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A look at 2024

BPCG supports research, helps victims

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

According to Cheri Krejci, a member of the organization's board of directors since 2002, the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group (BPCG) was founded after the 2000 Eagles Cancer Telethon, when an 80-year-old resident saw there were no donations from Blooming Prairie.

Determined to see that change because she had lost both a daughter and a granddaughter to cancer, the woman worked with her family to begin raising money and managed to collect \$1,600 at their very first event. The BPCG has gone on to collect and donate a total of \$1.5 million to the telethon in the years since, according to Krejci.

Currently in the process of retiring from leadership roles with BPCG after 22 years of participation, Krejci is well acquainted with the organization's development.

She mentions that during 2024 BPCG donated \$85,000 to the Eagles Cancer Telethon, \$85,000 to the Hormel Cancer Research Institute in Austin, and about \$65,000 in support of individuals or families caught up in a fight against cancer.

"We try to personalize the way we help," she states, offering the example of a couple whose baby

BPCG continued on 5

Geneva Cancer Auction set for Jan. 10-11, Jan. 17-18

The 40th annual Geneva Cancer Auction is scheduled for Jan. 10-11 and Jan. 17-18 at the Geneva Bar and Grill. Fridays begin at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. Raffle tickets are \$5 and the prizes are as follows: Grand prize \$1,000, then \$500, \$300, and \$200. The drawing is Jan. 18 at 8 p.m. and you need not be present to win.

"Established in 1985, the Geneva Cancer Auction raises funds for cancer research for the sole purpose of eradicating cancer."

Boundary Waters exhibit at the New Richland Library in January

Learn about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area at the New Richland Library, its wildlife, and how to visit in this pop-up Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System exhibit. This will be available during the month of January.

Ice fishing class at New Richland Public Library, Jan. 23

Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame winner Terry Tuma will teach ice fishing techniques at the New Richland Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23. Bait to rod selection, slab crappies to monster gills.

A word from The Word

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Fighting the good fight Utpadel leads 'Musicians Against Cancer'

More than \$50,000 raised in 2024

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Todd Utpadel can still barely believe it happened.

After creating "Musicians Against Cancer" and partnering with the BP Cancer Group, he said he had an initial goal of raising \$5,000 in 2024, he actually brought in \$50,000 worth of donations.

Over the past year, he's also learned more about the battles people and their families are facing after a cancer diagnosis, and if anything, says he's more determined than ever. He is continuing his "Tips Against Cancer" campaign in 2025, except rather than setting a dollar amount as his goal, he says the mantra has become "If not us, then who?" And "If not now, then when?"

Utpadel is quick to interject, "This is not about me, and I'm not doing it alone."

A lifelong musician and a founding member of the well-known Snowy River Band, Utpadel says he feels energized and fulfilled when he brings enjoyment to others with his music. The 1978 Ellendale-Geneva High School graduate has been booking performances across the region for decades.

Since beginning Tips Against Cancer, when he performs, he lets audience members know any tips they put in his bucket during the evening will be donated to the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group (BPCG), an organization which battles cancer on two fronts simultaneously.

Blooming Prairie resident Cheri Krejci, a 1975 Graduate of Ellendale-Geneva High School and a childhood neighbor to Utpadel's family, explains BPCG was founded in 2000; she has been one of its board members since 2002. The group benefits from fundraisers operated by many different individuals and organizations, among them the Ellendale fire department.

Krejci reports that, in 2024, BPCG donated \$85,000 to the Eagles Cancer Telethon, \$85,000



Musicians against Cancer founder Todd Utpadel launched his 2025 fundraising efforts at the Moose Lodge in Albert Lea on Jan. 1. Lodge president Matt Johnson, left, presented Utpadel with his first donation of the year.

Submitted photo

to the Hormel Cancer Research Institute, and more than \$65,000 directly to individuals and families impacted by a cancer diagnosis.

Utpadel mentions he has designated the money he raises for that last category, the direct aid. While he acknowledges the value and importance of research, he explains his decision to form Musicians Against Cancer came about because it seemed to him cancer was all around him, disrupting people's lives and draining their finances.

"There are people fighting cancer right now who won't benefit from any cures or treatments the research might find," he observes. "But these funds will have helped make their lives a little easier."

However strongly Utpadel says he felt about fighting cancer as he began his organization back in the fall of 2023, he says his feelings have grown

stronger since then. For one thing, he has been in a position to hear about even more cancer victims and their experiences, some of which leave him marveling at people's strength and resilience while his heart breaks for their circumstances.

Along with that, Utpadel himself was diagnosed with colon cancer in April. Doctors informed him he faced 10 rounds of chemotherapy and six weeks, 27 doses, of radiation treatments. "They asked me what my biggest fear was," he remembers.

"I said I didn't want to miss any of the 20 bookings I had arranged in the coming months."

When doctors warned it would be very difficult to keep all the appointments, Utpadel jokes, "I

Utpadel continued on 5



Members of the 2025 NRHEG School Board are (back, from left) Kelly Delacruz, Amy Ihrke, Aaron Phillips, (front, from left) Loren Schoenrock, Rick Schultz, Terri Engel and Pat Theuer. School board members serve four-year terms; beginning new terms in 2025 are Delacruz, Schoenrock and Engel.

NRHEG School board organizes for 2025

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

In addition to completing legally required "organizational" steps, members of the NRHEG School Board accepted two retirements during their Jan. 2 meeting.

Secondary art teacher Cynthia Gail is now taking advantage of a Minnesota law which allows eligible teachers to be officially retired and receiving retirement benefits while also continuing to teach; Gail informs the Star Eagle she plans to continue in her position through the end of the school year, and will decide sometime in March whether she will stay with the district through the

2025-'26 school year. Woodworking and construction skills instructor Brad Root is also teaching under the same program.

Barb Hagen, long-time secretary for the secondary guidance office, also had her retirement approved. Her last day working for the district will be Jan. 17.

The first element of the "organizational" portion of the Jan. 2 meeting was a ceremonial oath of office for re-elected members Loren Schoenrock and Pat Theuer and newly elected member Kelly Delacruz, each of whom is at the start of a four-year term scheduled to run through the end of December 2028. Board

School Board NRHEG



members Rick Schultz, Amy Ihrke, Aaron Phillips and Pat Theuer will complete their current terms in December of 2026.

Board chair for 2025 is Rick Schultz; Loren Schoenrock is vice chair; Terri Engel will serve as clerk; Pat Theuer is the board treasurer.

Board members elected to keep the amount of pay issued to them at \$100 for meetings of a typical length or \$150 for all-day meetings or work

sessions. In addition, the chair will receive a \$200 annual stipend; the clerk will receive \$150; the treasurer \$100.

The NRHEG Star Eagle will continue to be the district's official newspaper; any legally required public notices regarding district activities will appear in its pages. The State Bank of New Richland continues to be the official depository along with the Minnesota School District Liquid Assets Fund.

Board members made no changes to their schedule of monthly meet-

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WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Board addresses county jail

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their work session the morning of Dec. 17, members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners asked Sheriff Jay Dulas to reach out to area law enforcement agencies to learn what agreements might be possible to house inmates once the Waseca County jail can no longer do so.

Commissioners acknowledged circumstances are developing toward a time when those arrested in Waseca County cannot be incarcerated here, either because the Department of Corrections downgrades the county-owned facility or because a new jail is under construction. They asked Dulas to be prepared to summarize his progress on the task during a meeting on Feb. 18.

In the meantime, the commissioners expressed renewed commitment toward reaching a decision. Summarizing their statements, county administrator Michael Johnson said, "We know we're going to build; the question is whether [the new structure] has a jail or doesn't have a jail."

"Let's make a decision in the next few months."

The request followed more than an hour of review and discussion regarding the jail and its status as the oldest operational county jail in the state, having been constructed in the 1970s. According to the Department of Corrections (DOC), typical expected usable lifespan for jail buildings is 20 to 25 years.

The DOC had warned Waseca County prior to a May 2024 inspection that many elements of the current structure are out of compliance with DOC expectations, and the facility was at risk of being downgraded from its current status as a "class 3" facility. Under that classification, the jail can house inmates indefinitely; class 2 allows for 90-day stays; class 1 for 72 hours or less. A point of safety emphasized by the DOC is that inmates currently walk outdoors and then through public hallways when attending judicial proceedings on the third floor of the county courthouse. Also at issue were poor lines of sight and inadequate lighting within the jail facility.

In addition to the DOC shortfalls, the jail building has numerous structural flaws, perhaps the largest among them being degrading plumbing and a general lack of space for numerous purposes, including inmate meetings with lawyers, probation officers or health personnel.

When county facilities management director Brian Tomford shared that repairs to the structural problems would likely cost over \$2 million, but would not bring the facility in compliance with DOC expectations, commissioners seemed to be in agreement such an investment would not be worthwhile.

Financial figures shared by county administrator Michael Johnson were sobering. With the cost of construction possibly in the vicinity of \$40 million added to the financing cost, he suggested the county might be paying as much as \$336,000 a year to incarcerate each of the 10 or so inmates the jail typically holds. Financing might stretch across 20 years, meaning the building would be paid for at about the same time, based on DOC averages, that it needed to

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FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Full Wolf Moon on January 13

The scurs and Weather Eye garnered their first weather hate mail of the year. Will they redeem themselves or are we in for a repeat performance? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with a slight chance of snow. Highs in the mid-20's with lows in the upper teens. Mostly cloudy on Friday with highs in the mid-20's and lows in the low teens. Partly sunny Saturday with highs in the mid-20's and lows in the upper teens. Sunday, mostly cloudy with a slight chance of snow. Highs in the mid-20's with lows in the mid-teens. Mostly sunny on Monday with highs in the mid-20's and lows in the low teens. Tuesday, cloudy with highs in the upper 20's and lows in the mid-teens. Partly sunny Wednesday with highs in the low 30's and lows in the upper teens. We continue succeeding in our quest for more daylight. On January 11th, we start gaining daylight at around a minute and a half per day. On the 13th, the sun will set at 5 p.m. CST. The normal high for January 13th is 21 and the normal low is 5 as we enter the threshold of what are statistically the coldest days of the winter. The scurs are keeping an eye out for additional firewood just in case.

