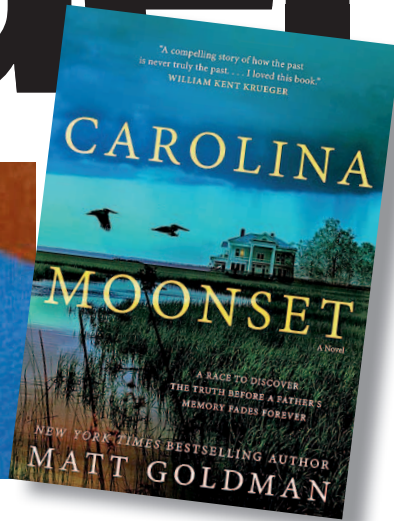


MEETING THE MYSTERY MAN

One Book, One Community
plans author visit / B1



LOOKING FOR A SEASON OF GROWTH

Tigers aim for improvement
as they gain experience / A6

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024



Bethany and Scott Loncorich stand beside a new golf cart, one of the expanded offerings at L&P Supply's showroom.

STAFF PHOTOS BY JANEAN SORRELL

HHS grad named chancellor of UMD

Dr. Charles Nies
will take reins
July 1 at Duluth campus

Dr. Charles Nies, a 1982 graduate of Hutchinson High School, has been named the 10th chancellor of the University of Minnesota Duluth, effective July 1, and pending approval by the University's Board of Regents at its May 2024 meeting.



Dr. Charles Nies

"Dr. Nies is an experienced, strategic leader who is ready to tackle UMD's challenges and celebrate its success," said University of Minnesota Interim President Jeff Ettinger. "He will continue to build UMD's great partnerships with the Duluth community, region and the University of Minnesota System. UMD is poised for a bright future under his leadership."

Nies currently serves as the vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of California, Merced. Founded in 2005, UC Merced is one of 10 campuses in the University of California system and the youngest university in the United States to earn the Carnegie R2 designation — the second-highest classification for American research universities. Nies joined UC Merced in 2006 as its first associate vice chancellor and dean of students, a role in which he oversaw the development and growth of student life programs on campus.

"I am honored to be able to serve in the role of chancellor at the University of Minnesota Duluth — having grown up in Minnesota, this will be a coming home opportunity," Nies said. "I am also excited to join the Duluth and University of Minnesota communities. UMD is filled with wonderfully creative and brilliant students, faculty and staff, and I look forward to the discovery that has been and will continue to be our mark of excellence."

Nies comes to UMD with more than 25 years of experience in higher education. Prior to his work at UC Merced, he served as an assistant

Nies to A5 ➤

Tackling human trafficking: A local call to action

Local seminar in 2018
inspired Hutchinson
woman's passion to help

BY KENDALL LARSON
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When people hear the words "human trafficking" they might think of stories in other countries, but it's a real problem in the United States, even in Minnesota.

"It's happening in every county, every night," said Jodi Elliot, a Hutchinson resident who has become active in the fight against human trafficking.

Elliot started working against human trafficking in 2018 after attending a seminar offered by Stories Foundation through Hutchinson Area Youth.

"I was new to Crosspoint Church but I wanted to support them, so I attended with my youth group kids," she said. "It was the most serious I'd ever seen the kids, and even I was blown away by some of the statistics."

Elliot hopes to continue to spread the word with events like one planned later this month at two Hutchinson churches. The seminar "Stuff I Wish My Parents Knew" is planned for 1-3 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at CrossPoint Church and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, April 29, at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Trafficking to A5 ➤

Family tradition continues

L&P Supply expands services with new ownership

BY JANEAN SORRELL
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For nearly six decades, L&P Supply has been a family-owned staple in the community, specializing in lawn and gardening equipment. Now, a new family prepares to expand its presence in Hutchinson.

Bethany and Scott Loncorich of Stewart took the wheel from Brian and Brad Lokensgard back in January. The pair plan to keep the store a family-owned business, as well as expand its services and equipment offerings.

Having known the previous owners for years and sharing ties through community connections, the couple found themselves not just acquiring a business but embracing a tradition deeply intertwined with their own roots.

LP Supply to A5 ➤



L&P Supply has been a staple in the community for 59 years. It offers a wide range of lawn and garden equipment for professional landscapers, to farmers, and the average homeowner.

Hutchinson Leader, Crow River Press to cease operations

Hutchinson Leader will cease operations April 28, the newspaper announced today, bringing an end to its more than 140 years of service to Hutchinson and the McLeod County area.

The Leader's shopper companion, Weekend Leader Shopper, and its sister publications, the Litchfield Independent Review and Meeker County Advertiser, and the Crow River Press printing business also will close.

The final edition of the newspapers will be Wednesday, April 24.

The newspapers' management said it will refund the balance of paid subscriptions in the coming weeks.

The Leader and Independent Review, like

many newspaper businesses around the country, have been challenged during the past decade or longer by changing lifestyle habits, especially by the dramatic shift in advertising revenue from local print publications to digital options such as Google, Facebook and Amazon.

The COVID-19 pandemic took a significant toll on newspaper businesses as well, with advertising revenue falling 25% to 50%. Local advertising revenue is the primary revenue source for most weekly newspapers. Hundreds of newspapers across the country have closed or downsized, reduced their publication schedules and made other cost-cutting measures.

The Leader, Independent Review and Crow

River Press — collectively known as Crow River Media — as well as sister newspapers in the southwest metropolitan area, are owned by MediaNews Group, a Denver-based media company, which also owns the Saint Paul Pioneer Press.

In a related announcement today, Southwest News Media said its publications — Shakopee Valley News, Prior Lake American, Savage Pacer, Jordan Independent, Chaska Herald and Chanhassen Villager — also will cease operations April 28.

The Leader was founded in 1880, and the Litchfield Independent Review was founded in 1876.



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