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December 28, 2023 | Vol. 4, No. 34

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Happy New Year!
 from
The Hastings Journal

Hedin, Davis, Beissel, Malm recognized for service on school board

By John McLoone

Hastings School Board Chair Lisa Hedin looked out at the large audience attending the board of education meeting Wednesday, Dec. 20 in the Hastings Middle School Media Center.

Grant funding for classroom projects and school initiatives was on the agenda, and that drew a much larger-than-normal crowd.

"It makes me so happy to look out and see a full room. It's nice. I know a lot of people watch us online



Four outgoing Hastings School Board directors were recognized for their service at their final meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 20. From left are Chair Lisa Hedin, Vice Chair Stephanie Malm and Directors Brian Davis and Becky Beissel. Photos by John McLoone

either live or at a later time. It's more accommodating to their schedule, but boy it just gives great energy, people

energized about the Raider experience, in the Hastings School District here in person. So, thank you very

much. I appreciate you taking your time to either attend personally, or to be watching us virtually or to be watching

us at a later time. We appreciate your engagement with

See BOARD, Page 2

Community response to family who lost home to fire is 'overwhelming'

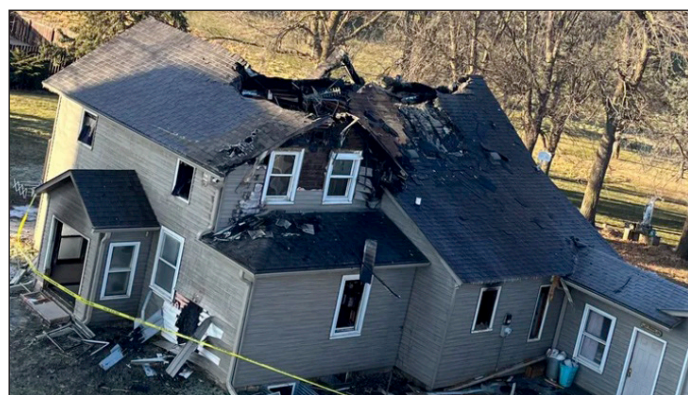
By John McLoone

The response to a family in need is just what you'd expect from Hastings anytime but especially at Christmas-time.

The Bauer family lost their home in Vermillion Monday but almost like the storyline in a holiday movie is being treated to their best Christmas ever.

Mike Bauer got a call just before 3:30 p.m. Monday that there was a fire at their home, 210th Street East in Vermillion. He was working at the nearby farm. By the time he rushed home, the first floor was engulfed in flames.

"My wife (Amy) had our youngest son, and they just



Firefighters from Hastings and several neighboring departments battled a fire at the Bauer family home in Vermillion on Monday. Photo courtesy of gofundme.com

smelled smoke, something like burning plastic. There was an ice cream pail that was washed out earlier, and she thought maybe a burner got left on and it was starting

to melt. She went and looked at the stove, and there was nothing wrong there. She went into the living room. There's a stairwell that goes downstairs. There was a lit-

tle bit of smoke coming out. She went down the stairwell into a hallway past two bedrooms. She kind of peered around the corner into our furnace room, and she noticed there was flames, there were actual flames shooting out. She turned around, went upstairs yelling for the kids to get moving and they got out of the house, so they got out all right. She called 911 immediately. She got them coming. She called me, and I was working on the farm across the road. By the time I got there, which was five minutes, the first floor was engulfed in black smoke. There was no way a person could see or retrieve anything," Mike said.

Firefighters from Hastings, Hampton/Randolph, Prescott and other agencies responded to the fire which spread through the home.

The Bauers have eight children, four still at home. They've lived in the home for most of the 28 years they've been married, except for a few years when they lived in Hastings when their older children were involved in school activities.

"We wanted to be out in the country again. It's a better lifestyle for us," Mike said.

He said an investigator from his insurance company believes that an electrical

See FIRE, Page 10

School board votes 4-3 to table policy on disciplining board members

By John McLoone

The Hastings School Board voted at its meeting Wednesday, Dec. 20 to table discussion on a policy that would contain provisions as to when a board member can be removed from office.

Four new members are joining the board in January, with the organizational meeting set for Wednesday, Jan. 3. Director Carrie Tate said the decision on the policy should be taken up by the new board.

Chair Lisa Hedin, Vice Chair Stephanie Malm and Directors Brian Davis and Becky Beissel all decid-



A vote to table changes to Hastings School Board policy involving disciplining of board members passed on a 4-3 vote. Pictured above are the four voting to table: Brian Davis on the left side of the board table and (from front to back) Carrie Tate, Becky Beissel and Jessica Dressley on the right side of the table. In opposition were Mark Zuzek on the left side of the table and Stephanie Malm and Chair Lisa Hedin at the front of the table. At the right of the front table is Superintendent Dr. Tamara Champa. Photo courtesy of Hastings Community TV

ed against seeking re-election. In November, voted

to seats on the board were Jenny Wiederholt-Pine, Me-

lissa Millner, Matt Bruns and Philip Biermaier.

Tate said her concerns were that the proposed policy change could lead to board member removal for things other than malfeasance. She pointed to two board members recently being censured in Elk River, MN.

"I have vocalized previously my concern over the possibility of this being potentially weaponized over minimal infractions. Frankly with what happened in Elk River with a censure of two board members last week and what I would say are actions that were minimal and not anywhere close to what

See POLICY, Page 2

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The Hastings City Council is pictured with employees recognized at the Dec. 18 meeting for reaching employment milestones between five and 30 years. Photo courtesy of City of Hastings

Employees, citizens honored for service

By John McLoone

The Hastings City Council recognized employee and citizen service at the onset of its meeting Monday, Dec. 18. City Administrator Dan Wietecha introduced employees who have hit employment milestones and talked about how their efforts help the city. Missing from the in-person ceremony were firefighters who had been called to a home fire in Vermillion.

"I'm pleased to recognize the employees of the City of Hastings who have celebrated milestone anniversaries this year. We're fortunate to have their service and expertise on staff and happy we could recognize some of them in-person this eve-

ning," Wietecha said.

Employees recognized include:

5 Years

Sam Beuch
Ashley DeBernardi
Joe Cysiewski
Jason Krummel
Megan Schlei
Jacob Willers
Nicholas Cross
Daniel Vomastek
Ryan Ernst

10 Years

Chris Jenkins
Chris Nelson
Matt Hedrick
Lauren Foss
Ryan McGraw
Dean Suchy
Joe Spagnoletti

15 Years

Matthew Schlafer

David Bauer
Kyle Linscheid

20 Years

Chris Paulson

25 Years

Jeff Elliot
Penne Schuldt
Mary Cofer
Tim Tessier

30 Years

Sandra Boesl

Also recognized were outgoing members of citizen commissions.

Delores Pemble was thanked for her seven years on the Public Safety Advisory Commission.

"Dolores was instrumental for several projects," said Police Chief David Wilske.

"Dolores is always volunteering her time."

She served as chair of the commission this past year.

"Her selfless volunteerism to the City of Hastings is truly appreciated," said Wilske.

Also honored were outgoing commissioners from the Hastings Arts & Culture Commission: Joe Becker, Kirk Skeba and Deidre McGinn.

Wietecha noted that Becker is a member of the River Valley Band and brought a musical perspective to the commission. Skeba worked to inventory artwork at city hall and other public locations and worked to bring in grant funding to the commission. McGinn, a Hastings High School senior, was the youth member of the com-

mission.

"The Arts & Culture Commission is a brand new commission for the city this past year. It hasn't even hit its one-year anniversary yet. It was created to ensure that arts and culture are recognized as vital components of our community life and to include historic existing and emerging cultural groups in our sense of community," said Wietecha. "We appreciate their volunteering and assisting with this fledgling commission and will certainly miss their contributions."

The council also voted to reappoint members to citizen commissions:

They were:
• Public Safety Advisory Commissioners Gary Stevens, Theresa Auge,

Mary Nehring and E. John Gunter

• Parks and Recreation Commissioner Craig Santelman

• HEDRA Commissioner Ben Anderson

• Planning Commissioners Gino Messina, Chris Teiken, Bryce LeBrun, and Melissa McGrath

• Planning Commissioner Rachel Swedin

• Heritage Preservation Commissioners Cindy Toppin, Maggie McCoy, and Mark Borchard

• Arts & Culture Commissioners Barb Hollenbeck and Steven Read

• Charter Commissioners Connie Blasing, Dolores Pemble, Josh Salzman, and Marty Weber

Christmas Eve in Hastings



Sibley Street viewed towards the Riverwalk in Hastings was decorated with holiday snowflakes, as was Second Street. Photo by Joseph Back



Hastings city hall was lit up Christmas Eve as temperatures climbed to the low 50s. A light rain made for a somewhat balmy night. Photo by Joseph Back

Policy

from Page 1

should require a censure," said Tate. "I'd like to request that the future board have a discussion over this for that reason, and also I think that with that going on and this board effectively exiting, I don't feel it's appropriate that this current board make a decision that is that significant on how the next board operates. I feel that there needs to be a robust conversation, and I think that this needs to somehow get down to more or less malfeasance issues, versus small concerns."

At debate was board policy 215 and its accompanying procedures, 215-PR. The policy states, "The school board and each of its members are committed to faithful compliance with the provisions of the school board's

policies and procedures. The school board recognizes that alleged willful and/or continuing policy violations must be addressed."

The procedure to address the problem with the board member reads:

"The board shall address the issue by using the following steps:

1. Conversation in a private setting between the offending member and the school board chair or other individual member; such conversation will be reported to the balance of the board.

2. If agreement or understanding is reached; consider the issue resolved.

3. If resolution isn't achieved, in accordance with legal counsel, bring the alleged violation to the school board by requesting a closed meeting in accordance with Minnesota Statute 13D.05 for preliminary consideration

of allegations or charges against an individual subject to the board's authority.

4. Public censure of the offending member of the school board, as well as removal from committees and leadership positions, to which the member has been appointed or elected, by simple majority vote.

5. Removal from the school board for proper cause by a concurrent vote of at least four members. The board member to be removed will be duly notified of the time and the place of the meeting for which the vote is to be taken, and for the reasons for proposed removal. The board member will be given an opportunity to be heard in defense against the removal."

The procedure states, "Most board member issues and situations are intended to fall into Category 1. Catego-

ries 2, 3, and 4 are intended for extreme and/or repeated instances of violations where Category 1 has not resulted in a change in member behaviors."

Malm advocated for passing the policy, and she said that future boards can change procedures if they desire.

"I believe that 215 with the edits that have been made tonight should be approved tonight," said Malm.

Davis said that while "I don't know if I necessarily completely agree with Director Tate," he did agree it was an issue for the next board.

"We can go around on this for three hours tonight, and the new board can come in and completely deconstruct it and do it again anyway," said Davis. "So, we might as well let them go after it when they take their seats rather than us spin our wheels on something that could be

completely undone in less than a month. I mean, what's the point. Why not let them do it?"

Hedin responded, "That logic can be used for why we do anything post election, and I just refuse to believe in not working up until the last day."

Tate said she wouldn't have a problem if it was tied to board members not following a law but as written, it also pertains to board policies and procedures.

"Again, looking at Elk River, for example. One of the things that was noted was that one of the board members was late occasionally for meetings. Now while that is not in a law anywhere I guarantee, it is a courtesy of course to be on time to meetings, to attend meetings. But I don't see that as a cause for disciplining an elected official. We all know

life happens, right? Another thing they invoked there was that one of the board members self-admitted in one meeting that he was unprepared. What he meant by unprepared was he did not get through the 30 policies that they had to review with his level of scrutiny," said Tate. "This is where my concern is. If we are going to leave it like it is right now, the policy leaves it open to that type of interpretation, which I want to eliminate completely."

Director Jessica Dressley commented, "I can't speak for the others on the (policy) committee, but I don't think it's inappropriate to have the new board consider this policy as well."

Tate's motion to table the policy proposal passed 4-3. Joining her in voting for it were Dressley, Davis and Beissel. In opposition were Hedin, Malm and Zuzek.

Board

from Page 1

the civic process of our public schools."

