

8 0 4 8 7 9 3 2 6 1 6 8

■ Inside:

• 3 - Local city councils

• 4 - Obituaries

• 6 - Sports

• 7 - Geneva Cancer Auction

• 8 - Looking Back

• 9 - Classifieds

• 10 - Sleigh and Cutter

■ Page 5



Women in Ag

Boundary Waters exhibit at the NR 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.

Pinnacle Pro Wrestling's 'Winter War' at The Mill Saturday, Jan. 25

The Mill Event Center will have Pinnacle Pro Wrestling perform Winter War from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25. Tickets are available online.

NRHEG Middle School Music Concert 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25

NRHEG middle-schoolers will present a concert at the district's secondary site in New Richland beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Waldorf Community Pickleball every Thursday at old Waldorf School

Waldorf Community Pickleball play every Thursday at 5:00 till 9 p.m. or so. They meet at the old Waldorf School in the gym, 144 North Street in Waldorf.

Naeve Alumni and Nurses' Club to Offer Scholarships

The Naeve Alumni and Nurses' Club has nursing scholarships available to area graduating seniors, or persons who have successfully completed one year of education in an RN program. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Applications are available from school counselors, principals or by contacting Rosie Rasmussen at (507) -377-3683 or cell phone 507-391-0404) and also by e-mail: jrrassen@charter.net

Factors to be considered by the scholarship committee are academics, community involvement and demonstrated leadership.

All completed applications must be received by April 1, 2025 to be considered and processed.

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

Donations are requested to support the construction of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial. Checks written to WVMP Fund Drive can be mailed to WVMP Fund Drive; Judy Joecks, treasurer; P.O. Box 55; Waldorf, MN 56091. Questions can be directed to Charlie Barnes at (763) 286-2246.

A word from
The Word



He changes times
and seasons; he re-
moves kings and
sets up kings; he
gives wisdom to the
wise and knowledge
to those who have
understanding.

Daniel 2:21

Nrhegstareagle.com

The NRHEG Star Eagle is proud to announce the creation of its new website, which went public early this month. The website can be found at: www.nrhegstareagle.com

Our website will remain completely free. Readers will have the option to purchase an E-Edition subscription in order to have access to an online version of the newspaper, identical to its print counterpart. This will be the only item for sale on the Star Eagle website, besides an option to purchase a print subscription or bundle the pair together.

Not every story will be published online, and not every story will be put online immediately.

"My dad always told me the newspaper should be free," Star Eagle Publisher Eli Lutgens said. "This is the next best thing."

Readers are encouraged to continue their print subscriptions, since that will assure they receive the most recent news in a household-friendly format. The website's purpose is to increase the exposure and accessibility of select stories, and to preserve access to information of lasting interest.

The previous website, newrichlandstar.com, will remain online as an archive of all of the stories posted since its creation more than a decade ago.



NRHEG Band director Seth Schaefer and members of the 2025 band were able to set up shop in their refurbished space for the first time on Friday, Jan. 18. Construction delays had the room "in progress" for upgrades since before the school year began last September. The room now has reconstructed support structures under the tiered floor, new wooden floors and carpeting and up-graded electrical outlets. Perhaps the most visible change are the newly installed specialty cabinets spanning the back of the room.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently

NRHEG Band is finally "home"

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

"I can't say enough about Mr. Schaefer's professionalism and composure," stated NRHEG Superintendent Michael Meihak regarding district band director Seth Schaefer's response to a string of "construction woes" which began in June of 2024.

Until Friday, Jan. 17, those "woes" called upon Schaefer and the members of the high school band to show daily flexibility as their instruction and operations were moved to other locations in the secondary building.

That difficult journey ended as the band reclaimed its space—although Schaefer says it will take a while before all the band's properties—including sheet music and other small items—are truly organized. He expresses gratitude for specifically designed storage cabinets which now grace the back of the room.

Throughout the first half of the school year, as covered in prior editions of the Star Eagle, school vocal music instructor Krista Reeder and band director Schaefer devised workarounds which allowed them to continue their programs of instruction despite the band room being closed. Through the fall, Schaefer would frequently take the band outdoors to practice its marching and

field performance routines. Large instruments and many other band supplies were stored on the high school stage. Even when the band would be going outdoors, this led to extra activity at the beginning and end of the class hour when band members assembled in the gym. Physical education teachers also had to show flexibility by moving their instruction elsewhere when possible to allow for occasional indoor practices.

Once cold weather arrived, the band students' chairs and music stands were set up in the choral music classroom. Though vocal and instrumental music classes are not held at the same time, the large amount of furniture imposed many changes to typical procedures for Reeder; the smaller size of the classroom led to cramped space for the instrumental department.

"It's a system that let us keep moving forward," Schaefer observed, "but it's far from ideal."

Superintendent Meihak explains that, as part of the upgrades included in last summer's numerous projects completed both in Ellendale and New Richland, some linoleum flooring tile dating back to the 1950s was scheduled to be removed from the high school band room. As did many construction items from that time,



A four-person crew from Wengert of Owatonna spent two days in the NRHEG band room delivering, assembling, and facing 23 cabinets which have specialized space for musical instruments. Crew members included (from left) Jace Allen, David Riley and Kimberly Kwapick.

the linoleum contained asbestos. It had not posed a danger to students because it was in a solid form and would not become airborne. The tile had also long ago been covered over by carpeting.

Still, Meihak points out, it was asbestos, and so the plan was to remove the worn carpeting, remove the linoleum tiles, and then not only lay new carpeting, but replace the battered shelving which spanned the back of the room and was used for

storage, most visibly of school- and student-owned instruments.

Asbestos removal is a specialized process requiring numerous safety protocols; laying floor covering is a less technology intensive task, so a number of different companies were contracted to perform the various stages of the work, Meihak explains. Which is why, when a complication

Band continued on 8

Sheridan Stenbeck, counseling intern

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Still a student herself, Sheridan Stenbeck has been grateful to spend the 2024-25 school year learning alongside the students of NRHEG—although on a somewhat different level.

Stenbeck, 25, is completing the final stages to earn her master's degree in school counseling from St. Cloud State University—a goal she will complete when she graduates in May. Among the final expectations for the degree is a year-long internship, a minimum of 600 hours, spent

in a school setting.

A graduate of Forest Lake High School who went on to pursue an undergraduate degree in psychology at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minn., and then her master's at St. Cloud State, Stenbeck found herself in a completely unfamiliar part of Minnesota when she and her husband Cody relocated to Albert Lea for the sake of Cody's job in 2023.

She explains that, thanks to remote learning options, she could

Intern continued on 5



NRHEG Secondary counselor Liz Stiernagle (left) with Sheridan Stenbeck, who has been serving as a part-time unpaid intern with the NRHEG Secondary counseling office since the beginning of the school year.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

Council members, new officer sworn in

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Josh Warke, one of two new New Richland City Council members, as well as reelected council member Jody Wynnemer, took their oaths of office during the council's first meeting of the year on Monday, Jan. 13.

Newly-elected council member Matt Economy was absent for the meeting, along with Mayor Janda Ferguson.

Joel Jandt, New Richland Police Officer, was also sworn in as a full-time officer during the police report presentation by Police Chief Tanyce Bruegger. The council approved Resolution 25-3, Resolution of Police Officer Declaration, as well as a Joint Powers Agreement with the South Central Drug Investigation Unit and a pay increase from \$18/hour to \$24/hour, effective the Jan. 14, 2025 pay period, for police department records staff.

In her report, Chief Bruegger stated that the NRPD responded to 128 calls for service in December, bringing the total calls for the year 2024 to 2,134. This is up from a total of 1,323 calls in 2023. The police report was approved.

The consent agenda items, which were approved by the council, included Resolution 25-01 Adopting Updated Fee Schedule and Resolution 25-02 Authorizing New Member in Regional Safety Group.

The ambulance report, submitted in writing, included a request to change to a new billing company. After some discussion, the council agreed to a contract with a new provider, EMS MC.

The report also stated that the ambulance had a total of 125 runs in 2024, and had seven runs this year as of Jan. 9. The report was approved.

The fire department report was also submitted in writing and stated that the department responded to two calls in December, bringing the total number of calls for 2024 to 37. Bid specifications for a new brush truck the department plans to purchase have been completed, and the council approved the opening of bids and publication of bid specifications in the NRHEG Star Eagle and online. The report was approved.

In unfinished business, the council approved a labor contract for law enforcement services, aka LELS Local #407 2025-2026 contract, as well as Resolution 25-4 Establishing Handicap Parking at Trinity Lutheran Church. An EDA fix-up grant for Panther Powerhouse at a total of \$3,000 was approved along with the administrator's report, and the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Mother Nature is tricky

The scurs and Weather Eye underachieved in both the temperature and precipitation department. Will Old Man Winter take his foot off our throats or are we in for more in the near term? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with highs in the mid-to-upper teens and lows around 5 above. Partly sunny on Friday with highs in the mid-20's and lows in the upper teens. Mostly cloudy Saturday with highs in the upper 20's and lows around 10 above. Sunday, partly sunny with a slight chance of snow showers. Highs in the mid-20's with lows in the upper teens. Sunny on Monday with highs in the mid-30's and lows in the low teens. Tuesday, mostly sunny with highs in the low 30's and lows in the mid-teens. Mostly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the upper 20's and lows around 10 above. We continue adding daylight daily at over two minutes per day. The normal high for January 25th is 22 and the normal low is 4 above. The scurs are wondering how we've already managed to burn up a good chunk of January so quickly, not to mention a pile of firewood as of late.

That is a good question. Aside from a few cold snaps, it's been relatively smooth sailing. Precipitation continues to be minimal and road conditions have been good, despite a few frosty mornings and the like. The warm up promised in the forecast should help put minds at ease as we head into February. Not seeing the LP man frequently hasn't hurt most people's feelings. Anything to help keep a few more dollars in one's pocket as grocery and gas prices continue to be high. Some have wondered just where the frost depth is presently. The last reading on January 16th from the SROC in Waseca indicated the frost depth there to be 20". Knowing we've had substantially colder days and nights since, one could guess it's even deeper now. Some are wondering about the overwintering insect populations with the lack of snow cover. It takes some pretty substantial cold to make much of a dent in them unfortunately and factors other than cold temperatures also affect the overall population and economic injury potential.

