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FEBRUARY, 2022

Volume 19 • Issue 5

Announcements

The City of Nerstrand is currently accepting bids for lawn mowing and lawn sweeping. To view the map of properties please visit the Nerstrand website at Nerstrandmn.org. Please submit bids to cityclerknerstrand@gmail.com no later than March 1, 2022.

• **Wednesday Wear, Nerstrand United Methodist Church** hours are **Wednesdays 1 - 5 and Saturdays 9 - 12**. Women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, toys and books. All things are free with donations accepted. Come and see what we have!

• **Dennison Lions Club** meets monthly. During COVID-19, meeting times may vary.

• **Dennison City Council** meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

• **The Nerstrand City Council** meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at the Nerstrand City Hall. Office hours are: Monday 8:30-11:00; Tuesday by appointment; Wednesday 8:30-11:00; Thursday 5:00-7:00; Friday by appointment. 507-332-8000.

• **Warsaw Township Meeting** is held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Warsaw Township Hall. Meeting time is 6:00p.m.

• **The Wheeling Township meeting** will be held on the second Monday of each month at 8:00p.m. at the Wheeling Township Hall. Contact Rebecca Vergin, Township Clerk.

Celebrating the Future Farmers and Leaders of America National FFA Week February 19-26



Starting in 1948, the National FFA Board of Directors designated a weeklong tradition to recognize George Washington's example and legacy as a leader and farmer. For the past 73 years, FFA members across the country have taken part in agricultural, leadership and service-based activities during National FFA Week.

"National FFA Week is a significant event that really showcases the heart of our organization," says Christine White, chief program officer for the National FFA Organization. "Local chapters use this as an opportunity to

highlight program success, recognize community supporters and amplify the mission of the organization."

This year, more than 700,000 FFA members will spend the week of Feb. 20-27 developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

They will do so in creative and innovative ways. Whether volunteering to clean up the local fairgrounds or throwing a citywide party to celebrate the 1732 birth of our first president, there is no limit to how this week can be recognized.

"It could be hosting a breakfast for teachers, an open house for FFA supporters or bestowing chapter-level degrees. It truly is an

opportunity to celebrate all things FFA. As a former member and agricultural educator, FFA Week is something I always looked forward to since it was a way to share my passion for the organization," White says. "FFA members should embrace the planning, execution and celebration that occurs with developing activities and events for FFA Week. The skills of teamwork, communication and advocating are ones you will carry with you beyond your FFA experience."

Keep track of all that is happening by following #FFAWeek on your social channels. Find more about all the resources available at FFA.org/National-FFA-Week.

Thank you, Alumni and Supporters!

Whether they wore the blue jacket or support an organization they were never a member of, these individuals are celebrated on National FFA Alumni and Supporters Day. Since 1971, alumni and supporters have found ways to significantly contribute to their local chapters.

(continued on page 14)

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.

"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."

(continued on page 6)



Hope Creamery churned its first butter Dec. 22, 1919. At the time, the building was also used for 4-H meetings, community events, a dance hall and as a one-stop shop for farmers where they could get their feed, fuel and milk processed. *photo submitted*

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 10)



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We support the efforts of the FFA. Their commitment to teaching teamwork, encouraging volunteerism, and fostering community ensures a bright future for America's family farmers. Trust in Tomorrow.®



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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-



Mainstreet Publishing

P.O. Box 125

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LUTHERAN

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Website: www.dennisonvang.org

Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com

Pastor Paul A. Graham

Worship This Month

Wednesday, March 2 (Ash Wednesday) - Dennison Lutheran at 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 6 (First Sunday of Lent) -

Vang at 9:00 AM, Dennison at 11:00 AM

Wednesday, March 9 -

(Lenten Evening Service) - 7:00 PM at Dennison Lutheran

Sunday, March 13 (Second Sunday of Lent) - 9:00 AM at Vang

Wednesday, March 16 (Lent Service) - Dennison Lutheran at 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 20 (Third Sunday of Lent) Vang at 9:00 AM (featuring

special musical guests), Dennison at 11:00 AM (Songs of My Life)

Wednesday, March 23 (Lenten Evening Service) -

7:00 PM at Dennison Lutheran

Sunday, March 27 (Fourth Sunday of Lent) Vang at 9:00 AM

Wednesday, March 30 - (Lenten Evening Service) -

7:00 PM at Dennison Lutheran

Gol Lutheran Marv Kormann, Pastor

Marv Kormann, Pastor • 507-789-6311

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Grace Lutheran, Nerstrand

Don Kloster, Pastor

Service 9 a.m.; Coffee Hour 10:15 a.m.

