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Sports

42nd annual Geneva Cancer auction Friday and Saturday, Jan. 9 and 10

The forty-second annual Geneva Cancer auction will take place at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9 and 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 at the Geneva Bar and Grill. The drawing will take place on Saturday, Jan. 17 at 8 p.m. For donations, bring to Geneva Bar and Grill or call 507-383-7462.

St. Peter Lutheran Church of New Richland Soup and Dessert Jan. 11

Women in Mission is offering a soup and dessert luncheon at St. Peter Lutheran Church of New Richland from 11:30 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 11. Choose from chili, vegetable beef or chicken wild rice. \$10 for adults, \$5 kids 12 and under.

Raise A Toast at Farmamerica on Friday, Jan. 16

A farm-to-fork dinner experience, Raise A Toast will take place at Farmamerica from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16. We'll raise a toast to the inspiring women in our community. Tickets are available online.

42nd annual Geneva Cancer auction Friday and Saturday, Jan. 16 and 17

The forty-second annual Geneva Cancer auction will take place at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16 and at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17 at the Geneva Bar and Grill. The final drawing will take place Saturday, Jan. 17 at 8 p.m. For donations, bring to Geneva Bar and Grill or call 507-383-7462.

Waseca County Winter Farmers Market at Farmamerica Jan. 31

There will be a winter farmers market at Farmamerica from 8 a.m. till noon Saturday, Jan. 31. Find locally grown, baked and made while supporting our local producers. Farmamerica is located at 7367 360th Ave., Waseca.

CredibleMind offers free mental health resources

All area residents are eligible to use free online access to mental health resources available at MNPrarie's "CredibleMind" website. The site offers interactive, evidence-based ways to explore local and national mental well-being resources. Free and anonymous at www.mnprairie.crediblemind.com

Shepherd's Robe Free store Tuesdays from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m.

The Shepherd's Robe free store offers clothing, supplies, and much more for free to all interested parties. The store is located at Vista Covenant Church, 14679 275th Avenue, New Richland.

A word from
The Word 

When I thought,
'My foot slips, 'Your
steadfast love, O
Lord, helped me up.
When the cares of
my heart are many,
Your consolations
cheer my soul.
Psalm 94:18-19



The NRHEG Panthers were the 2025 Section 2AA Champions. Front row: Manager Marnie Mullenbach, Manager Vivienne Schlaak, Manager Jade Wyrum, Manager Lauren Johnson, Camryn VanMaldeghem, Emilia Stadheim, Julieann Wobbrock, Alayna Groskreutz. Middle Row: Kenley Gehrke, Izley Boerner, Ezra Boerner, Clara Buendorf, Quinn VanMaldeghem, Alex Estrada. Back Row: Coach Onika Peterson, Savannah Farr, Manager Eva Buendorf, Chloe Stork, Kylie Olson, Gabrielle Schlaak, Assistant Coach Kayley Camerer, Assistant Coach Betsy Schoenrock

A look back at 2025

In the past year the NRHEG Star Eagle has covered many exciting stories worth remembering. Here is a look back at the best highlights from the year that was 2025.

January

- Some welcome news was recently received by Royal Villa, the 30-apartment facility along First Street Northeast near the New Richland Care Center. The building was issued a rare 99-percent rating after an August inspection by the Minnesota Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

- These days, you'll typically find Caitlin Krell's hair pulled up into a claw clip. And as the owner of Geneva's Bliss Beauty Salon, that's just fine with Krell; her clients come first.

- Todd Utpadel can still barely believe it happened. After creating "Musicians Against Cancer" and partnering with the BP Cancer Group, he said he had an initial goal of raising \$5,000 in 2024. He actually brought in \$50,000 worth of donations.

- Members of the Ellendale City Council were sworn in during their first meeting of the year, January 9, 2025. New members include recently elected Scott Swanson, and newly appointed Charlie Berg. Joel Meyer and mayor Scott Groth were also sworn in.

- NRHEG Junior Madison Bogue took part in the Dec. 7 parade memorializing the 1941 surprise attack on the U.S. Naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, a day which will famously "live in infamy." The opportunity was part of a six day trip made available to individuals who had earned the title of "All-American" from the Universal Cheer Association (UCA), a national group which sponsors many competitions and events.

- January 10 and 11 brought the first weekend of the 2025 Geneva Cancer Auction, held at the Geneva Bar and Grill. Hundreds of people crowded the venue as a great group of supporters turned out.

- The NRHEG Star Eagle is proud to announce the creation of its new website, which went public early this

month. The website can be found at: www.nrhegstareagle.com. Our website will remain completely free.

- Josh Warke, one of two new New Richland City Council members, as well as reelected council member Jody Wynnemer, took their oaths of office during the council's first meeting of the year on Monday, Jan. 13. Newly-elected council member Matt Economy was absent for the meeting, along with Mayor Janda Ferguson.

- "I can't say enough about Mr. Schaeffer's professionalism and composure," stated NRHEG Superintendent Michael Meihak regarding district band director Seth Schaeffer's response to a string of "construction woes" which began in June of 2024. Until Friday, Jan. 17, those "woes" called upon Schaeffer and the members of the high school band to show daily flexibility as their instruction and operations were moved to other locations in the secondary building.

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

five dual meets. Yes, one of them was a victory.

- On the morning of Thursday, January 23, the Waseca County 911 dispatch center received notification that someone appeared to have broken into Papa Olie's Bar and Grill on South Main Street in Waldorf and caused damage inside. Law enforcement responded and found an unlocked door. The business was checked and found to be unoccupied. There was heavy interior damage to the business and items had been stolen.

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

2025 continued on 7

Cancer Auction set for Jan. 9,10

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

For four days in January, the Geneva Bar and Grill is a maelstrom of emotion and energy.

"We have a lot of sad stories," says planning committee secretary/treasurer Barb Kuchenbecker. "And we often cry happy tears."

The 2026 Geneva Cancer Auction will be January 9, 10, 16 and 17—two consecutive Fridays and Saturdays. Sales will begin at 7 p.m. on Fridays and 2 p.m. on Saturdays, wrapping up around 8 p.m. on Jan. 17, when the winners of this year's raffle will be announced.

Fellow committee member Jayne Busho and Kuchenbecker both mention that, in addition to the many auction items already donated, more are welcome right up to the last minutes of the sale. Anyone wishing to find out more can contact Kuchenbecker at 507-383-2221.

"We never know what's going to come through the door," comments Busho regarding the many donations



RAISING HOPE - Keith and Jamie Hagen hold a handcrafted cradle sold during the Geneva Cancer Auction in 2024. Now in year 42, the event has raised nearly \$2.5 million toward its goal of eradicating cancer.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bentley

Care Center in Rochester.

Volunteers perform all work to plan, operate and administer the annual auctions, so Busho and Kuchenbecker explain every penny

Auction continued on 4

ELLENDALE CITY COUNCIL

Ellendale council proposes new tax levy

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff Writer

The city of Ellendale held their city council meeting on Thursday, Dec. 11. There was a truth in taxation public hearing meeting held before the city council meeting on Dec. 11 for public comment on the levy. There will be a property tax levy increase of 7.10 percent over the 2025 property tax levy. The proposed tax levy for 2026 is \$581,321.75. Unpaid utility charges are \$19,445, with fees of \$22,512.08. The 2025 appropriation for the Fire Relief Association in the amount of \$5,000 was also approved.

Donations from the Ellands to the Fire Department, and from Dwayne and Lois Addison, also to the Fire Department, were greatly appreciated by the council and all firemen.

For fire, the HVAC guys installed furnaces in the new fire hall and noticed there are no fans. The fans are 96 inches long and are needed to circulate heat in the room. The repairs on the rescue vehicle are complete, including both the fuel leak and a bad sensor. The red LED lights on the back have also been repaired. The new fire recruit from New Richland is working out, another who moved to Ellendale from out of town did not pass the background check. In spite of a great relationship between the fire department and ambulance, there is not enough space in the new fire-hall for the ambulance. Rick Johnson was present on behalf of Fire Department Relief Association; he would like to increase the pension amount for the firefighters from \$500 to \$1,000 and would like all Ellendale firefighters to be eligible for this on Jan. 1 of 2026.

Theile Trucking has been contracted for up to \$3,000 for plowing any snow over 4 inches in Ellendale. The Thompson Sanitation contract has been reviewed for a 6-year period with new either 65- or 95-gallon trash bins included. The sanitation contract has yearly cost increases.

A complaint has been served to 8th Ave East for yard violation. An Administrative Citation on 6th Ave has also been served.

The council approved the new paid leave policy for city employees. One council member, concerned with fraud, suggested a yearly review of the policy be written into the policy itself.

For public comment Jo Lehrberg wanted to acknowledge the volunteers who make Ellendale a great place to live, in particular the Community Foundation of Ellendale, the Lions Club, and the Ellendale Area Community Action. Mayor Groth concluded, "Josh did such a nice job with those Christmas decorations, we should have him do them every year." Charlie said, "I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year." Joe said, "Merry Christmas."