Buoyed by the positivity that came out of announcements of individual grants, and with the coveted gift of choice for department board members – the Hastings Raiders blanket – the farewell was low key to Hedin and three other board members who didn't seek re-election and were spending their last night at the board table. Hedin served 12 years on the board, while Brian Davis, Stephanie Malm and Becky Beissel each served four. Hastings Mayor Mary Fasbender intended to come



Superintendent Dr. Tamara Champa delivered Hastings Raiders blankets as a gift to outgoing school board members. Above, she dropped one off for Stephanie Malm and Brian Davis. Photo by John McLoone

to the meeting to thank the outgoing board members and welcoming incoming members Jenny Wiederholt-Pine,

Melissa Millner, Matt Bruns and Philip Biermaier. However, she sent a statement because she was under the

weather.

"I so wish I could have been there to thank you in person for your commitment to our children in our district – Brian, Becky and Stephanie, for your last four years and Lisa for your last 12 years. Without your vision leadership and integrity, we could not have the team that bring such good or the accolades that our school district receives. Be proud of your accomplishments," wrote Fasbender. "Incoming board members, Jenny, Matt, Melissa and Phil, I and we as the city look forward to working with you and partnering for the kids and teachers of this amazing Hastings community."

After handing out the gift

to the retirees, Superintendent Dr. Tamara Champa said, "You trusted in me as your hired superintendent, so it's been a pleasure to work with you for these six months, which seemed like six weeks. It's gone really fast. Thank you, I appreciate it."

Director Jessica Dressley

also voiced her appreciation of the outgoing board members.

"I wanted to say thank you to all four of you for your service. You guys have been awesome fellow board members," Dressley said. "I appreciate everything you have done to get us where we are as a board right now."

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Fee schedule OK'd despite opposition on ice arena fees

By John McLoone

The Hastings City Council voted to update the city fee schedule at its meeting Monday Dec. 18, but not until one councilmember voiced displeasure for increases in youth fees to skate at the Hastings Civic Ice Arena.

Included in the rate schedule was action on a utility rate review that was done earlier this year. Under the plan, water rates will increase 3.5%, sewer rates go up 4.5% and there will be a 4% increase in the storm water fund.

Sewer and water access charges for new developments will increase. The sewer access charge increases from \$708.75 per unit to \$945 per unit. The water access charge rises from

\$2,306.25 to \$2,957 per unit. "These fees charge development-related infrastructure to the new development, rather than passing the costs along to utility customers," a memo from Finance Manager Chris Eitemiller to the council states.

A new fee will be put in place also for people paying for city service with credit card. A 3.7 percent charge will be added to each credit card payment. This past year, the city paid \$112,000 for credit card processing.

"By adding 3.7 percent to each credit card payment processed, the city will generate revenue to provide this service rather than needing tax revenues to offset these expenses," said Eitemiller.

One large change is in cannabis licensing. The fees

have to be changed because of provisions in state law when the state legislature legalized marijuana in Minnesota.

The cannabis product retail license drops from \$8,000 to \$500 for the initial fee and first renewal. After that, license renewals would be \$1,000.

A cannabis cultivation license drops from \$200 currently to no charge.

The ice arena charge changes would take effect July 1, 2024. The changes are:

- Civic Arena dry floor rental, \$85/hour to \$90
- All day, \$780 to \$900
- Civic Arena ice rental:
- Prime time, \$215/hour to \$220/hour
- Birthday party package, \$100 to \$120

- Public skate:
 - Ice skating, \$5 to \$6
 - Ice Hockey, \$7.50 to \$8
 - Freestyle, \$10 to \$12
 - Session book of 10, \$40 to \$50
 - Skate rental, \$3 to \$4
- Councilmember Tina Folch felt those skate session increases were too much.

"The one thing I do continue to have some heartburn about is with the ice arena and just the fees for kids to be utilizing that facility," said Folch. "I just want to make sure it's affordable. We have a blue collar community. When you look at what our average median household is, it's much less than the rest of Dakota County."

While the fee increases may not look like much, by percentage, they're fairly high.

"The ice skating, the current fee is \$5, and we're proposing to raise that to \$6. You may be thinking, well, what's a buck, but that's a 20 percent increase. The session book of 10, we're looking at going from \$40 to \$50. That's a 25 percent increase. I think a lot of people are no longer wanting their kids to put on a pair of ice skates because it's so darn expensive," said Folch. "That's a large increase. I was surprised to see that freestyle was going from \$10 to \$12. I think it's fair to put a limit on how much that we're increasing, particularly when they hit our kids."

Councilmember Lisa Leifeld said that all the items had been discussed by committee, and she agreed with staff rationale for the fee changes.

"I'm going to defer to staff on this, and I would be in favor of sticking with what's been presented to us," she said.

Folch responded, "I don't think that we should be increasing our fees for children to use our facilities by 20 and 25% for individual use...Ice skating is becoming an elitist sport where most families can't afford it any longer. I think that it's important to try to keep these fees low enough so that average median households at least can continue to send their kids and to enjoy these sports."

After discussion, the fee schedule was approved as presented.

County working to strengthen partnerships

By John McLoone

The Dakota County Board is working to strengthen partnerships in 2024.

Commissioner Mike Slavik of Hastings told the Hastings City Council at its meeting Monday, Dec. 18 that he believes that the county and Hastings already work well together.

"We just finished up our strategic plan in Dakota County with the board and staff, and one of our five main goals of our strategic plan was to build stronger relationships with our partners. I would like to say that I think we have a pretty good relationship between Dakota County and the City of Hastings," he said.

As examples, he noted the city council voting to lease

its agricultural land in the industrial park for low nitrate farming that is a partnership with the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District and the city giving approval for the solar array that will power the Dakota County Government Center in Hastings.

"The solar garden will produce 112 percent of the electricity that is needed for that building. That will actually be a net zero building next year. That was something that we've worked on with city staff, and we're able to find some good partnerships," said Slavik.

One of the most notable county projects from the public standpoint this past year was introducing bison at the Spring Lake Park Reserve in Hastings.



Dakota County Commissioner Mike Slavik addressed the Hastings City Council Monday, Dec. 18.

"The first thing you have to always talk about when thinking Dakota County and the Hastings area is the bison because that has certainly

been something that has really kind of put the Hastings area on the map as the county worked through the process to add, at the time, eight

bison for public viewing in 2023," said Slavik. "Of course, we did not know that we were going to have four calves come out of those, and then actually we've been able to add a couple more bison since. Right now, they're getting reacquainted with each other, away from the public, but we'll see the bison come back into more public viewing areas in 2024."

He said that \$4 million in improvements are planned in 2024 in Spring Lake Park Reserve.

"That is going to be on the environmental side, restoring the natural resources," said Slavik.

Slavik also touched on Mississippi River and Vermillion River Greenway projects and work that is being done in Hastings and

elsewhere on the extensive trail system.

He said it also was very beneficial having someone from the county assessor's office outline the property valuation process before the city council in the spring and let people know what to do if they question that valuation.

"That has gone over so well that we hope we're invited back for 2024 to do that again," said Slavik. "My other large community, the City of Farmington, is planning on doing that too because they got wind of how well it went here. I think our staff has found that this was very valuable. They said they actually received a lot less calls in Hastings than they typically have based on these updates."

Dakota County budget puts focus on growing service needs

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, Dec. 19 approved the county's 2024 budget and property tax levy.

New county spending will be focused on increased operating costs, the growing demand for social service programs and on services such as election administra-

tion and information technology.

The county's operating budget will be \$336 million. The budget funds more than 200 programs, including crisis services for children and adults, public safety, road and bridge construction and maintenance, environmental protection, election adminis-

tration, parks and greenways, and library services.

Total county spending, including operations and capital improvements such as building and road construction, will total \$514 million.

The property tax levy will increase 3.5 percent to about \$153 million. Dakota County's tax rate will remain the

lowest among metro counties.

"This budget balances the needs of our residents with the responsibility we have to our taxpayers," Dakota County Board Chair Liz Workman said. "We're helping those in need and

providing important and valued services that continue to make Dakota County a premier place to live and work."

A median-valued home of \$372,000 in Dakota County will pay \$10 more in county tax next year — an increase of 1.6 percent.

Many county programs are mandated by state and federal government. Only a small portion of property taxes funds county government. Cities, schools and other taxing districts also levy property taxes.



SPELLING BEA Time

BY BEA WESTERBERG

It's coming, it will be here!

"The book is called *Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.*" — Edith Lovejoy Pierce, poet.

The last major holiday of 2023 has come and gone. It has created a whole new chapter in our lives and now we are moving on to start a new year and we are wide open to new adventures. Some of us will start it off with a pre-2024 New Year's Eve celebration and work our way with food and drink into the new year with family and/or friends. Another group of us will have a good meal and decide it will be bedtime as usual, sleep through the big change and then wake up, trying to remember that it is a new year. There might be some of us who say, "no big deal, if I didn't look at the calendar it would just feel like another day and life will go on". I bet there are a few of us who are saying "I have to get the taxes done". All of us will have questions. Will this year go as fast or faster than last year? Will this year bring more peace in the world or will it get more stressful and crazy? Will I have a better year in 2024 than in 2023? The list could go on forever but we each will have a new story waiting for us in 2024.

Humans have been celebrating this passage of time for a long time with the first recorded event happening in ancient Babylon when the first new moon after the spring equinox occurred in late March. Early Roman calendars consisted of 10 months and 304 days. Later on the months of January and February were added. A leap year system was also put in place to keep the calendar in sync with the sun. (This is how our calendar today came to be.) In 46 B.C., Roman emperor Julius Caesar declared January 1 the start of the new year to honor a god named Janus. In ancient times, the Christian leaders replaced January 1 with what they thought was a better fitting day for the start of a new year. For example, Christmas and the birth of Jesus on the 25th of December was chosen as the beginning of the new year. March 25th. At another time, The Feast of the Annunciation was used as a starting date for the new year. Pope Gregory XII reestablished January 1 as

New Year's Day in 1582.

In every culture, traditions have been handed down and sometimes the meaning or purpose gets changed as time goes by. The Romans honored Janus, the god of beginnings with a front and back face. This enabled him to clearly see the past and the future. Certain foods became connected with events as it seemed that they would add positive things to ones life if they were consumed on a specific day or time period. The practice of making resolutions for the new year is thought to have first caught on among the Babylonians who made promises in order to earn the favor of the gods. It was said that paying off debts and returning borrowed farm equipment were among their resolutions! In a way, that seems easier than saying you are going to lose 20 pounds or give up junk food.

Symbols also help tell a story. The new year is traditionally shown to start off as a male baby wearing a diaper, a big top hat and a banner with the upcoming new year on it. Some cultures refer to him as "Dionysus". As the year goes by, he grows up and by the end of the year he becomes a very old man who is ready to turn over caring for the world to a new baby Father Time. Noise makers are a big part of New Year's celebrations and that goes back to getting rid of bad demons and spirits so the new year can get a good start. Fireworks can be used for the same purposes plus add color and light to the celebration. Candles can do this too but on a smaller scale and used indoors. In some places, the lion and lamb are symbols for the new year. In our day and age, this pair is connected with the March winds. Look back and you see that at one time the month of March was the beginning of the new year!

Parts of the world celebrate the new year at different times of the year and have a wide variety of activities that are specific to their area. Makes for a very interesting world! It is our time now and let's hope and ask for a great 2024!

Bea Westerberg
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VIEWPOINTS

Will you face 2024 with fear or fearlessness?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Wages are not keeping up with the cost of living. The cost of groceries, fast food, building materials, and most anything you can name has increased dramatically.

Millions of Americans are Social Security recipients. The modest increase coming in January will feel like a drop in the bucket. Every little bit helps and it will truly be a little bit compared to the financial needs of senior adult Americans.

Almost every day we see the national reports of the thousands of undocumented immigrants flooding our country, this does not make us feel very secure. Our government could stop this but they don't. We have the ability to stop this insane invasion of America but for some reason our leaders obviously want the masses to keep coming. This is fearful. How will these people survive in America? Where will they live? Are there jobs for all these people? Is this really fair and helping them when so many of them will have to sleep on the streets of our major cities?

I don't see how. Will this invasion become the eventual end of the America we have enjoyed, without a shot being fired?

