



4 GENERATIONS OF SELLING CHRYSLERS

HOBART, Ind. (AP) — At the end of the 81-year marriage, the Isaksons said goodbye by turning off the lights. The partnership was over.

The Chrysler sign went dark.

It was an unceremonious finale to a four-generation bond between one family and one company, but it was not a surprise. Rob Isakson had known for weeks his dealership was on a Chrysler hit list — the cuts were part of the troubled automaker's survival strategy.

Still, when the moment arrived, he did not go gently into the night.

"It hurts," he says. "How do you put into words 81 years of your family's blood, sweat and tears? How many times did my father miss some family event ... because the business came first? And all of it is for nothing now."

HOTLINE COUNTS 700K CALLS ABOUT DIGITAL TV SWITCH

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nearly 700,000 calls were received by a federal hotline this week from people confused about the nationwide switch from analog to digital TV broadcasts that occurred Friday.

The Federal Communications Commission said Saturday that about 317,450 calls went into the help line, 1-888-CALL-FCC, on Friday alone, the day analog signals were cut off.

About a third of the calls were about federal coupons to pay for digital converter boxes, an indication that at least 100,000 people still didn't have the right equipment to receive digital signals.

Another third of the calls were handled by live agents, and 30 percent of those were about how to operate the converter boxes. The FCC said most of the converter box questions were resolved when callers were told to re-scan the airwaves for digital frequencies.

DEATHS

Hibbing
Norma J. Potter

Cherry
James A. Asuma

Pennsburg, Pa.
Marie R. Treffeisen

Shelton, Wash.
Richard Dean Johnson

New York City Tour
Fully Escorted
5 Days/4 Nights
Nov. 15-19



Featuring the Broadway Performance
"BILLY ELLIOTT"

FOR COMPLETE TRIP INFORMATION OR BROCHURE ...

PLAN-IT TRAVEL
DOWNTOWN HIBBING

Call 263-8313
Travel With A Personal Touch

www.plan-itonline.com



Cozy, comfortable — closing

Schneiderman's Furniture will shut doors after 40 years

by Matt Nelson
HDT Intern

MEADOWLANDS — The labyrinth of sofas, reclining chairs and dining sets that is Schneiderman's Furniture will soon be gone.

The original store in Meadowlands is closing after four decades of service. The store is currently having a going-out-of-business sale.

Schneiderman's Furniture started as a grocery and general merchandise store in 1948. The establishment was owned and operated by Max Schneiderman, a former steelworker who had been told by a supervisor that he could never be a salesman because he only had an eighth-grade education.

Max sold everything from farm equipment to women's lingerie, but he and wife Edna still couldn't make ends meet. Max took a part-time job in Duluth selling furniture — and discovered that he liked it.

In the early 1960s, Max received a loan to build the original Schneiderman's Furniture store. He continued to sell general merchandise until 1967, at which point the store became exclusively a furniture and carpeting line.



Above, the first store Max Schneiderman bought in 1948 sold general merchandise rather than furniture.

Photo submitted

Two Schneiderman's Furniture customers carry a table out of the store in Meadowlands late last week. The original store is currently holding a going-out-of-business sale.

Matt Nelson

See Cozy, Page A5

Doing his duty

by Kelly Grinsteiner
Assistant Editor

HIBBING — Being activated to serve in Afghanistan won't be Joshua Rice's first deployment. Nor is it likely to be his last.

The 28-year-old Hibbing resident has already served rotations both stateside and in Iraq. Now it's his company's turn to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

"I knew it was coming," said Rice, a sergeant with the 114th Transportation Company of the Minnesota National Guard. "If you are in the military, then you are more than likely going overseas. ...It's inevitable."

Known as "The Wolf Pack," the 114th is headquartered in Duluth with a detachment in Chisholm. It was created

two years ago.

Their mission in Afghanistan will be to provide ground distribution capabilities to coalition forces, according company Commander Capt. Jeff Nilsen.

Rice has been in the military for 11 years now, having enlisted while attending high school in Cherry. He was persuaded by his best friend, Karl Stenlund, to join, and said he's never regretted the decision.

"It was a good decision," Rice reflected. "We got ridiculed in high school for it, but they didn't understand. It's been one of my best decisions, because it's given me structure, good discipline and values."

Rice and Stenlund will be among the more than 180 soldiers from the company leaving Minnesota this month for training for a one-year deployment to Afghanistan,



Photo submitted

Members of the 114th Transportation Company, known as "The Wolf Pack," will leave Minnesota this month for training for a one-year deployment to Afghanistan. Pictured here are longtime best friends Staff Sgt. Karl Stenlund, left, and Sgt. Joshua Rice, both of Hibbing, who will be among the more than 180 soldiers from the company being deployed. A deployment ceremony will take place Monday, June 15, in Chisholm.

where it will support the planned surge of American soldiers in the country.

