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GENERAL INFORMATION

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Help save historic Ottawa stone church

Greetings, I am Bill Stangler, president of the Le Sueur Historical Society. I shall relay the following story hoping that it may find a sympathetic ear. In 1859, a group of Ottawa citizens of the Methodist faith gathered together and built a house of worship, the Ottawa Methodist Church.

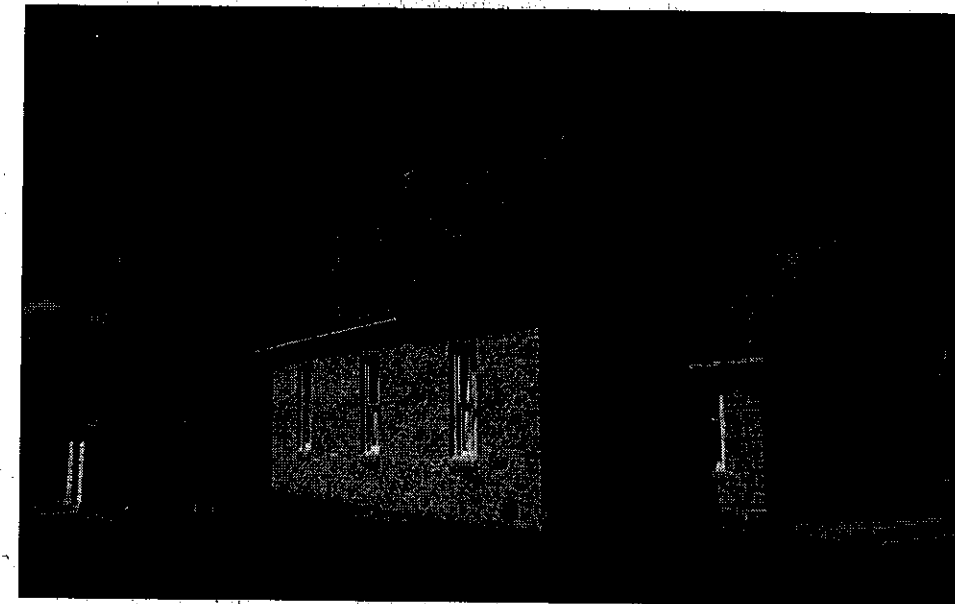
It was a simple one-room structure built of native rock that has a pink hue. Ottawa, being a small community, wasn't able to muster a large congregation, and as a result, the church never had a local pastor in service. Pastors from nearby communities of Le Center and Le Sueur served the church on a part-time basis over the years.

During the more active years of the church, a group called the Ladies Aid was very active and held social events to raise money to pay the pastor and help carry on other functions of the church. This group was formed in 1899 and is still active today as a social group.

The church had an active congregation until 1950 when it was closed and used only for weddings and funerals. Only minimum maintenance was performed during the years the church was not used. Soon the vines, underbrush, and trees growing in the yard gave it a very deserted and rundown appearance. In the winter of 1967-1968 a group of local citizens came together and began to discuss the future of the stone church.

It was learned that the church is one of the three oldest Methodist churches in the state and is considered by many to be one of the most attractive in terms of its simplicity and design. They decided that the church should be restored and maintained as a historical site.

The group became the Ottawa



(Photo courtesy of Le Sueur County Historical Society)

wa Restoration Committee and worked to repair and restore the building beginning that spring. Donations of time, material, and money were freely given by many citizens of Ottawa and the surrounding communities. Some of the items from the historic church disappeared over the years and had to be replaced or repaired. But, with the cooperative ecumenical spirit that prevailed all the necessary items were acquired. Most of the fixtures and furniture in the church today were in the church when it had an active congregation.

Sunday Sept. 22, 1968 was chosen as the date for the presentation of the newly restored church. An ecumenical service was held that day in the front yard of the church and the guest speaker was someone who had attended the church as a boy. Following the service, a ribbon was cut, and the church was presented to the Le Sueur County Historical Society to be maintained and preserved as a historical landmark. The church

is now on the list of National Historic places and is one the oldest Methodist churches in Minnesota.