Politics is not comforting to most Americans. Who can we trust? Is anybody telling the truth? Are all politicians liars and thieves? Do they all have nasty baggage in the closet? Are there any real leaders that we can respect and admire without having to look down or look away when we mention their names? Yes, there are those we believe in but none of them are perfect and most are far from perfect. Of course, no one is perfect. This is nerve wracking for Americans, especially in such a crucial election year.

We are constantly bombarded with pleas for support. Currently it's Ukraine. Ukraine obviously needs help. It's difficult for us to fathom billions of dollars for Ukraine when we won't secure our own borders and protect our own citizens. How does this make sense?

Interest rates may come down in 2024 but will they come down enough? A seven



percent rate on a \$40,000 car is a tough payment for many Americans. The housing market is struggling. Who can afford a \$350,000 house along with a seven or eight percent loan? Obviously not many as home sales are badly slumping right now.

There is a lot to scare us

in this world. Cancer, diabetes, neurological diseases, and more. When we do get sick there is the price tag that comes with waging a medical war to survive. So often, people postpone going to the doctor because they don't want to see the medial bills and this ends up being a very unhealthy and of-

ten deadly decision. The whole scenario is fearful.

However, life is not to be lived in fear. Fear freezes us, paralyzes us, and overcomes us. We seldom move forward when frozen by fear. My hope for all of us is that we might overcome fear in our lives and dethrone the beast from ruling

over us in 2024. My hope for you is that you might have the power of God in your life in such a way, that his presence will be greater in you than all the fears we are facing in the world. May you have this power in you in such a way that you will face this next year with strength and fearlessness.

To protect lakes and fish, snowplows go on a low-salt diet

Even in summer, the effects of road salt use are easy to spot. Rusted fenders on cars and trucks, corroded bridges and infrastructure, and brown strips of grass along the edges of highways all serve as reminders of the tough winters that Minnesotans endure.

Less visible are the effects of salting on Minnesota's waters, which in recent decades have experienced steep increases in concentrations of the salts used for de-icing roads, parking lots, and sidewalks. More salt in surface waters can not only harm wildlife and vegetation but also pose a threat to groundwater and aquifers that supply drinking water.

What's worse, salt is just too good at what it does for what it costs, leading Minnesotans to rely heavily on it to keep roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks free of ice. So limiting the amount of damage salt does to the environment means limiting how much salt road crews, private contractors, and homeowners apply every winter without compromising safety. That's where the MPCA's Smart Salting program steps in.

"There's a lot of science, a lot of thought that goes into managing snow and ice," says Brooke Asleson, who coordinates the MPCA's chloride reduction program. "With Smart Salting, we're breaking down the science behind de-icers and helping winter maintenance professionals determine the best tool for the job to keep surfaces safe and protect the environment."

The problem with salt
Salt works to de-ice roads by making it difficult for water to freeze. Sodium chloride, the cheapest salt available, starts to lose effectiveness at about 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Other salts like calcium chloride and magnesium chloride work more effectively at lower temperatures but cost more and prove even more damaging to vehicles and infrastructure.

According to one study,

the Twin Cities metro area uses 250,000 tons of salt on its roads each year, while the entire state of Minnesota uses more than 400,000 tons, or about enough salt to fill a line of single-axle plow trucks stretching end-to-end from Minneapolis to Duluth and back.

Salt used for de-icing is the largest source of chloride pollution in the state, but it's not the only source. Other significant contributors include fertilizer, water softening systems, and even dust control products for gravel roads.

Whether via runoff, stormwater systems, or wastewater systems, all that chloride makes its way into lakes, streams, rivers, and groundwater, where it hangs around. Chloride doesn't break down or degrade, so over time it turns freshwater saltier, making the water toxic for native fish, bugs, and amphibians. As a result, 54 bodies of water are now on the state's impaired waters list for exceeding the state's standard for chloride pollution, with 13 more proposed for the 2024 list.

According to Asleson, some research has gone into less problematic chemicals and materials than chlorides, "but there's no alternative that's good for the environment and that's effective." Acetates, for instance, break down after 24 to 48 hours, but also deplete oxygen from the water while they do so, which may cause fish kills. And while sand is often used to help provide traction, it doesn't melt ice and it too can harm ecosystems if it gets flushed into waterways.

"There's no silver bullet," Asleson says. "This depends on all of us working together— everybody using salt, from homeowners to MnDOT, which is leading research on technologies to minimize salt use and alternative products."

Learning from experts
To counter the harmful effects of chloride, the MPCA created the Smart Salting program, which offers training



MPCA's Smart Salting program aims to cut chloride pollution from excess road salt use while keeping roads safe in winter.

and certifications primarily to snowplow drivers and private contractors to provide them with support and resources to use less salt on roads and other surfaces in the winter.

"We do not recommend any practices that compromise public safety — that's our number one priority," Asleson says.

Instead, the recommendations that come out of the program focus on strategic and judicious use of salt and on practices that can, in some cases, improve safety.

"If you use the wrong product in the wrong situation, it can actually create unsafe conditions," Asleson says. "We know, for instance, that magnesium and calcium chlorides are hygroscopic — they pull moisture out of the air and to themselves— so if you apply them when there's any kind of humidity in the air, dry pavement can become wet and icy if temperatures drop."

In addition to trainings for municipal snowplow drivers, the Smart Salting program offers trainings for property managers and for community leaders and local elected officials.

The trainings, Asleson says, are based not just on the latest research from industry experts but also on the experiences of snowplow operators and property managers. Many co-instructors for the trainings,

in fact, are winter maintenance professionals.

"It helps give it a little more credibility," she says. "The unique part of our training program is that we're not telling people what to do — it's a real ground-up approach in which we're learning from the participants and the host sites, who are all passionate about the environment."

She points to Plymouth on the metro area's west side as a good example of a city that has successfully implemented Smart Salting practices and that has offered to share what its road crews have learned with other municipalities.

Putting training into practice

Not far from the massive salt shed that the city fills with mounds of white salt every fall, Plymouth has a cavernous garage at its city maintenance facility that houses its fleet of 18 plow trucks, and it's in that garage where much of the city's salting innovation has taken place.

That innovation can be as simple as a metal plate welded to the back end of the trucks to keep the salt from dropping straight into the spreader. "We try not to be the trucks that you see sitting at a light spinning and dropping a mound of salt," says Torrey Keith, Plymouth's street supervisor.

That innovation can also come in better ways to mix

and spread salt brine, which is preferable to granular salt because the brine won't scatter and bounce off roads.

"We've been using liquids since the 1990s and making improvements every year since," Keith says. "We were one of the first to put a brine tank in the box of a plow truck — we called it the octopus because of all the hoses coming out of it."

In the cab of one plow truck, Keith demonstrates how modern spreading equipment mounted to the trucks can adjust slurry mixes and application rates on the fly. While the driver has control over those settings, the trucks are also networked, so Keith can monitor the data that the trucks collect and report, then radio to the drivers to adjust their settings if application rates are too high.

Other big contributors to Plymouth's salt savings are the city's policy decisions, based on Smart Salting best practices. "We don't have a blanket bare pavement policy, for instance," says Ben Scharenbroich, the city's water resources supervisor. "We'll aim for bare pavement for the main roads, hills, and bridges, but for everything else, we'll just scrape."

The drivers are all on board,

too. Plymouth has mandated Smart Salting training for its 27 snowplow drivers and for any other city employee who can get behind the wheel of a plow in an all-hands-on-deck situation.

"Historically, this has been supported from the top down," Scharenbroich says. "If we're doing things that make the city a better place to live and are the right thing to do, it's more likely that city leadership will support our work."

Reducing salt, cutting costs
While salt usage naturally varies with the severity of winters from year to year, Plymouth has seen a marked decrease in how much total salt it uses, from as much as 3,200 tons per season 10 years ago to an average of less than 1,900 tons per season over the last nine years. The city also uses about two-thirds less salt per snowstorm than it did a decade ago.

Not only does that help keep salt out of area waters — nearby Parkers Lake is one of those bodies of water on the impaired waters list for chlorides — it also represents a cost savings for the city. Last year, Plymouth was able to spend \$38,000 less on salt than what it had budgeted even though the city recorded more snowstorms and more snow overall than any year in recent history.

That cost savings extends beyond buying less salt, too. Keith says the city now spends half the time it used to cleaning salt off the streets in the spring. And as Asleson notes, every ton of salt saved means another \$3,000 not spent on related expenses: everything from replacing dead grass to filling potholes to recarpeting building entrances.

"It's the only time you can save money when reducing a pollutant," Asleson says.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Hastings JOURNAL

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USPS 44980 Periodicals Postage Paid at Prescott, WI and Hastings MN PERIODICALS PERMIT #3, HASTINGS, MN

The Hastings Journal is published weekly by John McLoone, P.O. Box 291, Hastings, MN. The Hastings Journal office is located at 1304 Vermillion St., Hastings, MN 55033.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Hastings Journal, P.O. Box 291 Hastings, MN 55033-0291

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OBITUARIES

Joanne Ruedy 1942-2023

Joanne Ruedy, age 81, of Hastings, MN died peacefully at Hometown Assisted Living in Woodbury on Friday morning, Dec. 15, 2023. Joanne battled cancer for several years, sadly having to spend the last few years with her mobility hindered.

Joanne, the daughter of Muriel and Melvin Christiansen, was born in San Francisco, California on Feb. 16, 1942. Joanne's parents died when she was young. She moved to St. Paul to live with her aunt and uncle, Don and Marion Stewart. They lived near Como Park and Joanne loved everything related to Como Park. She was an avid ice skater on Como Lake. As a teenager she participated in all that the state fair and winter carnival had to offer, she and her friends would attend the state fair almost daily. Joanne graduated from St. Paul Murray High School in 1959. She attended the University of Minnesota School Of Engineering for two years. Later in life she went to school to be a Tax Preparation Specialist.

Joanne married Dell Ruedy in 1962 eventually moving to Hastings. They built a house in 1965 and she lived in it for 55 years. She spent her final year living at Hometown Assisted Living in Woodbury Minnesota. She bonded with the staff there and truly loved them and the care that they provided.

She spent most of her career working seasonally for

Rahn, Neisen, and Root as a tax preparer specializing in farm taxes. She definitely did not enjoy the very long hours three months of the year, but she thoroughly enjoyed the people she worked with. She also enjoyed the other nine months of the year she had available for other activities. Joanne was lovingly devoted to her grandchildren. She enjoyed actively participating and spectating their sports and music activities. There were several years where she rarely missed Hastings High School girls' soccer or hockey games. She enjoyed wearing her "Team Grandma" sweatshirts to all of the events.

Joanne was passionate about her involvement with the Regina Hospital Auxiliary. She loved telling anyone around her about the upcoming auxiliary activities and about all of the great things the auxiliary was doing for the hospital. She was a former president and a former volunteer of the year. She was very excited to be involved with the annual hospital bazaar and the blood drives. She was also a member of the Lion's Club. She was enthused about all that they did, but sadly her health got in her way of truly immersing herself into the organization.

She was preceded in death by her parents Melvin and Muriel; brother, Ross; aunt and uncle, Don and Marion Stewart; and her special sister, Margo;

Joanne is survived by her children, Tom (Paula), and Jerry (Deanna); 5 grandchildren, Jenny (Drew Chamberlain), Crystal (Kolbein) Matson, Kit (Aaron Karnick),



Nicholas and Benjamin; and sister, Bonnie Stewart.

Family and friends are cordially invited to a Celebration of her life on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024 from 4-6 p.m. at Starkson Family Life Celebration Chapel of Hastings. There will be a short service at 4 P.M. and the rest of the time will be spent enjoying fellowship and food. Per Joanne's request, the events will be casual so please dress comfortably. Attend as you wish.

All memorials will be directed to the Regina Hospital Auxiliary (A GREAT ORGANIZATION). They can be sent to Mary Jones at, 1498 Hillside Street, Hastings, MN, 55033.

For guestbook and further information, please visit www.hastingsmnfuneral.com

Arrangements are being completed by Starkson Family Life Celebration Chapel of Hastings.



Diane Rother 1958-2023

Diane LaVonne (Thue) Rother, age 65 of Eagan, passed away peacefully at home, on Saturday morning, Dec. 16, 2023, following a hard-fought battle with cancer.