For instance, western corn rootworm eggs begin suffering mortality at around 20 degrees soil temperature. However, it takes soil temperatures down to zero for 100% mortality. Mother Nature is tricky that way as the eggs are not all laid in the top 2" where the coldest soil temperatures will occur. And, as we discovered last summer, saturated soils were a major factor in thinning the herd so to speak when we started looking at rootworm beetle trap captures. Yes, winter soil temps are important, but they certainly don't tell the whole story. Likewise with soybean aphids. -29 air temperature will cause mortality of soybean aphid eggs attached to buckthorn buds bracts. It's probably done that in places in northern MN. However, if the lower limbs of buckthorn containing soybean aphid eggs become buried in the snow, it becomes much more difficult for the temperature to reach -29. Couple that with the remarkable reproductive capabilities of the soybean aphid and it becomes

easy to see why they remain a formidable pest in soybeans.

We see a lot of the same dynamics come into play at the ranch. For instance, last week I mentioned I saw the maggots wriggling in the manure pack as I was loading it into the spreader. This recent spate of subzero cold should take care of them, right? The ones I saw before running them through the spreader, no doubt about it. The ones I couldn't get to because it's froze too hard outside? Probably not. Other garden insect pests such as squash vine borer operate based on the same principle. Unless all the vines are removed and the ground turned over, odds are there could be some that survive to infest the upcoming year's vine crops. And, something I neglected to mention, many of these pests can fly as adults. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that even if you do everything to control the pests on your own turf, they can come from someone else just down the road or in some cases many miles away. As Roseanne Roseannadanna used to say, it's always something.

Even as cold as it's been recently, it pales in comparison to some winters locally and for sure to those when I lived in North Dakota. My last residence there was only six miles from the Canadian border, so you can about imagine how cold it got. The difference in latitude makes all the difference between locations. At any given time, temps here can easily be 10-20 degrees warmer than it is there. The winters between Rolla and Rock Lake could be brutal at times. Where I lived was nearly equidistant from the two towns. My mailbox was 3 miles from my house as mail was only delivered on main roads, not on gravel roads. There were no cell phones or satellite TV, so one was left to their own devices. TV was interesting with only one US station available from Devil's Lake and several from Canada. Canadian TV schedules were predicated around hockey games in the winter. When a hockey game was on, programs would end abruptly, so you watched hockey. And you liked it.

Poppy fared decently through the cold spell, although one could see the limitations of those small feet that start to show up sometimes. Lifting a paw on the way into the house after chores provided a clue that perhaps it was time for a Corgi to get back inside to her warm floor heat. There has become a buildup of little Poppy grenades littering the yard due to the lack of snow. She's become very good about not wasting time that way recently, giving some signals when she needs to go out, getting her business done and coming back in quickly. Even though the days have been cold, the sliding glass door has remained thawed, so it makes it easy for her squirrel chasing. There have been many "dog days" recently where one or both of us are around, so there's greater opportunity for that form of exercise. It really does help keep Poppy in good condition. Even the squirrels look like they're in better shape.

See you next week...real good then.

If you don't succeed, tie, tie again

In a recent conversation, someone was telling me that some schools don't work with young children on how to tie their shoes anymore. So many kids apparently wear shoes that don't necessitate tying that it's not looked at as worth the time.

When I think of kindergarten, learning to tie shoes correctly is one of those things that pops to mind as a major goal for that age. Just like skills such as knowing the alphabet and counting to a certain number, some kids are always ahead of the curve, but teachers of our wee students work to make sure everybody can accomplish that skill, along with the letters and numbers.

I recall there being two ways to tie shoes. Some people would make two rabbit ears and loop them around each other somehow. I could never do that, so I make one ear and then tie around and under to get the other one.

Our shoes are such important parts of our lives. The type of shoe we wear might be based on the setting in which we find ourselves. The older we get, the more the comfort of the shoe is paramount. Let's start at the beginning, though.

I always found it amusing to see babies who can't even walk wearing shoes with shoestrings. What is the point of this? To dress them up in some way, like for a photograph? Seems like something the baby wouldn't like very much, doesn't it? Just stick with the booties, for ease, comfort, and warmth.

Once children have learned to walk, it's on to wearing shoes, though sometimes these are the easy slip-on variety. Parents are perpetually in a rush, so tying shoes involves seconds you don't have. By



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier

Contributing Writer

this age, the kids might wear shoes that tie to dress up for a special occasion, but it's likely those shoes get abandoned as soon as they are able since the comfort level is probably not high.

And then we arrive in school. It's important to be able to tie your shoes, mainly because in winter, you need to switch back and forth with snow boots. Plus, you might have a separate pair of shoes for gym class. But I guess, based on the conversation I mentioned earlier, that many kids just keep wearing slip-on shoes at that age.

See, that just doesn't work once you start competing in most sports. You need to have shoes that can lace up and stay tight, partly as a way to brace your ankles as you race around on whatever playing surface you need. It wouldn't do to throw a shoe while cutting on a basketball court or rounding first on a softball field.

So learning how to tie your shoes is still important. It feels like, especially at younger levels, we have to stop play in a sporting event to allow someone to tie their shoes again. I suggest double-knots. I've also mentioned the possibility of duct tape.

I enjoy it when, occasionally, I'll see an entire team wearing the same style of shoes. That's how things were when I grew up, part of the team dynamic. The seniors would

determine the shoes the entire program would wear; there was not a choice. Now you see a wide variety many times, with varying colors, some of which aren't even close to the school colors. It was a pretty hefty price tag back in the day when the seniors decided we'd all be wearing Air Jordans. My parents were not fond of forking out \$40. I don't even want to know what they cost now.

My parents rarely spent much on new shoes. We were just going to outgrow them anyway, and that could be a month later or a year later, who knew? Once we had gone an entire year without growth, they decided they could spend more on a nice pair because we could wear them until they had holes in the soles.

When you get to a point where you might get a part-time job, a different pair of work shoes might be needed, depending on the job. When Anton worked at Arby's, he had to have non-slip shoes, which made sense. Some jobs need work boots, sometimes with steel toes for protection. Even as an umpire, I had special shoes I wore to protect my feet from foul tips. It's more about safety at times than style.

Comfort is always important. I've never understood heels; I can't imagine they're comfortable. I looked it

up, since the joke is always that men invented high heels. And actually they did - for themselves. The cavalry in Persia would wear them to stand up in the stirrups and be able to shoot their bows. Then European men saw this and took it as a fashion trend. Women eventually started wearing them to make their feet look smaller.

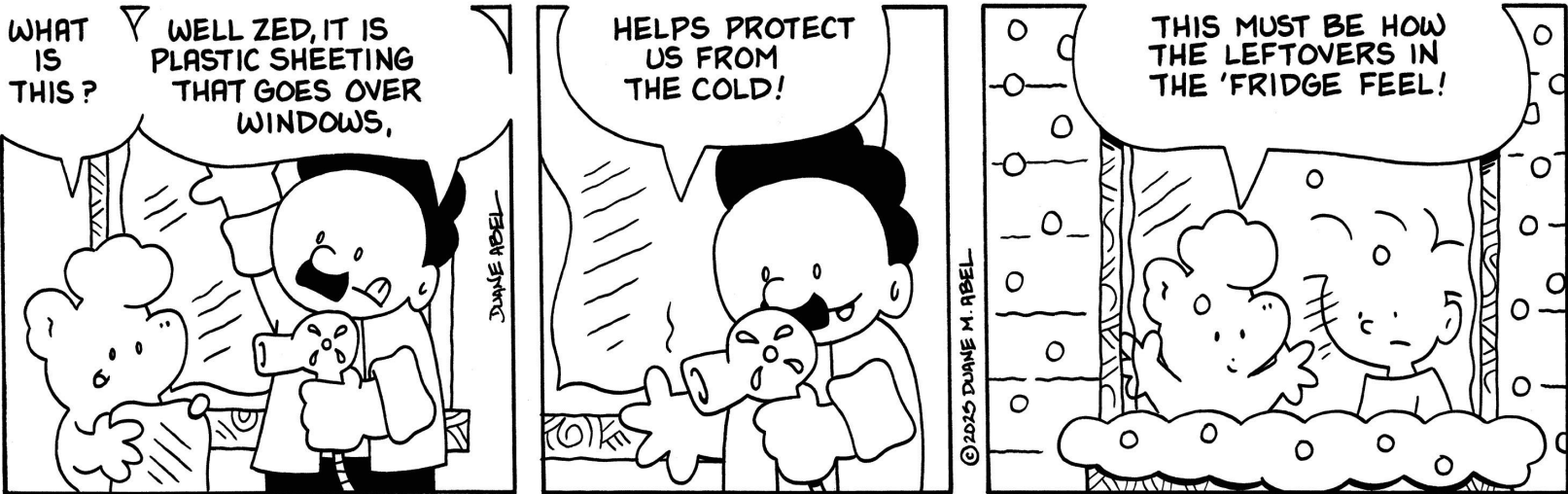
A few years ago, I started buying shoes with a wider area for the toes. This actually helped when I was dealing with plantar fasciitis. They were so comfortable that they are the only type of shoe I wear now, even when I dress professionally for school. The dress shoes I used to wear might have exacerbated my foot issues, so I have left them in the bottom of my closet.

As we get older, the slip-on shoes might be the best option again, just like when we were young. It gets a little tougher to bend over and tie them, so back we go to our youth. It becomes not just about comfort, but ease. Maybe that's why crocs are so popular; it's certainly not because they look amazing.

I hope there is always a focus on making sure our kids can tie their shoes, right alongside reading and math. It's a hand-eye coordination skill and will be important so they don't need to have their parents come out on the court to retie them during a game.

Word of the Week: This week's word is mimetic, which means copying the behaviors of others, as in, "The children were mimetic in nature in noticing how one child tied their shoes and then copying that method." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Minnesota Session Priorities event 2025

This week I had the opportunity to attend the Minnesota Session Priorities event.

The day began with an hour and a half drive. Prior to my drive I was trying to track down a 'car coat' or rather some sort of jacket to wear over my suit coat. My mother, who was helping me, and I, were unsuccessful. In the days since, however, Deb Bently has come to the rescue and secured me a very nice jacket to wear on formal occasions. Thank you, Deb, kindly.

I will be needing the jacket again next Thursday as we attend the Minnesota Newspaper Association awards banquet. Our staff and its writers are receiving 14 awards this year. I will write all about it following the event.

After arriving at the River Centre in St. Paul, I located our entourage. There was some lively conversation as we made our way to one of the conference rooms where we listened/watched a live taping of Minnesota Public Radio. More good conversation followed the broadcast.

Dinner was very good: a salad, steak and chicken, and a fancy cheesy potato combo, broccoli and a dessert of chocolate cake in a martini glass.

Prior to the dinner Governor Tim Walz spoke for about 10 minutes. Once folks were done eating, a political correspondent from KSTP interrogated the leaders of the DFL and Republican parties live on stage. In actuality he simply asked

both sides questions. It was entertaining and informative. I quite enjoyed listening to the different people speak.