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Add winter blankets

During the muddy, early holiday season, the scurs and the Weather Eye were of a mind that perhaps Old Man Winter had left the building. Do they remain convinced or has their attitude changed in the New Year? Starting New Year's Day, mostly sunny with highs in the low teens and lows around 10 above. Partly sunny Friday with highs in the upper teens and lows in the upper single digits. Mostly sunny on Saturday with highs in the low 20's and lows in the mid-teens. Sunday, mostly sunny with highs near 30 and lows in the upper teens. Partly sunny Monday with highs in the upper 20's and lows in the mid-single digits. Tuesday, partly sunny with highs in the low 20's and lows in the mid-single digits. Cloudy on Wednesday with highs in the mid-20's and lows in the upper single digits. On January 3rd we see our daylight back to just over nine hours per day. It starts to increase by just over a minute per day on the 4th. Sunrise will also start making a noticeable early appearance starting on the 7th at 7:47 a.m. CST. The normal high for New Year's Day is 23 and the normal low is 7. Regardless, the scurs have stashed a lot of holiday goodies.

Almost forgot that the 1st Full Moon of the year is already upon us on Saturday the 3rd. It generally goes by the Full Wolf Moon as during this time it was common for wolves to be heard by the natives and pioneers. Whether the wolves were communicating with each other or just plain hungry remains debatable as no one has ever asked them and they've never said. In the Anglo Saxon tradition, this was known as The Moon after Yule, the celebration timed around the winter solstice before Christianity was in place. The Ojibwe called this The Sucker Moon as the suckers were running in rivers and streams at this time. The Sioux were known to call it The Frost in the Teepee Moon as one can only imagine during below zero stretches on the prairie. At the ranch it is The Warm Boots and Gloves Moon or the Warm Lap Corgi Moon.

Warm gloves and boots were the order of the day this past Sunday as Old Man Winter unleashed his wrath once more. Not that the snowfall amounts were astounding, but the windblown snow raising havoc with visibility made it worthy of the blizzard designation. It also quickly served as a reminder that these little prairie towns make excellent snow fences. At the ranch, we also catch our fair share of snow. Once the manure hauling was done Saturday in the mud, it was time to switch gears back to snow removal mode. Like so many things out here, nothing is easy. The tractor needs to be reattached to the snowblower after unhooking from the spreader, the bucket needs to replace the manure forks on the skidsteer. All of

this is best done when it's warm out like Sunday morning was. Everything becomes more difficult when it's cold.

Speaking of manure hauling, I made a significant dent in it on Saturday. The cold December weather concerned me as it tends to freeze the pack. However, after it warmed back up again, I was optimistic I'd be able to haul at least some of it. Of course snow needed to be moved out of the road ditch first before I could even think about getting to the field. I did that Friday along with greasing everything, hoping that I could make a major push on Saturday. As planned, I got through over half of the main barn despite steering with the brakes at times in the field. The only part of the pack that was semi-frozen was near the east overhead door. The warmer temps helped thaw the pack, but it heats from underneath as well. When it gets 2' deep, it takes one mean winter to freeze it solid, especially inside a building. At times, it looked like it was smoking as the beaters chewed it up. Nope, just steaming.

It's seed catalog time again. It doesn't look much like gardening season yet, but it helps one think warm thoughts in the meantime. It's always kinda fun to reminisce about what worked and what didn't too. Looking back at last year's column this time of year I saw that one of my goals was to raise muskmelons again. And raise muskmelons I did, but not without a struggle. Wet weather plagued the process much as it did many field crops. Late replanting made me doubt that they would ever make it. It's unlikely they would have without the exceptionally warm September and early October. While it messed up some aspects of the garden, the muskmelons weren't one of them. There are also some new plantings, transplanting's and a Honey Gold apple tree to look forward to once spring has finally sprung.

Christmas came and went. We had some dog time with Poppy on Christmas Day, but Friday and the weekend were busy outside preparing and getting barn cleaning done. Then Poppy got her snow back on Sunday. Her first order of business was to do her obligatory zoomies through it. Bunnies and squirrels becoming easier to track as well. The cold isn't to her liking, and after being outside about so long, she lifts her paws to let us know she's ready to come back in. Fortunately Corgi's are great lap dogs and nap dogs. Few things Poppy enjoys more after an outdoor bomb session than curling up against your leg on top of a fuzzy blanket. No arguments from me after I'm done moving snow. The warmth coming off that long body is as contagious as the ensuing nap.

See you next week...real good then.



St. Peter Lutheran Church Women are hosting a Soup and Dessert Luncheon on Jan. 11, 11:30-1:00 p.m. \$10 for adults,

\$5 for 5 and under.

Soup: Chile, Chicken Wild rice, and Vegetable Beef. Crackers and bread will be served. Many different desserts to pick from. The weather is just right for a hot bowl of soup. Hope to see you at St. Peter Lutheran Church in New Richland.

Ashton Johnson of New Richland earns degree

Ashton Johnson of New Richland was among 1,175 graduates who received degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln during commencement exercises Dec. 19 and 20 at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

Johnson earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and Human Sciences from the College of Education and Human Sciences.

Chancellor Rodney D. Bennett presided over the ceremonies.

Look how much good is performed

With the end of 2025, I find myself doing the expected thing: looking back over the closing year.

I wish to thank everyone who contacted the paper to make sure we know about interesting people and occurrences.

I want to point out we have a marvelous community, occupied for the most part by people who make positive contributions because they have positive outlooks. I have mentioned before that I like to read books which describe "near death experiences." I came across one recently in which writer Jim Woodford tells of asking an angel why God puts up with humans, given the many evils our race commits.

The answer stays with me. It was something like "But look how much good is performed. Taken all together, the acts of good and kindness vastly outweigh the evils."

The delight of being a writer for a small-town newspaper is that, to our publication, every-



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

thing is news. The big, far-reaching decisions involving millions of dollars as well as small acts of craftsmanship or kindness; hard-fought battles with disease; inspiring accomplishments; poignant memories; entertaining anecdotes; exceptional dedication; small actions and decisions which grow beyond all expectation.

Our ultra-local focus allows us writers to speak personally with people who leave us awestruck and impressed, who touch and warm our hearts, or who make us think about who we are and who we want to be. Then it's our job to encapsulate those stories, allowing readers to feel as if they had been present at the inter-

view.

The task would be intimidating if it were not also a privilege.

Naturally, it cannot be performed perfectly. For those among you who have been dissatisfied with the way your stories appeared in the paper, I am sorry. We try very hard and we have the best intentions, but sometimes things go wrong. I wish it weren't true, and mostly, I regret any feelings of disappointment or anger you experienced.

For those of you who were pleased, we are glad to have done well for you. Equally importantly, we are glad your story is now not only told, but recorded. As our "Archives"

pages prove each week, newspapers are a durable medium. It is one thing to have a personal circumstance that "everyone knows" about. The information is shared and reshared, spreading rapidly—especially thanks to social media. But it's hearsay. One doesn't know how well it can be trusted, and years from now, it will be buried so deep in the landslide of online information that it will never be found.

Newspapers, on the other hand, must meet certain standards of professionalism and accuracy. Any which do not meet those standards do not last long, and are "a jest and byword" while they exist.

There are many, many people I became acquainted with because it fell to me to learn and record their stories. To a person, you have helped me become better informed, more knowledgeable, and more deeply impressed with the versatility and stamina of humankind. I am glad and grateful that we met and I learned your story. Thank you.

Learning valuable life lessons at Christmas

I hope everybody had a good Christmas and a happy new year.

Christmas this year started on Christmas Eve.

My dad and I went to church together at 3:30. Afterwards we went to his house to open presents. From there, we went to my mother's house for dinner and another round of present opening.

It is rare that my brother, sister and myself along with my parents are all in the same room together. It happened twice this year once on Thanksgiving and again on Christmas.

Thinking back to my youth, I could not have predicted that this is how adulthood on the holidays would feel. At that age it felt like I couldn't get away from my siblings. Now I only see my sister maybe once or twice a month. She tends bar at Bardens Bar in Waseca and these last couple months I have gone up to visit after city council meetings on Tuesdays.

As for my brother, I really only see him when we're doing some sort of recreational activity together. In the summertime, we drove jet skis. Now that it's winter, we drive snowmobiles.

I kind of wished with all of us



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

together that we would've reminisced on more of our Christmases together. My dad and my mother for that matter were just relieved nobody cried or got upset this year.

As a kid, my favorite Christmas memories included late night drives with my dad, my sister and my brother singing Christmas songs on the radio together. My dad loved to make CDs and he went all out on Christmas time.

Aside from people getting upset at Christmas time, I, like most people, remember the only time I cheated and found out what I was getting early. We were in the toy aisle at Walmart and I pointed to what I wanted. After hearing from us kids what we wanted for Christmas, my dad sent us away as he walked the store. My older siblings and I roamed Walmart, and after a few minutes, I checked the toy

aisle to see if the toy I pointed to was still there. It wasn't. I learned a valuable lesson that day. Don't spoil life's surprises.

The present, by the way, was an elaborate Lego set.

