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Announcements

Now taking requests for reserving
the Memorial Park Pavilion
and application is available online
www.cityofdundas.org

REMINDERS:

• **Wipes clog pipes:** Even if they say "flushable," disposable wipes will clog pipes. Prevent costly backups and place wipes in the trash.

WINTER PARKING BAN

City Ordinance 271.06(2)
No Parking in Streets or Alleys
2:00 a.m. to 6:30 a.m.
October 31 to April 15
Exception:
Call Dundas Police 645-5252

WARNING FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES:

Do your part to make the streets of Dundas safe for driving and snow removal. Any violations of the following will be issued a ticket for noncompliance:

Garbage Carts: No garbage carts allowed in the street on pickup day! Per City Code place them back from the curb.

Snow Removal: Per City and State Codes: NO BLOWING or PUSHING snow into streets or across the road!

Street Parking: Per City Code Winter Parking Ban – NO parking in streets from 2:00 am to 6:30 am.

Check City's website for more
information www.cityofdundas.org

Five Years of Fine Food at Ruth's on Stafford



Ruth Bolstad

If this pandemic has taught us anything about ourselves, it's that we crave home-made, soothing food. We want to be comforted with gravy and potatoes and forget about the crazy world around us. That's where Ruth Bolstad at Ruth's on Stafford comes in. This caterer located on a quiet backstreet in Dundas, Minnesota is a hidden gem.

Ruth has had an incredible history of bringing people together with quantity cooking. Her catering company is celebrating its 5th Anniversary this year. Her curbside pickup meals are ready to be warmed up and served. You can even lie and say you made everything yourself...she doesn't mind! Ruth prepares most of her food on the day you pick it up or they will deliver it to you. Most of her dishes are named after family or friends. I personally, am willing to trade a family member for her Suzie Beef and Garlic Mashed Potatoes. Add some of Marie's Oatmeal Bread

and John's Artichoke Dip, and I'll give you my dog as well. She's known for lots of specialties including her soups and mini-BLT appetizer sandwiches. Maybe you need a lasagna or like a recent order she had, (13) cheesecakes. She's your gal!

(continued on page 10)

The Messenger Recipe Contest



Share your favorite recipe with other readers and you can win a free dinner out on us. Just e-mail your favorite recipe to us. Each month we will feature 2 recipes. If

we use your recipe and print it, you will receive a free certificate.

(see ad on page 6)

Rice County Looks to Sales Tax to Pay for Public Safety Center

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

The Rice County Board of Commissioners agreed to seek legislative approval in order to ask voters to consider approving a countywide sales tax this November that would pay for the new Public Safety Center.

The Board of Commissioners approved construction of the new \$48 million safety center last spring. The proposed tax, set at .375% would allow the county to repay the bonds sooner than their established 30-year time frame.

If approved, the tax would apply to sales throughout Rice County, excluding food and clothing, prescription drugs, and motor vehicles. Proceeds from the tax would only be used to repay bonds for the project, and a sunset date is set for the tax once those bonds are repaid.

(continued on page 10)

Over 100 Years in Business

Hope Creamery continues tradition for more than a century

Courtesy of Dairystar.com

HOPE, Minn. – The employees of Hope Creamery collaboratively decided they would make butter to celebrate over 100 years of being in business; the creamery turned 102 years old Dec. 22, 2021.

(continued on page 6)

HOPE CREAMERY BUTTER AVAILABLE AT PARKSIDE!

Local has become an important part of consumer's food choices. People like to know where their food is coming from and how it is produced. Hope Creamery fits that profile very well. Our butter is made using an age old process.

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Christ our Ultimate Conqueror!

From 1961- 1994, there was a physical partition between East and West Germany- right in the heart of Berlin. The wall virtually went up overnight! Berliners woke up to find a barrier made up of coiled barbed wires and concrete blocks. The wall was 96 miles (154.5 km) long stood and stood between 115 and 15 feet (4.57 meters) tall. There were actually 2 walls built with a 160-foot death strip between them. There were 302 watchtowers, 20 bunkers, 55,000 land mines, 259 dog runs, and machine guns that were activated by trip-wires.

The wall was built to keep the East Berliners from going into West Berlin to work- it was built to keep people in- Walls separate- As we conclude chapter 8 Paul writes, "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love." Paul says- I am convinced! It isn't a thought, or just a consideration, or a possibility- he is convinced- completely certain about something or firm in one's belief with regard to a particular cause or issue. He wrote, I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's Love. He is completely certain that there is nothing- not a thing · not a single thing · not anything · nothing at all · nil · zero · naught. Not one thing can ever—there is no time; past present or future- separate us- Keep us from- make a wall, between us and God's love. That's powerful! There's hope in that verse- there's a huge reminder that I have done nothing that will totally destroy Jesus' love for me. There's nothing he will not forgive, there's nothing that can get in the way of His love for me. Let that soak in- when we're in

love we fill that way about that special person- we say our vows- until death do us part- saying that there is nothing that will get in-between our love for one another- yet, divorce is all around us- Unrealistic expectations make our marriages a war zone with walls separating one another. But Paul says, I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love." God loves us. God loves His creation. God loves us so much that He gave His one and only Son-so that we may have life with Him forever. That's love- undeserved and selfless. That's God's love.

Paul elaborates: "Neither death nor life," Death doesn't even separate us from God's love. Even when death takes us- God is there- His desire is that we go with Him in death- his heart grieves for those that choose eternal death without Him. Life as well can't separate His love from us- we can choose to accept it or not- but He has already given it through His Son.

Then, neither angels nor demons" no matter the power of the spiritual world- neither the angels or demons can get between God's love for us. The powers of the evil will try- but they are no match for His Love. Martin Luther King, Jr.said, "Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." The powers of darkness will try to get the best of us- But Jesus is love and He is more powerful than the darkest night or the blackest evil of a person's heart.

This one hits home a bit more, "neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow" Can separate us from God's love. We all have our fears and worries don't we? Yet, even if we are afraid or worrying about tomorrow- He still loves us and is patient with us. He knows us- He desires that we remember His promises: "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life— whether you have enough food and drink, or

enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

28 "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

31 "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God[e] above all else, and live righteously, and he

will give you everything you need.

34 "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." Matthew 6:25-34. Jesus said- don't worry- me and my Father got this! Even our fears over tomorrow- can't separate us from His love!

And we're to also remember, that "not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Nothing in ALL Creation will EVER be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed to us in Jesus Christ!!! I have to say- I really love these verses! These verses fill me with hope, when I'm tempted to despair, they fill me with courage, when I am afraid, and trusting in this kind of love definitely leaves me feeling like a conqueror! As a believer- you can have this same confidence. You can trust in the Lord Jesus Christ- Our ultimate conqueror-

Area Church Directory

Learning Together

Scripture Reading — Luke 24:13-19

As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. — Luke 24:15

Social media does not provide a healthy setting for Christian debate on controversial issues. It's too easy for users to sound off with hurtful words over people's interpretations of Scripture, judging them to be dead wrong or even devil-led.

