

A 'PECULIAR' YEAR INDEED

Hutchinson High School graduates walk the stage for diplomas / A4

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021

Sink your teeth into public art

The 2021-22 Hutchinson Sculpture Stroll is bigger and better with 13 new pieces

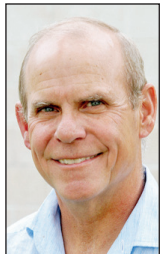
BY KAY JOHNSON
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If you're superstitious, you may avoid the number 13. Unlike many, Hutchinson native Les Kouba embraced it, making it his artistic trademark. He always included 13 of something in his paintings, whether it be ducks, pheasants or geese.

Like Kouba, the Hutchinson Public Arts Commission has embraced the "lucky" number with 13 statues featured in the eighth annual Hutchinson Sculpture Stroll. This is a change from last year, when the COVID-19 pandemic limited the number of participating artists and resulted in the commission keeping several art works to display for a second year.

So what's new? In addition to a new slate of sculptures for the 2021-22 stroll, there are four new block locations on Main Street. The sites are designed to display smaller sculptures.

Another new feature this year is the Hutchinson Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism's new QR code. It is displayed on all the sculptures and it will take you to a webpage with the sculpture stroll information.



Steve Cook

To learn more, Steve Cook, chair of the arts commission, participated in this Leader Q&A:

There are 13 sculptures this year, that is up from past years. Why the increase in numbers through the years?

We purposely started small with six pads to keep things manageable since this was going to be a new program and it would take some time to understand the best way to reach artists and build awareness of the program. However, if things went well, we hoped to add additional pieces because public art provides a human element to our public spaces, adds interest and compliments the landscaping and natural features of our parks.

Plus, this was also going to be a way to help draw people downtown and to the community. Having more rotating pieces in the sculpture stroll, in addition to our permanent pieces of public art, increases the draw.

This year we are adding art at four downtown intersections. These will add a streetscaping element to the recently completed Main Street project and take the place of the pillar project that didn't work out due to cost. We are excited

Sculptures to A9 >



STAFF PHOTO BY STEPHEN WIBLEMO

"Shark!" by Dale Lewis of Hastings, Minnesota, can be seen along the Luce Line State Trail at Riverside Park in Hutchinson. This is Lewis' second showing in Hutchinson. Last year his sculpture of "Old Tex" earned the People's Choice Award and \$500.

A focus on relationships

Michael Daus, Tiger Elementary's first principal, wants to create an inviting climate for staff and students

BY JEREMY JONES
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For Tiger Elementary's first principal, the core of education is "relationships."

"Kids don't want to learn from us until they know we care about them," said Michael Daus. "In a classroom setting, we start developing a relationship where students know we care about them and are working hard for them."

The Central Public Schools elementary principal will join Hutchinson Public Schools starting in the 2021-22 school year, first as the second and third grades principal at Park Elementary, and then carrying over to the new Tiger Elementary addition beside West Elementary.

The restructuring will have one principal in charge of the district's youngest learners in

West Elementary, Daus in charge of second and third grades at Tiger Elementary, and another for fourth and fifth grades at Park Elementary. No new administrator positions were added for the transition, but the prior Park Elementary assistant principal position will be traded for the Tiger Elementary principal position.

"As a principal, the audience grows," Daus said. "The teachers have to know and the community has to know you're there for them and you care about them. It has to be a strong relationship."

Today, Daus has a passion for teaching, but when he first started pursuing higher education he hadn't realized it. He started studying for biochemistry at Southwest Minnesota State

Principal to A2 >



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Michael Daus will be the first principal at Tiger Elementary starting in 2021-22, leading second and third grades as they make the move to a new building. Daus is coming from Central Public Schools in Norwood Young America, where he's worked the past eight years.

Begnaud to resign from City Council

Special election could be as soon as November

BY JEREMY JONES
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Hutchinson City Council Member Brandon Begnaud confirmed last week he intends to move out of town and will resign from the council.

"That's no secret at this point," he said. "I'll acknowledge that publicly at the council meeting on June 8."

He declined to speak on the details until the meeting, which was this past Tuesday, after this issue of the Leader went to press. Visit hutchinsonleader.com for updates.

Begnaud was elected to a four-year term on the council in November 2020, and he officially took office in early January. In the event a City Council member resigns, a special election is held to fill the remainder of the term. Should that happen soon, it's likely the earliest window available for such an election would be November, said City Administrator Matt Jaunich.

Before a special election, the seat would be filled on an interim basis by a council member appointed by the City Council. Council members will be able to decide the process and criteria with which they seek interim candidates, and then vote on the appointment.

As for when a new council member will be chosen, and who it might be, Mayor Gary Forcier said the council cannot proceed until the matter becomes official.

"We can't do any action until (Begnaud) resigns," Forcier said. "Right now we're in a holding position."



Brandon Begnaud

Riverside wants to spread the love

Local church plans to give back with a week of charitable events June 13-19

BY JEREMY JONES
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If you're looking for a good excuse to get out and interact with the community, Riverside Church has several opportunities next week that will benefit local charitable organizations along the way.

"COVID hit. The community has been long-

ing for normalcy," said the Rev. Tim Dezelske, family life pastor at Riverside. "A lot of people out there are hurting, especially organizations that help others."

Love Much in Hutch will fill the week Sunday through Saturday, June 13-19, with events to offer a sense of community and address the needs of groups such as the Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter. Resources are being gathered for other needs as well — those of a boys home and first responders, for instance. When all is said and done, organizers hope to have renewed a connection to the community after a year of pandemic precautions.

"This is our first time doing this," Dezelske

said. "We're mimicking it similar to (an event) in Toledo, Ohio."

About 100 people from Riverside Church had signed up as of this past week to participate in Love Much in Hutch, but when accounting for the many donations required to make the series of events happen, the number of contributors quickly grows higher.

"We're hoping everyone in our church is involved somehow," Dezelske said. "It's all coming from people graciously donating goods."

His sermonette on Page B2 dives more into the philosophy he hopes Love Much in Hutch

Riverside to A2 >



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