

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

■ Inside:

• 2 - Eli Lutgens

• 3 - Looking back

• 3 - Mural making

• 4 - Obituraries

• 5 - Ellendale council

• 6 - Sports

• 7 - County Board

■ Page 3

Mural

Important notice: The Sno-Seca’s Club Ride scheduled for Jan. 17 has been canceled due to lack of snow.

Trinket Dishes at New Richland Public Library, Jan. 15

Transform a simple dish into a sweet trinket holder by adding pretty paper to the surface at the New Richland Library at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15. This simple crafting technique turns basic into beautiful. Ages 13-18.

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.

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.

Bead Art Keychain at the New Richland Public Library, Jan. 29

Use a pattern to make fun animals and shapes, including crayons, lizards, and snakes by weaving pony beads together at the New Richland Library at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29. Then turn them into keychains to create a colorful accessory. For ages 9-12.

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.

County-wide political precinct caucuses 7 p.m. Feb. 3

All citizens are invited to attend political caucuses for the county Republican and Democratic parties. Registration will be at 6:30 p.m., with caucus business beginning at 7 p.m. One does not need to be a party member to attend. Information about locations, times, and more is available on the Secretary of State website at <https://www.sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/how-elections-work/precinct-caucuses/>

A word from The Word

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.

John 6:27



GETTING THE STEPS IN - The Hartland Workout Girls were in the basement of Hartland's Evangelical Lutheran Church for their exercise on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2025. Back row from left: Jan Kalbow, Sharon Olson, Judy Hendrickson, Linda Johannsen, Front row: Kathy Spooner and youngest member Nancy Harris, 70. Not pictured, Oldest member, Ona Meyer, 96, and Judy Tweeten.

Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

‘Workout Girls’ of Hartland open to new members

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Twice a week, the Workout Girls of Hartland like to get together and get some steps in; they think others should know about their gatherings at Hartland Evangelical Lutheran Church, and consider joining in. Judy Hendrickson started the Workout Girls in 2015: “I got the

idea when I was in a group down in Albert Lea. They were called the Bone Builders. I got the idea I should try it here in Hartland; I started asking around, and here we are.” The Workout Girls have been meeting for 10 years now, and say they are feeling healthier and looking better because of it. The group meets at 9 a.m. every

Tuesday and Thursday, taking holidays off. Hendrickson says now that the Christmas and new year celebrations are over, group members decided, “It’s time to get back to it.” They meet in the Hartland Evangelical Lutheran Church basement. Group member Jan Kalbow elaborates, “On Thursdays we also have coffee and treats afterward, like a re-

ward. It usually takes us between 45 minutes to an hour. Then we’re done.”

For those who enjoy workouts where participants toss cinder blocks and flip giant tractor tires, this isn’t that. Instead, since these ladies are on the upper side of 50, they enjoy sim-

Workout continued on 5



From left: Barb Kuchenbecker, Karen Quam (seated), and Ruth and Jamie Hagen were putting on the 42nd annual cancer auction at the Geneva Bar and Grill on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025 to a full house of happy patrons and supporters..

Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

Geneva Cancer Auction sees attendance swell

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Forty-Second Geneva Cancer Auction started on Friday, Jan. 9 and Saturday the 10th with the final drawing the following Saturday, Jan. 17. The auction's mission reads: Established in 1985, the Geneva Cancer Auction raises funds for cancer research for the sole purpose of eradicating cancer. On Friday night on behalf of the Game Feed in November, Mayor Steven Bailey donated a check for \$29,000 to the Geneva Cancer Auction to a roaring round of applause.

On Saturday the auction started to a very full house with even more people standing and waiting at the doors looking hopefully for a table or seat to open up, or even a stool at the bar, which was shoulder to

Auction continued on 4



NRHEG plans for year

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their Jan. 5 organizational meeting, members of the NRHEG school board reinstated the same slate of officers as during 2025: chair, Rick Schultz; vice chair, Loren Schoenrock; clerk, Terri Engel; treasurer, Pat Theuer.

Board members will also receive the same compensation as in 2025: \$100 for each regular or special meeting; \$150 for all-day meetings. Three officers will also receive a small stipend for serving in their



THE BOARD - The NRHEG School board held its annual organizational session the evening of Jan. 5. For 2026, the board chair is Rick Schultz (front center); vice chair is Loren Schoenrock (front right); clerk is Terri Engel (front left); treasurer is Pat Theuer (standing at left). Remaining board members are (standing, from center) Kelly Delacruz, Amy Ihrke and (not pictured) Aaron Phillips.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

positions: board chair, \$200; clerk, \$150; treasurer, \$100.

The NRHEG Star Eagle will be the school district’s official publication. The New Richland State Bank and Minnesota School District Liquid Assets Fund are the official de-

positories. Board meetings will continue to take place at 6:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month, except when displaced by legal holidays, when they will be on the Tuesday following the third Monday. The location of regular meet-

ings alternates between the media centers of the Ellendale and New Richland sites. The January, March, May, July, September and November meetings will be at the ele-

School continued on 3

HARTLAND CITY COUNCIL

Council names Star Eagle as official paper

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff Writer

During their first meeting of the year on Monday, Jan. 5, members of the Hartland city council took care of organizational matters for 2026. This included designating numerous important individuals and organizations.

