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End of season

New Richland Library reading program and scavenger hunt month of February

The New Richland Public Library will host a Children's Winter Reading Program. There are three age groups, 3-5, 6-10 and 12 and up. Come in weekly for new books, every time you come into the library you can sign up for the prize drawing. There will also be a scavenger hunt.

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.

Mini Book Birdhouse building at Waldorf Public Library Tuesday, Feb. 11

Create an adorable mini bookish birdhouse at Waldorf Public Library at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11th. This event is geared for ages 8-12.

"In the Forest of the Night" One Act Play at NRHEG 6 p.m. Feb. 14

The NRHEG one-act contest play will be presented for the public at 6 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.

A word from

The Word

Fear not, for I am with you.

Isaiah 41:10



New Richland resident Vera Wilson celebrated her 90th birthday with four different generations of family on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025. Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

Vera Wilson celebrates 90th birthday

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

According to Vera Wilson, the term for someone in their 90s who is celebrating a birthday is a "non-age-narian." Surrounded by dozens of family members and friends, Wilson celebrated her ninetieth birthday celebration at the New Richland City Hall on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Visitors were asked to sign in so the guest of honor would be able to keep track of who came to visit. There were pictures, both black-and-white and color showing the range of years she had lived through. Her warm and glowing

smile surrounded by family was a welcomed change from the wind, bitter cold and grey skies outside.

Born in 1935, Wilson met her husband while he was home on leave from the Air Force during the Korean War early in the 1950s. They married very soon after he was discharged—a process which took longer than usual because the military learned at the time of his departure that he had misrepresented his age to enter the service. When they married on July 30, 1955, "he didn't have his discharge papers yet." The couple went on to have three children, two girls and a boy. Susie Wigham, now 68; Jim

Wilson, now 62; and Rosanne Hill, now 59. Those three children went on to provide 12 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great-grandchildren so far. They were married for more than 30 years before her husband's death in 1992.

Posters and displays along the wall highlighted what was current in 1935: The president at the time was Franklin D. Roosevelt; the world population was 2.2 billion. The Social Security Act was signed into law. The first parking meters were installed in Oklahoma City. Planes were forbidden by law from flying over the White House. The

'Overcoming and accomplishing'

Chicos family doesn't take life for granted

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Like any 7-year-old, Owen Chicos has a long list of things he likes and things he wants to do.

A member of the fifth generation living on his family's century farm, he figures he'd like to grow up to be a farmer. In keeping with that, he loves to be beside his dad in the combine and on other equipment. He even knows how to raise and lower the bucket on the farm's backhoe.

Like a true Minnesotan, he loves both fishing and swimming. He takes particular pride in having recently overcome a former fear of being completely immersed in water. "You used to be afraid of that," his father David jokes. "But now you really like it."

Owen and his 4-year-old brother Landon live with their parents David and Nikki southeast of Matawan in an area his extended family light-heartedly dubs "Chicosville," with numerous relatives of various generations living within a couple miles.

"We're just like any other family," says David. "We work together, we play together." Their farm grows corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. Perhaps because Owen recently joined 4-H, perhaps because it's just what farm families do, Owen and Landon are the "owners" and caretakers of four head of beef cattle: Owen's are "Sprinkles" and "Hot Fudge." Landon's are "Cheetoh" and "Jackson."

And perhaps what the family treasures most about all these small

"We take each day as it comes. Every family has its challenges, so we're no different from everybody else."

— David Chicos

rural-lifestyle details is how delightfully normal they are. Because "normal" is not the way the story started.

During Nikki's pregnancy with Owen, ultrasounds and tests indicated the baby was experiencing hydrocephalus—an excessive amount of fluid building up inside his skull and interfering with the development of his nervous system. It was a life-threatening condition. On-going testing and treatments were needed to monitor the baby's progress and see what could be done.

Nikki recalls one doctor whom she believes had good intentions, but who told her and David that, if the baby survived, he would likely never walk, talk, eat on his own, or have any semblance of a normal lifestyle.

"We were bracing ourselves for that," she recalls. "But that's not how it turned out."

Despite needing a dozen surgeries before the age of 2, "Owen is the definition of resilience," Nikki observes. "He is always overcoming and accomplishing."

"We're grateful for that."

"Owen has taught us not to give up, to keep going," says David. "Not to take things for granted."



Above from left, Nikki, Landon, David and Owen Chicos. Below: Owen and David with Owen's hen "Trixie." The hen's breed, known as "Polish," is known for having a head crowned with feathers.



Chicos continued on 4



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Poppy’s very perceptive especially if food is involved

The scurs and Weather Eye received accolades for knocking it out of the park last week. Does Old Man Winter return or did he leave a forwarding address? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with highs in the low 20’s and lows around 5 above. Mostly cloudy on Friday with an increasing chance of snow by evening. Highs in the upper 20’s with lows in the upper teens. Mostly cloudy Saturday with a good chance of snow. Highs in the low 30’s with lows in the upper single digits. Sunday, mostly sunny with a slight chance of snow showers. Highs in the low 20’s with lows in the upper single digits. Partly sunny on Monday with a slight chance of light snow. Highs in the upper teens with lows around zero. Tuesday, partly sunny with highs in the mid-teens and lows around 5 above. Mostly cloudy on Lincoln’s Birthday with a fair chance of snow. Highs in the upper teens with lows in the upper single digits. The normal high for Lincoln’s Birthday is 25 and the normal low is 7. The ground hog didn’t see his shadow here although we’ll still see six more weeks of winter. At least Punxsutawney Phil didn’t bite his handlers, something he’s done occasionally over the years. The scurs can’t say as they blame him. A winter’s nap is hard to come by.

Lincoln’s Birthday coincides with the Full Moon for the month. It goes primarily by the Full Snow Moon, so named as this is one of the snowiest months of the year across many parts of the country. Here it ranks fractionally ahead of January and trails only December in terms of amount. In Europe, it is known as the Ice Moon. While some point out there isn’t a lot of animal activity in February, some of the Native Americans might beg to differ. The Ojibwe called this the Sucker Moon after the suckers that ran in area streams this time of year. The Sioux called it the Raccoon Moon as the raccoons were awakening and beginning to forage as the days grew longer and temperatures began to warm. At the ranch, it is The Full Lamb Moon as we are busy daily tending to newborn lambs, much to one small Corgi’s chagrin.

February 12th is reputedly the same date that Studebaker sold its first electric vehicle in 1902 to F.W. Bles in Macoun MO. Studebaker was a pioneer in manufacturing electric vehicles and in fact started in the automobile business selling only electric vehicles. John Mohler Studebaker championed electrics as they were quiet and clean to operate. As some point out, sticking with electric vehicles as long as they did was probably part of Studebaker’s downfall. It meant spending valuable time catching up to the rest of the auto industry, still in its infancy but expanding rapidly thanks to gasoline powered engines. While gasoline engines were harder to start, noisier and dirtier, at the time they were also lighter, faster, less time consuming to refuel, and capable of traveling farther between refueling than electrics. In 1912, Studebaker ceased the manufacture of electric vehicles and focused on gasoline powered automobiles.

Last week had people beginning to think about spring with some high temps reaching into the 50’s in late January. It was something to behold after some of the subzero days prior. It didn’t make for much activity in area fields yet although reports from points south indicated that some dry bulk fertilizer was being spread, likely phosphorus and potassium. Locally there were signs of pack manure being spread in areas. An absolutely beautiful stretch for doing that as the dry soil surface meant no mud tracked on the road and no ruts left in the fields. It was a unique January. At the SROC in Waseca, the average temperature for the month was right at normal,

with a wide range of highs and lows. The precipitation was of course far below normal. The normal snowfall for January at the SROC is 10.7”. This year it measured .8”, or nearly 10” below normal. The frost depth remains at 23” as of February 3rd.

So what will we see as we move further into February? I recently had an email exchange with Pete Boulay, assistant state climatologist concerning frost depth. I’d mentioned that the door on my barn won’t close once frost depth reaches 19” at the SROC. He thought this might’ve been the quickest it had reached that depth since 2019. Being a weather nerd I looked it up. In 2019, the frost reached 19” on February 1st. This year it reached 20” on January 16th. What was the 2019 winter like? We had about 16” of snow from October through December although most of it had melted in early January. Starting in mid-January, winter returned. We had about 17” of snow by the end of the month. We had roughly 36” in February and it broke the all-time snowfall record for February at the SROC. Are we headed for a repeat performance? Not necessarily although some are indicating an uptick in precip. It would be hard to receive much less than we’ve had, that much is for certain.

The warmth this last week allowed many to get at some of the chores that had been waiting with the colder weather earlier in the month. It allowed us to get the main barn cleaned after many setbacks, including a self-inflicted flat tire on the spreader once it was loaded. After getting the tire repaired and back on just before dark, I decided to leave the load on the spreader and haul it the following afternoon. The forecast was favorable. This would’ve been sacrilege in January when I grew up. If a chain snapped or a pin was sheared, that manure had to come off the spreader ASAP, lest it become a glacier. After lunch the next day, I took the load out, turned on the pto and started making my way west. When I looked back momentarily, I was startled by what I saw. It looked like there was a cloud of smoke coming off the beaters! Looking again, it was steam. With introduction of oxygen and 24 hours of time, the pack manure started some serious composting. The steam cloud kept coming off the beaters throughout the load. Anyone passing by had to be wondering what in blazes was going on. Lucky no one called the fire department.

