

OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Taxing one industry more than another is unfair

An open letter to President Obama and all politicians:

I am writing to you regarding the healthcare reform bill. In specific, the federal tan tax of 10 percent. Yes, I am a tanning salon owner. Obviously I totally disagree with this tax. I don't see how this can be fair to any industry. I personally do not believe one thing, or one service, should be taxed more than the next. I know that there has to be state and federal tax, but I certainly feel that it has gotten out of hand. I am not highly educated in politics, however, feel that it is common sense to be fair to everyone. Not just specific industries that can afford more lobbyists, or people of which you are wanting to obtain votes.

One of the arguments for the botox and cosmetic surgery industries was that it wasn't fair to working women to add on a 5 percent tax to their service. How can it then be fair to any of the working people that come into our businesses? You could destroy an industry, and then would not generate any revenue.

My salon is in Minnesota and we already have a state sales tax of 7.125 percent on tanning services. So, now my clients are paying a 17.125 percent tax! How can this be fair? How can this help a small business owner? People do not understand the benefits that go along with indoor tanning. We are a nation with an epidemic on our hands. I'm referring to the vitamin D deficiency. Vitamin D aids in so many things. Tanning is a reliable source of that vitamin and we are now taxing customers 17.125 percent! If you consider tanning services a luxury, and therefore should be taxed, then what in life shouldn't be? I urge you to do research on vitamin D and the tanning industry, and the benefits of this service.

I do not know of any health benefits from a botox treatment, yet that is not taxed. Again, I do not believe one thing should be taxed more than another. It should be the same, and fair across the board. I want to be clear though that we do not need to be taxed anymore.

We need to control our spending. Why do politicians need to have private jets to commute to and from Washington? Why do there have to be such expensive parties, inaugural balls and state dinners? I believe there are too many government employees. How do you explain the fact that someone running for a new office can leave the office that he or she is in, and campaign for a year? Who covers their position? Is there really a need for that position, if it can be left to campaign for another? Again, where is the common sense?

Maybe all the money that we are spending on supporting illegal aliens would be better spent in different areas. Maybe all the welfare money that is spent on people that are just too lazy to get a job would be better spent in other areas. Why is it always the working, honest person that suffers in this country? My husband and I could not refinance our home due to the collapse of the housing market, eliminating our equity. However, if we would have been late with payments or

missed payments completely, then we would have qualified. How is this fair?? I could go on and on. The fact is, we are enabling people not to try. We are giving people excuses not to pay their bills. They are being rewarded for irresponsible actions! I have never felt this hopeless about our country and the human race.

I am a Christian and know that God is in control. I will never lose hope and faith in that. I can't help but wonder though, what He thinks when he looks down at his perfect creation and sees what we human beings have done to it. Maybe if we followed his word a little bit better, people wouldn't feel so hopeless about our country and the human race. Christianity teaches faith, love, hope, forgiveness, accountability, respect. How can this be wrong? What are we teaching?

There can not be life without the sun, or the Son!

Respectfully,
Linda Myklebust
Christian American

LOCAL NEWS

Task force to study drug prevention

Task force asks: what is the best route to prevent drug/alcohol abuse?

by Jane Lightbourn
Staff writer

The Hastings Police Department and Independent School District 200 are seeking community members who are interested in serving on a special study group/task force which will explore youth prevention programming involving illegal drug and alcohol use and abuse.

The formation of the study group/task force was discussed earlier this summer at the time that the School District and the Police Department decided to suspend the DARE program, which had been part of the elementary school program for years, for a year and consider possible alternatives.

"The Hastings School District is continually evaluating all of the programs in the school district and making decisions about short-term and long-term effectiveness of our programs," said Superintendent Tim Collins. "We also discuss the need to change and adjust the age and grade level that the curriculum is most appropriate at and most effective."

Schnell, too, said the Police Department is looking at its programs in regard to efficiency, resources, and time constraints. This task force formation is the start of that process, he said.

"Drugs and alcohol are a problem in this community as they are in other communities," said Schnell. "The question is what is going to make a difference?"

The new task force will meet one evening every six weeks beginning in late October and will review Minnesota student survey data specific to Hastings and study with subject matter experts the full range of prevention program options. The major goal of the group is to gain a better understanding of the issues and then develop a series of recommendations for the School District and Police Department to adopt.

In addition to School District and Police Department staff, administrators from both areas want to have a wide representation on this task force, including youth, parents, interested residents, faith community leaders, business leaders, and treatments and recovery community members.

Those interested in participating in the task force can contact the Police Department at 651-480-2300 or at HPD@ci.hastings.mn.us by Oct. 15.

Braveheart Rescue: this town's going to the dogs

by Katrina Styx
Staff writer

The housing market hasn't been so great the past couple years, but it's really looking up for the dogs at Braveheart Rescue just south of Hastings.

The builder is an Eagan man named Dennis Felling. He's a designer of unique spaces and a friend of Robin Romano of Braveheart. Braveheart asked Felling if he would be willing to build them some new doghouses and he agreed, stipulating that if he did, he wasn't going to be building simple boxes.