Imagine such an online debate between people who believed in Christ's resurrection and those who considered it fake news. Thankfully, the calm, respectful discussion we find on the road to Emmaus invites a genuine discovery of the truth. Where these two gathered, Jesus showed up and was there with them (see Matthew 18:20; 28:20).

God designed that his people would live, learn, and grow together in community. None of us has perfect knowledge of God's Word, but we gain insight by studying it with others. "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

I have participated in many small groups in which we studied the Bible, which is "useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16), and applied it to life situations. As a pastor, I do not have all of the answers, but I have found that when we communally seek to know him better, Jesus joins us and we sense his presence.

As Christ-followers, we can scare people away with our insistence on being right, or we can attract people with our invitation to walk and learn together with Jesus as our guide.

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for being with us in our life of faith, and for guiding us to search for truth together. Amen.

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CITY LIGHT CHURCH 2140 Hwy. 3 South, Northfield, MN

Pastor Pete Haase • 507-645-8829 Call for service times

LIFE21 CHURCH 2100 Jefferson Road (just north of Target)

Pastor Brent Bielenberg • 645-7730 life21church.com

10:00a.m. Worship Experience

NORTHFIELD EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 5600 East 110th Street

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9:30 a.m. Worship; 11:00 a.m. Christian Life Classes

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High School Ministry - doors open at 7pm; programming 7:30-9pm

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Tom Neuville

Tom Neuville, of Northfield, Minnesota, passed away peacefully at his home on January 26, 2022, 5 days before his 72nd birthday and 46th wedding anniversary.

Born January 31, 1950 in Marinette, Wisconsin, Tom was the eldest of 6 siblings born to Morris and Dallas Neuville. Graduating from Michigan Tech in 1972, he worked as a research chemical engineer at 3M but found his calling as a lawyer after taking night classes to obtain his law degree from William Mitchell in 1976. That same year he married the spice of his life, Marilyn (Hamilton), starting their own family of 5. Making Cursillo weekend 1/23 in 1987 changed the direction of his life.

Tom loved the law. Admired by colleagues for his pursuit of truth, justice, honor, fairness, and common sense, it came as no surprise that Tom asked that his obituary contain, "the facts, and just the facts."

So, here are the facts.

Tom lived his life with Eagle Scout integrity, loving his Catholic faith, family, and the Green Bay Packers. Although perceived as quiet and no-nonsense, Tom never took himself too seriously. We will miss his playful prank-calls, googly-eyed glasses, Looney Tune sing-a-longs, playing the numbers game with his morning coffee group, and his perfect rendition of the Big Mac jingle.

A law partner with Marv Grundhoefer and David Ludescher for 31 years, Tom further served his community as a public defender for those who could not afford a lawyer. In 1990, Tom was elected to the Minnesota State Senate. A humble politician, Tom was known and respected for working collaboratively within and across party lines. He defended the dignity of human life at all stages and worked hard on legislation focused on prison reform, education, family law, and the Dream Act. Tom was re-elected 5 times, serving 17 years which he attributed to his family's hard work stuffing envelopes, hammering in lawn signs, walking in parades, and door-knocking. A highlight of Tom's political career was Joanne Benson asking him in 1998 to run as her Lieutenant Governor. Despite the strength of their ticket, it was no match for Jesse "The Body" Ventura.

Governor Tim Pawlenty appointed Tom as Rice County District Court Judge in 2008 where he served for 10 years. While worthy of the title "Honorable," he never wanted to be addressed by anything other than Tom. Colleagues respected him for his common-sense, compassionate listening, and patient demeanor in court. Tom was proud to help establish the Rice County Drug Treatment Court, which offered accountability and rehabilitation, rather than prison, for crimes motivated by addiction. In his retirement, Tom became involved in CHARIS prison ministry, volunteering in the Faribault Correctional Facility.

Over the past 6 years, Tom expressed constant gratitude for the outpouring of love, prayers, encouragement and support he re-

ceived from family, friends, and every medical professional.

Tom will be dearly missed by Marilyn and their 5 children, Mark (Katie), John (Susan), Anne Ward (Blake), Luke (Maggie) and Meg; his 13 grandchildren, Sam, Lucy, Lauren, Ben, Will, Grace, Archie, Maren, Maggie, Andy, Cooper, Charlie and Thomas; his 5 siblings, Karen Bretch (Bill), Tim (Joy), Debbie Bouche (Jim), Jen Harrison (Paul) and Jeff (Becky); and his large extended family of in-laws.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to one of the many organizations Tom supported:

Rice County Drug Court: https://www.mn-courts.gov/mncourtsgov/media/scao_library/Drug%20Courts/RCTC-Brochure.pdf

WE Share (Building homes in India): <https://weshareprogram.net/contact-us/>

Center for Missions - Venezuela: <https://www.archspm.org/venezuela/donate/>

Visitation was from 4-7 PM, Friday, January 28, 2022, at Bierman Funeral Home, Northfield. Mass of Christian Burial was at 10:30 AM, Saturday, January 29, 2022, at the Church of St. Dominic, Northfield. Interment will be in Calvary Cemetery, Northfield, at a later date.

Arrangements are with Bierman Funeral Home & Crematory. www.biermanfuneral-home.com

Jim Bierman

Jim Bierman, 71, of Northfield, passed away unexpectedly Saturday morning, January 15, 2022, at his home.

James Edmund Bierman was born on November 27, 1950, to John and Margaret (Shedd) Bierman in Northfield. He grew up in Northfield and graduated from Northfield High School in 1969.

Jim attended Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA for two years and then transferred to the U of M where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mortuary Science. He returned to Northfield and worked for the family's furniture store and mortuary. Jim eventually bought the funeral home from his father and

owned and operated Bierman Funeral Home until retiring in 2015. He sold the family business but continued to work with the staff at Bierman's for funerals and visitations.

Mary Boyd and Jim were high school sweethearts and were married in 1972 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield. They moved south of town on Hall Avenue, raised their three children on their small farm, and continued living there through retirement.

Northfield lost a beloved member of its community. Jim was active throughout his life in the Sportsman's Club, member and usher at St. John's Lutheran Church, and took great pride in his work at the funeral home. Jim helped many families get through hard times over the years and worked hard to honor their loved ones. He enjoyed fishing and took many trips with friends and family to Canada and Alaska. Jim would work in the woods behind their house often, clearing trails, cutting wood, planting trees and many acres of native prairie grass. Jim was proud of the Rice County Wildlife Enhancement Award he received in 2020. He loved being around small children, dogs, and cats and gave many nieces and nephews their first taste of ice cream. Jim was a loving husband and supportive father and grandfather; an amazing man who will be deeply missed by those that knew him.