The 114th will provide ground transport of essential supplies to Coalition Forces. They are trained and equipped to haul supplies on trucks with fast self-loading and unloading capability. To protect convoys, the unit will use armor-plated vehicles with V-shaped bottoms for protection against mines and IEDs.

The unit will also conduct Combat Logistical Patrols (CLPs) to outlying Forward Operations Bases (FOBs).

Rice has served two previous rotations. His first was at Fort Stewart, Ga., with the expectation of being deployed to Iraq. Ultimately, the unit did not go.

In 2004, Rice was chosen to join a unit in Red Wing, Minn., which was part of National Guard unit based in a Kansas City, Mo. He served in Iraq for exactly one day shy of a year.

"If you are there with good people and they maintain a good attitude, it can be fun," said Rice of the experi-

See Duty, Page A5

HEDA to purchase more buildings

Plans to expand new parking lot

by Kelly Grinsteiner
Assistant Editor

HIBBING — The new downtown parking lot on Fourth Avenue East created by the Hibbing Economic Development Authority (HEDA) only months ago may soon be expanded.

HEDA approved a purchase agreement with Mark Wehrenberg to buy two more buildings in the 1900 block of Fourth Avenue East — immediately north of two buildings that were demolished in March — at a meeting in May.

HEDA has agreed to buy the properties, known as Gamers Haven and located at 1932 Fourth Ave. E., for \$20,000 and in exchange for a 50-foot residential lot.

HEDA Executive Director Duane Northagen told HEDA members last week that the Hibbing Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) has agreed to transfer a parcel in Brooklyn to HEDA to convey to Wehrenberg as part of the sale.

Since the conveyance of the parcel is part of a sale being facilitated by HEDA, the authority is required to hold a public hearing. That hearing will be held at



Kelly Grinsteiner

The Hibbing Economic Development Authority (HEDA) has signed a purchase agreement for these two properties, located at 1932 Fourth Ave. E. Also pictured here is the new parking lot that was created in March after HEDA purchased and tore down two other properties.

HEDA's next regular meeting on Wednesday, July 8.

A formal closing date on the pending sale has yet to be set, but will take

place this month, said Northagen.

"The idea is to demolish those two buildings at a later date depending on availability, budgets and quotes we get from contractors going forward," said May Fay, HEDA president. "But eventually all four lots will be vacated and available for future development or a parking lot for right now."

In March, a specialty contracting and waste management company hired by HEDA tore down both 1936 and 1934 19th Ave. E. to make way for a 15-space parking lot for downtown retail traffic.

HEDA bought the properties last fall from Richard and Mary Lou Brant for \$20,000, plus a portion of back taxes and delinquent utilities, for a total cost of about \$23,000.

Wehrenberg claimed one of his buildings was damaged during the demolition process. In a letter to HEDA, he asked that the authority purchase the building "at a reasonable price" or have the building fixed.

His original asking price was \$40,000; HEDA, however, balked at it. In related action last week, HEDA

See HEDA, Page A5

Duty: Rice prepares for 3rd deployment

From Page A1

ence. "It's all what you make of it. Yes, there are crappy times and times when you're scared, but if you have good friends and a good attitude it makes a big difference."

Returning home and assimilating to civilian life wasn't difficult, he said. However, Rice's mother, Gail, noticed that he wasn't as carefree.

"He was much more serious," she said. "As a parent, that is one of your greatest fears — when they go over there, are they going to come back the same person as when they left."

The greater fear is dealing with the possibility that a soldier doesn't come back.

"I put that in God's hands," said Gail. "Lots and lots of praying."

This is the first deployment for the 114th and for 63 percent of its members. More than a third of the company's members have been deployed at least once with other units. Rice is one of three soldiers in the unit being deployed for the third time.

The company's members come from 108 communities from across the state, including two from Hibbing (Rice and Stenlund), six from Chisholm and three from Virginia. They are also from Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The average age of the deploying soldiers is 27 years old. The youngest is 18 and the oldest is 53. In terms of gender,

80 percent of the soldiers are men.

The 114th is ready to take on this mission and according to Nilsen, "Our morale is high and our soldiers are ready. We even had soldiers from other units volunteering to deploy with us."

Rice is also among the 38 percent of soldiers that has a dependent. He is the father of one-year-old Brynn.