The city bank will be Arcadia Bank. The city’s official newspaper for public notices will be the NRHEG Star Eagle. The city attorney is Peterson, Korker, Haedt & Benda Ltd. of Albert Lea. Insurance is Heartman Insurance. Treasurer is ARO Accounting of Hartland. Board members were also assigned as liaisons to various departments. Matt Eustice will serve in the role of mayor. Kyle Reed will focus on city maintenance, including water, sewer and street. Kelly Routh will interface with the fire department and Lori Routh will work with zoning and planning.

It was shared that the fire department will present the city with a donation from the gambling fund for their year-end donation in January; this will go toward the fire fund. The fire department didn’t have any billable calls this past month. Two new water meters have been ordered to replace two inoperative units.

For public comment, Jan Kalbow wanted to say, “I’d like to comment on Santa’s visit over Christmas. He was fantastic and we don’t have exact numbers, but we received a ‘Pleasing sized crowd’ and Judy did a great job.” Kalbow also wanted to remind all elderly residents of Hartland, “We are putting on an exercising program for those who need to get out and do a workout. We meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m. You don’t need to bring anything but yourselves. This is mostly for the older residents, but anyone can attend.”

Star Eagle

is for sale at these locations:

CLARKS GROVE - Gopher Stop

ELLENDALE - Casey's Lerberg's

GENEVA - Geneva Bar & Grill

HARTLAND - BP Gas Station

NEW RICHLAND - Wagner Foods Casey's

WASECA - Casey's Kwik Trip

Kwik Trip North

HOPE - Krause Feeds & Supplies

And At The Star Eagle Office

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



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

I'm just looking for some tush

With the holiday season officially over (almost), the scurs and their Weather Eye can focus on the weather at hand. Is Old Man Winter lying in wait or does he have other plans? Starting Thursday, mostly cloudy with a good chance of afternoon snow. Highs in the low 30's with lows in the upper 20's. Mostly cloudy Friday with a good chance of snow. Highs in the upper 20's with lows in the low single digits. Partly sunny on Saturday with highs in the mid-teens and lows in the low single digits. Sunday, partly sunny with highs in the mid-teens and lows near zero. Partly sunny Monday with a good chance of snow. Highs in the upper teens with lows around zero. Tuesday, mostly cloudy with highs in the low 20's and lows in the mid-single digits. Mostly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the upper 20's and lows around 10 above. On the 21st we see our daylight increasing at just over two minutes per day. The normal high for January 21st is 21 and the normal low is 4. The scurs are watching the NFL playoffs for the "tush push."

Colder weather is upon us and it's not surprising. On the most recent 30-year normal for the SROC in Waseca, the period from January 16th - 23rd shows the lowest normal highs and lows as well as the lowest average temp at 12.7 degrees. We've led a rather charmed life in January with several days of well above normal temperatures so far and relatively light snow. As of last Saturday morning, the only measurable precipitation had fallen in the form of rain.

Even though we'll have chewed through over half of January by the time you receive hard copy, there is still plenty of time for the weather to get ugly. And don't count February out. More than once February's average temperature has been colder than January. In the most recent 30-year normal data, it also edged out January and March for 2nd place in the snow department, topped only by December.

The alien, as Cannon used to say, is on the loose now the holidays are over and kids are back in school. I thought perhaps I'd dodged this most recent outbreak, but it appears not to be the case. It arrived on Sunday with a dry cough and interrupted my beauty sleep. The next day, the aches and chills showed up along with a more persistent cough. I'm not alone. Between nasty colds and the flu, there are plenty of winter maladies to go around. Add to that the ice that many have to contend with since the snow melted. As one astute observer pointed out, once you've fallen and determined nothing is hurt except your pride, it's always a good idea to look around and make sure no one saw you fall.

Wilson retiring from SWCE, Nordahl promoted to member services manager

Steele Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) Member Services Division Manager Kim Wilson stepped from behind her desk for the last time on Jan. 8, retiring from the cooperative after more than 27.5 years.

She started with Steele-Waseca in the front office on June 8, 1998, and was promoted to her present position on May 14, 2022.

That would be bad.

I continue watching Adam-12 reruns for the old cars. Recently I wondered what the cop cars were that Reed and Malloy (mostly Malloy) drove. With the exception of the '67 Plymouth Belvedere used in the pilot on loan from the LAPD, the police cars were civilian models painted and decked out like the real thing. Producer Jack Webb insisted on it. The first car, based on what the LAPD was using at the time, was a '68 Plymouth Belvedere, equipped with a 383 cid V8 and 4 barrel carb. In '71, the LAPD replaced the Belvedere with the Plymouth Satellite, available with a 440 cid engine that cranked out 370 hp, so Adam 12 followed suit. In '72, the LAPD switched to an unlikely automobile, the AMC Matador. I thought I recognized those recessed door handles, something common to the AMC autos including the Gremlin. The LAPD's Matadors sported a 401 cid V8 that cranked out 255 hp. It could also do 0-60 mph in about 7.5 seconds. Even though the LAPD switched back to Plymouth again in 1975, Adam 12 stuck with the AMC Matadors until the show ended on May 20th, 1975.