Jim is survived by his wife, Mary; children, Jesse (Melissa) of Portland, Betsy (Jim) Shultz of Portland and Max (Ashley Eckdahl) of Northfield; granddaughter, Willa; siblings, Peter (Diane) of White Bear Lake, Mary (David) Patterson of Northfield, Jane Bierman (Paul) Lytle of Northfield, Joe (Kris) of Cannon Falls, Susan (Bonnie) of Lakeville, Chris (Dawn) of St. Louis, Robert (Ellen) of Apple Valley, Charlie (Dawn) of Rochester, Margaret (Steve) Cloud of Northfield, and Jennifer (Jim) Griffin of Wilmette, IL; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, John.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to St. John's Lutheran Church of Northfield Radio Broadcast or the Cannon River Sportsman Club of Northfield for youth activities.

Arrangements are with Bierman Funeral Home & Crematory, Northfield. www.biermanfuneralhome.com

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Emerald Ash Borer Concerns Spark Talks of Alternative Trees To Plant



By: Steve Pahs,
Rice SWCD District Manager

In March of 2020, we all went into quarantine and lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In the same month, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in the city of Faribault, and Rice County added another type of quarantine to help slow the spread of the bug.

Minnesota is home to about one billion ash trees. It is only a matter of time before EAB takes a firm hold and infects the state's ash trees. In fact, 30 counties in Minnesota have confirmed infestations of Emerald Ash Borer. The first reported case was in 2009.

We have all heard that you should not transport firewood out of the county, as this is one way we help prevent the spread of new EAB infestations in ash trees, but what do you do if



An adult emerald ash borer is smaller than the size of a penny. Photo by Howard Russell, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org.

you have been affected by an infestation on your property? What are good alternatives to ash trees?

Well, first and foremost, it is important to report a new infestation (areas outside of Faribault) to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture ("Arrest the Pest" hotline at 1-888-545-6684). After that, in most cases, it will be necessary to destroy the trees infected and treat any others with an insecticide to prevent them from suffering the same fate.

Removal of the infected yard and street trees is advised because they will not survive and can create a safety hazard. Consider pre-emptive removal of ash, especially when you are in an area that has become generally infected. Reserve insecticide treatment for your most valued ash. Insecticides will need to be applied about every two years to save the tree. It is effective but can be expensive.

(continued on page 5)

Repotting Houseplants



Teri Knight



I just recently had to cull 2 houseplants. They were each at least 15 years old and I hadn't "done" anything to them.

It was well past time and I went after them. A philodendron and spider plant.

My step stool is JUST tall enough for me to get these hanging plants down. The philo was rootbound and droopy, the spider plant just sagged.

I don't have pics of the absolute mess I made, but I have the cuttings...

Repot those houseplants whose roots are starting to come out of the drain holes at the bottom of your pot or have wrapped themselves around the inside of the pot so many times, they've practically formed their own pot!

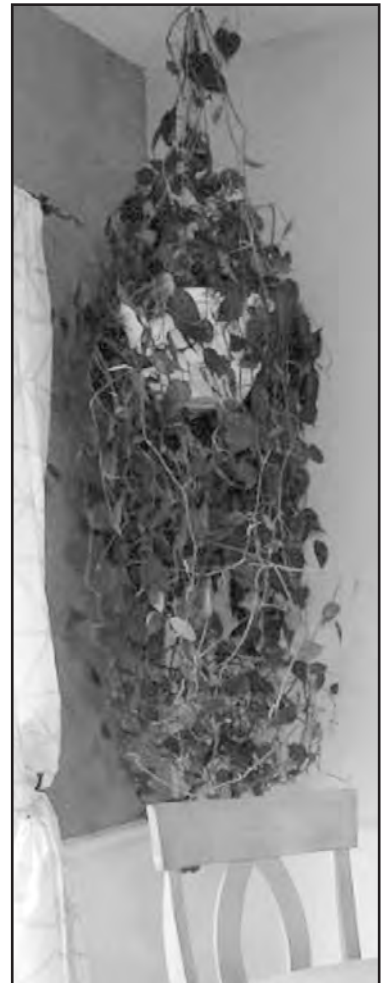
Go up just one size, that means a pot that's only 1 or 2 inches larger. Water your plant thoroughly several hours before repotting, tap smaller pots on a table and slide the plant out. You may need to run a knife around the inside of larger pots and lay them on their side, then slide the plant out. Unwind and remove excessive circling roots and any sign of rotting roots.

Fill your new pot with just enough soil to center your plant at the same depth it was planted in.

Fill in around the roots, tamp the soil lightly while you work. Water well and keep it out of direct sunlight for a few days while your plant gets used to it's new digs!

Teri Knight became a Master Gardener with Dakota County, Minnesota in 2003.

She currently produces her website, www.gardenbite.com. Teri's been involved in community projects which include a Junior Master Gardener program for 8 to 12 year olds, designing and planting a garden for a women's center and various other organizations!



Philodendron – 2017



Philo in water



Spider plant



Before



After

This is not my plant but another look at roots that will kill the plant



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Emerald Ash Borer Concerns Spark Talks of Alternative Trees To Plant

(continued from page 4)

If you live in a rural area with many ash trees in your woodlot, it may not be practical to cut/remove trees. These ash will die and be replaced naturally by other trees that can grow in the canopy gap left by the dead trees.

EAB will eventually reach all the ash trees in Rice County, and it is virtually 100% fatal. DNR Forester Jake Froyum, Faribault Field Office, predicts that most of the ash in Faribault will either be infected with EAB or will die from it within five to ten years.

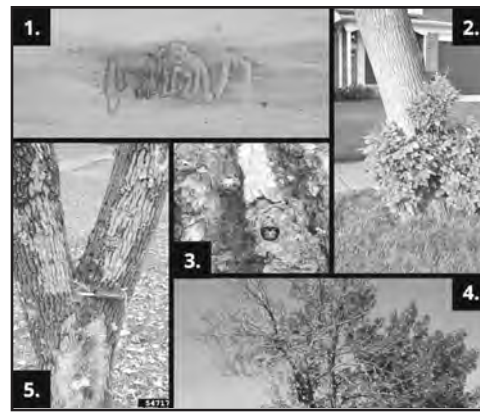
If you've had to remove ash trees on your property or want to know what a good alternative is to plant, there are many options. One important thing to keep in mind is that you should strive for diversity. Tree diseases are nothing new. You may remember that Dutch

Elm Disease swept across the country starting in the 1930s and destroyed most American Elm trees.

With this in mind, now is the time is to be establishing new trees to take the place of the ash trees that will be lost to EAB.

Depending on what your goals are, there are many great choices to replace your ash trees. Looking primarily for a shade tree? American Linden, also known as basswood, is a local native and an excellent shade tree. It grows 50-70 feet tall and is tolerant of most urban conditions. Northern red oak is a fast grower and is also well-suited to urban environments. For great fall color, nothing beats a sugar maple! They are slower growing, but a great option. Want a faster-growing maple? Silver maple grows fast, but don't plant them too close to buildings, sidewalks, or pavement as they are not as strong and tend to break branches more easily. Other good choices include hackberry, honeylocust, Kentucky coffee tree, swamp white oak, and DED-resistant elms.

Invasive species will always be something we need to manage, but with the right planning, we can adapt and make the changes needed to keep our environments healthy.