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran

9:00a.m. Sunday School

10:00a.m. Coffee Time 10:30a.m. Worship Service

Hegre Lutheran

Pastor Chris Brekke

Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

Moland Lutheran

Nancy Edwardson, Pastor • 10:30 a.m. worship

First Ev. Lutheran

Luther Mathsen, Pastor

Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship

Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church LCMC

Curtis Fox, Pastor

24289 Cty. 24 Blvd., Cannon Falls

Sunday mornings: 9a.m. Worship; 10a.m. Fellowship

Thursdays 9:30a.m. Bible Study;

7:00p.m. Bluegrass Jam (open to public)

Bring your instruments, play, sing or just enjoy.

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.

METHODIST

Nerstrand United Methodist

Lona Sturm, Pastor

507-330-0025

Worship 9:00a.m.

Stanton United Methodist

Rev. Gary Liker

Worship 10:15a.m.

Church Phone 507-263-4063

ST. JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Lona Sturm, Pastor • 507-330-0025

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Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

NEW LIFE CHURCH

Patrick McBride, Pastor

525 Beverly St., Wanamingo

9:00a.m. Sunday School for all ages;

10:00a.m. Worship Service

7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

HOLDEN-DALE PARISH

Heather Culuris, Pastor

Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship at Holden;

11:00 a.m. worship at Dale

Email your church announcements, schedule, etc.

to the Mainstreet Messenger at:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com



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 received 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.

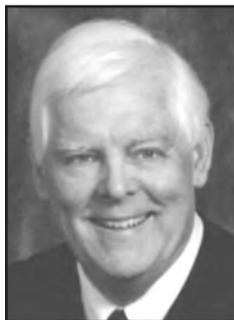
Northfield lost a beloved member of its community. Jim was active throughout his life in the Sportsman's Club, member and usher at St. John's Lutheran Church, and took great pride in his work at the funeral home. Jim helped many families get through hard times over the years and worked hard to honor 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



Pastor Paul A. Graham

Dennison-Vang Lutheran Parish seeks to be a loving presence in the community in Christ's name. We are a community of faith that makes a difference through worship and serving outside our walls.

If you are looking for something more in your life, come check us out!

37514 3rd Avenue, Dennison, MN 55018

Website: www.dennisonvang.org

E-MAIL ADDRESS: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com

Lent 2022

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2.

Lent services will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM at the Dennison Lutheran Community Church and will feature the Holden Evening Prayer.

The Lent focus is the practice of forgiveness.

Worship This Month

Come "sing to the Lord a new song" at Vang and Dennison Lutheran Parish

Wednesday, March 2 (Ash Wednesday) - Dennison Lutheran at 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 6 (First Sunday of Lent) -

Vang at 9:00 AM, Dennison at 11:00 AM

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7:00 PM at Dennison Lutheran

Songs of My Life

Because "Songs of My Life" is a new kind of a worship, we asked a Dennison member to make a short film about this service. It turned out great! You can find the recording on the church Facebook page.

Check it out!

WE'RE ONLINE!

Keep Up With Your Hometown News at

dennisonmn.com

nerstrandmn.com



BBQ Cook Off



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Ann Traxler

Attorney

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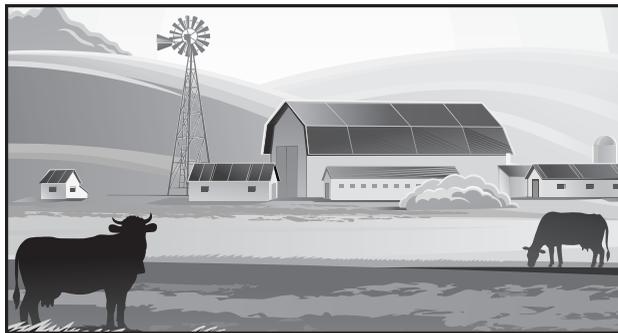
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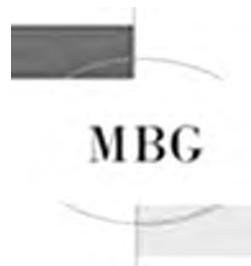
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2022 Flake Out Festival



The Band "Wreckless" played on the patio at Fireside Lounge Saturday evening during the 2022 Flake Out Festival



A small but mighty parade was part of the Dennison Lions Club Flake Out Festival.