Poppy's bunny population has taken a hit as of late. It's absolutely amazing how much unprotected woody vegetation they've managed to consume in the two months of winter we've experienced. Most of it isn't important, such as the suckers on the fruit trees, some of the aronia berries and dogwood. Seeing the damage, however, makes me glad for those few hours spent protecting the young apple tree, hydrangeas, forsythias, burning bushes and anything else that looked vulnerable. Even before the snow fell, there were signs that the cotton-tails were poised for an all-out assault. I've done my level best to eradicate them whenever I see them and can access my blunderbuss. I've even had to invest in more shotgun shells. However, as the saying goes, they breed like rabbits.

Even though the bunny population has dwindled somewhat, Poppy appears to have lost some weight. We've limited treats in frequency and amount along with cutting back on her food slightly. It arrived on Sunday with a dry cough and interrupted my beauty sleep. The next day, the aches and chills showed up along with a more persistent cough. I'm not alone. Between nasty colds and the flu, there are plenty of winter maladies to go around. Add to that the ice that many have to contend with since the snow melted. As one astute observer pointed out, once you've fallen and determined nothing is hurt except your pride, it's always a good idea to look around and make sure no one saw you fall.

Unfortunately, Poppy's humans haven't caught up. The Christmas goodies have left their mark. Maybe if we chased more bunnies and squirrels.

See you next week...real good then.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Pileated woodpeckers provide welcome interruptions

I have escaped to my family's cabin for a few days.

As I may have mentioned before, the cabin is a small, rustic one located at the end of a winding one-lane road which meanders up and down hills through a thoroughly wooded area. There are eight or so cabins along the road, but based on the undisturbed nature of the snow, my brother, son and I are apparently the first group to be here in a month or two.

Our arrival was something of an adventure.

We turned onto our road at about 4 in the afternoon. We had committed to arriving before dark because we were uncertain what we would find. Turns out, we were very wise. As we came to the last half of the road and headed up a hill, we encountered snow probably a foot deep. Between the incline and the snow, it was more than my vehicle could manage. After brave efforts to power through by backing up and taking a run, we found ourselves at a dead stop about 200 feet short of the cabin. Part of those 200 feet is a fairly steep walking path. We trudged down to the cabin seeking footing in the snow.

My brother and son went back up with shovels and determinedly got the car to a parking spot next to the neighbor's garage, still at the top of the hill.

The prospect of bringing all our gear down that angled path was disheartening, so we called a nearby neighbor we are acquainted with who had informed us he has a tractor and snow blower, and would be willing to help us at times like this.

When we called, we had the remarkable good fortune that he was both at home and available to assist. In what seemed like no time, he was backing up and down our hilly little road throwing that troublesome snow in among the trees.

It was a welcome sight.

When we offered to pay him, he declined any money. I would have forced some into his hands except for two complications. First, the amount of cash in my wallet seemed insufficient. Even more importantly, he was on his tractor and driving away faster than I could have ever moved through the snow alongside the road. Fortunately, I came upon a solution. The next day, I bought and delivered a gift card to a popular local restaurant.



Pictured is a pileated woodpecker spotted through the window at my family's cabin.

When he again stated payment was unnecessary, I told him we wanted to thank him—that we were riding on a wave of gratitude which grows higher each time we are able to walk out of the cabin and directly to the vehicle, rather than plodding up and down the snowy pathway with every armload.

There are many pleasant aspects to being at the cabin in winter. Because my brother and son are here to fish, I have the space to myself much of the time. When I am finished with writing and editing, I see myself curled up in a cozy chair with a book.

My hours are peppered with an element of nerdy excitement, however. A pair of pileated woodpeckers has been visiting the (now refilled) birdfeeder fairly regularly.

I enjoy all birds and can name numerous species I regularly see at my feeders at home. Here in the forest, the first birds to discover the food were pine grosbeaks, birds about the

size of a robin. The males are distinctively pink, the females only less visibly so.

But there's something exciting about seeing a pileated woodpecker. They're quite large—with a wingspan of about two feet—and have a bold red cap and crest on their heads. Their necks are also marked with sharply defined areas of black, red and white.

In summer they eat ants, often using their strong beaks to burrow into trees to capture food. The burrowing is sometimes so deep the (partially rotten) tree will break.

All the work I've been doing on my computer over the past two days has been interrupted by occasional leaps to my feet as I notice the variety of birds coming and going outside. By the time you read this, I will already be on home territory. I have the feeling, though, my thoughts will still be at the cabin.

Traveling through Philadelphia

After two days of driving, I arrived in Philadelphia Wednesday evening. This is the beginning of a vacation of sorts for me. The first leg of the trip I am visiting one of my childhood best friends here in Pennsylvania.