The Full Moon for the month comes at us on the 13th. It is commonly known as the Full Wolf Moon as it was common to hear wolves set up shop, howling at night not far from the winter native American encampments. In parts of the Great Lakes region, it was also referred to by the tribes as the Bear Moon, although most of the bears had already been holed up for the winter by the time January rolled around. The Ojibwe knew this as the Great Spirit Moon for the hope provided by the lengthening days. The Sioux called it the Frost in the Teepee Moon or the Moon when Wolves run Together. At the ranch we know it as the Warm Boots and Gloves Moon or after chores are done, the Warm Lap Corgi Moon.

Another dry winter thus far has one guessing what lies ahead for January and beyond. NOAA's 30-day outlook doesn't provide anything definitive yet. Released December 31st, it calls for slightly better than even odds of below normal temps and even chances of above or below normal precipitation. Their 90-day outlook is calling for even chances of both above or below normal precipitation and temperatures. No concrete predictions from either time frame. Looking at the Drought Monitor, we're in an area categorized as "Abnormally Dry." Doesn't take a genius to figure that out. However, even though December snowfall was well below normal, we came through with precip falling as rain after Christmas. Our January temps have been running below

average thus far. It'll warm up in February, right? Not necessarily. In 2020, 2021 and 2023, the average daily temperature in February was colder than it was for January. The good news: Only in 2020 did February snowfall exceed January's measurement.

Getting the holidays out of the way has been an undertaking this year. With Christmas and New Year's Day both falling in the midweek, it's been tough to get one's bearings. Without a weekend on one end of the holiday, it seemed like a new week coming off of it. Both Christmas and New Years seemed like a Sunday to me. The days off were nice, but with a full week of work under our belts, it'll be nice to finally know what day of the week it actually is. Or at least I think it is. I've been adamant about not writing 2024 on any of the checks I've written. So far so good, but I was a day ahead on one of the checks I wrote after I got to thinking about it. The date was still a crooked number, so no harm, no foul.

Early season lambing continues at the ranch. We were thinking perhaps we wouldn't see any more once a few surprises appeared right around the New Year. Wrong. With the ewes unshorn and a large skirt of wool concealing their udders, it's been nearly impossible to see these blessed events coming. Saturday was no exception as I'd found a ewe with a new lamb in the lambing barn. No sweat. Looked like they'd figured it out, so put a panel across the doorway to keep them in while I went back inside to mix up some milk replacer for a couple others. A natural-colored ewe had been making a fuss outside of the barn with no sign of any discharge, much less a bag. I suspected she was thinking the lamb on the ground inside the barn was hers. Not uncommon. Come back out with milk replacer and the belling ewe had dumped a lamb out near the hay feeder. It can be a regular three-ring circus some days at the ranch.

Poppy continues to be my companion during lulls in the action. She really doesn't care much about the birds, even though she helps fill their feeders. The squirrels on the other hand are a major concern. It's been tough to keep the sliding glass door thawed out this past week where they can be observed from inside the house. A Corgi nose about a foot off the ground has thwarted our attempts at keeping the glass clean. However, if you point the small space heater at the base of the window frame for an hour or so, then it's game on. I wonder what Poppy will say when we give her the electric bill. She'll have to get another job.

Ss you next week...real good then.

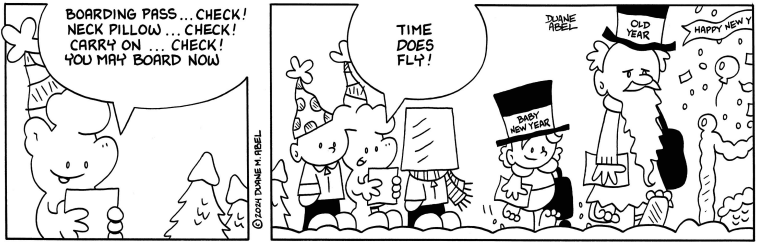
meeting will occur on the Tuesday following the regular meeting day. Board members alternate the location of their sessions between the elementary and secondary sites, always in the facility's media center. For 2025, meetings will be in Ellendale during the months of January, March, May, September and November.

School

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ings taking place at 6:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month; when that Monday falls on a legal holiday, as it does this year in January, February, and April, the

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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Don't become artificially inflated



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

schools at a professional development day this year. A few people were talking about the awesomeness of it for teachers. It can develop lesson plans! It can help you put together notes for a unit!

My "Old Man Domeier" persona came to the fore, and I wasn't the only one. Whoa, Nellie!

Let's not start to teach our students how to use AI quite yet. There are still plenty of bugs in the process. Plus, unfortunately, we know that many of them would head to the Dark Side to use it for cheating. Luckily, there are already apps out there to help detect the use of AI in student work, just like for plagiarizing.

Here's one of the biggest problems I have with this. AI does not think of things on its own; it collects from already published items elsewhere to make something that can be a mish-mash of already-written work. For example, if you go look at Amazon reviews, you will see a summary of those reviews written by AI. Facebook also has this on posts that have hundreds of comments.

By taking from others and making something from it, isn't that a form of cheating? Isn't that a way to copy what's already been done? If I ask an AI system to write a lesson plan for me about verb tense, it will take things other teachers have done. I do

not have the permission of those teachers, but suddenly I have the best of their ideas and call it my own.

Listen, I've taken ideas from other teachers and still use some of those to this day. But they gave me permission to do so. I've also given ideas I use to others. That's working smarter, not harder. Teachers Pay Teachers is a site where educators can make some money off their ideas, and why not? If you create something, you have the right to sell it.

Taking from created work starts the process of having less original work. And it takes away from people who make their living through creativity. This makes for less original and creative work in the world, and I'm not sure people realize what a loss that would be. In an article I read, Seth Godin talked about how AI can help organize our thoughts, but it cannot yet write a book that's better than the best a human can write.

I make money to write this column. It's not much, but it's something nice to use in our monthly spending. But why do you need me anymore? Eli can just run an AI column. Let's say he decided to write a column about tying shoes. Throw that in Chat GPT and you don't have to pay me anymore! (And yes, that's an actual column idea I have rolling

around in my head.) Depending on what you think of my writing, that would either be a step up or a loss to the paper.

Anton is studying graphic design. He's extremely creative and makes artwork and graphics that are unbelievably cool. But why do you need him? You can just use AI to create graphics and artwork. You don't have to pay him.

But you lose the originality. You lose the human element. You steal from others to make something you consider new. And you become lazy.

A charter school in Arizona is going to use an AI-created curriculum to teach kids in grades 5-8 for a couple hours a day, no teachers needed. Instead, they will have "guides." I know we have a shortage of teachers, but using a computer to teach them instead of a human, who knows what each kid needs the most and knows when the kid is having an off day and is able to connect with them about music or fantasy football, is a bad idea.

There are a ton of jobs out there, waiting to be filled. Many of them are manual labor or factory work or retail. But maybe we just want robots and AI to do those for us too. Maybe we want a future where we can relax and be lazy all day.

Or maybe we should be cautious as we walk down this road. It may be inevitable, but it doesn't have to be imminent.

Word of the Week: This week's word is scission, which means division or separation, as in, "There was a big scission in the education world on the use of AI." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

Don't ever forget the Golden Rule



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

I feel compelled to write about responses I've witnessed from folks this past weekend.

I believe strongly in the golden rule: "Treat others how you wish to be treated," or, phrased another way, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

People who are insulted by another human being have different reactions. When someone you love is insulted, your response may be even stronger than if the slight were aimed at you.

Recently, I had the pleasure of having lunch with Deb Bently and her husband John. If you know John, you know that he is a brilliant, kind, caring and compassionate man. You may also know that he has numerous patents in the air duct cleaning industry.

Once, while attending a convention for his business, John had thousands of dollars of equipment as well as his truck stolen. The entire vehicle and its contents were "stripped" all the way down to the tires. This not only set his business back, but hurt his family because of the loss of revenue, time, and more. John made the comment, "Mess with me, that's fine, but don't ever hurt my family."

Love compels people to protect those they care about, sometimes by any means necessary.

I've written before about the game store I have frequented for the past eight years in Austin. Due to circumstances that astonished even me, my friends Kyle and Anastasia generously gave me their game store when they needed to move away to take care of family.

Shortly after acquiring the game store in April of 2024, I parked behind the building, inadvertently blocking the neighbors' vehicle. I know the neighbors and am friends

with their daughter. As I got involved with work at the game store, I forgot I had parked behind him. The neighbor stumbled out of a bar next door, yelling profanity and demanding that I move my car. I apologized, moved my vehicle and assured him it wouldn't happen again. He appeared surprised at my calm response, because, to be frank, he had posed the question harshly and was obviously very intoxicated.

(Thankfully, he didn't drive anywhere after I moved my car.) After he left, my friends were very upset. "Eli is the nicest man in the world," one friend said. "We can't let someone talk to him that way."

There were similar comments from everyone. Then the conversation to my alarm turned to suggestions of physical retaliation. I had never seen my friends behave or speak so defensively. It was a harsh overreaction.

I had to stop everyone then and state emphatically, "One person's bad actions do not justify others to do the same or worse."

If we retaliate, we lower ourselves to the level of the behavior which offended us. If we had taken retaliatory actions to this drunkard, we would only have justified his bad behavior by lowering ourselves to that standard.

This past weekend something similar happened; a customer left a bad

review of the game store for no good reason. The story behind the review is rather meaningless at this point.

One of my friends went on a rant, defending the store; he couldn't believe someone would be so malicious as to leave a bad review online. More than one person echoed the sentiment. Then the group declared the culprit should be banned from the store. The person in question is only 17 years old.

No, the person shouldn't be banned. This is a teachable moment for a young adult who, from my perspective, was not raised with good role models. This is our opportunity to show him kindness. To show how responsible, respectful adults should conduct themselves. Not to show him more of what he's already seen: hate, discontent and further disrespect.

I believe he owes an apology to one of my employees because of his actions, but aside from that, if we want to see him move toward being a mature, rational member of society, banning him from the store is the last

choice we should make. My employees have been instructed if he comes into the store again that he is to talk to me. This will give me the opportunity to help explain what the consequences of his actions are or could have potentially been. And also be an example that hate or anger should not be met with more hate and anger.

