omaha zoo depends on global network of providers

COMING THIS WEEK

See a floor plan and map out your first visit to the butterfly pavilion. In **Thursday's go!** magazine

Butterflies are the stars, but don't forget the frogs and insects. A comprehensive look at the zoo's newest attraction. In **Saturday's Living**

By JANE PALMER
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

You might imagine hunters on the prowl for creatures to fill the new butterfly conservatory opening Saturday at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo.

But you would be wrong. Butterfly farmers around the world will raise 900 to 1,000 species of butterflies for the zoo's new \$10.5 million, 14,000-square-foot Butterfly and Insect Pavilion.

When visitors walk into the glass-walled butterfly conservatory, they will be immersed in a magical world of flowering plants and waterfalls, where hundreds of butterflies flutter freely and land wherever they please — on the flowers or on your hand.

Purchasing butterflies from farmers in Third World countries supports one of the zoo's

long-term goals: conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat, said Dr. Lee Simmons, the zoo's director. In addition, butterfly commerce gives those countries an economic boost.

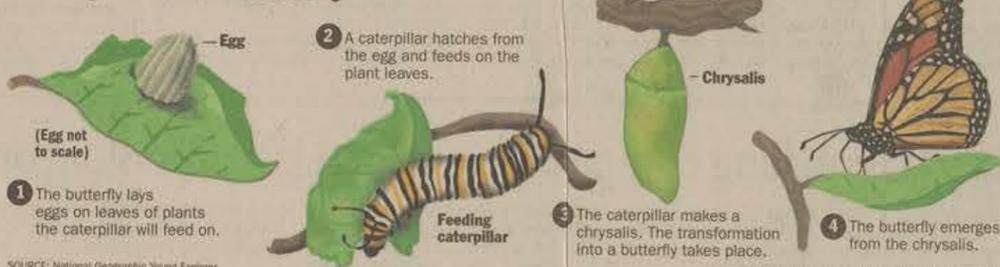
Butterfly farmers in places as far flung as Malaysia, Kenya, Peru, Panama, Costa Rica and Florida will sell the Omaha zoo chrysalises — butterflies in their pupal stage of life.

"It's a good conservation story. ... Butterfly farms are springing up all over the world and in nearly all Third World countries where there is still habitat," Simmons said.

Butterfly farmers typically don't confine large animal "herds." Instead, they manage the creature's natural life cycle to increase butterfly numbers. For instance, they harvest eggs or caterpillars from the wild, provide plants for food and shel-

See Zoo: Page 2

Life cycle of a butterfly



SOURCE: National Geographic Young Explorer



Julia *Dryas julia*, native to Florida, Central America and South America



Buckeye *Junonia coenia*, native to much of the United States



Ruby-spotted swallowtail *Papilio anchisiades*, ranges from Argentina to south Texas

WHEN IT RAINS . . .

Not many levees are mapped, certified

■ New federal standards would not apply to most of them, which could create a false sense of security.

By ELIZABETH AHLIN
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

MISSOURI VALLEY, Iowa — After three days of rainfall, the stream was running bank-full, pressing on the levee.

When the levee broke, torrents of water poured over miles of fields before flooding Missouri Valley's Willow Park neighborhood, forcing 73 families from their homes.

It has been a year since the flood. Homes have been rebuilt, the city park repaired and the levee reinforced. But Willow Park residents aren't any better protected from a major flood than they were in May 2007.

New federal standards could require changes to dozens of levees across Iowa and Nebraska, but not those along the Willow and Boyer Rivers near Missouri Valley.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency plans to examine hundreds of federal levees in the United States and decertify any that don't meet U.S. Army Corps of Engineers standards for a once-in-a-century flood. Upgrading the levees to meet the new standards will be costly, in many cases.

But the levees along Willow and Boyer Rivers are in a different class. They aren't certified, inspected or maintained by federal or state agencies.

Most weren't engineered to provide flood protection. In fact, most weren't engineered at all, said Randall Behm, chief of flood-risk management at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Omaha office.

Like most rivers in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa, the Willow River long has been a sinuous, meandering stream. Years ago, people began pulling silt and sediment out of the stream and piling them on the banks, straightening the stream and providing better drainage for the area.

Over time, those dirt mounds grew into piles that were shaped into something like the levees seen today.

Those dikes, called "spoil bank levees," are part of a largely undocumented system of levees that have cropped up in rural and urban areas over the past 100 years.

These levees, along with planned agricultural levees and private levees, largely are unmapped and unmonitored by anyone other than

See Levees: Page 10

Inside

Post-Katrina safety standards might call for costly upgrades in riverside towns. **Page 10A**

Some drivers have a need for speed at any cost

■ We all know we can save money by easing up on the gas pedal, but for Midlands free spirits, common sense takes a back seat.

By RICHARD EGAN
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Veteran rocker Sammy Hagar first sang "I Can't Drive 55" in 1984, but things — especially the price of gas — have changed.

"I know that times are tough," Hagar said last week from his Mill Valley, Calif., home. "And if slow-

ing down will stretch a \$4 gallon of gas, then you gotta do it."

If responses from people interviewed at several Omaha-area gas stations are any indication, though, Midlandsers are more in tune with Hagar circa 1984 than the recently-turned-60 Hagar.

"No," Omahan Katie Halpenny said after filling up her Cadillac,

when asked if she has considered driving more slowly to economize on fuel. "I have a lead foot."

Sunshine Olson of Plattsmouth, Neb., said she suffers from the same affliction. "I'm from California, and I have a lead foot," she said as she gassed up her Jaguar X-Type. "But I think about it."