The society has done its best to maintain the building over the years, but recently it was discovered that the integrity of the structure was in jeopardy. The steeple of the church was leaning 19 inches to the west and 11 inches to the south. The steeple was removed, and a temporary roof was laid over the disrupted area. The cost of the repair has been estimated at \$174,500. This is much more than the Le Sueur County Historical Society can afford. We have therefore applied for and received a matching grant up to \$120,000 from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation to replace the steeple and strengthen and rebuild areas of the overall structure.

The terms of the matching grant state that for every dollar the L.C.H.S. raises, the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation will donate two dollars into \$120,000. Therefore, we

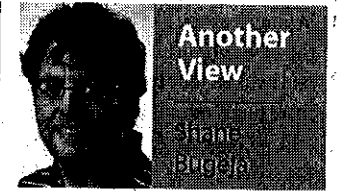
are reaching out to you to help L.C.H.S. to obtain the goal of \$60,000, which must be completed by Dec. 15, 2019. We have so far raised about two-thirds of that goal.

The Ottawa stone church is located on one of the Minnesota state byways. Many visitors stop and enjoy the site throughout the year. Through the completion of this church rehabilitation project, the church can once again be used for activities fitting and proper to its noble purpose.

L.C.H.S. is working locally to raise money by requesting donations from its 230 members, but our pockets are not deep enough to complete the project ourselves. We therefore ask you for any financial help you can provide to us. Donations can be mailed to: LeSueur County Historical Society P.O. Box 123, Le Center, MN 56057. Make checks payable to LCHS.

Bill Strangler is the president of the Le Sueur County Historical Society.

Another View
Strange Burgers



The 'plant blood' inside those Impossible Burgers

In the past couple of years, a hamburger company, Impossible Foods, has gotten close to imitating the taste of beef through its "Impossible Burger".

You may have seen it advertised at a Burger King or certain grocery stores. This plant-based hamburger is not marketed just towards vegetarians but also "flexitarians". Flexitarians want to cut down on, but not remove meat from their dinner plate.

This Impossible Burger is not just a portabella mushroom between bread, millions of dollars were invested in it. To simulate the taste of beef without the "moo," these new veggie burgers must be highly processed; B vitamins are added along with plant oil and a soy/potato protein mixture. Ironically, the amount of calories are also comparable to the thing it replaces. So, if you plan to eat Impossible Burgers every meal it may soon be "impossible" to fit into your jeans.

One of the ingredients used, leghemoglobin (LegH), was familiar to me as an agriculture educator. In legumes such as soybeans, this chemical helps

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The *Le Sueur County News* welcomes letters to the editor.

Letters must be 400 words or less and include the author's name. The writer's address and telephone number must also be provided for verification purposes, but that information will not be published.

They must express an opinion or gratitude on a topic of local interest.

Letters must be exclusive to the County News.

Anonymous letters will not be published.

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

E-mail letters to: editor@lesueurcountynews.com, mail them to Le Sueur County News, P.O. Box 142, Le Sueur, MN 56058.

