

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



HANNAH COYLE/REPUBLICAN EAGLE

Lights and holiday decorations adorned vehicles in the Holiday Stroll parade.



HANNAH COYLE/REPUBLICAN EAGLE

Aquatennial Commodore Brent LaSalle and Red Wing native, Aquatennial Princess Hannah Rodgers, attended the Holiday Stroll festivities.



HANNAH COYLE/REPUBLICAN EAGLE

Red Wing native, Elle Mark, Miss Minnesota 2021 will compete in the Miss America competition the week of Dec. 13.



HANNAH COYLE/REPUBLICAN EAGLE

Brightly lit attire was a theme throughout the parade.



HANNAH COYLE/REPUBLICAN EAGLE

I seem to remember elves being short...

A week of strolling, trotting and reminiscing

The 20th anniversary of the Holiday Stroll

Like most years, the pinnacle of the Holiday Stroll was the parade. Local royalty was part of the events. Aquatennial Princess Hannah Rodgers and Miss Minnesota Elle Mark are both Red Wing natives. Both women bundled in warm clothes and blankets before riding in the parade.

A Thanksgiving Turkey Trot

Several hundred people flocked to the riverfront in Red Wing Thanksgiving for a 5K run while others did a 3K walk.

The event was untimed, and clearly most of those attending were there for fun. Many were from out of state and in town to celebrate Thanksgiving with family.

The first across the finish line were 8-year-old Caleb Hanson and his 10-year-old brother, Parker.

The day was cold, but the camaraderie of family and fellow runners seemed to warm the atmosphere.

Former St. John's Hospital demolished

Last month, the old St. John's Hospital in Red Wing was demolished.



JIM JOHNSON/STAR-OBSERVER

Several hundred runners and walkers participated in the annual Turkey Trot in Red Wing Thanksgiving morning.



JIM JOHNSON/STAR-OBSERVER

Traci Turner and Jason Ramstad were in a group of seven that ran the Turkey Trot in bright pink T-shirts.



Runners bundled up against the cold with wind chills in the single digits.

JIM JOHNSON/STAR-OBSERVER

Sandy Clay, who grew up in Red Wing and now lives in Minneapolis, came to watch the demolition and reminisce about her memories of the hospital.

"I was born there and grew up with the hospital as our neighbor. An anchor to the neighborhood for many years, the

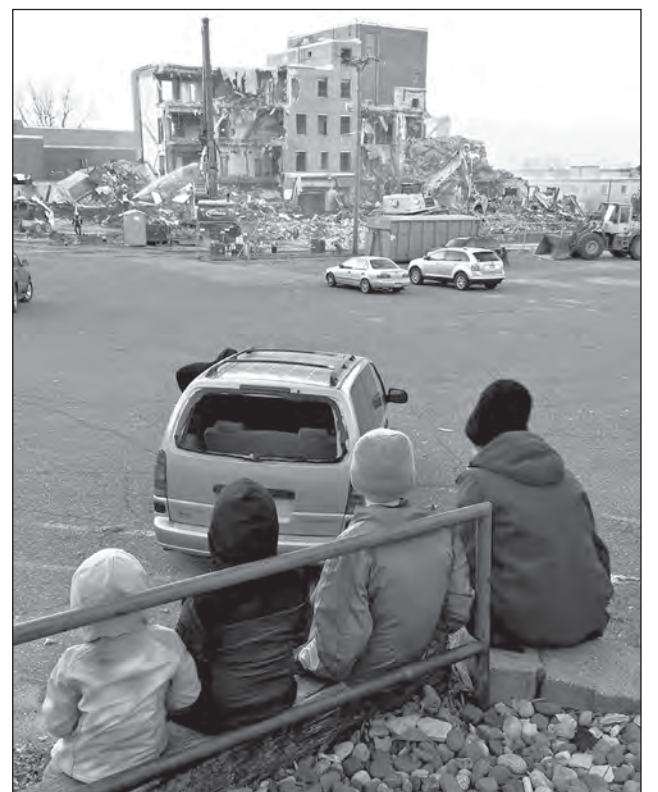
hospital was a place of joy, welcoming new life, a place of healing and a place of sorrow as we held the hand of a loved one for the last time within those walls.

"Now those walls are coming down, and we say goodbye once again to the memory of that dependable red brick

building which served our community for many years."

PHOTO COURTESY OF SANDY CLAY

A group of children watches the demolition of the former St. John's Hospital.



WELCOME New Residents to Red Wing?
Call:
Welcome Services ForYou
Bringing newcomers, business & community together since 1946.
Kathy & Chuck Bristol
(651) 380-1930
Is Your Business Included In Our Welcome Packet?

MORTGAGE RATES HAVE DROPPED
Let me help you get the BEST rate you can get!
Call today for a FREE double check!
Click online - www.fnbrf.com
Or call me at **715-262-8365**

Scott Murphy
Mortgage Originator
NMLS#684039

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
Member FDIC
1151 N. Canton St. Prescott, WI 54021

Need extra cash?
Clean your attic, basement, closets or garage and sell items you no longer use in the Classifieds.
Classifieds
888-425-2220
Employment: 888-514-4473

Santa is checking his list to see who is naughty and nice. He shared some of the letters he has received. **Page B1**



2 QUICK READS



Number to know

19% – That’s the percentage of adults who prefer to live in cities, according to the Pew Research Center. This has declined since 2018 when 23% of adults preferred to live in urban settings. Now, 35% of people want to live in rural settings and 46% prefer suburban living.

Quote to know

“Clean water is fundamental to the health and well-being of the people who call Minnesota home. These grants will improve water quality throughout the state, advancing the Clean Water Fund’s goal to make more of our waters fishable, swimmable and drinkable” – Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Executive Director John Jaschke, talking about \$12.7 million in Clean Water Fund grants. The funds will go to 31 projects in the state, four drinking water projects and four multipurpose drainage management practices.