In 2002 or so my brother and I were avid cartoon watchers when the TV show Yu-Gi-Oh released. The only items on our Christmas list that year were Yu-Gi-Oh cards. I still remember Christmas Day waking up with my brother and opening that first starter deck. The joy and excitement I feel as if it happened yesterday. I still remember a year or maybe two years later my dad buying me an entire box of Yu-Gi-Oh packs to open. Somewhere near the end of the box, I opened the only foil (shiny) card in the box. The card was a magician, riding a dragon. I still have it to this day, it was my favorite card in the TV show. Thank you for an amazing Christmas, Dad.

I remember the Christmas when all I wanted was a pocket knife and my dad came through. I learned a valuable lesson that day. Be careful with sharp objects. I nearly sliced my finger off as I used the knife to open another boxed present. I still have the scar on my right index finger to this day.

My mom will tell you I'm tough to shop for. This year she came through. After opening the present she said I would enjoy the most, I exclaimed, "Actually something I wanted!"

She got me a ring doorbell for my apartment. It was not on a list anywhere, but I've been thinking about it for more than a year. Thank you for a thoughtful gift, Mom.

I have a few material wants in life. A roof over my head, good, healthy food and most importantly, people to spend my time with whom I love and care about.

My dad called my life fortunate after we enjoyed lunch together last week. I corrected him, blessed.

I wish you all a happy, merry and joyous year in 2026. Please try to bring kindness to yourself and others this new year.

SMIF awards \$99 grand in grants

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) recently approved six grants totaling \$99,865 to support economic development initiatives in SMIF's 20-county region.

The Economic Development Grant program supports initiatives which enable communities to create more prosperous local economies by growing economic development and entrepreneurship initiatives.

The 2025 Economic Development Grant award recipients are:

\$20,000 to City of Blue Earth to sustain dedicated staff capacity in the Blue Earth Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) program to coordinate initiatives, support business and leverage partnerships in their goal to strengthen the long-term resilience of the local and regional economy.

\$6,000 to City of Henderson to develop Main Street Marketing, a community-wide strategy to encourage more visitors after road closures forced businesses to shut down.

\$16,850 to City of Preston to launch the Bluff Country Business Academy, an eight-week business education cohort for new and existing local business owners to learn business planning, bookkeeping, marketing, succession planning and management skills and build their peer network.

\$20,000 to City of Winthrop to fund

an eNavigator position which will provide regional entrepreneurial guidance.

\$20,000 to Sharing Our Roots in Northfield to strengthen market access for more than 20 small, immigrant and underserved farmers in southern Minnesota by coordinating buyer outreach, vender onboarding and fulfillment support, while leveraging shared infrastructure.

\$17,015 to Southeast Minnesota Food Rescue and Redistribution in Rochester to support Harvesting Health: A Bridge Between Rural Prosperity and Community Health, a project that links Olmsted Medical Center and disadvantaged rural growers to deliver regeneratively grown food that fuels health, reduces waste, strengthens local economies and creates financial gains from surplus crops.

"Especially for our small towns, having the capacity to think holistically and long-term about community resiliency in the face of economic shocks is critical," shared Benya Kraus, SMIF president and CEO. "We are proud to support the initiatives of these award-ees, and the local leadership behind them."

For more information on SMIF's grantmaking, contact Jennifer Heien at jenniferh@smifoundation.org or 507-214-7040.



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LEADERSHIP - NRHEG Superintendent Michael Meihak completed the first-ever Advanced Leadership Academy, which brought together a cohort of superintendents from across Minnesota.

NRHEG Superintendent completes MASA Leadership Academy

NRHEG Superintendent Michael Meihak recently completed the first-ever Advanced Leadership Academy offered by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA). The academy brought together a cohort of superintendents from across Minnesota for an intensive 16-month professional learning experience focused on the evolving demands of educational leadership.

The program included eight in-person sessions (two days each) and eight virtual sessions (one day each). In-person meetings featured presentations from nationally recognized experts both within and outside the field of education, providing participants with a broad perspective on leadership, systems thinking, and organizational change.

The academy’s coursework emphasized personal and professional growth, resilient leadership, personal and organizational branding, nimble leadership in a changing world, accountability and community trust, effective communication, and neuroscience-informed leadership. The program concluded by helping participants integrate these themes into a cohesive leadership framework grounded in systems and ecosystem thinking.

While the in-person and virtual components of the academy are now complete, participants also have the opportunity to attend a three-day Milliken Transformative Leadership seminar in Spartanburg, South Carolina, scheduled for March 3–5.

“This experience challenged me to think differently about leadership, communication, and trust-building in public education,” Meihak said. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to learn alongside colleagues from across the state and bring these insights back to serve the NRHEG community.”

‘Ask a Trooper’: Winter travel survival

Question: I know you were talking about winter safety tips in your last article. Can you go over the items a person should have in their vehicle when traveling in the winter?

Answer: When assembling a winter travel survival kit, it’s best to include a variety of items that prepare you for cold, isolation, and unexpected delays. Even if you keep the kit in your vehicle year-round, review it regularly to make sure everything is in good condition and still in its proper place. A winter travel survival kit should focus on warmth, traction, communication, and basic supplies.

Winter Travel Survival Kit Essentials

- Warmth
 - Extra blankets or a sleeping bag
 - Warm hats, gloves, socks, and scarves
 - Hand and foot warmers
 - Emergency thermal (space) blanket
 - Traction & Vehicle Safety
 - Ice scraper and snow brush
 - Small shovel
 - Sand, cat litter, or traction mats
 - Tire chains (if appropriate for your area)
 - Jumper cables
 - Communication & Visibility
 - Fully charged power bank and charging cables
 - Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries
 - Reflective vest or roadside flares
- Whistle for signaling
- Paper and pencil(s) to leave note/message
- Basic Supplies
 - Non-perishable food and snacks
 - Bottled water (rotate to prevent freezing or expiration)
 - First aid kit
 - Multi-tool or basic tool kit
 - Matches or lighter (stored safely)
 - Paper towels, tissues, and wet wipes
- Additional Helpful Items
 - Map of the area (in case GPS fails)
 - Emergency contact information
 - Duct tape and zip ties
 - Tow strap

Keeping these essentials on hand can make a critical difference if you’re stranded or delayed during winter travel. Regular checks ensure your kit is always ready when you need it most.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

The Greatest Gift



CUTLINE - The First Lutheran Church of Waldorf Sunday School children presented The Greatest Gift: The Birth of Our Savior on Sunday, December 21. They acted out the story of Jesus’ birth and the congregation sang songs that corresponded with each part of the story. Shepherds: Emma Brunson and Alayna Cordes, angels: Lillyan Page, Kena Weimert and Genny Cordes, Joseph: Colten Bluhm, Mary: Emma Bittner, the star: Inara Cordes, wisemen: James Brunson, Carsten Page and Huxley Weimert

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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OBITUARIES

Boyd Lewer

Boyd Richard Lewer of New Richland, MN passed away at his home, surrounded by family on December 25, 2025.

Born on February 11, 1949 in Waseca, MN, he was the son of Lloyd and Lorraine (Wolfe) Lewer. He grew up in the New Richland area and attended New Richland-Hartland schools. On April 22, 1972 at St Peter Lutheran Church in New Richland, Boyd married Patricia Byrne, the young woman who captured his heart and whom he always joked was the "hard-to-get Otisco gal." After a few years in Waseca, Boyd and Pat built their own home in rural New Richland, creating a place where they would raise their two children.

Boyd's working life took him from the Waseca Lumber Yard to Smiths Mill Implement before he struck out on his own as a machinist in his own shop. Boyd's business quickly became well known among local farmers, who trusted him to weld and repair just about any piece of farm equipment. In 2009, he retired from that work and discovered a new joy in music with his karaoke business, Crazy Boyd's Karaoke. Known for his love of '50s and '60s tunes mixed with classic country, he entertained with a smile and his signature tropical shirts.

Over the years, he built a loyal following, with the same crowd of friends and fans faithfully showing up wherever he played. He had a soft spot for his farm cats, always making sure they were well fed and cared for. Over the years, he took in many, and most recently, Chester and Etzel became his faithful side-kicks. He was a long-time member of St Peter Lutheran Church in Qtisco, MN.

Boyd's family was the center of his world. In their early years together, the family enjoyed simple day trips, and Sunday evenings were always reserved for pizza night. Every Fourth of July, they carried on a cherished tradition, cruising to the North Morristown



Boyd Lewer

parade in the family convertible. Boyd was a constant presence at his children's events, always with the video recorder in hand, capturing every moment from start to finish, so the memories could last a lifetime. Becoming a grandpa was a treasure beyond measure. He proudly supported his four grandsons in all their activities, teased them with affectionate nicknames, and cherished their visits, content to watch them laugh and play together.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Pat; children, Alissa (Michael) Bowman of Ellendale and Justin (Amy Jo) Lewer of Waseca, grandsons, Evan and Alex Bowman and Jason and Jayson Lewer; siblings, Blaine (Judy) Lewer of New Richland, Denise (Tom) Chamberlain of Brooksville, FL, and Bonnie (Gary) Pfeifer of Janesville; sisters-in-law, Judy Thompson of New Richland and Cindy (Allen) Corcoran of Prior Lake; along with nieces, nephews, and close friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, parents-in-law, Don and Leone Peterson; sisters-in-law, Connie Byrne and Kim Motzko; and brother-in-law, Gary Thompson.

