

Connections Memory Cafe returns

CONNOR CUMMISKEY
Union-Times

A Princeton-based group that helps connect patients and families suffering from memory-loss diseases such as Alzheimer's disease is reopening Sept. 2.

Connections Memory Cafe meets from 10-11 a.m. the first Thursday of every month in the Princeton Civic Center, 503 N. Ninth St.

The cafe serves people with Alzheimer's, dementia and other memory-loss diseases, according to volunteer Carol Hulett, who organizes the event with her husband, John. It focuses on seniors suffering from the disease to provide them and their caregivers a place to relax and have fun among their peers.

"Everyone in the room is basically on the same journey," John said. "Dif-

ferent elements or different places in that journey, but doing the same thing — dealing with and living with memory loss."

The event usually starts with refreshments and time to visit. They then host some kind of activity, which can range from a fun craft to a presentation on history around Princeton, according to Carol.

"Anything that will help get them into conversa-

tion and engaging, because Alzheimer and dementia people tend to, sometimes, withdraw," Carol said.

Having a place to meet with other people dealing with memory loss is important, because everyone understands when a family member might act out due to their disease. Carol referenced one woman who used to come with her husband, because it was the only time they could go out

together.

"Everybody just understands, because they're all doing it," John said.

The space and most of the materials are donated to the cafe, which is free of charge, though donations are welcome.

The cafe first got started in the spring of 2019, but was forced to shutdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, just when the group was starting to hit its stride

with regular visitors.

The Huletts got involved after Carol experienced dealing with her mother's Alzheimer's.

"There's a lot of things that I thought, 'Gee, if I had just known that, I could have helped my mom better,'" Carol said.

More information can be found by calling the Huletts at 763-290-2228.

Signs: conflict over road signs inspires debate in Princeton township

Continued from page 1

are some exceptions for discussion of topics, such as labor negotiations and employee evaluations.

If members of a public body hold a series of meetings that are attended by less than the quorum of the body with the intent to undercut the open meeting law requirements, that could be illegal, depending on the facts of the case, according to the research brief.

Whether or not a meeting violates open meeting laws varies depending on how many members are present and factors such as if they are discussing matters related to a specific governing body and if the meeting members were capable of exercising decision-making powers, according to the brief.

The law also specifically allows town board members to perform on-site inspections if the town has no other staff able to perform the duties and the board is essentially acting in staff capacity — and they make a good faith effort to provide notice of the inspections to media who have filed a written request, according to the research brief.

Part of what appears to have prompted the tense meeting was an ongoing conflict between the town board and Anderson. Anderson has paid for his own road signs that he has placed near town roads. Those signs were removed at least once before for being too similar to authorized road signs. State statute prohibits any unauthorized sign that may resemble official road signs

from being installed.

In response, Anderson added placards that said "not official" to the signs and reinstalled them. He said, in a separate interview, he was told by a lawyer that the signs were legal because they were on his property and because he had attached the "not official" placards.

However, Minnesota Department of Transportation officials dispute that interpretation.

"The Statute clearly defines no person shall place an unauthorized sign which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official traffic-control device," Hansen wrote in an email. "Placing an unauthorized speed limit regulatory sign or pedestrian warning sign along the highway/roadway where it is visible to the traveling public will violate this statute. The signs that were placed in Princeton Township where the same size, shape, color, and message as a standard official highway sign where a driver may become confused, with or without a small 'not official' plaque."

The incident

On July 22 township staff, including Supervisor Bill Whitcomb, removed those signs again. When Anderson heard them removing the signs he went to investigate, he said.

What followed is an incident that resulted in Anderson being charged with fifth-degree assault, though he denied that he attacked anyone.

The criminal complaint states that Anderson called law enforcement first, to re-

port that his signs were being stolen. Later Whitcomb called to report he was being assaulted by Anderson, according to the complaint.

Anderson allegedly drove his truck onto the ramps of the trailer, blocking a skid steer that was being used to remove the signs from exiting. He then allegedly attempted to open the door to the skid steer and "get at" the driver, according to the complaint. Whitcomb then allegedly drove the truck with the trailer forward far enough to open the way for the skid steer to get off the trailer.

