

Local news

Faith groups call on Hagedorn to help refugees

BY MATTHEW STOLLE
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A group of leaders from various faith communities showed up at Rep. Jim Hagedorn's Rochester



Hagedorn

office on Friday to discuss the crisis at the southern border and to call on the congressman to do what he can to “end the inhumane treatment of immigrants and refugees.” Several said that news reports coming from the border — of families being separated, children taking care of babies, children sleeping on floors — were offensive to their religious traditions and values. “(We believe) above all else to love our God by loving our neighbors and not just the neighbors in my little neighborhood but our

neighboring nations as well,” said the Rev. Karen Larson, a pastor at Zwingli United Church of Christ in West Concord. The gathering at Hagedorn's office was organized by ISALAH, a statewide, faith-based group that criticized the first-term Republican congressman in a press release for aligning himself with what they called President Trump's “hard-hearted immigration positions that betray the values of constituents” in his district. Hagedorn was not present when the group showed up, but they were greeted by two of his aides, Ryan Altman and Aaron Eberhart, who escorted the group to a small conference room. They took notes as the faith representatives spoke. In a statement, a Hagedorn spokeswoman said that the congressman is always willing to listen to constituents visiting his office. Becky Rogness, Hagedorn's spokeswoman, said that Hagedorn voted 18 times for humanitarian

funding to be provided to overwhelmed agencies, but 18 times Speaker Nancy Pelosi blocked those attempts. That \$4.6 billion bill passed the House on Thursday. “Of course, people should be treated with dignity and respect,” Rogness said. “Rep. Hagedorn is a strong supporter of human rights from womb to tomb. Federal funding for humanitarian aid could already be at the border if Speaker Pelosi hadn't played politics over the issue for so long.” Hagedorn was certain to be asked about the border crisis during a town hall meeting Friday night at Rochester Community and Technical College. The meeting occurred after the Post Bulletin went to press. The Rev. Charlie Leonard, a senior pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Rochester, said the way the U.S. is handling the situation at the southern border is “at complete odds” with “so many things that we pray for on a

weekly basis.” “I will say that if the evangelical Christian community in this country wants to claim that this is a Christian country, they will need to step up with love as opposed to fear,” Leonard said. “(They will need to recall) that the one we worship was a refugee infant within weeks of his birth. That is the core of our faith.” The gathering at Hagedorn's office came a day after the House passed the \$4.6 billion Senate bill to send emergency funding to the border. The bill will provide billions of dollars to be used to care for children in federal custody and does not include any funding for a border wall. But the vote provoked a split within the House Democratic caucus between progressives and moderates. Progressives supported a House measure that would have done more to protect migrant children in government custody. But that bill faced bleak prospects in

the GOP-controlled Senate and was criticized by President Trump. The Senate measure passed by the House now heads to the White House for Trump's signature. The crisis at the border took on a more human dimension this week when a migrant father and his 23-month-old daughter drowned on the banks of the Rio Grande, a photograph of which was widely circulated. Rosine Tenenbaum, a 76-year-old Winona woman, was born in France during the Nazi occupation. Many members of her Jewish family, including several children, were exterminated during the Holocaust. When she saw on television how migrant children at the border were being treated, it reminded her of “what was done in Europe by the Nazis.” “It is a slippery slope. Hitler didn't start immediately with his program,” Tenebaum said. “But as you dehumanize some people, as you say, it is a slippery slope.”

Man arrested in connection with KFC shooting

BY EMILY CUTTS
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A Rochester man — believed not to be the shooter — is being held on \$50,000 conditional bail for his alleged involvement in a shooting at a local fast food restaurant on Tuesday. Karshe Hussein Adan, 26, was charged in Olmsted County District Court with first-degree aid/abet aggravated robbery and second-degree aid/abet aggravated robbery. Both are felonies. During his appearance in court Friday morning, Judge Joseph Chase set bail in the amount of \$50,000 conditional and \$100,000 unconditional. Adan's next court hearing is scheduled for July 9. Adan was arrested around 4 p.m. Thursday at a residence in the 5300 block of King Arthur Drive Northwest. He reportedly told police that he was in the wrong place at the wrong time, but did not want anyone to get shot, according to court records. A search warrant of the residence was also conducted. Rochester police were called to Kentucky Fried Chicken, 717 12th St. SE, at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday. Witnesses reported hearing multiple gunshots. Lt. Police would later find three 9 mm shell casings. When police arrived, they were rerouted to Olmsted Medical Center on Ninth Street Southeast, where the injured man had been taken. Police found the 24-year-old Rochester man