OBITUARIES PAGE A6

- Mardell Bartlett
- Joshua S. Budensiek
- Kenneth G. Daley
- Ronald Gallion
- Rosalie Gray
- Karen M. Hanson
- Jerry Holm
- Stanley Kuhl
- Jerry R. Larson
- Steven Schmidt
- John M. “Jack” Trittin



JIM JOHNSON/REPUBLICAN EAGLE

Four-year-old Ethan Hertzog takes a sled ride down the hill at Twin Bluff school on Saturday.

SNOW MUCH FUN



Sam Dubois rides a sled like a snowboard down the hill at Twin Bluff school on Saturday.

Last week’s storm dumped 10 inches of snow on Red Wing. The snow came Friday night. Saturday morning dawned with a cloudless sky and temperatures in the low 30s, perfect weather for sledding. Many found their way to the hill at Twin Bluff School in Red Wing.

By mid week, temperatures in the 40s had reduced the snow cover considerably.



Avery Buck screams in excitement as her brother, Sean, holds on riding an inner tube down the hill at Twin Bluff school Saturday.



Sean Buck, 5, crashes into a snow drift Saturday at Twin Bluff school.

MISS AMERICA

Mark eliminated during top 10 round

BY HANNAH COYLE AND SARAH KNEIFF
Staff Writers

From the Sheldon stage to the Miss America stage, Elle Mark of Red Wing brought grace, elegance and a strong vocal performance. She demonstrated an understanding of mental health advocacy and eloquently addressed America with her platform.

The Red Wing High School graduate and current Miss Minnesota was eliminated during the top 10 round of the Miss America competition Thursday evening.

Before Mark took the stage for her final time, she wrote in an Instagram post, “To say I am grateful for [the Miss America Organization] is the understatement of the century. I am a stronger woman, better friend, and bigger dreamer thanks to the people I’ve met and the places I’ve been as a titleholder. I have nothing but gratitude in my heart . . .”

Mark joined the 50 other candidates representing the 50 states and Washington, D.C., on Dec. 8 at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Connecticut. Since then, candidates had been participating in privately judged interviews, essay writing and other activities.

During the first of the preliminary competition, Mark presented her social impact, The Campaign to Change Direction, a movement to change the culture of mental health so that all of those in need receive the care and support they deserve. She was asked an onstage

See Mark Page A5

NUCLEAR PLANT

Xcel plans new storage for spent nuclear fuel

BY RACHEL FERGUS
Staff Writer

Xcel Energy is planning to update its spent fuel storage technology for the final nine casks that it will fill at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant.

According to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, there are currently two main ways that spent nuclear fuel is stored in the country. The first is spent fuel pools, where used fuel is cooled and stored at least 20 feet underwater. The second storage option is dry casks.

Xcel currently uses a vertical canister system on Prairie Island where individual canisters hold the fuel. The proposal

is to use a horizontal, concrete vault system moving forward. In this design, the radioactive waste is placed into a steel canister with two welded closure lids and then the canister is sealed into the vault.

Xcel Energy Nuclear Engineer Jon Kapitz presented the new storage plan to the Red Wing City Council on Monday, Dec. 13.

He said of the current storage system, “We’re really the only site left in the U.S. that is using this type of model casks. We picked it in ‘89, it’s a very good design, it’s served us well, but things have just changed in the last 30 years.”

Meanwhile, the canisters used for Xcel’s current storage



FILE PHOTO

Rows of spent nuclear fuel storage casks sit outside Prairie Island nuclear plant.

are becoming more expensive and they are not licensed for other plants in the country. The horizontal storage system can, however, be held at any nuclear plant in the U.S.

The ability to move spent fuel is important as numerous

municipalities hope to have spent fuel removed from their communities.

The Prairie Island Indian Community, which shares the island with the nuclear plant in the U.S., states on its website,

See Xcel Page A5

FACTORY PRICE INCREASE COMING JANUARY 1, 2022

BUY YOUR NEW MATTRESS NOW!

BEFORE THE DEADLINE

SAMMON'S BEDS-N-MORE

SHOP LOCAL - N - SAVE

www.sammonsbeds.com

1112 MAIN STREET • RED WING, MN • 651-388-4432
HOURS: MON., TUES., THURS., FRI.: 10-6 • WED., SAT.: 10-5

Good Health Rests on a Good Nights Sleep.

WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE THE SAME LEVEL OF QUALITY



R E P U B L I C A N

EAGLE

Bouncing back

Injury sidelined Noah Morgan for much of his senior season, but he returned for the section championship.
Page B1



www.republicaneagle.com | **Weekend, June 11-12, 2022** | \$2.00 | Goodhue County and Pierce County

INSIDE



Casey and Kim O'Reilly love to show off their dairy farm operation south of Red Wing. **Page A4**



The Red Wing Arts Plein Air painting celebration starts this weekend. **Page A7**



"I've set out to make this season the most fun and joyful one the Sheldon's ever had," said Jeff Larson. **Page A10**



CONCERT IN THE PARK



JIM JOHNSON/REPUBLICAN EAGLE PHOTOS

With the sax player playing the blues, people in the audience danced on the lawn at Central Park.

Music and dancing

Willie B Blues Band rocks Central Park

The Willie B Blues Band was the second Concert In The Park Wednesday evening with a rousing blues and rock performance at the Central Park bandshell in Red Wing.

About 300 people enjoyed the music on a beautiful evening with temperatures in the low 70s.

The Concert In the Park series is sponsored by Red Wing Arts. Concerts are Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. in Central Park. The next concert, June 15, features the Double Down Daredevils.



Top right: Will Bergan, leader of the Willie B Blues Band, jams with the bass player. Bottom right: The fingers of the band's keyboard player flew across the keyboard.

RED WING SCHOOL BOARD

Title 1 reading program gets funding

\$1.7 million bond sale

BY SARAH KNIFF
Staff Writer

"It's going well," Jen Grove, Burnside Elementary school principal, said while giving an update to school board members June 6 on Title 1 reading programs in Red Wing.