Numerous times at the game store this past year, I found myself becoming annoyed with a few regular patrons. I found myself not wanting to interact with them, actively avoiding them, really not being their friend. I wasn't mean, but certainly wasn't treating them with love.

I prayed about what I should do.

The response I felt I heard was to treat them with love and kindness, the same way I would treat one of my best friends. In both cases, I changed my behavior and started asking many questions to get to know the person. In both instances the people in question have become very good friends I cherish and look forward to seeing. All it took was changing my behavior. I'm really grateful.

I'll repeat again: you often get out of the world what you put into it. And I will continue to do my best to put kindness out into the world.

"It's never the wrong time to do the right thing" - Mark Twain.

Or "It's never wrong to do the right thing."

Star Eagle

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by Al Batt

Hartland Harold news

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I'm completely exhausted.
From opening all your Christmas presents?
No, from playing with all that bubble wrap.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Is it just me, or do we get winter every year? A weather forecast including freezing rain never draws applause. I had nothing to complain about except the weather. That's a good day. It had rained, and then it snowed, leaving ice. The ice was very realistic. I stood on some of it. I was dressed for the cold, and I'm used to the snow. When I was a boy, I had to walk three miles uphill through deep snow to change the TV channel. I wore a favorite pair of socks as I stood on the recent ice. What made them favorites? They were warm and they didn't fall down. I could hear what every basketball coach calls out to players on defense, "Move your feet!" I shuffled like I was wearing slippers many sizes too large for me. I had no desire to make an unintentional snow angel. Winter can be a cruel mistress.

I'd been driving when it rained and snowed. I didn't express any negativity, but I didn't once say, "This is fun." According to a new study, "Frosty the Snowman" is the most dangerous Christmas song to listen to while driving. According to Insuranceopedia, South China University of Technology conducted a study that found songs with over 120 beats per minute led to more dangerous driving habits. The 1950 hit, first recorded by Gene Autry, has a BPM of 172, which was higher than any other song they examined.

I'VE LEARNED
You push the door. You pull the door. If neither opens the door, the business is closed.
When you step on the scale, pretend the number is your IQ.
When seated in a dental chair, few things near you are decorative.
Minnesota has a blanket policy. The more blankets, the better. We all know this poem: Thirty days hath September, April, June and November. All the rest have 31, excepting February alone, and that has 28 days clear and 29 in each leap year. But January could have up to 300 days.
Wearing size 14 shoes is no small feat.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
What do you call a wolf that already knows? Aware wolf.
I wrote a step-by-step guide on how to fall down the stairs.
Peruvian owls hunt in pairs because they're Inca hoots.



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If you think lima beans are good, you should try any other food.

NEWS FROM HARTLAND HAROLD
Minnesota State Mavericks senior football player Gabe Hagen was named to the AP All-American First Team. The tight end from Blooming Prairie is the son of Dave and Joan Hagen. Dave is a graduate of Ellendale-Geneva High School.

Joey Batt became the fourth Maverick women's basketball player to earn All-American honors. She was named to three All-American teams. Joey's parents are Brian and Laura Batt of New Ulm. Brian graduated from New Richland-Hartland High School.

I enjoyed reading "21 Siblings: Cheaper by the Dozen" by Helen Miller, which told the story of Alvin and Lucille Miller and their 22 children (all single births). The Millers began their married life on a farm near Hartland, Minnesota, in 1940 before moving to Waseca. When the 11th child was born, the oldest was 12. I suspect all 22 learned the abiding rule of large families, "Don't be late for supper."

I was ringing bells for the Salvation Army when Santa Claus came in to buy Hope Butter to put on his lefse.

Keith Kuiters of Clarks Grove is follicly challenged (there's a lot of that going around), but his sense of humor remains intact. He pulled the comb he always carries from his pocket and said, "I'll never part with it."

NATURE NOTES
The bald eagle is now officially the national bird of the US, after President Biden signed that into law on Christmas Eve. My thanks to Preston Cook of Wabasha for being the driving force in making this happen.

Duane Miller of Hartland asked how far a skunk can spray. Adults aim accurately within 15 feet, but the spray goes farther when wind aided. Skunk spray contains N-butyl mercaptan, a sulfur compound with a pungent rotten egg smell that a human nose can detect at 1 1/2 miles away. Skunks hold enough odorous liquid to spray 5-6 times before needing to replenish, and it takes 8-10 days to refill. When they're about three weeks old, a baby skunk's scent glands have developed enough to produce the spray, but not with the quantity or the velocity of an adult skunk.

MEETING ADJOURNED
"Do you wish the world were happy? / Then remember day by day/ Just to scatter seeds of kindness / As you pass along the way."—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.



Three different awards were given during the annual Farm and City Luncheon. Middle left, Kathy Guse accepts her award; To her right, Kirsten Sommers and family. Above, Matt Sommers and his youngest son. Directly above, Mike Singstad.

Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens

A look back at 2024 part two

In the past year, the Star Eagle has covered many exciting stories worth remembering. Here is a look back at the best highlights from the year that was 2024.

March
- Nearly 2,000 acres of grassland in Waseca and Steele counties were burned Sunday, March 3, while fire-fighting agencies from around the state, including planes and helicopters dropping fire retardant material, fought against the high winds and dry conditions which had prompted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue a "red flag" warning, meaning that the public should light no fires because of the high potential they would spread.
- Of its 14 members, the NRHEG DECA club is sending 11 competitors to state-level competition from March 10 to 12 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis.
- NRHEG School board members voted in reluctant favor of proposals to reduce teaching staff for the 2024-25 school year during their regular meeting the evening of March 18. The Ellendale media center had no open seats as the board voted not to renew the contracts of non-tenured

kindergarten teacher Nicole Seber-son and high school math teacher Randy Muske; to reduce the third-grade teaching staff by one individual; and to place only two teachers in charge of next year's sixth-graders, leading to potential class sizes of about 30 students—at least 10 more per classroom than are currently together.
- The Pines Retreat Center along Highway 30 east of Ellendale is now officially open, and started taking bookings at its open house the afternoon of March 9. Approximately 165 people attended the open house. The crowd consisted of area residents and out-of-state visitors. The establishment's first retreat date is booked for April. In 2023, Bev and Jim Dobberstein purchased what was once the Whispering Pines Supper Club, which had since been renovated into a house. The main building has now become The Pines, a retreat center for crafters of all stripes. Bev Dobberstein explains that, since she is a quilter, many of the stations are very suited to quilting tasks. However, she welcomes all ages, crafts and levels. The only limit is the crafters' imagination.

- Two teams, each consisting of five NRHEG "ProStart" students, were among 18 teams which took part in state-level competition at St. Paul RiverCentre on March 14.
- NRHEG Activities Director Dan Stork extended many statements of gratitude as he opened the 2023-24 Winter Sports Banquet ceremony Tuesday night, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym in New Richland.
- Good food, conversations, and stories were shared during the annual Farm and City Luncheon March 21, hosted by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce at the Mill in Waseca. Following a lunch catered by the Pheasant Cafe and served by local FFA Chapters from Waseca, NRHEG, and Waseca, the following families, all from rural Waseca, were honored with awards: Farm Family of the year (FFOY); Sommers Brothers Custom Baling, LLC, Brian & Kirsten Sommers and Matt & Nicole Sommers.
The FFOY award goes to a Waseca County food producer involved in the community. This family has made significant short-term progress and/or innovative con-

tributions with their agricultural endeavors and has demonstrated a commitment to enhancing and supporting the fields of agriculture and production. The Sommers will be honored and recognized among farmers across the state at Farmfest this summer.
The Waseca County Outstanding Young Farmer award is presented to a farmer between 21–39 years of age who utilizes innovative methods, has made improvement in farming operations, and demonstrates service to community organizations and conservation practices. This year's winner was Mike Singstad.
This year's Waseca County Distinguished Agriculture Leadership award recognizes distinguished individuals who have dedicated their lives to the advancement of agriculture in Waseca County. Individuals will have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the community, place of business or employment, and the advancement of the agricultural industry.
This year's award went to Kathy Guse.

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NR POLICE

• Calls received and/or action taken by the New Richland Police Department in November 2024:

• Friday, November 1, 15:36 - Assist Other Agency (Law), St Highway 13, Assist Rendered

• Friday, November 1, 16:40 - Directed Patrol, Now Richland city OF, Cleared

• Friday, November 1, 16:40 - Lock Check (Building, Park Entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Friday, November 1, 17:34 - Traffic Stop, 170th St/State Highway 30, Warning-Verbal

• Friday, November 1, 22:47 - Traffic Stop, 240th Ave Highway 13, Warning-Verbal

• Saturday, November 2, 10:32 - Assist Other Agency (Law), Cleared

• Saturday, November 2, 12:18 - Parking (Comp/violence), 1st St NW, Cleared

• Saturday, November 2, 16:06 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Saturday, November 2, 16:06 - Lock Check (building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Saturday, November 2, 16:45 - Traffic Stop, Highway 30 and Elm Ave, Traffic Citation

• Saturday, November 2, 17:06 - Traffic Stop, Birch Ave N/ 1st St NW, Warning-verbal

• Saturday, November 2, 20:27 - Harassment, 2nd St SE, Log Report

• Sunday, November 3, 16:02 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City Of, Cleared

• Sunday, November 3, 16:02 - Lock Check (Building, park entrance), New Richland Of, Cleared

• Sunday, November 3, 21:37 - Suspicious Circumstances, Ash Ave N, Cleared

• Sunday, November 3, 21:51 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/Highway 30, Warning-verbal

• Monday, November 4, 18:46 - Traffic Stop, State Highway 13/State highway 30, Warning-verbal

• Monday, November 4, 22:55 - Suspicious Circumstances, State Highway 13, Cleared

• Monday, November 4, 23:39 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Monday, November 4, 23:49 - Illegal Dumping/Garbage, 240th Ave, Cleared

• Monday, November 4, 23:55 - Illegal Dumping/Garbage, 240th Ave, Cleared

• Tuesday, November 5, 14:00 - Suspicious Vul Adult Abuse, 1st ST NE, Cleared

• Tuesday, November 5, 14:52 - Domestic, dogwood Ave S, Written Report

• Tuesday, November 5, 15:54 - Suspicious Vul Adult Abuse, 1st ST NE, Cleared

• Tuesday, November 5, 19:24 - Assist Fire Department (Law), 1st ST NE, Cleared

• Tuesday, November 5, 23:03 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Wednesday, November 6, 12:18 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Wednesday, November 6, 12:19 - Lock Check (building,park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Wednesday, November 6, 20:04 - Directed Patrol, Ash Ave S, Cleared