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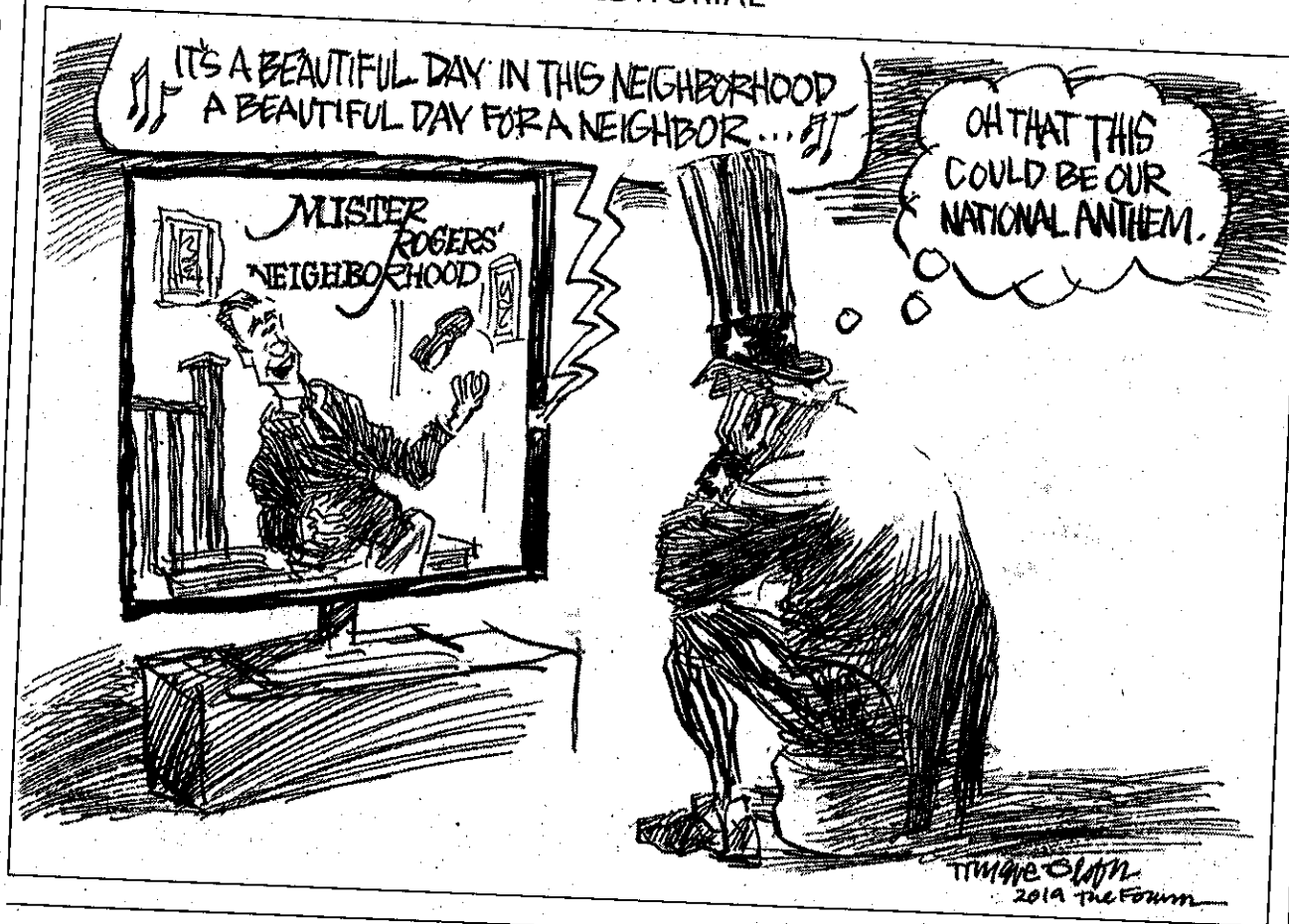
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EDITORIAL



Tri-City United — Gatherings with gratitude

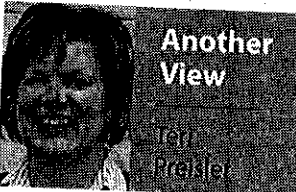
Gatherings with Gratitude: Community Open House, The Nutcracker, and TCU High School Concert

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." — Helen Keller

You might remember that I shared this quote back in September as we were preparing for our Community Open Houses for TCU Le Center, TCU Lonsdale, and TCU Montgomery building projects. It seems appropriate to share it again as we prepare for this final Community Open House for TCU High School and additional upcoming events.

