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Red Wing Family YMCA hires interim director

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Updates on COVID issues in Minnesota, Wisconsin

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Wednesday

December 9, 2020

RED WING CITY COUNCIL

2021 budget, levy pass unanimously

By Rachel Fergus
rfergus@rivertowns.net
RED WING — The City Council approved the proposed 2021 levy and budget during a special meeting on Monday.

The levy was set at \$22,863,588. This is a \$795,255 or 3.36% decrease from the preliminary property tax levy, which was adopted on Tuesday, Sept. 8. The

2021 property tax levy is also down \$500,000 or 2.14% from 2020's property tax levy of \$23,363,588. The city's 2021 expenditures budget was set at \$90,154,135. This is an increase of about \$3.7 million from 2020.

Both the levy and the budget passed unanimously. This is unique

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PROMOTING PUBLIC ART IN A PANDEMIC

By Rachel Fergus
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Even during a pandemic art can bring people together. Currently, three public art pieces and events are being discussed for the Red Wing Area.

'Red Wing Hope'

The Artistic Response Team of Red Wing was created to serve the community and aid local

artists during the pandemic. It comprises five art groups: the Anderson Center, ArtReach, Red Wing Arts, the Sheldon Theatre and the Universal Music Center. Currently, it is hosting the "Red Wing Hope" contest supported by the Red Wing Credit Union.

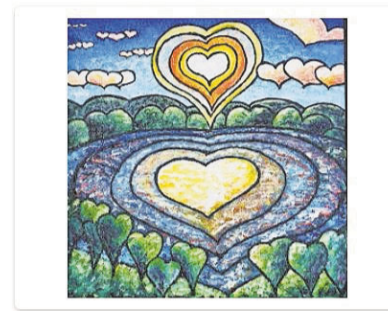
"The idea of why we're mentioning it now is that the idea is that Red Wing Credit Union might be interested in seeing one of these images, developed into a public art piece next year sometime. You know, maybe that's something small, something temporary, something large, something off the beaten path, whatever," Arts and Culture Commission member Adam Wiltgen said of the contest,

Residents can now vote for their favorite submission at tinyurl.com/RedWingHope, or in person at the Anderson Center.

Prairie Island Indian Community mural

Arts and Culture Commission Chair Brian Peterson said on Thursday that he has been working with a small group of residents of

Which of these designs would you most like to see as a public art piece in 2021? *



Bruce Hecksel



Pamela Kirton



Chelsea Sagers

Artistic Response Team of Red Wing is asking residents to help select the winning hope mural. Vote at tinyurl.com/RedWingHope. Screenshot

Prairie Island who are interested in finding a way to represent more of Prairie Island in the Red Wing community. The current idea is to create a mural downtown.

This project is in the early stages, but Peterson said one possible place for the mural could be a city owned building on Third Street. Peterson added, "It's kind of a concept right now so the main thing they want local artists involved, but just how this all comes together – if it's done through a commission or a request – or how it's all going to come together still needs to be thought through."

Anderson Center residency

The Anderson Center received a grant on Wednesday for a public artists residency in May. The organization will put out a call to Minnesota artists to join the month-long residency.

Wiltgen said, "The idea is not that a public art piece will come out of that project, per se, but that they would engage the community and get ideas and do all the groundwork that maybe could lead to a long term relationship where public art could come down the pipeline."

A more accommodating airport experience

Minnesota group making it happen

By Michael Brun
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Start seeing sunflowers. Travelers passing through Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport now have the option of wearing a lanyard with sunflower logos to indicate to airport security and others that they have a "hidden disability" such as vision or hearing impairment, autism, epilepsy or

post-traumatic stress disorder.

MSP is among seven other airports in the U.S. to join the global Hidden Disabilities Sunflower program, thanks in part to the efforts of the Dementia-Friendly Airports Working Group. The Twin Cities-area group advocates for policies to make air travel more accommodating for people with dementia and their caregivers.

