**A hollow shell without the news of your community**

*Keith Anderson / APG-ECM Media*

If we didn’t have newspapers, think of all that would be lost. As community newspapers

we have a long tradition of providing you with the news and information that helps

you make critical decisions and stay informed.

But we also serve as a watchdog of government, we strive to capture the moments in

life that define our communities, and we hope to entertain and inspire by sharing your

stories.

The newspaper is your resource because without you there is no community.

It is your stories of struggles won and lost that help shape who we are and how we

come together as people. Your courageous fight against disease, the emotional and sometimes

daunting first day of school for child and parent, the heartache of a home leveled

by tornado or destroyed by fire, the joy of a state championship title or a single win for a

team that has been denied for weeks, the street assessment being proposed by your city or

the new park being planned down the street, the mayor who made good on his campaign

promise or the legislator who failed to vote the will of the people. All of these are snapshots

of what is shared in your newspaper.

Without the newspaper acting in an objective role to collect, investigate, interview,

verify and share all of this information, our connections as individuals and community

would be compromised and perhaps break down completely.

As Minnesota newspapers celebrate 150 years of journalism, this “Whiteout Day” is

being held to recognize all that we hold true and important for strong communities. Our

pledge to you is our continued effort to find and explain trusted stories, issues and information

that are relevant for your lives. It’s what newspapers have been doing for generations.

And with your continued support, it’s what we will continue to do.

Imagine there’s no newspaper...think of all we’d lose?