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Cheer

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.

NRHEG FFA Alumni Breakfast fundraiser starts at 7 a.m. Feb. 8

The NRHEG FFA Alumni are hosting a breakfast and silent auction fundraiser at the New Richland City Hall community room from 7 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8. Cost is a free-will donation; funds will support local FFA scholarships, travel, and event fees. On the menu are pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, juice, coffee, and milk.

Valentine's Party Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. in Freeborn

The F.R.O.G. Valentine's Party will be Saturday, February 8 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Central Freeborn Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. At 6 p.m. will be pop, pizza and fellowship, followed by, at 7 p.m., Norwegian bingo with prizes. Dessert will be served at 8 p.m.; ice cream with toppings. At 9 p.m. will be a drawing for prizes. Cost is \$7.50 per person or \$15 per family with kids. RSVP to Bob and Genie Hanson 373-8655 or Wayne and Bev Indrelie 826-3267.

St. Olaf Lake Ice Fishing Contest 2 to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 8

The New Richland Sportsmen's Club St. Olaf Lake ice fishing contest will be from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8 on St. Olaf Lake, east of New Richland. Holes will be drilled in advance; fish houses are allowed. Food will be available for sale, and prizes will be offered in various categories.

"In the Forest of the Night" One Act Play at NRHEG 7 p.m. Feb. 14

The NRHEG one-act contest play will be presented for the public at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14 in the high school gymnasium in New Richland. Those in attendance will be offered the chance to give a free-will donation. The play is about 35 minutes in length.

NRHEG Middle School Music Concert 7:30 p.m. Tues., 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.

New Richland Red Hatters to meet April 8

The New Richland Red Hatters will not meet again until April 8th due to the cold weather. Stay warm, friends and on your feet. The Old Queen Mother will see you in April.

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.

A word from The Word

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8



Snow week candidates are, front, from left: Aspyn Stenzel, Jozlyn Johnson, Ava Cummins, Josie Bell, and Aryanna Howe. Back row: Carter Martens, Talon Smith-Vulcan, Aidan Schlaak, Bo McCamish, and Brady Koopal.

Snow week at a glance

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Candidates for NRHEG snow week set for February 3 through February 8 are, for queen: Josie Bell, daughter of Zechary and Melissa Bell; Ava Cummins, daughter of Sheila Wenzel and Jason Cummins; Aryanna Howe, daughter of Angela and Jeff Howe; Jozlyn Johnson, daughter of Steph and Luke Andersen; Aspyn Stenzel, daughter of Doug and Amy Stenzel.

Candidates for king: Brady Koopal, son of Jason and Lacey Koopal; Carter Martens, son of Anthony and Kelly Martens; Bo McCamish, son of Chanelle McCamish; Aidan Schlaak, son of Lindsey and Nathan Schlaak; Talon Smith-Vulcan, son of Tracy Smith and Jon Hansen, and Troy Vulcan.

Coronation will be Tuesday, February 4 at 1:45 p.m. in the high school gymnasium in New Richland. The event will be open to the public,

as well as 6th grade through 12th.

Winter coaches and others will speak, followed by the crowning of this year's king and queen.

Different dress-up themes for students will take place beginning on the 3rd with

Jersey Out, followed by: Winter White Out; Pajama Day; USA Day.

On Wednesday a student bean bag tournament will be held throughout the day. During the school day Friday, students will take part in a talent

show.

Events conclude with a student dance Saturday from 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. in the high school gym. Attire is "semi-formal" and students should enter through door 17E. Cost is \$5 per couple or \$3 individually. For guests from another school, they must complete paperwork picked up in the school office and turned in by the Friday before the dance.

Rick Schultz honored at statewide convention

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

NRHEG School board chair Rick Schultz was among only 13 people statewide honored for having earned more than 300 "training points" by taking part in Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) leadership and educational events. The acknowledgment took place during the organization's annual "recognition luncheon" at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Thursday, Jan. 16.

Schultz, whose tenure with the NRHEG school board began in 2006, has been its chair for 18 years, since shortly after joining. He explains school board members are encouraged to learn about many aspects of school administration by taking part in training sessions and leadership events; that participation is measured in "hours."

He says the events he has attended have been very helpful in navigating the many expectations imposed on school districts and keeping current as those expectations change. The MSBA, he says, also offers a range of helpful resources for school leaders when they come across a process or circumstance which is new to them. "Somewhere in the state, some other district has experienced it," he observes. "And we can use information about their situation to help us with ours."

Schultz is a lifelong NRHEG res-

ident, having graduated from New Richland-Hartland in 1988. He and his wife Jackie have a farm west of New Richland. Their daughter Hallie graduated from NRHEG in 2024.

Schultz says he chose to run for school board because he has always appreciated the many important roles a school district plays, including building a sense of community and connection and, of course, preparing students for their futures. "I wanted to do my part in seeing the success of NRHEG continue," he remembers.

He suggests that, rather than being honored for completing 300 training hours, he should be expressing his gratitude for the networking and information he's received. "Being on the school board has presented me with a lot of learning opportunities," he comments. Among the most important attributes for the role, he speculates, is a willingness to collaborate—to overcome the tendency to be biased toward one's own preferences and give fair and reasonable consideration to input and suggestions offered by others.

He says his time and experience with the board have helped him appreciate the importance of having skilled and dedicated staff members.

He is also grateful, he says, for the NRHEG community's support and positive approach when it comes to the school district. The number of people who attend school events and



NRHEG School board chair Rick Schultz was honored during the Minnesota School Board Association's (MSBA) annual recognition event on Jan. 16. Pictured with him are (left) MSBA president Linda Leiding and (right) executive director Kirk Schneidawind.

who show genuine interest in school board business—even when they are not angry about something—indicates how much they value offering a quality education to the community's children.

Based on what he hears from other MSBA members, he says, "Not every district gets that."

He remembers when he was a student in the district, long-time English teacher Gary Nordlie told him, "Schultz, someday you're going to be a school board member." At the time, he said, the suggestion seemed somewhat ludicrous, given he was "not the most dedicated" of students. The memory makes him chuckle, as

do other experiences he would not have foreseen, including reading books to classrooms of elementary students. Over time, he speculates, his day-to-day thinking has become nearly as intertwined with the welfare of the school district as with his own business affairs.

He recalls a stormy day last summer when he and Jackie had gone for a drive to get away from their everyday worries. "Within one hour," he says good-naturedly, "I got phone calls letting me know hail was falling on my crops, there was water in the school basement, and a tree had fallen on my pickup."

Among the most positive elements

of his time on the board, he says, is the controversial—but ultimately successful and beneficial—choice to merge the elementary sites at the Ellendale site. He is also pleased with the attractive, appealing, persistently improving appearance and functionality of the district's buildings. He mentions as well that one of the great strengths of the district is how well it continues to operate while keeping its financial impact on area taxpayers one of the lowest in the region.

"Being a school board member isn't for everyone," he observes. "But for me, it's been an honor and a privilege."

Suspect arrested after Waldorf break-in

On the morning of Thursday, January 23, the Waseca County 911 dispatch center received notification that someone appeared to have broken into Papa Olie's Bar and Grill on South Main Street in Waldorf and caused damage inside. Law enforcement responded and found an unlocked door. The business was checked and found to be unoccupied. There was heavy interior damage to the business and items had been stolen. The subsequent investigation identified the suspect as 30-year-old female Ashley Rocheford of Crosby, Minn. She was arrested without incident and charged in Waseca District Court with multiple felony crimes including burglary, theft, possession of burglary tools, and criminal damage to property. It is believed Rocheford acted alone and there is no further concern to the public. The sheriff's office expressed its thanks to the citizens and businesses in Waldorf and to area law enforcement for assisting in the investigation and leading to a rapid arrest of the offender.



Rocheford



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

‘AI’ is all the rage these days

The scurs and Weather Eye finally forecasted their way out of the deep freeze for a while anyway. Will Old Man Winter take some time off, or will he linger on? Starting Thursday, sunny with highs in the low 50's and lows around 25. Sunny on Friday with highs in the upper 30's and lows in the upper teens. Mostly cloudy Saturday with a slight chance of snow. Highs in the mid-30's with lows in the mid-teens. Ground Hog Day, partly sunny with a slight chance of snow showers. Highs in the upper 30's with lows in the mid-teens. Cloudy on Monday with a fair chance of light snow. Highs in the mid-20's with lows around 10 above. Tuesday, cloudy with highs in the mid-20's and lows around 10 above. Mostly cloudy on Wednesday with highs in the low 20's and lows in the upper teens. On the 1st, the sun will rise at 7:30 a.m. CST. On Ground Hog Day, we see our day length increase at 2 minutes and 30 seconds per day. On the 4th, our daylight increases to just over 10 hours per day. On the 5th, the sun will set at 5:30 p.m. CST. Whew! The normal high for Ground Hog Day is 23 and the normal low is 5 above. The ground hog should see his shadow, once again guaranteeing we'll see at least six more weeks of winter like usual.

Lots of speculation about where this winter is heading as we chew our way through February. Some are convinced we'll see winter return with a vengeance, including more snow. It would have to work at it to snow much less than it has. We're sitting at about 5.9" for the season in town so far and 5.5" at the ranch as of 1/27/25. The best thing about February is looking at the temperatures trending upwards after January. Not that this was the worst January, but we really weren't conditioned for it. Soil moisture is something people are starting to worry about. There's talk of needing rain before spring planting. If one recalls the past two growing seasons, we were just fine without that. After last year, the last thing we need is heavy spring precipitation. We have ample moisture in the subsoil and received some rainfall last fall in addition to the scant amount of snow that didn't run off when it melted. People forget.

At the ranch, where we experience weather several times daily, it's been a mixed bag. It's meant little need for tire chains on the tractor and the snow blower has been idle thus far. The frost depth at the SROC last week was 20" and, as if on cue, the door frame on the walk-in door in the barn heaved, keeping it from latching. Warm chore clothes were called for this past week as the wind raked my face when feeding brood ewes outside. The neck gaiter helps, but when not adjusted perfectly, it fogs glasses up, making for a winter nuisance. Luckily there's little ice to worry about, except where we've been tossing water out of buckets once they thaw in the heated garage.