Signs of Emerald Ash Borer damage. 1. "S" shaped channeling under bark (Photo by Steven Katovich, Bugwood.org.) 2. Suckering shoots at the base of the tree (Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Forestry, Bugwood.org) 3. "D" shaped holes from adult beetle emergence (Photo by Debbie Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org.) 4. Dieback of leaves in the crown (Joseph OBrien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org) 5. Woodpecker damage (Photo by Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org.)



Replacement trees for green ash. At left, basswood leaves and berry-like seeds. Photo by Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org. Top right, red oak leaves. Photo by Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org. Bottom right, yellow sugar maple leaves in the fall. Photo by Katja Schulz on Flickr under Attribution 2.0 Generic (CC BY 2.0).

if you have any questions about our tree program.

For more information on the Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive species in Rice County, visit our website at <http://www.riceswcd.org/invasive-species-and-noxious-weeds/>.

Steve Pahs is the District Manager with the Rice Soil & Water Conservation District. Contact Steve with your questions about conservation practices and programs at 507-332-5408.

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Over 100 Years in Business

(continued from page 1)

“To me it’s an honor,” Mike Iverson said. “Most businesses barely make 100 years old now let alone a business that’s still in the same building.”

Lori Allard agreed.

“It’s a joy to come to work here,” she said. “I think we all feel that.”

Iverson and Allard are two of the few employees who help to make butter every week at Hope Creamery in Hope.

The creamery is owned and operated by Victor and Kellie Mrotz. Other employees are the Mrotzes’ son, Hudson, and Cody Blouin, who also helps to make the butter, four part-time truck drivers, a salesman and an office manager.

The first butter churned out of the creamery was on Dec. 22, 1919.

“Back then, this was a one-stop shop for farmers as farmers could get their fuel, feed and milk processed here,” Iverson said. “They tried to incorporate everything a farmer needs into one entity.”

At the time, the upstairs part of the building was also used for community events, 4-H meetings and a dance hall.

“The building was a modern marvel at the time because it had two stories and indoor



Hudson Mrotz explains how butter is made in the batch churn Jan. 5 at Hope Creamery in Hope, Minnesota. The batch churn is one of the many pieces of original equipment from the ‘50s and ‘60s. photo by Kate Rechtzigel

plumbing,” Iverson said.

Attracted by the building’s history, local community and the butter, Victor Mrotz knew he had to do something when the creamery was looking at closing in 2001.

“I had grown up on a farm where my parents milked cows until I was about 10 years old,” Mrotz said. “From living in Minneapolis for 16 to 17 years and working as a salesman, I was still getting the paper and read that Hope Creamery was about to close.

(continued on page 7)



Just send us your recipe with the ingredient list and preparation instructions and we will draw 2 recipes each month to run in the Messenger with your name as the submitter.

**E-mail your recipe to
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The original Minnesota Tater Tot Hot Dish

We’ll walk you through how to make this classic tater tot casserole recipe. There are lots of variations on the hotdish, but this easy recipe is a good place to start. You’ll need:

- 3/4 to 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen tater tots
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 2/3 cup 2% milk
- 1 cup shredded cheese

To start, break out your favorite large skillet—cast iron works great here! Heat it over medium heat, then add the ground beef and onion. Season with salt and pepper and cook until the meat is cooked through. Drain any excess grease.

Transfer the ground beef and onion mixture to a greased, two-quart baking dish. Top with the frozen tater tots.

In mixing bowl, whisk together the milk and condensed soup and then pour it over the potatoes. Top with shredded cheese—use whatever cheese you like best.

All that’s left is to pop this hotdish into a 350°F oven and bake uncovered for 30 to 40 minutes, or until heated through.

Serve this up with a quick side salad and some homemade rolls and you’ve got dinner! If you really want a full Midwestern experience, try these dessert recipes right from the heartland. They’re just the way to finish off this hearty meal don’tcha know!



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Over 100 Years in Business

(continued from page 6)

I couldn't let that happen."

So, Mrotz, who was farming with his dad at the time, talked to a friend about the creamery and decided to purchase the building in March 2001.

"Kellie and I taste tested a bunch of different butters before we bought the creamery," Mrotz said. "We didn't know if it was different at the time, but it was definitely different in taste and texture. So, we bought the building, and it's been in our names ever since."

The Mrotzes have made changes to keep sanitation practices up to date, but the general butter making process has remained the same as it was in the 1950s.

"All of our equipment is original from the '50s and '60s," Hudson said. "Before that, the churn was original, but it was run off of a steam engine."

Today, they purchase 15,000 pounds of separated cream from Plainview Milk Products every other week and process 8,000 thousand pounds of butter. As a byproduct, buttermilk is given to pig farmers.

"There is no manual for making butter,"

Hudson said. "You can only learn it by working alongside other butter makers."

Gene Kruckeberg was the head butter maker for 40-plus years; Kruckeberg passed in 2017. Mrotz's friend, Jay Logan, worked under Kruckeberg and took over the position until he passed suddenly in 2019. Before passing, Logan taught Hudson and Allard who later taught Iverson.

"Since then, it's taken the three of us to backward engineer the process and piece everything together," Hudson said. "It's still the same recipe it was 40 years ago when Kruckeberg was making it."

After the cream is received, it goes through six hours of slow vat pasteurization and then put in the batch churn.

"The process is really slow; you can't rush it. We believe that gives the butter a better flavor and better product," Iverson said. "It's one step at a time, and every batch is different. You can't walk away during any part of the process."

Once the butter is made, it is wrapped into 1-pound blocks as either salted, unsalted high fat or unsalted butter.

"That's the way it was done a long time ago with Friday boxes," Iverson said. "These boxes were the old way of packaging butter. You would put the butter fresh off the churn into a metal or wooden box, let it harden and then cut the butter with a hand-operated ma-

chine that would use wires to cut the butter into 1-pound blocks."

Iverson said new machines are costly, and the 1-pound blocks are tradition and what the creamery is known for.

For Iverson and Allard, their favorite part about the butter making process consists of the taste testing.

"Five minutes before it's ready to package, you get to taste the freshest Hope butter you will ever taste in your life," Iverson said. "I don't know of anybody who eats more butter than we do."

Hudson enjoys the process.

"It's so methodical and always interesting every time making butter; there's never a dull moment," he said.

About 70% of the butter is marketed toward restaurants and grocery stores in the Twin Cities metropolitan area where Mrotz has the most experience. The creamery's first commercial account was the restaurant Lucia's.

"Lucia's really believed in us and supported the eat local food movement," Hudson said. "After that, it's kind of taken off and spread through word of mouth."

About 15-20 cases are sold directly from the creamery to local customers.

"We have people coming who have bought butter out of this building for three generations," Iverson said. "They don't want us to stop making butter. An 80-year-old lady came in here one time and told us about how the butter reminds her of what her grandma used to make on the farm."

Allard agreed.