Of those on stage during the evening, I have met and spoken with Governor Walz on three different occasions as well as senator Erin Murphy, who is the current leader of the Senate DFL. When it comes to local representation, I have met our local state senators and representatives, all of whom represent the Republican party. I can tell you my interactions with them have all been positive.

I generally don't pick any sides when it comes to politics. There is right and wrong, morally speaking. People are not 'left or right' and so I generally avoid those types of conversations. There are simply different issues/problems/responsibilities and the way to handle those situations will continue to be questioned.

My main takeaway from this event was that the 'Waseca County Legislative Committee' really got to spend time with each other for the first time. I enjoyed many good conversations and am grateful for the opportunity to get to know more about some of my colleagues.

I look forward to continued community involvement.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

Star Eagle

NRHEG SERVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREA and the communities of Waseca, Otisco, Hope, Clarks Grove, Matawan, Freeborn and Waldorf

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Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

Waldorf council organizes for 2025

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas attended the Jan. 13 meeting of the Waldorf city council. It being the first meeting of the year, Dulas helped with the swearing-in of Rob Wilkening, who was elected to his fourth two-year term as the town's mayor during the November election. Since Waldorf does not have its own police force, it relies on the county sheriff's office for patrols and responses. Dulas assured council members the town's citizens are in good hands.

Once Wilkening was officially installed, he took over swearing in council members Jamie Beckstrand and Cody Schnepf, who were elected to their four-year terms in November. Schnepf stated he would like to see some things cleaned up in town and, while he is also, "hoping to see the town expand some." Beckstrand said, "I agree with Cody. One of the things I'm concerned with is adding more accuracy to town property lines." Council members continuing in their offices also shared some priorities. Carrie Ferch said she would like to see a new fire hall, but admitted she "likes to dream." Missy Sorbo would like better cohesion for council members and would like to see the town "finally getting around" to fixing the playground equipment.

Wilkening gave a short speech, saying he would like to "continue working with the Sheriff's office and to work with other cities like Minnesota Lake to get mosquitoes sprayed in the summer." He also stated, "Our financial budgets need to be maintained; we need new streets in town, and anything we can do to avoid raising taxes. Networking is the key to finding the money, and you can print that in the paper! Right now, Waldorf is growing at a rate of 18 percent, it's got the largest rate of growth in the state of Minnesota percentage-wise. Whether it's the park committee or the economic committee, we are always looking for volunteers."

The Fire Relief Association (FRA) donated \$45,000 to the city for the Fire Department's Capital Project Fund. The FRA wants to change the retirement amount paid out yearly from \$1,150 to \$1,350. The Community Center has a supply closet that needs to be emptied; staff mentioned they would like to repaint the kitchen. There has

Waldorf continued on 8



Third Judicial District Judge Carol Hanks swore in Doug Christopherson as one of the start-of-year organizational matters handled during the Jan. 7 county board meeting. Commissioners Christopherson and Brian Harguth were re-elected to their seats on the board this past November and are now serving terms in office which will continue through 2028.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

County board organizes for 2025

By DEB BENTLY
Staff writer

Waseca County commissioners took care of numerous organizational matters during their first meeting of the year on Jan. 7. Of the five members of the county board, Doug Christopherson and Brian Harguth had won re-election this past November and were sworn into new terms scheduled to last through 2028. Members De Malterer, Brad Milbrath and Brad Krause are currently midway through terms scheduled to end in 2026.

Christopherson, who had been vice chair, was elected to be this year's chair; Malterer became vice chair. Board members also confirmed their places on various com-

mittees including planning and zoning, labor relations, public works, Minnesota County Prairie Alliance, and many more.

The board's meeting schedule will continue to be at 9:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the county annex building along North State Street across from the courthouse. Work sessions will be set as needed, frequently occurring at 8 a.m. prior to regular board meetings.

The Waseca County Pioneer was selected as the county's official newspaper, meaning that public notices will appear in the publication's

County continued on 5

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Local option sales tax supports county transportation

By DEB BENTLY
Staff writer

Since being approved by local voters during the 2018 general election, a "local option sales tax" of half a percent has consistently provided for about \$1.1 million worth of local highway upgrades and repairs in recent construction seasons, according to county highway engineer Jim Kollar.

In Minnesota, statewide sales and use taxes total to about 6.875 percent of the value of taxable items sold. Food, clothing, and medications used by humans are not subject to tax. Due to the local option tax, the rate in Waseca County is 7.375 percent, meaning that if exactly \$100 in taxable items were purchased, the buyer would pay \$107.38.

Businesses forward the sales tax they collect to the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR). The state's share is deposited in the general fund. The county's share is reimbursed to the county in the form of monthly payments. Under the terms imposed by state law, all local option transit taxes must be used toward transportation. An updated agreement the county recently entered into with DOR shows that the department keeps about one percent of money collected under the local tax option as a processing fee.

Waseca County also imposes a "wheelage tax" of \$20 per vehicle registered in the county. This leads to roughly \$190,000 in income for his department each year, according to Kollar. The two local taxes, he says, have led to a reduction of about \$1.3 million in the amount the county must levy in property taxes to support his department's

Tax continued on 7

Waldorf City Council



From left: Missy Sorbo, Cody Schnepf, Rob Wilkening, Jamie Beckstrand and Carrie Ferch attended the first Waldorf City Council meeting for 2025 on Jan. 13.

Photo by Ben Revermann



The Geneva City Council swore in Garry Gordinier at the first city council meeting the evening of Jan. 14, 2025.

Geneva council holds first meeting, Gordinier sworn in

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Geneva City Council held its first meeting of 2025 on Tuesday, Jan. 14. The meeting was called to order and a new council member, Garry Gordinier, was sworn in to his four-year term.

During reports, the maintenance department shared that a pump had been repaired in the sanitary sewer

system's west lift station. A zoning permit request from Ben and Meghan Bauman to build a garage was approved. There have been updates to the sidewalk project. Those updates were given care of Cory Bienfang, the Geneva city engineer, and Phil Wacholz, city engineer for Freeborn County. There will be more updates next month.

The Geneva City Council is look-

ing for a pool manager. The city pool has been closed down for the past two years for lack of employees. Anyone wishing to apply is encouraged to do so.

Council members approved the city finance balance sheet for 2024. Also approved were bills payable for

Geneva continued on 7

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OBITUARIES

Donald Lillesve

Donald Byron Lillesve died Thursday, January 2, 2025 at his home in Sarasota Florida. He was 72 years of age. Don was born Sept 7, 1952 in Polk County, Minnesota, the son of Harry and Violet (Johnson) Lillesve. He was a graduate of High School in New Richland, MN. Throughout his career, Don worked in the construction industry owning or managing lumberyards, and eventually operating his own construction business. On June 22, 1975 he was united in marriage to Karen (Miller) Saulsbury at Cross of Glory Lutheran Church in Hartland, MN, divorced in 2011 and remarried in 2012 to Mary Liccione. He is survived by his two children from his first union; Cayce (Chris) Gulbransen, Cory (Laura) Lillesve, two grandchildren, Amri and Porter Lillesve, his brother James (Marti) Lillesve



Donald Lillesve

and their children, Tami (Matt) Bryan, Anthony (Christina) Lillesve and his wife Mary Liccione. Donald was preceded in death by his parents.

Sharon A. Miller

Sharon Ann (Schacherer) Miller passed away on January 12, 2025 at her home in Albert Lea, at the age of 86. She was born and raised in Dawson, Minnesota on August 8, 1938 to the late Herbert and Emmy (Lideen) Schacherer. After graduating from Dawson High School, Sharon attended Minnesota State University in Mankato. She then moved to Ellendale, Minnesota, where she spent many years of her life, raised her four sons – Dave, Dennis, Jeff, and Jim, and worked for Groth Furniture. She went on to work as an administrative assistant for Riverland Community College in Albert Lea. She also found great joy and satisfaction in volunteering at elder care facilities, including St. John's of Albert Lea. Sharon would be the first to tell you she lived a very good life. Those who had the privilege to know her would say she enriched their lives with warmth, kindness, and unwavering support, especially for those who needed it the most. In her passing, Sharon's legacy can be found in the kind, caring, compassionate, and successful family she created. She is survived by Dave's wife,



Sharon Miller

Tammy Miller; Dennis (Jackie) Miller, Jeff (Lori) Miller, and Jim (friend Jodie) Miller; grandchildren, Sharon, Steven, Chris, Eric, Jenna, Devan, Erin, Paige, and Lucas; and 8 great-grandchildren. Welcoming Sharon home are her parents and beloved son, David. A celebration of Sharon's life will be held in the spring for friends and family. Memorials preferred to The Humane Society of Freeborn County, <https://www.freeborncountyhs.org/donate>



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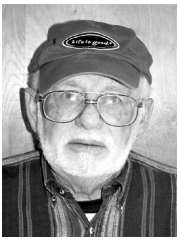
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What is Genie's ideal good day?



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

these three; But the greatest of these is love." (They left it in my mailbox at Central Freeborn Lutheran Church Rural Albert Lea.) The feeling of those in Attendance at the Annual Albert Lea all Service Clubs Christmas Luncheon at First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea was most certainly a "Good day." The printed summary of the event was, "Thank you for your service to our community and the world. In a Christmas cookie life, you're the icing." When I read the Farmers Almanac for 2025 stating: "Eating any ring-shaped treat - such as the donut you're having with your morning

coffee is a day leading to good fortune. When I see a proud youngster helping mom grocery shop with a sign on a small grocery cart stating, "Customer in training." When I attend a Veterans day service on November 11th and a person in a wheelchair wearing a Veterans Cap hands me a small card stating: For everything there is a season. A time for War and a time for Peace. A time for every activity under heaven. For a season of life you gave up freedom to become a servant. For a season of life you put the

lives of others before your own. For a season of life you sacrificed for the sake of others. Your season of Military service has been complete, Yet your life in Christ knows No End. What is Genie's ideal good day? When I'm up and done with breakfast by 9 a.m. A meal out plus volunteer work and home mid-afternoon. Do some house work with the evening meal completed by 6:30 p.m. Visit with Bob. Watch the TV evening News 'til 11 p.m., read a good book with lights out at 11:30 p.m. P.S. In case you're wondering: A bad day is when the Minnesota Vikings Football Team gets stomped by a score of 31-9!!!

Bob is a retired AAL (Aid Association for Lutherans) agent, currently working on his master's degree in Volunteering. His wife, Genie, is a retired RN, currently working on her doctor's degree in Volunteering. They have two children, Deb in North Carolina, and Dan in New York. Bob says if you enjoy his column, let him know. If you don't enjoy it, keep on reading, it can get worse. Words of wisdom: There is always room for God.