Still plenty of buckets to be hauled as new lambs continue to trickle in. There will be an uptick in that department as we move into February. Earlier lambs and ewes need to be moved to more spacious accommodations for their sake and ours too. All those small pens are time consuming

and put a drag on feed supplies as the ewes tend to waste more hay than I'd like. If you're the person procuring the hay, that becomes a real concern. We should have the loafing area and creep feeder set up soon, taking the heat off the bucket brigade. Might not be a bad idea to hook onto the snow blower during a lull in the action to grease it and lube the chains up just in case. Doing so may help ward off the wrath of the snow gods.

It seems AI (Artificial Intelligence) is all the rage these days. It's been particularly noticeable recently, running across it in the word processing software I use. More often than not, it's an annoyance. It increasingly attempts to finish sentences in addition to adding or subtracting words. I didn't ask for that kind of help. If it would just go away, I'd be fine with that. Well intentioned perhaps for someone whose life involves sitting in a cubicle, but as the saying goes, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Much of my writing is done in the vernacular, well versed in farming, agronomy, soil science, livestock, IPM, or genuine rural Midwest living. In other words, real world experience, rather than some imagined version of it. If I followed their corrective recommendations, the column would be utter gibberish or at least worse than it already is.

It reminds me of a writing project I did for an ag related company about 20 years ago. They wanted humorous anecdotes about dealing with customers problems and how they were solved. Another gentleman was assigned the task of editing my copy. I'd email it to him, then he'd send the edited copy back for my approval. Bear in mind, he had worked a desk job in the auto industry, with no farm or agricultural background whatsoever. When I got the first copy back, I just shook my head. I called him and politely explained that, while I appreciated his efforts, his edits would make the article totally nonsensical to the intended audience. Once we established some guidelines, we got along fine. So far, AI has a long way to go in that department. In the meantime, the focus should be on real intelligence and critical thinking rather than following blindly. In my case AI so far means Added Inconvenience.

Poppy certainly hasn't been inconvenienced by the winter thus far. She can wander about the yard to her little heart's content. As a result, it's littered with little Poppy grenades awaiting enough snowfall, so the snowblower will fling them into the ditch. Even if it doesn't snow, spring rains plus a few trips over the lawn with the mower and problem solved. There aren't even any Corgi-depth snowbanks for her to wade through on the way to the barn. About the biggest inconvenience for Poppy has been the sliding glass door freezing shut. It delays her squirrel exercise program. Once we get it thawed out, it's been strange to watch the rooster tail of dust following her turn into a cloud as she trees the squirrel. It certainly hasn't been the case in her previous two winters and probably won't be again.

See you next week...real good then.

Sponsored by the letter T

I traveled to Owatonna earlier this month to call a basketball game for Owatonna Live. I arrived partway through the first half of the junior varsity game, only to hear people buzzing about what had happened about a minute into the game. Apparently, the varsity coach of the visiting team had been issued a technical foul while sitting behind the JV bench, complaining to the officials.

I've never seen that before. Usually you let the coach of that team worry about what is happening on the court, and I'm not sure why you'd want to anger the same group that will be officiating your game shortly!

While talking about this with some Owatonna people, one person asked if I had noticed an uptick in technical fouls this year in basketball. I pondered it for a very short time before nodding yes.

Let's start with this for the uninitiated: a technical foul is assessed to someone who has egregious unsportsmanlike behavior during a game. You'll see some examples as this column progresses!

I have either witnessed or been part of more technical fouls this year already than I have probably seen in the previous 3-4 years total. I'm not sure why. And it's been happening at all levels of the sport, boys and girls.

The very first time I refereed this year, it was for a 6th grade boys tournament. My partner and I were part of a close game between two pretty good teams. One of the coaches kept questioning calls; in fact, he called a timeout just to argue with me. I told him to go coach his team. I also told him I was done listening to him. My partner did the same not long after.



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

Following his second warning, he stared down my partner, not even paying attention to what else was happening. Then he made a confrontational gesture, thrusting his chest at my partner, at which time he was given a T. Normally, that results in two free throws for the other team and possession of the ball; in elementary, the other team gets the two points automatically.

When I tried to settle him down, he claimed you couldn't get T'd up for nonverbal gestures. I responded that if I flipped a ref the bird, I'd very much deserve one, even if that's non-verbal. Unsurprisingly, his team lost any momentum they had after this and went on to lose the game.

I had a C-squad coach take umbrage with the alleged missed calls my partner and I were making one night. I warned him twice to back off, but he was relentless. When he finally asked me, "Can I get just one call tonight?" I gave him his request by forming the letter T with my hands.

When you get a technical, you have to remain seated the rest of the game. As I reminded him of this, I also told him he didn't have to agree with our calls, but the scoreboard was showing more fouls on the home team than his. It didn't matter to him. He went on and acted with boorish behavior during the JV game later.

I was watching a junior high game one night and listening to the opposing coach just berate our officials. At halftime, I told one of the refs that he had a lot more patience than I would have. I left after halftime, and I guess that coach indeed was given a technical foul later.

I left because I had to get ready to call the JV game, in which I saw the opposing coach given a T as well. He was warned early as he was pouting and stamping on the sidelines. The refs did what I think you should do. They explained a couple calls he didn't like, then warned him when he continued. He still didn't stop, so he was given that T. Had he gotten another, he would have been ejected.

And the most recent (I hope since I'm typing this in advance of sending it in by a week or two) was once again in the junior high realm, in a game that was a blowout. I had to give a technical to a player for swearing. This is a no-go for me. There's no reason to swear on the playing field.

One of my partners that night got blasted by a fan during a timeout. Again, the score was lopsided by 30 points, but we were terrible nonetheless. This fan swore at the ref who then issued a bench warning, which is something you do when fans are unruly. Your team can be penalized if you don't quiet down. (Remember

Tom Kelly begging Twins fans to stop throwing things at Chuck Knoblauch back in the 90s? Same concept.) The fan then had to leave the gym.

We have a shortage of officials in all sports. Wonder why? I've known people to try it and leave in a short time because of incidents like this. Even those of us with thick skin can get shaken at times.

Ask yourself when you attend a youth game of any kind why you are going. Are you cheering on a relative? Do you support the school? Do you just enjoy sports? Those are all valid reasons. You should also ask yourself how you'll feel if your team doesn't win. Or what you will think if you feel the officials missed a call. Your answer to those questions should determine whether you should go. Better yet, what will your immediate reaction be in those instances? If it's to yell and scream, please stay home. If you can't control yourself, stay away.

Or better yet, learn how to officiate yourself! You know all the right calls, so grab a whistle and get out there. Just get ready. I've never called a perfect game in any sport, and neither will you. What will you do when the yelling starts because of what you called? Think about that the next time you want to criticize a ref.

Or just stay home.
Word of the Week: This week's word is cromulent, which means acceptable or satisfactory, as in, "The coach found the official's explanation of the foul cromulent, to the ref's great surprise." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

A skill I acquired along the way

Across a lifetime, one picks up a skill or two.

I previously wrote a column about how I learned to juggle thanks to a (youthful, unrealistic) attraction to someone who knew how.

Another skill I acquired along the way is cutting snowflakes. Set me down in the company of some scissors and undefended paper sometime, and watch what happens. I can make that piece of paper into lace.

I also learned, somewhere along the way, to fold a remarkably graceful traditional German paper ornament—the sort they made back in the time before family heirloom pieces were made out of blown glass. Rather than being fragile and stored away carefully for 11 months of the year, this "heirloom" lived from generation to generation in the memories and skills they led people to acquire.

Another thing I am exceptionally skilled at is—for lack of a better word—braiding. I am not talking about the familiar three-strand braid commonly used for long hair, nor about "French braiding." The braids I hope you can call to mind are commonly put on keychains. Young children often learn to make them "at camp," where they are a typical craft.

Nearly everyone learns to make the "square" braid, but just like with making snowflakes, this is a craft I have experimented with over time until I do not believe I am overstating when I say—I have become a positive master at it.

When I name these various skills, I do not mean to brag. I am sure we all carry our own collection of acquired, incidental abilities. They are the enjoyable little novelties of life that we pull out and dust off every once in a while.

No, I mention these skills because I can name something even better than having them. Teaching them.

Over time, I have taught all the

skills mentioned in this column—and a couple more—to others. I have watched as they acquired an understanding of the needed dexterity, often after facing frustration or even overcoming the belief they cannot learn it. I have seen them go on to become capable, then skilled, and, in some cases, to "exceed their teacher" by becoming better at it than I am.

Until they are in my place someday, I believe those learners will be unable to understand the pleasure it brought me to see them learn.

To be truthful, I'm not even sure I can explain it. Why is it more valuable to me to know I taught others how to do something than it is simply to know the skill?

The impetus behind this particular topic is that I recently volunteered to teach braiding to an NRHEG community education class aimed at upper elementary students. I had several spools of the flat braiding "lace" typically used for the craft, and thought maybe I could get them used up and gone. But as soon as the class was arranged for, guess what I did? I acquired more colors of "lace" so braiding would be more fun for my students: So much for "used up and gone."

The first group was small, but oh it was a pleasure to work with them. They were delighted with the concept and excited about acquiring the skill. With only a brief explanation, they got to work quickly, and the inches of keychain braid started to build up.

Yes, those first products were a bit uneven and lumpy, but they showed impressive promise for the braids to follow. I have no doubt those fleet-fingered little apprentices will someday become masters of the craft.

But for now, I still have the privilege of teaching them: I can't wait until the session when I get to show them the triple-string twist.