"We're always eager to sell butter, and we can see it in the customers' eyes that we are



Mike Iverson (from left), Lori Allard and Hudson Mrotz work together to make butter at Hope Creamery in Hope, Minnesota. The creamery turned 102 years old Dec. 22, 2021. photo by Kate Rechtzigel

making a difference," she said. "People smile."

After all these years, Hope Creamery plans to keep making butter in its traditional ways for many years to come.

"We christened that day this year, and I think that will be part of the tradition to make butter that week," said Hudson of Dec. 22, 2021. "And I think all of us will be on board to make at least a batch or two on the day of."



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Community Child Care Solutions



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

It is no secret that our child care system is strained. Even before the pandemic, rural Minnesota was struggling with a child care shortage. For parents, this has made it challenging to enter or stay in the workforce. For communities, the challenge is attracting and retaining residents if they do not have enough care available in town. Fortunately, at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) we have seen some real progress through our work addressing this challenge.

One of the ways we have helped develop solutions to the child care shortage is by offering complimentary consulting services. Jeff Andrews, SMIF's early childhood business consultant, provides direct support to family



providers, owners/operators of child care centers and communities.

SMIF is currently working with multiple communities as they approach ways to support child care locally. One thing that is clear is that there is not a one-size-fits-all answer, which is why SMIF helps communities develop solutions that are unique to them. One example of this is Jeff's work in Northfield. Under his guidance, Three Rivers Community Action and Healthy Community Initiative created a plan to open a new family child care owner initiative at the Northfield Community Resource Center. Using this partnership model, they will be able to provide classroom space and business support to individuals who are looking to start a new career or relocate their current family child care business.

When a major business closed a few years ago in Waseca, community partners came together to reimagine how to use the large, vacant building that was left behind.

(continued on page 9)



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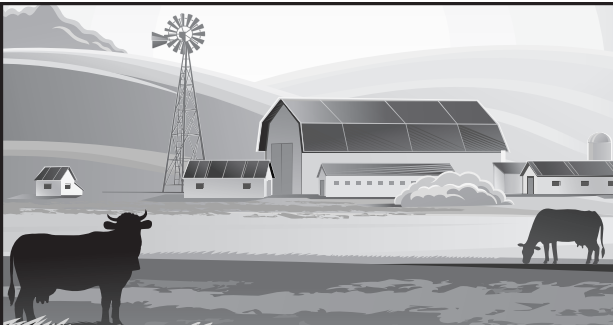


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Community Child Care Solutions

(continued from page 8)

SMIF has worked alongside partners from the City, Chamber, EDA, County and School District to create a plan for this building which will include a traditional child care center as well as spaces for family care. Additionally, with Jeff's guidance, the partners will also be focused on supporting existing providers in town through trainings and other initiatives.

Supporting existing providers is another critical tool in addressing the child care shortage. Providers are often stretched thin in a very demanding job which can lead to burnout and, ultimately, leaving the industry. Additionally, the needs of families are changing and evolving due to how the pandemic has impacted people's work lives and personal lives. Providers are finding themselves at a crossroads and realizing that the way they have always done things isn't working any more. Because of this, SMIF offers consultation services that help providers create a more sustainable business model that also aligns with their own personal goals.

One of the most recent success stories in this space is a partnership between SMIF and Families First of Minnesota that has been a joint effort to get more providers into Parent

Aware, Minnesota's quality rating program. All 17 participating providers, from across SMIF's 20-county region, have had an opportunity to work directly with Jeff to discuss changing their business models to adapt to the current climate and reimagine their future, all the while providing the same quality care for families and kids.

Finally, the owners and operators of child care centers are a third area where SMIF's consulting services are available. Jeff's approach with centers, whether new or existing, is more in-depth and complex to help owners understand the nuances of the child care center business. Recently, through Jeff's support, a new preschool opened in Caledonia and a new child care center opened in Lake Crystal. The preschool at the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro has also been expanded. Additionally, a new child care center, Leo Augusta Children's Academy, will be opening soon in Blooming Prairie.

The availability of quality child care undoubtedly plays a critical role in our communities. In 2022 I encourage community partners, providers and center owner/operators to reach out to SMIF for our complimentary consultation services. We are ready to help you reimagine your future.

The best way to start is by filling out a form on our website at smifoundation.org/early-childhood or by contacting Jeff at 507-214-7056 or jeffa@smifoundation.org.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.



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Five Years of Fine Food at Ruth's on Stafford

(continued from page 1)

The menu changes twice a week, so you can pick up your favorites on Tuesday or Friday and be set for the week. Just order online and if you can't pick it up, they can deliver. Keep in mind, this is a small business and some flexibility about timing is appreciated when you order. Nothing is coming out of a bag or being microwaved, so sometimes it helps to call ahead and confirm or know that nothing is gonna be delivered until Ruth thinks it's perfect.

I recently gave her a call when I had a special family birthday coming up for my 96-year-old Mom. I can't really cook and I have a big family who loves to eat. I basically told her about my 6'6" & 6'4" brothers and their love of beef and left the rest up to her. I might also have mentioned my pretend-vegetarian sister who needed something lighter. Along came the most amazing chicken I had ever eaten rolled and stuffed with feta and sundried tomatoes and a great baked squash side dish. I had plenty leftover after the soiree, but

someone stole the leftovers from our freezer. I'm looking at you, Jennifer!

Ruth's on Stafford also opened a gathering space on site that accommodates up to 160 people for events such as training sessions, conferences, bridge clubs, book clubs, family reunions, etc. You can book this space for a reasonable cost and Ruth will make you snacks or meals to keep your members satisfied.

With help from a small staff which usually includes family members, Ruth will take the pressure off you at your next holiday function. She'll take care of all the food and you can even return the dishes without washing them. Does it get any better than that?!

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Rice County Looks to Sales Tax to Pay for Public Safety Center *(continued from page 1)*

The revenue source is proposed as a sales tax because the facility, which will house the county jail and offices for Rice County Sheriff's personnel, will benefit a larger region. County Administrator Sarah Folsted and Rice County Chief Financial Officer Paula O'Connell recommended spreading the expense to those living outside of Rice County but spend money here.

County officials have already spoken to local legislators who have agreed to support the request. If approved by the Legislature, the question will be included on the November 6th ballot.

The Public Safety Center will include a 76-bed jail and offices for the Rice County Sheriff's Department. The new facility is needed to continue to house inmates locally and came about after the Minnesota Department of Corrections downgraded the current jail, which doesn't meet its standards for recreation and programming space.

Groundbreaking for the safety center is anticipated later this year.

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Don't Be Afraid to be Courageous



By Harvey Mackay

In his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Profiles of Courage," U.S. President John F. Kennedy, wrote eloquently about courage:

"Courage, the universal virtue, is comprehended by us all. For without belittling the courage with which men have died, we should not forget those acts of courage with which men have lived.

"The courage of life is often a less dramatic spectacle than the courage of a final moment; but it is no less a magnificent mixture of triumph and tragedy."

Courage is regarded as one of the major human virtues. Courage is bravery, valor, standing up to danger, guts and nerves all rolled into one. It's easy to be ordinary. Courage is what sets people apart from the crowd.

