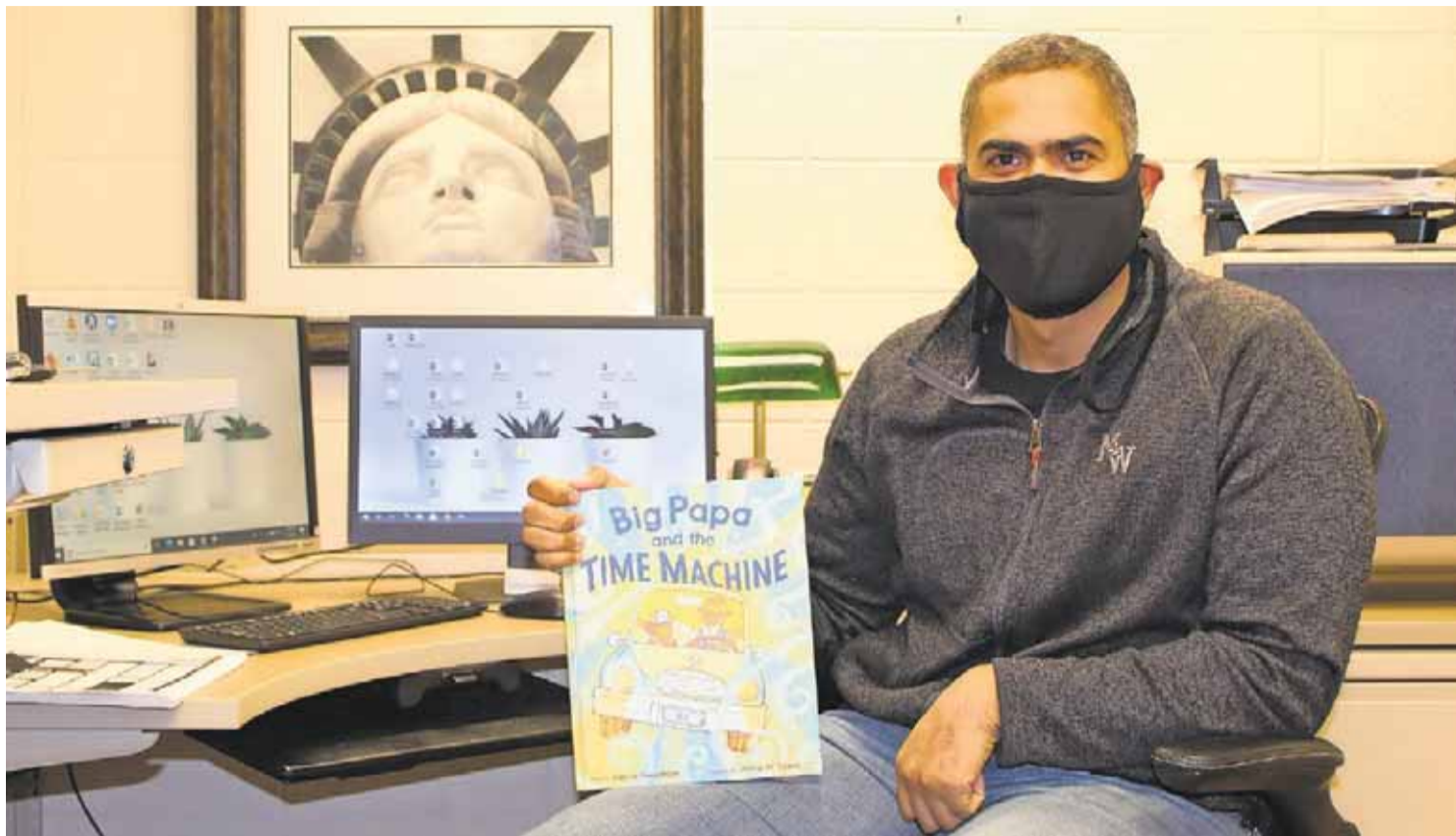




# The Globe

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Leah Ward/The Globe

Minnesota West instructor Daniel Bernstrom is a finalist for the Minnesota Book Awards for his latest book, "Big Papa and the Time Machine."