These samples represent "craft" braiding. The two left and right are made with string rather than the plastic lace. The center example is a "triple twist," one of the more challenging forms of the craft.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday**

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Identify Frosty for share of \$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 at 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 Facebook; 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.*

Snow continued on 4

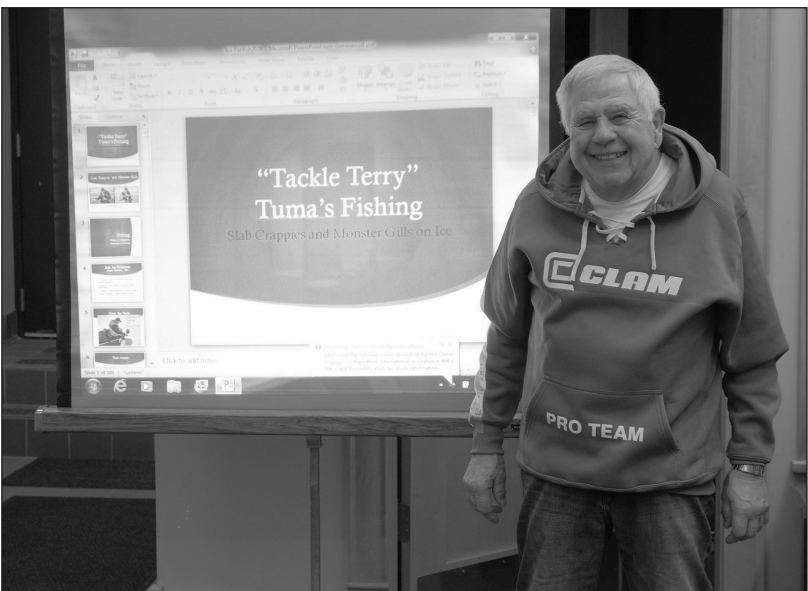
'Tackle Terry' ice fishing presentation at New Richland Library

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

"Tackle Terry" Tuma of Terry Tuma's Fishing based out of Montgomery held a free ice fishing class at the New Richland Public Library on Thursday, Jan. 23. Complete with slide show and door prizes, there were many tricks this professional Minnesota angler shared to a medium-size group. For this lecture, he focused mostly on crappies and sunfish.

When it comes to going out fishing, Tuma claimed, "It doesn't matter what the excuse—it's too cold, it's too windy—whatever it is, it's an excuse and we don't do that here." Those were the first things Tuma said to his class about ice fishing. From there he moved onto rod types and took a survey, "Who uses an ultra-light rod? Medium light? Medium?" He also discussed different types of fishing line for different fish, going on to tell his audience "always watch the line, not the rod." Tuma also recommended using the smallest bobber possible to cut down on resistance when a fish begins to pull on the hook.

His discussion also covered baiting techniques to draw the fish in. Tuma suggested anglers keep in mind a fish's eyesight is 40 degrees up and 40 degrees down. If the fish aren't biting on wax worms, he says it may be the color; he recommended switching to grubs or night crawlers or minnows, something with a darker tint. Tuma also warned against reaching into the hole, saying it is possible to leave human scent in the water. He said fish may leave if they sense an unfamiliar smell. Before touching the water, he suggested, "Grab a minnow; crush it in your hands and rub it around like lotion; that will mask your smell." He also says anglers should do their best to get the bait within one foot of where the fish are; only aggressive fish, he said, are likely to move more than a foot from their location to explore the bait. Fish have two sets of taste buds, one in the front of the mouth and one in the back. Tuma says anglers should change their minnows every 8 minutes. He suggests matching the hook with the size of the bait, and says minnows should be hooked from front to back along the top of the



"Tackle Terry" Tuma put on an ice fishing class at the New Richland Public Library on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025.

spine, so they will appear more natural in the water.

Regarding the fishing structure, Tuma said, "While buying a fish house that suits your needs, yes, we are Americans, but bigger isn't always better." He said the same is true of augers, and suggested anglers should buy an electric unit. Electric ones are lighter, faster and easier to use. When drilling a hole in the ice, Tuma suggested choosing a spot with snow if possible; the snow tends to muffle the noise, and may even reduce the noises made while walking on the ice. The prime times for fishing are dusk, dawn and night. It is also optimal if the barometric pressure is between 29.5 to 29.7.

"If there is a lake with no snow on the ice, you will find green weeds because they have access to sunlight," Tuma observed. He also mentioned that if there is no snow on the ice, one way to make walking a bit safer is to take ice particles formed while drilling the hole and scatter them across the nearby surface. The particles will freeze in place giving the angler better walking grip when cleats aren't available, or add better grip while wearing cleats. Tuma also said fishermen should always dress according to the weather, since staying warm is a major priority. He also recommended anglers should, as an act of safety, always bring a friend along.

Norovirus cases increasing

The Minnesota Department of Health has announced cases of Norovirus infection, commonly referred to as the "stomach flu," are on the rise, having so far reached nearly double the rate of infection from last year. Common symptoms are vomiting and diarrhea.

Health professionals report most people contract Norovirus about five times in their lifetime, and suggest the best way to keep that number to a minimum is to understand the disease. The

Waseca County office of public health offers this advice:

Norovirus spreads from person to person and is very contagious. Poor hand washing is the most common reason for outbreaks and illnesses. The "good news" is that a simple but thorough hand wash can help keep illness at bay. Here are some other expert tips:
Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before handling food and after using the bathroom and changing diapers.
Do not prepare food for others

if you are sick. Wait three days before touching other's food if you had vomiting or diarrhea.

Vomit and diarrhea clean up should be accomplished with soap and followed by a household bleach solution immediately. A suitable mixture can be made from about a capful of bleach mixed with a gallon of water. [Never mix soap and bleach together, as this combination can emit a toxic gas that can be lethal.]

Most hand sanitizers do not kill

norovirus, so use soap and water before eating.

Waseca County Public Health recommends that, as with any illness, seek medical care if you're not recovering or have difficulty breathing, pain or pressure in your chest or belly, are not urinating or become dehydrated. Waseca County Public Health cares and wants to see everyone out and about this spring. These tips might even prevent a long-lasting date with the toilet.



Cast members for the play are Caden Christopher, Rylie Cromwell, Kenna Dolton, Jacob Karl, Caralee Koopal, Crissa Koopal, Shayna Kress, Madi Langfitt, Winter Pederson, Mady Schlaak, Grace Starman, Olivia Wencil, and Sophia Williams.

NRHEG One Act Play Is "a little spooky"

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The NRHEG contest "one-act" play is titled "In the Forests of the Night," by Del Martin.

According to cast members, the story is tense and edgy, and presents "a good range of emotion." Taking part in the MSHSL competition play are 13 student actors and two crew members—one in charge of sound and another in charge of lights.

NRHEG teachers Holly Pederson and Solveig Sundblad are co-directors for the 30-minute play which will be performed four times. The first was January 19 at a "festival"; performers had a chance to receive feedback about general strengths of the play as well as their own presentations of their characters. The second performance was during "subsection" competition on Jan. 25 at Maple River; schools participating were Maple River, NRHEG, St. Clair, United South Central, Waseca, and Waterville-Elysian-Morristown.

The play did not advance to sub-

sequent competition, but, according to co-director Sundblad, group members were pleased with their performance and received satisfying positive comments from event judges.

The performances cast members anticipate perhaps the most are two which will take place at NRHEG. Snow Week will be from Feb. 3 to 8. Arrangements are underway to present at least part of the play during the Feb. 7 talent show. An evening performance for the public is scheduled for Feb. 14; those in attendance will be asked for a free-will donation.

The play is set, as the title states, in a dark forest. The action is based on an imaginary society where students at a boarding school are compelled to take part in an event which leads to the eventual disappearance, and presumed death, of an unlucky participant. The implication is that, if the chosen students don't take part in the nighttime event, all students at the school will be endangered.

Play continued on 4



Board hears district updates

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Administrative reports constituted the majority of the Jan. 21 NRHEG school board meeting. Elementary principal Craig Kopetzki and high school principal Grant Berg shared highlights of activities at their sites, both mentioning that the first semester ended on Jan. 17 and the first day of the second semester was set for Jan. 22, after some staff development work time on Jan. 20 and 21.

Kopetzki mentioned elementary-level parent teacher conferences on Jan. 28 and 30. He also announced that the annual "Read Across America" celebration, centered around the works of Dr. Seuss, will be March 3 through 7, with the popular "Green Eggs and Ham" breakfast scheduled for March 7.

Berg told board members Snow Week will be Feb. 3 through 8, and will include numerous special events. He also told of the Gopher Conference honor band and choir events set for Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. During a recent DECA event, 10 of NRHEG's 16 participants qualified to continue on to state-level competition, scheduled for March 2 to 5.

Community Education director Macy Whiteside reported that early childhood screening continues, 29 pairs of grandparents had registered for "Grandparents' Night" the evening of Jan. 29, and that the community education painting class taught by high school junior Brady Koopal had proven to be a positive experience for all participants, including Whiteside herself. She mentioned that high school band instructor Seth Schaeffer is teaching community education music lessons. "We've got all kinds of exciting things going on in community ed," said Whiteside. "I really encourage people to read our registration materials and see whether they find something that interests them."

During his report, district superintendent Michael Meihak mentioned the district had had some recent activities in celebration of Education Paraprofessionals week from Jan. 20 to 25. He complimented building and grounds supervisor Scott Schuller for his efforts ensuring recent work in the high school band room could continue smoothly.

Meihak also congratulated school board chair Rick Schultz and board member Aaron Phillips for recent acknowledgments from the Minnesota State School Board Association (MSBA). Schultz was one of 13 people statewide recognized for completing 300 "training hours." Phillips was noted for completing a specific training program.

Based on a recommendation from school district transporta-

School continued on 4

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OBITUARIES

Beatrice O'Brien

BEATRICE ELAINE (MAASS) O'BRIEN, age 81, of Waseca passed away peacefully on January 23, 2025 after a 3-year battle with stage 4 breast cancer. Up until the end Bea, maintained her love for everyday life. Despite frequent trips to the doctor, she continued to stay active visiting and talking with her siblings, attending to her family, following grandkids and great grandkids, and working full time.

Bea's life can broadly be defined by her two loves: Family and "work." Work is in quotes as she always answered inquiries about her longevity at work with, "I don't think of it as work; I love to do it." During her life she had a major impact on all those she encountered doing what she loved.

Bea was born on April 10, 1943 on the farm in Waldorf, MN to parents Elmer and Ruth (Allen) Maass. She spent her early years there, graduating from Waldorf High School in 1960. The oldest of 5 children, she was fiercely proud of her Maass heritage, her parents, her siblings, and their families. She spent major holidays with them for most of her life, only stopping when COVID interrupted the traditions. Bea communicated with her siblings and extended "Maass" family frequently and valued the proximity in which they all lived. Until recently she continued to meet for birthday lunches with siblings and cousins. Bea met Mike O'Brien in 1966 and they were married at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on June 10, 1967. She spent the next 58 years as a faithful member of the church. Together they had 9 children, and Bea's 15 minutes of local fame came with the birth of her first girl after 7 boys in a row. She would add another girl two years later to complete the family. You could always find her at mass early on Sunday morning with all 9 kids in tow. She and Mike raised their family with faith as their guide. Bea was always willing to give her time, be it as a Eucharistic Minister, counting offertory or volunteering for the Fall Festival. She was also active in Catholic Daughters, worked at the Food Shelf and would lend a hand to anyone in need, grateful that she had time to do it. Her family sparked a journey that would take her and Mike to gyms, ball fields and other activities across southern Minnesota and surrounding states. Bea was always front and center, cheering and clapping, but was back to just "Mom" by the time she arrived home. Preferring just to watch, she never lost sight of the true value of it all which was growth through the losses and the victories. Once her kids were done, she continued with the same spirit chasing her grandkids and checking in on her great grandkids. Her grandkids adored her as she made them all feel special, always acknowledging birthdays and messaging them all during life's special events. Bea and Mike would have celebrated 58 years of marriage on June 10, 2025. Her identity was tied together by the thing she held most dear, her extensive family.