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National Future Farmers of America Week

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Cannon Falls Agri Center
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507-263-2140

Byron Agri Center
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Over 100 Years in Business

(continued from page 1)

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 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



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

Hope Creamery was about to close. 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

(continued on page 7)

Repotting Houseplants



Teri Knight

gardenbite

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...

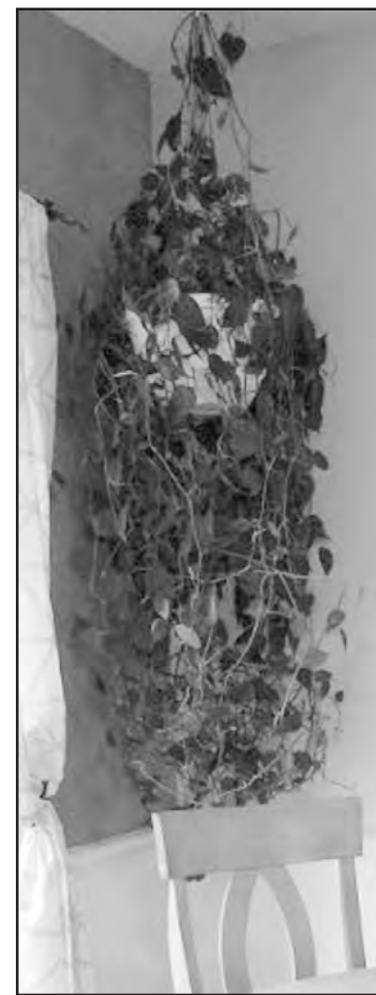
Repot those houseplants whose roots are starting to come out of the drain holes at the bottom of your pot or have wrapped themselves around the inside of the pot so many times, they've practically formed their own pot!

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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Over 100 Years in Business

(continued from page 6)

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 machine 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



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 Rehtzigel

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 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.”



Hope Creamery processes its butter into 1-pound blocks of either salted, unsalted high fat or salted butter. The creamery processes about 8,000 pounds every other week.

photo by Kate Rehtzigel



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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

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 preemptive removal of ash, especially when you are in an area that has become generally infested. 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.

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



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

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 in-



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.)

clude 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.

(continued on page 9)



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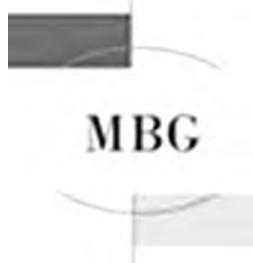
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Emerald Ash Borer Concerns Spark Talks of Alternative Trees To Plant

(continued from page 8)

If you are looking for conservation-grade trees to plant this spring, visit our tree website at www.riceswcdonlinestore.com. Whether you are planting trees to improve wildlife or planting a windbreak to protect your farm or home, you will find a great selection of trees and shrubs to meet your needs. You can also call us at 507-332-5408 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.



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).

Contact Steve with your questions about conservation practices and programs at 507-332-5408.

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The National FFA Organization promotes the growth of tomorrow's agricultural leaders through education.

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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. 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 chang-



ing 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.

Recipe Contest
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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 dontcha know!



PROUD TO SUPPORT NATIONAL FFA WEEK



This year, FFA members and the organization will celebrate National FFA Week from February 19-26, 2022.

During this week, FFA members organize activities that raise awareness not only about the National FFA Organization, but also the role agriculture plays in students lives.



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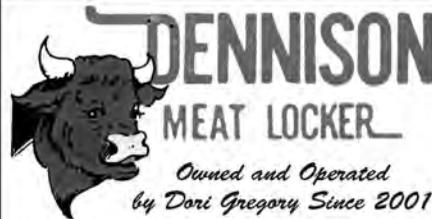
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Don't Be Afraid to be Courageous



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?