Diane, daughter of DeLoss and Esther Thue, was born on September 19, 1958, in Starbuck, Minnesota. They moved to Hastings, and she became a proud graduate of Hastings High School in 1976. Diane was married to Steve Rother on Oct. 13, 1979, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Hastings. She enjoyed a career working for Thomson Reuters f/k/a West Publishing for 15 years, but was ultimately called to motherhood, and she and Steve were blessed with Philip and Kelsey Rother.

Diane was a fantastic hostess; she always made time for everybody. She was charming, had a beautiful smile, plenty of wit, and a signature laugh that anyone could recognize. Diane was a generous spirit, always putting so much time and energy into her relationships. The bright light that Diane brought to this world, and all who loved her, will be forever missed.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two older sisters, Patricia Davies and Elizabeth Wiegrefe; her brother, David; and nephew, Bryan Thompson.

Diane will be lovingly remembered by her husband Steve; children Philip and Kelsey Rother; siblings Dan (Mary) Thue, Lori (Tim) Thompson; 13 nieces and nephews; 20 great nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Diane's life will be held at 11 a.m. on Jan. 6, 2024 at Easter Lutheran Church, 4200 Pilot Knob



Road, Eagan, with visitation one hour prior. A light luncheon will be provided following the service at the church. After, the burial will follow at Lakeside Cemetery in Hastings, with the immediate family attending.



PUBLIC Notice

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DAKOTA COUNTY
DISTRICT COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court File Number:
19HA-PR-23-1063
Case Type: Informal Probate

Notice of Informal Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors (Without a Will)

In re the Estate of Diana Bruce Illetschko, Deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal appointment of personal representative has been filed with the Probate Registrar. No will has been presented for probate. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following:

Joseph Karl Illetschko, Jr
3662 73rd St E
Inver Grove Heights MN
55076
joe.illetschko@aol.com
651-451-5984

as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as Personal Representative, or may object to the appointment of the Personal Representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the Personal Representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Denise Dodge
Probate Registrar
Dated: December 15, 2023
Maria King
Court Administrator
Dated: December 15, 2023

12 21 28

Board of Education
Independent School
District 200
Hastings, Minnesota

A Regular Meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 200, Hast-

ings, Minnesota, was held on Tuesday, November 21st, 2023, at the Hastings Middle School Media Center.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

The following board members were present: Jessica Dressely, Stephanie Malm, Mark Zuzek, Carrie Tate, and Lisa Hedin. Members absent: Becky Beissel, Brian Davis. Superintendent Champa was also present at the meeting.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, a motion to approve the agenda was made by Mark Zuzek and seconded by Carrie Tate. The vote was: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried unanimously.

A subsidiary motion to add 215 and 215.1PR to the agenda as a Second Read was made by Stephanie Malm and seconded by Mark Zuzek. The vote was: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried unanimously.

Director Jessica Dressely asked to remove 412.1PR from the consent agenda and add it as the first individual action item in the agenda for tonight.

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 25, 2023 Regular Board Meeting the November 8, 2023 Special Board Meeting and the November 15, 2023 Special Board Meeting was made by Stephanie Malm and seconded by Jessica Dressely. The vote was: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 30th, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes was made by Stephanie Malm and seconded by Jessica Dressely. Carrie Tate Abstained. The vote was: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 Abstain. Motion carried.

Chairperson Hedin recognized the visitors in the room and those viewing remotely. Chairperson Hedin thanked the public for passing the Tech Levy.

There was no Raider Spotlight. Superintendent Champa congratulated the swim team, recognized the musical theater group and recognized the middle school choir. She also thanked the Veteran's Day Program participants and Vice Chair Stephanie Malm who was the speaker.

There was no listening session summary.

The Audit Report Presentation was given by Auditor Aaron Neilson.

The Perception Survey Pre-

sentation was given by Daren Sievers.

Superintendent Champa provided the Board with the Superintendent report which included the Cadence of Raider Responsibility and Leadership Goals update.

Leadership Goal Updates were given by Director of Special Services Megan Miller and Assistant Director of Special Services Jill Peterson.

Building Construction Fund Update was given by Jen Seubert.

Student School Board Member Update was given by Carrie Tate.

Jessica Dressely provided the Board with an update from the Policy Committee which included a first reading of the following policies: Policy 413 Harassment and Violence, Policy 416 Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing, Policy 507 Corporal Punishment and Prone, Policy 601 School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals, Policy 620 Credit for Learning. As well as a second reading of the following policies: Policy 213 School Board Committees, 215 and 215.1PR and Policy 613 Graduation Requirements.

A motion was made by Stephanie Malm to approve the consent agenda and seconded by Jessica Dressely. The vote was: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jessica Dressely to approve the Non-Contract rates of Pay and seconded by Mark Zuzek. Lisa Hedin abstained. The vote was: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain, motion carried.

A motion was made by Mark Zuzek to approve the Teacher's Contract and seconded by Jessica Dressely. The vote was: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jessica Dressely to approve the 22-23 Audit Report and seconded by Carrie Tate. The vote was: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Carrie Tate to approve the Combined Polling Places Resolution and seconded by Mark Zuzek. Stephanie Malm voted nay. The vote was: 4 ayes, 1 nay, motion carried.

A motion was made by Mark Zuzek to approve the 2023 Election Re-count Canvassing Resolution and seconded by Stephanie Malm. The vote was: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion

carried unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jessica Dressely and seconded by Stephanie Malm. The vote was: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 PM.

12 28

Board of Education
Independent School
District 200
Hastings, Minnesota

A Special Meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No.200, Hastings, Minnesota, was held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at the Hastings Middle School Media Center.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Hedin at 6:02 PM.

The following members of the Board were present: Mark Zuzek, Carrie Tate, Brian Davis, and Lisa Hedin. Members absent: Becky Beissel, Stephanie Malm and Jessica Dressely. Superintendent Champa was also present.

After the Pledge of Allegiance a motion was made to approve the agenda. This motion was made by Carrie Tate and seconded by Mark Zuzek. The vote was: 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried unanimously.

A motion to amend the special meeting to remove the evaluation closed session with the intent to add it to the end of the work session was made by Mark Zuzek and seconded by Carrie Tate. The vote was: 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried unanimously.

The World's Best Workforce Presentation was presented by Superintendent Dr. Champa, Andy Larson and Brienna McNamara.

Jessica Dressely arrived at 6:10 PM.

A motion was made to approve the resolution authorizing the Certification of Election and waive the reading as part of the motion was made by Brian Davis and seconded by Mark Zuzek.

Those voting in favor: Jessica Dressely, Mark Zuzek, Brian Davis, Carrie Tate, and Lisa Hedin. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brian Davis to close the meeting and seconded by Jessica Dressely.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03.

Closed Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Hedin at 8:59 PM. The following members of the Board were present: Mark Zuzek, Carrie Tate, Brian Davis, Jessica Dressely, and Lisa Hedin. Members absent: Becky Beissel, and Stephanie Malm. Superintendent Champa was also present.

The item before the board is to move to a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.05, Subd. 3(a) for Superintendent evaluations.

A motion was made by Jessica Dressely to close the meeting, seconded by Carrie Tate. The vote was: 5 ayes, 0 nays, mo-

tion carried unanimously.

Meeting closed at 9:00 PM.

A motion was made to adjourn to an open the meeting was made by Jessica Dressely and seconded by Carrie Tate. Those voting in favor: Jessica Dressely, Mark Zuzek, Brian Davis, Carrie Tate, and Lisa Hedin.

Motion carried unanimously. With no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mark Zuzek and seconded by Carrie Tate. The vote was: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 PM.

12 28

OFFICE OF MINNESOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE
Certificate of
Assumed Name

ASSUMED NAME:
Drolma Spanda

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:
625 Southview Blvd
South St Paul, MN 55075

NAMEHOLDER(S)
Name:
Anna Chekhovskaya

ADDRESS:
115 8th St S
South Saint Paul, MN 55075

SIGNED BY:
Anna Chekhovskaya

EMAIL:
spanda.bodywork@gmail.com
12 14 21

MARSHAN TOWNSHIP
Notice of Filing for Township Election

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of Marshan Township, Dakota County, State of Minnesota, that filing for township office will be held for a two week period beginning January 2nd, 2024.

Affidavits of Candidates shall be filed with the Town Clerk from January 2nd, 2024 to January 16, 2024. Filings will close on January 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Applications are being accepted for the Offices of:
One Supervisor for a 3 year term
One Clerk for a 2 year term

Marge Snyder
Marshan Township Clerk

12 28

CITY OF HASTINGS
SUMMARY PUBLICATION
ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 2023-19
CITY CODE CHAPTER 34, PERTAINING TO FEES FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

On December 18, 2023, the City Council of the City of Hastings adopted Ordinance No. 2023-19 amending City Code Chapter 34, pertaining to fees for Municipal Services. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 412.191, in the case of a lengthy ordinance, a summary may be published. While a copy of the entire ordinance is available without cost at the office of the City Clerk, the following summary is approved by the City Council and shall be published in lieu of publishing the entire ordinance. The text amendment adopted by the Hastings City Council on December 18, 2023 amends the City Code pertaining to fees for municipal services.

Chris Eitemiller
Finance Director
Published: Hastings Journal: December 21, 2023 and December 28, 2023

CITY OF HASTINGS
SUMMARY PUBLICATION
ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 2023-16
CITY CODE CHAPTER 117.09, REGARDING CANNABIS BUSINESSES

On December 18, 2023, the City Council of the City of Hastings adopted Ordinance No. 2023-16 amending City Code Chapter 117.09, regarding the Cannabis Businesses. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 412.191, in the case of a lengthy ordinance, a summary may be published. While a copy of the entire ordinance is available without cost at the office of the City Clerk, the following summary is approved by the City Council and shall be published in lieu of publishing the entire ordinance. The text amendment adopted by the Hastings City Council on December 18, 2023 amends the City Ordinance to allow on-sale and off-sale retail sales of cannabis-infused beverages that are under .3% THC at restaurants and liquor stores.

John Hinzman
Community Development Director
Published: Hastings Journal: December 21, 2023 and December 28, 2023



Barse to moderate Historical Society panel on 9/11

The Dakota County Historical Society will host its 85th annual meeting, followed by a panel discussion which is open to the public, on Saturday, Jan. 20 at 11:30 a.m. The panel discussion is titled "9/11: A Dakota County Aviation Perspective" and will feature three individuals who were involved in the aviation industry during 9/11. The doors will open at 11:30 a.m. for attendees with lunch beginning at 11:45 a.m. and the program beginning at 12:45 p.m. The event will take place

at the Lawshe Memorial Museum in South St. Paul.

The Lawshe Museum is located at 130 Third Ave. N. in South St. Paul. Registration for the event is \$40 for members of DCHS or \$50 for non-members and includes a lunch. Attendees can register for the presentation only for \$20 per person. For more information call 651-552-7548 or visit the Dakota County Historical Society website, <https://www.dakotahistory.org>.

A special panel discussion

called "9/11: A Dakota County Aviation Perspective" will follow the lunch. The panel will feature Steve Beenck, a retired pilot who was flying from Amsterdam to Washington, D.C., on 9/11. He will be joined by Bob Becker, who was at home when he saw the attacks unfold on television as he prepared for his shift as an air traffic controller. The third member of the panel will be Tim Callister, who was airport director for MSP Airport. The event will be moderated by Kristy Barse, President for

the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau.

Most people can recall where they were when the 9/11 terrorists attacked. Most stories we hear are from families who lost loved ones or the brave men and women who went on search and rescue missions following the attacks. Attendees will hear unique perspectives which are not often shared from three people in varying roles within the aviation industry on 9/11.

HASTINGS Police Department Reports

Monday, Dec. 11 8:47 a.m. - A traffic stop was conducted at 16th and Vermillion St. **Delores O'Neal**, 58, St. Paul was cited for having an expired vehicle registration.

4:57 p.m. - Officers took a report of a theft in the 800 block of 6th St. W.

6:06 p.m. - An identity theft report was taken in the 500 block of Westview Drive. The case is under investigation.

9:31 p.m. - Officers responded to the 700 block of 10 Street West for an assault in progress. The case was referred for charging consideration.

Tuesday, Dec. 12 1:43 a.m. - **Uriah Davis**, 45, Newport, was arrested on an outstanding Washington County warrant after a traffic stop on Point Douglas Drive.

