

Election to fill Hagedorn's term has 1st GOP candidates

BY MATTHEW STOLLE
Post Bulletin

More names have been added to the list of candidates running in the 1st Congressional District special election. They are the race's first GOP candidates, Ken Navitsky and Bob "Again" Carney Jr., according to the Minnesota Secretary of State's website.



Carney Navitsky

A special election is being held to serve out the remainder of the term of Jim Hagedorn, a GOP representative

who died last month of kidney cancer.

Navitsky is a former Minnesota State University placekicker and emcee at monster truck shows, according to the Mankato Free Press. Navitsky played on scholarship for the Mavericks and was a record-setting placekicker.

Navitsky ran for Rochester City Council

in 2006, taking third in a four-candidate primary election.

Navitsky is a sales executive for a Rochester basement waterproofing and radon business. He and his wife, Kelly Kusske, live in Rochester with their two children.

As his tongue-in-cheek name suggests, Carney has been a perennial fringe candidate for political office over the

last decade. According to Ballotpedia, he ran for the state Senate twice and governor once, all with the same result: He lost. He ran for mayor of Minneapolis in 2021, again with the same result.

The special election on Aug. 9 will run on the same day as the primary election to decide the major party nominees for the general election. The

winner of that race will serve a regular two-year term starting in January.

The other candidates to file so far for the special election are Richard Painter, a University of Minnesota law professor, and Richard DeVoe, a Red Wing bookseller. Both are Democrats. The number of candidates could swell in the coming days after Hagedorn's funeral is held on Saturday.

Heron nests destroyed at proposed development site in Rochester Township

BY JOHN MOLSEED
Post Bulletin

ROCHESTER — About half of the great blue heron nests at the site of a proposed development west of Rochester have been destroyed.

Trees on land in Rochester Township at the center of a legal battle between neighboring property owners and proponents for preserving the nests were cut down sometime between Thursday and Sunday, neighboring property owners said Sunday.

Tim Parkin, who owns property adjoining the development site, pointed to felled trees in the nest colony, what is known as a rookery. The plan by International Properties LLC calls for 10 homes and a northward extension of Boulder Creek Lane Southwest to be built on the 17-acre site containing many of the dozens of nests.

Trees that contained heron nests on property owned by Steve Connelly, where International Properties LLC, owned by

Aderonke Mordi, proposes to build the housing development, had been marked with pink ribbon. Several of the trunks piled on the property still had ribbon and the overhead canopy of heron nests had a gap, Parkin pointed out.

"Those clearly had had heron nests in them," he said. "We believe this to be a deliberate act to get these trees removed before the herons return and start fledging or laying eggs and preparing to raise little ones."

In court filings, wildlife enthusiasts including Carrol Henderson, founder of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' nongame wildlife program, say the rookery is unique because it is in an upland forest and not located adjacent to a major body of water.

About 25 nests from the previous three to four dozen remain.

Parkin is also a co-founder of the nonprofit group, Save the Rookery. Parkin and the group have filed suits to halt the development.



Tim Parkin points to trees containing great blue heron nests Sunday on his property in Rochester Township.

John Molseed / Post Bulletin

The first suit was filed in March last year when neighbors learned of development plans and filed an injunction against Connely and International Properties LLC. A temporary restraining order in that case was overturned but work was halted because the nests were occupied by birds by the time

the court decision was rendered. Nests that are occupied by herons are protected by federal and international law under the migratory bird treaty act.

Parkin said the timing of the tree removal appears to be deliberate before the nests are occupied and again protected.

Another pair of lawsuits, filed in October and November last year, challenge the Rochester Township Board's decisions not to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement of the site and the board's acceptance of a general development plan in November.

Members of Save the Rookery discovered the

trees were cut down after checking on nest cameras set up on some of the nests. The solar-powered cameras were set up in the last few weeks to give people live looks at the nests once the herons return.

Parkin said the Save the Rookery group had hoped to purchase the land and set it aside as a scientific natural area. He said that looks less likely now that several trees have been cut down.

"How I don't know how you can undo irreparable harm," he said. "By definition, you can't."

Calls to Connelly Sunday evening for comment were not immediately returned.

Parkin said the Save the Rookery group would meet Sunday night and then speak with attorneys representing them in the pending cases Monday to determine their next course of action.

"This isn't over," Parkin said.

Contact John Molseed at jmolseed@postbulletin.com.

LOCAL BRIEFS

OLMSTED COUNTY WOMAN POSSIBLY SCAMMED OUT OF \$31K

ROCHESTER — An Olmsted County woman may be out more than \$30,000 after falling prey to a scammer pretending to be an employee of a brokerage company.

Olmsted County Sheriff's Capt. James Schueller said it was not yet known Monday morning if the woman's brokerage company had been able to stop the transaction placed over the weekend.

Deputies were called Saturday, March 5, 2022, to a residence in the 3000 block of Wright Road Southwest for a past theft. A 68-year-old woman told deputies that she had been on her iPad on Thursday checking her brokerage accounts when her iPad started acting up and sent a notification that it was being attacked and provided a number, supposedly for Apple,

that she should call.

The woman called the number and was told to do a number of things both on her iPad and her home computer. The woman then spoke with someone about her brokerage account and the person said he could cancel a pending transaction but would need to set up a fictitious account. The person on the phone also told the woman she would be receiving a call from her brokerage company and instructed her to lie to the person who was going to call her.