After graduating from Waldorf High School, Bea landed a job as a legal secretary with Iversen Law



Beatrice O'Brien

Firm at the age of 18. Bea occupied a seat on Main St. Waseca for 64 years. She truly loved her job and received great joy helping people navigate the legal obstacle course they faced. Known for her strong memory, efficiency, and quick appointments, clients came from near and far to see her. As her career developed, she was a trusted advisor to many, and her presence was a great marketing tool for the 3 lawyers who hired her. In several instances, she assisted grandparents, parents, kids, and grandkids of the same family. She found energy and strength in her many friends and loved to connect the dots of who is related to whom that left all of us with a smile. Her joy of friendships and relationships was always present, her identity tied together by the many people she helped during happy and difficult life events.

Bea is survived by her husband, Mike; children, John (Jane), Jason (Chelsea), Tony (Tami), Andy (Courtney), Joel (Jen), Matt, Ben (Ria), Katie, and Kari (Greg) Huber; grandchildren, Kelvin (Melissa), Ashley, Jack, Meg, Mallory, Henry, Sally (JP) Eykyn, Sydney (Al) Solheid, Sarah, Sam, Alix, Joe, Lauren, Lilly, Gavin, Oliver, Evelyn, Archer (O'Brien), Lucy and Macy Huber; great-grandchildren, Owen O'Brien and Grace Solheid; siblings, Carol McCoy, Marvin (Bev), Merlin (Kathy); many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Dewey; and nephew, Shaun.

Of course, none of this happens without our dad – her one true love through it all. Mom was a giver; in life and in death, she led by example. Recently reassuring us all that she was good and that we'd be fine. "Life will change a bit," she said, "but it will go on." Giving once again, giving us permission to move forward, permission to let her go as that huge heart and unbelievable motor went quiet. We love you, Mom.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the O'Brien Family charity, 712 Giving.

Visitation was from 3 – 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. A rosary for Bea was held at 2:30 p.m. prior to the visitation at the church. Visitation continued one hour prior to the service at the church on Wednesday.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. A private family burial followed at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

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Joseph M. Rysavy

Joseph Rysavy of Ellendale, MN passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on January 24, 2025 at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center in Neenah, WI.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, January 31, 2025 at 11 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Litomysl (9946 SE 24th Ave, Owatonna, MN). Visitation will be on Thursday, January 30, 2025 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Brick-Meger Funeral Home (1603 Austin Rd, Owatonna) and one hour prior to the Mass at the church. A Knights of Columbus Rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. on Thursday evening at the funeral home. Burial will follow the Mass at Holy Trinity Cemetery in Litomysl.

Joe was born on June 13, 1953 to Jerry and Roselyn (Simon) Rysavy.

Like the subject of Paul Harvey's famous address, "God made a farmer," that he did, in Joe. He dedicated his life to sowing the fields and milking cows on the same farm

where he grew up. In 1976, Joe joined his father, Jerry Sr., and older brother, Jerry Jr., in operating the family farm. Also in 1976, he married Cheryl (Johnson), and together they raised five children.

In early 2002, Joe was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, but that didn't stop him from what he knew and loved, farming. In 1996, Joe's son Benjamin graduated high school and joined Joe in the family farm operation. In 1999, his son Jacob began farming alongside them part time. Joe never retired from farming, and his farming legacy lives on through his two sons and grandsons.

Joe's life revolved around farming, but he also cherished time spent at his young children's Sunday 4-H softball games and the County Fair dairy shows. In his recent years, he enjoyed countless Western movies, tinkering with his tools, spending time with his family and friends, and reminiscing about his younger years. Joe is survived by his wife of 48

years, Cheryl; children: Benjamin (Wendy) Rysavy, Jacob Rysavy (Carrie Kirk-Long), all of Owatonna, Rachel (Racey) Underwood of Ellendale, Karen (Tyler) Patten of Neenah, WI, and Katelyn Rysavy of Ellendale; grandchildren Hailey and Marcus Rysavy, Clayton and Kendyl Kaplan, Eli Underwood, and Jack Patten; siblings Thomas (Ana) Rysavy of Random Lake, WI, Kenneth (Betty) Rysavy of Laurens, SC, Michael (Sharon) Rysavy of Geneva, MN, and Rita Wandrey of Owatonna; and sisters-in-law Mary Ann Rysavy and Arlys Rysavy, both of Owatonna.

He was preceded in death by his grandchildren Hannah Rysavy and Trevor Kaplan; parents Jerry and Roselyn Rysavy; in-laws Kenneth and Ramah Johnson; brothers Jerry Jr. and David Rysavy; brothers-in-law Gary Wandrey and Wayne Johnson; and sister-in-law Gail Rysavy.

Memorials may be directed to



Joseph M. Rysavy

Holy Trinity Catholic Church at Litomysl, Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota, or the Parkinson's Foundation. For more information or to leave an online message of condolence, go to www.megercare.com

■ Play

from Page 3

"I think people will like it," commented cast member Jacob Karl, "It's kind of spooky, and it gives an eerie feeling."

Karl mentions he has enjoyed numerous elements of preparing for and performing the play. He mentions the challenge of learning dialogue, both a "quick back and forth" exchange and what he refers to as "a sort of screaming match" between himself and another character.

"It's an opportunity to be a different person for a while," observes Karl.

Actor Caralee Koopal presents a character whose life is in danger and for whom there is no escape. She says she enjoys the challenge of portraying the many conflicting emotions. "I'm being brave for the people around me, but facing a lot of internal fear," she mentions.

"Acting has always been my thing," she says. "It's a form of expression I really enjoy. I try to tap into the mindset of being nervous and strong all at the same time."

The opportunity to be with a "fun group" of like-minded performers also makes the experience pleasurable,

she says.

Actor Winter Pederson is in her fourth year participating in one-act play. Her character challenges the expected rules of behavior, calling on Pederson to present both sadness surrounding the approaching danger and strength to support her endangered friend.

"It's a very good play," comments Pederson. "It keeps you on your toes, so there's never a dull moment."

Pederson says she is proud of what she and her fellow actors have accomplished. "We put a lot of work into it," she comments. "Not only on the acting, but on building the set and working out the details."

Actor Sophia Williams describes being called upon to present fear, hesitation, and internal tension. The action of the play, she says, is "Kind of a rollercoaster—you can't tell where it's going next."

Cast members for the play are Caden Christopher, Rylie Cromwell, Kenna Dolton, Jacob Karl, Caralee Koopal, Crissa Koopal, Shayna Kress, Madi Langfitt, Winter Pederson, Mady Schlaak, Grace Starman, Olivia Wencil, and Sophia Williams.

Tech and stage crew members are August Botten, Scarlett Chance, Emily Delacruz, Bella McKenna, Reilly Weitzel and Cooper Cords. Set design was by Danica Boyes and Baylynn Olson.

■ Snow

from Page 3

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. Frosty: Week 2 Clue

A northerner from the start, Frosty moved South for school The major of study initially un-

known But a degree was the general rule

Completing classes at Gustavus And taking credits as MSU A 1983 college graduate History was a favored study too

Far out of school now But to help pass the time Frosty enjoys putting together words

Possibly a limerick or a rhyme 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: Week 2 Clue One lucky winner Will keep the grand prize Their dedication and note taking A technique which was wise

Now in support of the 75th year And to give one more chance The medallion will be re-hidden In a special circumstance

\$750 is now waiting For the second lucky finder The medallion hidden well Good luck to the new pathfinder 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 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!

■ School

from Page 3

tion coordinator Dan Schmidt, Meihak also mentioned the status of the

NRHEG school bus fleet. Two buses were ordered during 2024 with a 9-month production time, which will have them delivered sometime this summer. "If we're going to have a true rotation of regularly replacing buses," Meihak stated, "Dan suggests we might want to order a bus in the near future for delivery next year."

The suggestion was an outgrowth of discussions which took place during the acquisition process for the first two buses. At that time, board members had suggested a "rotation" would be helpful in preventing any future need to acquire more than one bus at a time.

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ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
That movie I saw last week was excellent. I wanted to read the book, too, but I couldn't.
Why not?
It was too dark in the theater.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Everything was nearly copacetic when my phone vibrated. The caller was from the south. He asked me where I was from. I told him I was from Minnesota. His follow-up question was,
"Why?" His comments concluded with, "The weather there." A couple of weeks later, his address was dumped on by more snow than the snow-removal folks, if there were any, knew what to do with. Winter weather in the south should eliminate many of those kinds of questions for the rest of the winter. No matter where they live, people have their own winter miseries to deal with.

The day hadn't greeted me warmly. I went for a walk when it was -20 on my local path. By itself, that was an order to cease and desist, but there was also enough of a wind to make my nose want to run back home. I finished the walk slightly chilled. Once in the friendly confines of my humble abode, I opened the freezer to warm the house.

It was the kind of day that made my neighbor Crandall find cheerfulness hard to take. Crandall likes to waddle away from his ingrown La-Z-Boy just long enough to peek out the window to see if there might be a Bigfoot doing the hokey pokey in his yard.

I grew up in a cold bedroom. How cold was it? I needed to scrape the thick frost off my windows to see out of them in June. I kept a chair close to the bed so I could put on a T-shirt and jeans before heading down to the shower in the basement.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
How do nudists clean their eyeglasses?
The city of Two Bits has recycling bins labeled: Woulda bin, Coulda bin and Shoulda bin.
My neighbor Cruella said: "My husband thinks he's a lawn mower. I'm taking him to a doctor just as soon as the neighbor returns him."