A private family service will be held for Boyd and interment will be at St Peter's Lutheran Cemetery in New Richland.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Boyd's family.

Tamra Jo Olson

Tamra Jo (Wenzel) Olson, passed away on December 26, 2025. Born August 21, 1963, Tammy was born the third child of Wayne and Merlys (McGuire) Wenzel on August 21, 1963. According to the birth order theory, the third child is calmer, easier going, adaptable, a people pleaser. It also mentions that sometimes they can be rule benders. Tammy was all of these and more.

She grew up in the small rural town of New Richland, MN. As a young child she would often wander off the yard. Her parents would be quite worried as they searched for her. Folks in town knew she had a wandering spirit. Some would call saying where they had spotted her. Thankfully her mom and dad would find her walking along admiring the sights of her various adventures.

When the teenage years arrived, so did the rule bender characteristics. Nothing too serious, just enough to rob her parents of some peaceful sleep.

Tammy met her husband Terry in

New Richland. That wandering spirit that she had as a child stayed with her as an adult. She left New Richland and moved to Roseau, Terry's hometown. They made a life there for 39 years. Through the years she had two daughters, a stepdaughter, a stepson, six grandchildren and three step grandchildren. Her family was her life; she loved them fiercely. The love for her family also included her dogs Taz and Ginger, and her cat Kiki. All three would be found curled up on her lap.

When she visited her family in southern Minnesota, they would always request she make a couple dishes. One was her lasagna, the other was her cheese and beer soup. Both were wonderful. She was an excellent cook. Her love for cooking led to many years of working as a chef, as well as cooking at Legends Sports Bar and the Roseau Diner. She also worked at Hovda Floor and Wall for sometime. She loved fishing with her husband, casinos, garage sales and puzzles.

She believed a person's value and self-worth were measured in a per-

son's heart. Hers was immeasurable. Tammy was a true and loyal friend. Her closest and dearest friend was Diane Scharf who Tammy thought the world of. Tammy selflessly put others needs before her own. She cared deeply, forgave graciously, and loved with every fiber of her being.

Tamra is survived by her loving husband Terry Olson, daughters Nicole Wenzel and Kasie Braun, stepdaughter Leah (Olson) Pawlowski and her husband Matt, grandchildren Cooper Dahlen, Landin Buley, Easton Buley, Nic Braun, and Jordan Berg, step grandchildren Anders and Brooke Pawlowski, and Gavin Olson, mother Merlys Wenzel, sister Renae (Wenzel) Jenö, brother-in-law Dave Jenö, brother Wade Wenzel, sister-in-law Denise Wenzel, brothers-in-law Gary, Greg, and Keith Olson, Sisters-in-law Mary Lou and Patty and several nieces and nephews.

Proceeded in death by her father Wayne Wenzel, brother Troy Wenzel, grandson Zackry Flatland, stepson Jesse Olson, mother and father-in-law, Harriet and Orvel



Tamra Olson

Olson and brother-in-law Mike Olson.

A memorial service for Tamra J. Olson of Roseau, MN will be held on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 10 a.m., with a visitation held one hour prior to the service at Helgeson Funeral Home in Roseau, MN.

Feeling slow to change to the new year



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

FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

It's that time of the year when one isn't quite ready to advance to the current year of 2026. (If you are still in "2025"- don't feel behind as you know lots of people slow to change.)

With the major changes in the daily temperature from the day before it most certainly qualifies as the weather axiom of: Weather will be weather whether you like it or not. (For example: A change of 25 below zero to 25 above zero in 24 hours!! This happened on December 07, 2025.)

Genie and I attended the annual service club's Christmas luncheon at First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea on Thursday, December 11, 2025. Nice service clubs took their turn at telling what their club was involved in the year of 2025. The events of Doing Good in the Albert Lea area were far beyond being a good neighbor. There were Doing good things "For" your neighbor!! Each service club had their own bragging

rights. (As a long time Lion, I have the honor of a few bragging rights!!!)

In case you're wondering, the noon meal was prepared by executive chef for LaFrance served by Bonnie Schneider, Bonnie Trampel and other VIP First Lutheran Church ladies. As per other years, entertainment was by the Albert Lea High School Choral members.

We had an unusual Christmas event at our house this Christmas season. For lack of better English, we called it a "Christmas Tree Bashing." Yes, the Christmas tree fell over on its own on December 5, 2025. Did you

know Iowa lease the nation in hog production? Isn't it strange that most area family Christmas meals feature poultry?

Speaking of poultry, do you know where the 2024 presidential pardoned turkeys are spending their retirement days? Peach and Blossom are roosting at Farmamerica by Waseca, Minnesota.

One of the unusual events this December 2025 is the temperature has been getting warmer after the sun goes down!! Most of you male readers are aware of the term "wanderlust." One particular young male in Wyoming got the wanderlust urge and went

wandering. The most recent place he has been seen after leaving North Dakota is Duluth, Minnesota. This young male is really confused as most mountain lions don't wander east. There just aren't any female mountain lions east of Minnesota. (He is being tracked by the radio transmitter attached to him as a young lion in Wyoming.)

Genie and I attended the Sunday school Christmas program held at Central freeborn Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 21, 2025. It was very, very good. In fact, is not the best it was a close second. I didn't realize how good the teachers were. Many, many thanks to all involved for an excellent job in presenting the news of a baby named Jesus.

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.

Daniel Wobbrock

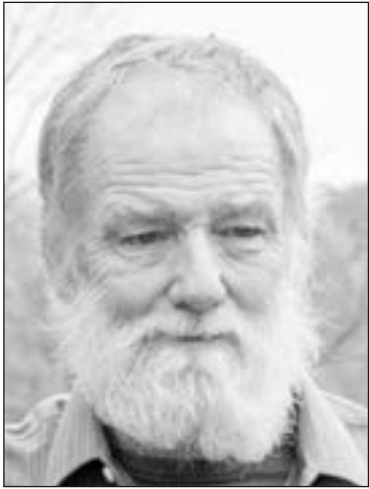
Daniel "Dan" Wobbrock, age 62, of New Richland, MN, passed away on Sunday, December 21, in his home, surrounded by family and loved ones.

Dan was born January 24, 1963 in Owatonna, MN. Shortly after he turned 17, he enlisted in the army where he would serve for a couple of years, including some time spent in Germany. He often spoke of his regret for not staying in the Army and had great respect for those who served.

Dan married Joyce (Kelly) Wobbrock on October 27, 1984 at the Little Brown Church. They met while playing pinball. Joyce was playing pinball and asked Dan for a quarter and the rest was history. They were married forty-one years and had four children. Dan (aka papa) lived for his nine grandchildren. They brought him so much joy.

A man of many talents, Dan worked a variety of jobs throughout his life, from construction, masonry, welding, truck driving, car repair, and more. He was never one to be idle and could always be found tinkering outside or in the shop. In his youth, Dan was also quite the craftsman and was a skilled woodworker.

Eventually, when he could no longer work in a shop, he liked to go on long walks with his dog Albeena, play games on his tablet, and give Joyce a hard time about the garden. Dan was an avid hunter, outdoorsmen, and off-road-



Daniel Wobbrock

ing enthusiast who taught his kids to enjoy and respect nature.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents, stepparents, bonus parents, his mother- and father-in-law, and a couple of good friends. Remaining to cherish Dan's memory are his wife, Joyce; children Gary (Liz), Kyree (Arthur), Mickey, Cody (Ellie); the grandchildren: Jason, Matthew, Addison, Julieann, Brysen, Jessa, Thea, Novalee, and Tobias; multiple beloved brothers and sisters-in-law; and several extended family members and friends.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 3, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Friedrich's Funeral Home, 217 West Division Street, New Richland, 56072. Funeral Services will begin at 2 p.m. with Deacon Bob Yerhot officiating.

Auction

from Page 1

raised goes toward the organization's stated mission: eradicating cancer. "There are too many people to even begin naming them," says Busho. "Everyone who has helped with the auction-by donating, buying, or volunteering-has made a difference."

The two say energy is always high during the auctions, with auctioneers and buyers alike wanting to see items go for more than their market value. Some items, they go on to say, truly have no price since they are homemade. Furniture, decorative items and tools, quilts and throws, foods including bread or cookies still warm from nearby ovens, beverages mixed or brewed from special recipes.

"You name it, we may well have sold it at one of our auctions," observes Kuchenbecker. "There's

something there to appeal to anyone."

She mentions a specific portion of the auction which concentrates on farming or landscaping supplies donated by area feed mills, chemical suppliers, and construction companies. That section, she says, will begin at 3 p.m. on Jan. 10. "We have farmers who purposely wait to order supplies, so they can buy them during the auction," says Kuchenbecker.