(continued on page 13)

"The best butter we can find. I have not had butter this good in 55+ years."
- Dennis



"Made my knees buckle. Probably the only butter I could eat with a spoon."
- Julie

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Don't Be Afraid to be Courageous

(continued from page 12)



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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Funds Available to Update Livestock Operations

Apply by April 5, 2022, for the AGRI Livestock Investment Grant

Minnesota livestock farmers and ranchers seeking to improve their livestock operation are encouraged to apply for an additional round of the Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) Livestock Investment Grant program. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) anticipates awarding up to \$443,000 using a competitive review process in this round.

The AGRI Program's Livestock Investment Grants encourage long-term industry development in Minnesota's \$7 billion livestock industry through investment in facilities, infrastructure, and equipment. Funding for the grants comes through the AGRI Program to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries.

Applicants may apply for up to 10% of the first \$250,000 of an eligible investment. Grant awards can range in size from \$400 to \$25,000. Each livestock operation is eligible to receive a lifetime maximum of \$50,000 from this grant program. To be eligible for reimbursement by this grant, you must be in-

voiced and pay for all project materials and services after January 1, 2022.

Project examples include buildings or facilities for the production of livestock or livestock products, development of pasture for use by livestock, including but not limited to lanes, watering systems, and fences, and equipment for livestock housing, confinement, feeding, and waste management.

We must receive your proposal no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday April 5, 2022, for it to be considered. We encourage you to use our on-line application.

More information about the grant can be found on the AGRI Livestock Investment Grant website.

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Celebrating the Future Farmers and Leaders of America

National FFA Week February 19-26

(continued from page 1)

Jeremy Krerowicz, the past president of the Denmark FFA Alumni in Wisconsin, fondly remembers his time as a member, and he used those experiences as motivation to lead the 2020 Outstanding FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter.

"Our members love to see the students grow," Krerowicz says. "We love seeing them being recognized at state and national conventions, during their chapter banquet and throughout the community. It shows that we are doing our part. We help them with the resources they need to get that far."

In every state in the nation, alumni and supporters chapters work to create environments where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. They are raising funds to send members to the Washington Leadership Conference, hosting students with supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs), helping to advocate for their local chapters and more. 2022 marks the 51st anniversary of the National FFA Alumni Association. Thank you, alumni and supporters!

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**Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of The Messenger.*

K-12 CURRICULUM

Ethnic studies will turn schools into extremist boot camps

We need to hold our leaders accountable for our children's education.

- Katherine Kersten

Minnesota parents: In the midst of the Twin Cities' ongoing crime surge, do you want your children taught that the sense of disorder in carjackings and "smash-and-grab" looting is merely a social "construction"? That the work of the men and women of our police departments – charged with stemming this crime wave – is rooted in slavery and "oppression"?

Do you want your kids to be trained to view themselves and their classmates as members of "racialized hierarchies" based on "dominant European beauty standards"?

To disdain their families' religious beliefs as the source of "caste systems" used to "justify imperialism, colonization, warfare and chattel slavery"?

Do you believe that our public schools' mission is to train our kids to "resist" America's "systemic" abuse of power against "marginalized," oppressed groups?

If the Minnesota Department of Education's (MDE) proposed new social studies standards are adopted – having begun the formal rule-making process – this is what our children will be learning for the next 10 years.

MDE acknowledges its new standards mark a "major shift" from curriculum standards. In fact, in MDE's brave new educational world, ideology will replace the basic factual knowl-

edge students need to be informed citizens, enlisting them as foot soldiers in an extremist political crusade.

The ideological lens through which social studies subjects like history, and geography will be taught is ethnic studies – a highly politicized "fifth strand" that MDE has added to the fourth social studies content areas named in state law. Its theories and assumptions are set forth in a 2017 essay titled "The Need for Ethnic Studies Curriculum in Minnesota Schools."

The essay's lead author, Jonathan Hamilton, is a member of the MDE appointed committee that drafted the standards. He is also the leader of Education for Liberation Minnesota, a group that has denounced our state's public education system as a "white supremacist puzzle that must be taken apart and exposed for the lie it is."