Community Open House, Tuesday, Dec. 10 — tours and live music

We encourage and invite all of our TCU residents to come to our final TCU Community Open House on Tuesday, December 10th from 5 — 7:30 p.m. Come and enjoy a tour through the new classroom additions, Ag Shop, Project Lead the Way and Science Labs, and Performing Arts Center. Tours will be led by



TCU Students and Staff providing insights into the design, flexible classroom walls and furniture, state of the art equipment, and learning opportunities that these new spaces are providing.

Live musical performances will take place in the TCU Performing Arts Center beginning at 5:30 p.m. with background music by a variety of groups; including a group of TCU Band Alumni. A more concert type performance will begin at 7 p.m. featuring our TCU High School Jazz Band, Encore Choral Ensemble, and Grades 5 — 12 TCU Honor Band.

The tour will be fully ADA friendly so all are encouraged to attend.

As a part of the evening, we'll be offering a discount on Titan wear at the TCU School Store. Once you're done,

the Titan Boys' Basketball game that's going on that evening as well.

TCU High School Community Open House from 5-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10

Live Background Music in the Performing Arts Center from 5-7 p.m.

Live Concert Performance starting at 7 p.m.

Special Holiday Performance of The Nutcracker — 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13

TCU Performing Arts Center at TCU High School

The TCU Community Education Department is proud to sponsor "The Nutcracker" to be performed by the Youth Dance Ensemble from Burnsville. This hour long production is based off the classical "Nutcracker Ballet" and is appropriate for all ages. You won't want to miss this beautiful ballet with truly classical music such as the "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies," "March of the Toy Soldiers," and much more.

Admission is \$2 per person

at the event. Please enter using either the TCU High School Main Entrance or North Activities Entrance directly off of the parking lot. This performance is also made possible in part by a grant from the Prairies Lakes Regional Arts Council.

First TCU Concert in Performing Arts Center — at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16

Enjoy an evening of outstanding choral and instrumental music performed by our TCU High School Choir and Band. This will be our first official high school concert conducted in the Performing Arts Center. It will be a momentous event for TCU students and the audience.

We invite and encourage our TCU community members to be a part of these incredible experiences and events. We are truly grateful and thank you all for being a vital part of our Tri-City United School District.

Teri Preisler is Tri-City United School District superintendent. Reach her at terip@tcu.edu

educator. In legumes such as soybeans, this chemical helps control the amount of oxygen in their root nodules. These nodules contain bacteria known as rhizobia who provide nitrogen fertilizer to the plant. Rhizobia have a complicated relationship with oxygen. They need small amounts to live, but not too much. Excess oxygen can make rhizobia's nitrogen producing system stop working and the soybean plant to yield poorly.

LegH is not just important to crops — we humans use a similar reddish protein called hemoglobin. Hemoglobin is an important chemical in our blood that also helps move oxygen, specifically from our lungs to our body. The Impossible Burger uses LegH as a type of "blood", mimicking the visual and perhaps taste of meat juices.

To see for yourself what LegH looks like, pull a healthy plant from the legume/pea family next summer. Look for the knobby growths on the roots. Those knobs are the root nodules. If you cut one open with a fingernail or knife, you should see the pinkish-red color of LegH as it reacts to the oxygen in the air.

Impossible Foods have genetically engineered a yeast to produce this LegH in huge quantities, as getting them from plants was impractical. While the private sector has figured out that particular issue, there was another regarding its safety. Agronomists knew about LegH but never got the urge to pop root nodules into their mouths, so there was a lack of knowledge about how edible LegH is. What followed was a surge in research, and just this year the Food and Drug Administration cleared the chemical as safe, making it available to grocery stores.

Dietary choices of consumers have a powerful effect on agriculture. The popularity of the Impossible Burger has sparked a broader conversation in regards to meat consumption. I urge you to conduct your own research from non-biased sources. Ask questions and see who is funding what study. Keep an open mind, few solutions are clear cut, and almost all have tradeoffs. Food production is no exception.

Shane Bugeja is the extension educator for Le Sueur and Blue Earth counties.