Title 1 is a federally funded general education program that helps students who are failing or at risk of failing to meet grade level standards.

Funding is based on the number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunches; however, students don't need to be in the lunch program to use Title 1 services.

Red Wing elementary schools use Title 1 to provide extra help and instruction for students struggling in reading.

In 2022, the district was given \$318,615 and is expected to receive \$354,063 in funding for 2023.

"Students are identified by our FastBridge Learning screening assessments; fall, winter, and spring," Grove said. "We also look at classroom performance, student grades, and teacher recommendations to identify students eligible to receive Title I services."

During the 2020-2021 school year, 240 K-4 students were served locally.

"[Our new program] is Waseca," Grove said.

See Funding Page A8

DEVELOPMENT

Port Authority projects progressing

BY MELISSA THORUD
Staff Writer

The Port Authority discussed the progress of current redevelopment projects and upcoming summer events during the meeting on June 7.

There are several redevelopment projects in progress in the West End District and Downtown Red Wing.

The Bauer Built building is undergoing a property condition assessment and conversations are ongoing with a potential developer.

Community Development Director Kyle Klatt said, "A big piece of the Bauer Built building update is that we have met with a firm called rebound partners and they were listed as one of the potential developers of the project and they have expressed interest in the project."

The Old West Main project is continuing with the road construction and is on track. The most recent update for the project includes that additional parking on Levee Road near the bottom of the Riverview Skyway pedestrian bridge is ready for use.

The Block 27 project is taking next steps in the development process. Preliminary designs are being created and plans to bring the project before the City Council and Historic Preservation Committee are being made.

"Staff has continued to meet with developers for the downtown projects and have developed a TIF schedule and what that would look like," Klatt said.

Another redevelopment project that is continuing to move forward is the proposed

See Projects Page A8



PHOTO BY MELISSA THORUD

Parking at the pedestrian bridge during Old West Main Street construction.

OBITUARIES PAGE B5

Peter Wolfgang von Haaren
Douglas Ripley
Earl W. Stumpf

CANNON VALLEY FAIR

Showing their skills

Dogs, young owners run agility course

BY JIM JOHNSON
Managing Editor

Red Wing sisters Bailie and Hallie Roschen were among a half dozen students in the 4-H dog project to show off the skills they and their canine partners had learned over the past two months.

They participated in an exhibition on Sunday at the Cannon Valley Fair.

The students put their dogs through a series of agility tests – walking along an elevated beam, jumping over hurdles, climbing an A-frame apparatus and crawling through tunnels.

Since May, the students have worked with their dogs each week.

The program is run by professional dog trainers. Participants learn

how to care for and train a dog while showing leadership, sportsmanship and teamwork.

“I always tell the kids that for every dog there is, there are a number of ways to train them,” adult leader Shelly Strusz said. “Sometimes we experiment with different toys, treats and praise to train a well mannered dog.”

Usually at a fair, dogs and their owners will compete against a clock. The dog’s speed going through the course is clocked and points are deducted for skipping an apparatus.

At the Cannon Valley Fair, time was kept, but it was an exhibition, not a competition.

Dogs and their owners will get a chance to compete July 30-31 at



JIM JOHNSON/CANNON FALLS BEACON PHOTOS

Hallie Roschen leads her dog Beatrix over an obstacle during the 4-H dog exhibition at the Cannon Valley Fair on Sunday. Roschen is from Red Wing.

the Goodhue County Dog Show.

Bailie showed her skills with her dog, Bandit, while Hallie ran the course with Beatrix.

Most of the students ran through the obstacle course with their dogs on a leash, but at the end, 14-year-old Amelia Kispert of Ken-

yon took the leash off of her dog, Trixie, and ran through the course to the applause of more than 60 people who had gathered in the

show arena to watch the exhibition.

Readers can reach Jim Johnson at jjohnson@oro-urkemediagroup.com.



Kaylee Peterson of Zumbrota races to keep up with her dog Gracie during the 4-H dog exhibition on Sunday at the Cannon Valley Fair.



Bailie Roschen of Red Wing leads Bandit along an obstacle during the 4-H dog exhibition Sunday at the Cannon Valley Fair.



Lonestar

October 2
7:00



Amazed | What About Now | I'm Already There

ORDER TICKETS
sheldonthatre.org
651-388-8700

Sheldon Theatre | 443 W. 3rd St | Red Wing, MN | 651.388.8700



MINNESOTA







GET HIRED!

Find the Perfect Local Job.

OMGHired.com/Minnesota

Powered by  O'ROURKE MEDIA GROUP



Benedictine

LIVING COMMUNITY | RED WING



Growing our community of care!

We invite you to visit us and learn about all we can offer to ensure that you or your loved one is living fully and living well.

Benedictine Living Community-Red Wing, the area's only full continuum of care, includes:

- Independent and Assisted Living
- Memory Care
- Skilled Nursing Care
- Short-Term Care and Rehabilitation
- Outpatient Rehabilitation
- Home to local Meals on Wheels program

Please call (651) 388-1234 for more information.

213 Pioneer Road, Red Wing, MN 55066 | benedictineredwing.org

Three young women were named the Red Wing Royal Ambassadors in a ceremony Sunday. **Page A4**



INSIDE



There was a little of everything in the River City Days parade, including a smoke spewing serpent. **Page A8**



The Goodhue County Fair is a magnet for politicians hoping to spend time talking with voters. **Page A6**



The Red Wing Aces clinched another trip to the state tournament in a rain-delayed victory Monday. **Page B1**



It took years, but the Hope Coalition went to the state Supreme Court and won a victory for confidentiality. **Page A3**



BRIDGE DEDICATION



JIM JOHNSON/REPUBLICAN EAGLE PHOTOS

Randy Seipel of Plum City waves to passing motorists on the Eisenhower Bridge of Valor on Sunday morning.