Hamilton writes that K-12 academic standards have been "shaped to maintain" the "existing power structure privileging whites."

"Ethnic Studies is a political struggle" to change that system, according to the essay.

Forget about teaching students about the historical leaders and events that shaped our democracy, like George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and American-led victories in World War II. Minnesota's new ethnic studies standards will drill three ideological tenets into kids' heads: that their skin color determines their "identity"; that life is a zero-sum power struggle between race-based oppressor and victim groups; and that American history is a shameful story of domination, marginalization and injustice.

(continued on page 16)

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Letter to the Editor

(continued from page 15)

Ethnic studies starts kids down the path to political activism. Under the new standards, one of which is titled "Resistance," for example, they are instructed to "organize" to resist America's "systemic and coordinated exercises of power" against "marginalized," oppressed groups.

How will this play out in Minnesota classrooms? Here is an example: Students will study our police departments and justice system in connection with an ethnic studies standard that requires them to "understand the roots of contemporary systems of oppression."

Education for Liberation, Hamilton's organization, teaches that "formalized American policing really began with slave patrols" that were "empowered" to "brutalize" "Black and Native folks," and evolved "directly into modern police departments."

Fifth-graders will first "examine contemporary policing" and its alleged "historical roots in early America." "Sixth-graders will "describe the goals, offenses, penalties, long-term consequences, privacy concerns, of Minnesota's juvenile justice system" and "evaluate the impact on youth, including those from historically disenfranchised groups."

Finally, high-schoolers will "examine incarceration" and "explore how criminality is constructed and what makes a person a criminal."

Biased, misleading instruction of this kind will likely generate fear and resentment in students of some racial/ethnic groups, and convince them that policing and criminality are oppressive, racially "constructed," and

among the many things they are called on to "resist."

How do our public schools get hijacked in service of this extremist agenda?

MDE appointed prominent activists from the Minnesota Ethnic Studies Coalition (MESC) – an alliance of advocacy groups – to the committee that drafted its new standards.

Education for Liberation has described MESC as one of its own "projects." The coalition's primary mission, when it was created in 2019, was "revising the state Social Studies through participating on the Minnesota Social Studies Standards Revision Committee," according to Education for Liberation's website.

The coalition has issued an action alert aimed at building public support for the new standards' benchmark on "the history of policing."

"It is impossible" for students "to learn about fights against injustice in this country," it declares, "without addressing policing, which continues to be the center of the fight for racial justice in Minnesota and elsewhere." The action alert features an image of a student with a raised fist.

Education for Liberation is also working hard to drum up support for the anti-policing benchmarks. Posting under the name of "Support the 5th Strand!!" the group retweeted a graphic that makes its end game clear.

"The Abolition of Policing is about Building a New World." "Defunding the police" and "rebuilding the commons" means "abolishing the social order and building a new society."

The group has already created a school curriculum - "aligned to Minnesota State Stan-

dards" - to convince young people that it is imperative to abolish the police.

This is the "companion curriculum" to the "MPD150 Report," which Education for Liberation describes as a "community-written history of the Minneapolis Police Department." The report describes the MPD as "the front end of a system of mass incarceration that devours Black, brown, and Indigenous peoples" and is "not reformable."

"The idea of a police-free future," it maintains, is "the only pragmatic solution to the challenge of a police system rooted in the era of slavery and Indian removal."

The policing benchmarks are just the tip of the "activist agenda" iceberg in MDE's proposed new social studies standards. If

adopted, these standards – which will teach our children that life is a never-ending power struggle between those who share their skin color and everyone else – will rend our social fabric.

Ultimately, the responsibility for education policy remains with the governor and Minnesota legislators. Parents and citizens need to hold them accountable.

Katherine Kersten (kerstenkatherine@gmail.com) is a senior policy fellow at the Center of the American Experiment.

Submitted by
Dr. James Russell Lehman
Kenyon, MN 55046

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City of Dennison Regular Council Meeting January 6th 2022

The January Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Flaten on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilors Diane Ruddle, Ann Anders, and Nichole Schloesser, and Clerk Jessica Page. Councilor Heidi Cooke was unable to attend.