Wednesday evening was spent reminiscing at a local diner. Regrettably, at this particular establishment, the conversation was better than the food. I much prefer the Red Leaf, The Pheasant Cafe, the Willows, Oscars, or really any local restaurant. My friend tells me, despite what locals claim, the food is better back home.

Thursday was spent walking around the city. People walk everywhere here. We logged about 10 miles worth of steps.

Highlights included the Liberty Bell and the Ben Franklin Printing Office, home to a press actually owned, and presumably operated, by Benjamin Franklin. The nice people there demonstrated how printing was done back in the old days. I found it very interesting that printers took special training and had specific tricks of the trade. You see, back then the "original" of a printed item was made of many small metal pieces all held together in a frame. Typesetters kept letters of the alphabet—both upper and lower case—and other symbols and punctuation on a large rack. Items were arranged with the most-used letters closest at hand. Experienced typists would mentor amateurs who began by cleaning the movable type letters, getting familiar with where all of the letters were located.



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

ated. Positioning the type into the frame was the old fashioned version of 'typing.'

Friday we walked to the History Museum and walked the famous steps from the movie "Rocky."

I also must report the cheesesteaks we had along South Street were better than expected. Given how iconic the cheesesteaks are, I didn't really know what to expect. Especially based on the previous meal, I had set myself up for disappointment. Instead, I am glad to announce, I was blown away. I had never had a cheesesteak like the one we had from "Bibs," the nickname given to the restaurant we went to. I had mine the classic way, onions and Cheese Whiz. The locals here all claim the best cheesesteak places are not the well-known 'tourist trap' establishments. (Although they do admit even those cheesesteaks are great. There are just better 'hogies' other places in the city.)

Tuesday evening we visited the city of New York, toured Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, the 9/11 Memorial, Times Square and saw "The Outsiders" on Broadway.

Wednesday morning, I departed for

text messages and communicating with my staff as smoothly as if I were sitting in my office. For anyone who questions the wisdom of being so far away when I have important business to transact,

I found three quotes that I feel are relevant to the subject of potential guilt over doing something nice for myself.

"What, if some day or night a demon were to steal after you into your loneliest loneliness and say to you: 'This life as you now live it and have lived it, you will have to live once more and innumerable times more' ... Would you not throw yourself down and gnash your teeth and curse the demon who spoke thus? Or have you once experienced a tremendous moment when you would have answered him: 'You are a god and never have I heard anything more divine.'"

— Friedrich Nietzsche
"Don't you find it odd," she continued, "that when you're a kid, everyone, all the world, encourages you to follow your dreams. But when you're older, somehow they act offended if you even try."

— Ethan Hawke
"Often those that criticise others reveal what they themselves lack."

— Shannon L. Alder

NRHEG Star Eagle

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AMELIA ROESLER
DEB BENTLY
JIM LUTGENS
TERESA ROSACKER
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Publisher/Editor
Copy Editor
Editor
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Sports Editor
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Editorial Assistant

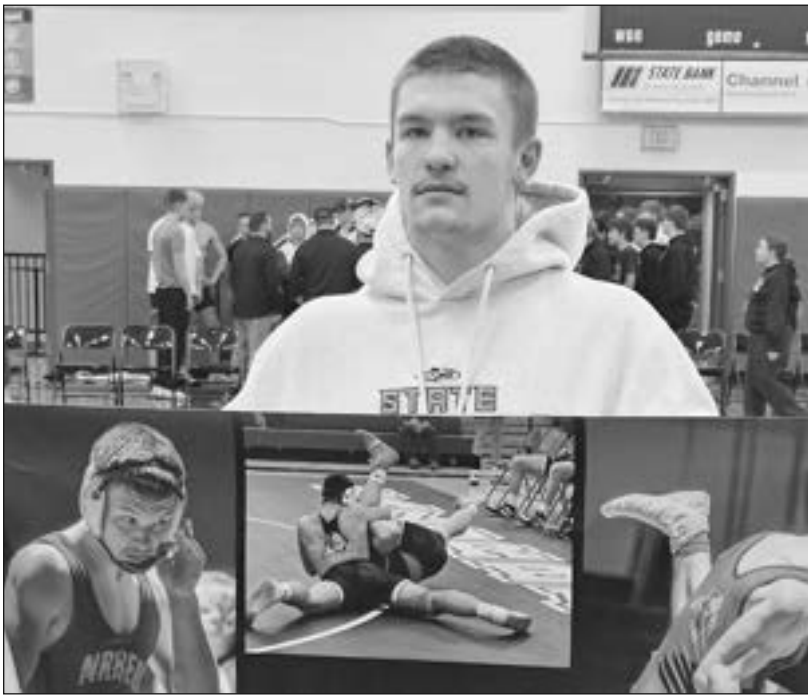
Contributors: Al Batt, Bob Hanson, Mark Bernard, Mark Domeier, Dick Herfindahl, Barb Mrotz, Brenda Dokken, Judy Tweeten, Rachael Jaegar, Tristan Gehring, Ben Revermann, Payge Rosacker, Darin Reese, Rachel Loverink

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Wrestling Record



RECORD WIN - Ryan Schlaak recorded his 100th win the night of Thursday, January 8.