Those stories of heroism are inspiring, but few of us will ever find ourselves in the kind of extraordinary situations that are the stuff of legend.

Consider the words of American poet Maya Angelou: "Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently."

The good news is that courage is available to everyone. There are plenty of ways to be courageous in our lives. Doing something for the first time is often a demonstration of courage. Is there someone you know who is being picked on where you can defend that person?

Maybe it's just standing up for yourself or speaking up. How about asking for a raise or a promotion at work or leaving a job you don't like and becoming an entrepreneur?

Maybe it's simply having the courage to take responsibility for your actions – or having the courage to be who you are and to be authentic.

It takes courage to persevere in difficulties when we are tempted to give up. I have never met a successful person who hasn't had to overcome a little or a lot of adversity. Trying times are no time to quit trying.

One of the greatest challenges in life is doing what people say you can't. When things seem most bleak, you must have the courage to carry on to success.

The line between failure and success is so fine that we scarcely know when we pass it; so fine that we are often on the line and do not know it. How many people have given up too soon?

More than 5,200 senior managers were

asked by Santa Clara University and the Tom Peters Group/Learning Systems to describe the characteristics they most admire in a leader. The top 10 characteristics, as reported in "Management Review" magazine were: honest, competent, forward-looking, inspiring, intelligent, fair-minded, broad-minded, courageous, straightforward and imaginative.

Anyone who has started a business or managed an organization understands the courage required to make decisions and take risks. Taking the easy way out is not an option.

In business, prospects may seem darkest when actually they are about to turn. A little more perseverance, a little more effort, and what seemed a hopeless failure may turn into a glorious success.

But it also takes courage to know when to admit failure and move on to more productive ideas. Walking away from an investment of time and money is a decision many businesses have had to make. That's not cowardice, it's courage borne out of wisdom.

Working up the courage to learn how to say that two-letter word – No – can be daunting at first. Do not feel guilty when you need to say no respectfully.

Some people feel like they have to say yes to almost anything they are asked to do. Others just want everyone to like them. They're afraid if they say no they might cause the person making the request to reject them.

I'm offering a challenge for the New Year: Be the courageous person that you know you



can be. I think you'll discover that demonstrating courage in small acts will enable you to trust your instincts when more difficult situations arise. Make courage an everyday thing, not something reserved for special occasions.


An unlikely hero was being hailed for standing up to an attacker twice his size and asked how he could be so brave.

"I was too scared to run," he said, "and too dumb to think of anything else."


But his friends said, "No, you didn't have time to think. Courage is a natural instinct if you have it."

Mackay's Moral: If a thing is worth having, it's worth fighting for.

Reprinted with permission from nationally syndicated columnist Harvey Mackay, author of the New York Times #1 bestseller "Swim With The Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive."



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**DUNDAS CITY COUNCIL INITIAL and REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 10, 2022**

Present: Mayor Glenn Switzer; Councilors Larry Fowler, Luke LaCroix, Grant Modory, Luke Swartwood

Staff Present: City Engineer Dustin Tipp, City Administrator Jenelle Teppen, Deputy Clerk Linda Ripka

**CALL TO ORDER/
PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Switzer called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC FORUM/PRESENTATION - No one present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Modory, second by Fowler, to approve agenda. Motion Carried Unanimously (MCU)

INITIAL MEETING

Resolution 2021-01 A Resolution Designating Depositories and Establishing Procedures for Depositing and Investing Funds

Motion by LaCroix, and second by Fowler, to approve Resolution 2021-01. MCU

Name Official Newspaper – Faribault Daily News Motion by Swartwood, second by LaCroix, to approve Faribault Daily News as the official City of Dunas newspaper. MCU

Appoint Acting Mayor

Motion by Switzer, second by Fowler, to approve the appointment of Grant Modory, as Acting Mayor. MCU

Appoint Officers and Members of Boards, Commissions, Committees

Motion by Modory, second by Swartwood, to approve appointments as recommended by Mayor Switzer: Larry Fowler: one-year term Parks & Recreations Advisory Board as Council Representative; Grant Modory: one-year term Planning Commission as Council Representative; Glen Switzer: four-year term Planning Commission expiring December 31, 2025. MCU

Appoint Council Members to City Council Committees

Motion by LaCroix, second by Fowler, to continue the following Council committees and to approve the Mayor’s recommendations for appointments as follows: Glenn Switzer and Luke Swartwood to the Finance and Leg-

islation Committee; Luke LaCroix and Grant Modory to the Human Resource Committee; Larry Fowler and Luke Swartwood to the Public Safety Committee; Grant Modory and Larry Fowler to the Public Works Committee; Glenn Switzer and Luke LaCroix to the Business Development Committee; and City Administrator/Clerk to all standing committees. MCU

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Fowler, second by Swartwood, to approve the consent agenda as follows Regular Minutes of December 13, 2021; Disbursements 12/27/21 - \$53,816.28; and Disbursements 1/13/22 - \$88,473.57. MCU

OLD BUSINESS

Consider Approving Draft Parks Survey

Administrator Teppen reviewed a revised draft parks survey with the changes suggested by the City Council previously. She indicated the intention is to send a postcard to every mailing address in the City asking them to participate in the survey and providing a QR code to do online. Councilor LaCroix inquired if question on dog park should be included with Teppen indicating dog park is used by a number of nonDundas residents and with the dog park possibly being relocated in 2023, that’s a project staff will be working on yet this year with public participation included. Mayor Switzer suggested redoing Schilling Park to actual area as it has a stormwater area running through it. Motion by Fowler, second by LaCroix, to accept the revised draft park survey. MCU

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

No Ordinance or additional Resolutions presented to Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Authorizing Staff to Recruit for Full-Time Public Works Assistant

Administrator Teppen stated the 2022 budget has allowed for the hiring of a second full time Public Works Assistant and request authorization for staff to begin recruiting. Motion by Swartwood, second by Fowler, to authorize staff to begin the recruiting for a full time Public Works Assistant. MCU

Consider Authorizing Staff to Recruit for Administrative Intern

Administrator Teppen reviewed previous conversation on applying to sponsor an internship and if approved would receive funds up to \$3,500 from the MN City/County Managers Association. She stated after applying to the program, outlining the areas the intern would participate in, work 20 hours a week, the City was selected. Teppen stated the salary range, job description and funding areas bearing the cost. Motion by Swartwood, second by Fowler, to approve the posting for an internship position at 20 hours a week for one year with a salary between \$17.00 to \$20.00 an hour; the job description as an Administrative Intern; and accept matching funds of \$3,500 from the Minnesota City/County Managers Association. MCU

Consider Approving 2022 Salary Adjustments

Administrator Teppen review the proposed 2022 Compensation Plan based on a cost of living adjustment of 3% being included in the 2022 budget. Motion by Modory, second by Swartwood, to approve the 2022 Compensation Plan and salary adjustments for staff.