Councilor Anders moved to accept the minutes for the December regular meetings. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0. Councilor Anders moved to approve the treasurer's report, Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

Building Permits: None

Administrative Issues:

1. Levin Annexation: Paperwork from Northfield Township has been received as well as the ok from MNDOT. Council reviewed the public hearing comments of which there were no objections. Councilor Anders move to approve Ordinance 87 to annex in the Levin parcel. Mayor Flaten second. Motion passed 4:0.

2. Levin Property split. Council reviewed the request from John Levin to consider the proposed property split for the newly annexed property. He wants to add 55 feet to the shop property so it would be 155 by 100. Then the house parcel would be 145 by 100. Councilor Anders move to approve the split. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

3. Paul Nygaard property split: Council reviewed the proposed split for Paul Nygaard's

property. He would like to split off a parcel for his daughter to build a house. During discussion it was brought up that there might be a need for a street in that area. Discussion was held that a street would not be put in there (it was previously offered to the City by the owners), but due to the drainage and waterway that goes through the area there would need to be a bridge built on that street in order for the street to be built. The Council at the time decided that a street would never go in there because of the excessive costs to do so.

Lot is appropriate size. There were several nice comments on the clean up job that had occurred on the original parcel. Potential builder is aware that there would be a street in front of the house eventually and has planned for that. Mayor Flaten move to approve the split as noted on the survey. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion was approved 4:0.

4. Review Fee Schedules and approve for the upcoming year. Due to questions with various fees, the Council decided to shift the review and approval to next month. All current fees will remain in place until the updates are approved by the City Council.

5. Nordis Estrem would like information as soon as possible on how many more houses the wastewater system for the City can handle. There is an individual interested in purchasing the rest of the hill, third addition, up to 14-15 homes. He builds and sells homes. She thought the City put extra hookups up there, but she can't remember for

sure. Thinking its 10-12. Ann found some information on the additions. A Water Study had been done to see how many homes could be added back when the additions were being established. It appears the recommended number from that water study is close to being reached. Back in 2000's when the original study was done, it had been recommended that another Water Study be done to see how many additional homes could be added when the original number had been reached. Clerk contacted Paul from MRWA and he explained it is beyond their scope to complete something like that. It would need to be completed by an engineer. Councilor Anders found the number of homes that could be built from 2001 in her notes.

From Feb 1, 2001 meeting, 14 were approved for Estrem's addition. 13 hookups have been used so far of the 14 dedicated to them. Can't say how many additional homes could be added for the next addition for Estrem's addition. Nothing was dedicated to that addition at that time. Best information that Ann has at this time. 3rd addition was where the truck pull is and wraps up around Prairie Ave. 6 to 28 potential homes were thought as a possibility for addition to the sewer system. Capacity had been increased by 30-40% through some work that was done in 1998.

Find out how much it would cost to do the water study. The City can't give Nordis a number until the water study is complete. City will ask Rural Water to advise on companies to do the water study. Should get some bids on the costs for this for a couple companies/timeline and scope. Mayor Flaten and Councilor Anders will work together on it.

Council was looking at the need to have someone like Trent McCorkell, who can review zoning issues that may come up, available for consultation, as the City doesn't have the expertise. Councilor Anders will call him to discuss the possibility.

6. Donation of stub street to City: City was recently contacted by the land manager for the family who owns the stub street parcel in the City inquiring about possibly donating the parcel to the city if the City would cover the cost to do so. Councilor Ruddle move to accept the donation of the stub street with the caveat that the City is willing to pay the filing fee if they come to the city with a clean deed. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

7. Significant Industrial User agreement with the locker needs to be updated. There are currently no plans on file with the MPCA. The plan needs to be updated every 5 years. Look at Kenyon or Nerstrand as they have lockers. Councilor Ruddle will try to look at this issue to get the process started.

8. Christine Whipple, Boy Scouts in Cannon Falls will build the food pantry. All costs would be paid for. Councilor Anders will look at what City responsibility would be if it's a food issue.

9. Northfield Township Board has requested Mayor to attend their meeting to discuss a maintenance agreement regarding shared areas of Goodhue Ave. for maintaining the gravel road and plowing.

10. 3rd pay app to Pioneer Power needs approval. It is for \$14,952. Councilor Anders move to pay Pioneer Power for their 3rd pay

app. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0. Mayor Flaten had keys made for the shed and will get them to the appropriate persons.