Den Collins, spokeswoman for the Nebraska State Patrol, said that, if anything, drivers are going faster now than a year ago. Collins said the patrol made 46,589 stops in the first quarter of 2008, the vast majority of which were for speed-

ing citations, compared with 34,819 over the same period in 2007.

"I haven't heard that troopers have noticed slower speeds," Collins said. "But it would be nice."

There are benefits to going slower. Every 1 mph over 60 that a car goes costs an additional 10 cents per gallon, said Rose White, spokeswoman of AAA Nebraska.

At the pump, the average price of a gallon of regular gas nationwide rose 2.6 cents Friday to a record \$3.671, according to a survey **See Speed: Page 2**



"Go on and write me up for 125 / Post my face wanted dead or alive / Take my license n' all that jive / I can't drive 55."

Sammy Hagar

Connect today

IN MIDLANDS, Page 8B
A roundup of Midlands honorees.
Page 9B
Good deeds help others across the region.
An Omaha boy soaks in the atmosphere at Walt Disney World.
Winners of the state high school journalism contest.

On Omaha.com

Scores & Stats in the main Sports section. Follow your favorites in NBA, NASCAR, Major League Baseball, NHL and AHL hockey, pro golf and arena football. **Sports**

As Tuesday's Nebraska primary elections approach, catch up on the World-Herald's coverage of races and issues around the region. **Elections**

Lotteries

POWERBALL
Wednesday, May 7: 9-25-26-28-42
Powerball: 25. Power Play: 2. No jackpot winner. Estimated jackpot for Saturday, May 10: \$20 million.

NEBRASKA
Pick 5 — Saturday, May 10: 2-9-13-27-28. No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Monday, May 12: \$118,000.

2by2 — Saturday, May 10: red 5-8; white 3-23.

Pick 3 — Saturday, May 10: 9-6-2.

IOWA
Cash Game — Saturday, May 10: 14-20-21-22-29.

Hot Lotto — Saturday, May 10: 13-17-20-25-39. Hot Ball: 18.

Pick 3 — Saturday, May 10: midday 1-5-6; evening 0-1-3.

Pick 4 — Saturday, May 10: midday 6-8-0-0; evening 7-0-0-8.

Lottery results from other states are at Omaha.com.

CONTACT THE WORLD-HERALD

New subscriptions, delivery questions
346-3363 or (800) 234-6942

For photo and story reprints, research and permission to republish
444-1014; link@owh.com

Newsroom
444-1304 or (800) 284-6397

Classified advertising
342-6633 or (800) 694-5455

National/retail/online (Omaha.com) advertising
444-1420 or (800) 914-8978

Sunday World-Herald

Omaha Daily Herald founded 1885
Omaha Daily World founded 1885
WorldHerald 1889

(USPS 408-280)
Published Sunday
at the Omaha World-Herald Building,
1314 Douglas St.,
Omaha, NE 68102-1811
(402) 444-1000

Copyright © 2008, Sunday World-Herald

Periodical postage paid at Omaha, Neb., and at other mailing offices. Basic weekly home delivery subscription rates: \$3.84 daily and Sunday; \$1.79 Monday-Saturday; \$1.45 Monday-Friday; \$2.19 Saturday and Sunday; \$1.85 Sunday. Single copy rates are \$0.50 daily and \$1.50 Sunday. Fifty-two week mail subscription rates for Nebraska, Iowa, parts of Missouri, South Dakota, Kansas and all Armed Forces addresses: \$129.48 daily; \$96.20 Sunday only; \$225.68 daily and Sunday. Other rates available upon request. Both the weekend and Sunday only home delivery subscriptions include delivery on the following 2008 holidays: New Year's Day 1/1/2008, Presidents Day 2/18/2008, Memorial Day 5/26/2008, Independence Day 7/4/2008, Labor Day 9/1/2008, Columbus Day 10/13/2008, Veterans Day 11/11/2008, Thanksgiving 11/27/2008, and Christmas 12/25/2008.

The Omaha World-Herald is a copyrighted publication. All of the information published herein, including, but not limited to, articles, photographs, graphics, illustrations, listings, labels and trademarks is protected by copyright and other intellectual property laws, both state and federal. You may not reproduce, publish, transmit, transfer, sell, create, make derivative works from, distribute, post on the Internet, publicly display or in any way commercially exploit any of the material or infringe upon the trademarks of the Omaha World-Herald without expressed written permission of the Omaha World-Herald Co.

Postmaster: Send change of address to Omaha World-Herald, the Omaha World-Herald Building, 1314 Douglas St., Suite 800, Omaha, NE 68102-1811.
Please recycle this newspaper

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

TERRY KROEGER
President and Publisher
444-1179; terry.kroeger@owh.com

DAVE WINEGARDEN
Vice President of Sales and Marketing
444-1406; dave.winegarden@owh.com

LARRY KING
Director of Content Initiatives
444-1003; larry.king@owh.com

MIKE REILLY
Executive Editor
444-1277; mike.reilly@owh.com

GEITNER SIMMONS
Editorial Page Editor
444-1187; geitner.simmons@owh.com

DENNIS CRONIN
Circulation Director
444-1482; dennis.cronin@owh.com

THOMAS KASTRUP
Advertising Director
444-1429; thom.kastrup@owh.com

DUANE POLODINA
Senior Vice President and CFO
444-1480; duane.polidina@owh.com

DOUGLAS HIEMSTRA
Vice President of Operations
444-1172; doug.hiemstra@owh.com

SCOTT SEARL
Vice President and General Counsel
444-1726; scott.searl@owh.com

KRISTY GERRY
Production Director
444-3129; kristy.gerry@owh.com

MIKE KIRK
Finance Director
444-1589; mike.kirk@owh.com

COLLEEN SCHINKER
Information Technology Manager
444-1007; colleen.schinker@owh.com

SUE LOERTS
Human Resources Director
444-1150; sue.loerts@owh.com

May 11, 2008
Vol. 143, Edition 32

Press corps well out of reach of first bride's bouquet toss

THE WASHINGTON POST

CRAWFORD, Texas — So, there was a wedding here last night. Maybe you've heard?