HERITAGE BITS



Compiled by BRENDA DOKKEN (1/16/25)
Homecoming parade 1944

This elaborate carriage is fit for carrying a queen in the homecoming parade of 1944. The queen of that year was Idella Muri and the football captain Dale Haug who was her escort. The court consisted of Gerald Lageson, Marjorie Jensen, Gerald Johnson, Barbara Paustian, Beverly Olson, Donald Whitcomb, Elaine Havelik, and Velma Nelson. The woman following the carriage is Beverly Thompson. The other is unknown. Any additions or corrections, please reach out to Barb Mrotz, 507-688-2257 or Brenda Dokken at 507-402-0336

Sesquicentennial and century farm applications due March 3

Minnesota Farm Bureau's Sesquicentennial Farm program will honor Minnesota families who have owned their farms for at least 150 years. The Sesquicentennial Recognition Program began in 2008. The program recognizes family farms according to the following qualifications:

- 1) The farm must be at least 150 years old this year (2025) according to the abstract of title, land patent, original deed, county land records, court file in registration proceedings or other authentic land records. Please do not send originals or copies of records.
- 2) Your family must have owned the farm for 150 years or more. "Family" is defined as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, first cousins and direct in-laws (father, mother, brother, sister, daughter, son-in-law).
- 3) Continuous residence on farm is not required, but ownership

must be continuous.

- 4) The farm should consist of 50 or more acres, and currently be involved in agricultural production.

The Century Farm program recognizes family farms according to the same qualifications as the Sesquicentennial, except that the farm must be at least 100 years (2025) old and must have been owned by the family for 100 years.

A commemorative certificate signed by the Governor of Minnesota, the Commissioner of Agriculture of Minnesota and the Minnesota Farm Bureau President will be awarded to qualifying families, along with an outdoor sign signifying Sesquicentennial Farm recognition. The Century Farm families will receive a commemorative certificate that will be signed by the Governor of Minnesota, the President of the board of the Minnesota State Fair, and the President of Minnesota Farm Bureau,

along with an outdoor sign signifying Century Farm recognition.

Applications are available for either the Sesquicentennial or Century Farm recognition on the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation website, www.fbmn.org in the category "In Action" across the top of the website. Applications are also available by contacting the Regional Farm Bureau Office at 634 West Bridge Street, Owatonna, 55060, or email to maryjo.schoenfeld@fbmn.org or calling the Regional Farm Bureau office at 507-455-0745. Applications must be received at the respective addresses on the applications by March 3, not postmarked by that date. Previously recognized families should not reapply.

Century Farms are not automatically recognized as Sesquicentennial Farms. Families must apply to receive Sesquicentennial Farm recognition. County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to work with county agriculture societies and county fair boards on local recognition of recipients. Recipients will be announced at the beginning of June.

Minnesota Farm Bureau – Farmers - Families – Food is comprised of 78 local Farm Bureau associations across Minnesota. Members make their views known to political leaders, state government officials, special interest groups and the general public. Programs for young farmers and ranchers develop leadership skills and improve farm management. Promotion and Education Committee members work with programs such as Ag in the Classroom and safety education for children. Join Farm Bureau today and support efforts to serve as an advocate for rural Minnesota. www.fbmn.org

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Compostings

by Al Batt

B-b-b-bird, bird, bird,
b-bird's the word

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I think I've found the problem with your car. It's the frammydoos. What's a frammydoos?
I don't know, and that's the problem.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The weather was unusually unusual. I could see the sun shining brightly, but I couldn't feel it. It was well below zero as I tiptoed through the temperature. Friedrich Nietzsche said, "That which does not kill us makes us stronger." I'd add "makes us colder."

I do a show on KMSU radio, and KMSU's Karen Wright often plays a birdie song on my behalf. I listened to the Trashmen's song "Surfin' Bird." A sample of its lyrics are: "A-well-a everybody's heard about the bird. B-b-b-bird, bird, bird, b-bird's the word. A-well-a bird, bird, bird, the bird is the word. A-well-a bird, bird, bird, well the bird is the word."

It made me smile. Wasn't music wonderful in the days when the words of songs had meaning? "Pa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pa-o-o-ma-mow-mow. Papa-ooma-mow-mow."

You said it.

I'VE LEARNED
Dancing to the song "YMCA" is more challenging when using the Chinese alphabet.

As I looked at a marmoset in a zoo, it proved impossible for me not to sing, "Marmoset there'd be days like this. There'll be days like this, marmoset."

My wife and I used to attend a traditional Norwegian smorgasbord at the Nora Unitarian Universalist Church perched on a hill in rural Hanska, Minnesota. Foods on the menu included herring, tongue (My wife didn't eat tongue or anything else that could taste her back.), meatballs, sot suppe, romme grot, rice pudding, flatbread, rosettes, krumkake, sandbakkels, ham, mashed potatoes, deviled eggs, carrots, cookies and lefse. Lefse is the Swiss Army knife of foods. It's bread, it's dessert, it's a napkin. I hope eating lefse makes me a better person. Or at least keeps me from getting much worse.

I once worked at the New Richland Step Company because I wanted to cement my place in history.

Reading about the fires in California makes our cold weather advisories seem like paradise.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
What did the nestling bird say

about an orange in the nest? "Look at the orange mama laid."

What is grey and writes long and gloomy poetry? T.S. Elephant.

My neighbor Crandall collects axes from other countries. He has an axe from Norway, Germany and France. He loves foreign axe scents.

Why was the basketball player who wore too much cologne kicked out of a game? He committed a fragrant foul.

NATURE NOTES
I saw a coyote in my yard before Christmas. It was no surprise. I'd ordered something from Acme. Coyotes aren't as dangerous as potato salad. I like potato salad, but according to the CDC, about 3,000 people a year die from complications related to foodborne illness. Thankfully, not all are from ingesting potato salad. Coyote attacks on humans during the years 1970 to 2015 resulted in two human deaths. Dogs kill an average of 30-50 people per year in the US. Deer-car collisions cause 175 to 200 fatalities. There were 19,252 homicides in this country in 2023.

Diane Wilson of Owatonna asked why swallows all face the same direction when perched on utility wires. That's so they can share cute cat videos on their phones. There are two other reasons. When birds flock, they generally fly in the same direction. It would make sense that they face the same way before taking off. Birds are built to face into the wind. It's easier to take off and land while facing the wind because it reduces wind resistance and limits ruffled feathers. That makes it easier to watch the cat videos.

"Do animals that turn white in winter still turn white when there is no snow?" Yes, weasels and snowshoe hares become white with or without snow.

"Why do ostriches stick their heads into the sand?" Because they can't find safety helmets that fit. It's a popular myth that ostriches stick their heads in the sand. This myth has led to a common metaphor for someone avoiding their problems. The belief began with observations of ostriches nesting and being stalked by predators. Ostriches bury their eggs in the sand and use their beaks to turn them, which makes it look like they're sticking their heads in the sand. Ostriches lower their heads to blend in with their surroundings and make themselves less of a target when they encounter danger. This behavior made people think the enormous birds' heads were buried in the sand.

MEETING ADJOURNED
Do as many small, good things as you can. Be kind.

Women in Agriculture



Mother and daughter Beth and Betsy Schoenrock (third and fourth in line) are not only teachers at NRHEG Elementary, they are also local "women in agriculture" who attended Farmamerica's "Raise a Toast" ladies' event the evening of Friday, Jan. 17. With them are friends and fellow women in agriculture Grace Martins (left) and Barb Liebenstein (left center).

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Identify Frosty and win \$1,500

It's time again for the annual Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Identify Frosty event. This year's event is the 27th installment of the annual contest.

Who is Frosty?
Identify FROSTY and win some cash! Prize money totaling \$1,500.00 is waiting to be won. FROSTY is a Waseca County resident chosen to be an ambassador for the Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival. Follow the clues and guess FROSTY'S name.

Grand prize is \$300.00. If you are at the official unmasking at the Star Fire Event Center @8:30 p.m., on Friday, February 21, 2025, you will win an additional \$50.00. First correct guess from Janesville, New Richland and Waseca wins \$150.00; and if you are at the unmasking, you will win an additional \$50.00. Only five names will be drawn for \$100 – must be present. Five names win \$50.00 – attendance is not necessary.

Contest rules
1. Clues are published by the Waseca County News and Face-book); Waseca County Pioneer; NRHEG Star Eagle; Waseca Chamber of Commerce; and KOWZ/KRUE radio.
2. One guess allowed each week.
3. Each entry must have a name and complete address. Entries

without complete information will not be entered.

4. Entrants must live in Waseca County and be over 18 years of age.

5. If there are multiple correct guesses, a drawing will be made to determine the winner.

6. If there are no correct guesses, a drawing will be made from all entries received.

7. Entries must be received before 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 21, 2025.

8. Submit entries to:

A. WASECA: Submit entry at Waseca Music; 111 South State, Waseca, MN 56093; or via mail.

B. JANESVILLE: Mail or drop off at Waseca Music; mark your entry as Janesville.

C. NEW RICHLAND: Drop off at NRHEG STAR EAGLE NEWS; or mail to Waseca Music – mark your entry as New Richland.

Frosty sponsors: CULLIGAN, iWEALTH – Brad Connors, DOMINO'S, MEDIACOM, SUBURBAN FURNITURE, and XCEL ENERGY. Please thank these sponsors for supporting the 28th Annual

Frosty: Week 1 Clue
Much like the legend,
The 2025 Sleigh and Cutter Frosty is anew.
Coming again this year,



In their white Frosty Hue

A Waseca transplant,
But ties they did bind,
Here the greater part of 40 years
A love match they did find

A local friend, and
A supporter of the arts,
Who will it be this year?
The answer, the clues will impart.

Medallion: Week 1 Clue
How quickly again,
The time of the year is here,
Another winter season bringing
the Sleigh & Cutter Community
Near

In our 75th year, the medallion
Once again is hidden
Bundle up for your search,
Perhaps you need a lucky mitten?

Hidden within the town
Easy to find but not in plain sight
The medallion is secured
Protected and strapped in tight.

Medallion Hunt Rules

The medallion is hidden outdoors, on public property within the Waseca city limits. A \$1,500 prize of Chamber Dollars will be awarded at the Star Fire Event Center at 8:30 on Friday Feb 21, 2025. Bring the medallion to Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce or Waseca Music. Clues will be published each week in the Waseca County News, Facebook, Waseca County Pioneer, NRHEG Star Eagle, and Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival. Clues will also be broadcast on KRUE and KOWZ Radio and will be available online at Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce at info@wasecachamber.com.

The hunt is sponsored by: Waseca County News, KEEN Bank, Xcel Energy, KOWZ/KRUE Radio, Waseca VFW Club 1642, and M Peters Enterprises. Please thank these sponsors for supporting the 28th Annual Medallion Hunt!