Citizens Issues: None

Mayors Issues:

Utilities:

1. Update from Nate: Testing for C License plan? Need to take it. Nate has one year to complete the C license from the start of operating the equipment. Clerk has a name of a person to help with making sure the best training option is found.

2. Pump house heater: Chemical room heater is very corroded. Cedar Lake Electric is going to take it apart and they think they can fix it. After looking at the heater, they are unable to fix it. The City needs to look at replacing the heaters.

3. Adjusting the VFD as part of an energy study. Paul is going to come from MRWA to try to test out what is the lowest rate of electrical usage. Need to keep it under 65 hertz, currently runs at 58 hertz. Call the electrician instead of having him come out. Can ask him about getting an LP heater for the well-house.

4. There is an individual interested in helping with the water and sewer duties for the city. The person had assisted Paul in the past doing some of the things before he passed away. Would the City like to take a look at this? Nate didn't feel that he would need to have any help, and would let the Council know if he needed any.

Question on a house that appears to be occupied, but no one is ever home to replace the reader for the water meter. Would the bank have a contact for the old Stenbakken house. Or could possible leave a note on the door?

No complaints regarding the snowplowing. Bill Deutsch was present to check how things were going.

Councilor Schloesser move to pay the bills, Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 4:0.

Mayor Flaten move to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Schloesser second. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30

Next meeting: Regular meeting is Thursday February 3, 2022 at 7:00.

Public Hearing on Levin annexation request.

Thursday, January 6th 2022, at Dennison City Hall.

6:45 pm.

Mayor Flaten opened the public hearing at 6:46 pm.

Councilors Anders, Schloesser, and Mayor

Flaten were present. Councilor Ruddle arrived at 6:50 pm.

John Levin, who was petitioning to have his parcel annexed in to the City of Dennison, was present to explain why he was asking for the parcel to be annexed in to the City, and his plans for the property.

There were no opposing comments regarding the potential annexation of Mr. Levin's parcel in to the City of Dennison at the public hearing.

Mayor Flaten move to close the public hearing. Councilor Anders second. Public hearing was closed at 7:01 pm.

Nerstrand City Council Meeting Minutes January, 2022

Nerstrand City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 7:00p.m. Those in attendance in person were Council Members Monica Gernandt, Dan Pflieger, and John Harris and 1 resident and 1 business owner. People in attendance via ZOOM were Councilor Jennifer Schwab, Public Works Director Steve McDowell, City Clerk Dana Jans, and 2 residents.

Roll Call

Councilpersons, Gernandt, Schwab, Pflieger and Mayor Evavold present.

Approval of Agenda

-Motion to accept the agenda by Councilor Harris, second by Gernandt, motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

-Motion to accept all consent items by Councilor Harris, second by Councilor Pflieger, motion passed unanimously.

New Business

-Resolution 2022-01 Designation of Depositories, Official Paper, Acting Mayor, and City Council Meeting Dates. Motion by Councilor Harris to designate the following Official bank – Lake Country Community Bank
Official Paper – Faribault Daily News
Acting Mayor – Councilor Monica Gernandt
Meeting Dates – Second Tuesday of every month except August (8/16) and November (11/16) which will be moved to the third Tuesday.

The Transfer of any remaining funds for fire and streets to the Capital Fund
Transfer of \$4028.00 from general checking to the WIF savings account
Second by Councilor Pflieger, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

-Motion by Councilor Gernandt to remove the 3rd tree at City Park if Canon Valley Tree decides it should be removed, second by Councilor Harris, motion passed unanimously.

-Motion by Councilor Harris to approve Clerk to take out a permit for City Hall, second by Councilor Pflieger, motion passed unanimously.

Reports from Officers

-Public Works Director McDowell reported that that things are running well.

Adjourn

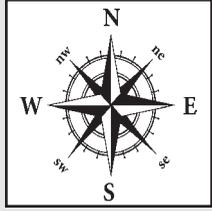
Motion by Councilor Harris second by Councilor Pflieger to adjourn the meeting, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by;

Dana Jans

Nerstrand City Clerk

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 navi-

gational 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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 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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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