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better

EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAY SECTION INSIDE



SPORTS
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Bergan's
strong
start. **B1**

FREMONT TRIBUNE

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Here's another chance to see a 'blood' moon

By **Algis Laukaitis**
Lincoln Journal Star

If watching a lunar eclipse is on your to-do list for this year, Sunday will be your last chance.

The next one will be on Jan. 31, 2018.

"What I find most interesting about it is it's the last in a series of four lunar eclipses, also known as a tetrad," said Shawn Langan, lab manager with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Physics and Astronomy Department.

Lunar eclipses have occurred on April 15 and Oct. 8 in 2014 and

on April 4 of this year.

Observers in the eastern half of North America will be able to watch every stage of the eclipse on Sunday, which will last slightly more than three hours.

"We're going to see almost all of it," Langan said.

The moon will be in total eclipse from 9:11 p.m. to 10:23 p.m.

UNL's Behlen Observatory near Mead will be open from 8-11 p.m. For more information and directions, observatory.unl.edu/.

Homestead National Monument near Beatrice is inviting people to come out, too. Tele-

scopes, courtesy of Lincoln's Prairie Astronomy Club, will be set up at the Homestead Heritage Center parking lot beginning at 8 p.m.

"The Heritage Center provides a great place. It's a pretty high spot for people to come and enjoy the night sky," said Monument Superintendent Mark Engler.

Visitors should bring chairs, binoculars and dress appropriately for the weather. Forecasts call for clear skies and temperatures in the 60s.

Please see **Lunar**, A5



Fremont Tribune files

A clear sky gave Fremont area residents a good view of the "blood moon" lunar eclipse on Oct. 8, 2014. They'll have another chance to see one on Sunday.

Celebrating 75 homes



Tracy Buffington, Fremont Tribune

Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity volunteer Perry Laten cuts a piece of siding for one of the four homes under construction this year. Habitat celebrated building its 75th home on Tuesday.

Habitat works to reach another milestone

By **Tracy Buffington**
Fremont Tribune

While crowds gathered next door, LaRae Plessing was up on a ladder, tapping in finishing pieces of siding.

Tuesdays are, after all, a construction day for Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity, and there are four homes to complete this construction season.

But volunteers and supporters alike took a few moments on the sunny morning to celebrate a milestone – the 75th home constructed by the local chapter.

"I can't believe this is our 75th home," said the Rev. Scott Jensen, a past president of the organization. "I've heard that several times – from some who have been here from the very beginning to some who have just joined us this very year.

"Over this last 20-some years, Habitat of Fremont has had the absolute privilege of partnering with homeowners to build homes," he added. "This home that we are standing in front of and inside of is our 75th home. It would not have been possible if it were not for every one of you who have been so critically involved."

Nearby was future homeowner Paula Mercado. She and her husband, Martin, are helping to build the home and three others that are under construction – earning a minimum of 350 hours of "sweat equity." They eventually will sign a zero-interest mort-



Tracy Buffington, Fremont Tribune

LaRae Plessing puts a finishing touch on the siding of one of Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity's four homes that are under construction this year. The group celebrated the building of its 75th home on Tuesday.

gage and begin making payments for the home and paying property taxes.

"Thanks for the opportunities you have given me and my family," Mercado said during a Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce coffee at the home.

"Thanks for giving me that smile every morning here in Fremont," she added. "It's nice to wake up in a city where I know everybody is happy and free to have her here."

Habitat homes have changed over time. At one time they all had similar designs. Now an effort is made to have the homes blend into neighborhoods, which include building garages.

What remains the same, however, is the changes that fami-

lies undergo once they become homeowners.

"Seventy-five homes is amazing, but it's not just the homes," said Fremont Mayor Scott Getzschman. "... The one thing that was always amazing as we continued to build more homes, the statistics that were coming out about the kids."

Those statistics show grades and social behaviors improve once the children move into the stable living environment that homeownership provides, Habitat officials said.

Habitat's 75th home is also this year's Thrivent Builds home. Thrivent Financial will provide 50 percent of the funds for construction of the home.

Please see **Habitat**, A5

Joy Ride provides Christmas cheer

By **Sam Pimper**
Fremont Tribune

Imagine a Christmas with no presents, perhaps one without a tree full of bright lights and no stockings hanging from a mantel.

Presents, trees and stockings filled with assorted items all cost money.

For a portion of children living in the Fremont community, this scenario is all too real, said Kim Thompson, activities director at Izaak Walton Park.

For three years, Izaak Walton has collaborated with the Low Income Ministry of Dodge County and Fremont Police officers to make children's holiday season a little more special and memorable.

On Sunday, the Fremont Izaak Walton 2015 Joy Ride

will begin in the Fremont Walmart parking lot at 1 p.m., with motorcyclists and drivers returning to Izzak Walton grounds by 1:30, Thompson said.

Upon arrival at Walmart, participants are encouraged to enter the store and buy a present for a child – or bring one with them. Big or small, anything is better than a child not receiving a gift on Christmas, she said.

"It's so important for children to have something underneath the Christmas tree," Thompson said.

After presents are purchased, all Joy Ride attendees will take the bypass around to the Fremont Lakes State Recreation Area prior to returning to Izaak Walton.

Please see **Ride**, A5



Fremont Tribune files

With toys in hand, motorcyclists participate in the 2013 Joy Ride. This year's ride is Sunday.

Antique car club's swap meet is Sunday

By **Tammy Real-McKeighan**
News Editor

Scott Reeson has seen incredible dedication by members of the Fremont Antique Car Club.

Each year, members help with setup before the big event.

One volunteer, who was on oxygen, was intent on helping out. So he was wheeling his oxygen tank around while lugging garbage cans and marking out lines.

"It was so important to this guy that he was willing to do this – hooked up to oxygen," Reeson said. "We do have some older members ... and they don't think of themselves, they think of the club. This is important to

IF YOU GO

What: Fremont Antique Car Club 48th Annual Swap Meet.

When: 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

Where: Christensen Field in Fremont.

Other: The public is invited and admission is free.

them and so they come and work. It's amazing!"

Such dedication should be evident again when the group has its 48th annual event from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday at Christensen Field in Fremont. The public is invited and admission is free.

Please see **Event**, A5

Area deaths

Florence Smith, 88 Fremont
Lowell Steckelberg, 93 Fremont

Index

Lotteries A2 Police A5
Obits A2 Comics A6
Local A3 TV A8
Weather A3 Sports B1-3
Opinion A4 Classified B5

Weather

Weather for
Thursday
Thunderstorms likely
74 | 61

Tomorrow

Free day
Following in the tradition of the Smithsonian, many Fremont-area museums will offer free admission on Saturday.