• Thursday, November 7, 16:26 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Thursday, November 7, 16:27

- Lock Check (buildings, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Thursday, November 7, 23:17 - Assist Other Agency (law), Highway 13/Highway 30, Traffic Citation

• Friday, November 8, 00:59 - Alarm, 2nd ST SE, Cleared

• Friday, November 8, 14:47 - Directed Patrol, Ash Ave S, Cleared

• Friday, November 8, 15:51 - Welfare Check, Ash Ave S, Not Able To Locate

• Friday, November 8, 18:19 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/240th Ave, Warning-verbal

• Friday, November 8, 18:38 - Assist Other Agency (law), Birch Ave N, Cleared

• Friday, November 8, 23:33 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Saturday, November 9, 00:26 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/240th Ave, Warning-verbal

• Saturday, November 9, 07:46 - disturb/disorderly/Nuisar, Broadway Ave N, Cleared

• Saturday, November 9, 10:34 - Misc All Over, Birch Ave N, Cleared

• Saturday, November 9, 16:40 - Misc All Over, 240th Ave, Cleared

• Saturday, November 9, 22:09 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Saturday, November 9, 22:26 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/Highway 30, Warning-verbal

• Saturday, November 9, 23:11 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/3rd ST NE, Warning-verbal

• Sunday, November 10, 17:47 - Property Damage (not vel), Broadway Ave N, Written Report

• Sunday, November 10, 20:05 - Assist Ambulance (law), 1st ST NE, Cleared

• Sunday, November 10, 23:03 - Assist Fire DEpt (law), Waseca County OF, Not Able To Locate

• Monday, November 11, 18:19 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Monday, November 11, 18:20 - Lock Check (building,park entrance) New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Monday, November 11, 18:41 - Theft (includes attempt), 1st ST NW, Ignore/Duplicate

• Tuesday, November 12, 15:36 - Sex Crimes- Other, Ash Ave S, Written Report

• Tuesday, November 12, 15:58 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Tuesday, November 12, 15:58 - Lock Check (building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Tuesday, November 12, 23:56 - Theft (Includes attempt), 1st ST NW, Non-traffic Citation

• Wednesday, November 13, 09:10 - Warrant Service, Ash Ave S, Written Report

• Wednesday, November 13, 14:00 - Suspicious Vul Adult Abuse, 1st ST NE, Log Report

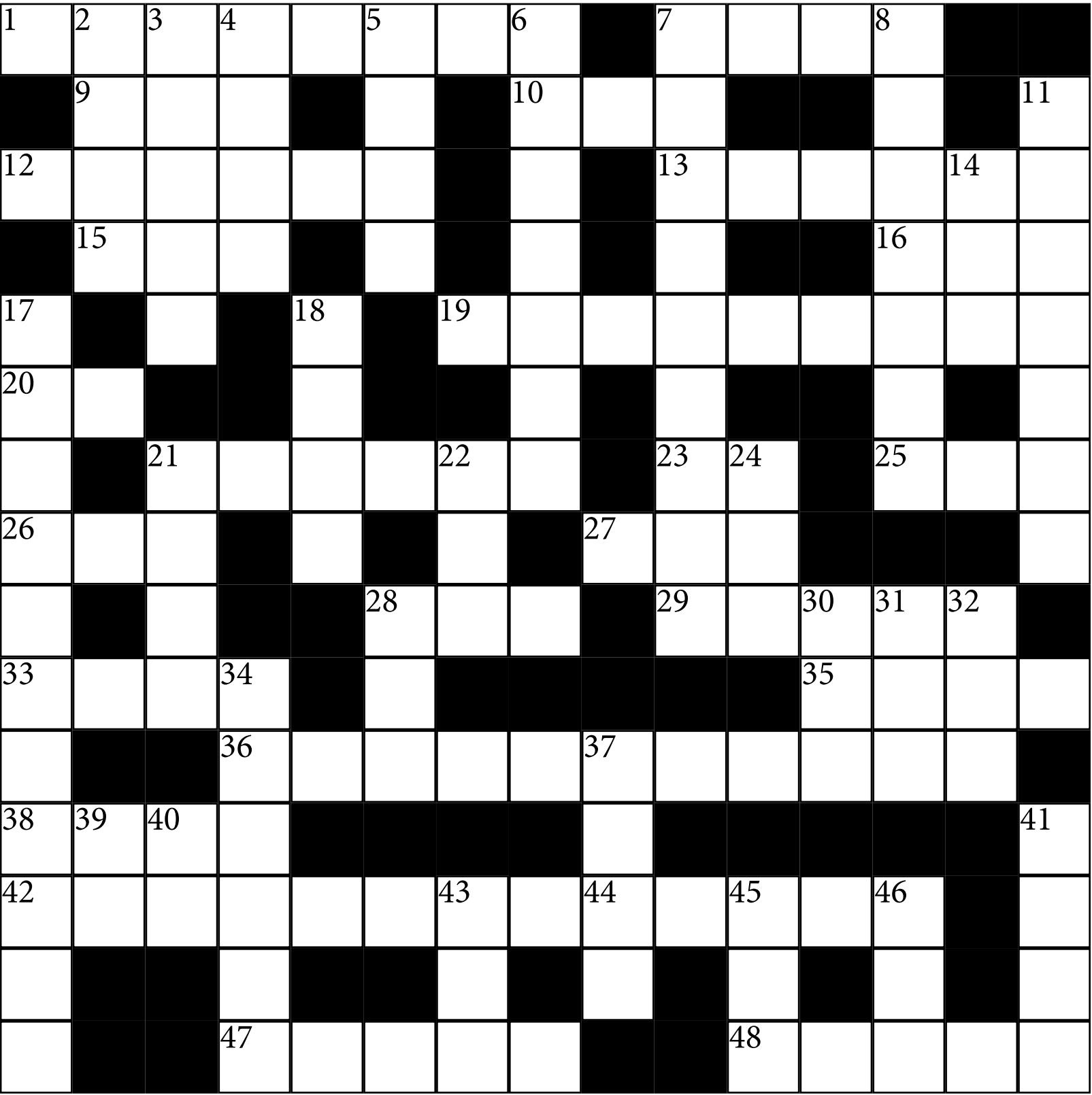
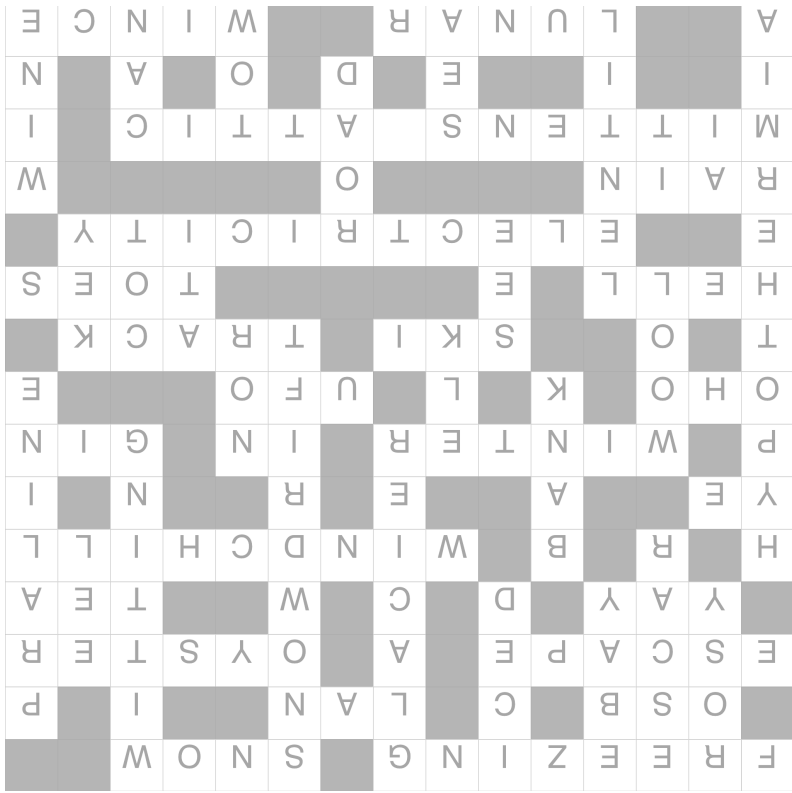
• Wednesday, November 13, 14:02 - Information Call Only, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Wednesday, November 13, 15:07 - Suspicious Vul Adult Abuse, 1st ST NE, Log Report

• Wednesday, November 13, 21:03 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/240th Ave, Warning-verbal

• Wednesday, November 13, 23:54 - Directed patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Thursday, November 14, 00:11 - Suspicious Vehicle, 240th Ave, Cleared



Across:

- 1 Leftovers final act
- 7 Eskimos have at least one word for this
- 9 Houses’ underwear material
- 10 Indoor nerd party
- 12 Snow bird activity
- 13 Food with a prize inside
- 15 Noise you make if you find the prize in 13 across
- 16 Hot drink, but maybe cold
- 19 Makes cold colder
- 20 God rest merry gentlemen
- 21 Seasonal depression time
- 23 Where you want to be when it’s real bad out there
- 25 Tastes like a Christmas tree
- 26 Surprised Santa
- 27 New Jersey drones
- 28 Wild Mountain activity
- 29 Finding a yeti
- 33 Rarely freezes over these days
- 35 Good boots let you keep these
- 36 Sun shining on rocks makes this
- 38 Baby snow
- 42 Gloves with one finger
- 44 Where the decorations go
- 47 Another new year
- 48 Sitting on a cold toilet seat

Down:

- 2 Cold cheeks
- 3 Snails that run out of gas
- 4 Where the crummy gifts go
- 5 Summer coffee
- 6 Big ice, now little ice
- 7 Get stuck in this
- 8 Add ‘un’, and you’re clueless
- 11 Tasty dessert
- 14 Electric critter
- 17 You’re almost done for
- 18 Where snow puts its money
- 21 Socks and sheep
- 22 Live on a farm in Elysian
- 27 How Australians say no
- 28 Why you scrape your windshield
- 29 Canadian graphics card co
- 31 Sleep on this in the ice house
- 32 Francis Scott’s last name
- 34 Soup legume
- 37 Home of black ice
- 39 Makes artists mad
- 40 Resets your password
- 41 Mull it over
- 43 Titanic is at the bottom
- 45 Call for this when 7 down
- 46 Source of cranberry sauce

Weekly crossword - Cold Stuff

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YEARS



Farmamerica invites you to celebrate the start of a new year at our second annual “Raise a Toast” event on January 17, 2025, at 6 p.m.