Wearing a hidden disabilities sunflower is a way for people with disabilities to keep their independence, and not a pass to skip security lines, said



Logo courtesy Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme Limited. The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower was developed by a company in the U.K. as a way for people with disabilities to discreetly indicate to others that they need additional support or patience. The program was recently adopted at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Sara Barsel, the group's project leader.

"If I have this symbol on, and you understand what the symbol means, you may be a little bit more civil, gentle, patient," she said.

The group also collaborated with the federal Transportation Security Administration to develop a list of best practices for

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Coming in the weekend edition:
The photo project takes a year-round look at the role of boats.



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NEWS BRIEFS

UTV fatal accident reported

A Cannon Falls man died Sunday when his UTV rolled on Sunset Trail. The Goodhue County Sheriff's Office received a report on Dec. 6 of a UTV side-by-side rollover accident at 13300 Sunset Trail on the Cannon Falls Township/Vasa Township border.

Colton M. Tix, 26, County 8 Boulevard, was operating the UTV at the Sunset Trail property when it started sliding as he was turning. When he tried to correct the slide, the UTV rolled into a ditch, ejecting Tix and pinning him underneath the UTV.

Tix was pronounced dead at the scene.

Also responding to the scene were the Cannon Falls Fire and Ambulance, Mayo One, and the Southeast Regional Medical Examiner Office.

A GoFundMe campaign has been created in Tix's name. Visit www.gofundme.com/f/colton-tix.

One injured in collision

HAGER CITY – The Pierce County Sheriff's Office responded to a two-vehicle crash on State Highway 35 and 1005th Street at about 2:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

Mohamed Shambolia, 42, Minneapolis, was northbound when Richard Wadena, 52, Newport, Minn., who was southbound, crossed the centerline and hit Shambolia's 2020 Mazda CX-5.

Red Wing Ambulance Service transported Shambolia to Mayo Clinic Health System Red Wing with undetermined injuries. A passenger in his vehicle, Affan Irfan, 36, Lakeville, Minn., was not injured.

Wadena was uninjured in the crash and subsequently arrested on suspicion of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, the sheriff's office reported.

The Ellsworth Fire Department, Red Wing Fire Department and Red Wing Ambulance Service assisted at the scene.

Vehicle rolls in Trenton ditch

HAGER CITY – A Goodhue man swerved to miss a deer and ended up in a ditch Dec. 6, according to the Pierce County Sheriff's Office.

Authorities were alleged at 5:27 p.m. Sunday of a one-vehicle crash on Highway 63 near 825th Street in Trenton Township. Alex Weckerling, 25, was operating a 2000 Dodge Ram 1500 southbound on Highway 63 when he swerved to miss a deer. Mr. Weckerling lost control of his vehicle, entered the west ditch and rolled over. He was transported to the River Falls Area Hospital and was subsequently arrested on suspicion of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, the sheriff said.

The Pierce County Sheriff's Office was assisted on scene by Red Wing Ambulance Service.

Anderson awarded new contract

RED WING – A split Red Wing School Board awarded Superintendent Karsten Anderson a two-year contract extension. Anderson earns \$159,420 a year, and that salary will remain flat for the 2021-2022 and 2020-2023 school years. With benefits, the package is \$190,000-\$200,000. The current contract expires June 30.

"I could support a one-year contract," Board member Jim Bryant said. He reiterated his position that the three new board members should be part of the decision.

Board members Holly Tauer and Arlen Diercks agreed with Bryant.

The motion passed 4-3.

AIRPORT

From Page 1

screening passengers with dementia. The recommendations were shared with TSA agents nationwide over two weeks in October.

Noise and activity around airport security can cause increased anxiety for people living with dementia. The best practices document advises TSA agents to give instructions in a calm manner using simple words and to avoid separating individuals from their travel companions, among other recommendations.