Adan

being tended to by medical staff. The man was taken to Mayo Clinic Hospital-Saint Marys with injuries to his shoulder/upper left arm and a graze wound across his chest. Police did not release his name. The man told police he had gone to KFC to purchase “something,” Ohm said. Sadauskis said Friday that the incident was a “drug deal gone bad” and the incident was not random. Court documents state that the man went to buy 10 oxycodone pills. As the alleged victim described the incident to officers, three other people were in the vehicle with him at the time — an adult woman and two young children. The man told police that he approached the other car and one person got out and he took a seat in the back. When the man saw the front passenger had a gun, he tried to punch the other man and ran to his own car, according to court records. As he ran and put his vehicle in drive, he was shot. That vehicle, a red Jeep Grand Cherokee, was wrapped in police tape in the OMC parking lot Tuesday night. Police later found that five rounds had been fired into the vehicle. Police found multiple shell casings in the KFC parking lot. The vehicle believed to have been used by the shooters was located later Tuesday, abandoned in the Quarry Hill West Pavillon area, Ohm said. The 2014 Silver Nissan Altima had been reported stolen while police were responding to the call. Inside the vehicle, police located \$220 in cash. The incident remains under investigation.

ANSWERMAN

Flood control came with \$140 million price tag

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This Classic Answer Man was first published in April 2006.*

Magnificent One, you recently mentioned the Rochester flood control project, which made me wonder, how much did taxpayers fork over for the South Fork Zumbro River project? — Boondogglr The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sank \$97 million into the project, with another \$18 million coordinated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. About \$25 million was raised by a special city sales tax. The Corps work included 5.7 miles of riprappping along the channel of the Zumbro, Cascade Creek and Bear Creek, as well as bike trails and other features. The NRCS project also involved building seven upstream reservoirs, creation of

Chester Woods County Park and other features. The Corps describes these as two separate projects, and together they provide the city with protection against what's described as a 200-year flood, the type of catastrophe that's likely to hit only once in several lifetimes. If Boondogglr was here in 1978, when the last major flood caused \$79 million in damage and killed five people, including four trapped in a nursing home along Bear Creek, he might have a different opinion of the project. **Is it still true that you can check tire tread wear with a penny? — N.S.** I gave my favorite auto mechanic a penny for his thoughts, and yes, nothing has changed in the penny tire tread department. Stick a penny into

several tread grooves across the tire — if part of Abe's head is covered in each of the treads, you have more than 2/32-inch of tread depth remaining, which most tire experts would say is OK. I've never understood why the penny is the magic coin in car care, since most people hate pennies to begin with. In fact, you can also check tire tread with a quarter — if part of George's head is covered by tread, you have more than 4/32-inch of tread remaining. It's easier just to watch for the tread-wear bars that appear when your tires are worn to less than 2/32-inch. The Answer Man measures his tire tread with a silver dollar. Send questions to answerman@postbulletin.com

Murder

From page **A1** Reyes' mother told police he had been coming to the residence more frequently as of late and that she had changed the locks to keep him out of the house. Hicks' half-brother, Derez Ewing, told police that he was hanging out with Hicks just before 6 p.m. that evening when he borrowed a friend's vehicle to drive to Kwik Trip to get some drinks, according

to court records. Ewing was on the phone with Hicks when he pulled in to the parking lot and as he was walking into the store saw Reyes. Ewing told officers he recognized Reyes because of prior altercations and on one occasion Reyes displayed a gun. As Ewing was walking toward the store, Reyes reportedly yelled out to him that he wanted to talk so they could “squash the beef,” court records state. After making his purchases, Ewing left the store and walked over to Reyes' location. The two were facing each

other and Reyes reportedly displayed a black semi-automatic handgun and reportedly told Ewing he would kill him. Ewing saw Hicks walk toward them and attempted to warn him not to come any closer, as Reyes had a gun. Hicks kept walking towards the group and Reyes allegedly pulled the handgun from his waistband, turned around and started walking towards Hicks while shooting the gun — firing at least two times before striking Hicks, who then fell face forward into the street.