8:45 a.m. - Officers investigated a potential fraud incident that originated in the 1700 block of Maple Street. An unknown person was able to obtain about \$440.

10:17 a.m. - The Inver Grove Heights Police were assisted with the execution of a search warrant in the 1800 block of Eddy Street.

11:31 a.m. - **Joseph Kyle Burgess**, 31, Hastings, was cited with a school bus stop arm violation, which occurred Dec. 11 at Shannon Road and Radford Road.

11:41 a.m. - A vehicle was

impounded from the 1300 block of 18th Street East.

12:21 p.m. - **Joseph Kyle Burgess**, 31, Hastings, was arrested for driving while intoxicated - third degree in the 500 block of Westview Drive.

2:11 p.m. - A theft was reported in the 200 block of General Sieben Drive.

10:11 p.m. - A burglary was reported at a Shannon Drive address.

Wednesday, Dec. 13 11:49 a.m. - Police were dispatched to the Allina Clinic regarding a disturbance involving a woman not allowing a friend to go to the emergency room. **Ruxandra A. Harmon**, 56, Prescott, was cited for disorderly conduct.

12:37 p.m. - A missing juvenile was reported in the 1400 block of Vermillion Street. The juvenile was located.

4:22 p.m. - A past action theft of about \$750 in property was reported from a Ramsey Street address.

6:04 p.m. - Police were dispatched to the 1200 block of Honeysuckle Lane. **Scott Grabowski**, 31, Hastings was arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

6:29 p.m. - A fraud case was investigated at a Megan Drive address.

9:21 p.m. - Police investigated a harassment report in the 900 block of 15th Street West.

Thursday, Dec. 14 1:30 a.m. - A traffic stop was initiated in the area of Spring Street near 11th Street West. **John Reinke**, 46, Red Wing, and **Angela Henderson**, 47, Inver Grove Heights, were taken into custody for fifth degree possession of a controlled substance.

3:59 p.m. - An automobile was reported stolen from the 1300 block of Frontage Road South.

Friday, Dec. 15 1:05 a.m. - A bicycle was stopped in the area of 21st Street East and Commerce Drive. **Kenneth Mead** of Hastings was taken into custody for a misdemeanor Dakota County Warrant.

7:51 a.m. - Police were advised about a suspicious person on Sibley Street.

10:41 a.m. - An after the fact theft complaint was filed. A resident reported someone had been billing his Medicare account for hundreds of Covid tests at a cost of more than \$4,700.

11:57 a.m. - A bicycle was reported stolen from a residence in the 1800 block of Ashland Street.

Saturday, Dec. 16 12:36 a.m. - **Justice Einberger**, 28, Red Wing, was arrested for driving after cancellation and no proof of insurance after a traffic stop on Point Douglas Drive S.

11:25 p.m. - **Carmen Plata**, 21, St. Paul, was ar-

rested for violation of a no contact order after a traffic stop near Ravenna Trail and 18th Street East.

Sunday, Dec. 17 11:25 a.m. - A power line was brought down by a falling tree in the 500 block of 7th Street East.

1:27 p.m. - **Raymond Lyle Bignell**, 77, Hastings was cited for parking a recreation vehicle on the street in the 500 block of 5th Street West.

10:35 p.m. - **Brandon T. Bray**, 46, Hastings, was arrested on Shannon Drive on an outstanding Department of Corrections warrant.

Accident Reports Dec. 20 12:36 a.m. - Police were

called to the 2400 block of Vermillion Street for a hit and run. A woman reportedly had crashed a vehicle in a parking lot and was seen running away. Police located her and determined she was under the influence of alcohol. **Alyssa F. Lundstrom**, 22, Hastings, was booked into the Dakota County Jail on charges of fourth degree driving while intoxicated, hit and run, not proof of insurance and operating a motor vehicle without a valid license.

5:22 p.m. - A hit and run accident was reported in the 800 block of 4th Street West. There are no suspects.

PUBLIC Notice

CITY OF HASTINGS SUMMARY PUBLICATION ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 2023-17 CITY CODE CHAPTER 155, ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING USES, SALES AND OPERATIONS OF CANNABIS AND HEMP BUSINESSES

On December 18, 2023, the City Council of the City of Hastings adopted Ordinance No. 2023-17 amending City Code Chapter 155, regarding Zoning Ordinance regarding the Uses, Sales and Operations of Cannabis and Hemp Businesses. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 412.191, in the case of a lengthy ordinance, a summary may be published. While a copy of the entire ordinance is available without cost at the office of the City Clerk, the following summary is approved by the City Council and shall be published in lieu of publishing the entire ordinance. The text amendment adopted by the Hastings City Council on December 18, 2023 modifies the Zoning Ordinance to allow on-sale and off-sale retail sales of cannabis beverages at restaurants and liquor stores.

John Hinzman
Community Development Director

Published: Hastings Journal: December 21, 2023 and December 28, 2023

CITY OF HASTINGS SUMMARY PUBLICATION ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 2023-18 ENACTING HASTINGS CITY CODE REGARDING MISSISSIPPI RIVER CORRIDOR CRITICAL AREA REGULATIONS, ZONING OVERLAY DISTRICTS AND WEED AND GRASS PROVISIONS

On December 18, 2023, the City Council of the City of Hastings adopted Ordinance No. 2023-18 enacting Hastings City Code, regarding Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Regulations, Zoning Overlay Districts and Weed and Grass Regulations. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 412.191, in the case of a lengthy ordinance, a summary may be published. While a copy of the entire ordinance is available without cost at the office of the City Clerk, the following summary is approved by the City Council and shall be published in lieu of publishing the entire ordinance. The text adopted by the Hastings City Council on December 18, 2023 modifies the City Code to include Chapter 152A MRCCA (Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area), amends Chapter 155.01 Official Zoning to add MRCCA overlay districts, amends Chapter 155.08 Signs to remove weed and grass provisions, amends Chapters 158.04 Property Maintenance Requirements and 90.05 Grass, Weeds, and Trees In Streets by adding an exemption to weed and grass provisions for certain areas within the MRCCA, and amends Chapter 95.21 Public Nuisances Affecting Health to add clarifying language to hazardous weeds and vegetation.

Justin Fortney
City Planner

Published: Hastings Journal: December 21, 2023 and December 28, 2023

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF DAKOTA DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT Court File No. 19-HA-PR-23-1076 NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS Estate of Marilyn Therese Sexton, also known as MArilyn T. Sexton, Decedent

Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative and the personal representative is empowered to fully administer the estate including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate, unless objections thereto are filed with the Court (pursuant to Section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representatives or to the Probate Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred. SIGNED BY: Denise Dodge, Registrar Date: December 20, 2023 Maria King, Court Administrator Date: December 20, 2023 Attorney for Personal Representative Megan Murray Bennet, I.D. 239938 Murray Bennett, P.A. 700 Twelve Oaks Center Drive, Suite 166 Wayzata, MN 55391

Notice is given, that an application for informal appointment of the above named decedent's last will dated April 4, 2017, has been filed with the Registrar herein, and the application has been granted informally probating such will. Any objections may be filed in the above, and the same will be heard by the Court upon notice of hearing fixed for such purpose. Notice is hereby further given that informal appointment of William M. Sexton, whose address is 8544 Delaney Court, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota 55076 and Timothy S. Sexton, whose address is 791 Evergreen Knolls, Mendota Heights, Minnesota 55118, as personal representative of the estate of the above-named decedent, has been made.

12 28, 1 5

DAKOTA COUNTY Court Reports

The following charges were filed in Dakota County Circuit Court:

Nicole Lee Ann Stine, 34, Hastings, was charged Dec. 18 with a felony count of possession of a controlled substance, stemming from an incident Jan. 22. According to the complaint, A Rosemount Police Dept. officer ran the plates of a passing vehicle, and the information showed the owner was deceased. The vehicle was pulled over after

radar readings of 74 mph in a 65 mph zone. The officer could see the passenger in the vehicle reaching toward the center console and moving items into the back seat. Stine was reportedly the vehicle passenger, and she told the officer she was moving her jacket to the back seat. Because of prior drug arrests, the officer asked Stine and the driver to exit the vehicle, which was then searched. Officers found three baggies containing what they suspect-

ed was methamphetamine, a glass pipe for marijuana, a glass bubble pipe and other items of drug paraphernalia. Stine admitted the drugs belonged to her. The substance inside the baggies was tested by the Dakota County Drug Task Force and was identified as methamphetamine.

Angel Dane Carrera-Valdez, 28, Owatonna, was charged Dec. 29 with fourth degree assault of a correctional facility employee by throwing or transferring bodily fluids. According to the complaint, while in custody at the Dakota County Adult Detention Center in Hastings, Valdez was heard saying "I got something for you" and "I have a biohazard." He refused deputies' orders to remove his shoes before entering the room per jail policy and then reportedly threw a Styrofoam tray covered "with a large amount of unknown liquid and human feces at deputies." When the tray hit the

ground, some of the liquid landed on a deputy's clothing.

Wyatt James Giese, 22, Hastings, was charged Dec. 18 with driving while under the influence of alcohol and driving while impaired with a blood-alcohol content of .08 or more, both gross misdemeanors. A Dakota County Sheriff's Deputy was called about a vehicle off the roadway at 160th St. East and Nicolai Ave. in Marshan Township at 5:20 p.m. on Dec. 17. The vehicle was reportedly parked in front of a tree with its lights on. The deputy found the driver reportedly slumped over behind the steering wheel and unresponsive. The driver was awakened and identified himself as Giese and reportedly said he was unsure of where he was but thought he was in his driveway. He was taken into custody, and a test showed a blood-alcohol content of .19.

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Twin Cities metro area counties launch a collaborative campaign to dispel myths about recycling in Minnesota

The Twin Cities metro area collects enough recyclables each year to equal the weight of about four large cruise ships. Questions about what happens to recycling after it leaves homes have been increasing over the years. Six metro counties are working together to restore trust in Minnesota's recycling system with this united message: In Minnesota, recycling exists. With the holidays bringing an increase in waste, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties want residents to know that recycling is real and it works. In Minnesota, recycled items become new products, locally and regionally, when recycling is done right. Minnesota is home to many recycling facilities that collect, sort, process and manufacture items made from the bottles, boxes and other containers residents put in their home recycling bins every day. Glass bottles and jars are sorted by color in St. Paul. Clear glass is sent to Shakopee to make bottles for drinks, pickles, salad dressing, and more. Plastic milk and laundry detergent jugs are made into durable decking, fencing and landscaping products in Paynesville, and plastic drink bottles and produce containers are made into new plastic bottles in Wisconsin and Ohio. Recycled paper and cardboard are made into cereal and cracker boxes in St. Paul. Recycled food cans are made into new products, such as wire, and parts for cars and appliances in the Midwest. Local efforts to recycle and reduce waste save energy, protect resources and support about 78,000 jobs in the state. Annually, the Twin Cities metro area recycles an average of 900,000 tons of paper and cardboard, metal, glass and plastic - that's the weight of about four large cruise ships. Learn more at RecyclingExists.com.



A Little Good News!