"I'm not sure how I'm going to handle being away from her during this year," he said. "It will be a new experience for me."

He said he enjoys being a father.

"Unconditional love is what it's about," he said. "She's the best thing to ever happen to me."

Rice plans to keep in touch with Brynn and his family via a web cam and other Internet services.

Although he's known about the deployment for about a year, he said one can't really prepare oneself to leave loved ones.

"You can't get ready to leave everyone you know and love," he said. "You just have to accept the fact that you are going, know that there's nothing stoppin' ya and say your goodbyes."

In contrast to his deployment to Iraq, Rice has had the chance to spend time with family before leaving. He opined that the departure and time apart is harder for the family than the soldier.

"This is what we do. We're expected to do this," he said. "It's not as easy for them."

Gail is hoping that they will have more communication than when he was in Iraq. She explained how significant something as simple as a phone call can be.

"The not-knowing is the worst part," she said. "I'd wait for each phone call or message, just to know he's safe. He didn't have to say much, but it was word that he was doing OK. I think I talked to him more when he was overseas than when he came back."

Rice's father, Scott, also served in the military. He said understands what his son is going through.

"It gets long, waiting for him to go and then having another year on top of that," said Scott. "...I've just accepted that he's doing his job."

Rice said he's proud to be heading into the mission with friends, especially with Stenlund at his side. The unit is anticipated to depart for post mobilization training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., before flying to Afghanistan in July.

"I knew it was coming," Rice said. "I plan to be in for 20-plus years, so this will not be my last one (deployment), for sure."

Kelly Grinsteiner can be reached at kelly.grinsteiner@mx3.com. To read this story and comment on it online go to www.hibbingmn.com.

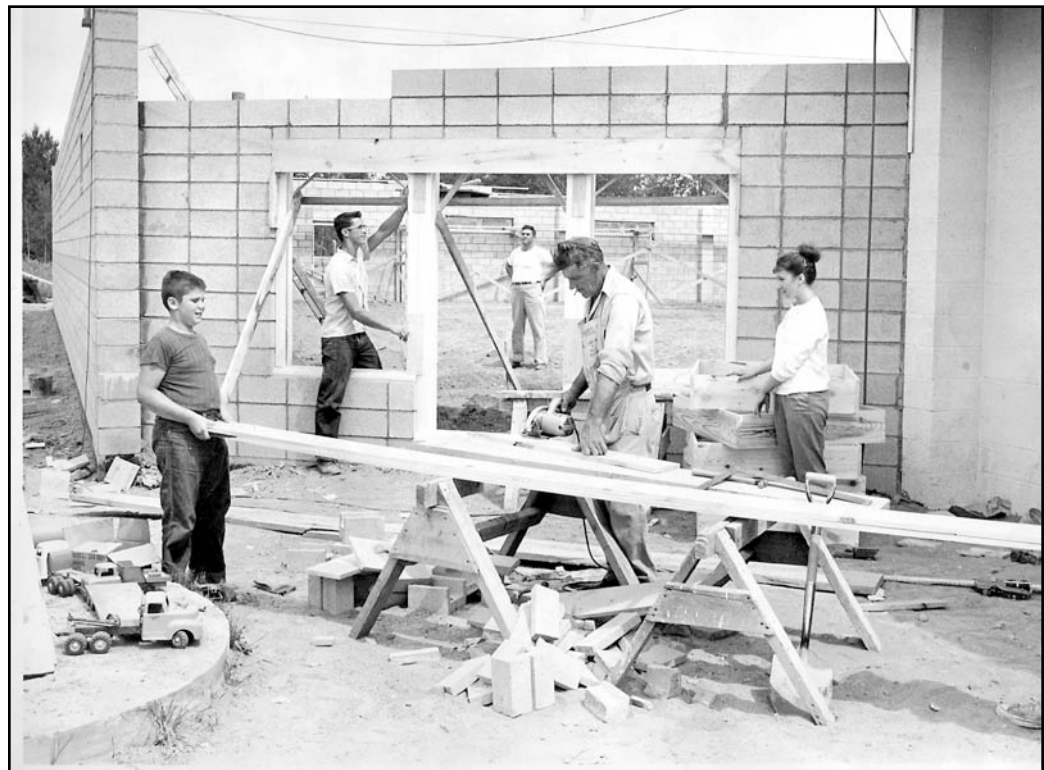


Photo submitted

The Schneiderman family builds a new brick addition on to the Meadowlands store in 1960.

Cozy: Duluth store to remain open

From Page A1

Max continued to expand the store, employing the help of his six children in the process.

