



Hastings butcher to demo store's defibrillator tonight

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Hastings grocer Richard Otto Reissner has a new item in stock, but it isn't edible.

The 69-year-old butcher keeps an AED — an automated external defibrillator — in his 106-yearold market, Reissner's Meat and Grocery.

Tonight, Reissner will put out a plate of cookies and punch at the Hastings American Legion for anyone interested in seeing the defibrillator in action. The machines are fast becoming commonplace additions in government buildings, shopping malls and airports, and have become more common in private businesses. But few small, streetcorner shops carry them.

For victims of heart attack, the devices are pressed to the chest in hopes of shocking the heart back into rhythm.

"It's very small and compact, and they're under \$1,000," said Sue Reissner, Richard Reissner's wife. "When we got ours, (the salesman) said do you want us to do an in-house demonstration? We said yeah, but we want everybody there."

Reissner said he almost experienced the benefit first-hand. His heart failed little more than a year ago, and Reissner believes he had a brief otherworldly experience on the threshold of the afterlife. His colorful flirtation with death was reported in the Pioneer Press and several television stations.

With several nurses pounding on his chest, Reissner's heart started up without the use of an AED. But cases like his are exception, rather than the rule.

A representative of J.L. Industries, which manufactures AEDs, will lead a hands-on demonstration from 7 to 8 p.m. at the American Legion, 50 Sibley Street, Hastings.

Anyone interested in more information can contact Reissner's shop during work hours at 651-437-4189.

JL Industries, a division of Bloomington, Minnesota-based Activar Construction Products Group, serves the commercial construction industry. For over 60 years, JL has been an innovator in specialty safety and fire protection products and together, with the 4 other companies in the group, provides a single source for architects and distributors.

Heartsine Technologies, Inc., a world leader in personal and public access automatic external defibrillators, is celebrating its 10th anniversary of bringing lifesaving defibrillation therapy to non-traditional areas of care.

For more information on Heartsine defibrillators, visit heartsine.com.

