

Opinion

Editorial

Vision in twine

The sun appears to have set on the glory days of Darwin's fame.

After 24 years, Darwin's claim to fame as the home of the world's largest twine ball has been snipped by J.C. Payne, a Texas man who has wound a ball of nylon string measuring 13-feet, 2 and a half inches in diameter.

Records are fleeting things, but how a community greets and responds to unique accomplishments or features is lasting.

Case in point: The people of the farming community of Cadott, Wis., have made geography that city's notable feature and faithfully bill its location as being "halfway between the equator and the North Pole."

That is called working with what you have.

Darwin greeted Francis Johnson's twine ball with arms open wide almost enough to encircle the mighty ball of twine. They housed it in a gazebo, and opened the Twine Ball Museum. Darwin rallied behind Johnson's

accomplishment to make it a community selling point since he donated the twine ball to the city in 1991.

It has proven the twine that binds in Darwin.

That rally required vision Hutchinson and other outstate Minnesota cities can learn from. We do not all boast a North Shore or a Niagara Falls or the Black Hills, but we should all be able to muster the kind of vision and spirit that launched a world-famous drug store on the South Dakota prairie.

Darwin contends that its twine ball was the first on the record and remains the heaviest. Payne's nylon collection weighs a scant 13,000 pounds to the twine ball's 17,400 pounds.

We contend that whatever the fate of its record, the community remains a winner for having identified and marketed a feature that sets it apart from the crowd.

Darwin
Twine Ball
Museum

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