BRIDGE of VALOR

Rain doesn't dampen bridge dedication

BY JIM JOHNSON
Managing Editor

Rain did not deter a crowd of about 150 people from attending a dedication ceremony renaming the Eisenhower Bridge over the Mississippi River as the Eisenhower Bridge of Valor on Sunday morning.

The ceremony was held in Bay Point Park with the bridge as a backdrop for the ceremony. Nearly 100 people, each holding an American flag stood on the bridge throughout the ceremony.

Patriotism played a big part in the ceremony as did recognizing both Minnesota and Wisconsin, the two states connected by the bridge.

Wisconsin state Rep. Warren Petryk started the ceremony singing the national anthem.

Minnesota state Rep. Barb Haley recalled the long process of passing the law that named the bridge.

Haley also recognized Jane Drazkosky as the driving force behind coming up with the concept of honoring those killed in war as well as the



Veteran Bill Rodgers of Red Wing listens to the dedication ceremony for the Eisenhower Bridge of Valor.

first responders who work daily in the community to help residents.

Drazkosky was presented with a plaque and a photograph of the signing of the legislation renaming the bridge.

Poignant stories told the stories of local men who went to war and did not return. Ann Simerlink told about the valor of firefighters who helped

rescue family heirlooms as their home burned in frigid temperatures of 17 below 0.

The Red Wing Community Men's Choir sang, and Sienna Yockey, the 11-year-old winner of the Elks statewide essay contest, led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Lynn Ista played bagpipes.

See Valor Page A10

GOVERNMENT/ ELECTIONS

Kliewer wins Ward 2 seat

November ballots set for other races

BY MELISSA THORUD

Staff Writer

Donald Kliewer will be joining the Red Wing City Council as soon as the special election results are canvassed and declared official.

Kliewer won the Ward 2 seat by just 31 votes, recording 481 votes to 450 for Min Martin-Oakes. Kliewer will take his seat on the Red Wing City Council effectively immediately.

"I was surprised it was as close as it was one way or the other, I started out behind and I was surprised when I came out ahead," said seat winner Kliewer. "I think it is the beginning of some new mindsets for the council and looking at things in a different light."

Primary elections

At-large primary candidates who will move onto the regular election in November are Janie Farrar and Chad Kono.

Farrar took 45.53% of the votes with Kono coming in with 29.38% of the votes.

"I am just really thankful to the voters in Red Wing, and I would like to congratulate Chad Kono on moving forward and thank Ralph Rauterkus for being a part of the race, Farrar said. "There is a lot more work to be done so I'm excited for November."

In the 4th Ward primary, candidates moving onto the regular election are Vicki Jo Lambert and Ted Seifert. Lambert finished with 47.29% of votes, and Seifert finished with 39.22% of votes.

"First of all, I'm excited and I'm just delighted by the support of people in town, it is the greatest thing ever," Lambert said.

"It has been super fun to get to know my neighbors and see people that I haven't seen in years. As a teacher in the community I had students many years ago and now I have seen them as grown adults and it has been really neat to reconnect," she continued.

House District 20A

The District 20A state representative race candidates moving forward to the general election are DFL candidate Laurel Stinson and Republican candidate Pam Altendorf.

Stinson ran unopposed in the DFL primary.

Altendorf edged Jesse Johnson with 51.81% of

See Kliewer Page A10

COUNTY FAIR

Goodhue County Fair

Fair starts with 4-H, FFA competitions

BY MELISSA THORUD
Staff Writer

The Goodhue County fairgrounds were crowded with competitors and fairgoers on a sunny and warm entry-day on Tuesday afternoon.

While food vendors and commercial vendors set up, attendees walked through the 4-H building, watched the poultry show and played bingo.

On Wednesday, the fair started to pick up. In the morning children from day care centers went to the fair to play games and watch shows. As the afternoon went on more people started to fill the fairgrounds.

Competitors of all ages started to get their animals ready for shows that take place all week. Some include the sheep show, beef



MELISSA THORUD/REPUBLICAN EAGLE

Jim Anderson and Reese Anderson at the Goodhue County Fair ready for the week of activities.

show, goat show and swine show.

Grandstand events began on Tuesday night with the

lawnmower derby. Each night features a grandstand show including two demon-

stration derbies.

Families and friends of competitors watched in the stands

See Fair Page A7

OBITUARIES PAGE B4

- Carole Mary Adams
- Wanda Amyx
- Paul Drotos
- Rodney Frantzen
- Larry A. Lodermeier
- Ruthann Nelson
- Marland Eugene Nugent
- Jean Qualle
- Marion Lee Smith
- Donald Stricker
- Janice Suchanek
- Gary W. Weber

NEWS

RED WING ROYAL AMBASSADORS



Gavrielle Amnendi is announced as a 2022 Red Wing royal ambassador. She is congratulated by Elle Brandt and Katelyn Howe.



JIM JOHNSON/REPUBLICAN EAGLE PHOTOS

Courtney Colwell reacts after being named a Red Wing royal ambassador.

2022 royal ambassadors crowned

The reign of the 2019 Red Wing royal ambassadors finally came to an end Sunday night.

The three ambassadors – Delaynee Fox, Morgan Fritz and Hannah Rodgers – were crowned in August 2019.

Then COVID-19 hit. With the program suspended for two years, their reigns continued.

Sunday night they relinquished their crowns. Courtney Colwell, Gabrielle Mueller and Madison Odziemski were named the new ambassadors in an elaborate ceremony that featured song and dance to the circus theme of Come One, Come All.

The seven candidates had a busy day, riding in the River City Days parade, dinner at the St. James Hotel and a reception at the Elks Lodge following the coronation ceremony.

The candidates performed a number of dance routines with multiple wardrobe changes in between. The other candidates were Elle Brandt, Kylie Griffin, Katelyn Howe and Mara Kelly.