## Worthington native joins police force

2018 WHS graduate is WPD's newest officer

By Leah Ward  
lward@dglobe.com

WORTHINGTON — When Christina Streeter graduated from Worthington High School in 2018, she already knew what she wanted to do.

In fact, she'd known for a long time, having decided as an eighth-grader that she wanted to be a police officer.

"I enjoy helping people who need help," said Street, who was inspired by her father — a longtime Worthington firefighter — to go into public service.

Streeter began going on law enforcement ride-alongs in high school, seeing up close what it was like to work for the WPD, Nobles County Sheriff's Office and Minnesota State Patrol.

She took her next step toward her desired career after high school by spending two years pursuing a law enforcement degree at Alexandria Technical and Community College. She then returned home to become WPD's newest patrol officer, joining the force in September. After completing field training, she has been on her own for the last couple months.

"It's cool to work in the community you grew up in," Streeter shared.

While familiarity with the town is a definite asset, growing up here doesn't mean Streeter knows all 13,000-plus Worthington residents. Getting to know the people she serves is her favorite part of the job so far.

Children, in particular, get excited when they see her. Once, a child recognized her as a police officer and immediately hugged her legs, Streeter shared.

She's the only female patrol officer at WPD, but that doesn't bother Streeter one bit. Having grown up with two brothers and no sisters, she's used to being the only woman.

The first months on the job have led Streeter to one specific goal for her career.

"I want to build a stronger bond between the police department and our community," Streeter said.

She believes one way to accomplish that goal is by noticing needs and helping without needing to be asked.

"We're always here to help whenever people need it," she said.

To help keep the community safe, Streeter advises all residents to report anything that looks suspicious. The police might recognize a suspect or activity as being related to a bigger issue, so it's important to call the non-emergency line if something doesn't look right.



Photo courtesy of Rickers Photography

Streeter

## Worthington local named a finalist in Minnesota Book Awards

Bernstrom's book shares stories from his grandfather's life

By Leah Ward  
lward@dglobe.com

### Worthington

In a matter of months, a local college instructor may be able to add "award-winning author" to his resume.

Daniel Bernstrom is an English instructor at the Worthington campus of Minnesota West Community

& Technical College, usually teaching classes like Composition I and II, Introduction to Film and Developmental Writing. He loves working with the diverse student body and getting to know his students.

As a side hobby, he writes children's books, and his latest was named a finalist

for the Minnesota Book Awards earlier this week.

"Big Papa and the Time Machine" came out last February. It tells the story of a young boy and his grandfather who travel back in time to observe significant events in the grandfather's life.