NATURE NOTES
"Why is an oak tree keeping its leaves in the winter?" It's called marcescence and is a juvenile trait. Theories abound as to what benefit a tree derives from persistent leaves. The dead, dry leaves might make the tree unpalatable to deer. The living snow fence of leaves might trap moisture for a tree to use. Marcescence could preserve leaves for mulch in the spring. Or it might be just to give us something to wonder about. Nonnative buckthorn leafs out early and retains its leaves late into the fall, creating dense shade that helps it outcompete many native plants.

"Did Ben Franklin really want the turkey to be our national bird?" The story about Benjamin Franklin wanting the national bird to be a turkey is a popular myth. Franklin wrote a letter to his daughter criticizing the original eagle design for the Great Seal, saying that it looked like a turkey. In that letter, Franklin wrote that the "Bald Eagle...is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly...[he] is too lazy to fish for himself." Franklin noted that compared to a bald eagle, a turkey is "a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America...He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage." Ben defended the honor of the turkey versus the bald eagle, but he didn't propose it become one of America's most important symbols.

I'VE LEARNED
Every shopping cart is an autobiography.
On the TV show "Lassie," Timmy never once, in the show's 571 episodes, fell into a well.
I visited Harvey Benson of Harmony at his rural home, which has a lovely and lengthy driveway. That means when Harvey turns into his drive, it's still a long journey to get home.

According to Climate Zone, Des Moines gets 134 days a year where the minimum temperature is below freezing temperatures,

MEETING ADJOURNED
Kind people are the best kind of people.

MEETING ADJOURNED
Kind people are the best kind of people.

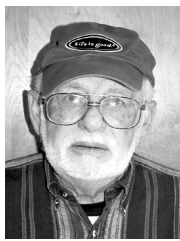
Three people dead after crash in Crow Wing County

CROW WING COUNTY, MINN. (Valley News Live) - On Sunday, January 12, at 12:41 p.m., two vehicles collided in Crow Wing County, leaving three dead and one person with non-life threatening injuries.
According to the Minnesota State Patrol, a Ford F150, driven by 59-year-old Lee Page, was traveling southbound on Highway 169. Page crossed over into the north-

bound lanes and collided with a 2015 Dodge Durango driven by 53-year-old Jeremy Hohansee.
Hohansee was taken to Essentia Hospital in Baxter. The passenger of the Durango was 51-year-old Kari Hohansee, who passed away.
The driver of the F150, Lee Page, passed away and so did his passenger, 59-year-old Lisa Burnes.

F.R.O.G. Valentine's party set for Feb. 8

By now most of you readers know that the F.R.O.G. Valentine's Party with Pizza and Norwegian Bingo, scheduled for Saturday evening, February 8th, 2025 to be held at Central Freeborn Lutheran Church Rural Albert Lea, has been canceled.
The people planning on attending are asked to give at least the cost of attending to a California Fire Relief Charity of their choice (\$7.50 per person or \$15.00 per family). If you are a Thrivent member - Thrivent will match a minimum of one dollar for every two dollars you give up to \$500,000.
I am convinced man is the cause of many climate changes. I am thinking of the weather in particular. The wind, rain, snowfall, temperature seem to be setting new records on a yearly basis.
I am convinced man is on average living longer. On the flip side, I am convinced man is dying younger of many diseases and also more



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide
by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

"If you repeat what you have read here, it may be used against you."
frequently of certain diseases.
I am certain, as a man just turning another set of Double digits in age (88), mankind is working on correcting the problems he has created.
This winter will be another short winter for fishing through the ice. First the lakes were not covered with ice, then the lakes were not safe because of ice heaves, some in excess of a foot in height.
With the Litter Law, almost nothing can be left on the ice; your safe bet is to leave nothing even while you're inside your fish house fishing. Common sense should cover most

situations. For example, don't cut a hole with your chainsaw and then leave the block of ice on the ice. Common sense will tell you to know the laws of the lake you are fishing on.
Genie and I are interested in renting a fish house a time or two either on St. Olaf or Beaver lake this winter. Call 1-507-373-8655 if your fish house is a possibility "with safe ice."
Did you get the weather forecast from February 2nd? You know when "Phil in Pennsylvania says," six more weeks of winter if it is sunny or

Difficulty of spiritual disciplines

By Pastor Kyle Smith
Ellendale



The Pastor's Column

It's that time of year again when many of us make New Year's Resolutions. Perhaps during this new year, you resolve to eat healthy, perhaps you resolve to go to the gym more often, perhaps you resolve to become more valuable at work with hopes of gaining a promotion. To accomplish any of these resolutions or any like them, there is one thing that absolutely must happen, and that's changing our habits. But habits can be pesky things; good habits are hard to start and bad habits are hard to stop.
One of my favorite stories to tell about habit formation is this: A while back, I was on a leadership coaching call on the topic of forming good habits and the coach gave each of us a challenge. The challenge was to take your watch, if you wear one, and put it on your other wrist. At first, it is easy to look at the wrist where your watch is now because you are consciously aware that you switched your watch to the other wrist. But what happens when you are focusing on something else and you look at your watch to check the time? You guessed it. You look at the wrong wrist!
Naturally, I took that exercise as a challenge and switched my watch from my right wrist to my left wrist, and, whenever I wanted to know what time it was, I did a pretty good job of looking at my left wrist, but that only lasted so long! Just as the leadership coach said, as soon as I wasn't focusing on which wrist my watch was on and I wanted to know what time it was, I inevitably looked to my right wrist instead of my left.
Here's the point: it isn't so much

that good habits are hard to start and bad habits are hard to stop, but that habits are powerful for better or worse! On the one hand (no pun intended), this is discouraging news because it means we'll have to work hard to start any habit. But this is also good news because it means that, with some intentionality, we can change our habits, which will help immensely in succeeding in our New Year's Resolutions.
Perhaps your New Year's Resolution is to attend church every Sunday unless you're sick, perhaps your New Year's Resolution is to pray every day, or perhaps your New Year's Resolution is to spend time reading God's Word every day. If one of these, or something like it, is your New Year's Resolution, keep in mind that you are trying to change a habit, and it won't be easy, that's why they're called "spiritual disciples." In fact, they will be difficult, and you may not succeed right away, but that's okay! The goal of a spiritual discipline is not to check off a box; the goal isn't to be "more saved" than you were before, the goal is not to do just good enough, so that if God were to give you a letter grade, you'd pass. No, the goal of a spiritual discipline is to grow in faith in Christ, to grow in discipleship.
For this upcoming year as you consider what spiritual discipline you desire to grow in, let the "watch

story" be an encouragement to you. Perhaps you desire to go to church every week this year, but shortly into the new year, you have a busy season of birthday parties, busy at work, doctor appointments, you find your-

self sleeping in, or something else. Suddenly, you realize you "looked at the wrong wrist," so to speak, and you've reverted to your previous habit of not going to church even though you want to. Don't despair! Rather, recognize that habits are powerful; you're simply in the process of making your habits work for you, and that takes time. May God bless you as you continue to seek to grow in faith and spiritual disciplines as a disciple of Jesus.

NOTICE

Berlin Township Audit Meeting,
followed by board meeting
Monday, February 10
6:30 p.m., Ellendale Community Building
Helen Schmidt
Berlin Township Clerk



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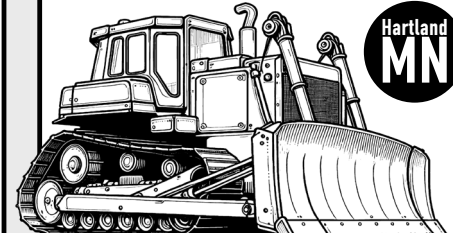
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NOTICE

Summit Township Audit Meeting,
followed by board meeting
Monday, February 10
6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall
Andy Jewison
Summit Township Clerk

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New Richland Area Sportsmen's Club

ICE FISHING CONTEST

St. Olaf Lake (1 mile north, 3-1/2 miles east of New Richland)

Saturday, Feb. 8 • 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Prizes Awarded to
\$75 largest fish • \$50 - 2nd largest • \$25 - 3rd largest

GRAND PRIZE \$500
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If contest is cancelled because of ice/weather, the event will be moved to February 9. Tune into FM 88.1 for updates/results

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CRUISING TO VICTORY — Ezra Boerner (2) scored three points as the NRHEG girls’ basketball team won handily at Bethlehem Academy Friday. In the middle, the Panthers’ Camryn VanMaldeghem eyes up a three-pointer. At right, NRHEG’s Chloe Stork (15) goes up for a shot. Star Eagle photos by Jim Lutgens

Twins combine for 46 as NRHEG girls humble BA

Reunion of 2004 state tournament team set for Feb. 10

There was only one game scheduled for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School girls’ basketball team last week.

The Panthers made the most of it. Traveling to Faribault to face Bethlehem Academy Friday, the Panthers came home with a convincing 63-42 triumph. It improved the NRHEG girls to 12-5 overall, 7-2 in Gopher Conference play and 3-1 in the Gopher Conference West Division.

“It was a great team win,” said NRHEG coach Onika Peterson, who added that her squad did well in a game that was physical at times.

“The game was a little chippy, but the girls held their own,” said Peterson. “It was fun to see them aggressive on both sides of the floor,

“The game was a little chippy, but the girls held their own.”
— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

rebound well, and make the extra pass.”

Camryn VanMaldeghem led the Panthers with 26 points, 10 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 steals.

Her twin sister, Quinn, totaled 20 points, 12 rebounds, 2 assists, 5 steals and 2 blocked shots.

Others: Gabby Schlaak 4P, 3A, 1S; Ezra Boerner 3P, 1R; Clara Buendorf 3P, 2R, 1A; Savannah Farr 1R; Chloe Stork 3R, 2A; Kylie Olson 7P, 6R, 1A, 2B.

The Panthers have two home games this week, Monday against

Medford and Friday against United South Central. They play at WEM Feb. 3 and host JWP in a boy-girl doubleheader Feb. 7.

The Panthers will hold a reunion of their 2004 state tournament team when they host St. Clair Feb. 10.

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Ov.
JWP	4-0	16-2
NRHEG	3-1	12-5
WEM	2-2	11-8
United South Central	1-3	11-8
Medford	0-4	0-18



THEY ALSO PLAY DEFENSE — The Panthers’ Quinn VanMaldeghem (4) ties up a Blooming Prairie opponent during recent action. Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG boys show improvement

The NRHEG High School boys’ basketball team took a long road trip to Sherburn last week and lost 69-47 to Martin County West.