■ Intern

from Page 1

continue taking the few courses she still needed online, but she was on her own for finding the practicum experiences required by her program.

"I emailed every school counselor for miles around," Stenbeck recalls. "Liz [Stiernagle, NRHEG's counselor] said she would be glad to have me."

Under the terms of her unpaid internship, Stenbeck has been providing counseling services to NRHEG students and assisting Stiernagle with the numerous administrative elements of the position since the school year began last August. She will continue to be in the counselor's office between 16 and 20 hours each week up until the last weeks of school in May.

She can't help commenting on the differences between the theories and methods covered in her college courses and the "real world" experiences she has encountered working with students.

"Theories aren't much help when you're working with an individual," she observes. "You have to roll with what's given; you have to do what you can to meet the person's needs."

Though it has taken time, Stenbeck says she now feels like she's "at home" at NRHEG—specifically that she has been able to build the level of familiarity and comfort with students which causes them to seek her out and ask for her assistance and advice. "I feel like I belong," says Stenbeck.

She mentions one circumstance which may give her extra validity in building connections with students is that she is not separated very far from them in age. She is still part of the post-secondary process which many students are expecting to enter. "That may make it easier for them to reach out to me," she says.

Being a school counselor, she explains, calls for two levels of work, making the office something of a bridge between students and the principal's office.

"We help with discipline," she explains, "but we're not seen as being 'disciplinary.'"

"In other words, everyone doesn't think you're in trouble if you're talk-

ing with us, but they might if you're called to the office."

The part of the role Stenbeck enjoys and finds most valuable is building relationships with students. While that might not sound like "work," she explains, having a strong connection puts the counselor in a position to take a proactive role.

"I've always known I wanted to work with kids," she says of her path to becoming a school counselor. "I like being there for them, especially in any tough times."

Stenbeck observes that what might seem much like a friendship allows the counselor to spot "red flags" and perhaps offer informal advice, for example with leaving a negative relationship, cases of bullying, or navigating family upheaval.

Alongside the close interaction with students are many other tasks, some of which arise from moment to moment, and others of which are predictable and long-term.

At least at NRHEG, the counseling office is in charge of registration. Those entering grades 9 to 12 are given lists of available courses, guided in creating a four-year plan based on their goals and interests, and provided assistance understand-

ing the process.

The counselor's office does what it can to help students stay on track with their plans, navigating obstacles such as scheduling conflicts and full courses.

While computers might handle many of those steps in other districts, Stenbeck points out it is a more personal process at NRHEG, requiring many hours of time. The office also schedules ACT college testing for upperclassmen, makes sure numerous statewide criteria are met, and "so many unwritten things that fall on our plate."

If asked to describe the needed tasks in a single sentence, she says her answer would be "anything and everything to help kids succeed and excel."

Stenbeck expresses her gratitude to NRHEG counselor Stiernagle, saying she has been an exceptional guide and mentor. She also states her admiration for the sense of community that exists within the school district.

"I've learned a lot, done a lot, and grown as a person," says Stenbeck. "I'm really grateful for the opportunities I've had here."

■ County

from Page 3

pages. The highway department will have the county website as its official publication; county public works director Jim Kollar explained contractors from all around the state refer to bid requests and other types of infor-

mation he routinely shares; he also observed turnaround times and deadlines on some interactions require a shorter publication schedule than is allowed by a weekly publication. He went on to say the newspaper will be used when members of the public are the chief intended audience.

Commissioners also approved the "bridge replacement priority list." This list is submitted to the state annually for the sake of planning future

construction and arranging for funding. In 2025, Waseca County plans to replace two bridges located along county road 54 which runs north and south near the county's western border. The bridges are in Freedom Township to the west of Waldorf; one crosses the Little Cobb River, the other Bull Run Creek. Also slated for replacement this year is a bridge over Joint Ditch 11 along county road 55, which runs east and west in Janes-

ville township.

Two bridges are scheduled for replacement in 2026; both are along county state aid highway 14 (CSAH 14). In 2027, one bridge, on CSAH 15 over the LeSueur River, is on the schedule. Two will be replaced in 2028, one along CSAH 6 over the LeSueur River and another on CSAH 1 over an unnamed stream. A bridge over an unnamed waterway on CSAH 9 is on the schedule for 2029.

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BOUNCING BACK – The NRHEG High School girls’ basketball team rebounded from a setback at JWP to defeat Blooming Prairie and Waseca. In action against Blooming Prairie are, from left, Clara Buendorf, left, Kylie Olson, middle, and Gabby Schlaak, right.
Star Eagle photos by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG basketball girls rebound from loss at JWP

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School girls’ basketball team won two of three games in the past week, defeating Waseca 69-43 and Blooming Prairie 72-31 after falling 71-63 to Janesville-Walдорf-Pemberton.

“Tonight was an interesting game,” said Panthers coach Onika Peterson of Friday’s nonconference contest at Waseca.

There was never a good flow to the game, according to Peterson, with the Panthers on top 30-10 at halftime.

“You can tell this was the third game of the week for us in January, said Peterson. “We are happy to pick up a win on the road. Next week we will be able to break some things down and get back to basics, and come back with only one game at Faribault Bethlehem Academy on Thursday.”

Individually vs. Waseca: Gabby Schlaak 1 point, 6 rebounds, 5 assists, 3 steals; Ezra Boerner 3P; Quinn VanMaldeghem 17P, 9R 2A, 6S; Clara Buendorf 10P, 5R, 2S, 2 blocked shots; Camryn VanMaldeghem 24P, 10R, 1A, 4S, 3B; Savannah Farr 1R, 1A, 1B; Chloe Stork 3R, 2S; Kylie Olson 14P, 4R, 1A, 2B.

For the Bluejays, Gracie Morgan scored 12, Reese Rodriguez 10, Callie Dufault 9, Lily Owens 2, Mia Kanewischer 2, Hannah Sommers 2, Maren Schimming 1.

The previous night, the Panthers hosted Blooming Prairie and won 72-31. It was 50-17 at intermission.

Individually: Schlaak 4P, 1R, 1A, 1S, 1B; E.Boerner

“These girls always step up to the challenge.”
— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

5P, 1A; Q.VanMaldeghem 12P, 8R, 5A; I.Boerner 6P, 1A, 2S; Buendorf 14P, 5R, 1S; C.VanMaldeghem 21P, 7R, 3A, 4S, 1B; Stork 6R, 3A; Olson 10P, 6R, 2A, 1S, 2B.

“It was a great team win,” said Peterson. “ We were able to get kids a lot of playing time.”

The Panthers lost 71-63 at Blooming Prairie Tuesday. The home team led 38-30 at halftime.

Individually: Schlaak 3P, 3R, 1A, 1S; E.Boerner 1R, 1A; Q.VanMaldeghem 12P, 9R, 3A, 5S, 1B; I.Boerner 3R, 2A, 1B; Buendorf 1A; C.VanMaldeghem 28P, 8R, 4A, 4S; Stork 1R, 1A, 1S, 1B; Olson 20P, 12R, 2B.

“I am extremely proud of this group of girls,” said Coach Peterson. “They never give up. They always continue to step up to the challenge and compete. In the first half we gave them too many opportunities to get second, third, and even fourth-chance shot opportunities. In the second half JWP went on a bit of a run at one point, pulling away by almost 14. The girls cut their lead to four, but in the end we couldn't get over the hump. JWP is a great team, we are excited to get to play them again in a couple of weeks at home.”



BATTLE OF THE BOARDS — The Panther’s Quinn VanMaldeghem (4) and Chloe Stork (15) battle for a rebound against Blooming Prairie.
Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG wrestlers break into win column

In a span of two days, the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School wrestling team wrestled five dual meets.

Yes, one of them was a victory.

“First of all, it is nice for our team to get a win after the efforts they have made to improve this year,” said Panthers head coach Shawn Larson.

“We wrestled well and matched up well with Medford and executed well enough to earn a win.”

The Panthers defeated the Tigers 47-30. Then came a 38-26 loss to St. Clair-Mankato Loyola.

On Saturday, the Panthers lost 56-15 to Dover-Eyota, 68-6 to Albert Lea Area and 61-5 to Westfield.

“We have some underclassmen wrestling fairly well right now, and if they continue to develop the way they are, they have bright futures,” said Coach Larson.

Eighth-grader Owen Schlaak (107

“We have families that love us, and we are not going to stop working with these kids we believe in.”
— NRHEG coach Shawn Larson

pounds), seventh-grader Graham Jacobson (114), and occasionally others have been showing they can compete and score at a varsity level, and they are also showing improvement, according to Larson.

Upperclassmen have also been contributing.

“We have a couple seniors that are giving a senior effort, and if they gather confidence they can compete with absolutely anyone,” said Larson.

“Harbor Cromwell (172) has been exciting to watch, as he his often in high-scoring matches. Cole Hutchens (215) has been attacking

and competing at a rate that is clearly higher than what he used to be.”

Cromwell, according to Larson, has been wrestling with intensity, being aggressive, and giving maximum effort.

“The seniors, however, need to believe in the training they have received and execute what they know,” said Larson. “Although we have bright spots, our team is at a tough spot right now. We have athletes that are ill. We have others that are out from injury. On top of that, right now we lack confidence everywhere in the lineup. When I say

everywhere in the lineup, I am not being figurative.”

But the Panthers’ coaching staff and the community continue to be supportive.

“We have families that love us, and we are not going to stop working with these kids we believe in,” said Larson. “They say when the going gets tough, the tough get going. I know that the Panthers are going to be helped and coached through these tough times, but it remains to be seen if they want to get going. I believe in what they can do, just like you do. All that is left for them is just to start living it.”

The Panthers travel to St. James Area tonight for a 5 p.m. quadrangular.

They wrestle Jan. 28 at 5 p.m. at Triton and Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. against WEM/JWP in Waterville.

NRHEG boys can’t contain tough JWP

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School boys’ basketball team traveled to Janesville last Tuesday and lost 75-33.

“We took on a tough JWP team tonight,” said NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt. “I thought we played a solid first half, despite some issues with their press.”

JWP went on a run to end the half up 37-18.

“Once again, the boys played hard for both halves, and I can't say enough about that effort,” said Schmidt, whose team is still looking for its first win in 2024-25. “We still need to work on trusting the offense, as we did give ourselves some good looks within it. But we have a tendency to go away from it when we can't get that initial action, and then we scramble.”

And the Bulldogs play tough defense.

“JWP is so good at exposing teams on the weak side with their ability to get into the paint,” said

Schmidt. “If you get caught watching your guy, they'll pick you apart, and tonight proved no exception.”

There was some progress made by the Panthers.

“We saw some good things from some guys in effort, and some decision-making situations,” said Schmidt. “I'm still looking at those little improvements as being key for us as we go along. We just need to turn the corner one of these days.”