A weekly reflection from a member of the Hastings clergy

By Randy Berg

Pastor of Calvary Christian Church in Hastings

Kinda

I'm a kinda kind of person
 I got pulled over by the police once and he asked me if I saw the sign I said yes. Did you stop? Well, Kinda.
 As a child there were certain things I was supposed to do according to my parents. Sometimes they would check up on me. My mom would yell from the other side of the house. Are you cleaning your room? I would say yes but the answer was more Kinda.
 I was supposed to practice the piano for a half an hour a day. That's an awful long time when your friends are playing outside so I would quietly leave and my mom, when she heard nothing would yell again, did you practice for a half an hour? Kinda
 There were a lot of questions that seemed to have the same answer.
 Did you brush your teeth? Kinda
 Did you deliver all your newspapers? Kinda
 Did you rake the leaves in the front yard? Kinda

Did you clean up the dog poop in the yard? Kinda
 Did you pick up your dirty clothes off the floor? Kinda
 Did you put your dirty clothes in the hamper? Kinda
 As I got older kinda was used less as an excuse to not finish something and more as an indication of my ability to do something.
 Can you do 50 pushups? Kinda
 Can you do a cartwheel? Kinda
 Do you know how to swim? Kinda
 Can you do a flip off a diving board? Kinda
 Can you ride a skateboard? Kinda
 Can you do a wheelie on a motorcycle? Kinda
 Can you ski down a black diamond run? Kinda
 Can you dunk a basketball? Kinda
 Then there are the questions where kinda means you know a little or very little about something but want people to think you know more than you actually do.
 Do you know how to drive a forklift? Kinda
 Have you ever been cliff jumping? Kinda
 Have you ever read the Bible? Kinda

Do you understand the Bible? Kinda
 So you think the Bible is true? Kinda
 Do you know how someone becomes a Christian? Kinda
 Are you certain you are a Christian? Kinda
 I am a kinda kind of person but realize that for many things it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter if I can drive a forklift or not. But there are some things where it matters a lot, where eternity is at stake. The Bible says I can be certain of some things. I can be certain that God loves me just the way I am. Unfortunately, I have a problem called sin that keeps me from even knowing God and by my own ability I cannot solve that condition. The good news is, Jesus paid the price of my sin on the cross as God's gift to me. I can have all my sins taken away by receiving that gift He offers. Then and only then, I become a child of God. You can be a child of God too, a Christian whose eternity is settled and whose relationship with God is 100% secure. No ifs, ands, buts, or kindas. Oh, if you're keeping track, back in the day I could dunk a basketball. Can I today? Kinda.

A Look Back

Compiled by Joseph Back

**30 years ago
 Dec. 23, 1993**

With Hastings planning for a new pool 30 years ago, Jane Lightbourn reported that the city would seek an architect for a potential outdoor water park, the seeking for a new outdoor water park came after reports more than a year old that the city pool then in existence had been leaking thousands of gallons of water daily, the city deciding not to open it for summer 1994 as a result. A consultant for the city found the pool's size and "level of disrepair" made it "inadequate" for Hastings, with renovations costing more than the pool was worth.

Potentially coming soon at the Hastings Theater, owners were trying to get the New Year's Eve release of "Grumpy Old Men," a screen play starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Mathau based on a script by Hastings native Mark Steven Johnson. The story was to release Christmas Day to a limited audience, with Hastings Theater owners looking to get the New Year's Eve release the following week.

Closing out the news update from 1993, a dozen people had taken part in a prayer and candle lighting ceremony for homeless metro residents. The ceremony had taken place at the Veterans memorial at Roadside Park, with one candle lit for each member of the homeless community who had died in the Twin Cities. The event was organized by the Hastings Housing coalition and was part of a nationwide effort, with one-third of all homeless being veterans.

**55 years ago
 THE HASTINGS
 GAZETTE
 Dec. 26, 1968**

Late Letters to Dear Santa Claus
 "Dear Santa,
 Cindy M. wants a stroller, and an ironing board, and a Suzie homemaker, and a Baby Part doll. Jeffy forgot to tell you he wants ice skates. Size 12.
 Merry Xmas to Santa Claus,
 Love,
 Cindy"
 "Dear Santa,

How are you up at the North Pole Santa? I am fine here in Hastings, Minnesota. I might come and see you some day Santa. Do you know what I want for Christmas? I want a show projector for Christmas Santa. I wish you would come to Hastings someday. I want to see you in person here. There are many buildings going up here Santa Claus. How is Rudolph the reindeer Santa? Rudolph is coming on Dec. 6, 1968 on a Friday.
 Mike J. (Address specified)"

**80 years ago
 Dec. 31 1943**

Obituaries:
 Mrs. Rose Tix, 67, of a paralytic stroke at Hampton. Burial in church cemetery.

Mrs. George May of Vermillion, age 50, at the Latto hospital in Hastings.

Interment was in the church cemetery after funeral at St. John's.

Mrs. Edith Bossart, a teacher of several years experience, of pneumonia. Funeral from Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Paul.

Home news:

Coming in for news from 1943, the many fires in Hastings had drawn both radio commentary and news coverage, a possible arsonist being sought by city, state, and county officials alike, but with no arrests at press time. Eighteen fires had taken place, mostly confined to the business district.

Also of note from 1943, 26 Selective Service registrants were to be inducted into the Armed Forces by Draft Board No. 2, including the following:

- Hastings
- Leo J. Kasel
- George R. Bathwick
- Loran J. Matsch
- Wilbur H. Furney
- Roy Brennan
- Clement J. McNamara
- Thomas K. Sherry
- Kenneth V. Evans
- Elmer Frank
- Hampton
- Paul N. Tix
- August J. Turek
- Cannon Falls
- Claude E. Kennedy
- Welch
- Donald H. Krelberg
- John W. Bateman, "care of Northwest Airlines," Vandalia Ohio.

Farming news.
 Mild weather leads to a ground mole failing to burrow underground in time, instead running in circles above the frost line at Ravenna, with local farmer Charles Hach bringing the unfortunate to the newspaper office as evidence in case the story was doubted.

**Time and memory around
 World War I...
 Almost 105 years ago
 THE HASTINGS
 GAZETTE
 Feb. 23, 1918**

The Second Draft
 The second draft contingent from Dakota County will leave Hastings on Wednesday for Camp Dodge, Ia. Registrants who have been certified will be called to this city late Tuesday afternoon and inducted into military service of the United States at 5 p.m., remaining here overnight and entraining on Wednesday, at eight a.m. The following is a list of those leaving, as nearly correct as possible at present. A few changes may be made pending action of the district board.

(Some area communities)

- Hastings
- R. D. Hedlin
- J. H. Kirpach
- W. R. Harmon
- G. J. Lucking
- J. M. Karnick
- P. J. Becker
- Hampton
- Henry Thurmes
- J. L. Burr
- J. W. Berg
- New Trier
- J. C. Cample
- Cannon Falls
- W. B. Gretz
- B. C. Ista
- Vermillion
- N. A. Schwartz
- Joseph Gerlach (Drafted from outlying areas or addresses)
- Christian Christensen,
- Rosalie Nebraska
- Filiman Kapusiak,
- Cleveland, Ohio
- E. C. Hirschfeld, La-Crosse, Wisconsin
- Thomas Morek, Langford South Dakota
- Nich Simich, Grafton North Dakota
- Mike Golubitch, Chicago Illinois
- Wactaw Ostrowski, Syracuse New York
- J. J. Gleason, Maiden Rock Wisconsin
- "John Tasseff, Kansas City Missouri
- Peter Von Rinsum, Washburn Wisconsin
- Orville Shoulders, Los Angeles California
- J. D. Davies, Rock Island Illinois
- Matt. Lulich, Butte Montana

Feb. 16, 1918

Minor Topics.
 A special meeting of the Dakota County beekeepers was held at the Community Club rooms on Tuesday. G. C. Matthews and another speaker from the state university talked on the wintering and spring care of bees. The meeting was well attended, and an informal talk was held at the end, when many questions were answered.
 Another haul was made at Lake Rebecca on Tuesday which brought in about two tons of coarse fish. Monday night's catch was light.
 Joseph Grace, of Coates, had his left hand severely crushed by a gasoline engine last week and was taken to the Latto Hospital for treatment.

**Young Statehood...
 130 years ago
 THE HASTINGS
 GAZETTE
 June 17, 1893**

Obituary:
 Paul Lathrop, son of the Rev. and Mrs. E. R. Lathrop, at Hamline.
 General.
 Several cases of sun stroke are reported in Minnesota this week.
 That Earthquake.
 To the Editor of the Gazette:
 From your last weekly

issue I judge that you and some of your exchanges seem to be a little incredulous as to earthquakes in Minnesota. It is, perhaps, not strange that the science of seismology should not be well known here because the phenomena are not always observable by those ignorant of that science. It is, however, scientifically well known, however surprising it may be to the general public, that there is no section of the world free, for any protracted interval, from seismological phenomena. These earth tremors may not be noticeable even to the scientific mind, but are all recorded by the seismograph.
 J. P. Hearst, Presbyterian Manse, Hastings Minn.

**155 years ago
 DAKOTA COUNTY
 UNION**

**July 29, 1868
 THE GREAT TENNESSEE SNAKE**

The Monster shot dead by his pursuers—his length, thickness and general appearance—the skin to be exhibited throughout the Country
 Triune, Tenn. July 14, 1868

To the Editor of the Nashville Banner:

My letters to you on the subject of the "big snake," seem to have excited more attention than I dreamed of, and I am sorry that I wrote them at all, especially as so many express doubts as to the correctness of my statements. Even you, yourself, trying to think I am only trying the gullibility of the public. I would not now come to you again, even with a sworn statement, did I not have proof that will convince the most skeptical, all burlesque and sensational telegrams to the contrary notwithstanding. "Truth is

stranger than fiction," and if a man only believes what he sees, how little of history would be recorded.*

But I am able to offer, to a doubting public, that proof, namely: the monster himself *in propria persona***—for we have him the fiery snake that has created such an uproar. However, I will proceed with my narrative, and give you a plain unvarnished account of the facts...I wrote you on the 8th instant, that the serpent had broken his box and cleared for the woods. This created a great deal of consternation in the community, and all lay low until evening when the neighbors got together and devised some means to put an end to him. On a close examination of the box it was discovered there was a defective plank in it and it being wind shaken from one end to the other, and thus, when the captive began to surge he soon started this plank and was then able to break out.

The hole in the ground was now securely stopped and every one present determined to make it their business to hunt him up and destroy him. They felt it necessary for their safety...

(Men leave home at dawn armed and anxious)...They had walked some time when they became aware of a peculiar musky odor pervading the atmosphere. They had felt it at first, but it did not excite their attention until it became sickening in its power. Mr. Neill looked around unconsciously to see what could produce it, and there, within sixty yards of them, and just above, lay the serpent, the object of their dread...(think to run, then fire, throw guns, and "run for dear life")...The country was quickly alarmed...the spot was approached, to find the serpent gone, but leav-

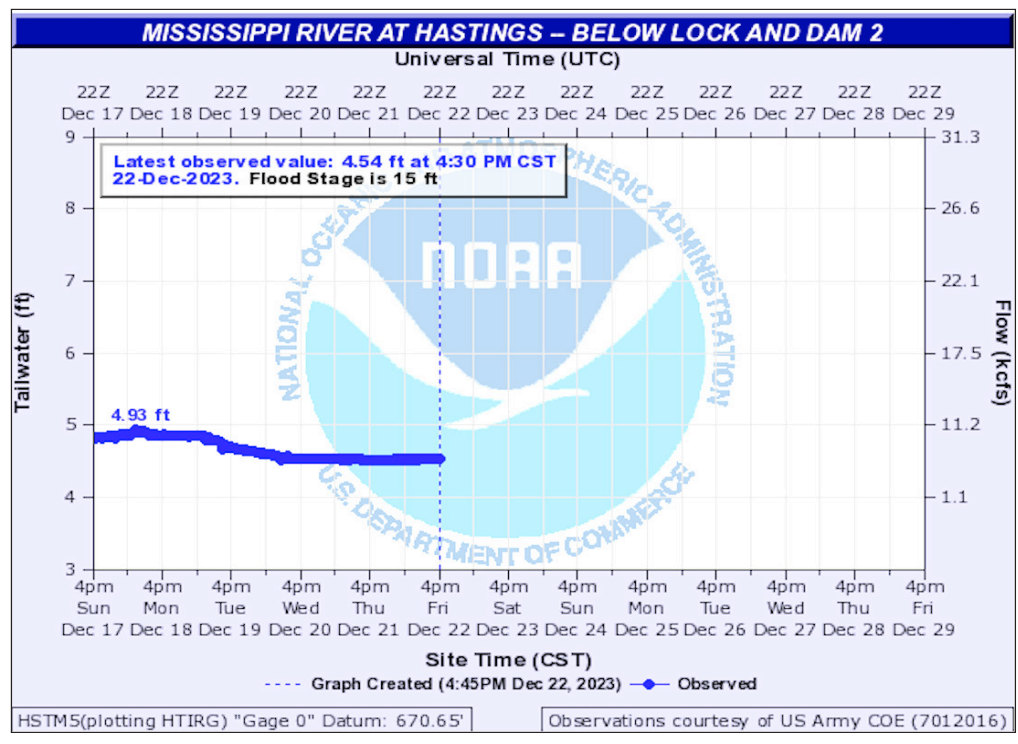
ing behind him such a great trail of blood they knew he was badly wounded...Great credit is due to the intrepidity of the gentlemen who shot him, for few would have dared it...(found and shot at distance, then dragged from site)...I took a good survey of him and found his length not so great as we had imagined, for he was twenty-nine feet eight inches from tip to tip. His greatest circumference was thirty and a half inches, and he was just seventeen inches around the neck, or rather just behind the head. About ten feet of his tail had a spiny ridge like that of an alligator. His head was the most formidable part about him, and was truly terrible to behold, even when dead. It was fully twenty inches across, and was armed with the most formidable set of sharp, small teeth, with four huge tusks. It had a hole in it just under the right eye, from the minnie ball, and a dent in the neck from the glancing ball of Mr. Irvine. Although he seemed, at a short distance, to be of a uniform dark color, on close inspection, I discovered that he was spotted like a rattlesnake, in diamond spots, and his belly was a bright bluish, black color. We cut him across in the middle and kind him both ways, thus preserving the head whole...(Carcass inflated to full size. Plans to tour the animal and present as a gift to Andrew Johnson).