The bride was Jenna Welch Bush, 26, a schoolteacher, writer and graduate of the University of Texas. She stood before 200 friends and relatives in an Oscar de la Renta gown to meet her 30-year-old groom, Henry Hager, an MBA candidate at the University of Virginia business school.

It is the first marriage for both. After a honeymoon in Europe, the couple will reside in Baltimore.

What, you want more? Of course you do! We're talking about the president's daughter here. Media organizations as varied as "Access Hollywood" and Agence France-Presse have poured into this tiny community — home to George and Laura Bush's 1,600-acre ranch — to cover what some call the celebrity wedding of the year.

But despite the widespread interest — and despite the blond first twin's increasingly public profile as a published author and do-gooder — the White House repeatedly made clear it was a private event. No live broadcast of the vows. No wedding procession through town. No reporters allowed within miles of the ranch. And no promise that we'll ever be told the guest list, the menu, the first-dance song, or whether the bride promised "to obey."

The press office of the bride's mother said it wouldn't release an official wedding photo until this morning.

What we do know are the little details that the first family has doled out sparingly in interviews over the past few weeks. The "simple but elegant" wedding gown with embroidery and matte beading. The giant limestone cross that the president had erected as an altar near a lake on the ranch. The one official bridesmaid — twin sister Barbara — and the 14 "house party" attendants, in short chiffon dresses by designer Lela Rose.

Other than that? "There's going to be bands and good food, I hope," the president told Fox News before the big event.

Saturday at the Red Bull souvenir stand in Crawford — which had sold out of Jenna and Henry mouse pads but was still doing a brisk business in Jenna and Henry leather coasters shaped like Texas — the salesclerks critiqued their own appearance on Friday's "Good Morning America."

Down the street, Bill Johnson, owner of the rival Yellow Rose shop — Jenna and Henry mugs, Jenna and Henry magnets, etc. — gave yet another interview, while out on the plains, TV crews focused long lenses on the horizon, in hopes of catching a glimpse of nuptial preparations.

You'd think, from the saturation coverage, that there hadn't been a good old-fashioned first family wedding in decades. You would be wrong.

Both of Ronald Reagan's daughters were married during their father's first presidential term, in the early 1980s. Jenna Bush's own aunt, Doro, wed Bobby Koch in 1992 while her father, the first President Bush, was still in office.

But that was a different era — before the growth of the wedding-industrial complex and the 24-hour news cycle. And they were different brides, well past age 30 at the altar. In Jenna Bush, we have the first White House bride in decades whom the public truly watched grow up — and one who has trod a tightrope between private citizen and public celebrity.

Eighteen years old and a college freshman at the time of the 2000 election, Jenna Bush often seemed to resent the media scrutiny that came with being the president's daughter. In one famous image, she teasingly stuck out her tongue at photographers; in her social life, she burrowed into a close-knit group of friends who loyally protected her privacy.

Her comic presentation with sister Barbara at the 2004 GOP convention (grandmother Barbara Bush, Jenna



A gift shop in Crawford, Texas, has been selling souvenir mugs celebrating the marriage of Jenna Bush and Henry Hager.



President Bush's motorcade winds from Crawford, Texas, to Salado, Texas, Friday for the rehearsal dinner for his daughter Jenna's wedding.

said, "thinks 'Sex and the City' is something married people do but never talk about") was electrifying, if only because it was the first time most of the world had ever heard her voice.

It was around that time that Jenna started dating campaign aide Henry Hager, a Wake Forest grad whose father had been the lieutenant governor of Virginia. But the White House maintained its usual no-comment policy; Jenna's mother took the standard move-on-there's-nothing-to-see-here stance when asked.

According to some friends, Jenna's decision in 2006 to leave her job at a Washington, D.C., public charter school for a UNICEF internship in Panama had at least a bit to do with her desire to flee her fishbowl existence in Washington.

That's why first twin-watchers were stunned last year when it was announced that Jenna would not only write a young-adult book about poverty and HIV in Central America, but also

embark on the requisite interview circuit. Suddenly Jenna was everywhere, displaying poise and paroling out personal anecdotes.

With the wedding, though, she pulled on the shroud of privacy again.

Oh, but wait. We're forgetting something, aren't we? Or someone.

For when the president's daughter marries, it means that one citizen has agreed to take up a mind-boggling role: son-in-law to the leader of the free world.

"You have an obligation to do nothing that will embarrass, or make it difficult for them to perform the jobs they have to do," said Dennis Revell, the widower of Maureen Reagan. "But you still want to relate to them as people and members of an extended family."

He said Hager's job could be more difficult, as the media attention today is more glaring, the political climate more polarized.

On the bright side: "He only has to fill that role for another eight months."

Speed: Trucking companies govern rigs; carpooling on the rise

Continued from Page 1
of stations by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Diesel prices also rose, 1.8 cents, to a record national average of \$4.269 a gallon.