Farm to Fork dinner series continues at Farmamerica

Second annual toast to women

(Waseca, Minnesota)- Ladies, it’s time to unwind, and let Farmamerica treat you to an evening designed just for you! As the holiday rush fades, Farmamerica invites you to celebrate the start of a new year at our second annual “Raise a Toast” event on January 17th, 2025 at 6 p.m.

This year’s event promises to be even more memorable with an engaging evening of food, entertainment, and inspiration at Farmamerica, conveniently located just off Highway 14, 5 miles west of Waseca.

Highlights of this special evening will include:

- Red carpet treatment and time for relaxed conversation with the ladies
- A delicious four-course plated meal featuring local producers and paired with a complimentary signature cocktail.
- Special keynote by Michelle

Miller, “The Farm Babe,” sponsored by Crystal Valley. Farm Babe is an internationally recognized agricultural advocate; speaker, influencer, author, and podcaster.

- Plus, exciting surprises and thoughtful touches throughout the night!

Kari Wadd, Farmamerica Program Coordinator, shared her enthusiasm for the event. “We are looking forward to our second annual Raise a Toast, farm to fork event! This special evening will celebrate and honor women with an evening of great food, wonderful company, and remarks from our fantastic keynote speaker, Farm Babe. Gather your friends and family and join us for this event on January 17th.”

Tickets and additional information about this special evening can be found at farmamerica.org/events.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



■ BPCG

from Page 1

had been diagnosed with cancer and whose father suffered from a disability. “We found someone who could mow their lawn for them,” she says, “because the mother just didn’t have time to get it done.” In another case, the group arranged to build an accessibility ramp at a cancer victim’s home.

Recognizing the various difficulties cancer victims face while seeking treatment, Krejci lists gas cards, Mayo Clinic parking passes, and money toward overnight lodg-

ing among the most common types of assistance the BPCG offers.

“We make decisions on a case-by-case basis,” she says. “We try to concentrate our resources where they will help reduce the stress and worry victims and their families face.”

Most people helped by the BPCG live within 20 to 30 miles of Blooming Prairie, she says, but since the organization is independent, the 20 or so board members collaborate regarding who they will help and in what ways.

Krejci suggests anyone who wants to notify the BPCG regarding a family which could use assistance can reference the group’s web page, bpcancergroup.org.

Military experience with a Guardian Angel

As per this column on January 2, 2025 a request was made by Ole Olson, Commander of the American Legion in Albert Lea, to submit a Military Experience you had with a Guardian Angel. You may do so by contacting him at the American Legion phone 1-507-373-7993 or me at 1-507-373-8655.

Following is my Military Experience with a Guardian Angel:

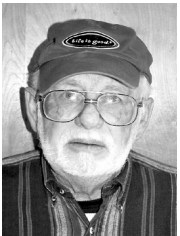
After graduating from New Richland High School in 1954, I wanted to go on to college, but the money wasn’t available to go.

I learned from the local U.S. Navy Recruiter of a plan referred to as “The kiddy plan.”

Under this plan if you enlisted in the U.S. Navy and you were on Active Duty before age 18 the U.S. Navy would discharge you no later than the month you turned 21 and the U.S. Government would pay for 4 years of schooling.

The “Kiddy plan” was an answer to my money dilemma.

After Naval Training and schooling, I was assigned to a small Naval Communication Station for the entire



“If you repeat what you have read here, it may be used against you.”

FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

far east. The total U.S. Navy personnel was about 300 staying on the base.

The Naval base consisted of 2 barracks of 2 floors each for sleeping, showers, card playing etc. A sick bay small Building, a Chowhall, a Commissary for small personal products, a bar serving beer and liquor, plus a one armed bandit of one dollar tokens to play by paying one dollar for each token. A small Chapel with about 25 capacity next to a Chowhall.

The base had a baseball field used also for outdoor activities.

There were tall structures, like cell phone and radio station structures, used for the far East communications

all over the base.

The work place was next to some of the tall towers. You walked into the workplace for your shift of 8 hours. Your 1st shift was 3 p.m. - 11 p.m. Off eight hours until your next shift of 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Then off 8 hours with your 3rd shift of 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. This was followed by 2½ days off and a repeat schedule.

The work place was a lot like the I 90 rest stop at Jackson, MN with the roof being covered with dirt and flowers. If you haven’t been to this rest stop, you must to get an idea of how one felt like a mole as you came and left your workplace.

The base had an outdoor speaker system that could be heard all over

the base.

On a day off I heard the speaker system. “All hands off duty, report to the chapel on the double.” I did and as I, one of the smaller personnel, was given a rope with instructions: “Run the rope over the top to a sailor on the ground.” He and a bigger sailor would pound a stake in the ground to tighten the rope. Run another rope back over the roof to a sailor doing the same thing, tying the chapel down.

As I’m running ropes over the roof of the chapel I found out, “The chapel is in the direct path of a typhoon.”

As we finish tying the chapel down, I hear the PA system: “Take cover either in the chapel or your Barracks. Now.” I took the barracks; some took the chapel.

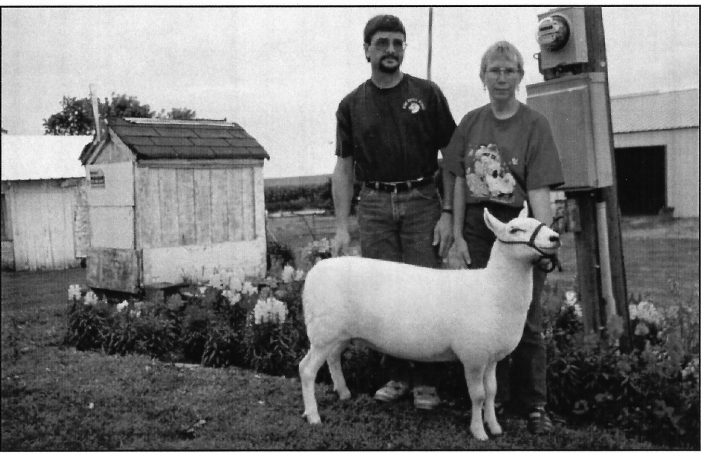
After high winds but not typhoon velocity, the all clear came over the base P.A. System.

Later we found out the typhoon changed direction and went around our small naval base.

To this day, I have wondered about a Guardian Angel saving us.

HERITAGE BITS

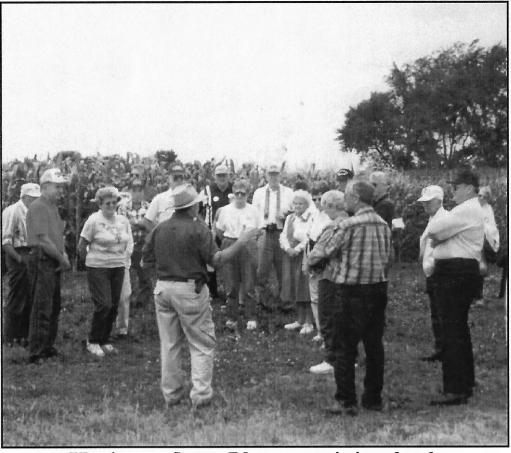
Ellendale Area Farm Tours, Wednesday, July 19, 2000 2:45-6:30, with picnic to follow at the park



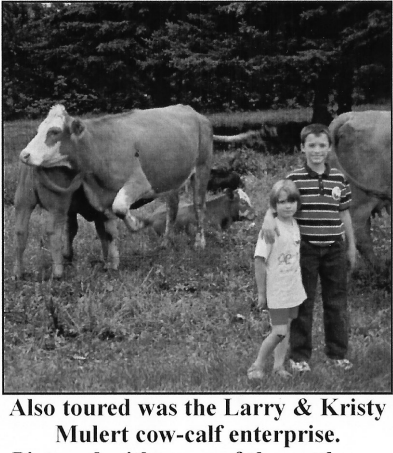
Mark & Jo Bernard hosted the farm tour at Pine Knoll Acres Registered Cheviot Sheep Farm



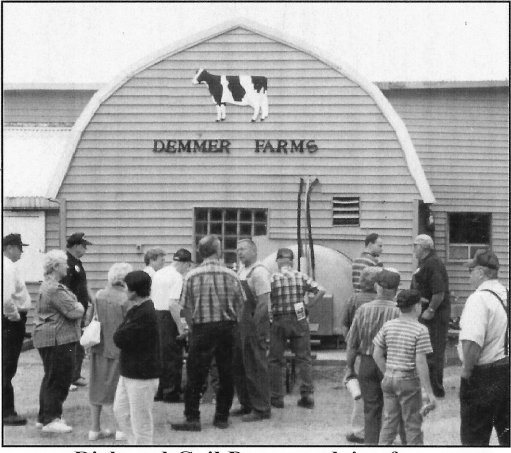
Nadine Streng, Master Gardner



Heritage Crop Plot containing both old and modern varieties



Also toured was the Larry & Kristy Mulert cow-calf enterprise. Pictured with some of the cattle are 2 of their children, C.J. & Sarah



Rick and Gail Demmer dairy farm

Compiled by BRENDA DOKKEN (1/9/25)

■ Utpadel

from Page 1

took it as a challenge.”

By the end of 2024, he says smiling, he had completed the treatments on schedule and managed to fulfill 46 bookings, never having defaulted on any. But he goes on to say, it was far from easy.

“When it hits, it hits,” he comments.

He remembers there were times his hands were swollen, making it difficult to play his guitar. “Those treatments really wipe a person out. There were plenty of times I would get home and go straight to bed.”