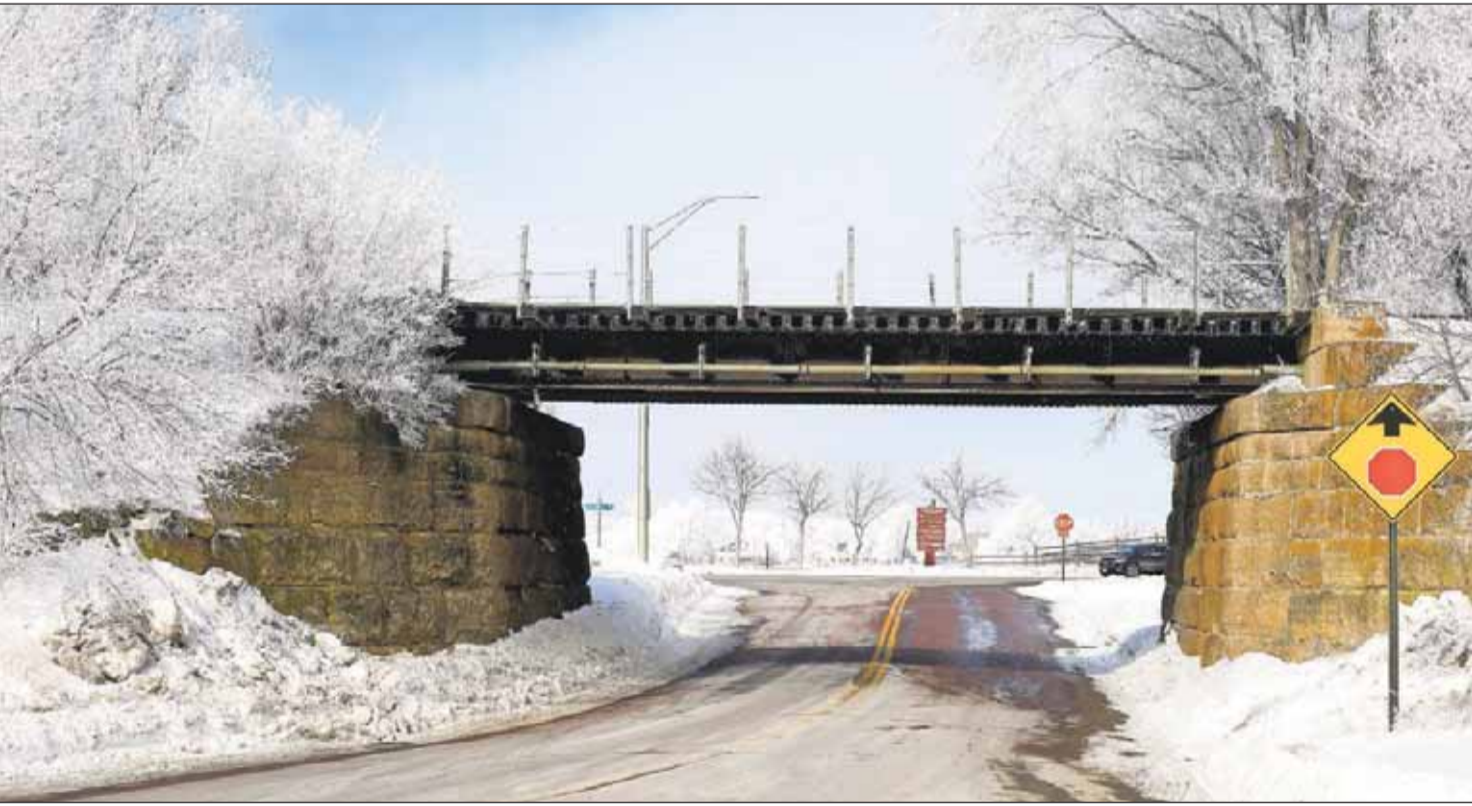
This book is different from Bernstrom's others

because it pays homage to his own "papa."

Bernstrom wasn't able to meet his biological grandfather until he was an adult and, once the two connected, they were fast friends. Bernstrom recalled spending many hours driving around Chicago

**AWARDS:** Page 3

## Clear and frosty



Tim Middagh/The Globe

The Union Pacific railroad bridge frames frosted trees along Lake Okabena Wednesday morning on South Lake Street in Worthington.

## Weber authoring GOP mutual aid bill

The Globe

ST. PAUL — Senate Republicans previewed a bill Thursday that they say would hold cities accountable to pay their mutual aid agreements and prevent Gov. Tim Walz from diverting funds away from education and health care to cover cities' public safety costs that defund the police.

The bill will be authored by District 22 Sen. Bill Weber

(R-Luverne), chair of the Subcommittee on Property Taxes. It allows cities that provided mutual aid but haven't been reimbursed for it yet to apply to have their Local Government Aid (LGA) adjusted to match the amount owed. The funds would be provided by lowering the LGA from the city that owes the mutual aid payment.

"Local Government Aid is a tool we already have funds

for," Weber explained. "Part of the \$4.5 billion in new spending in Gov. Walz's proposed budget is this special fund to protect Minneapolis.

"Respectfully, we have to balance our state budget, and Minneapolis has the money for public safety," Weber continued. "If they aren't paying their bills or need more mutual aid than they can afford after defunding their own police by \$8

million, we're not going to ask taxpayers to foot that bill. This process is fair, it encourages law enforcement to be fully funded by cities, and it doesn't take money away from the education or health care needs in the budget.

Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka (R-East Gull Lake) added that while Gov.

**WEBER:** Page 9

### WEATHER

AM CLOUDS  
PM SUN

HIGH 5°  
LOW -13°



### INDEX

Classifieds  
Diversions  
Education  
Markets

13  
5  
7  
4

Opinion  
Sports  
Weather

4  
11-12  
2



DIGEST

# Emerald Ash Borer confirmed in Cottonwood County: MDA

**The Globe**

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has confirmed emerald ash borer (EAB) in Cottonwood County. This is the 26th county in the state with EAB.

MDA staff recently conducted a visual survey south of the city of Comfrey where the insect had been found last summer. A grouping of trees south of the county line in Selma Township had typical woodpecker damage indicating the presence of EAB. MDA staff were able to find live EAB larvae and collect samples for federal identification.

An ash tree with EAB may show several signs of infestation, including woodpecker holes and bark cracks. Woodpeckers like to feed on EAB larvae and woodpecker holes may indicate the presence of emerald ash borer. Also, EAB larvae tunneling under the bark can cause the bark to split open, revealing the

larval galleries underneath.

Because this is the first time EAB has been identified in Cottonwood County, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is enacting an emergency quarantine to limit the movement of firewood and ash material out of the county. The MDA issues quarantines for all counties known to have EAB to reduce the risk of further spreading the tree-killing insect.

Two virtual open houses, from 10 to 11 a.m. and from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24, will be offered for residents and tree care professionals in the county. Experts from the MDA will give a brief presentation followed by a question-and-answer session.

To participate, register at [mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://mda.state.mn.us/eab)

The public will also have an opportunity to provide input on the proposal to add Cottonwood County to the state formal quarantine.

The MDA is taking comments on the proposed formal quarantine now through March 12, and recommends adopting the quarantine on March 15. The quarantine limits the movement of ash trees and limbs and hardwood firewood out of the county. The proposed quarantine language can be found at [mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://mda.state.mn.us/eab).

Comments can be made during the virtual meeting or by contacting Kimberly Thielon Creemers, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St. N., St. Paul 55155, or [kimberly.tcreemers@state.mn.us](mailto:kimberly.tcreemers@state.mn.us). Fax: (651)201-6108

Emerald ash borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk. The invasive insect was first discovered in Minnesota in 2009.

More EAB information can be found at [mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://mda.state.mn.us/eab).

## Virtual 'Aging Mastery Program' planned

LUVERNE — Luverne Community Education will host a 10-week Aging Mastery Program, a health and wellness package for people ages 55 and older, beginning Feb. 11.

Participants will enjoy an opportunity to make new friends and provide encouragement to each other as they go through a wellness program in the comfort of their own home using a computer or iPad to attend class virtually via Zoom. Basic materials, a system for tracking behaviors and rewards for positive behaviors are provided by the National Council on Aging.

Topics included in the program include navigating longer lives, healthy relationships, medication management, sleep, healthy eating and hydration, advance planning/financial fitness, community engagement,

exercise and you, and falls prevention.

Individuals unfamiliar with Zoom will be taught at 2:30 p.m. Feb. 4. The class will take place each Thursday from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. through April 15.

For more information and to receive a registration form, call (507) 283-4724.

## Virtual classes teach food preservation

AMES, Iowa — Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering three free virtual "Preserve the Taste of Summer" courses to help people prepare for food preservation. Each one-hour course is offered on multiple dates between Feb. 16 and June 2.

These online, general home food preservation courses are beneficial for both experienced food preservers and beginners, providing an overview of canning, freezing and drying foods. Participants will receive

up-to-date resources and knowledge about the subject, and need only attend one session. Options are: Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m.; March 25, 6:30 p.m.; April 15, 10 a.m.; April 15, 6:30 p.m.; May 18, 10 a.m.; and May 18, 6:30 p.m.

"Preserve the Taste of Summer: Jam Making Basics" and "Preserve the Taste of Summer: Salsa Making Basics" classes each provide in-depth information on safely preserving jam or fruit spreads and salsa, respectively.