Anderson then purportedly knocked the phone from Whitcomb's hands multiple times and struck him and another man with one of the signs, according to the complaint.

In a phone interview Anderson said that did not happen. He claims he drove up and climbed onto the trailer to tell the driver of the skid steer to stop trespassing on his land. The operator then allegedly began lifting the pinching attachment on the skid steer, while Anderson's leg was caught. Anderson then opened the door to the skid to force it to stop moving, he said.

Anderson then began



Screenshot from Princeton Township meeting video

Emily Hanson, left, addresses the Township Board over road signs. During the discussion old signs the township had previously removed were laid out on display for residents.

picking up signs after the skid steer left the trailer, he said. He claims Whitcomb then drove forward with the truck and trailer while he was picking up the signs, causing him to fall prone to the trailer. Anderson indicated that throughout this he feared for his life.

He then got down and purportedly attempted to speak to Whitcomb while he was in the cab of the truck. At that point, Whitcomb supposedly began shouting for Anderson not to hit him and feigned being struck by him, Anderson said.

Anderson claimed that Whitcomb and the other

staff attempted to set him up.

"They got to be held accountable for something, because they apparently planned this," Anderson said.

A brief video taken by Whitcomb shows the skid loader removing one sign

from near the intersection of 107th Avenue and Highway 95. In the video two men can be seen walking down the road between the end of a trailer and a second truck parked a short distance behind it. One man appears to get into the second truck and drive it toward the back of the trailer, revealing a

third truck, while a fourth pickup turns off of Highway 95 onto 107th Avenue. The third and fourth trucks are momentarily blocked from the camera's view as the second truck and the skid loader both approach the rear end of the trailer.

As the skid loader drops a road sign on the trailer and turns away, the fourth truck can briefly be seen slowing down alongside the third truck. The camera then swings away, apparently showing Whitcomb closing the door on the truck with the trailer and walking around the front of the cab. The video then ends.

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT



33rd Annual
Milaca Scholarship Foundation
ULTRA CLASSIC
golf tournament
Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021
Stone's Throw Golf Course, Milaca
Registration: 12:00 pm | Shotgun Start: 1:00 pm
Dinner at approximately 5:00 pm.
Live Auction to follow.

Milaca Scholarship Foundation
Dollars for Scholars
Call to register your team today!
320-983-2110

Leaf Filter
GUTTER PROTECTION
BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE
EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!
15% OFF & **10% OFF**
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE
+ **5% OFF** TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS ONLY!
SENIORS & MILITARY!
WE INSTALL YEAR-ROUND!
FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!
Promo Code: 285
Subject to credit approval. Call for details.
CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
1-888-498-1087
Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

HELP WANTED
Stony Ridge Foods has an immediate opening for a fulltime position. Some duties include bagging, loading/unloading trucks, climbing bins, various warehouse work/maintenance work. Must have a valid driver's license. Competitive Wages and Benefits package that includes-medical insurance and retirement. Please call the office to get an application mailed or e-mailed to you.
Stony Ridge Foods EOE
E. Hwy. 12, Benson, MN-320-842-3401

KIDS & GRANDPARENTS PHOTO CONTEST

Photo Submission
July 26th through August 29th
Voting takes place
August 30th through September 12th

<https://hometownsource.com/contest>

APG EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA | SPIRE CREDIT UNION | Humana

Union-Times, Town & Country & Mille Lacs County Fair present the
FAVORITE FAIR MEMORY PHOTO CONTEST

Be sure to take lots of fun photos at the Mille Lacs County Fair this year and enter your favorite fair photos to become eligible to win great prizes!

HOW TO ENTER:
Upload your favorite photo to our website <https://www.hometownsource.com/> starting Thursday, August 11th through Sunday, August 29th. One photo per day.

HOW TO VOTE:
Starting Monday, August 30th through Sunday, September 5th readers will be able to go to our website https://www.hometownsource.com/union_times/ and vote for their favorite photo. Winners will be announced the week of September 6th.

Contest Sponsors:
Union-Times | RE/MAX | SPIRE CREDIT UNION