This year three women have signed up to have their hair cut during the auction. Two will take place after the farm auction, and another around 4 p.m. the afternoon of Saturday, Jan. 17. In honor of a mother and grandmother who died from cancer, the women are donating their long hair to make wigs for people who have lost their hair because of chemotherapy treatments. Hairstylists will be donating their time to cut the hair in a way that makes it usable. During the haircuts, donations will be collected from the crowd.

Raffle tickets will continue to be sold throughout the auction. The

"We're working toward a day when no one has to go through the pain and loss caused by this disease."

— Barb Kuchenbecker

four prizes range from \$1,000 to \$200.

Kuchenbecker and Busho mention that in recent years there have been so many donations that there is not time to sell them all during the four January days prior to the Eagles Telethon. A "mini auction" has been held for the past several years, usually on the first Sunday in April. This year, Easter falls on that date, so the decision has been made to hold it on the last Sunday in March, the 29th.

Between them, Busho and Kuchenbecker have been volunteering for a total of more than 50 years, and if the time of the full 10-member planning committee were added up, it would be in the centuries.

"There's no one whose life has not

been touched by cancer," says Kuchenbecker. "We're working toward a day when no one has to go through the pain and loss caused by this disease."

The group plans and operates numerous other events. "Purse Bingo" is held in November; the 2025 sale raised more than \$7,000. A raffle with a prize of either cash or a pallet of beer is held in July. A golf tournament takes place in August. A mum sale occurs in September; this year 225 mums were purchased in less than half an hour. A wild game feed takes place in Geneva the first Saturday in December. Numerous area organizations sponsor their own events and donate the proceeds in support of the cause.



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Child’s History of Waseca County

Continuing Chapter III, 1855: Winter trip to Minnesota with ox teams – Venture some crossing of the Mississippi on the ice – Climbing the bluff – First blizzard at Zumbro Falls – The liquor peddler and his grog – Mantorville the last house – Camping out in mid-winter two nights – Cattle with bleeding legs and without hay – Safe arrival at the Sutlief Shanty

The next morning the wind blew a gale and the thermometer indicated 20 degrees below zero, rendering traveling across the prairie simply impossible. All parties were compelled to remain over during the day. There were some forty travelers thus detained, this place being on the stage road from Dubuque to St. Paul.

Many a good story and some not so good were told that day, and jokes passed among the hotel guests in a manner peculiar to the West. One fellow, a liquor peddler, was quite chagrined at finding his liquor keg bottom up and his whisky spread out in the snow. The crowd insisted that he had been on a spree, and had left the keg in that condition himself; and, as no one pretended to know anything to the contrary, he was obliged to smother his pent-up wrath and make the best of the situation. His attempt at the retail business in the morning was, without doubt, the primary cause of his sad bereavement – at least some of the ladies intimated as much to his face.

The wind lulled during the night, and the next morning was bright and pleasant, though still cold. Our first settlers tackled up early and started across the prairie for Mantorville. That village was then less than a year old and contained only three or four small cabins. It was the last settlement on the route of our “first settlers” until they should reach their destination on the Le Sueur.

Think of the recklessness, not to say foolhardiness, of the trip. Imagine, if you will, good reader, five men and a woman with her babe about to start across a wind-howling prairie, in the midst of winter with the thermometer 10 degrees below zero, without any road, not even a track, and without a tent,

to spend three days and two nights, at the least, with no shelter save the starry heavens. The whole company might have perished in a blizzard! Such was the thoughtless undertaking of those men on the morning of the 31st of January, 1855.

After loading on what hay they could take along, they left Mantorville bearing south of west across the trackless prairie until they struck the southern tier of sections in township 106. They then kept due west, guided by section posts set the fall before by government surveyors. A little after noon they ran into one of those deep, narrow creeks which abound along the Zumbro river, and nearly lost one yoke of oxen. After considerable hard work and some delay, they rescued the “Nucky Steers,” as the oxen were called, and finally succeeded in crossing the stream with no serious damage. Without further mishap, they traveled until about sunset when they arrived at a small grove of bur oaks, near the source of one branch of the Zumbro river. Here they concluded to camp for the night. The oxen were soon unyoked and fed, a large campfire was built, supper was prepared and consumed, stories were told, and songs were sung. The weather was reasonably pleasant, with a slight wind from the west.

Editorial Note - Upon rummaging through the vast library of contents here at the Star Eagle, I stumbled across a very old blue book titled, “Child’s History of Waseca County Minnesota for Fifty Years, 1854-1904.”

After thumbing through the first several pages it was determined this book was too interesting to go back on the shelf. So, it was used as a stand for a computer monitor. Several months later, after finding a more suitable stand, I opened the book to show a reader who stopped into the office. After reading about the Horse Thief Detective Association, I made the decision that this piece of history should not be lost to time. Since then the Star Eagle has included, “a little bit of this and a little bit of that,” from the book.

Eli Lutgens

Never judge a day by its weather

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
I didn’t expect to see you here at Medicine Square Garden.
I fell.
How did you come to fall?
I didn’t come to fall. I came to skate.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The weather had been warm enough that I no longer needed to wear a parka indoors. At this time of the year, I become a sentimental fool, a promotion from my usual perch as a mere run-of-the-mill fool, but I’ve lost my mood ring. I don’t know how I feel about that. I’ve panned for gold. I found little. The guy with me brought his golden retriever. That man found no gold, and his dog retrieved none. I may start panning for mood rings.

FROM THOSE THRILLING DAYS OF YESTERYEAR
My mother had cataract surgery. Doctors once used bricked pillows (classy sandbags) to keep patients’ heads still during the procedure, preventing movement that could ruin the delicate operation. They told my mother that after the surgery, she’d see cobwebs in her house she’d never noticed before and the world would become a brighter place.

As we drove her home, she asked, “How long has that white line been on the road?”

It was a joke that let us know she



Compostings

by Al Batt

was still her old self.
CARDIAC REHABILITATION
I had surgery recently and have started a cardiac rehab program. I exercise at home, too. I began by standing while holding a 5-pound potato sack in each hand, extending my arms straight out from my sides and holding them there for a minute. Each day, I could hold that position longer. After a couple of weeks, I moved up to 10-pound potato sacks. Then on to 50-pound sacks. Next week, I’ll start the process over again with the 5-pound sacks, and this time I’ll put a potato in each.

THE CHRISTMAS GOAT
The legend of the julebukk, julbock or Christmas goat goes back to the times of the Norse god Thor, who rode across the sky in a chariot drawn by two goats. In Sweden, the Christmas goat is a beloved Yule symbol that evolved into a mischievous figure who visited homes during Yule to demand gifts or food before morphing into a gift-bringer. The name “Jul” refers to the ancient pagan winter festival known as Yule, celebrated long before the region adopted Christmas. The julbock is a

popular Christmas decoration as a straw goat.

HAPPY NEW YEAR’S
The small Pacific island nations of Samoa and Kiribati/Christmas Island are the first to see the New Year due to their position on the International Date Line.
In Spain, you eat 12 grapes at midnight on New Year’s Eve for good luck.

I’VE LEARNED
Aurélien conducted a study to identify which states have the highest concentration of dollar stores. The study ranked states based on the number of stores per 100,000 residents. Mississippi was number one. West Virginia came in second, followed by Arkansas, Alabama and Kentucky, with Louisiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee, South Carolina and Missouri rounding out the top 10. Iowa is 11th and Minnesota 33rd.
I wonder how messy my desk would be if it weren’t for the cat knocking things to the floor?

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
“It’s no good, sir,” said the hopeless pupil to his English teacher. “I try to learn, but everything you say

goes in both ears and out the other.”
“Goes in both ears and out the other?” asked the puzzled teacher. “But you have only two ears.”
“You see, I’m no good at math, either.”
How did the snow globe feel at Christmas? A little shaken.
How do you invite Santa to a party? You request his presents.
Why did Santa’s helper see the doctor? Because he had a low “elf” esteem.

NATURE NOTES
The day was not strikingly perfect, but it was the best day available. Dick Van Dyke said, “We should never judge a day by its weather.” That’s good advice, but advice that’s not easily followed.
I’d detected the hooting of owls during the night. A pair of great horned owls exchanging “Who’s awake? Me too” calls. These owls don’t build their own nests and aren’t significant remodelers of purloined nests. An owl can turn its head 270 degrees.

A female downy woodpecker tried to land on me twice while I stood peering through my binoculars and counting birds. Apparently, in my dotage, I’ve come to resemble a lanky bird feeder with numerous construction flaws. It was nice being mistaken for something useful.

MEETING ADJOURNED
“Every time we are kind, every time we are thoughtful, every time we forgive, every time we are generous, it’s Christmas.”—Mary Davis.
Happy New Year.

HERITAGE BITS



Compiled by BRENDA DOKKEN (10/2/25)

After the early settlers built their homes, the main concern was to construct schools to educate their children. The Beaver Lake School, built in 1893, was located on the east side of the road about 1/4 mile south of Beaver Lake on the Thompson farm, which is currently owned by Barry and Jane. (Jane is a great-great granddaughter of Thompson, and their children, Andrew and Alysa, are the sixth generation living on the farm.)

