

## Editorial Time to move on Murals

By Diane Everson, Publisher

Murals on the side of buildings have become a significant part of community boosterism in many places in Wisconsin, including nearby Janesville. It is great that the Historical Preservation Commission has begun looking into establishing a policy for murals on our city's many brick building faces. The idea of murals is aimed at showcasing artwork that would portray some of Edgerton's rich history, events or personalities. It is about time Edgerton join the parade of cities, towns and villages in this important endeavor of hometown cheerleading.



The idea of murals was raised more than two years ago during a discussion of the practice of displaying artworks on the side or front of buildings. While there has been lip service to the idea of murals on buildings from some public officials as an attractive idea to boost tourism, the idea has moved slowly.

Historical Preservation Commission chairperson Susan Braun submitted a long overdue outline of mural guidelines earlier this month. She is suggesting the commission do more research from sources in the United Kingdom, Australia and Asia. We think this should be discarded because of the many cities and towns successfully doing mural programs right here in Wisconsin, not to mention our neighbors in Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan and Illinois. There are photo examples from other places in our state elsewhere in this week's Edgerton Reporter.

For example, small town Wittenberg, Wis., features a walking tour of murals in its downtown. Algoma, Wis., attracts tourists with its building mural displays. There are many examples as well as resource help. The Wisconsin Humanities has helped many create murals that emphasize history, culture and tourism.

We believe now is the time to move with murals. We encourage the Historical Commission to create a mural task force comprised of people from the Arts Council, Sterling North Society, Pottery festival, Tobacco Days, Edgerton Schools and other interested individuals to decide the guidelines, visit some nearby towns with mural programs, discuss best practices with those responsible for their communities' murals, interview artists and create a deadline for at least one mural this year. We have learned in the newspaper business, without deadlines, many things do not get accomplished.

Edgerton has many stories to tell: Sterling North and Rascal, Agri business, fields of tobacco, pottery and brick created from local clay, unique area industries, sports celebrities such as Steve Stricker, nature areas, birds and a historic award winning newspaper. Speaking of brick walls, the proposed Hope for Veterans homeless shelter at 210 W. Fulton could be a choice location for a mural honoring veterans.

Yes, this is the time to move on murals. We have a great opportunity to be a tourism destination, educate our residents on their history and add to the beauty of our community.

— "We can't really put a price on the kind of on-going impact this will have on our region." — Ann Engelman, the Lorine Niedercker Poetry Wall in Fort Atkinson  
Well said.

## Guest Opinion INSIDE WISCONSIN "Inflation, recession and bears ... oh my! What might it mean for Wisconsin?"

By Tom Still

If the current economic picture appears a bit like an abstract painting to you, there's no need to adjust your vision. A confusing mosaic of data makes forecasting what is next for consumers and workers challenging. Consider the following:

- Prices surged in June by 9.1% nationally, the steepest climb since 1981, and wholesale prices accelerated as well. The only encouraging news is that gasoline prices have fallen of late and will likely temper July inflation numbers when the month is done.
- The nation added 372,000 jobs in June and total private sector employment is now 140,000 jobs higher than it was the month before the pandemic began. In Wisconsin, the most recent figures reflected record-high employment at 3.06 million people. June job figures may even be better.
- Job openings in the Midwest has declined overall and the "quit rate" is down, too. That may mean employers are starting to find and retain the workers they need.
- And yet, a recent employer survey by Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce showed more pessimism than a year ago, largely because of workforce and supply chain concerns.
- Construction spending is down slightly, but depending on where you live, heavy-duty cranes still dot the landscape.
- Home mortgage rates have doubled nationally since December to about 5.75% for a 30-year loan, which has boosted monthly payments for many home buyers. That's the highest average rate since 2008, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Despite it all, home prices rose 20% between May 2021 and May 2022, according to the Zillow real-estate site.
- Core inflation rates, stripped of food and fuel prices, increased by nearly 6% in June. That means the Federal Reserve is certain to approve a sizable interest rate hike later this month — perhaps a full percentage point — even if some observers think the hot economy is already cooling and too much cold water could lead to recession.

No wonder the S&P 500, the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Nasdaq composite have been on a mostly downhill roller-coaster ride, joined by other public markets. Uncertainty is the coin of the realm ... along with a strong U.S. dollar that is now nearly equal in value to the euro, which can help Americans who travel abroad and hurt American companies that export goods.

How does it all play out for Wisconsin? Historically, Wisconsin enters a recession later than some states and recovers later, too, but conditions are more complicated than recent downturns that were tied to the dot.com bust (2000-2001) or the collapse of the subprime mortgage market (2008).

