

## TIGERS READY TO CHASE DOWN WINS

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

# For the love of music

## Lester Schuft will be inducted April 22 into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame

BY KAY JOHNSON  
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Making music is something Lester Schuft has done since he was a youngster growing up on a farm near Brownton. His dad played drums with local bands and young Lester followed in his footsteps, picking up a pair of drumsticks at age 7 and the trumpet three years later.

Fast forward 74 years. Schuft will be recognized for his lifelong love of and commitment to music April 22 when he is inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame.

"It means rewarding for all the years in my life and my making many families happy with music," Schuft said of the honor.

Joining Schuft as this year's inductees are Mollie Busta-Lange (Mollie B), Paul Diethelm, Jay Earnest Kalk/Church of Cash, Minnesota Brass and Moore By Four. The longtime Hutchinson resident is in stellar company, joining past recipients including Bob Dylan, Judy Garland and Garrison Keillor, as well as local musicians Mike Shaw, Wally Pikal, Mike Glieden, Jerry Schuft, Jerry Kadlec, Bruce Bradley and Tom Ginkel.

"I don't know if there is any town that has produced more bands than Hutchinson and New Ulm," he said. "I remember there were 22 bands booking out of New Ulm during 1950s and '60s. I could spend 10 hours and talk music."

Schuft is the first to say he's lucky to be here and he readily admits he's gone through a lot with his health.

"Why does God keep me alive?" he asked.

"Because he wanted to see me get this award. I spent 15 years dealing with heart issues. I had four bypasses, a pacemaker, a defibrillator and a valve replaced. I'm doing good. The only slight problem is my breathing. Breathing affects my ability to play. I have no trouble walking, but steps can be challenging."

Schuft's enthusiasm for life, music and family makes up for any physical shortcoming. For more than 63 years, he has been the owner and operator of the Lester Schuft and The Country Dutchmen Band. The band continues to play today, although the members have changed through the years.

"Thirty-one members of the band have passed away," he said. "They were all great musicians and great friends."

During his tenure, he is proud to say he never fired anyone.

"I only had three rules: no drinking, no fooling around and no swearing," he said.

While he has made plenty of music through the years, Schuft always comes back to polkas. Among his favorites is the "Guido Polka" because he likes the rhythmic patterns and instrumentation.

"It's a really good polka," he said. "Almost every musician knows it's my favorite. I also like the 'Nebraska Polka.' It honors the state of Nebraska where I have a lot of followers. It has a tremendous beat."

Among his recent achievements is the release of a new CD titled "Classic Cars and Classic Songs" featuring a 12-piece band that includes his granddaughter, Eavan McCormick. She is a sophomore at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, where she is majoring in instrumental music education. The CD is available from Schuft or can be picked up at Dostal Electronics in downtown Hutchinson.

### IN THE BEGINNING

"I was a farm kid," Schuft recalled. "I pitched a lot of manure."

Fortunately, that's not all he did. He started playing drums when he was 7 and followed it up with the trumpet in 1948. His first horn was purchased at the Brown and Meidl Music Store in New Ulm. The two bonded from the beginning. He played the instrument through grade school, high school and pep band at Brownton and later as a student at Gustavus Adolphus College, where he participated in the symphony band and pep band. He also used music to pay his way through dental school at the University of Minnesota.

When it comes to music achievements, Schuft has many. Among them: He played at the Minneapolis Aquatennial Queen's dance for

**Schuft to A2 >**

Lester Schuft will be inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame on Friday, April 22.

STAFF PHOTO BY  
KAY JOHNSON



## Former Hutchinson officer will not be charged in fatal shooting

### Attorney general says law would not support charging Hanneman

BY JEREMY JONES  
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A former Hutchinson police officer working for the Minneapolis Police Department will not face charges following the Feb. 2 fatal shooting of Amir Locke.

Locke, 22, was staying in his cousin's apartment in downtown Minneapolis when police entered early in the morning without knocking as part of a homicide investigation from St. Paul. During the incident, Locke was fatally shot by Mark Hanneman.

A video of the incident shows Locke was on the couch when officers approached.

"Amir was not a suspect. Our investigation found no evidence that he had any role in the homicide investigation that brought police to his door on 6:48 a.m. on Feb. 2," Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison said in a prepared statement this past Wednesday. "Amir was a victim. He never should have been called a suspect."

