



Kiwanis

Hastings • Nebraska

Astonisher

A newsletter of the Hastings Kiwanis Club

hastingskiwanis.org

myclub@hastingskiwanis.org

facebook.com/hastingskiwanis

"Children are gifts too ~ handle them with care."

July 2026

If you have items you wish to be included in the Astonisher, you can send them to
george.howard@hastingskiwanis.org OR Astonisher@hastingskiwanis.org

Inclement weather policy ~ If HPS is closed on a given Thursday, there is no Kiwanis meeting that day. It will also be displayed on the Channel 10-11 scrolling closing information.

Upcoming Meetings & Events ~ July



YWCA, 2525 W. 2nd St. ~ \$13.00 per meal

Thur. 2 - 2026 HPS Distinguished Sr Educator - Laurie Parr

Wed. 8 - Board Meeting, YWCA Conference Room - All Members Welcome

Thur. 9 - Composing Music - Christine Niemeyer

Thur. 16 -

Thur. 23 -

JULY:



SKATEPARK NEWS

Committed to raise \$200,000 total ~ \$50,000 of that from the Club

Total Club Donations to Date: \$58,164.77 (116.3%)

* Member Matching grant pledge \$10,000 (received)

Total General Public Pledges/Donations to date: \$147,666.46 (98.4%)

* Visitors Bureau commitment, \$50,000 Coming

* Lions Club pledge \$ 5,000 Coming

Skatepark Giving Levels

\$10,000 - Big logo on sign
\$7,500 - Small logo on sign
\$5,000 - Name on sign
\$2,500
\$1,000
\$500
\$250

All donors at \$125 and above:

- Listed in newspaper ad
- Status newsletter at end of project

Kiwanis Skatepark Fellows giving \$1,000 or more
- Name on sign

\$50,000 to put your name on the Pump Track

***** VOLUNTEER POSITIONS *****

**If you are unable to attend Thursday noon meetings to sign up
for volunteer opportunities, you can do so on the website.**

Ongoing service projects include:

- ☐ **Hearts & Hands Against Hunger – dates and times TBA**
- ☐ **Meals on Wheels – every Friday, 11:15 a.m. – 2 routes, approx. 30-40 min.**

HEARTS & HANDS AGAINST HUNGER

PEACE Center, 622 N. Lincoln, South side

(former Middle School manual arts bldg)

****Please arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time for setting up****

Monday packing has resumed ~ 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 30, 8:30–10:30

St Cecilia High School

Hearts & Hands Against Hunger, P O Box 1293, Hastings NE 68902-1293 * 402-460-8627

MEALS ON WHEELS – This is quick and easy!
We have two (2) routes on Fridays for this service project.
Two volunteers from Kiwanis are needed.
Sign-up sheets are available at Thursday noon meetings
or sign up on the website.

Meals are picked up at **11:15** at the Senior Action office, 212 W. 3rd St.
(east of the Post Office ~ 3rd & Minnesota) and delivery usually takes 30-40 minutes.
They have the routes set up for the most efficient delivery.

July	3 – No Deliveries Needed
July	10 – Need 2
July	17 – Need 2
July	24 – Need 2
July	31 – Need 2

Marge Ormsby is the Club Coordinator. Please notify her by text or call if you cannot make it or will be late. 402-469-3296

ICYMI ~ JUNE, 2026:



June 4th: HPS Emerging Educator of the Year 2026 - Ryan Martin

A former Kiwanis member, Ryan has been in Hastings 17 years, working 4 years as the sports director at the YMCA, 10 years with Hastings Park and Recreation and the last 3 as PE teacher at Watson Elementary.

He graduated from Emporia St with a BS in Education and has mentored kids in the Teammates program during his 17 years in Hastings.

Many of the youngest kids at Watson have trouble tying their shoes so he noticed it was taking up a lot of his teaching time and decided he'd cut holes in pizza boxes and put strings through the holes so kids could learn how to tie shoes.

Some other items he did involved making a wheel chair ramp so physically handicapped kids could bowl, creating a net with a handle, able to hold a soccer ball so kids could practice soccer kicking and the same device could be used by kids to practice volleyball, when it's hung up.

The Watson Annual Field Day now has 15 stations for kids to do events. He starts the school year with a 2 week module on 4 recess games, such as kick baseball and soccer.

Ryan also challenges himself by giving out pushup coupons to kids to make him do 5 pushups, if he forgets their name.

JUNE 11th, Hastings Sodbusters VP of Baseball Operations - Scott Galusha



Scott makes travel arrangements for the Hastings, Grand Island and Fremont teams for the new league the Sodbusters are in. He started helping the Sodbusters in their 3rd year and it has been profitable since 2021. In the past, he has played division 1 baseball and has been a golf club pro. In March, 2025, the Sodbusters changed leagues as the team was sold to Matt Perry, who is originally from Holdrege, but now lives in Lawrence, KS. They use host families to house players during the season. Val and Al Ericson and Dale and Kathy Schultz have hosted players several times.

The Sodbusters support local non-profit entities with promos and a split the pot drawing. Players must have college eligibility left or must have just graduated from college. The league has teams in Hastings, GI, Fremont, Salina, KS, Sedalia and Jefferson City, MO.



Jim Krebsbach reported on the packing season of 2025-26 for the Hearts and Hands Against Hunger organization:

This was their 18th year of packing, which this Spring included the packing of the 10 millionth meal.