MCU

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

City Engineer – Dustin Tipp Tipp reported on updates from his report of January 6: Hester Street storm sewer maintenance relating to Menards; joint road policy involving Bridgewater Township; pedestrian crossing at CSAH1/TH3; sculpture reset and bids for landscaping; contractor to cleaning sewer lines Schilling/Hester area and new connection; working with PCA on possibility of Dundas having its own wastewater facility; and base on water demand projections looking at additional third well.

City Administrator – Jenelle Teppen Teppen reported the last time compensation for the City Council was 2014 and would bring some information at the next work session. She indicated any additional compensation would be effective 2023. She indicated the City Attorney Shephard reported several cities are going remote again due to the Covid pandemic and she asked the Council if they thought Council meetings should again be held online and they declined.

Mayor, Councilors and Committees

Mayor Switzer gave update from NAFRS stating January 18 is the last day for the current Fire Chief Franek and Assistant Chief Tom Nelson was approved Interim Chief for up to one year. Administrator Teppen stated NAFRS annual organizational meeting will be this week and they plan to go back to monthly meetings.

ADJOURN

Motion by Swartwood, second by LaCroix, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. MCU Submitted by: Jenelle Teppen, Administrator/Clerk Attest: Glenn Switzer, Mayor

DUNDAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, January 24, 2022 7:00 p.m.
Dundas City Hall**

Present: Mayor Glenn Switzer; Councilors Larry Fowler, Luke LaCroix, Grant Modory, Luke Swartwood Staff: City Engineer Dustin Tipp; Administrator Jenelle Teppen

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Switzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with pledge of allegiance. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC FORUM

Allen Kern (2029 Westwood Drive, Faribault, MN) is interested in purchasing the Cannon Valley Coop property at 315 Railway St. He stated the City has the first option on the property and would like to know the City’s intent on buying or not.

APPOVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Fowler, second by Swartwood, to approve the agenda. Motion Carried Unanimously (MCU)

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by LaCroix, second by Fowler, to approve the consent agenda as follows: Initial and Regular Minutes of January 10, 2022; and Disbursements Report - \$55,589.05. MCU

OLD BUSINESS - No old business brought before Council.

PUBLIC HEARING Amending Section §34.01 of the Dundas City Code Adopting

Fees and Charges Mayor Switzer opened the public hearing at 7:09 p.m. regarding amending Section §34.01 of the Dundas City Code adopting fees and charges.

Staff Presentation: Administrator Teppen reviewed proposed increase in fees along with addition of a Right-of-Way Permit and a Driveway Permit.

Public Comment: No public comments.

Mayor Switzer closed the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2022-01 An Ordinance Amending Chapter §34.01 Fee Schedule of the Dundas City Code Adopting Fees and Charges

Motion by Modory, second by Switzer, to approve Ordinance 2022-01. Councilor Modory asked about water conservation on outside usage with the cost. Mayor Switzer stated the rate study is based on water usage for home and for the next study could include the outside usage. Mayor Switzer asked about landscape escrow amount and if any had not been returned. Teppen reported on one. MCU

NEW BUSINESS - No new business brought before Council.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

City Engineer - Dustin Tripp Tripp presented updates on: Memorial Park improvement plan will be presented at February 14 meeting; working on cost estimate road design for 115th Street; Northfield Wastewater; PCA on Dundas own wastewater feasibility facility; and trail connections plan and cost with reviewed by Rice County and MnDOT. Mayor Switzer discussed sidewalk change to trail with Tripp indicating reason change to trail. Mayor request to be aggressive with MnDOT participating in funding.

Mayor, Councilors and Committee

Councilor Fowler asked about status of Park survey for February meeting with administrator indicated will not be ready. 315 Railway Street North Property: Mayor Switzer responded to Kern regarding 315 Railway Street North property. He indicated the City Council would ask staff to put together information regarding the property for their review. He stated the current building is located in the Downtown Business District so they would want to consider all the facts before releasing the City’s rights of first refusal.

WORK SESSION

Review and Discuss City Council Salaries

Administrator Teppen presented information about Council compensation with comparison of other cities. She discussed current stipend policy and the City attorney stated is not part of the City Code and needs to be included or discontinue the stipend policy as relates to Council members. Councilors Modory and LaCroix stated current salary adequate for Mayor and Councilors. Consent by Council not do stipend to Council members and revise the stipend policy.

ADJOURN

Motion by Switzer, second by Fowler, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. MCU Submitted by: Jenelle Teppen, Administrator/Clerk Attest: Glenn Switzer, Mayor

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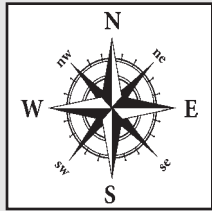
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes River Boats



By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

One thing that always fascinates me are the barges moving up and down the Cumberland River near where we live in Tennessee. They seem huge, especially when you pass them on the river in small runabout.

They call them pusher boats or tow boats and they are about fifty feet long with a 4,000 horsepower diesel engine powering them. The towboats on the Cumberland River are limited to a tow of 15 barges lashed three wide and five long because of the locks at the dams and the channel of the river. On the Mississippi River, south of St. Louis the tows can be three times that size with a pusher boat with an 11,000 horsepower diesel engine.

Each barge is 195 feet long and 35 feet wide. It can carry 1,500 tons, which is 15 times the capacity of a rail car and sixty times the capacity of a semi-trailer. They carry 20% of the nation's coal and that is the standard load that goes up the Cumberland River to the power plant at Cumberland City. This



payload can take up to half a mile to stop, so boats on the river are supposed to give the barges a wide berth. The barges have a draft of 9 feet when fully loaded but the hull is designed so they don't create a large wake. With the number of small fishing and pleasure crafts on the river this is an important feature.

Crews on the towboats work thirty day shifts with a month off in between. There are six to eight guys living on the towboat and one of them is a full time cook to keep the crew fed. They like the schedule because it

allows them a free month to hunt and fish.

The towboats have the most modern navigational systems to keep them on course and a large screen GPS that shows where the boat will be 90 seconds ahead. There are many turns in the river and the captain has to keep that long barge in the center of the channel. Another challenge is looking out for stalled

fishing or leisure crafts in front of the barge. In the event of a boat dead in the water ahead of them, the crew will sprint to the front of the barge to try and push the helpless boat aside. The tow boat uses all the power it has to push the loaded barges up river, but coming back with a tow of empty barges it hardly works at all.

A Minnesotan: Ice Fishing



By RosaLin Alcoser

Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes and as Minnesotans we spend a good chunk of our lives at the lake. We spend the late spring and summer out on the lake as well as the fall and the winter out on the lake. Basically Minnesotans spend our free time on the lake.

While the summer months have boating and playing on the lake all the seasons have one lake actively in common. Fishing. No matter what there seems to be some point in every season when Minnesotan's fish weather that be from the shore, a boat, or by walking out into the middle of the frozen lake drilling a hole in

the ice and fishing through that.

Now my Southern family is not from up here, but I did spend most of my childhood in Minnesota and well now... I'm still in Minnesota. So, I have been ice fishing, once as a child and was so annoying that I never got taken again.