In Nebraska, the average price for regular unleaded gas on Friday was a record \$3.632 and diesel was \$4.191, according to the AAA Daily Fuel Gauge Report. Iowa's prices were about the same.

Those who don't admit to speeding say they are changing other driving habits.

"I like to drive out to the shooting range in Weeping Water," said Ronald Hagen, a retiree from Bellevue, who added that he always drives within the speed limit in his Ford F-150 pickup truck. "But I don't drive somewhere just to drive somewhere anymore."

Jeremy Wolff of Blair uses his Chevy Silverado pickup to pull a trailer he loads with recyclables. "I try to go the speed limit," he said. "I also try to do

things in one trip, and you have to pay attention to where construction is so you don't have to sit in traffic."

Those using diesel, which was being pumped for \$4.13 a gallon Thursday at the Sapp Bros Travel Center in Omaha, have it even rougher.

Troy Grenier, an independent owner-operator out of Wilber, Neb., for 18 years, said he doesn't let the gauge on his 300-gallon tank slip below half full. "I can't afford to fill it up," he said.

Grenier — who said he "used to do what I had to do to get the job done," which sometimes meant speeding — now drives 5 mph to 10 mph below the speed limit, which he estimates gives him an additional 1.6 miles per gallon.

"It adds up," Grenier said. "At the end of the week, I don't have to run that extra load to make up for the pinch in my pocketbook. I don't want to just throw my wallet in my gas tank."

With the price of diesel nearly

double what it was last year, he said he has been forced to lease his services to a larger hauling firm. "I'm basically going broke, along with everybody else out here," he said. "But it's a sick feeling to have to take your name and number off the door."

Many large trucking companies have taken the option of speeding out of their drivers' hands.

"Most of the trucking companies that run through Nebraska on Interstate 80 — Warner, Crete Carrier, Swift Transportation, England — are governing their trucks at 60 or 65 miles per hour," said Nance Harris, vice president of the Nebraska Trucking Association. "It is primarily for safety, but a big secondary reason is fuel savings."

Harris said the position of the American Trucking Associations is that new manufactured trucks should not be able to go faster than 65 or 70 mph.

"There is a disconnect between the drivers and company officials," Harris said. "The peo-

ple in the companies who see the fuel tabs every day say 'Man, we are governing these trucks.'"

Interest in car pooling in the Omaha area is increasing. The Metropolitan Area Planning Agency said last week that since the April announcement of Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey's Rideshare Challenge 2008, the number of people participating in the Metro Rideshare Carpooling Program has risen to 765. The Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, which set a goal of 1,000 users by July 1, had about 400 users before April.

The agency, sponsor of the car pooling program, also said 15 companies, organizations and schools have signed on as Friends of Metro Rideshare.

The idea of slowing down to save fuel isn't new. President Nixon and Congress imposed a national speed limit of 55 mph in 1974 during the Middle East oil embargo against the United States. Prices at the pump quadrupled from about a quarter a gallon to more than a dollar in

places, according to the Associated Press, and long gas lines were a common sight.

States later were allowed 65-mph limits on rural Interstates.

Congress repealed the national speed limit law in 1995, and today 32 states, including Nebraska and Iowa, have limits of 70 mph or higher on some parts of their highways, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Texas has an 80-mph limit on some roads, the AP reported, and the Utah Legislature has approved a limit of 80 mph on part of one Interstate.

And don't worry about Hager, who is rehearsing for a summer tour that will land July 11 at the Stir Concert Cove in Council Bluffs. He isn't exactly blocking traffic in the slow lane.

"When it's safe," he said, "getting it on in the fast lane is good for the soul, so keep some fun in your budget, too."

Contact the writer:
444-1267; richard.agan@owh.com

Zoo: Butterflies are free to flutter about or to land on your hand

Continued from Page 1

ter and protect them from predators such as birds and lizards.

Left on their own, few of the butterfly eggs in the wild mature into butterflies, Simmons said.

Butterfly farmers typically sell about half of their chrysalises and allow the others to hatch and fly free to breed in the wild, he said. These methods are helping to increase butterfly populations around the world.

The farmers also protect forests that are important habitats for butterflies and for endangered species such as lemur and tigers. Forests that might otherwise be cut down for firewood or lumber are being preserved, Simmons said.

"An easy way to make money," he said, "is to cut down the forest — but you can't make money for 70 or 80 years, until the forest grows back."

"With butterfly farming, they can make more money year after year. They plant at the edge of the forest the plants and trees and flowers that butterflies like to lay eggs on. Then, wild butterflies come in."

Most butterfly farmers sell to entomological supply companies that work internationally to supply zoos with all types of insects.

The Omaha zoo has budgeted about \$70,000 per year for butterfly chrysalises. The price per chrysalis varies depending on the rarity and popularity of the butterfly. Many species cost \$1 to \$2.50, but the sought-after Blue Morpho can cost \$15 to \$25.

As the butterflies emerge from their chrysalises at the zoo, zookeepers will set them free in the new conservatory.

Former Omahan Scott Hoffman Black, director of an international environmental group, said zoo butterfly houses started becoming a trend in the 1980s.

The number of butterfly farmers has been growing since then, said Black, head of the Xerces Society, a Portland, Ore.-based organization dedicated to the preservation and study of butterflies, bees, beetles and other invertebrate animals.

Black said butterfly farming, done right, has great potential for the farmers and the environment.

"The main take-home message is that it does provide income to local economies and it's sustainable," he said. "At this point, I don't know actual numbers of how much money people make."