"Your hard work, grit, and dedication show every time you step on the mat. We're proud of you, Ryan — congrats on this incredible milestone!" reads a NRHEG Secondary School Facebook post.



OVERWHELMING ART - Artist Steve DeLaitch at work on the mural underway north of Ace Hardware along Waseca's Second Street Northwest.
Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Grain bin mural demands talent, effort and skill

By **DEB BENTLY**
Staff Writer

In his time, Waseca artist Steven DeLaitch has painted more than 15 murals. So when his brother-in-law Mike Denn asked Steve whether he could paint a mural that would extend across two large steel bins, he said his answer was a confident, "Of course." The two of them had a 3-year dialogue before the decision was truly made to begin the project. Mike and his brother, Mark, are the owners of the land and remaining structures of the EACO Flour Mill once located along the eastern shore of Loon Lake. The large steel bins are located at this site.

When Steve found himself looking at the prepared surfaces with paint in hand this past fall, he says his reaction was a momentarily overwhelmed "Gulp."

Work on the mural began Sept. 10 and was stopped by the weather in mid-November. It is now more than half finished. When it is complete, the mural will be 35 feet tall and 155 feet long.

In honor of the site's history, the mural depicts a wheat harvest in process as it would have looked in the late 1800s. Four horses draw a reaper through a golden field while the machine behind them cuts the plants and draws them up to be baled.

The scale of the painting is such, Steve points out, that each horse's head from



MAKING PROGRESS - The mural, which began on Sept. 10, is more than half finished.
Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

School

from Page 1

mentary building in Ellendale. In February, April, June, August, October and December, the meetings will be in the secondary building in New Richland.

Board members also accepted positions on various committees; examples are the policy, transport, and buildings and grounds committees.

With the organizational work of the meeting complete, district superintendent Michael Meihak initiated a discussion regarding the school district's finances.

He acknowledged that the district has a 39% general fund balance, roughly enough to support district operations a third of a year; state agencies recommend that public entities maintain an undesignated fund balance of about 25% as a buffer against emergencies or delays. While complimenting business manager Karla Christopherson on her acumen in maintaining the balance, Meihak pointed out the district has gone into deficit spending in a number of recent budget years, eating away at the fund balance.

As the Star Eagle reported in

June, the district's 2025-26 budget called for just over \$39.5 million in expenditures with expected income of about \$39.3 million. With other elements taken into account, the numbers lead to an anticipated decrease of \$67,000 to the \$10.5 million general fund.

Meihak pointed out this year's expenditures will determine the actual end-of-year balance, suggesting that a warmer winter might lead to unspent budget money while an emergency repair could have the opposite effect. His comments implied the district may want to begin considering going to area taxpayers for a tax referendum—money approved by voters to support the school's operation. For the current school year, about 17.5 percent of the costs are covered by local taxes, with the remainder coming mostly from the state. At this time, of the 363 school districts in Minnesota, roughly three-quarters rely on voter-approved referendum money to meet annual operating costs.

If the board should support going to voters for a referendum, the soonest the vote would likely occur is this fall's November election; preparing for it would require months of work and planning.

A look back at 2025

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

- July**
- Wednesday's tornado near Hartland tore apart Glenn Ausen's farm, and although he wasn't home when the damage occurred, he said it was still shocking to see, leaving him with very few words for how to process it all.
 - Keen Bank, in partnership with Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines (FHLB Des Moines), is pleased to announce that Oak Hill Community Connections of Steele County will receive a \$10,000 grant from the Member Impact Fund.
 - The New Richland Area Sportsmen's Club recently arranged to plant three 20-foot trees at St. Olaf Lake Park in hopes of helping to compensate for the rather sudden loss, over the past couple of years, of about 10 oak trees on the property.
 - Dr. Kimberly Meyer joined the NRHEG school district as its new elementary principal as of July 1, taking the position held for the past three years by Craig Kopetzki.
 - Daniel Petsinger, owner of Radio Link Internet, served lawsuit papers against Ellendale mayor Scott Groth, council members Jon Asplund, Joel Meyer, Scott Swanson, and Charles Berg, city clerk Steve Engel, and attorney Mark Rahrlick after the city council refused an appeal Petsinger had filed regarding a permit to construct a 150-foot tower on property he owns near Dutton Drive and North Sixth Street.
 - Members of the New Richland-Hartland High School class of 1965 gathered at Waseca's Pizza Ranch restaurant on July 10 to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of their graduation. Attending were 26



Numerous fundamental pieces of the inclusive playground being developed at the NRHEG elementary site were installed this past summer. These include a specially constructed swing, a large-scale piece with swaying motion similar to a teeter-totter, and an oversized xylophone set side-by-side with some drums.

- people, of whom 22 were 1965 graduates.
- According to a report presented to the Waseca County Board of Commissioners during their July 15 meeting, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will be spending about \$1.2 million to remove the railroad crossing and upgrade sidewalks along Highway 30 in New Richland to Americans with Disability (ADA) standards during the 2026 construction season.
 - St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Otisco held its annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 20 to seventy-degree temperatures and a light wind.