It was a one-room building with the front entry facing west. The pupils hung their coats on hooks in the entryway and placed their tin lunch pails (recycled syrup or land pails) nearby. Their sandwiches were made with lard or butter with syrup or apple butter. Water was carried from the Thompson farm and kept in a container with a dipper in it. The window had no screen and insects of all kinds would come in.

Usually the children walked to school. Some of them walked a mile to 1 1/2 miles. They sat in double or triple desks, and when it was time to recite their lessons, they would come to the front desk bench. They used the “blue black speller,” McGuffey’s Reader and the Palmer method of writing. The school year extended from the third week in September to the last week in April because the pupils (especially boys) were needed for farm work.

The teacher usually had finished the eighth grade plus one or two years of high school and was not much older than the students. There were custodial duties as well as academic, namely, starting the wood fire, carrying out the ashes, shoveling snow off the porch and clearing paths to the two outhouses that are visible on each side of the schoolhouse, cleaning blackboards, sweeping and scrubbing the floor. The teacher had room and board with families closest to the school, either at the Thompson home or with Jim and Nellie Burnes (Kenneth Toft home).

Four early teachers were Maurice Lonegran, Catherine Abern, Carrie Johnson Ringhofer and Paulma Loken.

It is believed that the Beaver Lake School closed when the Ellendale School 1922 addition was built. The school was used for grain storage by Sam Thompson and in 1943, he tore the building down and used the lumber to build his house in Ellendale (located on the corner of 5th Avenue and 6th Street, south of the new water tower).

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SCOREBOARD

Boys' Basketball

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
St. Peter	4-0	8-1
Belle Plaine	2-0	5-0
Marshall	3-1	5-2
New Ulm	2-3	3-4
Waseca	2-3	3-4
Worthington	1-3	1-6
Tri-City United	0-4	0-6

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Luverne	5-1	7-2
Fairmont	5-1	6-2
Jackson County Cent.	4-2	5-3
Blue Earth Area	3-2	6-2
St. James Area	3-2	3-2
Redwood Valley	1-4	1-5
Pipestone Area	1-5	2-6
Windom Area	0-5	2-7

Gopher Conference East		
	Conf.	Ov.
Blooming Prairie	3-0	8-0
Triton	2-0	6-1
Hayfield	2-1	5-3
Randolph	2-2	2-6
Bethlehem Academy	1-2	2-5
Kenyon-Wanamingo	0-4	2-7

Gopher Conference - West		
	Conf.	Ov.
Janesville-WP	4-0	9-0
New Richland-HEG	2-2	3-5
United South Central	1-2	2-5
Waterville-EM	1-2	1-6
Medford	0-3	2-6

Girls' Basketball

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Marshall	5-0	6-2
New Ulm	4-1	6-2
Tri-City United	3-1	4-6
St. Peter	3-2	6-2
Belle Plaine	1-3	2-5
Worthington	0-4	2-7
Waseca	0-5	0-10

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	6-0	7-0
Pipestone Area	5-1	8-1
St. James Area	4-1	5-2
Windom Area	3-2	8-2
Luverne	3-3	5-4
Jackson County Cent.	1-5	3-8
Blue Earth Area	0-5	1-9
Redwood Valley	0-5	0-9

Gopher Conference - East		
	Conf.	Ov.
Hayfield/Schaeffer Ac.	5-0	7-2
Blooming Prairie	3-1	7-2
Triton	2-1	4-2
Randolph	1-4	3-5
Bethlehem Academy	0-4	3-6
Kenyon-Wanamingo	0-4	3-6

Gopher Conference - West		
	Conf.	Ov.
New Richland-HEG	4-0	8-2
Janesville-WP	3-1	7-3
United South Central	1-2	6-3
Waterville-EM	1-3	3-7
Medford	0-0	0-0

Boys' hockey

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Waseca Area	3-0	5-4-1
Minnesota River	2-2	4-4
New Ulm	1-2	5-4
Marshall	0-2	2-7

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Luverne	4-0	11-0
Fairmont	2-1	3-3
Windom Area	2-2	2-5
Worthington	0-2	1-7
Redwood Valley	0-3	1-6

Girls' hockey

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Minnesota River	4-0	11-1
Marshall	1-1	12-4
New Ulm	1-2	3-8
South Central	0-3	0-12

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	2-0	6-3
Luverne	2-1	7-5
Worthington/Fulda	1-1	6-8
Windom Area	0-3	4-10

Wrestling

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Marshall/Lakeview	2-0	10-2
Worthington	2-0	3-1
Tri-City United	1-1	4-3
Waseca	1-1	3-3
New Ulm	0-0	4-0
Martin County	0-2	1-2
St. Peter	0-2	2-5

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Jackson County Central	2-0	2-0
Pipestone Area	1-0	7-1
Windom/Mt. Lake	1-0	5-4
St. James-Madelia	1-1	4-3
Redwood Valley	1-1	3-4
Luverne	0-2	4-4
Blue Earth Area	0-2	3-7

Peterson joins 200-win club

Lady Panthers top Waseca, JWP to run win streak to six

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

There was a time when certain coaches would celebrate a 400 or even 500-win career record. It rarely happens these days. With so many coaches throwing in the towel after just a few seasons, reaching 200 victories is a big milestone, one reached by NRHEG girls' basketball coach Tuesday, Dec. 23 as the Panthers defeated visiting Waseca 74-55. It was 38-22 at halftime.

"We had a rough start to the game defensively," said Peterson. "We didn't play to our full potential, and we struggled with our shooting early on. The girls responded with a quick run right before halftime to pull away and build a 16-point lead. They came out aggressive, made the extra pass to find the open shooter, and really played Panther basketball in the second half.

Peterson said it was great to see improvement in the second half with rebounding, attacking the basket, and knocking down shots.

Individually for NRHEG: Gabby Schlaak 11 points, 4 rebounds, 5 assists, 2 steals; Ezra Boerner 5P, 6R, 1A; Quinn VanMaldeghem 11P, 8R, 5S, 3A, 1 blocked shot; Clara Buendorf 7P, 4R, 2A, 2S; Camryn VanMaldeghem 37P, 6R, 6S, 2A; Chloe Stork 2P, 5R, 1S; Emilia Stadheim 1A; Alayna Groskreutz



Peterson



REBOUND! — The Panthers' Quinn VanMaldeghem (4) and Clara Buendorf (10), fight for a rebound against Bethlehem Academy's Brylie Becker during a recent home victory for the NRHEG girls' basketball team. VanMaldeghem pulled down a game-high 16 rebounds as the Panthers defeated JWP for first place in the Gopher Conference West Division.

Photo by Jim Lutgens

"This was a hard-fought competitive conference win for us."
— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

very physical team, and at times we were not matching their level of physicality. We dug ourselves into a little bit of a hole in the first half. We battled back in the second half to pull it within a few points, but credit to NRHEG, they hit big shots down the stretch when they needed

to. We have to learn from this game, continue to stay together and play for each other."

Leaders for the Bulldogs: Nevaeh Weimert 8P, 2R; Kwynn Krause, 8P, 4R, 4A; Mikayla Wheelock 5P, 7R; Ashlynn Wolff 10P, 10R; Katie Olson 17P, 9R, 3A, 3S.



ACTION AT WASECA — At left, the Panthers' A.J. Deen (1) dribbles as Waseca's Brody Dufault defends during NRHEG's nonconference game at Waseca. In the middle, the Panthers' Mack Gilliland passes the basketball. At right, NRHEG's Brooks Gilliland (4) and Brock Holland (13) battle for a rebound.

Photos by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG boys bounce back quickly

Coming off tough loss to unbeaten JWP, Panthers handle Martin County West

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

After facing their toughest opponent of the season three nights earlier, it did not take long for the NRHEG High School boys' basketball team to bounce back.

The Panthers pounced on visiting Martin County West - a sectional opponent - 71-47 Monday, Dec. 22 in New Richland.

Both teams started slowly and battled back-and-forth through the better part of the first half before the Panthers put together a little run and went in to the locker room with 33-22 halftime lead.

The start of the second half saw MCW chip away at the lead, eventually pulling within six at the midway point.

The Panthers, according to coach Dan Schmidt, then settled in against MCW's zone defense.

"We kicked it in gear and stretched the lead back out," said

"We did a good job of pulling things together rather than panicking when they were making a little comeback."
— NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt

Schmidt. "We did a good job of pulling things together rather than panicking when they were making a little comeback. The boys played hard, and saw some things cleaned up as the game progressed."

Leading all scorers was Calvin Nissen with 19 points and 4 steals, including going 9-for-13 from the free-throw line. Brooks Gilliland dropped 14 points, with three 3-pointers, to go along with 8 rebounds, 3 assists, and 2 steals. Brendan Schmidt added 11 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal, and 3 blocks. Dom Olson came off the bench and hit a couple of huge 3-

pointers in the second half, to add 11 of his own (three 3-pointers) and a couple of assists. Brock Holland and Sean Lassahn each scored 4 points, with Holland corralling 8 rebounds and 2 steals, and Holland adding 4 assists and 3 steals. Mack Gilliland added 3 points, and Zander Hanna rounded out the scoring with 2 points along with 6 rebounds. A.J. Deen had a good game on the glass adding 7 rebounds to go along with some really good looks attacking the basket.