Poppy continues to spend a lot of her winter indoors but is outside a fair amount with us when the weather is like this past Sunday. She was on hand as I raked up all the sticks her squirrels left in the backyard. These mentally handicapped tree rodents still haven’t figured out how to construct a respectable nest. They opt to build them from 12” – 18” ash twigs, chewed off when the leaves are still green. Then they attempt to accumulate them in the crotch of a tree. Not only do the ash leaves disintegrate quickly, the vast majority of the sticks fall out of the trees, making a mess to clean up. Once we head inside after tasks such as this, Poppy’s on the lookout for crumbs, another word she mastered quickly. Monday night is column writing night and that means frozen pizza for supper. When she hears me rattle the wrapper and in particular the word “crumbs”, she comes on a dead run, spinning and hopping frantically when she reaches the kitchen. She’s certain there will be pieces of grated cheese hitting the floor. She’s usually right. Unlike her tree dwelling little buddies, Poppy’s very perceptive especially if food is involved.

See you next week...real good then.

When being nerdy wasn’t cool

I was listening to a podcast recently, and the guest said, “You know, back when being a nerd wasn’t cool.” (The podcast was about comic books.)

I’m a nerd. I remember when being one was definitely not considered cool. I’m not sure it’s super cool right now, but it’s more accepted to be a nerd about certain things.

I’ve been a nerd for as long as I can remember. I didn’t get beat up or have my lunch money stolen or anything like that, but I recall being made fun of for liking comic books or insisting on speaking correct grammar.

Many people picture a nerd as having dark-rimmed glasses and a severe case of acne. Picture any of the characters from the 80s hit movie “Revenge of the Nerds” or the eponymous character from “Napoleon Dynamite.” But the reality is that the true definition of a nerd is someone who is extremely enthusiastic and knowledgeable about a subject.

So I’m a word nerd. And I guess that would make Al Batt a bird nerd. Maybe a farmer is a herd nerd. And a connoisseur of fair food is a curd nerd.

Ooh, wait! Cat lovers are purred nerds. And sewage workers are... Okay, that might be going too far.

Is it cool to know a lot about something now? It ebbs and flows. When the Marvel Cinematic Universe was at its height and every super hero movie seemed to make a billion dollars, it was uber cool to



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

wear a t-shirt with Spider-Man or Iron Man on it. (Why does Spider-Man have a hyphen but Iron Man doesn’t? And then Batman is just one word. Sorry, nerding out a bit with both comics and words.)

The MCU has cooled off a lot, as it seemed destined to do. Other things come and go. Remember Beanie Babies? For a time, it was very cool to have as many of those stuffed animals as possible, and then...poof!

Some things come, then go, than arrive again on the scene. Transformers are an example of that. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are another. Star Wars went away for over a decade. All of these would be considered niche enough to have nerds associated with them.

I’ve loved comic books since I got my first subscription to “The Amazing Spider-Man” in kindergarten. I wouldn’t talk about them much, in part because I was very shy at that age. By the time I was more outgoing, I realized that most other kids my age would look askance at me if I brought up the X-Men or the Fantastic Four.

And then a comic book shop

opened in New Ulm my freshman year of high school. And I found my people. Some of them were older than me and some were younger, but the comic book fans that filtered into Rieke’s Books formed a bond, a safe space to share our love of the four-color wonders.

When I went to college, I wasn’t sure I’d find people like that again. But when my comics started arriving in the mail, some of my floormates would always want to borrow them - I had discovered more of my people!

It can be scary, having that diehard interest that might not be popular all over. You can love sports and know that you’ll easily find other people who share that love with you. You can enjoy hunting and fishing and take comfort in the numerous people who outwardly show their enjoyment of the same.

But comic books? Or Beanie Babies? Or collecting the wrappers from Tootsie Roll Pops?

I used to have a button collection. Not the ones already on your shirt, but the ones you’d stick on your shirt. It didn’t matter what the button said on it, I would put it in a bucket

and save it. I’m not sure why I did that, but I thought they were kind of cool. That coolness, if it was ever there, disappeared for a time.

Now, according to my children, it is cool to put these buttons on the roof of the interior of their cars. I pity them when they look to resell these cars and have to remove all of them!

Remember collecting stickers in elementary or even middle school? The scratch and sniff ones were the best! Or friendship bracelets? These were certainly specific things that some people enjoyed and knew a lot about. If you did, you were a nerd. Then those trends would fade.

But maybe you still had an interest. Maybe you still collected those stickers on the sly. Maybe you still will purchase a Beanie Baby off eBay because you’re not ashamed of your nerdiness.

That’s awesome! If it’s one thing we should learn through life, it’s to not be worried about what others think of our hobbies. If you really enjoy something, you’re probably not the only one. And with the internet, it’s likely easier than ever to find your people. So nerd out! You don’t need anyone’s permission.

Word of the Week: This week’s word is excubant, which means on guard, as in, “The comic book collector was excubant when he took out an issue to read, in case someone was ready to jump him.” Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

Waseca SWCD supports landowners conservation district

Waseca, MN - The beginning of the new year can often be challenging for many reasons. It’s okay if you

haven’t perfectly stuck to your New Year’s resolution. You can still think about how you can improve your life and what changes can be made to be successful in those improvements. These are typically changes to our own lives but may also be changes to the environment around us.

In a county that prides itself in agriculture and highly values rural living, those improvements might include changes on your property. Now is the perfect time to start thinking about and educating yourself on implementing new conservation practices on your property this year.

Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) works with farmers and rural landowners to financially and technically support conservation projects such as cover crops, reduced tillage, grass waterways, septic, terraces and windbreaks. The implementation of these practices foster conservation and im-

prove property.

Waseca SWCD partners with other area SWCD’s and agencies to provide local farmers and landowners with opportunities to learn about soil health and inform on how it can be applied in their operations. This February Waseca SWCD and other partners are putting on a workshop that goes over making soil health work with economics, research, and experience in the field.

Waseca SWCD invites any farmers or landowners to the HWY 14 Winter Workshop in Owatonna, MN. This is a free event with a meal included. This event is intended for all farmers or landowners but may be especially helpful for those who are curious about or are new to topics like cover crops or reduced tillage.

If reducing erosion, increasing infiltration, or potentially reducing input costs on your farm are topics that interest you, this event might be the perfect opportunity to hear about changes that can be made to see those improvements.

The workshop is being held on

February 18th at Torey’s Restaurant in Owatonna, MN from 8:30am-3pm. This event will be a great opportunity to learn from producers in southern Minnesota who have experience with soil health.

If this event is something you may be interested in, you can register by contacting Lindsey Cornell at 507-320-3728 or emailing Lindsey.Cornell@mn.nacdn.net. Please RSVP by February 11th, 2025.

One of the best ways to learn about soil health is to either experience it yourself or hear about it from farmers who have experience doing it. Conversations about the challenges and successes of soil health practices, like cover crops, are necessary in making informed decisions for your farm.

For many farmers, soil health has become a hot topic in the conservation and agriculture worlds, but what does that mean to farmers in the Waseca County area. Farmers new to these ideas may struggle to identify the relevant applications and determine the best starting point for these practices. But it may also be a small

change to your land that makes improvements to the environment around you.

Other improvements any landowner can make is planting a tree or multiple trees on their property. Native trees can provide excellent habitat for wildlife as well as be a beautiful addition to any property. They also provide practical benefits. Many rural homeowners use multiple rows of trees to provide their properties with protection from wind and blowing snow, known as windbreaks or shelterbelts.

Waseca SWCD hosts an annual tree sale that gives the area residents the opportunity to purchase trees and can provide support to those who are planning on completing a larger project, like a wind break. If you or someone you know may be interested in purchasing trees or need assistance in planning – give us a call at 507-835-0603. We will be hosting a tree open house on February 19th at our office, 300 North State Street Door 4, Waseca, MN 56093. Tree orders will be due by February 26th.

A vastly increased respect for farming

I have been told more than once not to refer to “soil” as “dirt.”

I was happy to comply, and agreed fully with the sentiment that the ground we walk on is much more than mere dirt beneath our feet.

Last week, I attended one day’s worth of the Soil Health Summit presented by the University of Minnesota Extension. I tried to be strategic about it, although the schedule made it evident I would only be scratching the surface of all there was to learn. First of all, four sessions were being offered at a time and I had to choose among them. Second, I lacked the technical understanding to follow everything that was being said.

I can tell you I came away from the gathering with a vastly increased respect for what it takes to be a farmer these days. It’s a tightrope walk every year, with a need to make plans before the ground thaws, and no way to know what will happen once the crops are in the ground.

What I want to mention here, though, is the respect I came away with for our soil.

I’ve been told before, and would have trouble forgetting, that there are more microbes in a teaspoon of soil than there are humans on planet earth. Those microbes are what keep the soil vibrant.

So in writing this column, I have



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

played a small “word association” game inside my head. I am going to describe some of the images which come to mind when I hear the word “soil.”

One is the prairie which used to cover much of Waseca County. Those tall grasses grew such thick roots that the first settlers who came hoping to break up that prairie could not use their traditional plows.