“The score wasn’t indicative of how the game really went,” explained NRHEG head coach Dan Schmidt. “We played neck-and-neck with them through most of the first half, before giving up a run towards the end, to trail 37-20 at the break.”

At halftime, the Panthers discussed adjustments they needed to make. The result was a fine start for the Panthers, who cut the lead to 6.

“But MCW ramped up the pressure and we lost our composure and just never fully recovered,” said Schmidt.

Greyson Schaefer came off the bench to lead the Panthers with 17 points and 9 rebounds.

“Greyson played a heck of a game off the bench for the second straight game,” said Schmidt. “He’s been bringing so much more passion and energy the last couple of games. I’m proud of him for the way he’s turning things around.

“We continue to work on improving the little things.”
— NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt

Also for NRHEG: Calvin Nissen 1 steal; Owen Wayne 10P, 3R, 1 assist, 1S; Brendan Schmidt 4P, 3R, 5A; Justin Beauvais 1R, 1S; Lavon Jewison 2R, 1 blocked shot; Hudson Chrz 11P, 2E, 1A, 1S, 2B; Jase Knudson 3P, 2R, 4A; Jordan Brouwers 2P, 1R, 1A.

On Friday, the Panthers were upended 59-24 at Blooming Prairie.

Individually: Schaefer 2P, 4R, 1A, 1S, 1B; Wayne 1P, 4R, 3A, 3S; Beauvais 2P, 2R, 1A, 1S; Jewison 3P, 1R, 1S, 1B; Dom Olson 6R; Chrz 5P, 1R, 1S, 2B; Gavin Lewison 1R; Knudson 2P, 2R, 1A, 1S, 1B; Brouwers 9P, 2R, 2S.

Last Monday, the Panthers fell 82-52 at LCWM.

“We took on a very good squad,” said Schmidt.

It was below-zero temps outside,

but the shooting in the gym was on fire.

“LCWM does such a great job moving the ball and finding open shots that they put a lot of pressure on a defense,” said Schmidt. “I felt that despite their hot shooting, that we actually played a pretty clean game in comparison to some of our others, defensively. Offensively, we moved the ball so much better than what we did the previous game or two.”

NRHEG kept it close in the first half, trailing 45-31 at the intermission.

“They methodically pulled away in the second half, as you could see us running out of steam,” said Schmidt. “I’m proud of the boys in the way they kept working and never got down on themselves. And,

we saw some good things from guys off the bench. We continue to work on improving the little things, which will help get us over the top one of these days. We have a stretch of games coming up that can give us opportunities to pick up not only the first win, but string some together.”

Individually vs. LCWM: Schaefer 13P, 1A; Nissen 3P, 1R; Wayne 6P, 1R, 5A; Schmidt 6P, 1A, 2S, 1B; Beauvais 1S; Jewison 6P, 2R, 1A, 1S, 1B; Chrz 13P, 3R, 2S; Sean Lassahn 4P, 2R; Knudson 5P, 4R, 1A, 3S, 1B; Brouwers 2P, 4R, 1S.

The Panthers, 0-3 in the Gopher Conference West and 0-14 overall, were looking for win No. 1 as they played at winless Medford Tuesday. They play Thursday at United South Central.

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Ov.
JWP	3-0	11-4
WEM	2-1	8-7
United South Central	2-1	6-11
Medford	0-2	0-13
NRHEG	0-3	0-14

WHS icemen bounce back in a very big way

Bluejays defeat Worthington, 17-0

After enduring a tough stretch the previous week, the Waseca High School boys’ hockey team turned things around Friday at home against Windom, winning with a football-like score of 17-0.

Scoring goals for the Bluejays were Griffin Storey, Brayden Hesch-Priem, Cash Lynch, Jayden Gehring, Otto Schoenrock, Jude Gehring, Jackson Tesch and Avery Selvik.

Assists went to Schoenrock, Jude Gehring, Jayden Gehring, Hesch-Priem, Dahl, Beckett Srp, Lucas Groll, Storey and Tesch.

The Bluejays led 9-0 after one period and 15-0 after two. They outshot the Eagles 61-2.

Josiah Schmidt was in goal for Waseca.

The Bluejays, 14-2-2 overall, are 9-1-1 in the Big South, good for third place behind Luverne and New Ulm.

After a Tuesday game at Redwood Valley, Waseca skates Feb. 4 at Minnesota River and Feb. 6 at home against Fairmont.

Big South Standings			
	WLT	PTS	Overall
Luverne	10-0-1	21	15-2-1
New Ulm	6-3-0	20	9-8-1
Waseca	9-1-1	19	14-2-2
Marshall	6-5-0	12	7-11-0
Minn. River	5-2-0	10	9-8-0
Worthington	5-8-0	10	6-13-0
Windom	5-8-0	10	5-13-1
Redwood V.	1-11-0	2	2-16-0
Fairmont	0-10-0	0	0-14-0

Flyers skate past Austin

The South Central Flyers girls’ hockey team skated to a 4-3 triumph at Austin last week.

Maddy Benson scored two goals for the Flyers, with one apiece by Emma Huelsnitz and Stevie Johnston. Assists were by Huelsnitz, Benson, Alison Drager and Kaylee Lawson.

Ilamay Draheim was the goal for South Central.

The girls lost 7-0 at Marshall on Friday, getting outshot 63-3.

The Flyers skate Saturday at 6 p.m. at Simley and play Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. at Windom.

The section tournament starts Feb. 5.

Big South Standings			
	WLT	PTS	Ov.
Marshall	11-0-1	23	20-2-1
MN River	10-1-1	21	16-4-1
Luverne	10-2-0	20	15-6-2
Fairmont	7-6-0	14	13-9-1
So. Central	4-9-2	9	9-14-1
New Ulm	2-6-1	5	9-12-2
Worthington	1-10-1	3	4-15-1
Windom	0-11-1	1	6-15-2

NRHEG matmen closer to filling lineup

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School wrestling team traveled to St. James for a quadrangular last Thursday.

The Panthers dropped three dual meets, 48-24 to St. James/Madelia, 61-9 to St. Peter and 14-9 to Pipestone Area.

“Our efforts were better tonight,

than what we have been demonstrating as of late,” said NRHEG coach Shawn Larson. “When we decide to use what have been working on in practice, we are able to move our opponents, score points, and when we execute just right, we are able to win.”

And the Panthers, according to

Larson, are moving closer to fielding a full competitive lineup.

“We are at a competitive disadvantage when we aren’t able to get our full team out there,” he said. “We will continue to work on cleaning up mistakes, being more aggressive, and conditioning to give ourselves the best chance as the season

moves toward the section tournament.”

After a Tuesday triangular at Dodge Center, the Panthers wrestle Thursday at 7 p.m. against WEM/JWP at Waterville. They compete Saturday in the Maple River Invitational.

NR POLICE

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

• Saturday, December 14, 15:32 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Saturday, December 14, 15:33 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Saturday, December 14, 15:33 - House Watch, Dogwood Ave S, Cleared

• Saturday, December 14, 17:42 - Disturb/Disorderly/Nuisar, 2nd ST NW, Log Report

• Saturday, December 14, 19:17 - Assist Ambulance(law), 3rd ST NW, Assist Rendered

• Saturday, December 14, 19:55 - House Watch, 3rd ST NW, Cleared

• Saturday, December 14, 23:20 - Welfare Check, Broadway Ave S, Log Report

• Sunday, December 15, 02:42 - Driving While Intoxicated, Ash Ave S, Adult Arrest

• Sunday, December 15, 03:21 - Assist Other Agency(law), Ash Ave S, Ignore/Duplicate

• Sunday, December 15, 15:46 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Sunday, December 15, 15:47 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Sunday, December 15, 15:47 - House Watch, Dogwood Ave S, Cleared

• Sunday, December 15, 15:48 - House Watch, 3rd ST NW, Cleared

• Sunday, December 15, 15:49 - House Watch, Broadway Ave S, Cleared

• Sunday, December 15, 17:03 - Bar Checks, Broadway Ave N, Cleared

• Sunday, December 15, 18:29 - Traffic Stop, 3rd ST NE/ Broadway Ave N, Warning-Verbal

• Sunday, December 15, 18:56 - Traffic Stop, 120th ST/State Highway 30, Warning-Verbal

• Monday, December 16, 19:05 - Welfare Check, Broadway Ave S, Cleared

• Monday, December 16, 19:31 - Warrant Service, Broadway Ave N, Cleared

• Monday, December 16, 23:03 - House Watch, 3rd ST NW, Cleared

• Monday, December 16, 23:06 - House Watch, Dogwood Ave S, Cleared

• Monday, December 16, 23:08 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Tuesday, December 17, 15:44 - Suspicious Vehicle, Cypress Ave S, Cleared

• Tuesday, December 17, 22:22 - House Watch, Broadway Ave N, Cleared

• Tuesday, December 17, 22:25 - House Watch, Dogwood Ave S, Cleared

• Tuesday, December 17, 22:28 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Wednesday, December 18, 01:50 - Assist Ambulance(law), 1st ST NE, Assist Rendered

• Wednesday, December 18, 11:46 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Wednesday, December 18, 11:46 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Wednesday, December 18, 11:46 - House Watch, Dogwood Ave S, Cleared

• Wednesday, December 18, 11:46 - House Watch, Broadway Ave S, Cleared

• Wednesday, December 18, 15:06 - Directed Patrol, Ash Ave S, Cleared

• Thursday, December 19, 15:42 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Thursday, December 19, 15:42 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Thursday, December 19, 15:43 - House Watch, Dogwood Ave S, Cleared

• Friday, December 20, 09:34 - Parking(comp/Viol), Broadway Ave S, Cleared

• Friday, December 20, 11:15 - Welfare Check, Broadway Ave S, Log Report

• Friday, December 20, 22:02 - House Watch, Dogwood Ave S, Cleared

• Friday, December 20, 22:04 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Friday, December 20, 22:38 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/Highway 30, Warning-Verbal

• Saturday, December 21, 01:21 - Bar Checks, Broadway Ave N, Cleared

• Saturday, December 21, 14:38 - Assist, 2nd ST SE, Cleared

• Saturday, December 21, 23:38 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Saturday, December 21, 23:46 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/240th Ave, Warning-Verbal

