

OUR VIEW

Right call made in reversing newsprint tariffs

A collective sigh of relief could be felt across the country last week as the nation's newspapers, including the Steele County Times, celebrated the overturning of Canadian tariffs on newsprint. It was a huge victory for the newspaper industry.

The International Trade Commission voted unanimously not to impose permanent tariffs upon the North American newsprint supply.

Back in April, we told you about how the newspaper industry was fighting a war of unnecessary tariffs that were beginning to erode an industry that has already faced many challenges in recent years. In the wake of the tariffs, newsprint producers began escalating their prices to U.S. newspapers.

The tariffs had already disrupted the newsprint market, increasing newsprint costs by 30 percent and forcing many newspapers to reduce their print distribution and cut staff. Just last week, the Austin and Albert Lea dailies announced they are trimming back one day of distribution, cutting out the Monday editions.

The Minnesota Newspaper Association, which this newspaper has been a member of for years, joined in the battle by fighting against the tariffs. Members of the association's board traveled to Washington, D.C. to voice their displeasure to key lawmakers, including Sen. Amy Klobuchar, about the tariffs earlier this summer. It apparently worked. The tariffs have been repealed.

"We are immensely gratified today by the ITC's vote not to impose permanent tariffs upon the North American newsprint supply," said Susan Rowell, president of the National Newspaper Association. "The paper markets serving community newspapers can soon begin to move back to market pricing without the heavy hand of government imposing taxes upon the primary suppliers of newsprint."

The tariffs would have been unsustainable for newspapers, other printers and publishers.

We believe the ITC made the right call in reversing these harmful tariffs. It's not only welcome news for newspapers, but also for the communities served by those newspapers.

Everyone relies on a newspaper to cover community news, tell the local stories, advertise sales and promotions, get pictures of a sporting championship and be the overall cheerleader for the community. Without the ITC's reversal, all that a local newspaper offers was at risk of becoming severely diminished or even extinct in some communities.

We think you will agree that newspapers are important to community life and democracy. Newspapers are the lifeline to a free society. Keeping that lifeline intact is important to our very existence.

With the reversal of the tariffs, we hope publishers across the country will see a full and quick recovery. Our democracy depends on it.

3 brothers, 3 champions at state

It's not uncommon for a little sibling rivalry to creep into families. But there was no time for any such thing at this year's Minnesota State Fair for the Katzung brothers of Owatonna.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

The three—Jace, Jacob and Joshua—celebrated something that is almost unheard of in the livestock show circles. They each won champions with different dairy steers and qualified for the elite Purple Ribbon Livestock Auction, which was held on Aug. 25. In fact, Jacob went as far to say he doesn't know that a family of three has ever accomplished something like this before in one show.

Youngest Jace earned third overall champion while oldest Jacob notched champion in Division II and middle brother Joshua rounded things out with champion in Division IV. In the auction, Jace earned \$6,350 for his purple ribbon while the other two each brought in \$6,340. The grand champion steer out of Freeborn County sold for a record \$18,000.

In addition to the top placings, Joshua achieved senior dairy showman champion out of 30 exhibitors competing in the show. "It was pretty cool," he said. "I had a well prepared steer."

The Katzungs had a little trouble containing their excitement after they finished showing their animals in the auction.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," smiling Jacob said. "It was definitely a surprise that all the steers

lined up with what the judge liked all in separate classes."

Jacob continued on in his excitement by saying, "All the hard work is paying off. This is the best I've ever done. I've never had champion before."

Qualifying for the auction has always been a goal for the Katzung trio. "If you make it into the auction, you're part of the elite," Jacob said. "It takes a lot of hard work to get there."

Teamwork is what landed the Katzungs at the pinnacle of the 4-H livestock project. Throw in a little family unity into the mix as well.

"It's a team effort every day. It involves the whole family, not just the kids. Everybody's hands are in feeding them," Jacob said. While they were at the auction, grandpa Jerry was at home feeding and taking care of the rest of the steers. Jerry operates a farm south of Owatonna. They have about 20 steers. Their father, Kelly, keeps busy as one of the owners of Northland Farm Systems in Owatonna.