Individually for the Panthers: Greyson Schaefer 1P, 3R; Owen Wayne 3P, 3R, 4 assists; Brendan Schmidt 3R, 1 blocked shot; Justin Beauvais 3P, 2R; Lavon Jewison 2P; Dom Olson 3P, 1R; Hudson Chrz 11P, 1R, 2A, 2B; Gavin Lewison 4P, 7R, 2A; Jase Knudson 4P, 4R, 2S, 4B; Jordan Brouwers 2P, 5R.

The Panthers host Bethlehem Academy Friday at 7:15 p.m. They play Jan. 28 at 7:15 at Medford.

WHS icemen suffer season’s first setbacks

After not losing all season, the Waseca High School boys’ hockey team dropped two games in three days.

The latest was the costliest.

The Bluejays, two days removed from a 3-2 nonconference setback at Rochester Lourdes, lost 5-2 to Luverne in a battle of Big South Conference leaders Saturday at Waseca Community Arena.

The Bluejays scored first, on a goal by Griffin Storey assisted by Hunter Anderson, but the Cardinals knotted at 1 after one period and outscored the Jays 3-1 in the second period. Jayden Gehring scored the

final goal for Waseca, with assists going to Otto Schoenrock and Storey.

Luverne outshot Waseca 37-30.

Carter Martens started in goal for the Bluejays, allowing four goals. Josiah Schmidt was in the net for the third period.

The loss dropped the Bluejays to 8-1-1 in the Big South and 13-2-2 for the season while Luverne improved to 9-0-1 and 14-2-1. New Ulm holds the top spot in the Big South with 20 points, to Luverne’s 19 and Waseca’s 17.

On Thursday, the Bluejays lost 3-2 to Rochester Lourdes at

Rochester’s Graham Arena.

After a scoreless first period, it was tied 2-2 after two.

Each team had 31 shots on goal.

Schoenrock and Anderson scored for the Bluejays, with assists by Anderson and Lucas Groll.

Schmidtke made 28 saves.

The Bluejays skated to a 1-1 overtime tie at New Prague Jan. 14.

Waseca outshot New Prague 38-30. Scoring for the Jays was Brayden Hesch-Priem, assisted by Storey and Groll.

Martens made 29 saves.

After a Tuesday game at Dodge County, the Bluejays host Windom

Friday at 7 p.m. at Waseca Community Arena. They play Jan. 28 at Redwood Valley.

Big South Standings				
	WLT	PTS	Overall	
New Ulm	6-2-0	20	9-7-1	
Luverne	9-0-1	19	14-2-1	
Waseca	8-1-1	17	13-2-2	
Marshall	5-5-0	10	7-11-0	
Minn. River	4-2-0	8	8-8-0	
Windom	4-6-0	8	8-8-0	
Worthington	3-7-0	6	4-13-0	
Redwood V.	1-8-0	2	2-13-0	
Fairmont	0-9-0	0	0-12-0	

Flyers tie New Ulm, 1-1

The South Central Flyers girls’ hockey team skated to a 1-1 tie with New Ulm Jan. 14 at Waseca Community Arena.

Maddy Benson scored for the Flyers, with an assist going to Katelyn Schueler.

South Central had Ilamay Draheim in the net. The Flyers

were outshot by the Eagles 51-21.

The Flyers play Jan. 21 against Rochester Century/John Marshall at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Recreation Center. They play Jan. 24 against Marshall at 7 p.m. at Marshall’s Red Baron Arena.

NR POLICE

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

- Saturday, November 30, 18:06 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/250th Ave, Warning-Verbal
- Saturday, November 30, 19:02 - Traffic Stop, Highway 30/Elm Ave, Warning-Verbal
- Sunday, December 1, 10:05 - Information Call Only, 4th ST NW, Cleared
- Sunday, December 1, 15:56 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Sunday, December 1, 15:56 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Sunday, December 1, 18:53 - Information Call Only, 2nd ST SE, Log Report
- Monday, December 2, 14:54 - Sex Crimes-other, Ash Ave S, Written Report
- Monday, December 2, 14:55 - Sex crimes-other, Ash Ave S, Written Report
- Monday, December 2, 17:06 - Suicide(include attempt), 1st ST NE, Cleared
- Tuesday, December 3, 22:33 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Wednesday, December 4, 07:40 - Suspicious Circumstances, Broadway Ave N, Cleared
- Wednesday, December 4, 11:37 - Threats Complaint, Ash Ave S, Inv Continues
- Wednesday, December 4, 15:02 - Directed Patrol, Ash Ave S, Cleared
- Wednesday, December 4, 15:32 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Wednesday, December 4, 15:33 - Lock Check(buildings, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Thursday, December 5, 15:45 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Thursday, December 5, 15:45 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Thursday, December 5, 17:24 - Motor Vehicle Disabled/Abandoned, Highway 30/ Ash Ave S, Cleared
- Thursday, December 5, 19:58 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/Highway 30, Ignore/Duplicate
- Thursday, December 5, 19:58 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/Highway 30, Warning-Verbal
- Thursday, December 5, 20:14 - Traffic Stop, Caseys Parking Lot, Warning-Verbal
- Thursday, December 5, 20:21 - Traffic Stop, Highway 30 and 160th, Warning-Verbal
- Friday, December 6, 11:51 - Assist Ambulance(law), State Highway 13, Assist Rendered
- Saturday, December 7, 14:34 - Traffic Stop, Highway 30/Elm Ave S, Cleared
- Saturday, December 7, 14:46 -

Traffic Stop, Highway 30/Elm Ave S, Warning-Verbal

- Saturday, December 7, 14:55 - Traffic Stop, Highway 30/Birch Ave S, Warning-Verbal
- Saturday, December 7, 21:54 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/Highway 30, Warning-Verbal
- Sunday, December 8, 00:47 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Sunday, December 8, 15:45 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/240th Ave, Warning-Verbal
- Sunday, December 8, 16:01 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/240th Ave, Warning-Verbal
- Sunday, December 8, 16:26 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/Highway 30, Warning-Verbal
- Monday, December 9, 01:12 - Directed Patrol, /new Richland City OF, Cleared
- Monday, December 9, 16:36 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Monday, December 9, 16:36 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Tuesday, December 10, 07:46 - Animal complaint/Bite, Broadway AveS/Highway 30, Non-Traffic Citation
- Tuesday, November 10, 15:58 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Tuesday, December 10, 15:59 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Tuesday, December 10, 16:54 - Paper Service, 4th ST NW, Cleared
- Tuesday, December 10, 17:20 - Traffic Stop, 150th ST/240th Ave, Warning-Verbal
- Tuesday, December 10, 20:05 - Ordinance Violation, 4th ST NW, Non-Traffic Citation
- Wednesday, December 11, 19:20 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/240th Ave, Warning-Verbal
- Wednesday, December 11, 22:00 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Thursday, December 12, 00:28 - Welfare Check, Ash Ave S, Cleared
- Thursday, December 12, 23:48 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Friday, December 13, 00:17 - House Watch, Dogwood Ave S, Cleared
- Friday, December 13, 16:01 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Friday, December 13, 16:01 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Friday, December 13, 16:09 - House Watch, Dogwood Ave S, Cleared
- Friday, December 13, 20:51 - Traffic Stop, Highway 30/Balsam Ave S, Warning-Verbal
- Friday, December 13, 21:11 - Traffic Stop, 150th ST/240th Ave, Warning-Verbal

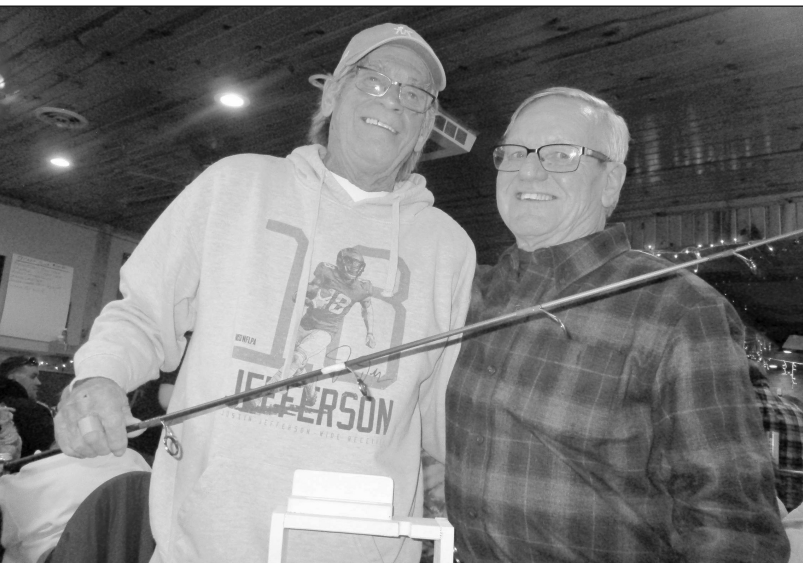
90th birthday Feb. 1



Join us to celebrate Vera Wilsson’s 90th birtdhay Saturday February 1 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at New Richland City Hall. Looking forward to celebrating with you!



Moments captured during the first weekend of the 2025 Geneva Cancer Auction held January 10 and 11. Photos by Kathy Paulsen



41st Geneva Cancer Auction concludes

By KATHY PAULSEN
Contributing writer

Across its four days of sales on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon the weekends of Jan. 10 and 11 and 17 and 18, the Geneva Cancer Auction received more than 800 donated items and raised more than \$167,000. The money was presented live during the Eagles Cancer Telethon the afternoon of Sunday, Jan.19.

Held at the Geneva Bar and Grill owned by Greg and Chelsey Hagen, the auction began in 1985 and became an annual event, making this year’s the forty-first. In addition to income from auctioning donated items, dollar-amount donations come from area charitable organizations. Yaunt 2 Rodeo held a fundraising ride which brought in \$8,054. Organizers of the Geneva wild game feed presented a check for \$27,000. Other events and their donations included purse bingo, raising \$4,700; a golf outing against cancer, \$3,161; and a mum sale, \$2,826. These donations were all part of the \$167,000.

Workers and greeters wore specially designed T-shirts with the slogan, “Geneva Cancer Auction –

Always Fighting the Fight.” Capacity crowds of about 150 people kept the weekend exciting and lucrative.

Long-time organizer and planner Jamie Hagen thanked owners Greg and Chelsey Hagen as well as Geneva Bar employees for their services as hosts. On Jan. 18, Jamie was joined in the task of welcoming the crowd by several Panther youth wrestlers, including Rylan Perlas, Kaison Perkins, Griffin Pederson, Jacob Sommers, River Wayne, Eddie Simmas, and Jordy Kloczek. Seven-year-old Eddie Simmas, son of Danny and Cathy Simmas of Geneva, presented the national anthem. Wrestlers also donated some Panther flags to be sold.