The winners received a number of sparkling gifts:

- ▶ The Royal Ambassador crown.
- ▶ A sterling silver wing pendant with gem accent from DeLeon Jewelers.
- ▶ A sterling silver and pearl link bracelet from Wanshura Jewelers.
- ▶ Sterling silver drop pearl earrings from Wanshura Jewelers.
- ▶ Royal Ambassador attire.
- ▶ Women's heritage boots from Red Wing Shoe Company.
- ▶ A business outfit from Phil-eo Style of Red Wing.
- ▶ An 8 by 12 portrait from Jodessa Liz Photography.
- ▶ A \$2,000 scholarship.

Prairie Island Elders Princess Jayme Campbell presented a new award this year, the Kodakciyapi award, which went to Kylie Griffin for her volunteer work. Mara Kelly received the first scholarship honoring Lydia Bailey, a longtime member of the Royal Ambassadors Committee who died this year.



Madison Odziemski reacts as Morgan Fritz puts the 2022 Red Wing royal ambassador sash over her head.



Elle Brandt



Courtney Colwell



Kylie Griffin



Gabrielle Amnendi won the award for the best costume.



Katelyn Howe



Mara Kelly



Gabrielle Amnendi



Madison Odziemski



The Red Wing Royal Ambassador candidates take a bow after the performance of "From Now On."

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Former Commissioner Drotos dies at 69

Commissioner Drotos

Former Goodhue County Commissioner Paul Drotos died on Thursday, Aug. 4, at home surrounded by loved ones; he was 69 years old.

Drotos died after an ongoing battle with cancer of the bones, lung and brain.

He recently stepped down as commissioner last month because of his illness.

"[He] has dedicated his life to being a public servant by ensuring the people's interests are always put first," Goodhue County Administrator Scott Arneson said when Drotos resigned on July 19. "Whether people personally know Commissioner Drotos or not, he has always worked with their best interests in mind."

Drotos has served as commissioner of District 5 since 2017 and used this time to tackle sustainability issues, lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduce waste and revitalize the local housing development.

Drotos encouraged residents to bike more and use electric vehicles if possible.

"I believe that sustainability is the issue of our lifetime because it can address environmental degradation and climate change for the long run," Drotos said in an interview with the Republican Eagle.

In addition to his work on the county Board of Commissioners, Drotos worked with many local organizations including Red Wing Lions and Elks Club, United Way, Red Wing Arts and the Goodhue County Historical Society.

— Melissa Thorud, staff writer

River City Days

Despite the rainy weather over the weekend, the Red Wing community came together for the city's annual River City Days.

Each day had different activities for the community to be a part of. Including the bridge dedication, concerts in Bay Point Park, an arts and crafts festival and the parade.

On Sunday, West Fifth Street and West Third Street filled with chairs and spectators for the parade. Down the street in Levee Park, local artists and art vendors shared their products and art with the community.

Local artist Lindsey Cherek was stationed outside the Red Wing



SUBMITTED PHOTO FROM 2021

Red Wing commissioner loves riding his 1995 EV Warrior electric bike.



JIM JOHNSON/REPUBLICAN EAGLE

Eleven-year-old Stella Johnson of Red Wing flips a pancake at the pancake flipping contest.

Depot asking those passing by questions about what art they would like to see in Red Wing.

"I'm collecting data from the community on what kind of art they would like to see more of," she said.

Once someone answered the question, they received a free flower that corresponded to their answer.

At Bay Point Park, a local Minnesota singing duo "Koo Koo Kangaroo" drew a large crowd

of children with their families. The park filled with singing as the crowd sang along to each of the songs.

Many local restaurants served food over the weekend, including Liberty's, Fiesta Mexicana

and Hanisch Bakery.

The River City Days is organized each year by the Red Wing Chamber of Commerce and is funded by local sponsors who support the event each year.

— Melissa Thorud, staff writer

Finance report

The Red Wing City Council heard presentations for the Popular Annual Finance Report and introductions for the new 2022 Red Wing Royal Ambassadors at the Aug. 8 council meeting.

Kathy Weigand summer finance intern presented the 2021 Popular Annual Finance Report to the council.

Finance Manager Sue Iverson introduced Weigand to the council and explained how the finance report will be dispersed to the residents in the community.

"This is a four-page fold out, and it will go out in the utility bills next month, and it is also on the website. We are also working on getting it translated into Spanish. We will also have 100 extra copies so people can pick them up and can be used as handouts," Iverson said.

The Popular Annual Finance Report is a shortened version of the annual comprehensive report that is more than 250 pages long and is highly detailed. The full comprehensive report is available for the public to view online; however, this is a shortened version that is more accessible that still hits the main points.

"The PAFR is very different from the comprehensive report although all of the information is taken from that report. This report avoids technical jargon, is much less detailed, it is only four pages," Weigand said. "The goal of this is to be accessible and understandable for anyone that wants a better idea of the city's finances."

This year in the 2021 PAFR there is an outline of the city's fund types, a comparison of tax rates to other surrounding cities, general fund expenditures and revenues and explanations of each fund type.

— Melissa Thorud, staff writer

Pancake breakfast

The annual River City Days pancake breakfast was held at the Red Wing Regional Airport on Sunday. The breakfast, held in a hangar, featured pancakes, sausage and

beverages.

Outside there were multiple displays — a number of aircraft and about a dozen classic cars.

Some breakfast goers flew in for the meal.

A pancake flipping contest tested the skills of contestants who had to repeatedly flip a pancake on a spatula and catch it. Kids, it seemed, were better at it than adults.

Road work delays

Goodhue County's Public Works Department is updating the public on the progress of its 2022 bituminous paving contract to Rochester Sand & Gravel. With a cost of nearly \$7.2 million, this project will improve the driving conditions of several county roads and increase road lifespans.

Bituminous, better known as asphalt, is used in the transportation community to bond and seal aggregate particles together to produce a durable and smooth surface. Goodhue County's projects include bituminous milling and reclamation, ADA sidewalk and pedestrian ramp improvements, bituminous mainline and shoulder paving, aggregate shouldering, railroad crossing improvements and paint striping.