• Sunday, December 22, 00:10 - House Watch, Dogwood Ave S, Cleared

• Sunday, December 22, 17:03 - Assist Ambulance(law), Balsam Ave S, Cleared

• Monday, December 23, 00:31 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Monday, December 23, 01:01 - House Watch, Dogwood Ave S, Cleared

• Monday, December 23, 16:03 - Fraud, 1st ST SW, Log Report

• Monday, December 23, 16:22 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Monday, December 23, 16:23 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Monday, December 23, 16:23 - House Watch, Dogwood Ave S, Cleared

• Monday, December 23, 23:03 - Ordinance Violation, 240th Ave, Cleared

• Tuesday, December 24, 15:12 - Assist Ambulance(law), State Highway 13, Assist Rendered

• Tuesday, December 24, 16:02 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Tuesday, December 24, 16:02 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Tuesday, December 24, 16:03 - House Watch, Dogwood Ave S, Cleared

• Tuesday, December 24, 19:12 - House Watch, Dogwood Ave S, Cleared

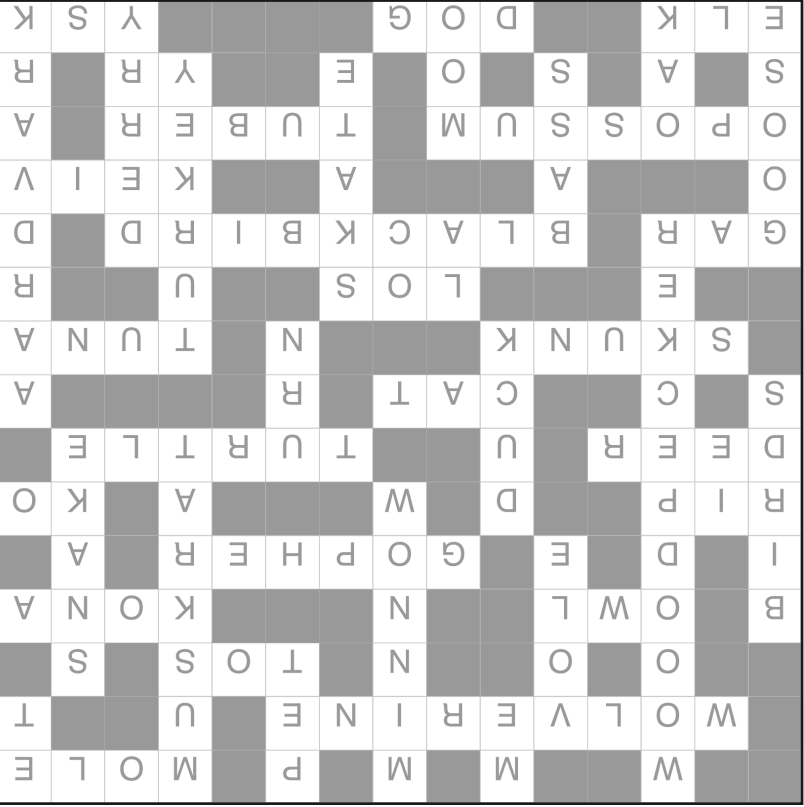
• Tuesday, December 24, 23:37 - Assist Ambulance(law), 2nd ST NW, Assist Rendered

• Wednesday, December 25, 15:13 - Assist Ambulance(law), 1st ST NE, Cleared

• Wednesday, December 25, 23:20 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

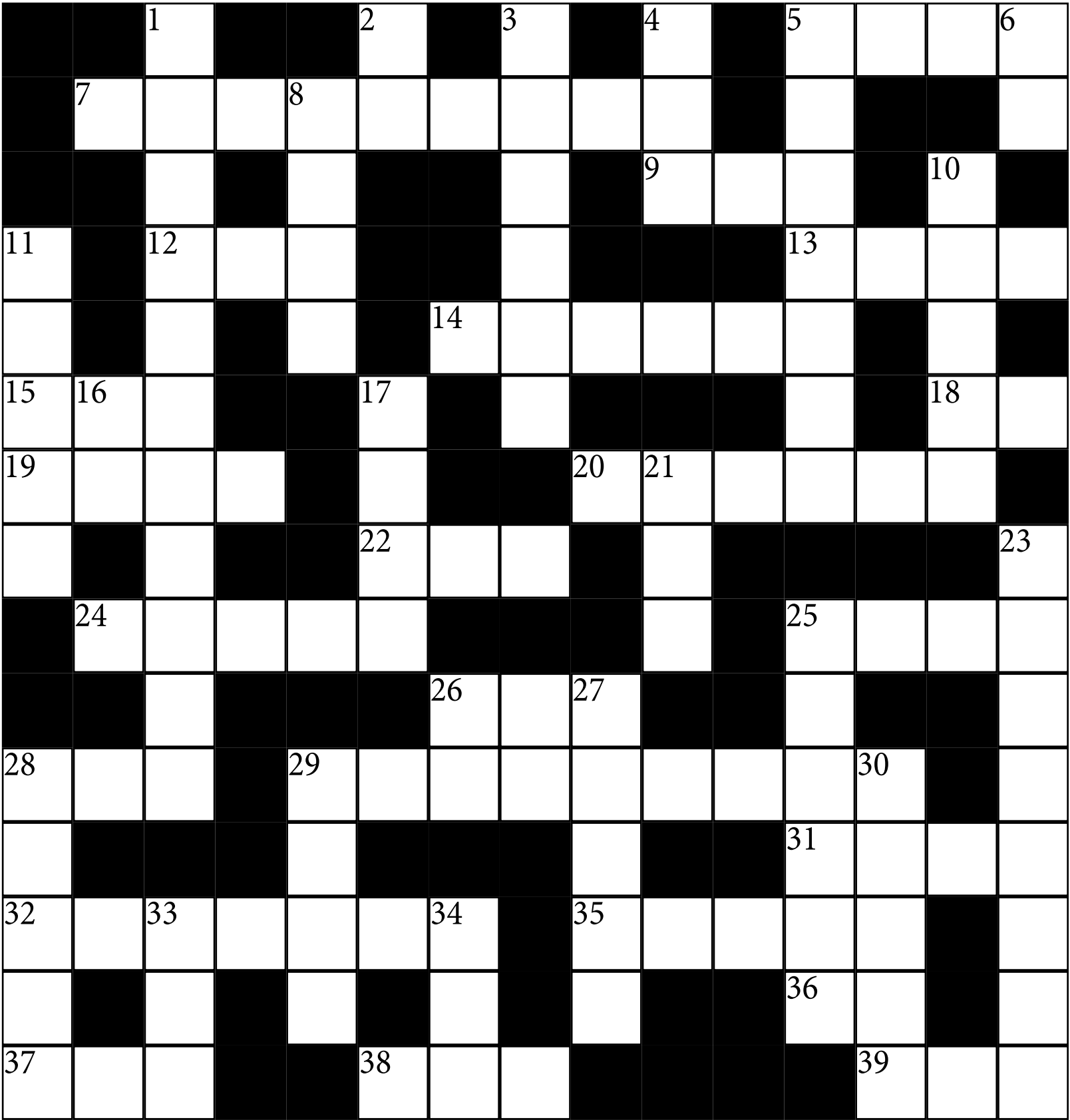
• Thursday, December 26, 21:27 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared

• Friday, December 27, 10:28 - Motor Vehicle - No Ini, Aspen Ave S, Log Report



CROSSWORD

Animals, Plants, & Stuff



Across:

- 5 Secret agent
- 7 Short, yellow, has sharp claws
- 9 The first Star Trek
- 12 Harry Potter’s mail carrier
- 13 Coffee from Hawaii
- 14 Loved on the field, hated under the field
- 15 Rest in peace
- 18 Out cold
- 19 Attracted to cars in the fall
- 20 Teenage Mutants
- 22 Clears tables, fills laps
- 24 Minnesota cabbage
- 25 Chicken of the sea
- 26 Angeles’ first name
- 28 Fish. Add a W and it’s a MN band
- 29 Singing in the dead of night
- 31 Chicken dish spelled wrong
- 32 Our marsupial
- 35 Boil ‘em, mash ‘em, stick ‘em in a stew
- 36 Short for year
- 37 Big deer
- 38 Your best friend
- 39 You should know

Down:

- 1 If his name was Woody
- 2 Super great at making these
- 3 Skipper’s boat
- 4 Animals that live with you
- 5 Elon’s nickname
- 6 Animals from space
- 10 Chats up Eve
- 11 Dinosaurs now
- 16 For example
- 14 Bird and action
- 21 Where 5D goes after it 15A
- 23 All the A’s in the animal kingdom
- 25 Animal most likely to be leftovers
- 26 On fire
- 27 Fish and winter activity
- 28 Not grey duck
- 29 Musical fish
- 30 Where It lives
- 33 Mighty tree
- 34 The cow goes

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Taking advantage of the warmer weather

The warm weather that we have been experiencing makes it easier to want to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. No, I will not be visiting the hill by the Humane Society on Frank Hall Drive to do any sledding. In fact, walking around is enough of a challenge. I can remember the days when we would take our kids over there to do some sledding. It was a great day when they were old enough to go sledding on their own. It's not that I didn't enjoy spending time with them, but the walk up the hill got to be a little exhausting for Dad.

Once the boys were old enough, they would go to the park skating or do some sledding on that hill. One particular time, Brian came running home all excited because his friend, Tony, was stuck under the fence. It seems that he went down the hill feet-first and hit the fence, going halfway through it before getting lodged under said fence. I went over there to help, but by the time I arrived, he had extracted himself from the fence.

I always thought that it was important to give the boys a little leeway, so that they were able to be kids and



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

not have their entertainment planned for them. In other words, they were allowed to be boys. In today's world almost everything is either planned out or organized for our kids, so there is no time for them to be kids. Both of my boys played hockey and tennis, they spent a lot of their free time skating at Academy Park in the winter or playing tennis on the tennis courts in the summer. These were things that they did on their own.

When I was a kid, I had to manufacture my own fun, which wasn't that hard to do. The kids that I grew up with liked to play football, baseball, explore the outdoors and fish, so we did it all. It didn't matter if you were a boy or girl, we all joined in. I loved spending time in the slough, winter, or summer it didn't matter. I

always looked at this as exploring uncharted waters. The winter was spent walking the slough and looking for critter tracks. I would get excited when I discovered a set of fox tracks or raccoon tracks. When walking on the snow and ice of winter, you could scare up an occasional pheasant. Having a pheasant take off from the cover where it was hiding not two feet away would definitely give you a start. This was the fun part of growing up just north of town.