Joshua said, "At the end of the day, it's not about us, but our whole family."

Added Jace with a laugh, "It's bonding. Sometimes we yell at each other."

The three, who are members of the Meriden Meadowlarks 4-H Club, agreed it was cool to be in the auction with all of their names being announced almost one after another. There was one teenager from



Jace, Jacob and Joshua Katzung of Owatonna proudly display their champion dairy steers during the 4-H Purple Ribbon Livestock Auction Aug. 25 at the Minnesota State Fair in Falcon Heights. Each of the brothers earned a champion with their steers and qualified for the elite auction.

another county in the middle of the three. "It's a pretty exciting experience. We had adrenalin. We were jacked," Jacob said.

Being involved in 4-H runs in the family. Their father showed cattle in 4-H. By the time Jacob got around to showing in 4-H, they initially started showing hogs, but "grandma really wanted us to show cattle," Jacob said.

This year's State Fair competition was Jacob's final hurrah in 4-H. The 19-year-old graduates from 4-H and will no longer be able to compete. But don't expect him to sit idle.

"It's not over for me," said Jacob. "I'll be carrying the water pale, feed and brush (for my brothers). Just won't be out in the ring. Once you're in it with your family, you're in it

until the last one."

While his 4-H days may be over, Jacob is focused on college. He is in his second year at South Central in Mankato where he is majoring in agribusiness service and management.

And what do the brothers plan to do with their combined earnings of nearly \$19,000 from the auction?

"Reinvest in the project to buy more steers," Jacob said. And, he added, maybe some for college.

The triumphs and achievements of the Katzung brothers show evidence of good things happening with our youth. It's so refreshing to see young people committed to excellence, even if, as in the case of the Katzungs, it means going in hot pursuit of siblings taking all.

GUEST COLUMN

Capturing philanthropic wealth in rural communities

By TIM PENNY

Several months ago, I was pleased to see my hometown of Kiester join forces with five nearby towns to create a new community foundation called Our Town USA. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we support communities in capturing and retaining philanthropic wealth through community foundations like this. This has become increasingly important as \$7 billion is expected to transfer between generations by the year 2030 in SMIF's 20 counties.

In southern Minnesota, 30 percent of our 176 communities are home to a community foundation. More than half of these are administered by SMIF. SMIF currently assists in managing 28 small town community funds. These local foundations provide direct support for projects and programming important to their community, ranging from early childhood, tourism amenities and marketing, community events and much more.

SMIF acts as more than just the

fiscal agent for these community foundations. We provide board facilitation and training, marketing and planned giving support; fiscal oversight and investment of the funds; and all necessary financial filings. SMIF has also provided a total of \$514,000 in grant and endowment matching dollars so far to our 28 community funds to further their local efforts. In addition to community foundations, SMIF offers a wide range of other affiliate funds to help communities retain philanthropic wealth, including Donor Advised Funds, Scholarship Funds and Disaster Relief Funds.

SMIF's community foundations are also a great mechanism for supporting our retiring farmers while keeping rural Minnesota's agricultural assets in production. The average age of farmers in southern Minnesota is 55 years and climbing. Farmland will account for a large portion of the transfer of wealth, yet it remains unclear to whom this wealth will be transferred. For every six farmers 65

or older, there is only one under the age of 35 standing in line to replace them, according to the 2012 USDA Ag Census.

However, there is a model that allows retiring farmers the peace of mind that their land will continue to be farmed by a new generation. In 2014 SMIF launched a farmland retention program called Preserving our Heritage. What makes this model unique is that rather than liquidate the asset as most charities do, we keep the land, continue it as productive farmland and use the income stream to support impactful community work.

Choosing to donate one's land is an enormous benefit on all fronts: The landowner will receive a tax deduction and bypass capital gains while still being able to maintain a stable revenue source. The tenant can continue to rent and farm the land. The county maintains its tax base. The foundation retains ownership and acts as a steward of this resource to ensure the community benefits long-term

from the income generated. Most importantly, the farmer leaves a legacy for their community.