- August**
- The New Richland Sportsmen's Club invites people to stop by and view two updated landscape features at the organization's grounds on the east side of Highway 13. Club members are issued keys and can open the gate; visitors can park outside the gate and walk in.
 - For the past 17 years, Peter Suek, 65, has been commuting from his home near Waldorf to his job in San Francisco. Suek, a pilot, explains it has not been anywhere near as impractical as it sounds.
 - More than 200 people visited the thirteenth Yaunt 2 Cancer Benefit Rodeo the afternoon of Sat-



An estimated 400 or more people attended a six-hour "open house" at the NRHEG Secondary school from 2 to 8 p.m. Aug. 27. Principal Grant Berg commented he felt the event served its purpose, which was to increase the number of children and families attending the start-of-year orientation and teacher conferences.

urday, Aug. 2 at the Yaunt 2 Ranch southeast of New Richland. The rodeo competition, a silent auction, vendors, fellowship and good weather helped ensure everyone enjoyed themselves. Abby Christopherson said about the fundraising

amount, "Just shy of \$10,000 was raised on Saturday with final donations still coming in."

- Syd's Sleek Renderings is one of the newest businesses in the

2025 continued on 4

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OBITUARIES

Theresa Hanson

Theresa Marie Hanson, better known as Tess, passed away peacefully on January 2, 2026 at Benedictine Living Community in Owatonna, MN.

Born on March 28, 1928, she was the daughter of Daniel and Amelia (Moldenhauer) Weckwerth. She attended a country school and at age 16 began working at the Hemp Plant in New Richland during World War II. She later earned her GED.

On October 22, 1947, she married Arnold Hanson at St. Peter Lutheran Church in New Richland. They continued to make their home in rural Freeborn County until 1971, when they moved to Albert Lea. Tess worked at a variety of places, including Allis-Chalmers in Hartland, Brown Printing in Waseca, Good Samaritan Society in Albert Lea, and Wallace's Department Store in Albert Lea. She also worked as a cook at her son's bar and grill in Minnesota Lake; of all her roles, she took the greatest pride in the years she devoted to her home and family. Tess was a longtime member of St. Peter Lutheran Church, and she and Arnold were also members of the Minnesota Young DFL organization.

Tess was a devoted family woman who loved her family deeply and especially cherished being a grandmother. Each summer for one week, she welcomed all six of her grandchildren to stay with her. She delighted in spoiling them as they spent their days swimming in the backyard, visiting Myre-Big Island State Park, and fishing on Fountain Lake. Her attention was devoted entirely to them, and the memories made are treasured by each grandchild, with stories still shared year after year. She enjoyed the arts, especially painting and sewing, and took great pleasure in teaching her right-handed daughters to sew—an extra challenge for a left-handed mother, but one her daughters treasure and continue to appreciate. Although baking may not have been her favorite, she was very good at it, creating many delicious treats. Her chocolate cake was always a favorite, and her sweet rolls, always on the Christmas morning table, are still made today, perfectly recreated from memory without a written recipe, keeping her tradition alive.

Tess will be remembered as a kind, pleasant, and sweet woman



Theresa Hanson

who never complained about life. She treasured her relationships with her three sisters and cousin, Eunie, enjoying their time together—whether it was a simple afternoon in the garage with a glass of wine or their annual girls' weekend getaway. She also shared a special friendship with her dear friend Brenda, who came from England; Tess helped her become a U.S. citizen, and Brenda taught her the art of making tea. Tess's warmth, generosity, and love for those around her will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

She will be lovingly remembered by her children, Doreen (David) Kennedy, Dennis (Bonnie) Hanson, Deanna McCashin, and Dale Hanson; grandchildren, David, Daniel (Erica) and Dawn Kennedy, Sheila (Molly) Hanson, Brendan (Kelly) and Brian (Julie) McCashin; great grandchildren, Alyssa (Jeremiah) Cote, Courtney and Carter Kennedy, Madeleine, Clarke, and Henry Kennedy, and Jack and Grace Hanson; great-great grandchildren, Everett and Sawyer Cote; sister, Leone Svelmoe of Waseca; sister-in-law, Peggy Hanson, along with many extended family members, nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Arnold, on August 31, 2002; parents; sisters, Dorothy Hagen and Lois Miller; brother, Bernard Weckwerth; and son-in-law, Patrick McCashin.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 11 a.m. at St. Peter Lutheran Church in New Richland, MN; Pastor Scott Williams will be officiating. Tess' family will greet guests at a visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be at St Peter's Cemetery in New Richland at a later date.

■ Auction

from Page 1

shoulder. With a snow shower starting and a pretty hefty wind blowing in the full parking lot outside, it was nice and cozy inside as the auctioneer started auctioning. There were assorted items like a chainsaw and automated fertilizer for the farm auction which started at 3 p.m. Haley Habana and her mother were going to also donate their hair at 5:30 p.m. on behalf of their grandmother, who died of cancer.