This year HHAH packed 578,360 meals, an increase of 70,000 from the previous year. 32 groups came and packed from September to June involving 1,748 people helping to feed starving children around the world.

There were 25 Monday afternoon packing sessions which contributed 22% of the meals packed during the year.

The total hours worked for all groups was 3,500.

Orphan Grain Train shipped the supplies to these countries in the last 6 months:

Ukraine, Haiti, Guatemala, Philippines and Ghana.

Thank you for your support and they look forward to our Kiwanis club's continued support this Fall.

JUNE 18th, Joyce Managers inducted as a new member by sponsor Kathy Schultz and inductor, Frank Koch



June 18th Program: HPS Superintendent - John Hauser and HPS Foundation Director Chris Schukei



John Hauser



Chris Schukei

John Hauser started as superintendent 2 months ago, but has been with HPS for many years in various roles. His philosophy is schools are about people and relationships. He wants to be visible and accessible.

He will focus on:

- 1) Student achievement
- 2) Support staff
- 3) Community partnering with families, businesses and service organizations

Chris Schukei said the HPS Foundation started in 1987. Its focus was on scholarships to students. Recently, \$80,000 was given to 50 students.

The Foundation now helps:

- 1) Middle school and high school food pantries
- 2) The Middle school garden, West of the school; Monday nights are community nights
- 3) Educator of the Year Awards
- 4) Band and Vocal programs
- 5) Classroom grants to teachers

In the last 10 years, it has partnered with the district to make theatre upgrades at the high school and new playgrounds at the elementary schools with only Hawthorne and Watson remaining.

The Foundation's current project is called "Play it Forward," with its goal to upgrade and increase the musical instruments. He showed pictures of the poor shape many instruments are in. Some instruments are 80 years old and the estimated cost is \$700,000, but they are at 60% of that goal and have begun purchasing instruments.

Kiwanians and Kiwanis team baseball coach with the team players sponsored by our Kiwanis Club



JUNE 25th Home Instead - Ruth Liedel



The right care starts at home.

Here's why so many families choose us:



TRUSTED CAREGIVERS

Care Professionals are safety-trained, background-checked, and matched to each client's needs.



PRIVATE EXPERTISE

Each Care Professional is supported by experienced Home Care advisors, gerontologists, and specialists.



FLEXIBLE & CONVENIENT CARE

Help during the day, overnight, or on weekends? Our flexible care options support your family's schedule and evolving needs.



CUSTOMIZED CARE PLANS

Care isn't one-size-fits-all. We partner with you to create a personalized care plan that grows and adapts as your needs change.

Stories of comfort, connection, and care.

Behind every review is a story of connection, comfort, and care. These words from families we've supported offer a glimpse into what Home Instead care truly means.

“

Home Instead has been a magnificent company that provides care for my 80-year-old grandmother. Our caregiver, Verma, is absolutely the best!”

Chris B.

“

It's been truly wonderful having Home Instead's help with Mom. The staff is always friendly and professional. I also really appreciate the prompt feedback back of my Mom's care.”

Tom M.



Contact us to schedule a Care Consultation.

(402) 442-8500
homeinstead.com/543

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Home Care Professionals are trained and supervised by Home Instead, Inc.

Proudly Serving all of Central Nebraska.

Home Instead offers in-home non-medical assistance to help people stay in their homes rather than go to assisted living.

The Hastings franchise was purchased in January by an Arkansas company.

Services offered are:

- 1) Medicine reminders
- 2) Transportation to medical appointments or for outings
- 3) Food prep to be microwaved later
- 4) Personal care of shaving, bathing, dressing or hair styling
- 5) Respite care limited to what Medicare pays
- 6) Light cleaning and laundry

The care pros are trained using the Hoyer lift to help people in and out of bed. There are no special education requirements.

4 sources cover Home Instead charges:

- 1) Private Pay/You Pay \$34-46/hr depending upon services
- 2) Medicaid Waiver thru Midland Area Agency on Aging
- 3) Long term care policies
- 4) Veteran benefits thru the VA

Consultation is free. Providers can make referrals. There are 4 full time office employees and 50-75 full or part-time care pros depending on the local needs.

2025-2026 Hastings Kiwanis Leadership

Officers

President ~ Mike E. Johnson (Dr. Mike)
michaelj@hastingskiwanis.org

Immediate Past President ~ Frank Koch
franklink@hastingskiwanis.org

President-Elect ~ Russanne Hoff
russanneh@hastingskiwanis.org

Vice President ~ Marge Ormsby
marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org

Treasurer ~ Jim Krebsbach

jimk@hastingskiwanis.org

Secretary ~ David Kempf
davek@hastingskiwanis.org

Assistant Secretary ~ Susan Price
susanp@hastingskiwanis.org

Board of Directors (# of years)

Heather Bolte (2)
heather.bolte@hastingskiwanis.org

Kathy Hohensee (2)
katherineh@hastingskiwanis.org

Mike Howie (2)
mikeh@hastingskiwanis.org

Greg Schultz (2)
gregs@hastingskiwanis.org

John Boltz (1)

johnb@hastingskiwanis.org

Brandon McDermott (1)
brandon.mcdermott@hastingskiwanisd.org

Casey Mohler (1)
casey.mohler@hastingskiwanis.org

Dale Musgrave (1)
dalem@hastingskiwanis.org

JULY BIRTHDAYS

3 AL ERICKSON
10 JIM KREBSBACH
10 AMY NIEMOTH
22 RICH HALLORAN
24 LAVILA VAN BOENING