The Jam Making Basics class is offered at 6:30 p.m. on April 29 and May 20, while the Salsa Making Basics class is offered at 6:30 p.m. May 4 and June 2. Again, participants need only attend one class.

There is no fee for any of the courses, but registration is required at <http://bit.ly/3p-Pd4sM>.

For more information, contact Renee Sweers at [rsweers@iastate.edu](mailto:rsweers@iastate.edu) or (712) 276-2157.

## AWARDS

From Page 1

with his newfound family member, listening to his papa tell stories about his life.

Later, Bernstrom called him and asked to hear some of the stories again, this time writing them down. These tales became the foundation for "Big Papa and the Time Machine." The events in the book papa's life are the same stories Bernstrom heard from his real-life papa, but they are shared through a fictional lens. Bernstrom describes his book as "very much an American story" in which the grandfather has worked hard to make a better life for his descendants, and the future generations build on that heritage.

"Big Papa and the Time Machine" is also unique because the characters speak to each other in African-American vernacular English, a rare feature in a children's book.

The reason for this choice is that Bernstrom's papa spoke that way.

"I wanted to preserve his way of speaking," Bernstrom said.

He's aware that using Black vernacular in his book might seem strange given what he does for a living.

"If I could gift you opportunity, it's the English language," Bernstrom tells his students, emphasizing that knowing standard American English opens up doors for everyone who lives in this country.

However, many Black Americans speak in vernacular while they're at home with their families. Non-standard dialects are "beautiful little treasures" and should be celebrated, Bernstrom said.

Writing in vernacular was a difficult task because he wanted to get it right, but he also wanted readers to be able to say the words without stumbling.

In the year since "Big Papa and the Time Machine" came out, Bernstrom said he's gotten many questions from white readers about whether or not they should pronounce the words as written. He tells them yes.

"Wouldn't it be fun if your Black students

told you you're saying it wrong?" he asks teachers. "If you feel uncomfortable, then it's your opportunity to learn."

Throughout the story, Papa concludes each vignette by telling his grandson, "That's called bein' brave." While Bernstrom's grandfather didn't use those exact words, the stories reveal his lifelong bravery, the author said.

His papa lived through many hardships, but he did the hard things anyway, Bernstrom shared.

Bernstrom reflected on the timing of his book's publishing date — right before the COVID-19 pandemic, which introduced a new world of uncertainty,

and shortly before the death of George Floyd. He could never have planned for such a coincidence, but Bernstrom hopes his book has been and will be a source of strength in scary times.

"How do you address the fear in the unknown? It's through love, taking time and storytelling," he said.

The book shows that standing up for oneself and taking emotional risks even when it's scary can make all the difference in a person's life.

"That's what Papa wanted me know," Bernstrom said. "People will judge you, and they'll watch you more closely."

"He wanted me to be kind and brave."

His own personal life has brought his grandfather's story full circle, Bernstrom said. During the Civil Rights era, his papa couldn't join a labor union and wasn't eligible for health insurance, just because of the color of his skin. Papa was the first in Bernstrom's ancestry to do a lot of things.

Now, Bernstrom has many more freedoms than his grandfather did, but he's still the first in some ways. In his professional career, he's always been the

only Black person at his place of employment. If he wins a Minnesota Book Award, Bernstrom will be among the first African-Americans to do so.

The father of four shared that his own children love "Big Papa and the Time Machine" not just because it highlights their cultural heritage, but because it tells their own family stories. They particularly love the note at the back of the book where Bernstrom tells readers about his papa. There's a picture

of the two of them, and Bernstrom's kids love to look at their great-grandfather's wide grin and know that he's theirs.

Bernstrom will find out in April if he was selected as the category winner for the Minnesota Book Awards. Three other children's books were also named as finalists, and Bernstrom knows two of the other authors. No matter who wins, he's happy to be a finalist and will be happy for the author that is chosen.

# HIRING EVENT!

Tuesday, February 9 - 2-6pm  
Tuesday, February 23 - 2-6pm

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