Barb Kuchenbecker, one of those helping out for the day, was asked about how many things will be up for auction. She

said, "People have been bringing in items at all hours, and they've brought so much, we really have no idea how many auction items we have. We'll just be selling things as we come across them."

Dennis and Diane Deml were one of the spectators watching the auctioneer get going, who were waiting for a seat to open up. Stuck at the door, they proved they were both a lady and a gentleman with their patience. They attended the Saturday afternoon auction in part because of their 3-year-old grandson who had AML (Acute Myeloid Leukemia). Diane said, "We also attended the benefit in November. Our grandson, Krew Haase, has AML. He's been undergoing treatment and that's all been working out. Right now it's in remission."

Eldon Frisk

Eldon Frisk, age 89, of Lexington, passed away on December 25, 2025 following a courageous struggle with Parkinson's disease.

Eldon was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Ruth (Alexanderson) Frisk, and brothers, LeRoy Frisk and Bernard Frisk.

He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Joan; children David (Julie) Frisk, Daniel (Tosha) Frisk, Kelli (Tim) Peterson, and Debbie (Josh) Kunze; 9 grandchildren - Karlee (Richard) Anderson, Brandon (Tovah) Peterson, Justine Frisk, Sean Frisk, Kaylin (Cody) Yngsdal, Ryan

Frisk, Aaron (Roberta) Frisk, Elli Kunze, and Lillian Kunze; seven great-grandchildren; and siblings Bonnie Roehrs, Ramona (Patrick) Helms, Jeanine (Tom) Dunlap, Jack (Rhonda) Frisk, Gordy (Patricia) Frisk, and Charlie (Liza) Frisk.

Eldon grew up in Waseca, Minnesota, and graduated from Waseca High School. He continued his education at Rochester Technical College and Dunwoody Institute, where he earned an engineering degree. He later helped run radio and television repair shops in southern Minnesota before beginning a long career with Control Data, where he worked as an engineer until his retirement in 1999.

Eldon had a lifelong love of classic cars. He enjoyed restoring and working on them, attending car shows and club events, and traveling to participate in car club gatherings and shows. He was a proud member of several car clubs, including MSRA, Capital City, Twin City Model A, and Kaiser/Fraser. He also cherished his cats.

A memorial service will be held at Together Place Church, 3860 Flowerfield Rd., Circle Pines, MN, on Saturday, January 17 at 11 a.m.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., with lunch to follow.

He will be deeply missed and



Eldon Frisk

lovingly remembered by his family and all who knew him.

■ 2025

from Page 3

NRHEG area, and its owner, Sydney Lewer, 19, wasn't expecting it to take off like it did.

Several dozen people attended New Richland's fifth annual Night to Unite celebration the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025 at New Richland City Park. The "Night to Unite" is meant to honor law enforcement officers and first responders, including medical personnel and firefighters.

The Ellendale National Night Out saw more than 150 visitors the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 5 at the City Park of Ellendale.

After eight years serving the City of New Richland, Administrator Anthony Martens, 45, is departing for greener pastures. He began his new position as Blooming Prairie City Administrator on Tuesday.

Roughly 40 feet tall and weighing 30,000 pounds, the replacement steeple for LeSueur River Lutheran Church lifted off the pavement where it had been constructed and moved directly to the place it belonged, easily 80 feet above the ground atop the church's bell tower the morning of Thursday, Aug. 14. The bell, which weighs 1,250 pounds, had arrived in its space only shortly before.

More than 60 participants made it possible for the third annual "Biker Bug Run" fundraiser at the Hartland University Bar to raise \$2,200 to be donated toward increased motorcycle safety in the state of Minnesota.

A small celebration took place at the Waseca Pizza Ranch on Thursday, Aug. 7 to mark the approach of birthday number 50 for Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas. Surrounded by friends, Dulas had been festooned with a button declaring "My Big Day," and had been coerced into wearing candle-themed headgear.

Sam Ingram has won two national championships with the U.S. Waterski Association: the first in 2007, and then again in 2018. On August 7 this year he competed in the men's 60 to 65 year old division, winning third place. Over the past few decades, he has consistently been ranked among the nation's top skiers in the slalom event, and even top 10 worldwide.



Hundreds of visitors and residents were in attendance throughout Farm and City Days weekend in New Richland, July 18 to 20. The most popular attractions included the classic car show, which drew 109 cars, down from last year's record draw of 149. There were 127 cars in 2023.

The 22 or so members of the New Richland Town and Country Garden Club have been sharing collaborative efforts during the summer, especially when it comes to caring for the decorative garden along Highway 30 near the high school. Members have met regularly to pull weeds and deadhead flowers. Individuals and small groups from the membership have been taking care of the planters on the sidewalk along Broadway.

The State of Minnesota Court of Appeals has made an appellate court ruling in the case of Jaguar Communications LLC vs. Daniel Petsinger. The court has affirmed the case in part and remanded in part and denied motions. The bad news for New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School football team is that the Panthers graduated a plethora of players from last year's squad. The good news? They return a lot of talent.