Much of the credit for his success,

he says, goes to his wife Sherry for having taken on extra tasks around their home on the east side of Geneva Lake. He expresses gratitude to his employer, Owatonna Motor Company for the flexibility he was given both for medical treatments and performances.

As 2025 proceeds, Utpadel says he is hoping to diversify his performances across a variety of venues. He has an “all gospel” set, he mentions, which other have encouraged him to present more often. He says he will be looking for churches to host the “All Gospel” event, suggesting his 90-minute performance might serve well as a prelude or follow-up to another church event. He of course also plans to continue in some of the locations where his fans are used to seeing him. One of his most consistent is Spare Time in Owatonna

which he finds very family friendly because in addition to the bar, there are a bowling alley and a video game room. Noting that his schedule is usually published on his Facebook page, he says he appears at the Albert Lea Moose Lodge quite consistently.

Utpadel also emphasizes it is not his tips alone which created such success in 2024. He mentions numerous organizations, including his employer and the Moose Lodge, which committed to matching his tips for a given month, effectively doubling people’s donations. When an organization does that, Utpadel puts its name on a banner which is displayed during all his performances. Individuals and organizations also occasionally offer to match tips for a single venue or event. And some have sponsored in honor of or in memory of a loved one. He says his

first banner is almost full so if anyone is interested, they are to let him know—last year two banners were needed to display all the sponsors, and he will do as many banners as needed.

Regarding his own battle with cancer, Utpadel expects an update in about three months regarding how successful the program of treatment has proven to be.

“I don’t know what this year holds,” Utpadel observes. “I do know, though, that every dollar I raise and every person the money helps is a reason to celebrate.”

“So, I’m going to keep on celebrating. Quitting is not an option.” Then he repeats his guiding questions: “If not US, then who? If not now, then when?”

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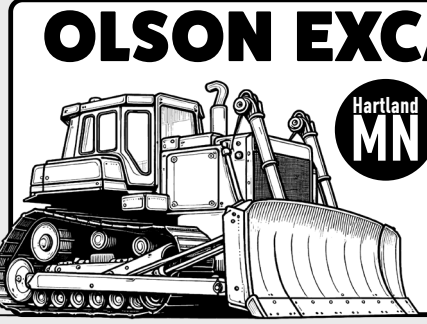
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Foul troubles cost NRHEG girls at Goodhue

Loss to state-ranked Wildcats ends winning streak for basketball squad

It was a break-even week for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School girls' basketball team, which lost 82-61 at Goodhue Saturday, following a 76-43 home-court victory over Kenyon-Wanamingo on Friday.

The Panthers, who trailed Goodhue 33-29 at halftime, got themselves in foul trouble from which they did not recover.

"Unfortunately, there was about a four-minute stretch in the second half where we had too many turnovers and they used that to their advantage," said NRHEG coach Onika Peterson.

Goodhue scored 32 points off turnovers, compared to 14 for NRHEG.

"That stretch hurt us," said Peterson. "We were right there and all of a sudden down by 17. I was extremely impressed with our girls fight. They never backed down the whole night and kept going at them."

Peterson said the Panthers had a great night rebounding, with 44 to Goodhue's 33.

"It was fun to see how we could match up to a very good state-ranked team," said Peterson.

The Panthers were led by Quinn VanMaldeghem with 21 points, 14 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals.

Others: Gabby Schlaak 2P, 3R, 3A, 2S; Ezra Boerner 4P, 1R, 1A; Izley Boerner 14P, 3R, 2A, 1S; Clara Buendorf 6R, 2A, 1S; Camryn VanMaldeghem 14P, 2R, 3S, 1 blocked shot; Cloie Stork 4R; Kylie Olson 6P, 9R, 1A, 2S, 1B.

In a rematch of the state championship game oh so many years ago, the Panthers led Kenyon-Wanamingo 29-19 at halftime while cruising to victory.

"It was great to get a win at home," said Peterson. "After the game, it's easy to critique what we

"They never backed down the whole night and kept going at them."

— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

did well and identify areas where we can continue to improve. Tonight highlighted a couple of things we need to focus on next week to keep getting better. That said, I'm constantly impressed with my girls. Their competitiveness, effort, hard work, and heart are never in question."

Individually: Schlaak 5P, 5R, 1A; E.Boerner 2P, 1R, 2A, 2S; Q.VanMaldeghem 8P, 7R; I.Boerner 13P, 3R, 5A, 2S; Buendorf 5P, 1R, 2A; C.VanMaldeghem 21P, 11R, 2A, 1S; Savannah Farr 1R; Stork 2P, 3R, 2A; Olson 20P, 10R, 1S, 3B.

The Panthers took the championship in a holiday tournament at Norwood-Young America, defeating Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 77-38 and Minnesota Valley Lutheran 83-37

"Our girls had two great games," said Peterson. "They moved the ball well on offense, making the extra pass to find their open teammates. Defensively, they caused havoc and effectively anticipated the next play."

Individually against LCWM: Schlaak 7P, 4R; E.Boerner 1R, 2S; Q.VanMaldeghem 25P, 3R, 1A, 14S, 3B; I.Boerner 10P, 4R, 1A, 1S; Buendorf 1S; C.VanMaldeghem 23P, 9R, 4A, 5S; Farr 1R; Stork 2R, Olson 12P, 7R, 1A, 1S; Alex Estrada 1S.

Camryn VanMaldeghem had the



PLENTY OF POINTS — Above, the Panthers' Kylie Olson scores two of her 20 points as the NRHEG girls' basketball team defeated Kenyon-Wanamingo 76-43 in New Richland last Friday. Below, Camryn VanMaldeghem drives for two of her game-high 21 points.

Star Eagle photos by Jim Lutgens

hot hand against MVL, totaling 32 points while going 8-for-11 on three-pointers. She added 7R, 2A, 5S, 1B.

Others: Schlaak 6P, 7R, 1A, 1S; E.Boerner 4P, 5R, 3S; Q.VanMaldeghem 19P, 10R, 6A, 5S, 3B; I.Boerner 2P, 3A, 1S; Kenley Gehrke 1S; Farr 3P, Stork 2R, 2A, 2S; Estrada 1S.

The Panthers, 2-0 in the Gopher Conference West and 7-4 overall, host Hayfield Friday in a boy-girl doubleheader and play Jan. 14 at JWP in another doubleheader.

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Overall
NRHEG	2-0	7-4
JWP	1-0	9-2
WEM	1-0	7-5
United South Central	0-2	5-6
Medford	0-2	0-9



Dominant performance

WHS hockey boys overwhelm Worthington

The Waseca High School boys' hockey team registered its seventh consecutive victory Friday, overwhelming Worthington 15-1 at Waseca Community Arena. The Bluejays improved to 10-1-0 for the season.

Henry Huttemier scored three goals for Waseca. Cash Lynch, Brayden Hesch-Priem and Jude Gehring scored two goals each, with one apiece for Beckett Srp, Jayden Gehring, Hunter Anderson, Anthony Selvik and Otto Schoenrock.

Schoenrock, Jackson Tesch and Griffin Storey each had three assists, with two each by Anderson and Jude Gehring. One assist apiece went to Huttemier, Anderson, Hesch-Priem, Srp and Selvik.

The Bluejays outshot Worthington 57-22.

Waseca goalie Josiah Schmidke totaled 21 saves. Both teams served four minutes on two penalties.

The Bluejays improved to 6-0-1 in the Big South while Worthington fell to 2-3 in the conference and 3-9 overall.

After playing Tuesday at Red Wing, the Bluejays host Minnesota River tonight. They travel to Worthington Saturday, New Prague Jan. 14 and at Rochester Lourdes Jan. 16.

Big South Standings			
	WLT	PTS	Overall
Luverne	6-0-1	13	9-2-1
Waseca	6-0-1	11	10-0-1
New Ulm	3-2-0	6	5-6-0
Windom	3-4-0	6	3-9-1
Minn. River	2-1-0	4	4-6-0
Worthington	2-3-0	4	3-9-0
Marshall	2-4-0	4	4-10-0
Redwood V.	1-5-0	2	2-9-0
Fairmont	0-6-0	0	0-8-0



ACTION AT THE NET – There was plenty of activity around the Worthington goal as the Waseca boys' hockey team skated to a 15-1 victory last Friday. Above, the Bluejays' Otto Schoenrock (10) shoots, with Jude Gehring (34) in the background. Below left, Henry Huttemier (5) shoots off a pass from Hunter Anderson (16). Below right, Cash Lynch scores.

Star Eagle photos by Jim Lutgens



NRHEG boys keep it close at Kenyon

The NRHEG Panthers went to Kenyon last Friday looking for their first win of the season.

They almost got it.

The Panthers jumped on top 6-0 early and led 62-60 late before eventually falling 71-66 in a Gopher Conference boys' basketball matchup.

Owen Wayne scored the first points for the Panthers on a three-pointer and an old-fashioned three-point play. The home team responded and led 36-24 at halftime.

The Panthers staged a furious second-half rally, taking a three-point lead with about five minutes to play.

Then Kenyon-Wanamingo made three three-pointers to put it away.

"I can't say enough how proud I am of the way the guys battled back in the second half," said NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt. "Before Christmas, we may have folded in that situation. But we never got down on ourselves. We moved the ball better than we have all season and got ourselves some really good looks at the basket. We shot better from the floor than we have because of that."

Hudson Chrz had an huge night for the Panthers, totaling 31 points. Wayne scored 17.

"We got some key contributions off the bench as well," said Schmidt.

Jordan Brouwers played well in a crucial five-minute stretch in the first half in which he played solid defense and had some strong rebounds. Aaden Hanna turned in a great effort, especially in the second half, working hard on the glass and contributing good defense and ball movement. Lavon Jewison gave us 4 points and 5 rebounds in the second half as well."

And the Panthers won some little battles that they have not previously this year, limiting KW to 6 points in transition. NRHEG scored 23 points off 18 turnovers, while limiting KW to 14 off of 18 turnovers.

"They pressed us a good amount of the game, and we handled it extremely well," said Schmidt. "Hopefully, we understand now why limiting our open-court turnovers is so huge. If we can continue to do these little things, we can continue to hang around and be competitive in games."