The Panthers traveled to face undefeated JWP Friday, Dec. 19 at Janesville and lost 98-61 in a game

rescheduled from the previous night because of too much snow.

"JWP is currently ranked 4th or 5th in the state in Class A, and as they've done all year, proved exactly why," said Coach Schmidt.

But the Panthers did not fold easily.

"We played right with them for the better part of the first half, but then fell victim to a big run that turned the game completely around going into the half," said Schmidt. "We never quit, and we did get a lot of good looks at the basket and just didn't convert. We outscored them in the second half, which is something we talked about in the locker room at halftime. We wanted to go out and play hard and win the half. JWP can come at you in so many ways, and they are extremely fast and athletic. They put a ton of pressure on teams trying to defend them, and they've shown it all year. Tonight was a character building

game for us, and I believe we did a great job of holding our heads up and battling until the final buzzer.

The Panthers had pretty good scoring balance, led by Calvn Nissen with 12 points. Brooks Gilliland added 10 points, 8 rebounds, 5 assists, and 3 steals. Hanna had a great game off the bench, dropping 10 points and four rebounds. Brendan Schmidt added 8 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists and a block, Holland 6 points and 8 rebounds. Lassahn had 5 points and a couple of assists. Mack Gilliland added 4 points, Olson and Fynn Baumann had 3 each, and Deen added 2 points and 7 rebounds.

The Panthers lost 84-51 Tuesday, Dec. 23 at Waseca. No statistics were available from this game.

The Panthers were on the road Monday against Ortonville in Cottonwood.



Left, on February 1 the NRHEG competitive cheerleading team attended their state competition. However, their weekend started on January 31 at the MCCA awards banquet. The entire team received an academic award for having one of the highest GPAs in the state. This was an honor to the team because it showed that they not only are fully committed to cheerleading, but also to their school work. Right, according to Vera Wilson, the term for someone in their 90s who is celebrating a birthday is a “nonage-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.



■ 2025

from Page 1

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

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

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

February

- Three local residents were present during the New Richland City Council’s second meeting of the month on Monday, Jan. 27 to voice concerns regarding street projects planned for later this year. The concerns echo those expressed by other residents at recent meetings - doubts as to the necessity of the work proposed, objections to potential street width adjustments and sidewalk removal, property reassessments and the financial impact they would cause, and possible safety issues, among others.

- The New Richland-HartlandEllendale-Geneva High School girls’ basketball registered two lopsided wins and one milestone last week. Camryn VanMaldeghem became the 15th NRHEG girls’ basketball player to reach the 1,000-point club.

- Described by secondary school principal Grant Berg as “a way to escape the mid-winter blues,” NRHEG Snow Week from Feb. 3 to 7 was filled with activities, most notably the coronation ceremony which crowned Josie Bell and Talon Smith Vulcan from among the 10 members of the snow court, who were Bell,

Smith Vulcan, and Aspy Stenzel, Jozlyn Johnson, Ava Cummins, Aryanna Howe, Carter Martens, Aidan Schlaak, Bo McCamish and Brady Koopal.

- The first ever NRHEG Future Farmers of America (FFA) alumni breakfast was held at the New Richland Community Center the morning of Saturday, Feb. 8. Working the event were 24 volunteers ranging from students to adults.

- The New Richland-HartlandEllendale-Geneva wrestling team had the misfortune of facing Gopher Conference champion Kenyon-Wanamingo in its final home dual meet Thursday. But the Panthers, according to head coach Shawn Larson, were able to compete while dropping a 59-14 decision.

- Steele County Public Health (SCPH) is thrilled to announce additional funding for the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) Community Partner Awards. This funding will provide over \$20,000 to community organizations, schools, and workplaces to support initiatives that promote physical activity, healthy eating, commercial tobacco prevention, and mental well-being. The overall goal is to create lasting improvements to policies, systems, and environments, to make healthy living easier for Steele County residents and prevent chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

- A “Love Works” fundraiser at the Ellendale United Methodist Church the evening of Feb. 15 included a full roster of happenings in support of two charitable organizations, Finly’s Wings at Work of Ellendale and Rachel’s Light, based in Owatonna. The evening’s schedule included entertainment, music, valuable raffle items, a guest speaker and a next-level dinner with service and decorations to match.

- About 75 people attended the Feb. 14 public performance of the NRHEG 2025 contest one-act play, “In the Forests of the Night,” by Del Martin. The evening performance completed the cast’s season, which began last November with the try-out process and included presenting the play at two events—a “festival” at which area schools received input from judges, and at the subsection contest, both during January.

- Newly elected and installed Waldorf city council member Jamie Beckstrand, 28, is a lifelong area resident and 2015 graduate of

NRHEG High School. She says she decided to enter politics because she would rather “do something” than waste time complaining.

- “We are very open to renewable energy,” observes SteeleWaseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) systems technician Steve Nordahl. “It has an important place in our future.” As evidence of the cooperative’s commitment, Nordahl mentions its “community solar garden,” a set of solar collector panels located near the co-operative’s headquarters in Owatonna.

- Much of the discussion during the New Richland City Council’s most recent meeting on Monday, Feb. 10 revolved around the 2025 street project - specifically, the topic of assessments that the project will require. Present to explain further details and help the council decide whether to certify assessments prior to or following construction for the project was Shannon Sweeney from David Drown and Associates.

- A reunion of the 2004 NRHEG High School girls’ basketball team was held prior to the Panthers’ game against St. Clair Monday, Feb. 10. All three coaches of the team - Mindy (Sparby) Chevalier, Jackie Schultz and Brian Hanson - were there, along with players Erin (Anderson) Holland, Emily (Hagen) Anderson, Lynsi (Espe) Romportl and Alison (Anderson) Ricketts, and managers Kyree (Wobbrock) Worley and Onika Peterson, the Panthers’ current head coach.

- Nine two-person teams competed in the first-ever “Hartland University” coyote hunting contest which took place overnight beginning the evening of Feb. 15. Josh Otto, 43, of Ellendale and Jens Wyrum, 42, of Hartland harvested three coyotes, managing to place first, second and fourth. Their largest animal weighed 36.2 lbs. The secondplace specimen weighed 30.2 lbs.

- The Veterans Memorial Garden, the first portion of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial Park (WVMP) has been completed. Development for this project began in early June 2024, intended completion is set for August of 2026.

- Sierra Misgen, a senior at NRHEG High School, has been a cheerleader and member of the competition cheer team for more than a decade. This past summer, she was named an All-American Cheerleader for the second consecutive year, an honor awarded by the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) during an annual training camp at the University of Minnesota. To earn the title, Sierra took part in a tryout pro-

cess that tested her skills, leadership, and enthusiasm.

- Saturday was a great day for the NRHEG High School wrestling program. No less than four Panthers qualified for state out of the Section 2A tournament at Blue Earth. In all, NRHEG claimed nine placewinners.

March

- On Saturday, March 1, 22 firefighters from Ellendale, Medford and Blooming Prairie completed about 12 hours of training to learn the best techniques for rescuing someone who has gone through ice into icy waters. After about three hours of classroom instruction, the group moved to Beaver Lake where a hole had been prepared in advance for the practice.

- Musicians in grades six to eight demonstrated their skill at vocal and instrumental performance to a nearly full house during the Junior High Midwinter Concert the evening of Feb. 25. Other “fine art” skills were presented as well: imaginative model dinosaurs and landscape paintings by participants in high school art classes were on display. Middle school musicians had also created appealing slide shows to help introduce and give visual representation to the musical numbers.

- The New Richland-HartlandEllendale-Geneva Panthers did not bring home any medals from the 2025 Minnesota state wrestling tournament. They did pick up some valuable experience. The Panthers had four wrestlers in the three-day state tournament at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul: Graham Jacobson, 107 pounds; Harbor Cromwell, 160; Ryan Schlaak, 172; and Cole Hutchens, 215.

- The No. 2 seed NRHEG High School girls’ basketball team advanced to the Section 2AA semifinals with a 75-42 victory over WEM at New Richland Thursday. The Panthers started fast, building a 43-15 halftime lead and never looking back.

- NRHEG Junior Chloe Stork, daughter of Dan and Stacy Stork of New Richland, says she can barely believe it. Chloe is among five people in her category statewide who will be representing Minnesota at the DECA national-level competition in Orlando, Florida from April 26 to 29. She won the honor while competing in the organization’s state contest held in the Twin Cities March 2 to 4.

- During their regular meeting on March 3, members of the Hartland city council discussed three projects they would find beneficial: a new community center, a new fire hall, and a “splash pad,” a large-scale unit which allows children to play in sprayed or splashed water,

but does not require a lifeguard. No plans were made or finalized, but consideration of the topics is ongoing.