Due to shortages in available employees in construction fields, truck drivers, subcontractors, and materials — construction work has been delayed across all sectors. Other projects that the Contractor is working on also experience these same issues which in turn exacerbates delays.

The following county state aid highways will be impacted by the paving:

County 9 Boulevard: County 2 Boulevard to east county line.

County 17 Boulevard: west county line to state Highway 20.

County 20 Boulevard: Ash Court to state Highway 19.

County 22 Boulevard: State Highway 20 to County 17 Boulevard.

County 24 Boulevard: County 9 Boulevard to Oxford Mill Bridge.

County 24 Boulevard: County 25 Boulevard to state Highway 19

County 25 Boulevard: County 20 Boulevard to County 24 Boulevard

County 29 Boulevard: State Highway 20 to Dakota County 86

County 66 Boulevard: County 1 Boulevard to Twin Bluff Road



JIM JOHNSON/REPUBLICAN EAGLE

The 2022 Red Wing Royal Ambassadors at the coronation ceremony Sunday night, from left, Gabrielle Mueller, Madison Odziemski and Courtney Colwell.

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGE SOUTHEAST
A TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT

Put your skills to work. Local employers seek our graduates. In fact, many students are employed before graduation day. Turn your passion into a paycheck. Get started at MSC Southeast!

90+

degree, diploma & certificate options

southeastmn.edu

Career Focused. Transfer Ready.

The Ellsworth Community School District

FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN

The Ellsworth Community School District is hiring a Full-Time Custodian for the upcoming school year. This position is benefit eligible- quality health insurance, long-term disability, and participation in the Wisconsin Retirement System.

Applicants can apply by submitting an application in WECAN at <http://wecan.education.wisc.edu> and selecting Custodian vacancy #150383 or by going to the school district website at www.ellsworth.k12.wi.us under District Employment and clicking on the Support Staff link under the Current Job Openings link.

Application deadline:
open until the position is filled.

The leaders of an engaged learning community.

The Ellsworth Community School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer

With a 14-month-old baby at home, Kyle Blahnik is looking for more balance in his life. **Page B1**



INSIDE



A new logo has become the face of the Red Wing Chamber of Commerce, in addition to a rebranding for the organization. **Page A3**



Wilson Mills has been selling at the Pierce County Fair for 32 years, the longest tenured food vending tent. **Page A8**



It's August, and it's time for high school football. The Red Wing Wingers took to the practice fields this week. **Page B2**



This little yellow warbler flew into the same net used by researchers a year after it was first caught and tagged. **Page B10**



GOODHUE COUNTY FAIR



JIM JOHNSON/REPUBLICAN EAGLE PHOTOS

Abbie Meurer competed in the compact car class against the men.

Revving up the horsepower

Growing group of women challenge men on track

BY JIM JOHNSON
Managing Editor

The two drivers pushed the accelerator pedals to the floor. The engines roared as they hurtled toward each other. Their cars slammed together, the violence of the collision evident in the wham and crumpling sheet metal, the two drivers pitching forward, their seat belts straining.

Then they backed up and did it again. And again. And again. After the fourth bone-jarring collision. They backed up and moved to another area of the track to try a different strategy.

This was a typical Saturday night demolition derby at the Goodhue County Fair. The two drivers were the remaining com-



Taylor Kish is ready to race before the demolition derby Saturday evening.

petitors in a contest that started with a dozen cars.

But these two drivers were not the typical competitors in a demo-

lition derby. Both were women, part of a small but growing group pushing their way into a male-dominated sport.

The men in the competition sat in their disabled cars watching the two women battle for the \$800 check that came with winning the class – mid-size cars with drivers 21 years old and younger.

Taylor Kish, the class winner, has been racing for the past four years since she was 16. Like many of the women racing at the Goodhue County Fair she started because her dad and brothers had raced and competed in demolition derbies.

"I started because all my brothers and my dad do it, so I had to start," she said.

See Drivers Page A4

RED WING SCHOOLS

Nine vie for three seats on board

BY JIM JOHNSON
Managing Editor

Nine candidates have filed to run for three Red Wing School Board seats.

Filing for spots on the ballot closed on Tuesday.

Two of the three incumbents, Jim Bryant and Holly Tauer, have filed for re-election bids.

The third incumbent, Arlen Diercks, announced at a recent board meeting that he will not be running for re-election.

"It has nothing to do with what has been going on in the last two years," Diercks said. "I was blessed with eight years, and it's been so rewarding to me to give back to the school that has given so much to me."

In addition to Bryant and Tauer, others filing for candidacy are:

- ▶ Terese "Mrs. B" Bjornstad.
- ▶ Benjamin Winter.
- ▶ Rachel Marshall Schoenfelder.
- ▶ Kristen Titus.
- ▶ Heather Rudawski.
- ▶ Jason Ramstad.
- ▶ Kayla Anderson.

The School Board election will be Tuesday, Nov. 8. Terms begin in January.

Also on the November ballot will be two questions asking voters to extend levies to supplement state school funding.

The district is asking voters for \$1,650 per pupil to extend the expiring tax levy.

The referendum has two parts:

- ▶ \$1,200 per student to improve current educational programs.
- ▶ \$450 per student, raising the total to \$1,650 per student, to build on the college readiness and

See Board Page A10

RED WING

Rewriting history

Inaccurate historical sign removed from building

BY MELISSA THORUD
Staff Writer

This spring, an inaccurate historical sign in downtown Red Wing was brought to the city's attention.

A resident noticed the sign and its inaccuracies about the Dakota people and the land located in downtown Red Wing. The sign was on the building that Home Plate Grill acquired when they bought the building. "I'm familiar with the real history and just reading the sign I just thought, 'Whoa this is so crazy,' because I grew up in Red Wing, and I know I've probably walked by that sign 100 times and how that escaped me I have no idea," Corey Western Boy said.

Once she realized the sign had historically inaccurate information, she reached out to the mayor and the City Council.