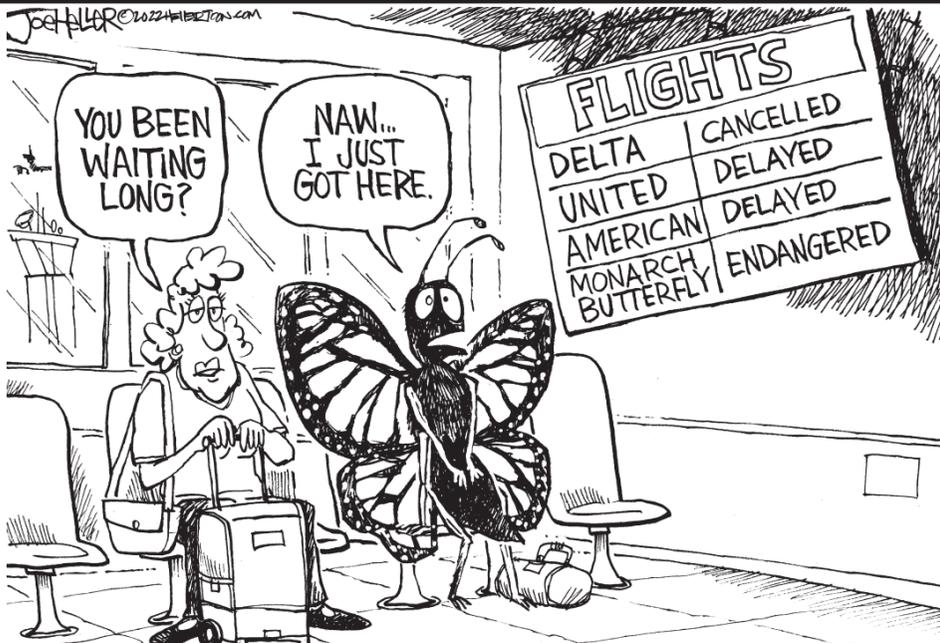
"It hasn't been just one thing this time. It's been a bunch of things," said David J. Ward, founder and president of NorthStar Analytics.

Ward said inflation contributors have included wage increases finally hitting employers' bottom lines and triggering price hikes; the Ukraine war; early retirements culling the workforce; seaport and highway transit troubles; a chronic shortage of affordable housing; the cryptocurrency crash and an economy still flush with cash from pandemic aid programs, which drove spending and raised demand for all kinds of products and services.

Wisconsin could fare somewhat better if and when a recession hits, Ward said, because many manufacturers have backlogs at this point that could carry them a while, supply chain woes are beginning to ease in some sectors — lumber prices have dipped, for example — tourism is humming along, and some signs point to people migrating to Wisconsin to escape quality of life issues elsewhere. That may attract people who can work remotely, or largely so.

No state is safe from inflation, recession or a "bear" market that has seemingly lost its nerve. If a recession occurs, however, the main questions will be severity and duration. Wisconsin may have the economic strength to partially answer both.

— Still is president of the Wisconsin Technology Council. He can be reached at [dstill@wisconsinotechnologycouncil.com](mailto:dstill@wisconsinotechnologycouncil.com).



## THE GRAMMAR GUY by Curtis Honeycutt

### Why the meddling middle letters in 'ladder' matter

I live in a house built around the year 1890. My neighborhood is called "Old Town," for obvious reasons. The other day an area Realtor posted a photo of a house from the early 1900s side-by-side with a photo of the same house in 2022. One of the big differences (other than the house isn't in black-and-white anymore) was the presence of shutters in the earlier photo contrasted with the unadorned windows today. I involuntarily shuddered.

This got me thinking about words we utter vs. words we "udder." You see, it's easy to confuse -utter words with -udder words, as well as -atter and -adder words, but the difference between these words' definitions is considerable.

Starting with my first example, a "shutter" is a movable cover for a window or camera. "Shudder," on the other hand, is a tremble or convulsive movement caused by fear, horror, or cold.

When it comes to "matter" and "madder," getting the right spelling really does matter. "Matter," used as a verb, means to have significance. As a noun, "matter" is the physical stuff from which everything in the universe is made. "Madder" is a comparative form of the word "mad," meaning "angry," or in the slang sense, "mentally unstable."

What about "latter" and "ladder"? Starting with the "latter" (in this case it's also the former), this word refers to the second item mentioned in a list of two things. Latter can also refer to something later in time. A "ladder" is an object with evenly spaced rungs that you climb.

When I think of a "mudder," I can't help but recall Abbott and Costello's comedy routine at the horse racetrack. A "mudder" is a horse that does well running in the mud. "Mutter," on the other hand, is pretty similar to "utter," although "mutter" is usually a quiet utter or grumble.