One downside, he said, is that people who raise butterflies generally know what they're doing with the creatures, but not all know how to run a business.

"You need to create a market," Black said. "If you haven't developed the markets, that may be the hardest part."

Black noted that two suppliers to the Omaha zoo — El Bosque Nuevo ("The New Forest") in Costa Rica and the Kipepeo Butterfly Project in Kenya — are groups that do a good job managing both sides of the operation.

Apart from that, though, the 1979 graduate of Omaha Benson High School had a tongue-in-cheek quibble with the terminology behind the practice of butterfly farming.

"Since it's an animal, and I grew up in Nebraska, I would call it butterfly ranching," he said.

Contact the writer:
444-1052; jane.palmer@owh.com

New exhibit

The Henry Doorly Zoo's Butterfly and Insect Pavilion will open at 9:30 a.m. Saturday and will be open during regular zoo hours, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission to the butterfly exhibit is free with regular zoo admission.

In addition to butterflies and moths, the new pavilion will display rare and endangered species of frogs, flowering plants and unusual creatures including tarantulas, orchid mantises and tailless whip scorpions.

The zoo plans to display 1,000 to 1,500 butterflies and moths at a time, many from farms in Third World countries. The zoo will raise some butterflies that are native to the Nebraska-Iowa region at the butterfly building.

The conservatory has 10-foot-high glass walls and a glass ceiling to allow maximum light and to encourage the butterflies to fly. In the absence of light, butterflies tend to fold their wings and rest.

Life expectancies for butterflies vary greatly, from a few days to a few months.

Butterflies are found on every continent except Antarctica; they're even at the Arctic Circle.

Sources: Dr. Lee Simmons, U.S. Forest Service and Canadian government Web sites

Post-Katrina safety standards might call for costly upgrades in riverside towns.



JEFF BUNDY/THE WORLD-HERALD

The levee, left, that protects downtown Omaha from the Missouri River runs in front of Rick's Cafe Boatyard. Below, Howard Siama of Valley takes a spin on the paved top of the levee that shields Waterloo from the waters of the Elkhorn River.

Towns in fiscal fix over levee rules

By MATTHEW HANSEN
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

HOOPER, Neb. — A financial fallout caused in part by Hurricane Katrina is soaking tiny Hooper — and might also wind up drenching other riverside cities, including Omaha.

The Hooper City Council learned this spring that the mile-long dirt levee protecting the north side of town from the Elkhorn River isn't high enough to meet tougher new federal standards implemented after Katrina ravaged New Orleans and other parts of the Gulf Coast in August 2005.

The town of 827 residents must contract with an engineering company, pay for a complex set of structural tests, add as much as a foot of dirt to the top of the levee and make other changes.

The total cost: as much as \$1 million.

"We all sat around and looked at each other and thought 'How are we going to pay for this?'" City Clerk Roxanne Meyer said of the council's reaction.

The potential cost has left city officials dumbfounded, because the levee is a simple, pyramid-shaped earthen embankment that snakes around the golf course and grade school, protecting homes and businesses for decades.

The levee hasn't changed. It's the Federal Emergency Management Agency that is different.

Stung by criticism and threatened with Katrina-related lawsuits, FEMA is preparing to examine nearly two-dozen levees in Nebraska and hundreds of federal levees across the United States. The agency plans to de-certify levees that aren't tall enough or strong enough to meet U.S. Army Corps of Engineers standards for a once-in-a-century flood.

That process is putting towns like Hooper in a financial quandary.

Upgrading their levees to meet the new standards can come with an eye-popping cost. Simply adding 6 inches of dirt to Hooper's levee could cost as much as \$500,000, Meyer said.

Or, towns can leave their levees alone and risk seeing the federal government erase the non-repaired levees from flood maps.

Changing the flood map matters, because it could force businesses and homeowners behind the uncertified levees to buy costly flood insurance and halt development in areas newly deemed to be in a flood plain.

Either way, the federal government isn't planning to pick up the check — a fiscal reality that could swamp the budgets of small towns and big cities alike in the years ahead.

Omaha may get a financial bath as soon as this summer. A preliminary Corps of Engineers test shows that the city's flood wall, which protects downtown from the Missouri River, needs more testing and could require repairs to meet the new standards, said Randall Behm, chief of flood-risk management at the Corps' Omaha office.

Five levees in the Omaha metro area, including the flood wall, could need repair in the next two years. The City of Bellevue owns two of those levees.

Western Iowa has about two dozen levees that also must be tested by 2010, Behm said.

"I know it's going to be difficult for some communities, and I personally think (the government) should help them out no matter what size they are," Behm said. "But the truth is that, in the



KENT SEEVERS/THE WORLD-HERALD

future, if you live in a high-risk zone, you are going to have to pay to live there."

Hooper and Waterloo are among the first U.S. towns to face this new reality of life along a flood-prone river.

The Corps of Engineers built the levees in both towns, and for years the structures passed their annual visual inspections without problems.

Then, on Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's 125-mph winds and torrential rainfall hit New Orleans. Two major levees that were supposed to protect New Orleans — levees that federal engineers had judged to be unsafe as early as 1985 — crumbled and failed. More than 1,000 people died, many drowning in the floodwaters.

In the aftermath of Katrina, politicians and engineers increasingly questioned the safety of the nation's other levees, some of which date back to the Great Depression.

The result: a new national accreditation system designed to ensure that the levees will conform to standards that ensure they will hold in a worst-case scenario storm or flood.

Federal officials knew decades ago that the country needed updated flood maps and repaired levees, said Julie Grauer of FEMA's regional office in Kansas City, Mo. Congress actually earmarked the initial money for the flood map upgrades before Hurricane Katrina, Grauer said.