"After I first read it, I just thought of who could I bring this to the attention of. I contacted the City Council, and I wasn't sure if they knew it was inaccurate so I sent attachments of the Treaty of 1862," she said.

"The treaty talks about the Dakota land cession where

the land was stolen from the Dakota people, it wasn't sold," she continued.

The sign stated how the buildings that were there, got there. It inaccurately had said that the Sioux sold lands east of the Mississippi, and they were missionaries sent to help the Indigenous peoples.

The explanation on the sign stating that the land was sold was inaccurate.

"The Dakota people have a strong history here in He Mni Can and their story is woven into the land. The Dakota people did not have missionaries. In fact, in 1819 Congress appropriated \$10,000 to pay missionaries to deploy to Native American camps and 'civilize' and suppress their traditional practices," Western Boy said in an email to the mayor and City Council.

"The land to which was 'sold' east of the Mississippi, was actually stolen in the 1837 Dakota Land Cession Treaty. They refused to sign this treaty in Mendota Heights along with the Ojibwe in June of 1837, so the Dakota were kidnapped, starved,

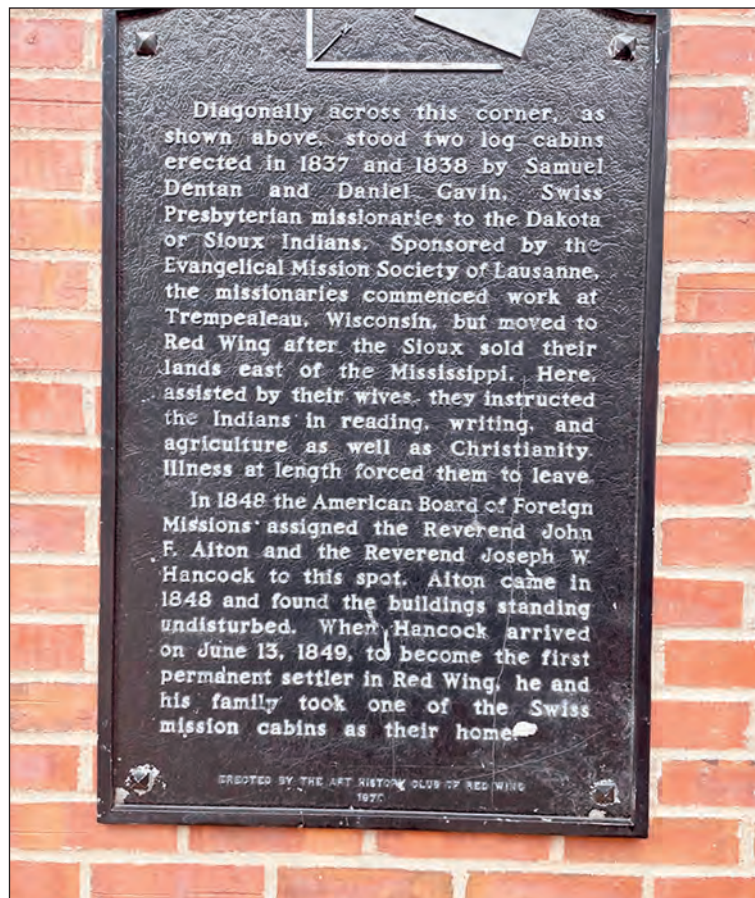


PHOTO COURTESY OF COREY WESTERN BOY

A photo of the removed sign that contained inaccurate historical information.

See Sign Page A10

OBITUARIES PAGE B5

- Evan Michael Burkel
- Eileen A. (Hanvelt) Jansen
- Marvin Johnson
- Ross Virgil Lausing
- Jean L. Lindstrom
- Martin Lohmann
- Jean MacMillan Ross
- Delores Shea
- Dale Wells

DRIVERS

PAGE A1

Kish's opponent when it came down to two cars was Sidney Majerus, who was in her first race. Still Majerus was familiar with Kish and knew about her reputation as a competitor. The two grew up next door neighbors.

"She's my neighbor," Majerus said. "I know that she usually wins, so I was trying to avoid her."

After their bone-jarring competition, the two women embraced and talked on the track while Majerus waited for her car to be towed off the track.

"It was really fun to run with her," Kish said. "I really enjoyed that. It was fun to be out there with a girl I knew, and I had fun with her."

What did they talk about after the race?

"I told her she did real good for her first derby and that I was amazed because she had some pretty darn hard hits," Kish said.

The two women were competing in the demolition derby. The previous night, the grandstand attraction was autocross – kind of a combination of stock car racing and demolition derby. In autocross, drivers race around the dirt track. Pushing somebody onto a bank on the small oval is common.

The autocross competition features a "powder puff" class for women. There is no women only class in the demolition derby.

Altogether in the two competitions there were about two dozen women competing. There were well over 100 men. Many of the women competing were like Majerus, driving in their first competition.

Keera Krauss, a 29-year-old from Rochester, was in her first race driving a minivan in competition that included men.

"We got to get more women in here," she said, adding her strategy was to "put it in first and give her hell."

She had a plea to other drivers painted on the back of her van: "Be gentle to me, I'm a girl."

Not everybody wanted to be treated gently.

Miranda Woodward races in both autocross and demolition derbies.

"Getting to compete is something I love to do," she said. "I played sports almost my entire life, so now that I'm not playing those anymore, I



JIM JOHNSON/REPUBLICAN EAGLE PHOTOS

Sidney Majerus is jolted forward as she slams head-on into Taylor Kish.



Above: Sidney Majerus' car was smoking but it was still running Saturday night. Left: Miranda Woodward is surrounded by male competitors in the drivers' meeting.



Doors are welded shut for safety. Drivers need to climb in and out through the windows. Here Kylie Ramsey climbs out of her car after finishing sixth in her heat.



Taylor Kish (left) talks with her next-door neighbor Sidney Majerus after the two finished one-two in the demolition derby Saturday evening.



Miranda Woodward touches up the paint on her demolition derby entry prior to the race.

moved into the competitive derby and autocross world."

