



**DIVE INTO HISTORY  
 AT A NIGHT AT THE  
 MUSEUM / 2A**



**BA FOOTBALL PUTS TOGETHER  
 COMPLETE EFFORT, WINS BIG  
 AT FILLMORE CENTRAL / 1B**

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**Faribault students  
 receive grand champion  
 honors at State Fair**

By **MISTY SCHWAB**  
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The Minnesota State Fair had a solid Faribault presence this year when two local young women earned Grand Champion purple ribbons.

Courtney Schleis, a senior at Faribault Area Learning Center, has a knack for string arts. She's especially experienced in crocheting, which she learned as a 6-year-old from her grandmother.

Schleis has crocheted hats, mittens, scarves and washcloths throughout the years, but she never submitted any of her products to county or state fair competitions until this past summer. Her afghan, which she crocheted using her own pattern, won a first-place ribbon and Grand Champion ribbon at the Rice County Fair as well as first place and Grand Champion in her division at the Minnesota State Fair.

"It was kind of bittersweet because the person I wanted to show the most — my grandma — passed away a year ago February," said Schleis, "but it was cool seeing [my afghan] up there."

See **HONORS** on 3A



Jessica Gehrke, a senior at Faribault High School and a 12-year member of the Warsaw Willing Workers 4-H Club, earned a purple ribbon for her cabinet at the Minnesota State Fair this August. (Photo courtesy of University of Minnesota Extension Office)

EDUCATION



Northfield student Grace Muth testifies March 1 before the House Education Policy Committee on a bill, sponsored by Rep. Todd Lippert, right, which would, in part, require the Education Department to identify one or more model sexual health education programs. While the bill faltered in the Senate, opponents plan a rally Sunday at the capitol to oppose the bill. (Photo by Paul Battaglia)

**WHAT TO TEACH?**  
 Bill requiring new state sex ed guidelines  
 drives conservative opponents' rally

By **ANDREW DEZIEL**  
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Sex education curriculum in Minnesota could soon be operating under new guidelines if a piece of legislation sponsored Rep. Todd Lippert, DFL-Northfield, is approved. And that concerns some conservatives.

Lippert's bill, HF 1414, would require sex education to be medically accurate and age-appropriate. In addition, curriculum would be expected to cover a wide variety of topics, including gender-based violence, affirmative consent and contraceptives, and would be required to be inclusive to the LGBTQ+ community.

Among the largest groups in support of the new legislation are Planned Parenthood Action Fund and the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA). Adriana Perez, Prevention Program Coordinator for MNCASA, said that in many school districts, current sex education is falling short, failing to provide students needed information about healthy relationships.



DeKruif Quist

"Districts don't spend a consistent amount of time talking about certain topics," Perez noted. "We want folks to be well informed so they can make healthy decisions for themselves. Part of it is healthy relationship consent piece, and oftentimes that is not adequately taught in school."

See **DEBATE** on 3A

**Randolph educator named Outstanding Ag Teacher of the Year**



Randolph High School ag teacher Edward Terry places his hand on a tractor in the school shop Thursday. The nearly 50-year educator was recently recognized with the Minnesota Outstanding Agriculture Teacher of the Year. (Sam Wilmes/Northfield News)

By **SAM WILMES**  
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Randolph agriculture teacher Edward Terry has been a teacher for nearly 50 years.

Terry, who now teaches on a part-time basis while remaining a full-time farmer, received recognition for his instruction by being named the Minnesota Outstanding Agriculture Teacher of the Year in July in Brainerd. The award covers ag teachers at the high school and college level along with farm management instructors. He was the first part-time ag instructor to be selected for the honor.

"It's very much a peer process," he said. A 1964 Northfield High School graduate, Terry's first ag teaching job was from 1968-74 in Farmington.

"I had a good experience with my ag teachers in Northfield, and so I went to college and got a degree in teaching high school agriculture," he said.

Following his father's retirement from farming in 1974, Terry and his brother, Dave, assumed control over the operation. Terry then took a three-year break before he was contacted about the Randolph ag teaching position for the 1977-78 school year.

"They finally wore me down, and I sat down with my wife and my brother, and we decided we'd

find a way to make it work, to give these kids opportunities," he said.

Today, Terry is the school's FFA advisor and instructs a core curriculum that includes an introductory course, and classes on forestry and conservation, animal science, plant and soil science, and farm power, and mechanics.

Terry, who will be 74 by the time this school year ends, says he still enjoys both of his jobs.

"I feel good," he said. "Kids are good. We have good community support here. We have a strong superintendent who is very supportive."

The fulfillment Terry gets on the job comes from seeing his students develop, grow and achieve through the school's FFA program. Throughout his more than 40 years at the district he has taught town leaders and major players in the ag sector.

The evolution of the farming industry during Terry's teaching career is hard to fathom. In 1968, items like GPS systems and GMOs were not on the radar. Those changes to the industry have forced Terry to adapt. Despite the changes to the industry, including the decrease in the number of small farms, Terry said teaching ag courses at the high school level remains important.

See **TEACHER** on 3A

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