The woman then received a call from her actual brokerage company and lied as instructed despite the brokerage company employee's cautions that the woman may be in the midst of being scammed. The woman ended up sending \$31,000 to the fictitious account.

Schueller said the woman's brokerage

company told her there was a chance they could stop the transaction and recover the funds as it had been pending over the weekend, but it was not immediately known if that was successful.

MORE THAN A DOZEN SHELL CASINGS AFTER RESIDENT REPORTS HEARING RAPID GUNFIRE

ROCHESTER — Olmsted County Sheriff's deputies found more than a dozen shell casings late Sunday night after a Cascade Township resident reported hearing rapid gunfire.

Deputies were called around 11:50 p.m. to the 6000 block of Broadway Avenue North by a resident who reported hearing rapid gunfire and then seeing a vehicle leave the area, according to Capt. James Schueller.

The caller went outside and along with deputies located 14 Smith and Wesson shell casings. No damage to property was

found nor was anyone found to be injured. No other residents of the area called in to report hearing gunfire.

ROCHESTER MAN LOSES OVER \$3K IN BANKING SCAM

ROCHESTER — A Rochester man is out \$3,100 after falling prey to a scammer pretending to be from his bank's fraud department.

The 29-year-old man called Rochester police around 3 p.m. Saturday, March 5, 2022, to report the scam. He told officers he received a call from a man pretending to be from US Bank's fraud department and stating that there were fraudulent charges on the 29-year-old's account.

The man on the phone seemed "very well versed" and the 29-year-old man let his guard down, Rochester police Capt. Casey Moilanen said. The 29-year-old man gave the caller his email address and then

received an email with a verification code from what appeared to be a Wells Fargo Bank email. The man provided the caller with the code and then was told to open up his mobile banking app and was walked through a series of steps, which ultimately led to the man transferring \$2,000 and then \$1,100 through the app Zelle.

The man realized after hanging up that he had been scammed.

ROCHESTER HOME DESTROYED IN FIRE SUNDAY NIGHT

ROCHESTER — A family pet died and a home was destroyed Sunday night, March 6, 2022, when a fire broke out at a southeast Rochester residence.

Members of the Rochester Fire Department were called around 9:45 p.m. to a home in the 900 block of 16 1/2 Street Southeast for a report of a fire. When crews arrived, they

found the homeowner outside of the residence along with a dog. Firefighters learned that a cat was believed to still be in the home.

A fire, producing significant smoke and heat, was found in the basement.

"Upon further investigation, the fire was found to have spread throughout much of the basement area, making entry into the home dangerous as floors and stairwells become compromised quickly," the fire department wrote in a news release.

Crews removed the cat from the main floor of the home and firefighters as well as Mayo Clinic Ambulance Service crews attempted to revive it with specialized equipment. Efforts were unsuccessful and the cat died.

The home is considered a total loss.

Post Bulletin Staff Reports

Hagedorn

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losing in the general elections to then-Rep. Tim Walz.

In 2018, he again earned the GOP nod and defeated Dan Feehan, repeating that success in 2020.

His service in Congress followed the footsteps of his father, Tom Hagedorn, who was a congressman representing the 2nd Congressional District from 1975 to 1983.

Josh Kitzerow of Truman said while he did not know the congressman personally, the whole town felt the loss.

"A lot of people knew him," Kitzerow said. Pointing to the church and attached school, he added, "He went to school here from preschool through seventh grade."

Kitzerow said Hagedorn would often come to town and visit



Signs are placed in a windshield Saturday outside of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Truman, Minnesota.

Traci Westcott / Post Bulletin

the pastor at the church even after moving to Blue Earth later in life.

The funeral was filled with friends from across the state. Minnesota Rep.

Greg Davids, R-Preston, arrived with his wife, Bonnie.

"Jim and I were good friends," Davids said.

Davids described a consummate politician

who worked hard for the district he represented, and the conservative values he held dear.

Recalling efforts campaigning together — either door-knocking

or on a parade route — Davids said Hagedorn was tireless in reaching out to his constituents.

"The guy could move," Davids said. "He was enthusiastic. I never saw him down. I never saw him down."

It was during campaign and public events where Justin Jobe said he often met the congressman.

Jobe, the police chief in Truman, said Hagedorn never failed to stop and shake hands with law enforcement when he walked the parade route for the town's annual celebration.

Jobe said the crowd had probably reached 500 attendees Saturday, and that was with an hour before the funeral service began at noon.

A separate public visitation was held Friday night in Blue Earth.

Davids said he knew the congressman's health was deteriorating when Hagedorn was

on hand Aug. 9 for the groundbreaking ceremony for the new veterans home in Preston.

"He looked pretty weak right there," Davids recalled. "But he kept going. He never stopped. He'd sit through anything."

Davids said Hagedorn was more than just a political friend, and the two would occasionally call one another to catch up.

"It was a friendship, and so I'll miss him dearly," he said.

Davids said he refused to be down, because Saturday was a "celebration" of Hagedorn's life and service.

Hahn added that she knew her friend was in a better place.

"He was a great Congressman, and a great man, but he's in Heaven with Jesus Christ, and there's no better place to be," she said.