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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021

Hearts filled with hope

The Schumann family remains hopeful as son Sam waits for a heart transplant



STAFF PHOTO BY STEPHEN WIBLEMO

Chad Harlander hugs mother Stacey Schumann while former NFL football player Chad Greenway greats other members of the Schumann family, including father Mark, daughter Maya and son Sam. Sam, 10, is in need of a heart transplant and was honored as MVP of the Chad Greenway Day to REACH Camp in Hutchinson last week.

BY STEPHEN WIBLEMO
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"Hope" was the theme of the 14th annual Chad Greenway Day to REACH football camp in Hutchinson this past Friday, and as Greenway and Chad Harlander, the camp's organizer, explained, hope comes in many forms.

For the parents of the 300 campers in attendance that day, their hope was for their children to grow up strong and to be positive role models.

"We are challenging you … to get out, work hard, do the right thing, treat the person next to you the right way," Harlander told campers gathered in Hutchinson High School. "You guys are the future."

But for others, hope is an immediate thing, a feeling necessary to make it through each day. One such family is that of 10-year-old Sam Schumann of Hutchinson, who was named Camp MVP, in keeping with the camp's 14-year tradition of giving back to those in need in the community.

Sam was born with a congenital heart defect that required five open-heart surgeries when he was young. But now Sam is facing down another battle as doctors say he needs a heart transplant.

Sam's parents, Stacey and Mark, knew this day would come, but after his surgeries, they were hopeful it would be decades before that was necessary. Things started to decline last summer, however. The family had been making trips to Children's Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis every six months, but were asked to start going every three months. Then in November Sam had to have a catheter put into his heart, a procedure that originally wasn't planned for at last another year.

"His heart function kept decreasing on his echoes, they could see that it wasn't pumping as good as it should," Stacey said.

On May 5, the Schumanns received the difficult news that Sam would be listed for a heart transplant.

> "We knew that he'd need a heart transplant, but usually the kids that go through the surgeries that he's gone through, they say the average is usually late 20s early 30s. Even back in November they thought he would need one in his early teens, so from November to May it went from late teens to now."
>
> — *Stacey Schumann, Sam's mother*

"We knew that he'd need a heart transplant,

Schumanns to A4 ➤

May appointed to council

63-year resident selected to fill interim Hutchinson City Council seat

BY STEPHEN WIBLEMO
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With little discussion, members of the Hutchinson City Council unanimously selected Pat May Monday to fill a vacant seat on the council.

According to an interest form May submitted to be considered for the position, he's been a lifelong resident of Hutchinson for 63 years and has served on a handful of local organizations and committees, including as past president of the Hutchinson Elks, sight and security chairman for RiverSong Music Festival, and as president of the Hutchinson Wrestling Club.



Pat May

"I'm proud and I'm happy that the council chose me," May said. "There's a lot of things to get up to speed on, but I'm fairly confident I can do that. I've been involved in lots of different boards and organizations, and of course this is on a much larger scale, but I look forward to the challenge and listening to the people."

May will officially be sworn in during the council's Aug. 10 meeting and will immediately begin his duties. He will serve on the council at least until voters cast their ballots in a special election Feb. 8, 2022.

The council made its decision following interviews last week with the nine candidates who submitted interest forms. The other candidates considered were: Carol Johnson, Jared Golde, Jeff Liestman, Justin Doering, Justin Williams, Mark Carrigan, Morgan Baum and Tim Burley.

The seat became vacant in July when Brandon Begnaud, who was elected to a four-year term on the council in 2020, resigned as he and his family moved out of town. The city charter states that it is the job of the four remaining council members to fill vacancies on an interim basis until the special election. If the council members had been unable to reach a majority decision, Mayor Gary Forcier would have had to appoint someone.

Besides those guidelines, the charter gives little in the way of instruction for how the process should be carried out, a fact that has frustrated some on the council and may lead to a charter change in the future.

"It would be my wish to put (a charter change) on our project list for next year to define (the process) in case we go down this road again, because this is driving me

Vacancy to A4 ➤

Agreement paves way for downtown townhomes

15 new units are planned with a possibility for an even larger project

BY JEREMY JONES
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At least 15 rental townhomes are planned for downtown Hutchinson, with the possibility for more.

Hutchinson City Council confirmed Tuesday evening a purchase and development agreement with Hutchinson Uptown Commons for two city-owned properties: 126 and 135 Franklin St. N.W., Hutchinson. The first plot of land is the site of a former medical center a block west of Main Street along First Avenue. The second, also west of Main Street, is the site of the Franklin House on the curve near the Main Street bridge, half a block north of First Avenue.

The properties, which the city purchased and maintained in hopes of development, will be sold for $1 according to the agreement. Construction must begin within 18 months and include at least 15 units. If the developer does not meet the conditions, the lots will be sold back to the city for $1.

Townhomes to A2 ➤



No plans or design have been finalized, but the city has approved a purchase and development agreement for housing development along Franklin Street in downtown Hutchinson.

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