I am told that, until John Deere came up with a stainless steel plow blade, all attempts to cut through those thick roots were futile. Native Americans, I understand, grew their crops in selected parts of the forests rather than out on the prairie.

I am also informed that the indigenous Dakota would have trouble gathering for their powwows because of the height and thickness of the native plants. They developed a “grass dance,” performed by some of their most physically capable

members, whose steps were designed to flatten a wide area of standing grass and allow a group of people to gather.

I once had a visitor from another state ask me, “Why is the ground so black here?” The question took me completely by surprise. When I responded, “What color is your soil?” the answer was “reddish-brown.”

Many of us take the rich heritage beneath our feet for granted, but that heritage has the capacity to feed the world.

During the soil summit, trivia questions would appear on some screens located throughout the facility. One regarded earthworms. Did you know a single worm can “eat” 26 tons of soil in a year? Incredible.

The members of one group, the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition (MSHC) had a rather dramatic display they titled “How to soil your undies.” Fastened to a display board

were four pairs of men’s underwear in various states of decay.

Some information they shared was that the fabric of the skivvies could indicate the vibrancy of the microbes in various patches of ground. While I’m skipping over some detail, here, the experiment encourages folks to decide how many patches they wish to compare, acquire that many pairs of brand new, 100-percent-cotton underwear, then bury them for two or three months in those various locations. The less that remains of the fabric, the harder the microbes in the soil have been working—an indicator of soil “health.”

The skivvies fastened to the display board were impressive in their variety: one pair still looked usable, the most “processed” ones were barely recognizable rags. They looked like they had been buried for decades rather than weeks.

If you want to carry out this experiment, full instructions are on the organization’s website, www.mnsoil-health.org.

One more point in my “word association” game. If the details about dirt...I mean “soil”...are so rich and complex, imagine how fascinating every element of nature must be. What a wondrous planet we inhabit. Aren’t we fortunate to be here?

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Region Nine to host event on hiring international talent

MANKATO, Minn. — The Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC) invites business owners and community leaders to a free networking event, "Building Tomorrow's Workforce: Local Strategies to Engage Global Talent in Southern MN." This event will highlight the importance of recruiting and retaining international talent. Attendees will gain insight into regional efforts to address labor challenges, the benefits of attracting global talent, and practical resources available to employers.

Event Details
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025
Time: 3:30 – 5:30 pm
Address: Pioneer Bank, 2nd Floor 1450 Adams St.
Mankato, MN 56001

Key discussion topics include:

- Regional strategies to fill workforce gaps
- The economic and cultural benefits of international talent
- Employer resources for hiring and retention
- Networking with local business leaders and community stakeholders

This event is free to attend, but registration is requested. Learn more and register at <https://tinyurl.com/e43wayej>

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Region Nine Development Commission takes great pride in working with and on behalf of counties, cities, townships, and schools throughout South Central Minnesota. Since 1972, being a partner for progress has led to the development of programs and identification of solutions in the areas of community development, economic development, transportation, healthy communities, business development, and leveraging regional resources.

Waldorf Community Pickleball every Thursday at old Waldorf School

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

Naeve Alumni and Nurses' Club to Offer Scholarships

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

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

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

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

Albert Lea's Big Freeze Winter Festival returns for its 16th Annual Celebration

ALBERT LEA, Minn. — Get ready to embrace the winter wonderland as The Big Freeze returns to Albert Lea for its 16th annual community-wide celebration on Saturday, February 8, 2025! This beloved winter festival, packed with exciting activities for all ages, promises a day full of outdoor fun, friendly competition, and delicious food across multiple locations in town.

Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast, a foodie, or just looking for some winter excitement, there's something for everyone at The Big Freeze!

Event Highlights:
Medallion Hunt (Starts Monday, Feb. 3) – Sponsored by the Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of

Commerce, this thrilling scavenger hunt kicks off the week leading up to the festival.

Friday Night (Friday Night, Feb 7) – Sponsored by the 112 on Broadway, live music with Papa J acoustic starting at 6:30pm.

Park Hockey Tournament (9 AM - 2 PM @ Lakeview Park) – Lace up your skates and hit the ice for a 3-on-3 hockey showdown! Open to all ages, with proceeds supporting the Albert Lea Hockey Association.

Plunge for the Park (11 AM @ Edgewater Bay) – Take the plunge into the frozen lake for a great cause! Proceeds benefit the Inclusive Playground project.

A Real Mermaid Experience (12 PM - 2 PM @ HeartWaves Studio) – Meet Mermaid Analise, snap photos,

and enjoy fun ocean-themed activities!

Ice Fishing Tournament (1:30 PM - 3 PM @ City Beach) – Compete for the biggest catch and exciting prizes! All ages welcome, and minnows are provided. Sponsored by Alerus & Albert Lea Anglers.

Chili Cookoff & Bake Sale (11 AM - 2 PM @ Edgewater Bay Pavilion) – Warm up with tasty chili samples while supporting the Inclusive Playground.

Bloody & Beer Bar (11 AM - 2 PM @ Edgewater Bay Pavilion) – Enjoy drinks served by 112 on Broadway!

Galentines Shopping Event (3 PM - 7 PM @ Downtown Stores) – Treat yourself with snacks, prizes, and shopping specials at participating

stores!

Story Show (7:30 PM @ Marion Ross Performing Arts Center) – Enjoy an evening of local storytelling while supporting the FC Promise Scholarship Fund.

Live Music & Buff Bash (8:30 PM @ 112 on Broadway) – End the night with live music, (Will Barnett & Company) wear buffalo plaid, and get \$1 off drinks!

Join the Fun!
The Big Freeze is the perfect way to celebrate winter and make lasting memories with family and friends. Stay updated on event details by following www.facebook.com/ExploreAlbertLea.



Above is a photo from NRHEG superintendent Michael Meihaks day at the Minnesota State Capitol. From left: Sean Koster, New Ulm Public Schools; John Regan, WEM; Michael Meihak, NRHEG; Rep Ben Bakeberg (Jordan); Ryan Laager, Belle Plaine; Mandy Fletcher, BEA; Ranea Case Evenson, Jordan; Lisa Shellum, Truman.

Superintendent advocates for education at state capitol

By MICHAEL MEIHAK
NRHEG Superintendent

I was honored to join six fellow superintendents from the south-central region of Minnesota to meet with members of the state legislature. Our visit was an important opportunity to advocate for our schools and discuss critical issues facing education in Minnesota today.

The conversation covered a range of topics vital to the success of our students and the sustainability of our

schools. One key focus was the Read Act, a legislative initiative aimed at improving literacy outcomes for Minnesota students. We shared our perspectives on how the act is being implemented and the support schools need to ensure its success.

School funding was another pressing topic. We emphasized the challenges rural districts face in securing equitable funding and how current levels impact the quality of education we can provide. Additionally, we addressed concerns over state mandates

that often come without adequate funding, leaving districts to absorb costs that strain already tight budgets.

Our discussions also highlighted the overall state of education in Minnesota, from student needs to staff shortages and the importance of fostering strong partnerships between schools and communities. These conversations were both productive and necessary as we work to create a better future for our students.

As your superintendent, I am com-

mitted to ensuring that the voices of our district are heard at the state level. Advocacy efforts like these are essential to bringing about positive change and securing the resources our students and staff need to thrive.

Thank you for your continued support of education in our district. Together, we can make a difference for our students, our schools, and our community.

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OBITUARIES

Harriet Eaton

Harriet Elaine Eaton, age 97 of Waseca, passed away on the afternoon of Thursday, January 30, 2025, at Mill City Senior Living in Faribault surrounded by her family.

Harriet was born in New Richland on July 5, 1927, to Leonard and Doris Peterson. She graduated from New Richland High School in 1945. She met the love of her life, Kenneth Eaton, a World War II Army Sergeant, at an outdoor movie in Otisco. They were married on May 3, 1946, and celebrated their 78th Wedding Anniversary in 2024.

Harriet lived in the Waseca area her entire life, except for one year when the Army moved her and Ken to Alabama. She was a "farm girl" through and through, having lived 87 years of her life on a farm until she and Ken moved into town, where they spent their remaining years. She came from humble beginnings, having spent most of her childhood living without running water.

Harriet was a faith-filled woman who followed God's word throughout her life. A turning point in Harriet's life came on January 20th, 1950, when she rededicated her life to the Lord at a Billy Graham gathering in Austin. This led her to devote herself to church, bible studies, and mission trips. She was an active member of the Vista Covenant Church her whole life, involving herself in Church committees, teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, and Covenant Women.

In a sense, her life was focused on nurturing families: Her own, the Church, and the broader community. Sundays after church, she and Ken hosted gatherings that lasted all day. Even when the family grew to 54 and moved throughout the country, Harriet and Ken kept "family first" alive building precious multi-generational memories by hosting a three-day annual gathering for all the extended family at Cedar Valley Resort near Lanesboro, MN. She had a gift of hospitality.

Outside of family and God, her two big loves were being a church historian and all things Swedish. She traveled to Sweden and found her homestead from the 1600s. Her



Harriet Eaton

great-grandparents came to Waseca County in 1858.

Through her devotion, she has instilled a lasting legacy of love that lives on in her family. She will be deeply missed.