Individual totals: Hanna 5P, 4R, 3A, 1S; Greyson Schaefer 2P, 2R; Wayne 17P, 2R, 3A, 3S; Brendan Schmidt 3P, 6R, 3A, 3S, 2 blocked shots; Jewison 4P, 5R, 1B; Dom Olson 3R; Chrz 31P, 5R, 1A, 1S; Gavin Lewison 2P, 1R, 1A; Jase Knudson 2P, 1R, 2A, 2S; Brouwers 3R.

The Panthers, 0-1 in the Gopher Conference West and 0-8 overall host Hayfield at 6 p.m. Friday in a boy-girl doubleheader, then play another doubleheader at JWP Jan. 14.

Flyers fall to MN River

The South Central Flyers started the game in grand fashion against Minnesota River at LeSueur last Friday.

Unfortunately, it did not continue as Big South co-leader Minnesota River scored four unanswered goals to defeat South Central 4-1.

Mckenna Mortenson scored the Flyers' lone goal in the first period, unassisted.

Minnesota River went on to outshoot the Flyers 51-8 on the day.

Ilamay Draheim was in goal for Waseca.

The Flyers fell to 2-7-0 in conference play and 6-10 overall while Minnesota River improved to 7-0-1 and 13-2-1.

After playing at Mankato West Tuesday, the Flyers are at Worthington Saturday for a 1 p.m. contest. They have a home game Jan. 14 against New Ulm and play Jan. 16 at Austin.

Geneva City Council

The City of Geneva met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Steve Bailey at 6:30 p.m. at the Geneva Community Center. Present were Council members Phillips, Wayne, Bartsch and Worrell. Clerk Tuft, Treasurer Mattson, Maintenance Jim Beenken, Fire Chief Boswell and City Engineer Bienfang were also in attendance. There were three guests.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Council held its annual Budget Meeting prior to moving into the Regular Council Meeting. The budget was presented by Treasurer Mattson. It was noted that our Utility Revenue as well as other sources of income from property taxes and State funding have been sufficient to offset expenses this year and it was felt we would not need an increase in utilities or tax levy this year. A few expenses were increased knowing we would have additional street repairs, a new computer is needed and bond payments which will start in 2026, but not enough to justify an increase in the tax levy or utilities.

Phillips/Wayne moved to approve the Minutes and Agenda from previous meeting held October 8, 2024 with one typo to be corrected. Motion carried.

Beenken reported that he finished discharging lagoons and no signs of problems. The old park equipment was removed in preparation for new equipment to be installed. Reese Brothers had agreed to continue removing the compost pile in exchange for their taking the hay by West ball diamonds. Disconnection of services to the homes owned by Hohansee due to non-payment.

Old Business – it was determined that the light posts on 1st Ave N were sufficient and similar to other lighting on all other streets, so no new posts will be added. The concern on the water intake on 1st Ave N was visited

and Beenken indicated a plan was in place to make corrections.

Tufts shared the Election results and stated that Steven Bailey will be the Mayor for an additional four-year term, as will Council Member Susan Phillips. With the resignation of Taff Worrell, his position was open on the ballot with Garry Gordinier being elected for the four-year term.

Motion by Phillips/Worrell to approve the 2025 Budget. Treasurer Mattson will make some corrections to the Budget based on discussions from the Budget Meeting and will distribute at the December meeting. Motion carried.

Tufts and Phillips would be attending the Ordinance Meeting in Albert Lea on November 14th at Attorney Matt Benda's office. With the new laws going into place January, 2025, there will need to be revised zoning and ordinance/resolutions in place prior to January.

Tufts distributed the list of residents who were scheduled to be disconnected due to non-payment for almost two quarters. Beenken will deliver notices with a five-day disconnect notice unless paid.

Engineer Bienfang was in attendance to update the Council with maps and details of what would be shared at the Open House, which will be held on November 13th from 4:30-6:30. Bienfang and his staff will have handouts and presentations and will be available to answer questions that residents might have.

Bartsch requested that the road to the compost site be worked on to include a culvert and additional rock to allow easier access.

No financial report was provided due to the Budget Meeting being held.

Motion by Wayne/Worrell to approve the Bills Payable. Motion carried.

Motion by Phillips/Worrell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

County

from Page 1

be replaced.

Commissioner Brad Milbrath, a former Waseca County Sheriff, turned the conversation away from finances toward the many complications that could arise if the county no longer operated its own jail. First among them was the concern other facilities would not accept individuals arrested in Waseca County. Milbrath mentioned inmates whose mental state or use of substances make them dangerous to themselves, others, or both.

"Other facilities are not going to want that liability," Milbrath cautioned. "Any agreement we might reach about daily rates is useless if

it doesn't ensure the other facility will take all our inmates."

Administrator Johnson observed one way to overcome that obstacle would be to form a "joint powers agreement" with a nearby county.

But while that possibility provides a potential path to overcome the first obstacle, it does not deal with other objections stated during previous discussions, including the complications which would arise from having to transport inmates to and from court appearances, the time law enforcement officers would be taken away from their typical duties for the sake of transporting inmates, and the complications presented by bad weather or dangerous driving conditions. Also considerations are the inconveniences to probation officers, lawyers, and family members.



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Housing, salaries addressed by county board

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During the regular county board meeting on Dec. 17, commissioners approved using up to \$65,000 from the local housing trust fund (LHTF) to purchase a lot just under one acre in size in the southwest section of Waseca. Funds available to the LHTF, currently about \$210,000, are comprised chiefly of state-supplied money distributed to counties under the "local homeless prevention aid" program.

MNPrairie housing specialist Karina Schmitz presented a preliminary plan to build as many as six small homes on the property; each structure would stand on a concrete slab

and consist of a living room, kitchen, bathroom and either one or two bedrooms. Once built, the homes would be rented out following income-based guidelines.

Commissioners also gave pre-approval to the possibility of using about \$150,000 in LHTF funds to help investors in the Marketplace apartment complex project overcome a "funding gap." A planned first phase of the Marketplace project is a 3-story, 36-apartment structure which would be located on what is now a vacant lot between Waseca's Walmart store and the Junior Senior High School.

Plans and discussions regarding the Marketplace project are ongoing:

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

according to county community development coordinator Tina Wilson, if the project does not come to fruition, the allotted money would remain in the LHTF fund.

The 2025 salaries were set for elected officials.

County commissioners left their salary unchanged for the third year in a row: \$29,777. In addition to the annual salary, commissioners are paid \$95 a day for attendance at specific official meetings: The twice-monthly regular meetings, held at 9:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, are exempt from the per

diem.

The county attorney's salary for 2025 will be \$146,652, which constitutes a 5-percent raise over 2024.

The sheriff's salary will be \$133,300, also a 5-percent increase.

County commissioners took part in three sessions on Dec. 17. The first was an 8 a.m. work session which was devoted mostly to questions about the ongoing status of the Waseca County jail and the possible future construction of a new justice center.

They also oversaw an evening "budget and levy" hearing. Those other two sessions are summarized in separate articles which appear in this edition.

Waseca County levy set at \$18.1 million

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

At their "budget and levy hearing" the evening of Dec. 17, Waseca County commissioners set the county's final levy increase for taxes payable in 2025 at 1.36 percent. According to county administrator Michael Johnson, the percentage is the smallest county increase in the state. The dollar amount the county will receive from property taxes in 2025 is \$18.1 million. The county's budget for 2025 is \$39.9 million.

"Our staff has done an excellent job of seeking out alternate sources of revenue," commented commissioner De Malterer.

A Janesville area farmer was the

only member of the public to attend the evening meeting. He pointed out to commissioners that taxes on many of his acres had doubled for taxes payable in 2024, and, according to information sent out this fall, would be rising again in 2025.

He went on to ask what additional services he and others like him would be receiving, having paid so much more in taxes.

County administrator Michael Johnson explained the county, as well as other entities supported by property tax levies, including municipalities, townships and schools, did not receive double the amount in taxes in 2024. Instead, because of recent adjustments in the value of till-

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

able acres, the "tax burden" had shifted toward rural property. He mentioned that, during the pandemic when the value of residential property was rising so rapidly, those owners had seen substantial increases in their taxes.

He also explained the system for determining property values is established by the state. And, while it is the county's role to collect property taxes, the money received is distributed among the county, the township or city, and the school district within

which the property is located.

Numerous prior sessions had been devoted to determining the county's final levy for 2025. One last-minute adjustment occurred during the regular county board meeting held the morning of Dec. 17: Commissioners had voted not to complete a scheduled fund transfer of \$25,000 to the Waseca County Soil and Water Conservation district, given that the office had more than \$600,000 in its reserves.

The "unspent" amount was credited toward the 2025 budget, reducing the levy increase percentage from 1.5 to 1.36.

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OBITUARIES

Darlene Mucha

Darlene Diane Mucha, 82, of New Richland, went to her heavenly home on Wednesday, January 1, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. Darlene was a daughter of Rueben and Adeline (Huper) Niebuhr, born on September 7, 1942 in Wells, MN. Throughout her life, Darlene exemplified faithfulness, strength, love, and devotion.

Darlene was united in marriage to the love of her life, Robert Mucha, on June 28, 1960. Together they shared nearly 65 years of unwavering love and companionship, building a life filled with cherished memories. Their journey was blessed with three daughters, who were the heart and soul of their world: Sheryl, Linda, and Wendy. Darlene's greatest joy was her family. She treasured every precious moment watching grandchildren and great-grandchildren, imparting values of love and kindness.

An active member of St. Peter

Evangelical Church, Darlene served with dedication as the church treasurer and participated in various groups, including the women's circle and choir. Her homemade bread was a favorite at church bake sales. Beyond her church commitments, Darlene worked alongside her husband on their family farm, masterfully balancing the demands of farming with those of running a household, hauling corn and beans while driving a tractor with a grandchild on her lap.

Darlene found joy in sewing, quilting, crocheting, knitting, embroidering, gardening, putting together puzzles, cooking, and baking. She generously shared her gifts and talents with her family. Darlene had a deep love for music, with a special fondness for rock bands like AC/DC, Pink Floyd, Tom Petty, and Queen, illustrating her vibrant personality and zest for life.