But the storm helped to force the issue, Grauer said, and may guarantee continued congressional funding for the certification project.

She said the remapping would have happened eventually across the country, with or without Katrina — though perhaps not as quickly and maybe without as much cooperation from towns protected by levees.

"One thing is for sure. When you have a disaster, it gets people's attention," said Grauer, a map modernization specialist.

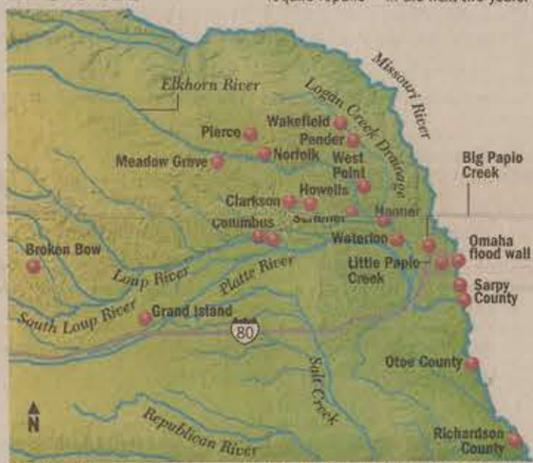
The certification process applies only to levees already recognized by the federal government, and those generally are owned by cities. It doesn't apply to levees built by farmers or private landowners.

Willow Creek. In the meantime, he's working with officials from Crawford, Harrison and Monona Counties, as well as some state and federal agencies, to develop a plan for dealing with the Willow River and Boyer River levees.

The group plans a watershed study that would help find flood control measures upstream to protect areas such as Missouri Valley that are at risk for downstream flooding, said Weston Dittmer, soil conservationist

Financial flood?

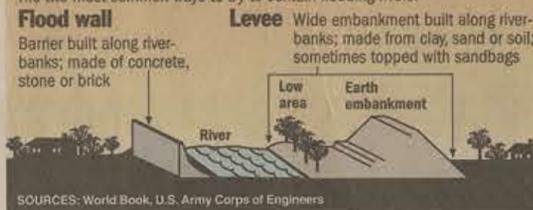
Of the 37 federally regulated levees in the state, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers expects these 22 to go through a certification process — and possibly require repairs — in the next two years.



SOURCE: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers DEAN WEINLAUB/THE WORLD-HERALD

Methods of flood control

The two most common ways to try to contain flooding rivers:



SOURCES: World Book, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS, THE WORLD-HERALD

To remain accredited, the levees now must pass a height check. Some were never built to the height deemed necessary to withstand a so-called 100-year flood — a severe flood that has a 1-in-100 chance of happening during any given year.

Other levees met or exceeded the 100-year standard when they were built, but they no longer meet it because some river and creek levels have risen over the years.

Levees also must undergo a series of tests to show that things such as sewer lines poked through a levee or the decaying roots of a dying tree growing on a levee won't cause it to fail in a flood.

The goal is to ensure that the

physical and financial ruin caused by a catastrophic failure such as that in New Orleans doesn't happen again, said Behm of the Army Corps.

"The cities are looking at this as a financial issue first, but my perspective, this is a safety issue first," he said.

In some Nebraska towns, the process is more of a bureaucratic headache than a financial burden. Scribner Mayor Steve Swanson said he was working with Sen. Ben Nelson's office to get the proper paperwork from the Corps of Engineers to FEMA to prove that Scribner's levee was up to snuff.

In other towns, such as Waterloo, it could cost "a phenomenal amount," said Nancy Hert, the

Questions raised about levees

Hooper
Problem: Levee needs to be 6 inches to a foot higher to meet new federal standards, according to preliminary tests.

Cost of repair: \$500,000 to \$1 million, according to city officials

Waterloo
Problem: Levee needs to be higher, according to preliminary research. To do that, the city may have to tear out a hiking and biking trail built atop the levee.

Cost of repair: Unknown, although city officials estimated that in the worst case, it could run into the millions.

Omaha
Problem: Flood wall protecting downtown Omaha needs more testing and could need repair to meet the new federal standards.

Cost of repair: Unknown. The flood wall needs more testing before it's clear what or how much repair work is needed. The Omaha metropolitan area is also protected by five levees that may need upgrades. The flood wall is the only one that has been preliminarily tested.

Waterloo meeting

The Waterloo Village Board will meet at 5 p.m. Wednesday to discuss the village's levee. The public meeting will be at Village Hall, 509 S. Front St.

city administrator.

Waterloo's 40-year-old levee, which sits 25 yards from some parts of the Elkhorn River, likely will need to be built higher to meet the new standards, Hert said.

City officials weren't yet sure how much higher. And the project may be complicated further because of the biking and hiking trail that Waterloo paved on top of the levee.

If the city doesn't pay to meet the new levee standards, much of Waterloo could be redrawn into a flood plain, Hert said.

An engineering firm has estimated that "worst-case scenario, it could be 2 or 3 million dollars," Hert said. "It's kind of frightening to see those sorts of numbers

on paper."

An Iowa levee eventually may put Mills County in a similar predicament, Behm said, although the levee certification process isn't as far along in western Iowa as it is in Waterloo and Hooper.

Behm also mentioned levees in Hamburg, Iowa, and Sioux Falls, S.D., as potentially problematic for those communities.

Waterloo plans to ask Nebraska's congressional delegation and the State Department of Natural Resources for help, Hert said. City leaders also hold out hope that some federal grant money may be available.

