

# Obituaries

## Roland A. Collier, 74

Died May 15, 2013

Roland A. Collier, age 74 of Hastings, formerly of Newport, died on May 15 at home.

Family and friends were invited to gather from 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, at Newport Lutheran Church, 900 15th St., Newport.

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Death notice information will be published free of charge in our print and web editions. These will include the deceased's name; dates of birth and death; a one sentence description of the person's name, age, residence, and circumstances of their death; and information about the person's service and visitations.

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## Local News

# Out of harm's way

### In face of construction, wildflowers relocated for the summer

by Katrina Styx • Staff writer  
[kstyx@hastingsstargazette.com](mailto:kstyx@hastingsstargazette.com)

This summer, road construction crews are slated to do considerable work on East 18th Street/Highway 291. The project abuts one of Hastings' unique areas, a scientific and natural area (SNA). The SNA is located across from C.P. Adams Park along East 18th Street.

In 2011, the Friends of the Mississippi River wrote a management plan for the site that evaluated it, looked at existing conditions and addressed management issues. When FMR found out that the city was planning a major construction project alongside the SNA, FMR and the city started talking about the issues and how the project could affect the SNA, said FMR ecologist Karen Schick.

"We came up with a plan of how to minimize impact on the SNA and how to compensate for any damage that was done," she said.

The area needs significant repairs due to erosion. Part of the project includes building a retaining wall alongside the



Volunteers worked in the rain to dig up wildflowers and plants in danger of being destroyed by upcoming road construction by the Hastings SNA. STAR GAZETTE PHOTO BY KATRINA STYX

road to help prevent further erosion. But work will encroach a little bit onto the edge of the SNA, which prompted FMR to act.

On Saturday, FMR and volunteers dug up several wildflowers and plants growing in the affected area. The plants were moved to another woodland and will be kept in con-

tainers and looked after during the summer, until construction is done at the SNA. Once construction crews are finished, volunteers will return the native plants back to the SNA.

On Saturday, almost 20 volunteers worked in the rain and mud to rescue plants. There were about 15 varieties being targeted. Volunteers dug the

plants out of the ground and put them into about 125 buckets. Some buckets held multiple plants.

Schick noted that it is illegal for people to dig up and take plants from the SNA. This particular project was a preservation effort done with permission from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The reason SNAs are so protected and efforts are made to preserve them is because they are a sort of natural heritage.

"They are the best remnants, the best representation of what used to be here before we had all our development and housing and agriculture," Schick said. "...We want to protect that."

Left alone, there's a chance that native plants would grow back, but there's also a good chance that non-native and weedy species would grow in. Transplanting the existing plants provides a good foothold for native plants to overcome non-native ones.

Schick said that the replanting is tentatively scheduled for September, but will depend on construction timelines.

## City adds seven trees for Arbor Day celebration

### Trees will provide shade for spectators at Vet's baseball field

by Katrina Styx • Staff writer  
[kstyx@hastingsstargazette.com](mailto:kstyx@hastingsstargazette.com)

The Hastings Parks and Recreation Department, along with volunteers, celebrated Arbor Day a little late this year.

Each year on the last Friday in April, department staff and volunteers plant a number of trees at a selected spot in a city park. This year's event had to be rescheduled due to unseasonable weather, but the trees are in the ground now. Crews were at work in Veteran's Park Friday, May 17.

Hastings has been a Tree City USA for 17 years. In order to be considered a Tree City, Hastings has to have a tree board



Hastings High School juniors and National Honor Society members Maria Rother, left, Kaitlyn Anderson, Jordan Juckel and Angie Thomas fill in the hole around one of the new trees. STAR GAZETTE PHOTO BY KATRINA STYX

(fulfilled through the Parks and Recreation Commission), a tree care ordinance, a community forestry program with an annu-

al budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation such as Hastings held last Friday.

Seven new trees were planted Friday afternoon at the Veteran's Park baseball field in celebration of Arbor day. This year, the Veteran's Park baseball field was selected so that spectators at baseball games there could have a little more shade, said Paul Mahoney, Hastings' city forester.

About 15-20 volunteers helped plant the seven trees – four hybrid elms and three hackberries. The elms grow quickly, "so we'll have shade in a hurry," Mahoney said, while hackberry trees are a hardy variety. Several locust trees are already present around the baseball field.

Donations that helped provide for the trees include the Dakota Electric Association, Catholic United Financial and representatives from both Hastings and Red Wing Modern Woodmen of America.

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God has you in His keeping.  
We have you in our hearts.

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"Thanks again for everything you did for us in our time of need and sadness. The work you all did made this trying time a while lot easier on all of us. I speak for our whole family when I say we appreciate everything! You and your entire staff do an outstanding job!" ~ J.W.



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