

CELLAR: Root Cellar saves lives of wedding party during the Hinckley Fire

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and hit all at once, dropping out of the sky and igniting all of the house. The fire sucked the air from the parlor and those who moments earlier were celebrating, laughing and joking were screaming and pushing for the door. Outside they realized the severity of the situation as they were surrounded by flames. Someone screamed "The root cellar can save us!" The wedding party and their guests all rushed for the nearby root cellar slamming the door and locking it behind them.

They would soon realize their decision may cost them their lives. Inside the root cellar it was nearly complete darkness, with the exception of the orange glow from the flames that could be seen under the door. It was hot and getting hotter with each passing moment and people were bumping into one another and some even falling down. The flames licking at the door caused it to smoke, char and pieces began falling off.

The crowd moved towards the back wall when someone felt something cold and wet behind them. It was a large milk can, there were 20 all together, full of fresh milk from the Samuelson's cows. The cans were brought to the door and they used their hands to ladle milk on to the door where it burned. The smell of scorched milk filled the air inside the root cellar, but they continued splashing the door, keeping it intact.

As the fire roared outside it baked the earth that covered the root cellar. It quickly grew more and more unbearable and the group

began pouring milk on each other. In the book "Eld-Cyklonen" one of the survivors is quoted as saying "I have always detested the stench of scorched milk, but in this cellar we inhaled it through our nostrils as the most precious perfume."

The members of the wedding party all survived that day in the root cellar. The next day they boarded one of the rescue trains to Duluth. Three days later, on September 4, 1894 Minnie Samuelson and John Derosier were married in the Bethel Meeting Hall. The bride wore a dress given to her by the ladies of Duluth with orange blossoms and a veil in her hair. The ceremony was performed by the Reverend C.C. Salter, Duluth's Chief of Police stood in as the best man. Many other fire survivors witnessed the couple exchange their vows and sat down with them at a wedding feast feeling lucky to be alive.

OPEN HOUSE

The Fire Museum will be open on Friday evening, September 10, from 6 p.m. until the cows come home.

There will be free food and beverages and live musical entertainment. There is no charge to attend and you will be allowed to tour the museum, the relief house and the recently restored Caboose (a must see). It will be a chance to visit old friends and meet some new friends while learning about what has been going on at the old Depot these past two years as we celebrate the 127th anniversary of the Great Hinckley Fire of 1894. We hope you will join us whether you are new to the area or lived here all your life...you are welcome!

HEMP: Hemp has great potential in a wide variety of products

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legislation passed for us to even grow hemp in Minnesota," Petersen said. "So it's really exciting to see this. It could be a good niche third crop for many farmers. We have about 400 farmers in the state that are growing hemp. Some are smaller plots like this, and some are a couple of hundred acres.

"We're bringing along the processing too," Petersen added. "Farmers are figuring out how to grow it, but we'll have to get the processing going along with it."

While hemp has great potential for use in an enormous variety of products - from construction materials to clothing, and even in the fabrication of batteries - hemp growers need more companies to incorporate hemp into their goods in order to make it a reliably profitable crop.

"Early on we saw a lot of interest in CBD," said Shannon Schlecht, executive director of the non-profit Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI). "We're seeing increased interest in the fiber, and in the food and the feed side."

He noted that hemp still needs to be certified by the Association of American Feed Control Officials before it can be marketed as animal feed.

"It's such a versatile



TERRY BULLOCK | PINE COUNTY COURIER

Harold Stanislawski, project development director at AURI, and Riley Gotfon, engineer explain the benefits of a hemp business and production.

crop," Schlecht said. "And it's in its infancy yet. There is a lot of opportunity that exists [but] having assurances around a market, if you're going to produce hemp, is pretty important."

Leverenz said her company will contract with local hemp farmers and process their crops into components which can then be sent to manufacturers.

"Inside of these plants is a product called 'bast' which [can be made into] textiles and fiber, and 'hurd' which [can be made into] paper, plastics and building materials. The top is where the flowers and the biomass and the grain. So we want everybody to know what there is. What are the possibilities?"

Supporters of hemp are aware of the challenges they have to overcome, but are focused on the economic and environmental

potential hemp offers for the future.

"It's going to open up a third crop for the farmers," Lois Kunze said. "Instead of corn and soybeans - hemp. And that would be just wonderful. It's for the farmers."

Leverenz said she hopes to open a hemp processing center in Hinckley, and is also in contact with the city of Sandstone about the possibilities of having manufacturers utilize their industrial park.

"Farmers have figured out how to grow [hemp]," Petersen said. "We've got to figure out and move our processing along in this state. We need people that are innovative and leaders like some of the folks here today."

Find a video edition of this story at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qeyxoy-SD4>.

SHORELAND: Proposed ordinance could cause problems for some businesses, home owners

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ordinance website.

County lakeshore owners responded to a survey in February and expressed a concern and desire for increased protection of area lakeshores, said Anderson.

Sand Lake Resort owner and attorney, Mark Lambert, said he was concerned about language in the ordinance and mitigation for the variance to the Pine County Board of Commissioners at their meeting in August. He suggested some language changes, some of which were implemented, said Anderson.

The commissioners sent the ordinance back to the zoning board to look at the language again.

Moose Lake Golf Club General Manager, Josh Ganst, addressed the zoning board with concerns about the strict variance mitigation process, as did Danielle Hoffman. She is part of the legal team for Sand Lake Resort.

Sand Lake is located in both Carlton and Pine Counties. Carlton County already has a similar ordinance and variance mitigation in place, as does neighboring Aitkin County.

Hoffman said that the pro-

posed variance is more restrictive than the state Department of Natural Resources model.

"The biggest issue is the mitigation point system," said Hoffman. She said the DNR model is more flexible and offers options to work with the land owner. There are several expansion projects planned for the resort in the coming years.

Cities, counties or townships have the option to use the DNR model to help develop new ordinances or amend existing ordinances, according to the DNR website. The DNR model is not meant to be a freestanding set of regulations, but can be adopted as separate sections

in existing zoning regulations.

"This is a very big change," Hoffman said. "It could have a big effect on both business owners and homeowners."

Anderson said the goal of the variance is to allow homeowners and business owners the opportunity to make changes that are consistent with community goals by balancing the changes. For example, if a proposed expansion includes making a structure taller or larger, the owner can offer to screen the structure with trees. The proposed variance will then go in front of the zoning board for approval.

Anderson noted that the

ordinance change will not affect many residents. He said the county has had one business request a variance in five or six years and estimates that the county may see two or three requests a year.

The board voted to table the variance mitigation portion until the next meeting in September.

For more information or questions about the new ordinance or mitigation, contact Anderson at caleb.anderson@co.pine.mn.us or call 320-591-1657.

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Pine County will be offering tax-forfeited land at public auction for not less than the appraised price. **Sale commences at 10:00 a.m. September 17, 2021** at the Courthouse in Pine City, Minnesota
For a listing call (320) 216-4225 or log onto www.co.pine.mn.us

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