



MLB bound

Nick Zwack drafted by New York Mets.

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Stingers win

Big Lake defeats the Polecats in Monticello

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MONTICELLO Times

Thursday, July 22, 2021

Covering the cities of Monticello and Big Lake, and Wright and Sherburne counties \$1

Emmer tours I-94 project

BY SAM JONES
CROW RIVER NEWS

Congressman Tom Emmer was joined by Monticello Mayor Lloyd Hilgart, officials from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and representatives from St. Michael and Albetville in a Trailblazers bus to get a first-hand look at the construction progress on Interstate 94 between St. Michael and Hasty.

There are currently a handful of closures, lane changes and construction zones along this stretch of highway that officials had an opportunity to see and have explained.



Tom Emmer

"I thought it was a great event," said Emmer. "It is often said that you can tell how significant a transportation project is by the number of elected officials that show up, and we had three mayors, we were there, a council member ... it was a great group and a great presentation. I give our transportation commissioner, Margaret Kelliher a lot of credit for what they put in front of us. Not just the materials, but the hands-on part to travel the actual corridor and have them not just explain what they are doing, but point it out."

Emmer says there was lots of positive feedback from the group present, which is gratifying after all of the hard work on behalf of city, county and state officials to get the ball rolling.

"There's a lot of growth, and Nadine Schoen, one of the [St. Michael] city council members, tried to give us a compliment at the end for all the work we have been doing, and I had to point out to Nadine, who I have known now for over a decade, it really is the elected officials in local communities, including St. Michael, Albertville, Monticello, all of those along the corridor," he said. "This is the most important highway from Chicago to the state of Washington, and this stretch from Maple Grove to St. Cloud is getting more and more pressure with each passing year."

This added pressure brings a few opponents of the project, but Emmer assures residents that all of the potential delays or inconveniences will definitely pay off.

"It really is local officials working with their state and federal counterparts to make something really good that is going to benefit not just commerce, but it's going to improve safety, and I am going to argue it is going to improve quality of life," he said. "There are always going to

Highway / See page 7



Photo provided

Allison Hunsley mixes paint at Monti Arts' "What the Art" building as she works on her most recent mural. In the background is one of 23 pairs of shoes that the artist painted as part of her project that will be installed at 113 W. Broadway Street.

Walking a mile in their shoes

Art explores the story of those who step into footwear

BY JEFFREY HAGE
MONTICELLO TIMES

Don't judge your neighbor until you've walked a mile in their shoes.

That's the message artist Allison Hunsley shares in her newest Monticello mural project.

Hunsley's latest creation features paintings of 23 pairs of shoes - many owned by Monticello residents. The shoes are fit neatly into a series of cubicles.

The paintings are Hunsley's first using panels, she said. The art will be installed panel by panel later this month on the outside wall of the Preferred Title building at 113 W Broadway St.

Hunsley and the Monticello Arts Initiative (Monti Arts) received a grant for the art project. The project was different from any Hunsley has been associated with. Usually she is commissioned to do a project. But with this grant, she was directed to create anything she wanted.

That's how "Don't judge your neighbor until you've walked a mile in their shoes" was born.

Hunsley says she was inspired by one of her favorite books from childhood- a story she encountered when she was about four years old.

The book, "Walk Two Moons" by Sharon Creech contains two of Hunsley's favorite quotes.

One is, "In the course of a lifetime, what does it matter."

The other is, "Don't judge a man until you've walked two moons in his moccasins."

Shoes / See page 7



Photo provided

Allison Hunsley painted the above pair of shoes. The shoes are one of 23 pairs that will be depicted in her most recent mural titled "Don't judge your neighbor until you've walked a mile in their shoes."

Arsonist who burned hotel in pregnancy experiment arrested in Monticello

Wanting to know effects of smoking, room allegedly served as the womb, woman was unborn child

BY JEFFREY HAGE
MONTICELLO TIMES

A woman trying to emulate the effects of smoking on a fetus by starting a Bloomington hotel room on fire was arrested July 9 on an outstanding warrant related to the July 2020 event.

Ana Held, 30 of Bloomington, was

apprehended in Monticello and turned over to Hennepin County officials.

Held was staying at the Comfort Inn Hotel, located at 1321 E. 78th Street in Bloomington, on July 14, 2020 when the fire was intentionally started in a fourth floor hotel room.

She told investigators she wanted to know what a fetus felt like in the womb

if the mother was smoking, according to court records filed in Hennepin County District Court.

Further more, Held allegedly stated that for the sake of her experiment, the hotel room served as the womb and she was the baby.

Held used a combination of paper, cardboard, and blankets to start the fire

near the door of the hotel room.

She admitted to authorities that she had used methamphetamine prior to starting the fire.

Held has been charged with first degree arson and faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and/or a \$35,000 fine if convicted.

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