She was welcomed to her Heavenly Home by the following who preceded her in death: her daughter Gail (Ted) Johnson, her parents Leonard and Doris Peterson, and her brother Jerry (Margie). She is survived by her husband, Ken; her children, Steve (JoAnn) Eaton, Dave (Shawnee) Eaton, Sherrie (Pat) Murphy, Brian (Cindy) Eaton, and Ted (Margey) Johnson. She leaves behind 14 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Harriet's family would like to extend their gratitude to the staff of Lakeshore Assisted Living in Waseca, Mill City Senior living in Faribault, and to Brighton Hospice for the compassionate care they provided to her.

Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service, and will continue for one hour before the service at the church on Friday. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Vista Covenant Church.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, February 7, 2025 at Vista Covenant Church (14679 275th Avenue, New Richland, MN 56072) with Rev. Brian Schanil officiating. Interment will follow at Vista Covenant Cemetery. dsfuneral.com

Julius Johnson

Julius P. Johnson, 90, of Duluth, Minnesota, died on January 14, 2025, at Aspirus St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth.

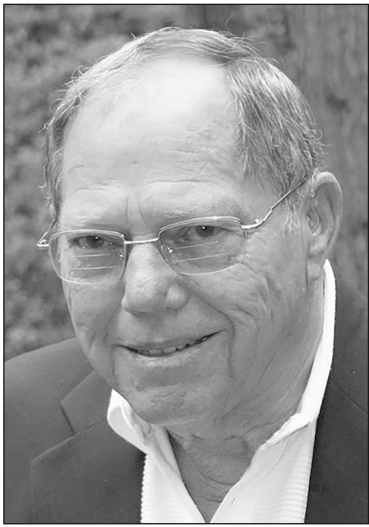
Julius was born May 7, 1934, to Carl and Susan Johnson in Mantorville, Dodge County, Minnesota. His family moved to Hartland, Minnesota in 1936 where he attended elementary school through eighth grade. He then attended New Richland High School and graduated in 1952.

Julius was a Polio survivor from the age of 6. Polio returned later as Post-Polio Syndrome that confined him to a wheel chair in his last years. He did not complain or feel sorry for himself. He believed complaining accomplished nothing; action accomplished more.

In 1949, Julius met Darlene Molkenhain at a Halloween Party. This chance meeting would prove to be the beginning of a lasting love and friendship. They married in 1955, celebrating their 69th Wedding Anniversary this past September.

Julius retired in 1995 after having worked for Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad until 1959; Super Valu Warehouse, Hopkins, MN 1959 to 1974; United Grocers, Little Chute, Wisconsin 1974 to 1980; and Gateway Foods, Superior, WI 1980. He then spent his time enjoying his two Grandsons, watching the Minnesota Twins and Vikings, quiet slow mornings with a crossword puzzle and a cup of coffee, and surfing the internet with all its "strange nomenclature".

Preceded in death by his Parents, Sister Joann, Brothers John, Gene and Allan. Survived by his Wife



Julius Johnson

Darlene, Daughters Julene (Peter) McKinney, East Gull Lake, MN and Jill (Robert) Lane, St. Paul, MN; two Grandsons, Robert Lane III (Alexandria Snodie), Blackburn, Victoria, Australia and David (Hannah Carlson) McKinney, Greenacres, WA; and 7-month-old Great Grandson Arthur John Lane, Blackburn, Victoria, Australia; Sister-in-law Susan Johnson, nieces, nephews and many cousins.

The family would like to thank his care team at Aspirus St. Luke's Hospital. Their compassion, care and guidance through his final days was appreciated.

To honor Julius's wishes, there will be a private burial in the future for immediate family only. Julius requested that any donations in his memory be sent to the Duluth Salvation Army or St. Luke's Foundation (Aspirus), Duluth, Minnesota.

Julius's last request was to share this thought, "In the scheme of things, life is short. Make the most of it."

■ 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 unknown
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

Frosty: Week 3 Clue
Do you think you have Frosty
Narrowed down or found out?
Have you passed them around town
While strolling out and about?

A lover of the arts
And items that are unique
Catch Frosty at the local stores
Browsing, and taking a peek

A supporter to all businesses
Big or small, or community driven
Donating time, talent or special items
With their contribution, a unique display given

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: Week 3 Clue
The medallion re-hidden
where could it be?
Between 7 and 14,
What do you see?

Off the beaten path,
But easily attainable,

The medallion hides
Its location easily explainable

Not so noticeable now,
In plain sight it blends
Who will find the medallion,
Once found, the search ends.

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!

■ Chicos

from Page 1

destined to be named "Daisy"--can be his special companion.

Owen and his family enjoy outings of many different kinds. Museums, particularly children's museums, are well liked. Swimming pools are a definite favorite, as is the pleasure of lounging in a hot tub--Owen figures the family should install one in their

garage. Rodeos are another top choice--particularly bull riding. Owen has a cordless microphone which connects to his iPad; he can give an impressive imitation of a rodeo announcer introducing rider and bull as they enter the ring. Sometimes Landon is the rider, David is the bull, and Nikki stands in for a crowd of spectators.

The family tells of an upcoming trip to a nationally known rodeo. Owen chose the hotel based on--perhaps predictably--the swim park and hot tub.

In warmer weather, the family en-

joys being outside and going to playgrounds. They have visited two "accessible" parks in the area, and are grateful for the dedication NRHEG school staff and the community have shown toward raising funds to install a similar playground on the grounds at the Ellendale elementary school, which Owen attends.

They mention opportunities physical education teachers Wendy Schultz and Beth Schoenrock have created to help Owen build stamina and mobility. "They send him on errands," says David lightly, explaining Owen often accompanies them as

they take care of tasks throughout the building. One of Owen's favorite spaces, they mention, is a science classroom which has glow-in-the-dark stars and planets on its ceiling.

"We take each day as it comes," observes David. "Every family has its challenges, so we're no different from everybody else."

"You learn systems to deal with things," says Nikki. "We just keep moving forward and taking joy in the little things."

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New Richland Area Sportsmen's Club

ICE FISHING CONTEST

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Saturday, Feb. 8 • 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Prizes Awarded to
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Compostings

by Al Batt

The only Hartland car dealership is closing

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
I need an appointment.
How about 10 tomorrow morning?
No, thanks, I need only one appointment.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It’s been a gentle winter. January didn’t have too many days, and I could have done most of my snow shoveling with a spatula. The groundhog saw its shadow on Groundhog Day, so we’ll have six more weeks before we need to take down the Christmas decorations. I’d come to a spork in the road. It’s hard to know what to do when that happens. I had to go somewhere, so I headed west to a cafe where one size of fries fits all.

"Go west, young man, go west," was an expression first used by John Babsone Lane Soule in the Terre Haute Express in 1851. It appealed to Horace Greeley, who rephrased it slightly in an editorial in the New York Tribune in 1865: "Go West, young man, and grow up with the country."

I enjoyed a hamburger and fries for lunch. For dinner, I made myself a cheese sandwich. Why? Because I was hungry and I knew how to make a cheese sandwich. One slice of bread had a hole in it where the baker had crawled through. Minimal flavor had escaped. It was all good.

I’VE LEARNED
I’ve never bought a pillow.
The car you need to pay the most attention to when driving is the car behind the car in front of you.
I really brightened the day for my wife’s birthday. I changed a couple of light bulbs.
Geology rocks, but geography is where it’s at. I had a schoolmate who was so bad at geography, he could never find the classroom.
Mothers hear you when you’re quiet.
A mature alligator has 80 teeth. They have no molars for crushing and grinding food before they swallow it. Lost teeth are replaced. An alligator may go through 2,000 to 3,000 teeth in its lifetime. And they never floss.
My neighbor Crandall called the front desk of a hotel where he was a guest and told the clerk he couldn’t find the door to get out of his room. He said that one door went to the bathroom, one allowed entry to the closet, and the other had a “Do not disturb” sign on it.
Some people interpret three consecutive sneezes as a sign of good luck, that someone is thinking positively about you or that you’re about to receive a blessing.

I was traveling during a recent spring when I found angry hailstones. My car had substantial hail damage, plus it had a couple of extra dents, which were door dings given anonymously by generous people. I couldn’t include that damage in my insurance claim. I have to look at myself in the mirror each day. That can be hard enough to do without a guilty conscience.

NEWS FROM HARTLAND HAROLD
The only auto dealership in Hartland is closing its doors. The minute the last brand new car is driven off the lot, it will signal the end of Routh Studebaker. General Manager Mark Bernard is considering a career in agronomy.

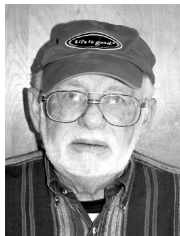
BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
How can I tell if there is an elephant in my refrigerator? The door won’t close.
Parallel lines have so much in common, it’s a shame they’ll never meet.
Without a doubt, my favorite movie starring Robin Williams is “Mrs. Fire.”
I put an ad in the newspaper: “Wanted: Someone to hand-feed me my Doritos so my fingers won’t become orange. No weirdos.”