A traditional first item for each day has become the “stew maker,” a trio of potatoes, onions and a pound of butter donated by Hope Creamery operator Victor Mrotz. Butter is also packaged with homemade breads and other suitable treats, since Mrotz donates it by the case.

Another popular staple are homemade pickles, many jars of which are donated by Sue Hill.

Also sold are fully-prepared meals supplied by area businesses: buyers are willing to pay much more than the typical restaurant price and enjoy having a hot meal as the auction continues.

Along with food are many items useful in day to day living: tow straps, cleaning solutions and towels, hunting decoys, gift certificates, mixed gift baskets, and a number of newspaper subscriptions. Limited edition 2025 Geneva Cancer Auction caps, sweatshirts and T-shirts also found their way to the auction block. Paintings, quilts and blankets, a trail camera and a stay at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin were among the donations; also on the docket were items for sports fans, including framed posters of the World Series Twins and the Superbowl Vikings Team.

Large ticket items included a large-barrel “smoker” grill and charcoal, a cast-iron grill, two half-hogs and processing, and high-end jewelry, including a diamond necklace, a diamond bracelet, and more.

Auctioneers for 2025 were Tracy Holland, Jim Manges, Todd Utpadel, Janie Hagen, Jonny Kreling, Greg Hagen, Brad Hagen, Todd

Houghton and Brandon Nelson. Announcers and clerks were Vicki Manges, Barb Kuckenbecker, Tina Hagen, Ruth Hagen and Tessa Enzenhauer. Helping various roles were Judy Christensen, Jack Kuckenbecker, Keith Hagen, Joel Langlie, Karen Quam, and Jesse Quam. Brittini Hagen, Sue Asplund, Brandon Enzenhauer, Brenna Hagen and Jeremy Mauseth.

The youth wrestlers stayed for a time on Saturday afternoon to help carry items through the crowd and allow everyone a closer look.

Even after the rest of the group left, Eddie Simmas remained, continuing the work. Patrons began giving him “tips” for his assistance. He soon announced he would be donating those tips to the auction. After that announcement, gifts came thick and fast. Later, when the cash was being counted, a couple of \$100 bills were discovered among the many \$1 and \$5 bills he had received.

Winners of the 2025 drawing were announced at 8 p.m. on Jan. 19: Kellie Utpadel won \$1,000; Tony Muri won \$500; Terry Smith received \$300; Brandon Enzenhauer won \$200.

■ Tax

from Page 3

yearly operations.

Kollar points out the county receives funds from a number of sources. For example, much of the funding used to repair or upgrade “county state aid” roads comes from the highway users tax distribution fund (HUTDF). Money collected statewide for license fees and on the sale of motor vehicles, auto parts and fuel is distributed to state agencies and to municipalities, townships and counties. According to the state department of transportation, these sources led to nearly \$2.7 billion in

statewide income in 2024; Kollar’s figures show about \$6.4 million was distributed to Waseca County by HUTDF. He explains the amount received is reliant on the anticipated cost of eligible projects submitted to the state.

Regarding the local option sales tax, it is interesting to note that during 2020, the most recent year whose figures have been fully analyzed, nearly \$351 million in recorded sales of goods and services were recorded within Waseca County. Of that amount, more than \$108 million in sales were taxable. These numbers led to a total of \$7.8 million in sales tax being collected. One-half percent of that amount resulted from the local tax.

Figures in 2019 were slightly higher, leading to a total of nearly \$8

million in sales tax.

Of the 32 listed business types on the DOR report, the categories which brought in the most revenue were “general merchandise” with nearly \$25 million in taxable income followed by “food service/drinking places” with more than \$12.5 million in taxable sales.

■ Geneva

from Page 3

Dec. 2024.

There was a closed meeting session-Minn. Statute 13D.04 subd5-after the regular city council meeting

to discuss employee pay and establish job descriptions. Members of the Geneva city council opted not to be paid during these closed sessions. The city staff pay, clerk, maintenance, etc., went up four percent. The council members and mayor voted to increase their pay by two percent; their pay has not been increased since 2016.

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Making the most out of the winter months

The past few days we have been subjected to some very cold temperatures, and I am very thankful for my warm home and that I have food to put in my belly. There are times when we take things for granted, but there are many people in this country who are not so fortunate. Helping folks who are in need gives one a good feeling.

I keep my feeders filled as best I can, so that the critters that visit outside of my windows can make it through the winter. I know that there has been a lack of snow so far. This has been replaced by the cold. At least you don't have to shovel the cold.

Over the years I have often wanted to visit my cabin in the winter, but that is pretty much impossible, due to the drive not being plowed out. I may have to find someone to plow it out next winter. I'd just want to be up there for a day or two. This will probably happen right after I spend a night tenting on Spider Lake, which is another "bucket list" item that I probably won't accomplish.

I am an adventurer at heart, but the rest of my body seems to think otherwise. Sometimes a person has to re-



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

alize that his or her dreams are just that. My dreams and my imagination are what keep me going. Once in a while, reality rears its head and brings me back to earth.

I love dreaming or fantasizing about being on the lake in early morning with a morning mist in the air and the sun just starting to appear through the trees in the east. The sound of fish jumping sends a feeling of excitement through my body as I make a cast towards the swirl that was just left by the fish. It is hard to explain the feeling you get when you make a cast, and a fish breaks the surface with your lure in its mouth. To a fisherman, this is something worth dreaming about.

For many years in my youth and later on, I was a shore fisherman.

There is nothing more relaxing than sitting along the shoreline watching your bobber dancing gently in the breeze. Whenever I write about this, I am reliving this in my mind. I believe that reliving past fishing experiences is a perfect way to relax. In some ways, being a dreamer isn't all that bad, and It has helped me through many winters.

Until next time: Winter camping might sound daunting at first, but for those who embrace the challenge, it can be one of the most rewarding ways to experience Minnesota's natural beauty. While winter camping might be more physically demanding than its summer counterpart, it offers a rare sense of peace and accomplishment.

Visitors should be sure to check

park-specific details before heading out, as water access, restroom availability, and plowed campsites vary by location. For first timers, it's always a good idea to call the park to confirm conditions. Itasca State Park has transformed into a true winter adventure hub, offering expanded overnight options for both seasoned cold-weather enthusiasts and first-time winter travelers.

Stay at Pine Ridge Campground with drive-in electric campsites for easy access to ski and snowmobile trails. Embrace the wild side with remote backcountry campsites accessible by ski or snowshoe.

Several of the Bert's Cabins are now open year-round. Their location offers direct access to Itasca State Park's snowmobile trails, and pet-friendly cabins are available. Additional information about camping, lodging and recreational opportunities is on the Itasca State Park page.

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.

■ Band

from Page 1

arose, there was considerable uncertainty about which company was responsible for addressing the problem.

The "complication" was that, during the asbestos removal process,

some of the planking of the band room's tiered floor ended up being removed, exposing the wooden framework which supported the three raised levels of flooring. With the planking removed, it became evident the original wooden framework was not in alignment with current structural code—and would have to be replaced.

To meet code, the new framing would have to be metal. Building

that new framework would require a set of materials and skills not planned for as part of last summer's projects. Regrettably, arrangements for construction were difficult to make, and even harder, it seemed, to get scheduled. Preliminary plans were proposed then repeatedly delayed.

To everyone's relief, construction on the metal framework began prior to the December holiday break. New

planking and carpet were installed during the break, and the final step, installation of the new storage cabinets was expected to take place either during the break or within the first few days of January. Because of supply chain difficulties, the installation actually occurred on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 15 and 16, making Friday's "return home" possible.

"It's been a long haul," Schaeffer commented, "but we're here at last."

Attend the Church of your Choice!

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship

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)

LESEUR 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 - 8:30 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.vibrantlifeag.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 Cirkse, 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 90.7

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

HOLLANDALE 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 - 8:30 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 Klaviter
Sunday - 10:15 a.m. Worship

FIRST LUTHERAN, LCMS
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; Pre-school Sunday School during Mass
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-Confirmation
www.litomysl.webs.com
www.stsidoreschool.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

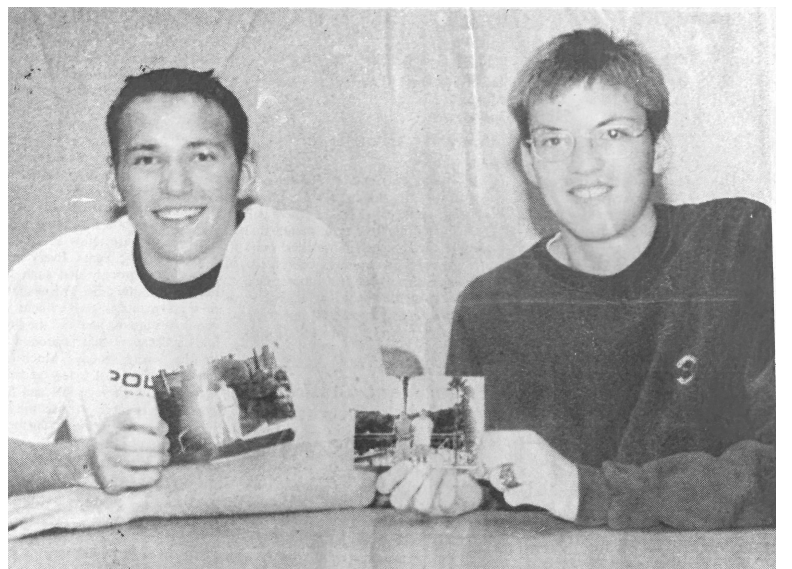
Waseca, Minnesota
www.lids.org
Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18

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

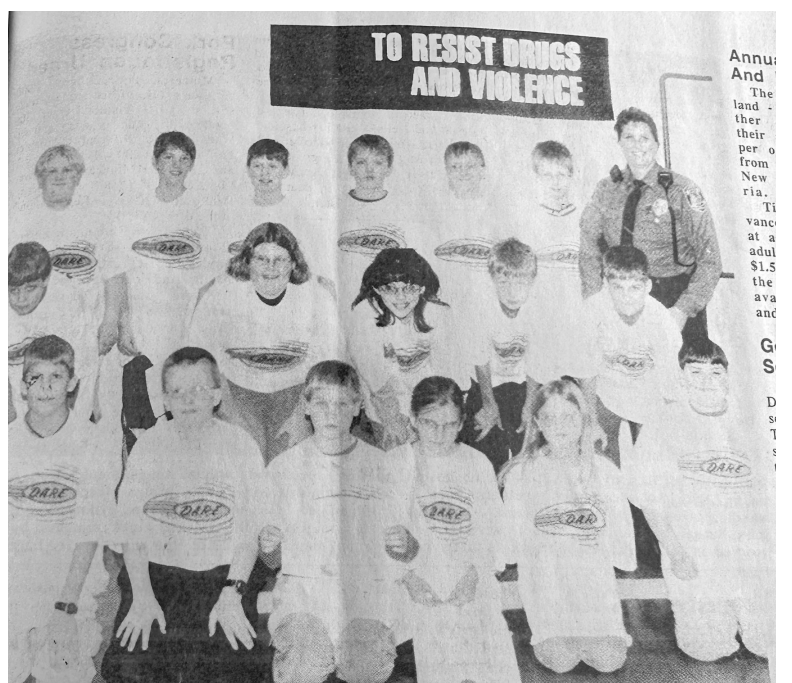
LOOKING BACK

25 Years Back

- The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Education Association and School board approved the Master Contract Agreement for 1999-2000 this week. According to members of the board, administration and education association, both groups are pleased with the outcome of the process and the settlement.