Through this program, retiring farmers can give some or all of their land directly to one of the many community foundations that exist under SMIF's umbrella, allowing farmers to support their individual communities. When a farmer is thinking about estate planning, it can be a comfort to know there is a way their land can remain active farmland and provide them with a steady revenue stream, while in the long-term also benefitting the communities and causes they care about most.

Our community foundations and other affiliate funds are doing amazing work and have to date invested \$4.6 million through grant making to their communities. They are keeping our rural communities vibrant, providing funding for today and into the future. We are proud to be in a position to support their efforts. SMIF's 28 community foundations include Alden, Blue

Earth, Byron, Eagle Lake, Ellendale, Elysian, Goodhue, Harmony, Henderson, Lanesboro, Le Sueur, Mabel, Madison Lake, Mapleton, Montgomery, New Prague, Our Town USA-United South-Central School District, Plainview, Preston, Rushford, Sleepy Eye, St. Charles, St. James, Spring Valley, Wabasha-Kellogg, Wanamingo, Winthrop, and Zumbro Valley. Many serve multiple area communities.

For questions about starting a community foundation contact Alissa Oeltjenbruns, Community Philanthropy Director, at alissao@smifoundation.org or 507-214-7023 For questions about the farmland retention program please contact Jennifer Nelson, VP of Development at jennifern@smifoundation.org or 507-214-7025.

Tim Penny is the president and CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation based in Owatonna. He is also a former U.S. Congressman who served in Minnesota's First District from 1982 to 1994.

YOUR VIEW

A big thanks to historical society volunteers

To-the-Editor:

The Steele County Historical Society staff and board members wish to thank the many volunteers who helped to make this fair a success! Your time, talents, and commitment to preserving and sharing history today for tomorrow were evident throughout the week.

Weather conditions were challenging at times, but you preserved and exhibited flexibility when called upon. We appreciated your willingness to be available as building host/hostess in the Village of Yesteryear while others generously shared their musical talent in the Dunnell house. Other volunteers served ice cream and pop at the Beaver Lake Pop Stand while some monitored our exhibit

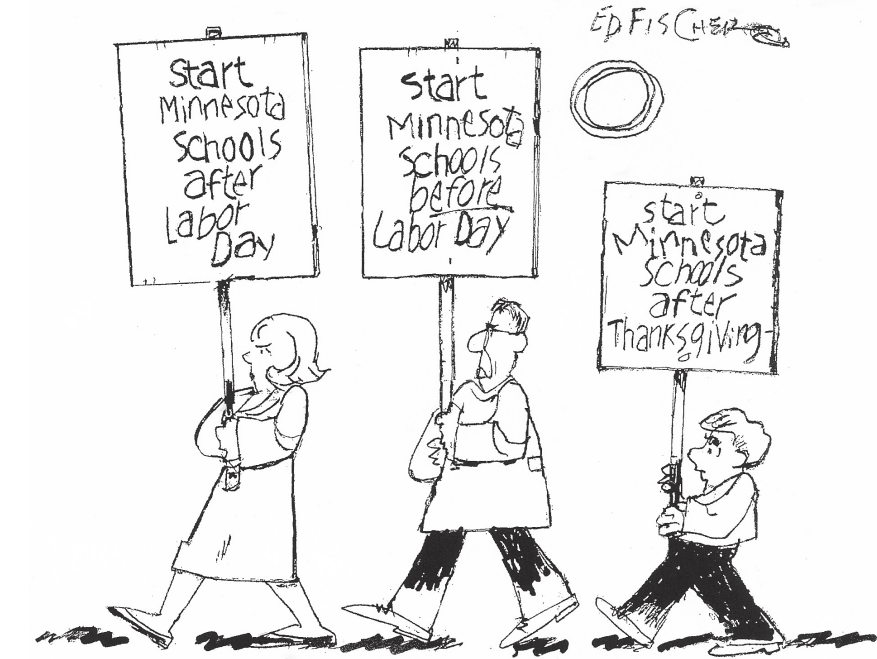
hall, welcoming guests to the history center and the gift shop.

During fair week, our SCHS volunteers donated over 1,000 hours to insure our success!

Again, thank you!

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