

HENDERSON INDEPENDENT

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 - VOL. 149 - NO. 24 • Henderson, MN 56044 (ISP 240020) • 12 pages in 1 section



Below the fold

The state lifted more COVID-19 restrictions, allowing more businesses to reopen as of Wednesday, June 10.

No fair this year

The Sibley County Fair Board on Friday, June 5 announced the cancellation of this year's fair. P. 14



Henderson demonstrates in solidarity with BLM

About 40 residents of Henderson and Belle Plaine held a peaceful protest on Sunday. P. 9

Bikers unite against police brutality

Henderson man joins in B.R.A.P.B. protest at State Capitol

By Rachel Miller
Editor

Black. White. Native American. Latino. Somali. Harley. Chopper. Crotch rocket.

The roughly two dozen motorcycle enthusiasts who joined a new Facebook movement, Bikers Riding Against Police Brutality, last week could not have been more diverse. They spanned various ethnic backgrounds, rode different bikes, and included both blue and white collar workers.

While their backgrounds may be different, two things tied them together: their love for motorcycles and desire to see an end to police brutality.

Joshua Nelson, who moved to Henderson in 2009, joined the Bikers Riding Against Police Brutality Facebook group the day it

was formed, Monday, June 1.

The very next day, he was one of about two dozen riders who met to ride down to the state Capitol, and from there, Cup Foods and the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's office.

The Capitol was filled with thousands of people protesting the police killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer. Nelson and the other bikers revved their motorcycle engines and raised their fists in the air in a sign of solidarity with the protestors.

Nelson could feel the change in the atmosphere: protestors who at first appeared apprehensive and alarmed when they showed up quickly turned to celebration when they realized their group was actually there to support them.

BIKER RALLY

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Right: Josh Nelson of Henderson was one of about two dozen bike riders from various backgrounds who joined the Bikers Riding Against Police Brutality's first ride last week, on Tuesday, June 2.

PHOTO COURTESY JOSH NELSON

COVID-19 Pandemic

More businesses allowed to reopen on Wednesday

By Rachel Miller
Editor

The governor's office on Friday, June 5 announced the relaxation of more business restrictions due to COVID-19, effective Wednesday, June 10.

Chief among the changes is the announcement that gyms, personal fitness and yoga studios, recreational indoor entertainment venues, outdoor entertainment venues and indoor dining will be allowed to reopen, with restrictions.

Here is a breakdown of the specifics:

Restaurants/bars: Indoor dining is allowed at 50 percent capacity, while maintaining social distancing. Reservations will be required, workers must wear masks, and customers are encouraged



PHOTO BY RACHEL MILLER

St. Peter residents Panda Ham and son Wolf Smith, 2, enjoy lemonades and dinner on the RoadHaus outdoor patio on Monday evening. Wolf's first visit to the RoadHaus was when he was just 2 days old.

BUSINESSES REOPEN
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Mapping the Past: the final chapter

After a little more than a year of work, the archaeology project at Redeemer Lutheran Church has come to an end.
P. 7

Vandalism under investigation

The public is asked to help in a case of vandalism that occurred last week.
P. 9

New home for Prince?

A new Prince statue was scheduled to be installed on Sunday, but it may now be headed for New Ulm instead.
P. 9

The return of sports

As more COVID-19 restrictions continue to be lifted, sports are slowly returning to Community Ed. classes.
P. 15



BIKER RALLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“The joy we brought to those mourning at the memorial at Cup Foods still overwhelms me days later,” Nelson told the *Independent* last Friday. “It seems like such a simple thing to do, but I feel like I was able to contribute in a small way to making a difference.”

By Friday, June 5, the group had conducted two more rides to the Capitol, although Nelson did not make it to either of those.

Nelson said he really enjoyed riding with people of various backgrounds.

“We could all connect over the motorcycle and there was a shared humanity in it,” Nelson said. “If we find things we have in common, that really connects.”

At its core, Nelson said the B.R.A.P.B. community stands for solidarity and inclusion for all motorcycle riders regardless of skin color or bike model.

Nelson said it has been hard for him to find a bike community that does not conflict with some of his personal beliefs, but he found a home with B.R.A.P.B.

“It was really profound for me to get to ride with a diverse group of people for a positive cause in not just standing up to police brutality and racial inequality, but to also change the perspective of what a biker can be,” Nelson said.