- Well over 500 diners benefited from the March 7 fish fry sponsored by the Ellendale Firefighters at the city’s community center and fire hall. According to fire chief Logan Busho, 450 meals were served in the dining hall and nearly 100 to-go meals were carried out. Dozens of people stood in a line which extended out the door and down the street already at the start time of 5 p.m. “It’s worth the wait,” one line member assured others as they entered the queue.

- The chief topic of conversation during the Community Foundation of Ellendale (CFE) meeting the evening of Monday, March 10 was the “Restart the Beat” campaign, an effort by the CFE to ensure automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) are readily available throughout the community, and that people are familiar with how to use them. The initiative is to purchase four AED devices which will come with small storage cabinets suitable to be mounted on a wall.

- The fifth annual spring blood drive sponsored by the NRHEG branch of the National Honor Society (NHS) drew 42 donors both from the community and from among the student body of the school, and collected 32 pints of blood, according to NHS advisor Liz Stier-nagle. The drive, held from 8:30 to 1:30 Friday, March 14, took place in the high school gym.

- The Waldorf city council selected member Carrie Ferch, who volunteered for the role, as its “mayor pro tem,” that is, as the person who would act as mayor in the absence of Rob Wilkening. Other elements on the council’s March 10 agenda included a construction update and some requests from the city fire department.

- NRHEG’s best season in nearly a decade came to an end last week after two losses in the Minnesota State Girls Basketball Tournament in the Twin Cities. The Panthers lost in the opening round 84-50 to top seed, eventual state champions, undefeated Providence Academy. In their second round they lost 7954 to fourth seed Sauk Centre.

- Despite a biting wind and temperatures around 20 degrees, seating at the city community center stayed full during the Waldorf Fire Department’s St. Patrick’s Day fundraiser the morning of Sunday, March 16. By the end of the event, about 380 people had been served at the pancake feed. The menu included pancakes, sausage, ham, eggs, and milk or juice.

50

Years

1976
2026

Waseca Art Center

Exhibits

• Exhibits rotate every 6 weeks in our Beckmann and Harguth Galleries

• Artist opening receptions

Events

• Great Fall Get Together - October 24, 2026 Celebrating 50 years of the WAC!

Always Available

• Permanent Collection on display in the Schultz Performing Arts Gallery

• Gift Shop

• Tea Room

Classes

• Children’s Art Enrichment

• Pottery Wheel

• Clay Hand Building

• Watercolor

• Guest Instructors in New Mediums - painting with felt, batik, sgraffito and so many more to come! Check our website and Facebook for details.

Join Us as we celebrate this milestone year!

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www.wasecaartcenter.org • christy@wasecaartscouncil.org

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Woods and Water

by
r n a
Outdoors Writer

Is it summer yet?

Since Christmas is now in the rearview mirror, it is time to move into the new year. Last year, I was lucky enough to welcome a great grandson, Krew. We also celebrated our great granddaughter Avery's 2nd Birthday. I can remember the special feeling that I had when my sons were born. Then it was my grandsons and my granddaughters. Now I have been blessed to be able to be around to see my great grandchildren.

My great grandson, Krew, celebrated his first birthday the day before Christmas Eve. It was a special time spent with family.

I hope that everyone survived the first blizzard of the winter. I did find out one thing: it is the fact that my new bedroom window is not exactly windproof when the wind is blowing out of the northwest. I guess that a little window wrap is in order.

This is the time of year when I start to feel like I am coming down with a case of "cabin fever." I know you might think that it is a little premature, but thinking about the cabin gives me hope. I usually try not to daydream until about the end of February. I still think about the

great time that my son Brad and I had last spring fishing at a lake close to our cabin. The fish were very active and we had a blast. If I occasionally keep looking back at that time, I will maybe survive until spring.

We are planning another trip again next summer, and my oldest son Brian and I are also planning to make a trip to the cabin next summer.

Ice thickness guidelines for new, clear ice only.

UNDER 4" Stay off

4" - Ice fishing or other activities on foot

5" - 7" Snowmobile or small ATV

7" - 8" Side-by-side ATV

9" - 10" Small car or SUV

11" - 12" Medium SUV or small truck

13" Medium truck

16" - 17" Heavy-duty truck

20"+ Heavy-duty truck with

Remember: no ice is ever completely safe.

Please take the time to remember our troops that are serving now and those that have served before them. They are the reason that we have all of the Freedoms that we enjoy today.



Shown here is a picture of my son, Brad and when he and I were at the cabin and also one of my son Brian on one of our late summer fishing trips.

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago

- New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva's FFA Soils Judging team placed fourth in Region 7 competition recently with 767 points. They are from the left: seated, Derek Chicos, who was second individual with 300 points and Dustin Wayne, seventh individual with 273 points; standing, Shawn Kadlec, who scored 167. Nakia Berg, who scored 194 points, was not present in the photo when it was taken.

- Among the students who recently graduated from the University of Minnesota, Mankato, were: Leah Enger, Mary Fenger, Heather Krause and Robert Routh, all of New Richland. Jessica Androli, Ben Carleton, Erica Ellsworth, Kasey Gahler, Tina Holecek, Angela Quast, Tami Sens -Coonrod and Laura Seys, all of Janesville. Connie Bach, Mary Larson and Leslie McGregor, all of Mapleton: Amy Hinkley of Minnesota Lake.

- Janesville- Waldorf- Pemberton's basketball squad sailed past Alden-Conger Friday night, winning at Alden 62-30. Jenna Ziemke led the Bulldogs with 18 points and seven rebounds. Melissa Cummins scored 14 points and pulled five off the boards. Darlene Guse topped the rebounding with 11 while adding 9 points.

50 years ago

- Here Tom Ribbe gives blood at the Christmas visit of the Blood-mobile to New Richland. A successful visit, 60 pints were donated and certainly tells everyone that New Richland area residents have the true Christmas spirit.

- Mr. and Mrs. Mark Foster of Ellendale are the parents of a son, born Sunday, December 28th. He weighed 6 pounds and 12 ¾ ounces. He has one brother, Micheal, who is 1 ½ years old. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Karl Pederson, Albert Lea, and Mr. and Mrs. Orvis Foster, Ellendale.

75 years ago

- Carrell Raymo of St. Peter and Rosemary Bungarden of Waseca are to be married at Sacred Heart church, Waseca, Monday morning January 29.

- Mr. and Mrs. Russell Hanson (Ruth Haug) of New Richland became the parents of a daughter on Friday, January 19 born at the Weseca Memorial hospital. The baby weighed 6 pounds and 13 ½ ounces and has been given the name Victoria Leigh. The Hansons also have a son, Gary. On the same day a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haug (Lorraine Hagen) also of New Richland community. They have named their son Dennis Robert. This little fellow weighed 7 pounds and 12 ½ ounces. He also has a sister, Mary Ann. Mrs. Haug and Mrs. Hanson shared the same room at the hospital and returned home together on Monday.

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 - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting

(First Tuesday)
WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Monday - Council meeting (First Monday of the month)
Friday - Quilting meets 9:00 a.m. twice a month, see news-letter for dates.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN
Geneva, Minnesota
Pastor Leandra Anderson
Sunday - 10 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 Cirksema, 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

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
Hollandale, Minnesota
Rev. Neal Ooms
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; 9:20 Worship and kids church (now an eagle brook viewing church)

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

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
Rev. Neal Ooms
101 East Park Avenue
Hollandale, Minnesota
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA
Rural Ellendale
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship

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

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

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

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

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH of LITOMYSL
Father Peter Schuster
Sunday - 8 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation; 8:30 a.m. Mass with Children's Church; Pre-school Sunday School during Mass
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-Confirmation
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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 - 9:15 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
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Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship

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

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Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 27, 2022

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$85,500.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Dennise Howard-Junkers, a married woman and Kathryn Witherell, an unmarried woman

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on August 18, 2022 as Document Number A331215; as modified of record by document recorded on October 01, 2024 as Document Number A338063 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Rocket Mortgage, LLC FKA Quicken Loans, LLC by assignment recorded on November 26, 2025 as Document Number A341973 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Land situated in the City of Janesville in the County of Waseca in the State of MN, and described as follows: Lot 10, Block 16, Original Plat of Janesville, Waseca County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 210 E FRONT ST, JANESVILLE, MN 56048

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$94,719.89

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Rocket Mortgage, LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14.100.2160

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100039035037137766

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

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 26, 2026 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 August 26, 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 19, 2025

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC FKA QUICKEN LOANS, 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 (25-1232-FC01) THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. Published in the NRHEG Star Eagle on January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and February 5, 2026

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NOTICE
Berlin Township Board Meeting
Monday January 12, 2026
7:00 p.m. in the Ellendale Comm. Bldg.
(in the Board Room)
Helen Schmidt, Berlin Township Clerk

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Notice is hereby given that the Housing Authority of the HRA of New Richland, known as Royal Villa Apartments, will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 19th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public comment on the FY 2026 Operating Fund.

Anyone wishing to review or comment on this plan may do so either at the office between the hours of 9 am and 12 pm, Monday through Thursday, or at the public meeting.

Gail A. Schmidt, Executive Director
HRA of New Richland
Royal Villa Apartments

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