- It was an interesting time for Gavin Berg (left) and Blaine Boverhuis from December 28 until January 2. The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School sophomores spent those days in the warm temperatures and sun at Orlando, Florida. In June Gavin and Blaine earned the opportunity for the trip and perform in the Intergalactic Show of Wonders at the half-time of the Michigan State and University of Florida Citrus Bowl on New Year's Day. Gavin performed with the drum majors and Blaine with the rifle color guard.



- These Fifth Grade Students from George Kails' class at the Elementary school at New Richland graduated from the D.A.R.E. program, Tuesday, January 4 in a special ceremony at the elementary school gymnasium in New Richland. They are from the left: front, Dustin DeJong, Jackson Purdie, Matt Economy, Amanda Wenzel, Karen Reese, Keith Anderson; middle row, Raymond Elkins, Molly Hacker Gina Quiram, Adam Routh, Caleb Hagen; back row, Dylan Ashles, Joe McGuire, Carter Routh, Derek Olson, Nic Barnett, Alex Routh and D.A.R.E. Officer DeeAnn VonWold.

- Anne Phillips, daughter of Dale and Valorie Phillips of Hartland, has earned the distinction of being named to the Dean's List for the 1999 fall semester at the College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, St. Joseph, Minnesota. Phillips is a first-year student at CSB.

50 Years Back

- Members of the New Richland FFA's first place district Wildlife contest team are pictured here with some of the stuffed birds which help them to learn about wildlife. They are, from left, seated: Greg Swenson and Scott Smith; standing: Don Pederson and Mark Besser. The team took top honors in the District and Region Wildlife contest Saturday. This is the eighth consecutive year that the local chapter has received top honors in this particular contest. Greg Swenson placed second with 679 points, Scott Smith and Don Pederson, third and fourth with 668 and Mark Besser, sixth with 601.

- Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Lundberg of New Richland announce the engagement of their daughter, Donna Marie to Keith Hulloper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hulloper of New Richland. Donna is a 1974 graduate of New Richland-Hartland High School and presently attending the Golden Valley Lutheran Church.

75 Years Back

- Mr. and Mrs. William Wallace celebrated their silver wedding anniversary February 21 with a dance which they gave at the Casa Loma, near Silver Lake. Mrs. Wallace was lovely in a navy blue dress and wore a corsage of white chrysanthemums and roses.

- Friday afternoon Mrs. Nels Olson, Mrs. Swenson Espee, and Mrs. Virgil Johnson assisted Mrs. Russell Swenson with tying a quilt.

-Mr. And Mrs. Ray H. Mille, Dale and Shirley, and the lady's mother, Mrs. Helen Rocene of Spring Valley were entertained at Sunday dinner at the Raymond Peterson home east of Otisco.

- Many relatives and friends of John Kelleher called at the Kelleher home during the weekend to honor him on the event of his 79th birthday anniversary. Friday evening the visitors brought oyster stew and all the trimmings and surprised Mr. Kelleher at his home. Mr. and Mrs. August Rollenhagen, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Rollenhagen of Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Eiryo Verplank and family and their guest, Mrs. Helen Cunningham, Mrs. Verplank sister, of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Miss Agnes Sutlief and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bolduan were the people to accompany him.

■ Waldorf

from Page 3

been a \$20,000 down payment made for a gazebo to be placed in the Waldorf Veterans Memorial Park. The structure is scheduled to be installed in April or May.

The Waseca County Pioneer was named as Waldorf's official publication. Acting as city attorney is

the Mankato-based firm Kennedy & Kennedy. Sheri Sandry, city clerk, was approved to attend the Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association (MCFOA) annual conference. Rehabilitation work on the city office bathrooms and hallway was approved up to a cost of \$1,500.

In December, 11 Waldorf residents did not pay their water bills, 7 paid partial amounts, leading to \$2,333 remaining uncollected for the month.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 9, 2007

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$62,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Dean Mertins and Julie A. Mertins, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING:

Recorded on October 23, 2007 as Document Number 272715 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: CitiMortgage, Inc. by assignment recorded on March 26, 2010 as Document Number A283488 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as trustee for the benefit of the Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2019-1 by assignment recorded on December 12, 2022 as Document Number A332327 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that part of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 4, Twp. 108 North, Range 23 west, Waseca Co., Minn., described as follows: beginning at a point on the north line of the NW 1/4 of said Sec. 4, said point bearing west 1946.66 feet from the north 1/4 corner of said Sec. 4, thence south 572.00 feet,

thence North 81 degrees 10 minutes 00 seconds west 407.84 feet, thence north 509.37 feet to the north line of said NW 1/4, thence east on said north line 403.00 feet to place of beginning.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 8126 STATE HWY 60 S, WATERVILLE, MN 56096

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Waseca County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$39,728.53

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: CitiMortgage, Inc.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 05.004.0510

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100011520046960896

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Waseca County Sheriff's Office, 122 3rd Ave. NW, Waseca, MN 56093.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: December 11, 2024

FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SEASONED CREDIT RISK TRANSFER TRUST, SERIES 2019-1 Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: _____/s/ ***N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.*** Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Sung Woo Hong, Esq. Alexa Marsh, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (24-1007-FC02) **THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.**

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: Gary West Motorsports
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 43958 45th St Elysian MN 56028 USA

APPLICANT(S):
Name: Gary West Music LLC Jr
Address: 43958 45TH ST ELYSIAN MN 56028 USA

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document.

If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Gerald Clifford Boger Jr

MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 183 ELYSIAN MN 56028

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: gboger64@gmail.com

Work Item 1531106300021
Original File Number 1531106300021

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
01/06/2025 11:59 PM

Steve Simon Secretary of State

Published in the Star Eagle on January 16 and 23, 2025

Public Service Announcement

Subject: Important Update on 601 Lageson Ct, Ellendale, Minnesota

Dear Community Members, I am excited to share a significant update regarding my property at 601 Lageson Ct, Ellendale, Minnesota. The court has confirmed my ownership of this property, validating my claim since its purchase in 2017 and extinguishing any supposed easements. This decision is a major milestone, reaffirming the importance of resilience in the face of unwarranted criticism.

Starting January 23, 2025, I am committed to enhancing this property and will begin transformative improvements that will benefit our community. However, please be aware that these changes may result in the loss of a communications provider for the city. Services previously offered by Jaguar Communications/MetroNet, along with any third-party providers using their network, will be affected and unable to be restored from this location.

I truly value our community and appreciate the support from everyone who believes in rightful property ownership. I look forward to moving ahead positively, creating opportunities for growth and revitalization together. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to reach out. Thank you for your understanding. Warm regards, Daniel Petsinger
Published in the Star Eagle on January 23, 2025

Notice to Bidders

The City of New Richland is currently accepting bids for a 2025 Ford F550 Diesel Crew cab Wildland Fire truck. For specific bid specification information, please see the City of New Richland website at www.newrichlandmn.gov/bidscontracts/ or contact the City Administrators office at 507-465-3514. All bids are due in writing to no later than Friday February 7th, 2025, at 12:00 pm. Bids can be mailed to 203 Broadway Ave N PO Box 57 New Richland, MN 56072 or emailed to Anthony Martens, City Administrator at amartens@newrichlandmn.gov.

Published in the Star Eagle on January 23, 2025

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IN THE WASECA AREA,
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sleighandcutterfestival.org



GUESS WHO FROSTY IS!

Use clues to guess who the well-known member of the Waseca community is. Clues are published weekly starting Jan. 16.

WIN
UP TO
\$1,500!

Frosty's identity will be revealed and awards will be presented on February 21 at 8:30PM during the Sleigh & Cutter Festival dinner and dance held at Starfire Event Center.

Contest rules and additional information found on our Facebook page and www.sleighandcutterfestival.org.

FIND THE MEDALLION

Use clues to find the medallion that is hidden somewhere in Waseca. Clues are published weekly starting Jan. 16. When medallion is found, it must be brought to one of our official dropoff points: Waseca Chamber of commerce 210 North State Street or Waseca Music company 111 South State Street.

Crowning of Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter Royalty
January 25 6:30 Waseca Junior/Senior High Performing Arts Center

DINNER FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21
& DANCE 5PM STARFIRE EVENT CENTER • WASECA

- 5-7 PM Selection of basket meals available for purchase from Starfire restaurant
Try your luck at the meat raffle featuring pork by local Fischer Family Farms
- 7 PM Flag ceremony and introduction of Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter pageant royalty
- 7-10 PM Kick up your boots to Midwest favorite, high energy country rock band
Chris Brooks & The Silver City Boys
- 8:30 PM Frosty winners drawn & Medallion prize presented
- 9:30 PM Complimentary sandwiches and cake served by the Sleigh & Cutter Festival Committee

SLEIGH SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
& CUTTER NOON, DOWNTOWN WASECA
PARADE

The nation's longest running **Sleigh & Cutter** parade features various horse breeds, mounted law enforcement groups, festival royalty and many others.

❄️ ICE SCULPTURES by SAKATAH CARVERS on display at the Public Safety Building starting Feb 19

❄️ FIREWORKS DISPLAY after sunset over Clear Lake Wrap up the day enjoying an impressive display of fireworks compliments of the Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival and our local sponsors.

Snowmobile Trail Rides & Events In The Waseca Area

- | | |
|---|---|
| Sno-Secas Club Ride • January 18th 10am | Toner's Lake Vintage Ride • February 15 11am |
| Annual Mike Filzen Memorial • February 1 Noon | Annual Vintage Snowmobile Show/Ride • February 22 9am |
| Snowmobile Safety Riding Course • February 16th | Vintage Snowmobile Ice Drags • February 22 Noon |

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DISCLAIMER: The Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival Association, Inc. does not assume or accept duty or responsibility for safety at this event in regard to participant, any third parties, animals or other property thereof.