B.R.A.P.B. was formed by Josh Dysthe of Minneapolis, and has a mission of “advancing social justice within the Minneapolis and surrounding Minnesota communities.”

Dysthe said the inaugural ride last Tuesday went better than he could have imagined.

“Raising our fists and revving our engines at the State Capitol and Cup Foods was something I’ll always remember, but our outreach can’t stop there,” Dysthe said. “I am hoping this group can make a difference in Minneapolis as well as the whole state of Minnesota.”

While right now they are riding to protest police brutality, group leader Dax Johnson, a St. Paul resident, said B.R.A.P.B. intends to focus on social injustice and discrimination in their own backyard and will “serve as an outlet to all of those who believe in a unified future to make a unified future.”

“We ride to support any cause in the community that needs our

George Floyd death

Minneapolis Police arrested George Floyd, 46, on Monday, May 25 after a deli employee at Cup Foods called 911 and accused Floyd of using a counterfeit \$20 to buy cigarettes.

Officer Derek Chauvin kept his knee on Floyd’s neck for 8 minutes, 46 seconds and kept his knee on Floyd’s neck even after he lost consciousness.

Two autopsies have ruled his death a homicide, although the Hennepin County Medical Examiner’s office ruled it cardiopulmonary arrest, while an independent autopsy stated “asphyxiation from sustained pressure” was the cause of death.

Chauvin has been charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. Three other officers who were on scene, Thomas Lane, J. Alexander Kueng and Tou Thao, have been charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter.

Mahmoud Abumayyaleh, the owner of Cup Foods, told CNN last week that his store will no longer be contacting the authorities in cases of non-violent crime, as a result of Floyd’s death.

— Compiled by Rachel Miller

help,” Johnson said.

While the group was there to protest police brutality, Nelson said the group is not anti-police by any means. In some cases, police are asked to handle situations they may not be well trained for, like responding to people with mental health issues.

In those cases, Nelson said he would rather see a trained mental health professional respond instead of a police officer.

He also wants to see the system that has at times protected bad cops and punished good cops undergo a change.

“I think this thing has really exposed what is going on in the minority communities that we have not heard about,” Nelson said. “For there to be such a culture of protection and things like that — how could there be officers out there that think anything like that is OK?”



PHOTOS COURTESY JOSH NELSON

Upon arriving at the Capitol, the two dozen bikers who participated in a ride against police brutality on Tuesday, June 2 were met with apprehension by the protestors. But as they revved their engines and raised their fists in a sign of support, the crowd met them with cheers and celebration.



Two bikers, of differing racial backgrounds, exchange a fistbump of solidarity outside Cup Foods. The bikers who participated in the rally may have been from different racial and cultural backgrounds, but found common ground through bikes and the ride.



Thousands of people gathered outside the state Capitol to protest the police killing of George Floyd last week. The above crowd was gathered June 2.

**Tire, Appliance & Electronics
Collection at Sibley County Fairgrounds
in ARLINGTON (801 W. Chandler St.)**

Thurs. June 18th 2020 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Appliances: Must be empty. Washers, dryers, hot water heaters, stoves, furnaces, microwaves, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, freezers, & air conditioners.....\$10.00
The contractor may reject any appliances that do not conform to their permit requirements.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--|
| Car/ light truck | \$2.00 each | <i>Charges are Double for Tires on Rims.</i> |
| Semi/ small implement . . . | \$5.00 each | |
| Large Implement | \$10.00 each | |



Kids Car seats will be FREE Disposal!!
Mattress or Box Spring will be \$10 per item
Mattresses & Box Springs WILL NOT be accepted if wet from being outside
OR are deemed to be infested



Electronics accepted: TV, computer equipment, VCR/CD/DVD, stereo, copier, cell phone, boombox, fax machine, etc.

| | |
|---|---------|
| TV’s and computer screens - anysize | \$10.00 |
| Hard drives, VCRs, steros, misc..... | \$5.00 |
| Couch, Lay-Z-Boy, Kitchen table, Grill, misc..... | \$10.00 |



Nicollet, Sibley or Le Sueur County ID such as a Minnesota Drivers License may be required

For more information, call the Tri-County Solid Waste Office at 507-381-9196
www.tricountyrecycling.org