Darlene leaves behind her devoted husband, Robert; daughters, Sheryl (Eugene) Kelly, Linda (John) Hullo-

peter, and Wendy (Gerald) Roe; grandchildren, Jackie (Josh) Moen, Amanda (Brian) Schulz, Michael (Shelby) Hullopeter, William (Baily) Hullopeter, and Robert Roe; 13 great-grandchildren, Kendra (Ben) Johnson, Ashton Raimann, Breckyn and Bexleigh Moen, Elliot, Ella, and Hayden Hullopeter, Quinn and Grace Hullopeter, and Landon, Connor, and Hunter Roe; a great-great-grandson, Russell Johnson; siblings, Ronnie Niebuhr, Diane (Denny) Lutteke, and Janet (Bill) Lowe; numerous nieces and nephews; and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, Darlene was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Sarah Roe; a great-granddaughter, Avery Schulz; and her paternal grandmother, Minnie Niebuhr, with whom she shared a special bond.

A visitation was held for family and friends from 4-7 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2025 at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church in New



Darlene Mucha

Richland. A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at church with visitation one hour prior to the service. Burial followed at St. Peter Cemetery in New Richland.

LOOKING BACK

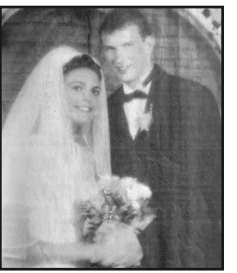
25 Years Back



- The first real Minnesota snowfall just before Christmas was just perfect for snowballing and erecting snowmen! These young fellows went all out as they fashioned a giant snowman, complete with Christmas lights in front of the Dennis Warke home in New Richland. They are from the left: David Root, Brian Bergland and Justin Lewer.

- Tuesday supper guests of Esther Bohm were Gerald and Bonnie Groskreutz of Wells. John and Elaine Tesch were New Year's supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Miller. On Friday, December 24, Herman and Grace Miller joined family members at the Steve and Ruth Vance home in Chanhassen for their annual family Christmas party. They attended Christmas Eve services at the Church of the Living Christ in Chanhassen.

-Lisa Renae Kyte and Kyle Bert Schlaak were united in marriage June 12, 1999 at the Waseca Evangelical Free Church. Pastor Dan VanLoon officiated the 4 p.m. double ring ceremony. Parents of the couple are Joe and Bonnie Kyte and Lyle and Diane Schlaak, all of New Richland.



- Stacey Krause, who was named student of the month for December at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School was congratulated this week by the Science instructors Sam Macklay (left) and Terry Anderson (right). Stacey Krause was named student of the month for December at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School by the Science Department. A daughter of Dennis and Sue Krause of rural New Richland, Stacey is a member of the high school's speech team and is a teacher's aid at the local school. She is a Bible study leader at her church. Wenn Stacey was asked why she would like to be an Elk Student of the month. She explained she has worked hard to achieve a high grade point average. "The scholarship would help greatly in funding my college education," she added. Stacey has been accepted at Minnesota State University at Mankato.

50 Years Back

- Larry Spear is opening an accounting office in New Richland, Monday, January 20 in the Farm and Home Real Estate building, one half block west of the corner of Broadway and 2nd St. NW. A member of the Minnesota Association for Public Accountants, throughout the year he has attended monthly meetings which presented information on tax law changes, manual versus computer to ethics of the profession.

- The Dean's List for the fall semester at St. Mary's College of Winona, Minnesota has been announced by Dr. Ulric Scott, vice president for academic affairs. The list includes 103 students who have attained an academic grade point average of 3.8 or better on a 4.0 scale. Students from this area are: Robert J. Yerhot of New Richland and Thomas F. Clasen, both of Waseca.

- The New Richland-Hartland high school wrestlers defeated Alden, 22-21, Friday. After trailing Alden following the third match, 15-3, the Cards came back to win in the final match of the evening, which found Rich Westland defeating Bob Scrabeck, 9-3. 98 lb - Brad Whelan(A) pinned Mike Wallin(NR) 3:11. 105 lb - Daryl Reimer(A) dec. Eric Espe(NR) 5-2.

112 lb - Brian Wittmer(A) pinned Jim Battey(NR) 4:19. 119 lb - Kevin Knutson(NR) dec. Daryl Sanderson(A) 10-2. 126 lb - Scott Smith(NR) dec. Brian Whelan(A) 8-3. 132 lb - Randy Warke(NR) dec. Craig Whelan(A) 4-1. 138 lb - Hiroshi Nisiumaki(NR) dec. Cory Carlson(A) 16-4. 145 lb - Burton Berg(NR) dec. Steve Lindeman(A) 3-2. 155 lb - Randy Whelan(A) dec. Keith Root(NR) 11-9. 167 lb - Gordy Ebnet(NR) dec. Rick Newman(A) 9-1. 180 lb - Clair Drescher(A) dec. Al Bartholmey(NR) 5-2. Hwt. - Rich Westland(NR) dec. Bob Scrabeck(A) 9-3.

75 Years Back

-Theron Johnston Former New Richland man, son of Mrs. W.R. Johnston, who sold his Coast-to-Coast store in Canton, S. D. last summer, made a deal last week at Waterville taking over the Ford Agency garage there. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston and son have been living in Owatonna the past few months. Mr. Johnston will change the name of the garage to Waterville Motor Co. and will have a grand opening soon.

- Mr. and Mrs. John E. Wallace of New Richland became the parents of a daughter on February 9, born at the Naevie hospital, Albert Lea. Mrs. Wallace is the former Vivian Hanson.

-The League of Women Voters will be entertained at the home of Mrs. Edwards Silvers Tuesday evening, February 14. Guest speakers are to be Hope Washburn and Barbara Stuhler of Minneapolis, president and secretary respectively, of the State Organization Committee of League of Women Voters. They will discuss state economic problems.

January offers plenty for the outdoors enthusiast

The next few months offer some opportunity for outdoors adventures. Whether you are an avid fisherman or a hunter, there are plenty of opportunities to do both. The ice is good on the area lakes, and I have seen a few "permanent" houses on Fountain Lake, along with some portable ones. I haven't heard much about the catching so far, but early-on they were catching fish. My Grandson Trevor has not been on the ice as much as in past years, but I am sure he will be getting in the groove again. He has been going to Red Wing, fishing open water for Wall-eye. One Saturday he took his dog and went there a week before Christmas and caught 50 walleyes. My wife noticed in the video he had a counter and had clicked off the number. He didn't keep any fish, but he just caught and released. The kid definitely knows how to catch fish!

If you have a youth who has taken the firearms safety class, the small game season is on until 02-28-25. Whether its mourning dove, squirrel or rabbit, getting started small game



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl

Outdoors Writer

hunting is literally a walk through field and forest. It's a great way to learn as you observe your surroundings and what happens around you.

As a youth I didn't have to take a firearms safety course. I just went out in the slough and walked it. We still had pheasant and waterfowl seasons, but I never hunted waterfowl. Squirrels, rabbits, and pheasants were much more plentiful back then. Those were fun times, and you didn't ask permission to hunt because you knew the farmer, and we treated the landowner's property with respect, which goes a long way.

One thing that winter does for me is it helps me anticipate the spring

and warmer weather. I do enjoy sitting in a warm house while watching the birds at the feeder, and I also like to watch the squirrels and rabbits in the yard. I don't believe that the rabbits are quite as abundant as in past years, but that may have something to do with all the cats that are allowed to roam the neighborhood.

You don't have to leave the city to observe wildlife. One evening I arrived home after dark and spotted an animal trotting across my driveway. I quickly recognized that it was a coyote right here in my yard. This made me realize that these animals are getting more used to interacting with humans. Even though I thought

that this was cool, I realized that it wasn't a good sign. Two years ago, my wife spotted two deer walking down the street in front of our house. The next day she told me to look out the deck door at the fence between the neighbor's house and our back yard. There was a hen turkey walking on the fence. After a few minutes, I spotted the turkey heading across the street with about seven little ones following her. This was a year for the books as far as wildlife goes. It was a wonderful day in the neighborhood!

Until next time: With the lack of snow and cooler temperatures, it is a good time to head to the State Park. You can take a nice walk and also see wildlife. There are not only deer and other furbearers to see, but also eagles, hawks and other birds so be seen.

Please show your support for our troops who are now deployed. These service men and women are making that sacrifice, so that we may have the many freedoms that we enjoy today.

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Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
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Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Otisco, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Mary Iverson
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee
Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting (first Wednesday)

LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)

WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday of the month)
Quilting meets 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, see newsletter for dates.

HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Manchester, Minnesota
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Glenn Frerichs
Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass
Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN
Geneva, Minnesota
Pastor Leandra Anderson
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship (times vary for holidays)
Monday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

SIMPLY CHURCH
105 Second Street North East
Geneva, Minnesota
Todd Lundgren, Pastor
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor David Modder
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids

church
Check the website for additional updates
www.vibrantlifecg.com

FIRST LUTHERAN, AFLC
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor Kyle Smith
Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Monday - 7 p.m. Call to prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 6 p.m. Confirmation; 7-9 p.m. Youth Group (No confirmation during summer)

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
Ellendale, Minnesota
Randy Cirsena, Pastor
Sunday - Summer Service time is 9:30 a.m. Worship; 9:15 a.m. Sunday school. (No summer Sunday school)
Worship is at 10:30 a.m. beginning after Sept. 3. Sunday School from Oct. through May from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
Food shelf is open every Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

CENTRAL FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Matt Griggs
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 89.7

EAST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Pastor Matt Griggs
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 89.3

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS
Hollendale, Minnesota
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

HOLLAND REFORMED
Rev. Neal Ooms

101 East Park Avenue
Hollendale, Minnesota
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA
Rural Ellendale
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN, ELCA
Meriden, Minnesota
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN
Lemond Township
Pastor Dave Klawiter
Sunday - 10:15 a.m. Worship

FIRST LUTHERAN, LCMC
Hope, Minnesota
Pastor Sandy Miller
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Youth/Adult Study

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Clarks Grove, Minnesota
Pastor James Cameron
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
Father Peter Schuster
Sunday - 8 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation; 8:30 a.m. Mass with Children's Church, Preschool Sunday School during Mass
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-Confirmation
www.litomysl.webs.com
www.stisidorecschool.webs.com

FIRST LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota

Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

ST. PAUL UNITED
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Interim Pastor
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Interim Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Rev. Larry Sipe
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship

ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President
Waseca, Minnesota
www.lds.org
Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18

NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE STAR EAGLE.

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