Takeover

From page **A1** “It's not as critical now as it was when Kvenvold and I were there,” he added, noting the Rochester-Olmsted Council of Governments now is responsible for some of the coordinated efforts. Others said the change has been a long time coming, “I first got involved as a volunteer with local government in 2006, I think I've been advocating the need of a city-focused planning, visionary department since that time,” Rochester City Council Member Michael Wojcik said. On Monday, Rochester's newly created Community Development Department takes over many of the city planning efforts that have long been part of the consolidated effort. Now, as Rochester and the surrounding region face new growth in the wake of the Destination Medical Center initiative and other economic development efforts, city officials are hoping a city-centric department will provide avenues for more development guidance while also paving the way for future projects.

It hasn't been an overnight shift. Some efforts at separating the planning departments were discussed when Devlin and Kvenvold were still top administrators in the city-county Government Center. One of the key players in those efforts, Jerry Williams, said it's good to see the process moving forward. “This is only six years later, so we are moving on this,” he said, referring to a 2013 task force recommendation that the city hire someone to work directly with developers and find ways to smooth out the rough spots and create an equal playing field. On Sept. 16, 2018, the Rochester City Council voted 6-1 to start the process of creating a new department, eventually hiring Cindy Steinhauser as its director in December. On Monday, Steinhauser will have seven of 12 planned staff members under her direction, with the remaining hires in various stages. “I believe it is definitely headed in the right direction,” said Williams, who has continued to talk to city officials about planning department changes in recent

years. Members of the development community who watched efforts to combine the two departments in the past year offer mixed options on the new division of duties. “The joint organization worked well, but it's about time,” said Bill Tointon, a senior planner at WSB's Rochester office. He said when the two efforts were combined the consolidation allowed for improved work on projects that crossed borders, but the resulting process has hindered other efforts. He said establishing a process under the city as a single entity will improve the process as he works with developers and others on various projects in the city. “It's going to be a lot more streamlined now,” he said. Local developer Joe Weis has a different take when it comes to changing course after 44 years. “Now they just throw it all down the drain and forget why we did it in the first place,” he said, noting he believes the planning consolidation was successful and continues to be needed to keep costs down. He said the change is needed in the Building Safety and Public

Works departments, when getting approval for permits can be challenging. “They've gotten carried away with the minutiae,” he said, noting he's worked several affordable housing projects in the city with similar plans but faced new challenges throughout the years. “It takes us three months to get a building permit,” he said, noting the time can be costly. Steinhauser said she understands Weis' concerns, but believes the new arrangement will help him and other developers by creating a true one-stop shop. While the consolidated planning department and Rochester Building Safety have been housed in the same building for years and city and county staff have gathered weekly for pre-development discussions, she said invisible barriers have frequently arisen between county and city staff. The consolidated planning department has been staffed by the county, giving Olmsted County commissioners oversight in funding for new staff, which occasionally created friction with the Rochester City Council. Additionally, the planning

department staff balanced a growing list of differing needs seen at the county and city levels. She said the ultimate goal in creating a new city department is to develop ways to interconnect services. “As an example, I have a zoning compliance person in Community Development, and we agree collectively that it may be the best thing for the zoning compliance person to be in a pool with the other inspectors that currently sit in Building Safety and Public Works, so that we are looking for how we can standardize our process and our approaches for creating efficiency and reducing duplication,” she said. She said she expects developers and others will eventually see an improved process with seamless interaction among the city departments. “It's not something that immediately happens on July 1. It's a progression,” she said. “It comes with the technology, it comes with co-location, it comes with improving our operating efficiencies. It's not something that starts with a line in the sand on July 1, but it starts July 1.”

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Post Bulletin, P.O. Box 6118, Rochester, MN 55903-9998. Published Monday through Thursday and Saturday by Forum Communications Company. (USPS #467960) Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, MN 55901.