NATURE NOTES
Some horned larks spend the winter in southern Minnesota, while those that had migrated, begin returning to Minnesota in early February through late March. Horned larks get their name from the black feathers protruding above their heads. The only lark native to North America creeps along bare ground searching for tiny seeds. When flushed into flight by a car, a horned lark looks pale with a blackish tale.
The courteous winter weather makes me expect a bountiful crop of fawns in May and June. I saw a pair of red-tailed hawks perched on a utility pole. Crows stood on top of road-killed deer and raccoons. The birds posed as if they were big-game hunters. Three trumpeter swans flew over. Minnesota has the highest population of trumpeters in the lower 48 states, about 55,000. I smelled skunk and spring in the air. An amorous skunk has a 4-square-mile territory. Great horned owls hunt them. A male skunk is called a buck and a female a doe. You might recall this exchange from “The Mary Tyler Moore Show.”
Lou Grant: “You got a lotta skunk.”
Mary Richards: “Why thank you, Mr. Grant.”
Lou Grant: “I HATE skunk.”
Lou Grant, played by Ed Asner, said “spunk,” not “skunk.”

MEETING ADJOURNED
Make yourself useful. Be kind.

THANK YOU JIMMY AND ROSALYN CARTER

Editorial note: This ‘thank you’ was intended for print on January 23, 2025. Also, a note from Editor Eli: My (Eli’s) first presidential report in 1st grade was on President Carter. I picked him as my choice because he went by Jimmy and that’s what my dad was called as a kid. Part of the elementary report was dressing up as the president before giving the report. I have fond memories of Carter. From Eli, also, thank you.



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

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

HERITAGE BITS

Ellendale Area Heritage Society Memories Display at the City Building

Antiques and collectibles brought in by our community’s citizens filled the building with thousands of articles that produced a “One-Of-A-Kind-Display”



Compiled by BRENDA DOKKEN (1/30/25)



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NRHEG girls up record to 14-5

Camryn VanMeldghem scores 1,000th career point in 71-21 blowout of Medford

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School girls' basketball registered two lopsided wins and one milestone last week.

The Panthers, improving their overall record to 14-5, defeated visiting United South Central 67-33 Thursday, three night's after Monday's 71-21 home blowout of Medford, during which junior Camryn VanMaldeghem registered her 1,000th career point.

The Panthers, 5-1 in the Gopher Conference West and 8-2 overall in conference play, started both games strong, leading USC 37-23 at halftime.

"The girls came out strong to start the game, and never looked back," said NRHEG coach Onika Peterson. "Our defense was solid, and we were able to switch things up throughout the game keeping USC on their toes. We pride ourselves on our rebounding and we were able to keep USC to one-shot possessions."

Individually for NRHEG: Gabby Schlaak 10 points, 7 rebounds, 1 assist; Quinn VanMaldeghem 13P, 10R, 2A, 5 steals; Clara Buendorf 8P, 12R, 2A, 1S; C.VanMaldeghem 27P, 12E, 3A, 5S; Chloe Stork 1P, 4R, 3A, 1S; Kylie Olson 8P, 5R, 1A, 2S.

The Panthers handed winless Medford yet another loss, leading the Tigers 55-9 at the break. "We played a team that is in a rebuilding year," said Coach Peterson. "Our girls came out and played extremely well. They had a tremendous first half. In the second half we were able to get everyone in and rotate in shifts to maximize playing time for our girls."

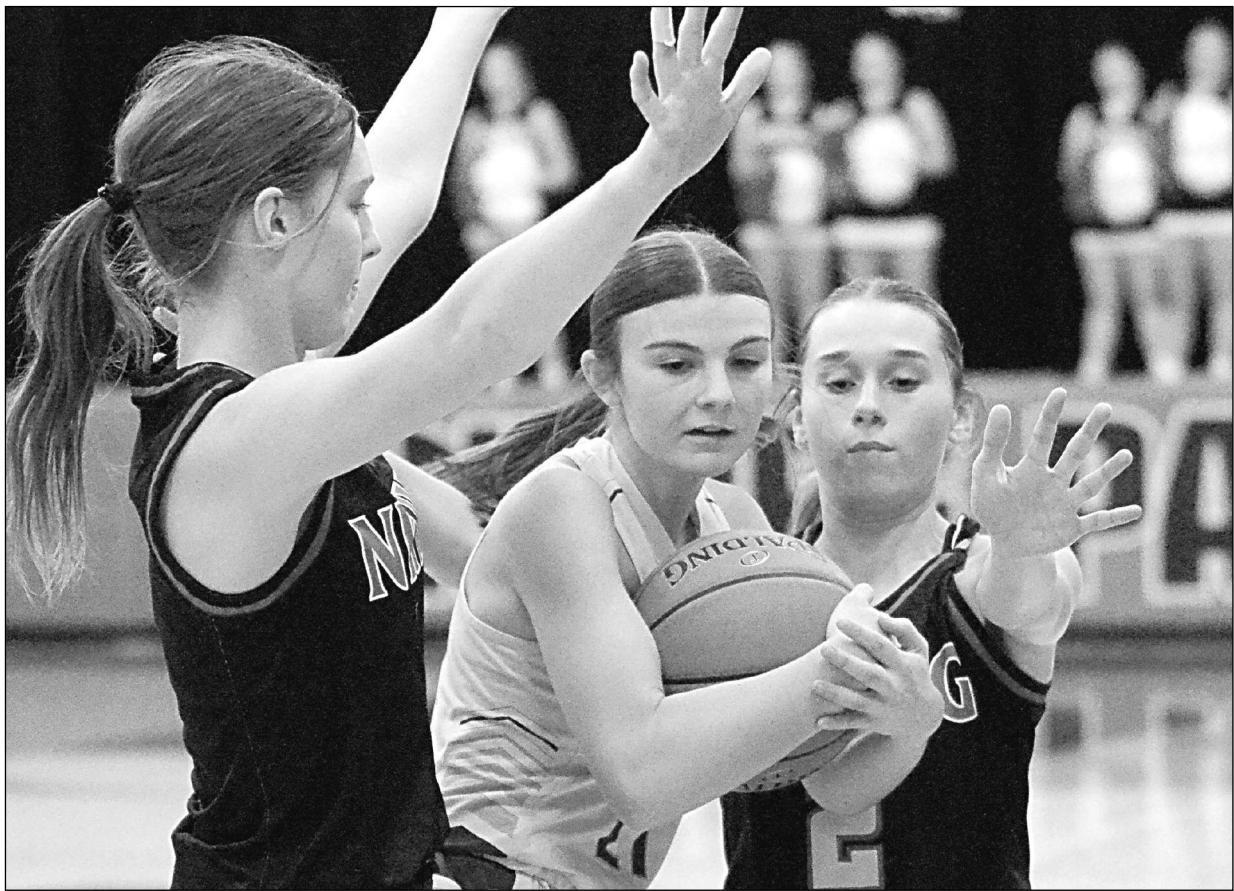
Camryn VanMaldeghem became the 15th NRHEG girls' basketball player to reach the 1,000-point club.

"What an accomplishment for her and her teammates," said Peterson.

Individual totals: Schlaak 11P, 3R, 3S; Ezra Boerner 4P, 3R, 1S; Q.VanMaldeghem 10P, 15R, 1A, 6S, 1 blocked shot; Buendorf 1P, 5R, 1A, 1S; Kenley Gehrke 2P; C.VanMaldeghem 28P, 6R, 4A, 2S; Savannah Farr 2P, 1R; Stork 2P, 1R, 2S; Olson 9P, 8R, 1A, 1S, 1B; Alexandra Estrada 1R.

After a Monday game at WEM, the Panthers host JWP Friday and host St. Clair Feb. 10, during which NRHEG's 2004 state tournament team will be honored.

Gopher Conference West			
	W-L	Ov.	
JWP	5-0	18-2	
NRHEG	5-1	14-5	



SHUTDOWN DEFENSE – The Panthers' Gabby Schlaak, left, and Ezra Boerner (2) apply defensive pressure to Medford's Elaine Schwarz during NRHEG's 71-21 triumph over visiting Medford last Monday. Below, the Panthers' Camryn VanMaldeghem posed for a couple photos after scoring her 1,000th career point.

WEM	3-2	12-8
United South Central	1-5	11-10
Medford	0-6	0-21

Gopher Conference East			
	W-L	Ov.	
Triton	7-0	19-2	
Hayfield/Schaeffer Ac.	5-2	11-9	
Bethlehem Academy	3-3	8-10	
Randolph	2-4	7-11	
Blooming Prairie	2-5	6-15	
Kenyon-Wan.	1-6	7-15	



NRHEG boys notch first victory

Panthers follow with win No. 2

After waiting most of the season for their first win, the NRHEG boys' basketball team prevailed twice.

After upending Medford 65-52 last Monday, the Panthers rallied past Bethlehem Academy 58-54 Friday. On Thursday, they fell 74-49 at United South Central.

The Panthers came out firing against BA, taking a 21-10 lead about two-thirds of the way through the first half. The Cardinals went on a 14-2 run to take a 24-23 break at halftime.

"We talked about some minor adjustments to make in the second half, but mainly that we needed to stay out of foul trouble, and then take better care of the basketball," said NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt.

The second half saw numerous ties and lead changes as the Panthers battled back-and-forth and had a fun stretch of shot-making by both teams.