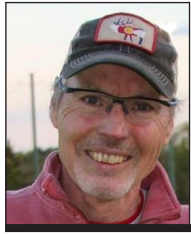
* An example of this being Herodotus' retelling of the Phoenician circumnavigation of Africa, which he himself found hard to believe based on the sun's claimed position by the sailors.

**in his own person.

HASTINGS River Report

The following river level data was logged and/or forecast for the Mississippi River at Hastings by the National Weather Service at water.weather.gov:





OUTDOOR Tales and Trails

BY DAVE BECK

The end of bow hunting season

When the achery and gun seasons roll around it's easy to get sidetracked with all of the great deer stories and photos. I am using that as my excuse for not reporting on own archery buck so spoiler alert: I bagged one. My story has few twists and turns so it may take the next three weeks to tell you. Along the way, it will include an old school trail camera, a murder of crows, a red tailed hawk, another buck, a fisher and a walleye outing to Red Wing. Before I get too far

ahead of myself, today I will stick with just the buck story. It begins a few days before the gun season and you know how that works. If you go into the gun season without a buck in the freezer there is added pressure. As the white-tailed rut rolled along I had a bunch of opportunities to shoot a buck but they just weren't that big and I decided to take my chances on the late season. On this particular morning the wind was perfect coming out of the southwest.

My tree stand was along the edge of the woods and my scent was whisked harmlessly to the north, away from where I had hoped deer would show up. Right on que, as shooting light arrived, so did two bucks. Added together they would not have made a decent eight pointer but the four pointers were better than just staring at corn stubble and soy beans. All too soon they moved off and even though the two little bucks were probably about three or four

years away from becoming eligible for my tag, watching them was better than watching nothing.

Maybe ten minutes later I looked off to the west and one hundred yards away stood a nine point buck. He just appeared. I haven't a clue as to where he came from but that didn't matter. What did matter was that he was coming my way. I have no idea how many bucks I've bagged in my career but I do know how many I got excited about: every single one of them. This guy was no different.

When the buck got to fifty yards out it felt like he was going to stay on his current path and the shot wasn't going to get any better than that. I was ready to let him walk away when he suddenly turned hard left and was going to cross from my right to left. Forty yards..... thirty yards.....twenty yards.

When he looked away I drew my bow and said:



A trail camera picture a couple of nights before my hunt. Photo by Dave Beck

"BEAAHHHHHH" which is my go to fake doe bleat in these situations. I'm not sure if he thought I was a doe or not but he did exactly what I wanted him to do. He stopped in his tracks and his ears rotated in all directions to pinpoint the sound that broke the morning silence.

An instant later the arrow was on it's way and when

you know, you know. Know what I mean? I watched him move off but he never left the field. My buck bow hunting season was over.

Didn't get enough Dave this week? Visit "Outdoor Trails and Tales with Dave Beck" on Facebook for photos and video of Dave's adventures.

JOURNAL

Business & Service Guide

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River Blades Skating School's 18th Annual Skate with Santa Event benefitting Hastings Family Service was a success. The River Blades figure skaters performed routines to holiday music and then invited the Hastings community to skate with Santa. It was an exciting event that raised \$500 for Hastings Family Service. *Photos submitted*



River Blades Skating School figure skaters competed in competitions at the M Health Sports Center and White Bear Lake recently. *Photos submitted*

River Blades Skating School skaters earn medals

The River Blades Skating School figure skaters representing the Hastings Civic Arena earned gold and silver medals in recent competitions.

The River Blades skaters competed at the M Health Sports Center Oct. 27-28 and at the White Bear Lake Holiday Open Dec. 2-4.

Hastings River Blades figure skaters competed in the team category and also competed solos and duets. Those categories included freestyle, entertaining, spotlight rou-

tines, jump and spin, and the interpretive category where you create a routine on the spot after hearing the music three times.

"We are so proud of our local figure skaters that represent Hastings," said River Blades owner and coach Amanda Truax.

The community is invited to stop in at the Hastings Civic Arena March 2 at 7 p.m. to watch River Blades figure skaters perform their spring production "TV Glide" on ice. The arena will

be transformed into a theater on ice where skaters perform to classical and current television shows.

Skaters that competed in alphabetical order:

- Emilee Bible
- Brooklyn Carpenter
- Madelyn Demorett
- Zoe Eschenbach
- Kajsa Groh
- Kora Groh
- Hannah Hoff
- Sydney Iverson
- Josie Jacobs
- Ella King
- Kennedy McCann

- Avery Mikonowicz
- Amelia Nitti
- Marissa Nitti
- Avery Piskor
- Chloe Qiu
- Livie Schmidt
- Lauryn Schulz

- Carly Sieben
- Lyla Sieben
- Abby Stagno
- Scouts Steineck
- Ella Wald

Team coaches

- Owner/Director, Amanda Truax
- Anna Deeg Agrimson
- Presley Braatz
- Kelly Demorett
- Cassie Palmersten

Boys Hockey moves to 5-4 on the season

By Bruce Karnick

bruce@hastingsjournal.news

Hastings boys hockey entered the week at 4-3 with two games scheduled before Christmas, Lakeville North on Dec. 19 and Anoka on Dec. 21. First against North, the boys fell 5-3 in a raucous game that saw quite a few post-whistle action sequences. The game against Anoka was a bit less chippy and dominated by the Raiders who pulled out the win 6-3.

The game against Lakeville North was a strange one. Recently, the Panthers have had the Raiders' number, but Hastings started out mostly in control of the game. At 6:57 into the first period, Brody Geib and Lukas Niederkorn connected with Sawyer Tjomsland to give the Raiders the lead. That lead survived 3:16 when North tied the game at one. That goal set off a few of the Raiders, and things started to get chippy.

At the 11:54 mark in the first, Lakeville nearly scored a goal and a series of pushes and shoves escalated quickly into eight minutes of penalties. Two Raiders and two Panthers were sent to the box for roughing. Two minutes later, the Raiders nearly scored and the same thing happened. There was pushing, shoving and the next thing you know, there was a rugby scrum on the ice. That sent two more Raiders and two more Panthers to the box, again for roughing. There were eight penalties called in



Head Coach Matt Klein has started the season by splitting time between his two goalies. Here, Ryan Clemens fought for the win against Lakeville North. The Raiders fell 5-3 after a four-goal third period. *Photo by Bruce Karnick*

the first period.

The game stayed tied until 8:29 into the second when Blake Vandehoef and Mason Boeff helped Luke Wahlstrom score his third of the season to give the Raiders the 2-1 lead. A penalty late in the second gave Hastings a powerplay and they did not waste it. With three seconds left in the period, Vandehoef and Jon Harris found Brody Carlson for the powerplay goal that sent the game to the locker room with the Raiders leading by two.

Hastings held on to that lead and mostly controlled the game until 8:46 into the third when North scored their first goal of the period. Lakeville scored three more goals in the period, including one empty net goal to win 5-3. Hastings had a solid lead and all the momentum in the game but

credit to the Panthers, they never gave up.

The game was a chippy one for sure with a total of 26 minutes of penalties on 13 infractions. Hastings had seven penalties and Lakeville had six. Hastings scored the only powerplay goal of the game. Hastings put the puck on the net 27 times and Clemens saw 26 shots in the loss for a .846 save percentage.

When Anoka came to town, it was a similar story - all Hastings in the first two periods and all their opponents in the third. Thankfully, the Raiders already had a 6-1 lead headed into the third. Harris kicked off the scoring 7:10 into the first with the assist going to Vandehoef. Ryder Regenscheid scored at 12:15 with the assist going to Wahlstrom and Johnny Teigland.



Luke Wahlstrom picked up his third goal of the season with teammate Connor Zgoda right behind him to give Hastings the lead in the second period against Lakeville North. *Photo by Bruce Karnick*

In the second, Connor Zgoda scored at 1:04, assisted by Harris, and then again at 7:46 with the assist to Harris and Teigland, giving the Raiders the 4-0 lead before

Anoka scored their first goal. Harris scored his second goal of the game with help from Zgoda and Boeff with just 14 seconds remaining in the second period. Hastings took the

6-1 lead to the locker room. In the third, Anoka scored the next two goals to cut the gap to 6-3, but that was all they could come up with.

This game was a little less active for the officials with both teams going to the box for six minutes each on three infractions apiece and both teams shut down any powerplays they faced. Hastings put the puck on goal 45 times to Anoka's 20, with Brooks Smyski logging the win and a .850 save percentage.

The boys will finish 2023 with a trip up Highway 61 to Doug Woog Arena in South St. Paul. The tournament starts on Dec. 26 with a conference game against the Packers. The rest of the games are not scheduled yet. The first boy's action in 2024 will be on Jan. 9 in Owatonna at 7 p.m.

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Girls Hockey on a two-game win streak

By Bruce Karnick
bruce@hastingsjournal.news

The Raiders girls hockey team entered the week at 4-6 with games against Rochester Century (4-8) and Park of Cottage Grove (6-5). The game against Rochester had the Raiders on the road on Dec. 19. Against Park, the girls were the first high school varsity team to play at the new SCHEELS Rink at the Tradition Veterans Complex at United Heroes League on the east edge of Hastings.

Against Rochester, the girls took an early lead when Emily Thuet and Jade Schauer connected with Addie Seleski for the game's first goal at 1:37. The Raiders extended their lead at 5:59, this time Schauer scored with assists going to Madyn Hanson and Ava Hoffman.

Hastings held on to their 2-0 lead into the second, which ended up being a repeat of the first. Hastings scored at 1:28 into the second. Autumn Burt earned her first goal of the game with help from Haley Siebenaler and Brooke Townsend. Sophie Thorkelson added another Raider goal with the help of Grace Petrich at 6:21.

Century scored one in the third to eliminate the shutout, but Hastings held on to win 4-1. The Raiders had three penalties for six minutes in the game while Rochester had one infraction for two



Junior Victoria Steinke earned the shutout against Park at the SCHEELS Rink at United Heroes League on Saturday afternoon. Photo courtesy of Beck Photography

minutes. All the goals were even strength goals. The Raiders took 41 shots while junior goalie Victoria Steinke faced two shots in the first period, stopping both, and sophomore Addison Lanning faced 12 shots the rest of the game, stopping 11 for a .917 save percentage.

The game against Park of Cottage Grove was originally scheduled for a Friday night tilt, but a unique opportunity was presented to the Raiders. United Heroes League (UHL) installed a chilled outdoor rink on their property over the summer and the girls were invited out to be the first official high school varsity game at the SCHEELS Rink at the Tradition Veterans Complex.

An outdoor game on December 23 in Minnesota

should not seem too difficult to have under normal circumstances but the weather has been a bit strange this December. Not only was it above 40 degrees overnight, but it was also a very wet morning with some rain and a lot of fog. The UHL crew with the assistance of Sliv McGree and Jesse Vial worked diligently to get the rink ready for the JV girls to take the ice at 11 a.m.

