

Moorhead Person of the Year

Since Time can name a person of the year, I feel I can do the same for Moorhead. I actually have two individuals and two runners-up, so here goes. My choice for Woman of the Year in Moorhead is MSUM president Anne Blackhurst. Over the past year and half, Blackhurst has stabilized enrollment, become an effective campus leader and most importantly has brought MSUM back into the Moorhead community. After several years of declining enrollment, this fall is up slightly. Blackhurst has become a leader in many areas of our community. As one person told me, she is present everywhere, working with the community, community leaders, the other campuses in our community and helping promote growth in Moorhead. I see Blackhurst at all MSUM functions I attend including MSUM basketball, student and faculty presentations such as GIS day and artist talks at the Rourke. Blackhurst is a regular attendee of Moorhead Business Association. The MBA connection leads me to my man of the year in Moorhead.

Pat Kovash, owner of Moorhead Marine and one of the strongest supporters of Moorhead. Kovash is a volunteer member of the Moorhead Business Association board, is on the Moorhead Economic Development Authority and is a very rational person regarding problems and solutions. Kovash sees the big picture and the future of Moorhead and is helping guide us to that future. Kovash stepped forward with help and financial support for the continuation of the 4th of July fireworks at Nemzek, proudly displays signs at his business supporting Moorhead including "It's a Great Day to do Business in Moorhead".

My runner-up to Kovash is Jim Steen. Steen is also a strong MBA board member and chairs the Economic Development Authority. Steen sees where there are issues and strives to find solutions such as running for Moorhead city council from ward 1.

Moorhead mayor Del Rae Williams is a very close runner-up for woman of the year. She solidified her position with her strong leadership at the recent city council meeting regarding the selection process to fill the vacancy in ward 2.

Speaking of Moorhead Business, the SpeakEasy has changed ownership. Contrary to what some folks are thinking, it is still open and is a wonderful place to go for a 'cool one' after work and/or a nice dinner, family or romantic. The menu is the same. The managing partner told me that he will be making some improvements over the next few months, but expects the regulars to continue to stop by plus some new or returning customers.

A few weeks ago, I wrote about Project Unpack, a project by a local combat Veteran and artist and a NDSU professor where Veterans brought an article of meaning from the military and they would incorporate it into a mug. The opening reception is Saturday, 17 December at the Rourke Art Museum. Stop by and see it along with a show by my friend Jonathan Rutter. Hours are Friday – Sunday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.