With BA leading 53-51 with about 1:25 left in the game, Calvin Nissen hit a big 3-pointer to NRHEG up 54-53.

Schmidt put BA on the line with 15 seconds to go, to keep them from holding for the last shot. It paid off. The Cardinals made the second of two shots to tie it.

The Panthers were able to work it around and Owen Wayne hit a 3 from about 25 feet out with 5 seconds left. Sean Lassahn came up with a big steal on the inbound and then hit a free throw to ice it.



CLUTCH PERFORMANCES – Owen Wayne, left, and Charlie Nissen, right, came up big last week as the NRHEG boys' basketball team defeated Medford and Bethlehem Academy last week.

"It was such a great effort from everyone today, top to bottom," said Schmidt. "The guys played their hearts out. We had a lot of energy on the bench. It was a fun atmosphere for a noon Saturday game."

Individually for the Panthers: Aaden Hanna 1 rebound; Greyson Schaefer 11 points, 7R; Calvin Nissen 10P, 1 assist, 1 steal; Owen Wayne 16P, 6R, 3A, 3S; Brendan Schmidt 8P, 5R, 5A, 2S; Lavon Jewison 1 blocked shot; Hudson Chrz 5P, 4R, 2A, 1B; Sean Lassahn 3P, 3R, 2S; Jase Knudson 3R, 2A; Jordan Brouwers 2P, 8R, 1A, 3S.

The Panthers traveled to Medford to face a team also looking for its first win of the season.

Again they came out hot, jumping to an 8-0 lead. Medford was up 33-28 at halftime.

The second half started as the first

half ended, with Medford hanging around and eventually taking a one-point lead.

"But we never quit," said Schmidt. "I can't say enough how much the boys battled when things got gritty. We did it with guys in foul trouble, and a very short bench due to injuries and illness."

Schmidt said Nissen provided a huge spart off the bench, both offensively and defensively.

"It was good to see some guys kind of bust loose tonight," said Schmidt. We've been waiting for some of them to do so, and I'm hoping this will be a sign of things to come. Jase hit a couple of big shots along the way. Owen ran the offense very well. Brendan finally broke through in the scoring column, and continued to rebound well. Greyson had a good game off the bench, but

was hindered by foul trouble. Jordan Brouwers to play steady and probably could have had double figures if not for some missed shots down low."

Individual totals: Scafer 4P, 4R, 1A, 2S, 2B; Nissen 12P, 4R, 3A, 1S; Wayne 11P, 3R, 7A, 2S; Schmidt 13P, 8R, 2A, 2S; Jewison 3P, 1R, 1A; Chrz 3P, 2R, 1A, 1B; Knudson 15P, 4R, 5A, 3S.

Coach Schmidt was hopeful traveling to Wells Thursday, but it didn't work out that way.

Individually: A.Hanna 1P; Schaefer 8P, 5R, 1S; Nissen 7P, 2A; Wayne 14P, 3R, 3A, 3S; Schmidt 7P, 5R, 3A, 2S; Jewison 6R, 1S, 3B; Knudson 12P, 1R, 2A, 2S; Brouwers 2R, 2A; Zander Hanna 1R.

After a Monday home game against WEM, the Panthers are in action tonight at 7 p.m. in a noncon-

ference game at Nicollet. They host JWP Friday at 7:30 p.m. and play Feb. 11 at 7:15 at home against Blooming Prairie.

Gopher Conference West			
	W-L	Ov.	
JWP	4-0	13-4	
WEM	3-1	9-8	
United South Central	3-2	7-12	
NRHEG	1-4	3-15	
Medford	0-4	0-15	

Gopher Conference East			
	W-L	Ov.	
Triton	5-0	14-5	
Blooming Prairie	4-2	13-5	
Randolph	4-2	8-11	
Kenyon-Wan.	3-3	11-9	
Hayfield	1-5	7-12	
Bethlehem Academy	0-5	1-15	

For Flyers, it's playoffs already

The South Central Flyers girls' hockey team lost three of four games last week.

The Flyers, 4-9-2 in the Big South and 9-14-1, ended the regular season Monday at Windom. The section tournament started Feb. 5, with the semifinals set for Feb. 8 and the championship game Feb. 13 at Owatonna.

Big South Standings				
	WLT	PTS	Ov.	
Luverne	12-2-0	24	17-6-2	
Marshall	11-1-1	24	20-3-2	
MN River	11-1-2	24	17-5-2	
Fairmont	7-6-0	14	14-10-1	
So. Central	4-9-2	9	9-14-1	
New Ulm	3-7-1	7	10-13-2	
Worthington	1-11-1	3	5-16-1	
Windom	0-12-1	1	6-16-2	

NRHEG wrestlers show signs of life

The NRHEG wrestling team was in action for three dual meets last week, falling 37-28 to Triton and 50-19 to GMLOKS Tuesday at Dodge Center, and 52-22 to WEM/JWP at Waterville Thursday.

"We are showing signs of life," said NRHEG coach Shawn Larson after Tuesday's action. "We had a good night all around. We (coaches) were proud of the efforts up and down the lineup. Grahm Jacobson had a great night with two big wins at 107. Harbor Cromwell and Ryan Schlaak also went unbeaten on the night. We are happy to see improvement everywhere in our lineup, but Khaiden Madson is showing a lot of grit right now and winning matches from what he has learned in a short time in the sport."

Jacobson defeated his Triton opponent 10-6 at 107 pounds. Madson won 5-2 at 145, Cromwell prevailed 9-1 at 160, Ryan Schlaak won by fall at 172, and Wyatt Larson won by fall at 189. Eli Hendrickson reived a forfeit at 139.

Against GMLOKS: Jacobson won by fall at 107,

Charles Tufte by 6-2 decision at 114, Madson by technical fall at 145, Cromwell by 16-3 major decision at 160, Ryan Schlaak by fall at 172.

At Waterville, Owen Schlaak won by fall at 107, Ryan Schlaak got a pin at 172, and Larson took a technical fall at 189.

"Our team has youth and inexperience," said Coach Larson. "Their team has juniors and seniors with more time on the mat. The difference was noticeable tonight. We had great efforts in our wins."

The Panthers wrestled in The Takedown 22, a tournament at Maple River, Saturday, coming home with five placewinners. They were: Ryan Schlaak, second, 172; Cromwell, third, 160; Larson, fourth, 189; Tufte, fifth, 114; and Jacobson, sixth, 107.

"This was a good performance," said Coach Larson. "We are really getting better and that is exciting."

The Panthers host Kenyon-Wanamingo Thursday at 7 p.m. in New Richland. The section tournament starts Feb. 13.

WHS icemen top Redwood Valley, improving to 10-1-1 in Big South

The Waseca High School boys' hockey team defeated Redwood Valley 13-1 last Tuesday in Redwood Falls.

The Bluejays improved to 10-1-1 in the Big South and 15-2-2 overall. Redwood Valley fell to 2-12-0 and 3-17-0.

Scoring for Waseca: Otto Schoenrock, Cash Lynch, Brayden-Hesch Priem, Griffin Storey, Jude Gehring and Lucas Groll, with assists by Storey, Groll, Jayden Gehring, Avery Selvik, Jackson Tesch, Hunter Anderson, Henry Huttemier, Beckett Srp, Hesch-Priem, Jude Gehring and Schoenrock. Goalie Carter Martens made 15 saves.

Larson named to national hall of fame

Tink Larson of Waseca is a 2025 inductee into the National High School Baseball Association Hall of Fame.

Larson is in his 65th year of coaching baseball, 58 of them at the high school level. He started his career at age 19, coaching the American Legion, Babe Ruth, and adult Amateur teams in his hometown of Kasson, Minnesota. In 1967, he was hired as the head coach at Waseca High School. He was the head coach for 35 years and has been an assistant coach for 23 years.

Coach Larson was a head coach of various teams for 50 years: High School, American Legion, 16U, and adult amateur. In over 40 of those years, he coached four teams. He is currently an assistant coach for five teams: Minnesota State University, Mankato and the Waseca High School, American Legion, 16U, and adult amateur teams.

Coach Larson has won over 2500 games, with 480 at the high school level. He also has over 1000 wins as an assistant coach, with over 800 in the past 17 years at MSU, Mankato. He has coached in over 4500 games as a head coach and over 2000 as an assistant coach. He was an assistant basketball coach for 30 years, an assistant football coach for half a dozen years, and an athletic director for 13 years.

The highlight of his coaching career was winning a high school state baseball championship in 1990 after finishing second in 1981, 1988, and third in 1987. Each member of the 1987 team went on to start on their respective college teams. Coach Larson was noted for producing shortstops. Every shortstop at Waseca for over 20 consecutive years played college baseball, with five playing professional baseball.

Coach Larson has been very involved in the Minnesota State High School Baseball Coaches Association. He is a past president of the MSHSBCA. He is currently a member of the MSHSBCA Advisory Board, chairman of the MSHSBCA HOF Banquet, the liaison between the MSHSBCA and the high school coaches, and is in charge of an MSHSBCA Junior Showcase for top high school juniors.

His extensive involvement in coaching and leadership roles has resulted in his induction into 14 Halls of Fame at the local, state, and national levels. His coaching success has earned him many honors, including being a finalist for three national Coach of the Year awards. His family has been a source of strength and support throughout his life and career.