She likes the demolition derby more than autocross.

"I feel it is a little bit more competitive," she said. "You have to be more strategic."

Then she added: "I kind of enjoy smashing the boys around."

Erin Ganrud from Zumbrota has the same attitude. She just turned 19 this month and is in her first year of autocross racing. She skips the powder puff class and goes up against the guys in the compact car class.

Why? "I got to emasculate

the men." Jenna Sommers of Lake City just competes in the powder puff.

"It's a really fun thing to do ... be out there at the track with the girls and just have a good time," she said.

Cassandra Hall is a 21-year-old interior design student at the University of Wisconsin-Stout who competes in the demolition derby. She likes to be a daredevil.

"Usually I get nervous and a lot of adrenaline before I go out there," Hall said. "And then when you get out there you forget about everything."

Saturday night she got knocked out of the derby early.

The intake fell off on her and the fuel sensor wasn't reading properly causing her engine to shut off.

"I was hitting hard. I wanted to let some anger out," she said. "I probably should have saved my front end."

What about first time driver Sidney Majerus, who came in second in her first derby? Will she be out there the following week?

"If the car can work by then."

Readers can reach Jim Johnson at jjohnson@orokemediagroup.com.



Kylie Ramsey is pushed into a bank in the autocross competition.



Keera Krauss has a message for other drivers painted on the back of her van.



Ashley Jervis smiles behind her helmet at the start of the race.



Allison Wing of Rochester was driving in her first autocross race. "I'm excited and nervous," she said.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

THE SOUND OF RED WING



JIM JOHNSON/REPUBLICAN EAGLE PHOTOS

JoJo Green lead singer Sharisse "Jermaine" Germain works with Mike Murphy before the concert to get the sound just right.

Community Mike

Mike Murphy has been providing sound for 52 years

BY JIM JOHNSON
Managing Editor

The band started playing the 1968 Dave Mason song "Feeling Alright."

Mike Murphy turned a couple of knobs on the sound board and then started dancing. He danced off the stage and onto the grass lawn. He danced from one side of the park to the other.

This was more than a dance. Murphy was listening to the sound balance during the sound check before a concert. Was one singer or instrument overpowering others? Could he hear all of the voices?

Murphy danced back on the bandshell stage, made a couple tweaks on the soundboard and signaled the band that the sound was all right.

"If it's too loud on the stage, I wanna hear that," he said. "I go out into the audience."

Murphy has been doing this since 1970 – 52 years ago when he was a sophomore at Central High School in Red Wing.

He has been called Community Mike – a play on his first name and a nod to his work providing sound systems and equipment for area nonprofits. He doesn't charge for his work.

"I was dubbed Community Mike by Gary Iocco, then president of Downtown Main Street – Community Mike for Michael and for microphone," Murphy recalled. "I thought that was pretty catchy."

As a reporter interviewed Murphy at a downtown coffee shop, people stopped by the table to say hi. He seems to know everybody in town. Several thanked him for the great sound at a Concert in the Park the night before.

The Concert in the Park series is put on by Red Wing Arts, one of many nonprofits Murphy helps.

To him, it is a First Amendment issue.

"I found where people who want to speak, people



Mike Murphy listens to the music from the audience to make sure the balance is right.



Mike Murphy adjusts the levels during a sound check before the concert.

who have a cause," he said, "where people's voices want to be heard, especially nonprofits, that don't have two nickels to rub together."

He does not charge the groups. For Red Wing Arts, hiring a sound technician with the equipment Murphy brings would cost about \$1,500 a night.

"There's some freedom there, and I never ask for money, and I never have," he said.

For Murphy, the work is fun.

Over the years, he has collected a great deal of equipment, maybe \$250,000 worth, that he uses to help organizations be heard.

"I'm kind of a gear head," he said. "I have good equipment because I knew what kind of equipment I had when I was in high school, and it was not that great."

The year was 1970. Murphy was a sophomore in

high school and played bass guitar in a band that was doing a benefit. Since he had an amplifier and some sound equipment, he volunteered to help with the event.

During the '70s, he and friends introduced electric guitars to church services at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, something that was "almost sacrilegious" at the time. Playing at the church was a beautiful woman on a 12-string guitar. Her name was Nancy. He fell in love with the guitar player, and they have been married for 46 years.

Since that time he did a 10-year stint in the U.S. Navy where he worked on nuclear submarines. He turned that training into a career at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, retiring in 2018 as the lead reactor operator after a 34-year career.

"Community Mike"



Mike Murphy grooves to the beat of the JoJo Green band on Aug. 17.



Mike Murphy dances to the music during the JoJo Green concert on Aug. 17.

them every year since."

These days, you'll find him at numerous events around Red Wing. He provides sound equipment for the Red Wing Community Men's Chorus, the annual Field of Honor ceremony and recently, the Eisenhower Bridge of Valor dedication.

When the League of Women Voters stages its candidate forums, Murphy is there. Because of his extensive equipment collection, each of the candidates gets his or her own microphone, no passing the mics back and forth. No hogging the mic by an overly zealous candidate.

During COVID-19, he helped churches who had to move to outdoor venues or had to broadcast services over online streaming channels.

For one church that had parishioners stay in their cars, Murphy delivered the music and services over an FM transmitter that broadcast right into their car radios.

He has helped local churches set up sound systems in their churches, finding cost effective ways to deliver better sound.

He retired in 2018 from the Prairie Island nuclear plant. He is 67 now and teaches a course – basic sound operation – with the Red Wing Public Schools Community Education program to help others learn to be sound technicians.

"I spent 34 years making electricity for Xcel and then I use it all up doing rock and roll," Murphy said.

Next year is the 50th anniversary of his graduation from Central High School. Murphy figures he will be helping out with the music at the event. He has been the DJ at past reunions.

"Why?" Murphy asks. "Because I have old '70s music."

Readers can reach Jim Johnson at jjohnson@ourorkmedia.com