If I've learned one thing from watching the Food Network, it's that better batter can be achieved with more butter. A "batter" is either a baseball player who is attempting to hit the ball with a bat, a mixture of flour and liquid ingredients that is used to make baked goods, or (as a verb) to hit something repeatedly. "Badder" is a comparative adjective meaning that something is "more bad" than the other thing.

Yes, spelling matters. When the cold air causes you to shudder, it's time to close the shutters. Make sure to pay attention to -utter, -udder, -atter and -adder words so you don't come across as utterly unintelligent.

— Curtis Honeycutt is a syndicated humor columnist. He is the author of *Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life*. Find more at [curtishoneycutt.com](http://curtishoneycutt.com).

## Letters to Editor

Dear Editor:

It was clear tonight that every Republican running for governor is far too radical for our state. Every person on that stage would divide our state by tearing down our democracy, refusing to uphold basic rights, and taking Wisconsin backwards on reproductive healthcare.

Wisconsin doesn't need more political division — we need a leader like Governor Tony Evers who believes in putting aside partisan politics and working together on common sense solutions for our state. Governor Evers has brought Wisconsin values back to the governor's office, and is doing the right thing for Wisconsinites, including cutting income taxes by 15%, investing in our public schools, fighting to protect abortion access, and supporting our small businesses and family farms.

The stakes in this race could not be higher: we can either go down a path where radical politicians divide our communities and our rights are no longer guaranteed. Or we can choose to continue doing the right thing for our state.

Cassi Fenilli

Dear Editor:

I have known Troy Egger for five years. During those five years, I have seen Troy as a dedicated family man. Troy is a Marine Corps Combat Veteran. His dedication to his country and his family makes him the perfect candidate for Rock County Sheriff. Troy understands more than most about what it means to serve and protect. There is no better fit or better person to serve as Rock County Sheriff than Troy Egger. I am so incredibly proud to endorse him.

Lisa Pennington  
Army Combat Veteran

Dear Editor:

I am writing to support youth and adults who are participants of the Stoughton and area County Fairs.

After more than 150 years, the local fairs have survived two world wars, pandemics, recessions and weather disasters. They are worthy of support from everyone in cities and rural areas alike. During the past three weeks, I have attended three different area fairs and feel that they are being overlooked by too many people. Yes, they were cancelled or cut back during the COVID epidemic, but need to

revive and thrive now.

Too many young people have nothing enriching to do during the summers and do not wish to attend summer school. 4-H programs are year-round and offer life skills and projects for competition at fairs such as arts and crafts, photography, plants or flowers, nature, space, woodworking, chef training, soil science and every kind of animal that a young person could love. These projects offer challenges and rewards for the youth from kindergarten through age 19.

We have too many uninspired youth wasting away hours on electronic screens each day or running the streets. The human brain needs more active fresh air, creative outlets and yes, good healthy competition. Sports are not the only answer.

Every county has youth agents, the costs for participation are minimal, and any adult can become involved as a volunteer. Currently 4-H and FFA programs are inspiring only a fraction of young people. Adults can encourage all youth to attend fairs and become interested while in kindergarten or younger.

Janice Redford

## Legal News Today



City of Edgerton - Common Council Mtg. Minutes July 5, 2022

City of Edgerton - Common Council Mtg. Minutes June 6, 2022

City of Edgerton - Common Council Mtg. Minutes June 20, 2022

City of Edgerton - Liquor license application

City of Edgerton - PSA Announcement

City of Edgerton - Testing of electronic voting machine

Town of Fulton -Voting machine testing

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Edgerton Reporter established as the Wisconsin Tobacco Reporter in 1874  
Active member of America's Newspapers, International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors, National Newspaper Association, Society of Professional Journalists and Wisconsin Newspaper Association

Publisher .....Diane Everson  
Editor, Advertising Manager.....Diane Everson  
Bookkeeper.....Deena Wettstein  
Production.....Ellen Knutson, Susan Siemens, Tristan McGough  
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Office Hours: We are closed to the public due to the pandemic. You may call us and leave items in our mailbox  
Periodicals Postage Paid at Edgerton, WI

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:  
PRINT: Edgerton address \$49 per year, \$26 six months.  
State of Wisconsin \$51 per year, \$28 six months.  
Out of State \$53 per year, \$32 six months.

**EDGERTON REPORTER**  
Mission: To be the Best Community Newspaper  
Published weekly by The Reporter Co., Inc.  
21 N. Henry St., Edgerton, WI 53534 • Phone 608-884-3367 • Fax 608-884-8187  
e-mail: [info@edgertonreporter.com](mailto:info@edgertonreporter.com) USPS# 167-900