Larson

After a Monday game against Sibley East, the Bluejays host Jackson County Central Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Waseca Community Arena.

Big South Standings

	WLT	PTS	Overall
Luverne	11-1-1	23	16-3-1
Waseca	10-1-1	21	15-2-2
New Ulm	7-3-0	14	10-9-2
Marshall	7-5-0	14	9-11-0
Minn. River	5-3-0	10	9-8-0
Worthington	5-8-0	10	6-13-0
Windom	4-8-0	8	5-14-1
Redwood V.	2-12-0	4	3-17-0
Fairmont	0-12-0	0	0-18-0

Looking back at the good old days

The chubby little rodent has spoken, and we are facing another six weeks of winter. As a non-rodent, I feel confident that most of the nation does not have spring in February. The middle of March has brought some vicious winter blizzards in the past, so the chances of this happening are fairly good.

I have mentioned before of the time that I spent shoveling my way to farmers to pick up cans of milk. I have also mentioned that I probably shoveled more snow in 1965 than I have in the rest of my life. It seems to me that our climate has changed, especially in recent years. We had a recent cold spell, and folks were complaining about it and my response was you don't have to shovel cold, so just throw on warmer clothes.

As a kid I actually embraced the thought of a snowstorm. Tis was before I worked for Conger Creamery and had to drive in it. Mt friend, Dwight Stevens and I would take my folks' '54 Oldsmobile and drive the gravel roads looking for snow drifts to run through. We were armed with a couple of snow shovels and a coffee can full of sand in the trunk. We did get stuck a time or two and had



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

to shovel out and I believe there was only one time that we had to walk to a farmhouse and ask a farmer to pull us out when we slipped in the ditch. We considered this entertainment, I guess we were living a little bit on the edge.

We always seemed to seek out new adventures wherever that took us. I can remember one moonlit winter night when we took to the roads north of Twin Lakes pulling a toboggan, while we took turns riding on it while being pulled by Pat Smith's family Jeep Wagoneer. Other than myself and Pat, there were two other friends, Dwight Stevens, and Kenny Ofstedal. After we had had our fill of sledding, we decided to drive to this nearby farm place where this girl that Dwight liked lived and just shine the headlights on the

house. I really don't know who thought that this was a good idea. The Farmer came running out of the house with what looked an awful lot like a shotgun so we got out of there as fast as we could. That's when Pat decided that it would be a good idea to turn off a gravel road and turn the lights off while still driving with the moon as our headlights. It was working until the moon disappeared behind some clouds and everything went black. Pat kept driving and the next thing you knew, we were in the ditch upside down. Pat had a grip on the wheel and still had his foot on the gas trying to drive out. Unfortunately, we were upside down and I yelled at him to turn it off. He let go of the wheel and immediately fell on his head. I am pretty sure that he had been in denial and thought that we

could drive out. We then walked to a nearby farm place where this guy had a wrecker, and he came to pull us out. He didn't want any money and even helped us start the Jeep and get on our way. We drove it to my dad's gas station and were there bright, and early Sunday morning trying to get the roof pushed back up. Needless to say, that wasn't working so we all consoled Pat as he drove home anticipating the consequences of facing his dad. When Pat left it was almost as if we were at a funeral. In the end, his dad was not as hard on him as he expected, and we had learned a valuable lesson – at least until the next time.

Until the next time: When we were in our youth, we sometimes did dumb things, but they weren't meant to harm anyone else. We stayed active and kept busy by creating new adventures that were not always the safest, but we survived. Pat and Kenny are no longer with us but their memory lingers.

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.

LOOKING BACK

25 Years back



- A check in the amount of \$100 was presented by Cathy Stringfield from the Education Minnesota of New Richland - Hartland - Ellendale - Geneva High School to Kari Klug. Kari Klug is in eighth grade at the middle school in Ellendale and was selected by the People to People Student Ambassador to visit the British Isles for three weeks this summer. She is the daughter of George and Joanne Klug of rural New Richland. Last fall she was interviewed and accepted by the Minnesota delegation for People to People Student Ambassador Program.



- Biology students instructed by Terry Anderson at the New Richland - Hartland - Ellendale - Geneva high school. They made a study of a coral reef nearly real in their classroom. One wall is covered in blue, representing the water, with all types of fish and turtles floating around on it. Among the students in the class that worked on the project are from the left; Kelli Schlaak, Michele Maurer, Nakia Berg and their instructor Terry Anderson.

50 Years back

- Optimistic farmers expanded and reinvested in their business last year borrowing from the Federal Land Bank Association of Mankato a record \$6,271,800 during 1974. Farmers reinvested in their business in hopes of a repeat performance of 1973 commodity prices and harvests. Loken reports land in this area is now selling up to \$1,300 per acre and is in great demand.

- The academic High Honor and Honor lists for the fall quarter at Mankato State College were recently announced Dr. Kent Alm, vice president for academic affairs. Two hundred eleven students qualified for the High Honor list by achieving a 4.0 straight "A" average while 732 earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average to qualify for the honor list. On-campus enrollment during the quarter was 9,791. To qualify for academic honors, undergraduate students must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours. Students from this area on the High Honor List were Colleen Rose Jewison, and Peggy A. Armendariz of Janesville, both freshmen, Barbra A. Vogelsang and Micheal J. Blashack of Waldorf, both seniors, Annette B. Henry, a sophomore and Jayne M. Joyce, a freshman, both of Waseca. Brenda J. Roesler and Christine M. Schultz, seniors and Alan A. Hagen, a freshman, all of Wells.

75 Years back

- Relatives, numbering 38, gathered at the Oscar Anderson home Sunday in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson. The honored couple and their guests attended church services in the morning at the St. Peters Lutheran church. Here they were presented a beautiful bouquet of jonquils by the Ladies Aid members. Mrs. Anderson was presented a carnation corsage and Mr. Anderson a carnation boutonniere. Mrs. Henry Schult, a niece had charge of the guest book. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were married 50 years ago at Burt, Iowa.

- There will be no reorganization of the force of operators at the local telephone office following the resignation of Mrs. Armin Becker, effective march 1. Miss Verna Weekwerth will succeed Mrs. Becker as chief operator. Mrs. Becker had been employed by the company since August 25, 1947, Miss Weekwerth since September 1, 1947, Mrs. Carl Weekwerth since April, 1949, and Miss Ruth Miller since July 8, 1949. As night operator Mrs. Minnie Frost has seniority over all the others, having been a member of the force since May 23, 1943.

Council

from Page 1

NRHEG high school students that have become a fairly regular occurrence have helped to get more residents engaged in games, activities, and other social interactions.

The center is still in need of CNAs, both full and part-time, particularly for evenings, overnights, and alternating weekends.

"We can be flexible with some of those schedules," Johannsen said, adding that the center offers competitive pay, shift differentials, health insurance and other benefits.

It was also noted that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the NRCC, and the center is looking into

ideas for commemorating the milestone in the coming months. The care center report was approved.

In the PeopleService report, presented by Shell Johnson, an issue with a primary clarifier was discussed, and measures to mitigate the problem are underway. It was noted that a new sewer service was installed on 7th St. and a manhole on Highway 13 was inspected and appears to have no current problems. The report was approved.

Eric Hendrickson presented the Street/Maintenance report, which stated that eight blue cards were issued in December resulting in zero shutoffs. A discussion was had regarding updates to the men's restroom at City Hall to improve handicap accessibility, and the following purchase requests were approved: \$3,600 to J&R Water Utility

Service, \$1,346.60 to Zamoth Brush Works for sweeper parts, \$5,920.00 for an Express pressure washer.

An update was given regarding the 2025 street project, and Hendrickson stated that plans for Broadway "due to overwhelming public input" have been realigned to 40' "with no intention to drop it down."

An upcoming meeting with the school and attorneys regarding the project was also mentioned, with further assurances from the council that consideration of public concerns and potential impacts of the project will be made before final decisions are made.

In unfinished business, the council revisited a discussion from a previous meeting regarding changing the regular council meeting schedule from two meetings per month to one. It was agreed that meetings will continue on the second Monday of each month, during which time the council will determine if a second meeting is required for that month.

In new business, a public hearing regarding a petition for a zoning change from R1 to C1 at 110 Ash Ave. N for the purpose of using the location to provide an event center was scheduled for 6:35 p.m. on March 10 during the regular monthly meeting. The council also approved an EDA grant for Wagner Foods to go towards a new awning/sign on the building.

A Local Board of Appeal and Equalization hearing scheduled for April 22 from 1-3 p.m. at the Waseca County Courthouse was mentioned before the administrator's report was presented and approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper, 6 p.m. Bible Study

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CENTRAL FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Matt Griggs
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 90.7

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

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

HOLLAND REFORMED
Rev. Neal Ooms

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

ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA
Rural Ellendale
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday - 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, LCMS
Hope, Minnesota
Pastor Sandy Miller
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Youth/Adult Study

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

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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City of New Richland Public Notice
The February meeting of the New Richland EDA previously scheduled for Monday February 24th, 2025 has been rescheduled to Monday, February 10th, 2025, at 4:30 pm at city hall.
Published in the NRHEG Star Eagle on February 6, 2024

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

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 INTERSTACY, 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**

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No. 81-PR-25-37

Estate of David A. Millang a/k/a David Allen Millang a/k/a David Millang, Decedent

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL

REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's Will, dated September 30, 2024, and ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted. Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Gary F. Korogi, whose address is 27499 145th Street, New Richland, Minnesota, 56072, as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent.

Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate. Any objections to the probate of the

Will or appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing. Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 501B.41, subdivision 5.

Dated: January 24, 2025 Barb Stevens Deputy Probate Registrar Shannon M. Asselin Court Administrator

Attorney for Personal Representa-

tive Eythan G. Frandle Peterson, Kolker, Haedt & Benda, Ltd. 1811 Broadway Avenue SE Albert Lea, MN, 56007 Attorney License No: 0398362 Telephone: (507) 373-6491 FAX: (507) 373-7863 Email: efrandle@albertlealaw.com

Published in the Star Eagle February 6 and 13 2025

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NRHEG youth basketball



The NRHEG 6th grade basketball team finished first in the gold division end of the year tournament in Blooming Prairie held on January 18, 2025. From left, back row: Coach John Misgen, Adler Bethke, Collin Misgen, Jacob Lewer, Justin Possin, Tate Michaels, Kashton Gehrke, Carson Shultz, Apollo Clausen and Coach Aaron Gilliland. Front Row: Asa Wilson, Trevor Gilliland, Reed Budach, Parker Simon, Kaeson Gehrke, John Thibodeau, Bo Holland and Julian Naser.



The NRHEG 3rd and 4th grade basketball team finished second in the silver division end of the year tournament in Randolph on January 18, 2025. Back row from left: Chase Simon, Rafe Knudson, Tripp Gulickson, Asa Bethke, Adam Davis, Axel Schlaak, Gadiel Cazares, Layton Pogones. Front row : Casey Holman, Brantley Braaten, Zeke Berg.

“Prosecutor’s Perspective”

I’m Rachel Cornelius, the Waseca County Attorney. County attorneys are elected every four years, always the same year as the sheriff. I’ve been the elected Waseca County Attorney since 2019. I’ve been in the Waseca County attorney’s office for 19 years. Our office is located in the basement level of the courthouse. Our office staffs four attorneys (myself included) as well as two paralegals. You are likely to see myself and the other attorneys in court, as well as at county board meetings, speaking engagements to the students at the schools (more about this in a future column), meetings with law enforcement and child protection, as well as consulting with department heads on issues that involve county matters. The majority of our days are spent in court attending hearings, as well as reviewing police reports, making charging decisions, preparing for future hearings, and negotiating outcomes with other attorneys.

The most common question I get asked is, “what does a county attorney do?” The county attorney is the chief prosecutor in Waseca County. We prosecute all crimes occurring within the boundary of Waseca County, everything from petty misdemeanor traffic citations up to felony murder. The second-most common question I get is: “Oh, so you defend people?” No: Prosecutors charge crimes. Public defenders and defense attorneys represent the defendants. Recently I drafted a mission statement for the Waseca County Attorney’s Office. It reads: Pursuing justice and accountability by ethical and zealous prosecution, while protecting victims, through collaboration with justice partners, and effectively representing Waseca County.

What does that actually mean? As a prosecutor, my job is to seek justice. The only way I can do that



Cornelius

is by prosecuting people suspected of a crime ethically, yet zealously. It’s a balancing act. Prosecutors have an ethical obligation to not pursue cases where we do not believe we can prove the crime occurred beyond a reasonable doubt. We review cases with an eye as to whether we can prove all the legal elements of the crime. If we can’t, we talk to law enforcement about what we are missing and determine whether there is other evidence that can be gathered to prove the charges. We have wonderful partnerships with all of our law enforcement agencies in Waseca (city and county), Janesville and New Richland. If evidence is lacking, we will decline charges. If new evidence comes to light, we will re-review to see whether we are able to charge it or not. If we do charge a case, we work zealously to pursue justice. To be a “zealous advocate” means that we will pursue our case within the bounds of the law. The County Attorney’s Office also represents the county in civil matters and provides advice to the county board and other department heads. The County Attorney’s office also represents MN Prairie (our human services collaborative with Steele and Dodge Counties) in matters of child protection, adult protection, child support, guardianships, conservatorships and commitments.

I’m hoping to make this column a semi-regular feature in the Waseca Pioneer; I hope you learn something and enjoy the content. Nothing I write about in these articles is to be treated as legal advice, nor does it establish an attorney-client relationship.

County board considers construction plans, artificial intelligence

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

More than an hour of discussion during the county board of commissioners’ work session on Jan. 21 centered around a “phased” approach to construction and remodeling which might begin with about \$13 million worth of work to upgrade and reconfigure the current law enforcement building and construct additional office space connected to the historic courthouse. Another central element of the discussion was complying with the state department of corrections (DOC) expectation that inmates leaving the jail to attend court proceedings should not share any part of their path with members of the public.

Brought up during the considerations were that the current law enforcement building is “structurally very sound,” and thus a candidate for continued use whether or not the lowest level continues to house a jail. The point was made that its construction took place during the cold war, when the possibility of nuclear-level hostilities made sturdy a priority while placing minimal importance on “curb appeal.” One board member went so far as to claim the building “looks like a bunker from the 1960s.”

A significant aspect of the phased construction, county administrator Michael Johnson suggested, is the much smaller amount of money which would need to be “bonded” before construction could begin: proposals discussed at previous board meetings have entailed financing as much as \$30 million—leading to prohibitive amounts of interest during the repayment period.

After considering the elements of a plan initially created in 2022, board members encouraged county administrator Michael Johnson to look into having an update created which takes the DOC expectation of a dedicated pathway for inmates into account while also prioritizing plans for courthouse security. Another consideration is minimizing the profile of any new construction so that it doesn’t conflict with the appearance of the historic structure.

During the regular board meeting which followed the 8 a.m. work session, commissioners took a few moments to express gratitude to departing county board of adjustment members Richard Possin and Robert Vogelsang. Both are retiring from that role—Possin after 22 years and Vogelsang after 34.

Commissioners also accepted a new policy which offers guidelines regarding the use of artificial intelligence (AI) when performing tasks for county projects. Although the term “AI” might have unsettling connotations, administrator Johnson pointed out “you’ve been using AI for years, whether you think you have been or not.” He also called AI “a powerful tool that can increase productivity.”

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The new policy, two pages in length, defines AI and identifies three levels of county-controlled information: low, moderate, and high risk. Data regarded as “low” risk is that which is meant to be public. “Moderate” risk is associated with names and addresses which are not meant to be public. “High” risk is legally protected data including information about criminal proceedings, data from the social security administration, and others.

The county also allows low risk information to be entered into artificial intelligence apps for the sake of analyzing data, identifying trends, and similar tasks.

The policy also insists that, since AI sometimes “makes up an answer” when there is not sufficient data, all work must be proofread by someone knowledgeable in the field before it is accepted as trustworthy.

The county renewed its agreement with the state Department of Natural Resources regarding the local aquatic invasive species (AIS) program. According to Land and Water Resources department leader Chris Howard, having the agreement in place is a prerequisite to the county receiving its annual AIS funding, about \$47,000 to be used toward protecting water quality in area lakes. Howard told commis-



Richard Possin and Robert Vogelsang were honored during the Jan. 21 Waseca County Board meeting for long-standing service on the county’s board of adjustment. Vogelsang, who could not be present, retired from the committee after 34 years. Possin, pictured here with county board chair Doug Christopherson, served for 22 years.

sioners about \$22,000 of the amount is spent on “watercraft inspection”—hiring individuals who locate themselves at area boat landings and educate the public about preventing the spread of invasive species of aquatic plants and wildlife—while also confirming people remove plant matter from their boats and trailers before leaving the landing.

Howard stated the remaining \$25,000 is made available to area lake associations which can apply for funding to carry out eligible projects.

During a legislative update at the end of the morning’s session, commissioners heard about elements of Governor Tim Walz’s proposed budget. As described by admin-

istrator Johnson, the preliminary information is “disheartening to counties.”

Commissioners discussed among themselves that funding for numerous state initiatives had been promised, but is no longer expected to be delivered. One commissioner noted, “They’ve built too big of a government, and now cutbacks will be needed.”

Board chair Doug Christopherson suggested that, if funding was going to be removed, the mandate for counties to carry out the proscribed tasks should also be undone. Naming the expectations placed on counties to administer new cannabis policies as an example, he said “it feels like a broken promise.”

Annual HCFC meatball supper fundraiser returns

The History Center of Freeborn County (HCFC) will host its annual meatball supper from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Friday, February 28 at the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge, 1623 West Main Street, Albert Lea.

The meal will include meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, veggie and a dinner roll. Tickets are \$12 per person and can be purchased at the history center or through HCFC board members. If you would like to purchase tickets via phone with a credit card, please call 507/373-8003.

The event will also have a silent auction with items from local busi-

nesses.

This event funds a variety of programs for FCHM including virtual, hands-on and free community events.

The History Center of Freeborn County is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1948, committed to building the future by preserving the past. The Society collects preserves and tells the story of Freeborn County’s past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, and educational programs. The history center is located at 1031 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea, MN.

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