As I got a little older, I would jump on my bike in the summer and ride to town to fish on the shores of Fountain Lake. I spent a lot of time on or around the dam on Bridge Street. After I tired of that, I would work my way along the shore, eventually ending up on Katherine Island. I mainly

caught bullheads and small panfish that we called "rubber tails." These fish resembled sunfish, but were never very big and had a green tint to them. They were fun to catch, nonetheless, and they fought like a sunfish. We never did catch any perch that I can recall. Those were fun times and as far as I can remember, I was never bored.

Until next time: With the warm-up we are experiencing, it is a great time to get out and explore some of the Wildlife Management Areas that we have in Freeborn County. There are 14 WMAs listed on the DNR website that the public has access to. If you go on the DNR website, you can go under destinations and choose the Wildlife management areas bar to select the county that you would like to check. I have frequently mentioned WMAs in my previous columns, but I think it is a great way to access the outdoors.

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.

SWCD receives \$76,500 grant from BWSR

Waseca, MN – The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) approved \$9.5 million in Clean Water Fund grants at its December board meeting for projects designed to improve water quality in lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater across the state. Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) received a \$76,500 grant to protect and improve the water quality in Reeds Lake. This grant is one of 34 awards BWSR approved this year to fund voluntary conservation projects, including those focused specifically on improving and protecting drinking water.

"This project on Reeds Lake is a good fit for the MN Clean Water Fund for several reasons" said Mark Schaeetzke, District Manager for Waseca SWCD. "Landowners approached us with a ravine erosion problem right next to two houses,

utilities, and a road. Complex engineering is required for a problem like this to find a solution that will stabilize this for years to come.

Reeds Lake is a priority watershed for us because it is one of the few area lakes that meets water quality standards for water clarity, nutrients, and recreation and we want to keep it in good shape.

Reeds also has an active Lake Association that can be a good partner in this effort."

Waseca SWCD will use the grant funding to find an engineered solution to stabilize the ravine erosion, identify possible voluntary projects around the lake to protect the water quality of the lake, and work with landowners to get the projects installed. Work on the grant is expected to begin in the spring of 2025 and be completed within a year. Required matching funds for the grant are an-

ticipated to come from the landowners, Reeds Lake Association, and Waseca SWCD.

"Local governments are ready to work with private landowners across Minnesota to implement projects that will make meaningful progress toward improving water quality," said BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke. "These grants are a key component in ongoing efforts to keep our water clean and our lakes, rivers and groundwater healthy."

BWSR awards competitive CWF grants annually. The state is shifting to a Watershed-Based Implementation Funding model, which offers consistent, noncompetitive funding to planning partnerships with approved watershed management plans. This helps partnerships focus on the highest priority projects within a specific watershed. Competitive CWF grants remain

an important part of conservation delivery despite this shift, offering funding to individual districts for project implementation.

About the Clean Water Fund
Minnesota voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008 to protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve arts and cultural heritage; to support parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater. The Clean Water Fund receives 33% of the sales tax revenue generated by the Legacy Amendment. More information about the Clean Water Fund is available at: <https://www.legacy.mn.gov/clean-water-fund>

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Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study

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

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

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

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

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schmitt 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 Pedersen
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 Cirkena, 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
Hollandale, Minnesota
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

HOLLANDALE REFORMED
Rev. Neal Ooms

101 East Park Avenue
Hollandale, 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 Klawiter
Sunday - 10:15 a.m. Worship

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

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

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOOKING BACK

25 Years Back

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

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

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

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

50 Years Back

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

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

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

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

75 Years Back

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

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

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

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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 premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal

representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on February 13, 2026.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR’S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN 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.**

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No. 81-PR-25-38

In Re: Estate of Karen Kay Hall, Decedent

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on February 28, 2025, via a virtual hearing at 8:30 a.m. at Waseca County Courthouse, 307 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093, on a petition for the formal appoint-

ment of Shanna Peoble as the personal representative of the Decedent’s estate in a supervised administration.

Any objections to the petition should be filed prior to the hearing via eFS or by mail. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to administer the Decedent’s estate, including the power to collect all assets; to pay all legal debts,

claims, taxes, and expenses; to sell real and personal property; and to do all necessary acts for the Decedent’s estate.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Decedent’s estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred. Please see the Notice of Remote

Hearing with Instructions.

BY THE COURT Dated: 01/16/2025, 04:34:26 p.m. /s/Carol M. Hanks Judge of District Court Shannon Asselin Court Administrator

MARTIN & SQUIRES, P.A. Michael D. O’Neill MN# 19931X Patrick C. Bower MN# 0403505

332 Minnesota Street, Suite #W2750 St. Paul, MN 55101 Telephone: 651-767-3751 Facsimile: 651-228-9161 e-mail: mdoneill@martinsquires.com pbower@martinsquires.com

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER SHANNA PEOBLE Published in the Star Eagle January 30 and February 6, 2025

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: November 4, 2022

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$198,341.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Eric Chambers, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on November 18, 2022 as Document Number A332149; as modified of record by document recorded on April 1, 2024 as Document Number A336478 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded on December 24, 2024 as Document Number A338873 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF

PROPERTY: Lot 7, Block 1, First Addition to City of Waseca, Waseca County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 525 3RD AVE NE, WASECA, MN 56093

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$161,467.05

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.276.0060

TRANSACTION AGENT’S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100032412225875530

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: March 20, 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 premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 22, 2025.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR’S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR

ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

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

Dated: January 22, 2025

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: _____/s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.

Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. *Alexa Marsh, Esq.* Attorneys for Mortgagee 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (24-1479-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. Published in the Star Eagle January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 27 and March 6, 2025

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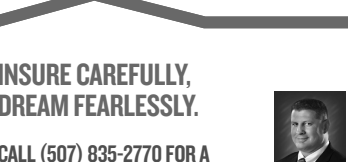
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FFA Food Science & Technology



The FFA Food Science & Technology team competed on Wednesday this week. FFA members, from left: Abbie Viktora, Makenna Reeder, Kaitlyn Dobberstein, and Lauren Wakefield were tested on their knowledge of food safety, preparation, marketing, and quality identification among other skills. Makenna had the 6th highest individual score overall and Lauren was 8th. The team finished 5th and everyone agreed it was a fun day and they were pleased with their food product and presentation.

Animal Science Grant



The past couple of weeks, the Animal Science class got to learn with a number of kits purchased from Reality Works. They planned and laid out an animal clinic, learned how to tie sutures, did blood draws on a canine trainer, learned how to use the feline trainer to learn how to insert a catheter, and learned proper restraining for both dogs and cats. All of these tools were made possible from grants awarded by the CFS Foundation, the Land O Lakes Foundation, the 761 Foundation in Owatonna, and the Compeer Financial Agriculture Education grant program. Thanks so much to these partners for making learning more fun and realistic.

Above, from left: Brady Koopal, Colton Kruger, Rielly Weitzel, Claire Robran. Front: Abbie Viktora and Cloe Muilenburg. Below: Rielley Weitzel demonstrates tying a proper suture.



90th birthday Feb. 1



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

Cheerleading honors



The University of Minnesota's cheer team was crowned national champions for the first time in its 126-year program history at Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) Nationals January 17-19, 2025. The Gophers cheer team brought home first place in the Small Coed Gameday category and second in the Small Coed Traditional category. This year's event took place at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida.

NRHEG Students of the Month

2525

HARBOR
Cromwell

3 FOOTBALL

4 WRESTLING

4 TRACK

6 BAND

2 FCA

3 STUCO

2 YEARBOOK

2 DECA

STUDENT ATHLETE
OF THE MONTH

Sport/Activities: Football, Wrestling, Track, Band, Student Council, Yearbook, FCA, DECA

Grade: Senior

What do you list most about participating in the activities that you are involved in? I like setting a good example of someone who can work hard and still have fun. Being that person people can look up to is something I take pride in.

What motivates you to do your best? The support that I get from other people that think highly of me.

Who is your role model and why? My parents, they want the best for me and I want to give myself the opportunities that they've worked hard to give me.

What advice would you give to other students especially students in elementary and middle school? Try new sports, clubs, and activities. The more you get involved the more fulfilled you might feel.

What makes you a good teammate for the sport/activity that you are involved in? I work hard and encourage others to do and act their best.

STUDENT ATHLETE
OF THE MONTH

Activity: Hockey, Baseball, Football, FCA, Student Council, DECA, Student Ambassadors

Grade: Senior

What do you like most about participating in the activities that you are involved in? You can make so many new friends while playing sports and doing other activities. There are also so many life lessons to learn. I've met some great friends and coaches while playing sports.

What motivates you to do your best? What motivates me is the fact that I want to see myself succeed later in life. I want to be able to look back later in life and be happy I tried hard in school, played my hardest in sports, and make a good impact on other people. I want to make myself a better person everyday, while also helping others around me become better everyday. What motivates me, is seeing people succeed.

Who is your role model and why? My role model is Ben Srp, he has been my hockey coach multiple times during my life. I grew up with him being there for me and always supporting me. Whether I had a good or bad game, he always helped me become not just a better player but a better person off the ice as well. I learned very early in hockey that playing the sport wasn't just playing the sport, it was joining a new family. Without him pushing me everyday as a kid, I don't think I would be where I am in hockey, or in life.

What advice would you give to other students especially students in elementary and middle school? My advice for other students is try your best everyday. There will be times where school or sports can get hard in life and just make sure you do what you can do. Take the extra time to study, take the extra time to practice. Make yourself a little better everyday.

What makes you a good teammate? try my best to always be a leader for the team. Making sure everyone is feeling good, checking up on our injured players regularly. Sometimes just checking on people who seem off that day and making sure everyone is doing good. I try to set a good role model for the younger kids, there are always people watching, whether its the younger kids in the rink during practice or everyone watching during the game. I try to put in 100% effort all the time.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
OF THE MONTH

2525

CARTER
Martens

6 HOCKEY

6 BASEBALL

6 FOOTBALL

3 FCA

1 STUCO

1 DECA

1 STUDENT AMBASSADORS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
OF THE MONTH

New in 2022, one-level facility

On-site crematory

Pre-need insurance agent

Dedicated staff including two full-time morticians

Everything you need!

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