JV lost the entertaining game 5-3 and the warm weather delayed the varsity game slightly to a 1:15 start time. The varsity game started off slow. The ice conditions were a little sticky which slowed the game down a lot more than was expected in the first period. With less than three minutes to go in the first, Kacey Plank took a



The first goal of the game against Park was scored by Kacey Plank with the assist going to Autumn Burt. Photo courtesy of Beck Photography

pass from Autumn Burt on a Raider powerplay, and Plank found white lace at 14:05.

The second period was a stark contrast to the first. The air temperature started to drop which brought the game tempo up to normal, but that tempo change also brought about a plethora of craziness and penalties. There were six penalties alone in the second period, five going against Park. At one point, there were three Park skaters in the penalty box and one Raider. It was a wild second period. Seleski added another goal to her stat sheet less than a minute into the period, and Burt added another point with her second assist of the game. Hastings went to the second intermission leading 2-0.

The third period calmed down significantly with only

one penalty to Ava Hoffman. Normally, the name is not mentioned for penalties, but the conversation that happened between the official scorer for the Raiders and Ava was not only amusing but fun to speculate that it led to the final goal of the game for Hastings. The official scorer was Ava's father, Adam Hoffman.

Adam smarted off to Ava as she sat down, "How do you spell your last name?"

A good laugh was had by those who heard it, then a discussion took place about the game, and of course, dad had to give her a little ribbing for not scoring yet this game. What does she do? Gets out of the penalty box and almost instantly has a 2-on-1 scoring opportunity. It was unclear what exactly happened, but

Ava took the pass from her teammate and scored. There was a lengthy discussion by the officials, and the goal was waved off. Before the goal was waved off, there was celebratory laughter about how the conversation motivated her to score.

With Hastings leading 2-0, Park pulled their goalie with three minutes remaining. Hastings cleared the puck a few times toward the empty net with the first one bouncing off the side, missing by inches. The second clear by Hoffman slid right down the middle of the ice scoring the unassisted empty net goal at 15:12 of the third period.

Hastings had a total of 30 shots on goal to Park's 31 in the 3-0 win. Steinke earned her second shutout of the season, stopping all 30 shots. Hastings went to the box for four minutes on two infractions and Park went six times for 12 minutes. Hastings scored on one powerplay.

The Raiders will finish 2023 at the Burnsville Tournament. First on the schedule for the tournament is Eastview on Dec. 27 at 5 p.m. Dec. 28 they face Metro-South at 7 p.m. and then finish the tournament against Hopkins on Dec. 29 at 5 p.m. The Raiders will kick off 2024 with a rematch against Two Rivers/St. Paul on Jan. 3 at home at 7 p.m.

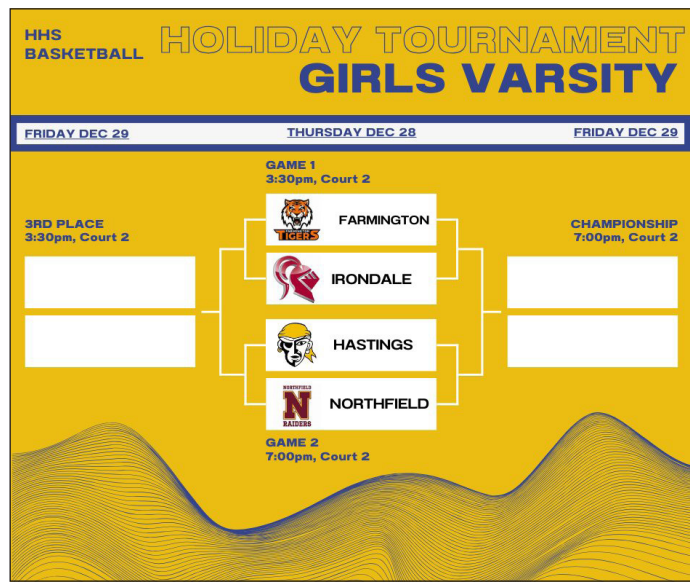
Raiders girls defeat Bloomington Kennedy

The Hastings girls basketball team built an early lead in defeating Bloomington Kennedy 69-55 at home on Thursday, Dec. 21.

The Raiders connected on 52% of their shots on the night. Keagan McVicker finished with 24 points to lead all scorers. She also had five assists, six rebounds and two steals.

Haley Strain scored 19 points and grabbed 13 rebounds. Emma Bakker scored 14 points. Lindsey Wagner added six points, while Rachel Notch, Kate Ruder and Piper Brockman had two each.

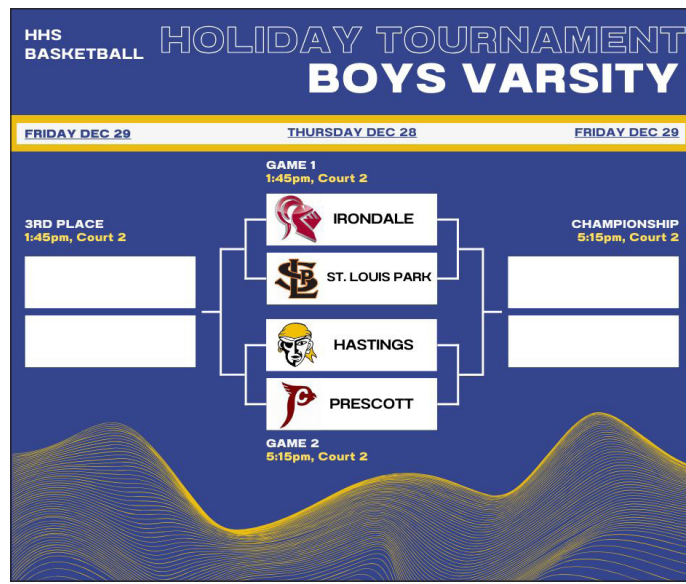
With the win, the Raiders are 4-4 in early-season play. They will be in action this week at the Hastings Holiday Tournament with a game against Northfield Thursday



The Hastings High School Holiday Tournament will be played Thursday and Friday of this week.

at 7 p.m. Hastings will play at either 3:30 p.m. or 7 p.m. Friday against either Farmington or Irondale.

Hastings boys down Woodbury
The Hastings boys basket-



ball team upped its non-conference record to 4-3 with a 75-62 win at Woodbury on Thursday.

The boys will be in action against Prescott Thursday, Dec. 28 for a 5:15 p.m. game as part of the Hastings Holi-

day Tournament.

Against Woodbury, the Raiders were led by four scorers in double figures. Kyan Esterby had 22 points, connecting on 4-6 from behind the three-point line. Kellen Nuyten scored 14 points, and grabbed 10 rebounds. Owen Bernatz had 12 points and nine rebounds, while Matthew Foss had 11 points and four assists.

Weston Schult managed the offense with eight assists in the game.

In the second game of the HHS Holiday Tournament, the Raiders will play either Irondale or St. Louis Park. The third place game is set for 1:45 p.m. Friday, and the championship game is at 5:15 p.m.

Goal of new litter on ice law: keep Minnesota's lakes and rivers clean

Every winter, hundreds of thousands of anglers head for the frozen water to fish. Most ice anglers clean up after themselves, but some don't — and it's their behavior that was the impetus for a new litter-on-ice law the Minnesota Legislature passed earlier this year.

Ice conditions so far this season have been highly variable and safety has to be anglers' top priority.

As anglers venture out, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds them that the new law requires people to secure their trash in a container such as a bucket, garbage bag or trash bin, and makes clear that depositing sewage — whether from animals or humans — on the ice is prohibited. The latter, particularly as it relates to human waste, has been an increasing problem

in recent years, with some owners of deluxe fish houses (also known as wheelhouses) dumping their holding tanks on the ice before heading for shore.

The new law makes it easier for conservation officers and other law enforcement personnel to take enforcement action against people who leave trash and waste on the ice.

"Most anglers leave nothing more than an impression

on the ice, and many of them actually take the time to clean up after others because they know trash and waste left on the ice is an eyesore and environmental and human health concern," said Col. Rodmen Smith, director of the DNR Enforcement Division. "We certainly appreciate that mindset, but the reality is we expect all anglers to bring off the ice whatever

they brought on. This law will help all of us ensure that happens."

The new statute reads: "A person using a shelter, a motor vehicle, or any other conveyance on the ice of state waters may not deposit garbage, rubbish, cigarette filters, debris from fireworks, offal, the body of a dead animal, litter, sewage, or any other waste outside the shelter, motor vehicle, or conveyance, unless the material is: Placed in a container that is secured to the shelter, motor vehicle, or conveyance, and not placed directly on the ice or in state waters. For the purposes of this section, 'sewage' means excrementitious or other discharge from the bodies of human beings or animals, together with such other water as may be present."

ing more than an impression on the ice, and many of them actually take the time to clean up after others because they know trash and waste left on the ice is an eyesore and environmental and human health concern," said Col. Rodmen Smith, director of the DNR Enforcement Division. "We certainly appreciate that mindset, but the reality is we expect all anglers to bring off the ice whatever

Community action meetings on invasive carp set

The Minnesota DNR recently reported its largest-ever catch of invasive carp in Minnesota waters with over 400 fish in the Mississippi River near Winona. In light of this,

Friends of the Mississippi River and Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance will be co-hosting community action meetings (including a virtual option) to engage people in efforts to

protect our rivers, lakes and streams from invasive carp. These meetings will build on previous research we've done and recent legislative efforts.

The Minnesota DNR

is expected to present its newly updated Invasive Carp Action Plan at this meeting. There will also be time for attendees to ask questions and share their feedback.

Meetings are scheduled for:

January 24, 5-7 pm: Red Wing (Anderson Center)

January 30, 5-7 pm: St. Paul and virtual (St. Paul Yacht Club or Zoom)

February 1, 5-7 pm: Winona (Marine Art Museum)

Details and registration for all events are at www.fmr.org/carp-event.

Fire

from Page 1

short caused the fire. The wire coating was worn though at a staple.

"It eventually got hot enough, and it ignited. The wiring was probably installed 20-30 years ago," Mike said.

The Bauers are living with Mike's father now but are looking to rent a home until theirs is rebuilt.

To say they are being inundated with community support is perhaps an understatement. Grace Bauer set up a gofundme plea looking to help the family. As of Saturday morning, it had raised

\$38,000, \$3,000 over its goal of \$35,000.

She wrote on the GoFundMe page, "My name is Grace Bauer, daughter/sister to the Bauer family whose house caught fire in Hampton, MN. I've set up this page for family, neighbors, friends and the community who have asked how they can help.

"The Bauer family is devastated with the loss of their home. This family of six, with two parents, two teen daughters and two young sons, needs your help during this traumatic experience. Nobody ever thinks this could happen to their childhood home, their dad's childhood home, their grandpa's childhood home until it does.

My parents and four siblings who lived at home lost everything, not to mention all my siblings and me, my dad and aunts/uncles, and my grandpa lost the home they grew up in. My grandpa was literally born in that house.

"The fire left my family with nothing but the clothes on their back. They are now faced with an overwhelming task of rebuilding their lives from nothing and with many, many unanticipated expenses.

"Thank you for your support and for extending a helping hand to this family in their time of crisis. The support that the community has already shown is the beacon of hope this family so des-

perately needs."

Mike Bauer said the family is amazed at the outpouring of love, help and support.

"This community is something else. It's almost overwhelming, the support and concern and the prayers and everything the community is doing, it makes you have faith back in humanity. When you're down on your luck in our community, no matter what your situation is, community is there to help you out. That's very refreshing," he said.

On Friday, he dropped off a son who attends St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School.

"I was told I needed to stop in the office to get a few

things that were dropped off, and I came home with my van half full, plus there was an envelope full of gift cards. It's amazing how much people are actually out there, going above and beyond in my opinion of what I ever thought they would," Mike said.

He said the kids have adjusted well.

"They all are troopers. They are taking it in stride. They all put their best foot forward. They miss their home, but they realize this is what life has dealt us, but we have some strong support. We can get through it. God is looking out for us, and we're just moving forward," said Mike. "We're so

thankful. I just want to say thank you to anyone and everyone who said a prayer for us, gave a donation or had a kind thought toward us or helped spread the word of our situation or whatever it may be. That means a lot to us. We're overwhelmed with all the generosity that we've received. It makes us very proud and happy to be a part of this community we're living in."

So, despite the loss, the Bauers are prepared to have perhaps their best Christmas.

"I'd say we have each other, and that's the best gift we can give each other," said Mike.