"The minute they said they wanted doghouses I knew I wouldn't be building standard doghouses," Felling said.

He wasn't kidding. The three new houses and church that make up "Bow Wow Town" go above and beyond the bare necessities. Not only are they designed to look like little human homes with windows and shutters and a pretty paint job, but they also include the other comforts of home.

One house includes a bunk bed inside where two dogs could sleep in the same area or simply play. They each have a little solar powered porch light to offer a little glow at night. There's even an appropriately sized fire hydrant. Each house has a canine appropriate name - Spot,



Dave Markuson, left, Jack Kwiatkowski, Tom Tschida and Dennis Felling stand around the third dog house to be installed at Braveheart Rescue. All members of the Minnesota Street Rod Association, the men volunteered their time to help bring the doggy downtown to the shelter. Also helping with the project was Fred Romano.

Fido, and Molly - and the church is St. Bernard's.

Braveheart takes in mostly large dogs that need a lot of space to stay active. The houses don't just provide shelter from the elements, they also serve as activity centers for the dogs. The smaller houses have shingled roofs that slope close to the ground, where nearly any of the dogs there can jump on top of. From there they can walk up

to the top of and across the taller houses, which are topped with flat platforms behind their peaked façades.

Felling has been building the town in his driveway, and it's attracted a lot of attention there. "It's been the hit of the neighborhood," Felling said.

As he was thinking of what he would design for the dogs, he thought about how many of the dogs are young and like to frolic,

so why not build them a playhouse?

Felling has plans for the town's growth as well. Smaller doghouses the rescue already has he hopes to paint to match the town and work them into the design. There could end up being little white fences - without the sharp pickets, of course - benches, and maybe even a street sign.

Clothes Closet & More
Your Hometown Thrift Store
We sell quality used clothing and household items

WEDNESDAY - Mature Adult 55+ Older Day
THURSDAY NIGHT - Clothing Bag Sale (5:30 - 7:00 p.m.)
Special Sale Every Saturday - Weekly Colored Tag Sales

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - OCCASIONAL SILENT AUCTIONS

121 3rd Street East, Hastings • 651-437-7134
HOURS M-W&F: 9am-5:30pm/Thurs: 9am-7pm/Sat: 9am-5pm
www.clothesclosetandmore.com

Looking For an Online Auto Insurance Quote?

E-mail me your:

- full name on driver's license
- your date of birth
- your address

and I will send you a quote.

bwise1@farmersagent.com

Robert Wise Insurance Agency, Inc

800 Oak Street • Hastings, MN 55033
651-437-9595 • Fax 651-480-8100
www.bobwiseinsurance.com
License # 3630

ADELE Salon

HAIR DESIGN
NAILS • WAXING

Full Service Family Salon

Adele welcomes Jenny Satchell. Jenny brings 16 years experience in all nail services.

First time customers receive a **FREE GIFT** when you schedule a nail appointment with Jenny in the month of October.

Call 651-438-8891 to schedule your appointment or online at www.adele-salon.com

219 Sibley Street, Hastings, MN

WALK-INS ALWAYS WELCOME

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title Hastings Star Gazette	2. Publication Number 711060	3. Filing Date 9/20/10
4. Issue Frequency Weekly	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 52	6. Annual Subscription Price \$50.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) 745 Spiral Blvd., Hastings, MN 55033		Contact Person Chad Richardson (Telephone include area code) (651) 319-4500
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 2760 N. Service Dr., P.O. Box 15, Red Wing, MN 55066		
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) Steve Messick, 745 Spiral Blvd., P.O. Box 277, Hastings, MN 55033 Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Chad Richardson, 745 Spiral Blvd., P.O. Box 277, Hastings, MN 55033 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)		
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)		
Full Name Complete Mailing Address		
Forum Communications Co. 101 Fifth St., N., Fargo, ND 58102		
Norman D. Black, Jr. Trust 101 Fifth St., N., Fargo, ND 58102		
Jane Black Marcell & William C. Marcell, Trustees 101 Fifth St., N., Fargo, ND 58102		
Debra Jane Marcell Morehouse as beneficiary of Marcell Trust Fund A 101 Fifth St., N., Fargo, ND 58102		
William Marcell Jr. as beneficiary of Marcell Trust Fund B 101 Fifth St., N., Fargo, ND 58102		
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None		
Full Name Complete Mailing Address		
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes. <input type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)		
PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 1 of 3) (Instructions Page 3) PSN 7530-01-000-9001 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com		
13. Publication Title Hastings Star Gazette	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 8/26/10	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	5386	5283
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	511	496
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	3418	3316
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	990	1005
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	4918	4817
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	0	0
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	4918	4817
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page 93))	467	466
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	5386	5283
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	100%	100%
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If this is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/07/10 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.		
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner <i>Steve Messick</i> publisher Date 9/20/10		
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).		
PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)		