"The whole family was involved in the store growing up," said Larry Schneiderman, Max's son and current president of the company. "One of the things I remember a lot is my dad expanding the building every summer. All of us in one way or another were working on it."

Occasionally the responsibilities of being a son of a Schneiderman conflicted with those of being a high school student. Larry remembers when he and his brother, Russell, had to stock shelves and load the delivery truck three nights a week — all after basketball practice. Sometimes the two would not get done until around 11 o'clock at night.

Larry became concerned about his schoolwork, so he mentioned the problem to his father, who was considering hiring someone part time.

The next day, Larry and Russell were approached by their basketball coach, who asked why their father had called and said they were off the team. Larry then had to convince his father that he could handle the rigors of sports and homework in addition to the furniture business.

Larry and Russell bought the business from their parents in the mid-1970s, and did well until the recession of the

early 1980s.

Larry and Russell expanded the business to Duluth in 1982, and further expanded it to the Twin Cities in 1987. Schneiderman's Furniture now has five locations in the Twin Cities, with a total of seven overall.

"(My parents) are always proud of the fact that we were able to grow and expand it," said Larry, who continues to seek the advice of his 96-year-old mother, Edna Schneiderman.

At one point, Schneiderman's Furniture did 75 percent of their business in Duluth and 25 percent on the Iron Range, according to Larry.

"We were hoping for a rebound on the Range, because for years there'd been possibilities of huge economic improvements," said Larry. "We have an important customer base in Hibbing, Grand Rapids and Virginia, but we already see that we do more business from those communities at the Duluth store than at Meadowlands."

The decision to close the store was not an easy one, he added.

"We do have some very good people at the store that have been very loyal and very good workers," said Larry. "The store has played such a huge role in my life."

He said he tries to focus on the positive, and keep in mind that they were very successful there for a very long time. They have a lot of good memories to take with.

"I'm not sad about it. I'm sorry about it," said Edna Schneiderman, who now lives in Duluth. "That's the way the world is right now — you have to find your own solutions."

Edna is supportive of her son, and the decision to close the store. She said it's a big job for Larry, adding that he's doing his very best and that nothing lasts forever.

"We'd like it to go on forever, but it's not one of those things," said Edna. "You've got to find new solutions now — all the world does. We're not alone in this."

The going-out-of-business sale, which was by private invitation only late last week, brought many familiar faces back to Schneiderman's Furniture one last time.

"I feel very bad about it," said Carol Maly, a regular customer. "It's going to be missed. We've done all our shopping at Schneiderman's and have been very pleased."

Her husband, Jerry, concurred. "It's a loss for the community," he said.

Larry called Meadowlands an example of what most of rural America faces — the demise of the family farm. Still, he is grateful to his history with the area and called it a great place to grow up as well as raise kids.

"It's been a great experience," he said. "It's more than just running about trying to make money."

As theft rises, stores step up anti-crime efforts

CINCINNATI (AP) — With shoplifting on the rise — including organized teams sweeping through stores and lifting scores of items in minutes — retailers are beefing up plainclothes patrols and video surveillance, and competitors are working together to prevent crime.

Stores are running online stings and sending security guards onto sales floors posing as customers. The FBI helped create a database for trading notes on suspects and their methods. Minneapolis-based Target Corp. even has a forensic lab and tracks video feed from its 1,700 stores at regional hubs.

"In light of today's economy and the expense pressure, it is an investment that shows good return," said Brad Brekke, a former FBI special agent who heads assets protection for Target. "There is definitely economic pressure generating more activity across the board — fraud, theft, cyber crime. The intensity has gone up as the economy has gone down."

The National Retail Federation, a trade group, says nearly half of 115 retailers it surveyed are spending more on crime-fighting — some companies spend more than \$1 million a year just on personnel hired to stop crime rings. The NRF, which opens a loss prevention conference Monday in Los Angeles, says 92 percent of the surveyed retailers were victims of organized theft teams last year, an 8 percent increase, even as many saw slumping sales.

More individuals are shoplifting, as in several steak-stealing incidents in Kroger Co.

grocery stores across the country this year. But retailers say the vast majority of their losses are from thefts by organized rings that usually send in a small group including a getaway driver, an in-store lookout and several "shoppers."

Joe LaRocca, a senior adviser for the retail federation, said it only makes sense to cooperate with competitors to fight the problem, which officials peg at \$35 billion a year and rising.

"You know you're getting hit and your neighbor is getting hit and, by working together, you have a much better rate of identification and prevention," LaRocca said.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Saks Inc., Ann Taylor Stores Corp. and others share information in the 2-year-old national database with the hope of stopping organized teams that take medicines, popular-brand clothes, video games and electronics — items that can be quickly resold in small shops, flea markets and online.