"There should definitely be a compromise here. Problem is, I don't know that the government wants to compromise right now," Hert said.

Other Nebraska cities, such as Omaha, have barely begun to deal with the certification process.

The Army Corps' initial test of the floodwall is the only work that has been done in the metropolitan area thus far, Behm said. That test showed that if the city's storm water system failed, the flood wall itself could fail, he said.

The Army Corps will examine each of the metropolitan area's other levees — one on Big Papillion Creek, one on Little Papillion Creek and the three on the Missouri River — in the next two years, Behm said.

Marty Grate, the city's environmental services manager, said it was too soon to say whether Omaha will need to upgrade levees — or to estimate how much that might cost.

John Winkler, general manager for the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, said he and staff members who have spoken with federal officials expect that at least a few Omaha-area levees will need repairs.

No one was certain whether the City of Omaha, suburban communities or the Papio NRD would have to pay for such upgrades.

"It's not a stretch to say there's going to be some deficiencies. The more deficiencies, the higher the cost," Winkler said. "And the ultimate question is: Who is going to bear that burden?"

Levees: Most not engineered for flood protection — most not engineered at all

Continued from Page 1

their owners or, in the case of the Willow River, a drainage district. State and federal officials don't know how many of these levees exist, much less where they all are or their condition, said Bill Cappuccio, an engineer in the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' flood plain management program.

Within two years, Behm expects the federal government to begin an effort to map and assess all levees — including the one on

with the Natural Resources Conservation Service of Iowa. The project is in its early phases, but participants hope memories of last year's flood will help move it forward.

"We want to get the ball rolling before any interest is lost," Dittmer said. Levees along the Boyer and Willow Rivers fall under the Harrison and Pottawattamie Drainage District. That district is managed by three area farmers — an elected board of trustees

who use a portion of area property taxes to maintain the levees.

When the levee broke last May, water was running so quickly down from the Loess Hills, it literally was tearing the bottom out of its own streambed. Surrounding fields were littered with more than two feet of sand — evidence of the water's violent downstream surge.

After the break, Jim Olson, who maintains the levee, and his crew immediately began repair-

ing a dump truck-size hole in the side of the dike.

Once that was done, they started an ongoing project of widening and strengthening the levee by using available deposits of silt and soil from inside the stream to reinforce the levee's backside.

Though the levee looks fine now, that doesn't mean the people of Missouri Valley are safe, Behm said.

"I don't want people thinking that they have a couple piles of

dirt that run along a channel and they're safe when they're really not," Behm said.

The problems with the Willow River levees are problems of design. The situation is not the fault of Olson or the drainage district trustees, Behm said.

"They do a fantastic job of what they do with the very limited resources they have," Behm said. But their diligent maintenance won't turn a spoil bank levee into one designed to protect against major flooding.

Air pollution puts small town in a haze

■ The region's booming natural gas industry gets the blame for rising ozone levels.



Craig Jensen says the sky around Boulder, Wyo., isn't as deeply colored as it used to be. "Makes you wonder what it's going to do to the grass, the trees and the birds."

BOULDER, Wyo. (AP) — There isn't anything metropolitan about this tiny unincorporated town in southwest Wyoming, where a few single-family homes and a volunteer fire station stand against a skyline of snowcapped mountains.

But Boulder, with a population of just 75 people, has one thing in common with major metropolitan areas: air pollution thick enough to pose health risks.

"Used to be you could see horizon to horizon, crystal clear. Now you got this," said Craig Jensen as he gestured to a pale blue sky that he says is not as deeply colored as it used to be. "Makes you wonder what it's going to do to the grass, the trees and the birds."

The pollution, largely from the region's booming natural gas industry, came in the form of ground-level ozone, which has exceeded healthy levels 11 times since January and caused Wyoming to issue its first ozone alerts. Now the ozone threatens to cost the industry and taxpayers millions of dollars to stay within federal clean-air laws.

Sublette County is home to one of the largest natural gas reserves in North America, and it is dotted with hundreds of gas wells to supply the nation's growing demand for cleaner-burning fuel. Thousands more wells are

planned.

But pollution from vehicles and equipment in the gas fields — along with dust, weather and geography — has raised ozone to a level that rivals those of big cities in the summertime.

Wyoming's ozone problem comes at a time when the federal government has strengthened its ozone restrictions to better protect public health. In March, the Environmental Protection Agency set a new ozone standard of 75 parts per billion, down from 80 parts per billion.

The peak eight-hour average for ozone near Boulder reached 122 parts per billion on Feb. 21 and 102 parts per billion on March 11. By comparison, the Los Angeles area hit a peak average of 152 parts per billion last summer, and Denver recorded a

peak of 98 parts per billion last July.

Failure to meet federal air-quality standards could result in mandatory pollution-cutting measures ranging from restricting wood-burning stoves in homes to placing limits on the booming oil and gas industry.

Jeremy Nichols, director of the Denver-based Rocky Mountain Clean Air Action, said all economic development in the region — not just the energy industry — could be affected.

"If we don't get ahead of the curve, we could be suffering serious consequences in the future," Nichols said.

Conservation groups have seized on the ozone alerts in their efforts to curb drilling for natural gas in the area.

"Obviously, the pace and level

of development is just too much," said Linda Baker of the Upper Green River Valley Coalition.

The energy industry says it has been working with regulators to ease the problem and insists drilling should not be curtailed.

Ozone is a component of smog, a yellowish haze of pollutants that lingers near ground level and can raise the risk of asthma and heart attacks, especially among older people and children with respiratory illnesses.