The working group collected first-hand stories about travel difficulties in a survey conducted in 2019. Barsel said the best practices document also was informed with input from John-Richard Pagan, a Virginia man with Lewy Body Dementia. An essay he wrote — "In the Words of an Individual Living with Dementia - What He Would Like You to Know" — was distributed by TSA as part of the October training.



Submitted graphic

The Minnesota-based Dementia-Friendly Airports Working Group helped bring the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower program to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Barsel said the group is interested in helping other airports in the region implement dementia-friendly policies and broaden adoption of the hidden disabilities sunflower program. Those interested in championing initiatives can contact her at DementiaFriendlyAirports@gmail.com using the subject lines "hidden disability sunflower" or "dementia friendly airports."

Sunflower program

There are no prerequisites or documentation required to wear a hidden

disabilities sunflower lanyard, which are available for free at MSP pre-security Travelers' Assistance booths.

"Without revealing the nature of the disability, the sunflower lanyard is a simple way to signal to airport staff that someone may need more help, more time or more patience through certain travel processes at the airport," Phil Burke, assistant director of customer

experience for the Metropolitan Airports Commission, said in a news release.

The program started in 2016 at an airport near London before expanding to more than two dozen airports. The logo also is recognized outside of airports in the U.K., such as in shops, clinics and stadiums.

The program was endorsed locally by the MSP Travelers with Disabilities Advisory Committee.

"The Sunflower program is a wonderful addition to MSP's already stellar lineup of programs that increase equitable access to the airport for people with disabilities," according to committee chairman Andrew Palmberg. The list includes communication assistance, relief areas for service animals and inclusive restroom design.

For more information on MSP accessibility services, visit www.msairport.com/airport/accessibility.

12/9 Answers

8	4	3	2	7	1	9	5	6
6	2	9	5	3	8	7	4	1
7	5	1	9	4	6	2	8	3
2	8	4	7	9	3	1	6	5
9	6	5	4	1	2	8	3	7
1	3	7	6	8	5	4	2	9
3	7	2	1	6	4	5	9	8
5	1	8	3	2	9	6	7	4
4	9	6	8	5	7	3	1	2

Today's Cryptoquote: BE CIVIL TO ALL; SOCIABLE TO MANY; FAMILIAR WITH FEW; FRIEND TO ONE; ENEMY TO NONE. — BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

T	A	C	O	S	Q	U	A	R	E
A	J	A	R	O	U	N	C	E	S
M	A	R	E	R	O	D	E	O	S
E	X	T	V	E	T	O			
	R	A	I	S	E	P	E	N	
E	F	I	L	E	S	P	A	R	E
A	L	D	O			A	R	I	A
S	A	G	E	S	O	C	T	E	T
E	Y	E		L	O	W	E	R	
			H	A	Z	E	I	R	A
M	O	J	I	T	O	B	D	A	Y
A	W	O	K	E	N	O	G	R	E
C	L	E	E	S	E	B	E	E	S

BUDGET

From Page 1

for this council. When voting on the 2018, 2019 and 2020 budgets and levies, council members were split. The 2018 budget and 2019 levy both barely passed with votes of 4-3.

Council member John Becker voted in favor of the 2021 levy, his first time doing so during his four-year term. He said on Monday, "Staff did a good job, it was a tough ask and they delivered. It was a complex year, no question about it. I'm going to support this, this is uncharacteristic of my past history, I understand that, but I do it out of appreciation for how hard staff worked on this."

Council member Evan Brown noted, "We worked through the budget meetings to get a flat levy and we're even below that. So, I think that says a lot about where we are at right now."

While discussing the levy and budget for next year, council members were aware of the possible challenges that the city may face when drafting the 2022 levy and budget due to the impacts from COVID-19.

Council member Becky Norton stated: "I think next year possibly presents extra challenges and I think this is a really good balance."

She added that the council and staff worked to minimize the money taken out of the general fund in 2021.

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