Body camera footage that was released in February showed police using a key to enter the downtown apartment. The video shows Locke wrapped in blankets on a couch when officers entered the apartment and yelled "Police, search warrant!" One officer is seen kicking the couch as other officers yell "Hands!" and "Get on the ground!" Locke begins to move and is seen holding a gun when Hanneman shoots him.

"The role that (Hennepin) County Attorney (Michael) Freeman and I took on was to determine whether current law allows us to file criminal charges in Amir's death," Ellison said.

A U.S. Supreme Court precedent called Gra-

ham vs. Connor, which informed Minnesota's use-of-force law, was the lens through which the attorneys evaluated the evidence.

"We have determined that under that precedent and the laws we have, we cannot file criminal charges," Ellison said. "Current law only allows us to evaluate the case from the perspective of a reasonable officer. That language is from the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and relevant cases and statutes. We are not allowed to evaluate the case from the perspective of the victim."

In a written statement to investigators, Hanneman said he was convinced he would suffer great bodily harm or death if he did not use deadly force.

"With all the available evidence, we would not be able to prove in court that the officer's use of force was not authorized under the law beyond a

**Shooting to A2 >**

## Asphalt mix site west of Hutchinson receives approval

### Proximity to housing, noise concerns prompt restricted hours of operation

BY JEREMY JONES  
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In a 3-2 vote the McLeod County Board approved a conditional-use permit for a new industrial site just west of Hutchinson.

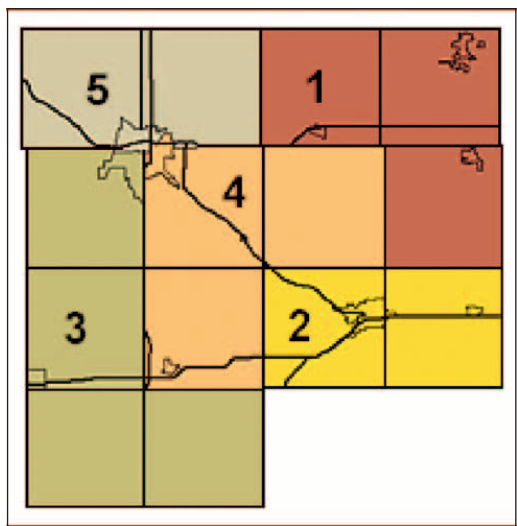
The permit, applied for by Duinincck Inc., is to establish a designated area for a hot mix asphalt plant and an area for aggregate concrete and asphalt crushing, screening and stockpiling. The area — north of 190th Street, east of Vale Avenue and south of State Highway 7 — is a light industrial zone, though near houses situated to the southwest and southeast.

Seven conditions were applied to the permit, including limits to operating hours, limits to stockpile height, environmental requirements, setback purposes for noise mitigation, and mining standards. The operating hours and stockpile limitations garnered discussion at the McLeod County Board meeting this past week.

The hours originally listed for consideration on the permit were 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"If this were to be held, this would be the most restrictive hours that we've ever seen with this type of operation," Duinincck engineer Jason Ver Steeg told board members. "We operate seven to eight months out of the year, in

**Asphalt to A2 >**



McLeod County's five district lines will remain the same.

## County to continue with same districts

### Population trends will not affect current district map

BY JEREMY JONES  
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McLeod County Board members reestablished the district boundaries commissioners represent at their regular Board meeting April 5.

The move was made during an open hearing. Minnesota law requires the process be undertaken following state-level redistricting a few months ago. However, population trends and district sizes allowed for the new map to match the prior map, and residents will not have to track any changes to representation at the county level.

As a result, the five districts will not change. They are:

■ District 1: Bergen Township, Hale Township, Winsted Township, Lester Prairie, Silver Lake and Winsted

■ District 2: Glencoe Township, Helen Township, Glencoe Precinct 1, Precinct 2, Precinct 3 and Precinct 4 and Plato

■ District 3: Collins Township, Lynn Township, Penn Township, Round Grove Township, City of Stewart and Hutchinson Precinct 3

■ District 4: Hassan Valley Township, Rich Valley Township, Sumter Township, Biscay, Brownton and Hutchinson Precinct 1

■ District 5: Acoma Township, Hutchinson

**District to A2 >**



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