Ozone needs sunlight to form, and state environmental officials believe the ozone levels in Wyoming this past winter and spring were exacerbated by heavy snow cover, which intensified the sunlight by reflecting it off the snow.

Also contributing to the situation are rare temperature inversions, when cold air is trapped close to the ground, and the surrounding mountains, which enclose the pollution in the Green River valley.

Gas developers in the area are sharing information on how best to reduce ozone, according to Randy Teeuwan, a spokesman for Encana Corp., one of the largest gas suppliers. Encana already is using natural gas-powered drilling rigs that emit less pollution, and it is consolidating field operations to reduce emissions.

State officials are working with the industry to reduce emissions without waiting for new federal regulations to take effect.

"We understand that the people who are living up there cannot wait two or three years for us to develop regulatory tools," said David Finley with the State Department of Environmental Quality.

YOUR CHOICE!
\$199 THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL
 take home the Oreck XL® Signature Series Air Purifier OR the Oreck XL® Classic upright, for only \$199.
 That's 199 great reasons to finally own an Oreck. So what are you waiting for?
 Oreck Clean Home Center
 132nd & Center (Baker Square next to 987) 697-8444
 72nd & Jones (Next to Red Lobster) 397-2600
 1st & Broadway (Downtown Council Plaza) 323-7700
 168th & Burke (Next to Maketech) 502-8822

SPRING CLEANING TOP TO BOTTOM

\$100 OFF AIR DUCT CLEANING!

GET YOUR HOME COIT CLEAN FOR SPRING WITH 30% OFF ALL COIT CLEANING!

CHOOSE FROM • CARPET • UPHOLSTERY • WINDOW COVERINGS
 AREA RUGS • AIR DUCTS • TILE & GROUT CLEANING SERVICES
 *Minimum charge applies. Call 1-800-FOR-COIT for details. Offer expires 5/17/08

COIT
 Experience & People You Can Trust. www.coit.com
342-2648

Air pollution sends bees off-course, study finds

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Air pollution interferes with the ability of bees and other insects to follow the scent of flowers to their source, undermining the essential process of pollination, a study by three University of Virginia researchers suggests.

Their findings may help unlock some of the mysteries surrounding the current pollination crisis that is affecting a variety of crops. Scientists are trying to determine why honeybees and bumblebees are dying off, and the new study indicates that emissions from power plants and automobiles may play a part.

Scientists already knew that scent-bearing hydrocarbon molecules released by flowers can be destroyed when they come into contact with pollutants.

Environmental sciences professor José Fuentes at the University of Virginia — working with graduate students Quinn McFrederick and James Kathilankal — used a mathematical model to determine how flowers' scents travel with the wind and how quickly they come into contact with pollutants that can destroy them.

In the prevailing conditions before the 1800s, the researchers calculated that a flower's scent could travel between 3,280 feet and 4,000 feet, Fuentes said. But

today, that scent might travel only 650 feet to 1,000 feet in highly polluted areas.

This phenomenon triggers a cycle in which the pollinators have trouble finding sufficient food and, as a result, their populations decline, the researchers said. That, in turn, translates into decreased pollination and keeps flowering plants from proliferating.

Fuentes said air pollution rapidly eliminates as much as 90 percent of flowers' aroma.

Since 2006, honeybee colonies in the United States also have been suffering from a widespread phenomenon known as colony collapse disorder, in which adult worker bees abandon an otherwise healthy hive.

John Burand, an associate professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst who is studying bee colony collapses, said the effects of air pollution described in the new report are probably not directly related to that phenomenon.

But he said in an e-mail: "There is no doubt that air pollution and air quality are having an effect on bees and other pollinators. It appears there is more than one factor that is contributing to the CCD (colony collapse disorder) phenomenon we are seeing with bees, and certainly air pollution in some fashion may be playing a role."

Get Results That Last!

Entire Stock Body-Solid Home Gyms

ON SALE!

• "Best Buy Award" Winner
 • Lifetime Warranty on all components
 • Delivery and Assembly Available

\$997-\$2497

SAVE \$300 to \$1000

Body Basics
 FITNESS EQUIPMENT
 www.bodybasics.com

Rockbrook • 108th & Center • [402] 397-8866
 Northwest • 144th & Maple • [402] 933-8866

When it's the brain or the spine...

You have many choices, but there is only one medical center in the region recognized for its innovation and expertise in **neurology and neurosurgery**. One medical center where the physicians are not just aware of the latest research, they are doing it. One medical center in the top 50 in the nation for stroke care. One medical center nationally certified for epilepsy. One medical center in the region with a neurosurgeon with dedicated training in neurosurgical oncology. And one medical center with renowned specialists in specific neurological conditions, such as tumors of the brain or spine, epilepsy, Alzheimer's or dementia, stroke, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, spinal disorders, degenerated or herniated disks, pain syndromes, vascular malformations and aneurysms. And this is only a partial listing.

Generalists and Specialists
 The Nebraska Medical Center has outstanding general practitioners in neurology and neurosurgery who work together with the specialists and subspecialists to offer patients a tremendous array of options. This combination of the expertise of the individual physicians, the strength of the team approach and the use of the latest diagnostic and treatment technologies — including the Novalis system — gives patients a level of care unavailable elsewhere in the region.

Whether you need a first or a second opinion, no other medical center offers the depth and breadth of services you'll find here.

This is the time. This is the place.

THE NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

NebraskaMed.com 800.922.0000

SERIOUS MEDICINE. EXTRAORDINARY CARE.