Which I was fine with at the time and am still fine with now. While my older sister enjoyed ice fishing when we were kids I did not mostly because I didn't care for the cold, fishing or walking out onto the frozen lake.

You might be asking exactly how seven-year-old RosaLin got herself banned, by Grandpa, from ice fishing for life. Well as I have already mentioned it was for being annoying but it was how I was annoying that got me banned.

At the time I was very into Lilo and Stitch on Disney and as a result at the time I knew a couple of Elvis songs. Which I sang down the fishing hole the one time I was taken ice fishing. I must say the fish of the mid-2000's were not big Elvis fans and we did not catch much that day- the guy on the other side of the lake who never caught anything did, but we didn't nor did others around us.

I honestly think that's a good enough reason to never take me again and I'm ok with that.

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- THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY
- ACROSS
1. Fantasy sports data

6. Accounting acronym

9. Stark daughter on "Game of Thrones"

13. Branch of economics

14. All talk, no action type of service

15. Relating to symmetry, in geometry

16. Base-8 numeral system

17. "___ the land of the free..."

18. Lots and lots

19. *Actor Ryan of "Blue Valentine"

21. *Desdemona's suspicious husband

23. Big fuss

24. Nose-in-the-air type

25. Uber alternative

28. One on a pedestal

30. Moderately wide

35. Eye layer

37. Twelfth month of Jewish year

39. Cheese-covered chip

40. Popped relief?

41. ""Love, ___" movie

43. Splints site

44. Muhammad's teachings

46. Orchestra instrument

47. Past of heave

48. Avoids work, in British slang

50. Give off

52. Dose of sunshine

53. Back seat

55. Hair-raising product

57. * ___ valentine, an opposite of love note

61. English author perhaps best known for "The Canterbury Tales"

65. Like Mary-Kate and Ashley

66. Pooh's "wise" friend

68. Bring to an end

69. Potassium nitrate

70. Farm sound

71. Arm bones

72. Back talk

73. Uniting conjunction

74. Imposter
- DOWN

1. Smoke plus fog

2. Comes in hard or soft shell

3. Parts of a play

4. ___-___-la

5. Plural of solidus

6. Heidi's shoe

7. *Sweetie follower

8. Cook's cover

9. Wheel holder

10. Cambodian money

11. Two-masted vessel

12. "The Sun ___ Rises"

15. Trash can for fireplace (2 words)

20. Source of lymphocytes, pl.

22. Pull along

24. Dormant state

25. *Famous archer

26. Dispatch boat

27. "___ and whistles"

29. Hodgepodge

31. Mr. and Mrs. Incredible's son

32. Blood of the gods, Greek mythology

33. Seven days postmortem

34. *Hive-related endearment

36. Unfortunately, exclamation

38. Rumpelstiltskin machine

42. Stallion's cry

45. Business combination

49. Old Man's turf, according to Hemingway

51. Darjeeling server

54. Smell, usually pleasant

56. Calms

57. Ford Transit and such

58. Pelvic parts

59. Lice eggs

60. Augments

61. Oaf

62. Scoop holder

63. Biblical twin

64. Donna or Lou

67. Got a blue ribbon

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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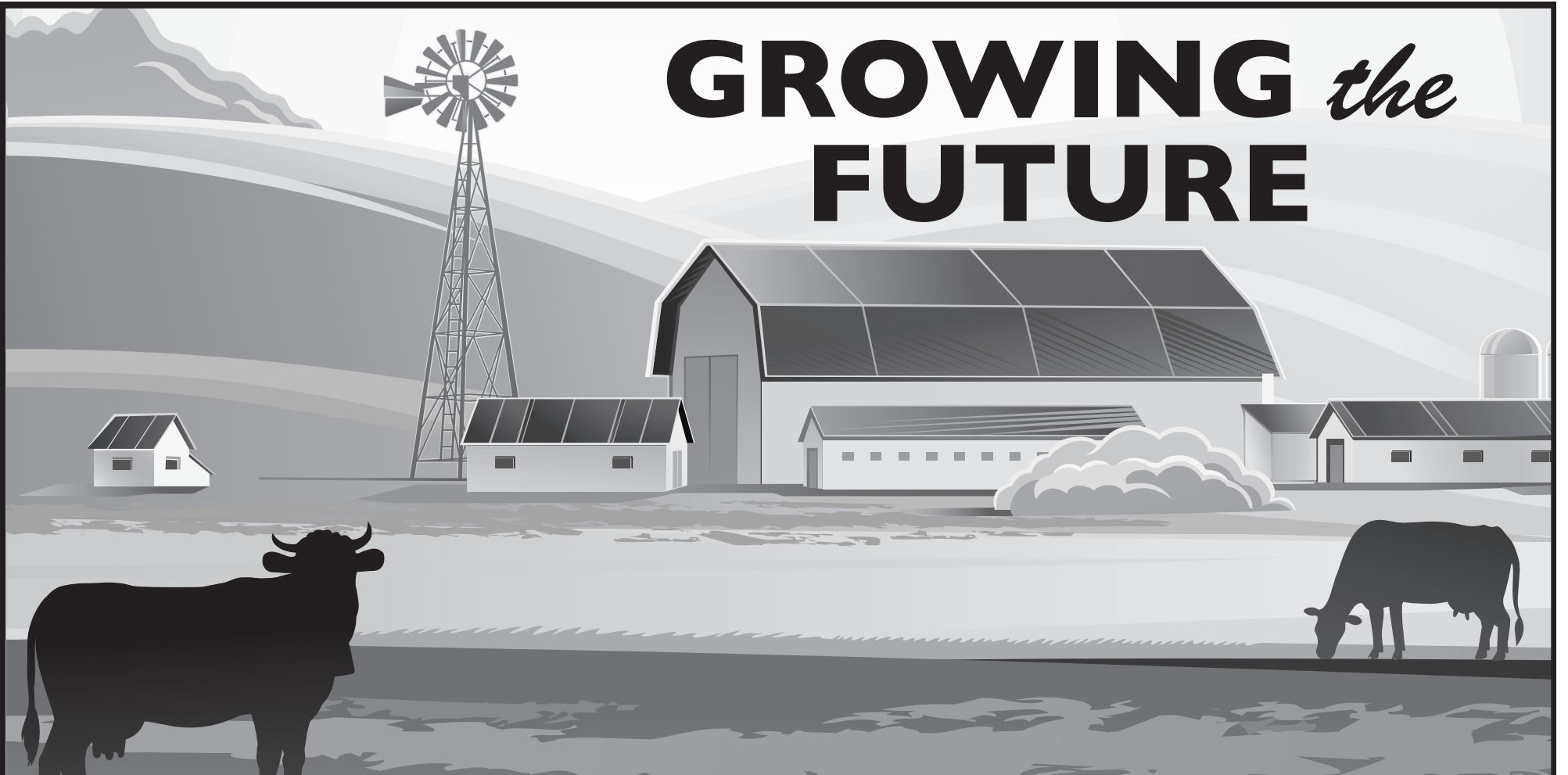


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