"I'm even amazed sometimes at what these guys do," said Jerry Biggs, who heads anti-organized crime efforts for the Walgreen Co. drugstore chain. "They're in and out in four minutes. They can go from store to store, do this all day long."

In what Florida authorities dubbed "Operation Hot Milk," 21 people were arrested in March in connection with a multimillion-dollar baby formula theft ring. Generally, men acted as lookouts and getaway drivers while women slipped cans of powdered formula worth about \$25 each into their bags. Polk County Sher-

iff's deputies began investigating in late 2008 after finding stolen baby formula during a traffic stop.

Biggs said the rings know more households are looking harder for bargains — often online, where many high-volume thefts are fenced, or in flea markets and small shops — during the recession.

"It's created a larger demand for product at lower price," he said. "People just think they're getting good deals."

Stores are trying to slow the theft rings with new packaging, less-accessible display cases, and electronic gizmos. But how many precautions to take is a delicate issue for retailers, who risk alienating customers by making them wait while items are retrieved from locked cases or embarrassing them when exit alarms go off. Customers could also be turned off by increasingly intense surveillance.

"You've got to balance the value you get from that," said Michael Brown, a retail strategist for the consulting firm Kurt Salmon Associates. "You don't want your loss prevention department to become your sales prevention department."

Art Wulfek, director of loss prevention for Cincinnati-based Kroger, says it trains employees to be regularly engaging customers around the store — asking whether they need help or have questions — which also reduces theft opportunities.

HEDA: Abatement, demo bids wanted

From Page A1

members gave Northagen authorization to hire MacNeil Environmental to perform a hazardous materials survey at a cost not to exceed \$2,200. The same firm performed the same survey on the first two

buildings.

HEDA members also gave Northagen the nod to request bids for hazardous materials removal and for demolition of the structures.

Northagen said he hoped to have bids for both to present to the authority for action in July.

"It will be a busy month for me in putting all of this together," he said.

Kelly Grinsteiner can be reached at kelly.grinsteiner@mx3.com. To read this story and comment on it online go to www.hibbingmn.com.

NK ALUMNI BAND

WANTED:

Anyone who can toot a horn or beat a drum to join us on July 4th.

Nashwauk H.S. Band Students, Family and Friends Young or Old are Welcome!!!

(Songs Playing: Notre Dame Victory March and/or The Horse)

Due to budget cuts the High School Band will not be marching this year.

Contact Information:
Jeanne Krueger 218-744-1494
Jeff Gardille 612-819-4379

We will meet in our usual spot: 3rd St. & Deering, one hour before the parade.

Thank You

The family of Vienna Hobrle would like to thank everyone for their calls, condolences and cards.

The following people deserve a special thank you for their concern:

- ♥ The women of the First Presbyterian Church for all their hard work and efforts from the chapel to the kitchen.
- ♥ Amelia's Restaurant for providing an outstanding meal at the church
- ♥ Range Floral and Johnson Floral for the beautiful flowers
- ♥ Ann Schnortz for the fantastic arrangement she made from Mom's own yard
- ♥ Bryan Hanson of Range Funeral Home for his guidance
- ♥ Especially Pastor Jim Deters for all his prayers. He was also with Mom right to the last minute via AT&T

We also want to thank the pallbearers: Ron Borbiconi, Curly Schnortz, Roger Larson, Dave Houghton, Bill Erickson and Loui Collyard.

And the honorary pallbearers: David Schwartz, Ron Vine, Roger Meittunen, Don Grabowski, John Matetich Sr. and Trina Quiggin.

All of the pallbearers, except for Trina (who could do no wrong), have had their "butts chewed" by Mom at some point over the years. Mom loved having her name in the paper as you all know. So here you go, Mom, one more time!

Thanks for all the kindness everyone has always shown our mom - Vienna Hobrle.

Sincerely,
 Her sons - Roger, John and Tom Hobrle

ISD SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 701 HIBBING, MN 55746

is accepting applications for the following positions:

1.0 FTE Title 1 Teacher
 Elementary Licensure & Kindergarten Endorsement Required.
 For the 2009-2010 School Year

1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher
 Elementary Licensure Required.
 For the 2009-2010 School Year

Special consideration will be given to applicants who are qualified and willing to coach/direct extra curricular activities.

Letters of applications should be addressed to:
 Mr. Robert D. Belluzzo, Superintendent
 Hibbing Public Schools
 800 E. 21st Street
 Hibbing, MN 55746

Deadlines for all applications is **Friday, June 19, 2009.**