Due to high levels of E. coli detected in an Aug. 22 water test, Beaver Lake is closed until further notice to protect the health of the public and minimize the risk of recreational water illnesses.

September

- An August 17 and 18 rainstorm

dropped 9.48 inches of rain at the 111-year weather station at the University of Minnesota's Southern Outreach and Research Center (SROC) located in Waseca. SROC staff and other recordkeepers, who provided unofficial rainfall amounts for the same event, recorded rainfall around the county as high as 11 inches.

The Hartland University's "Ride to Remember" challenge departed around noon from the parking lot on Saturday, Sept. 6. With 30 vehicles registered and 70 in the ride-along, those signups helped to fundraise \$740, with all proceeds going to the Flags for Vets charity.

Conversation at The Willows was so energetic at lunchtime on Sept. 3 that people seated side by side had to lean in to be able to hear one another. Gathered at two long tables were 22 people who had retired from area school districts, whether they had the name Ellendale-Geneva, New Richland-Hartland or New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva at the time.

The Bikers of Blooming Prairie 2025 B.O.B. Ride set a record of \$25,729 fundraising for Steele County Toys for Tots.

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Becky Schauer. I am the new Director of Nursing at the New Richland Care

Center.

After five of the seven school board members voted in favor at their Sept. 15 meeting, the NRHEG school district plans to spend \$70,000 to purchase property located at 302 S. Broadway in New Richland.

"It's important to be safe around animals," says Makenna Reeder, who first proposed the idea of an FFA "Ag Safety" event for NRHEG elementary students. "Children could get hurt, or accidentally spread disease if they don't understand some important things."

NRHEG band director Seth Schaefer described the Panthers' participation in the Waseca Marching Classic field show on Sept. 20 as a way to expand band members' base of experience and simultaneously broaden their horizons.

In an effort to raise money for a new fire truck, the Geneva Fire Department held a pancake breakfast at the community center on Sunday morning, Sept. 21.

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■ Workout

from Page 1

pler, more ordered workouts which start with the basics and go from there. Breathing and blinking exercises provide a foundation. At a recent session, Hendrickson began with, “All right ladies, four deep breaths in and out.” She then keeps track by counting out loud; sometimes the others join in counting, but the majority just breathe in and out in peaceful silence. Then there was simple blinking. Things got steadily harder with head nods, then rotating. Also among the exercises were arm lifts, arm circles, toe scrunches and chair stands.

Feet changed positions to something called a ‘sober walk,’ one foot in front of the other, then a heavy lean forward, back, left and right. Perhaps the most intense exercise was a set of leg squats, but Hendrickson pointed out “pain

equals gain” in the fitness world. Some group members use weights during the exercise. Hendrickson explains Thrivent provided the funds to purchase both the weights and a container to carry and store them.

Breaks are built into each day’s program, and group members can always sit for a spell. Afterwards they have water and share some time visiting. Said Kalbow, “We think this is a good way for people to get out of the house and do something, especially in the winter—get the blood pumping. Afterward we catch up on town talk and see who’s doing what; that’s always a plus.” Hendrickson added, “We are looking for others to join. All you have to do is show up at the Hartland Evangelical Lutheran Church Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. We’ll be waiting for you!” Once the new community center in Hartland is finished, these ladies will be moving their operation there, but for now it’s at the church.

■ Mural

from Page 3

forehead to nose is as tall as he is.

“It was a challenge I wanted to undertake, and Mike had kind of always wanted a mural on the bins,” Steve recalls. “It all took a while to come together, but now it is well on its way.” Owners Mike Denn and Mark Denn are brothers to Steve’s wife, Mary Jo.

It is believed the two large bins were built in the 1870s. Each is more than 60 feet tall and is constructed of riveted together panels, each of which is 5 feet tall by 15 feet wide. Steve says the identically sized panels provide a helpful grid as he adapts the scale of his concept sketches to the gigantic steel surface.

The first step in preparing the bins, Mike Denn describes, was to power wash the exterior; the next was to paint on primer over the area meant for the mural. Also a major element of preparations, Mike says, was the purchase of an aerial boom lift specifically for use on the project, with the intent it will be used for more everyday tasks in the future, including tuck pointing on the brick building, once part of the EACO complex, which stands west of the 14 bins.

Steve says he will resume work in the spring when the weather is amenable. He hopes for something less variable than he experienced this fall; conditions ranged from several days when temperatures were in the 90s with the sun beating down so powerfully that “the paint was drying on the brush before I could even stroke it on,” to windy days when the boom lift rattled, making it hard to work up to his personal standards.

“It was like a wind tunnel,” Steve observes regarding the curved surfaces of the two neighboring bins.

He says he finds his work so far satisfactory, despite the range of challenges. He has already used 20 gallons of paint.

Steve says he has been drawn to art since childhood. After graduating from Owatonna High School in the

1970s, he attended the Chicago School of Art. “I wanted to learn to draw like the masters,” he recalls. Throughout his life, he has supported his work as an artist by using additional skills, including acquiring the credentials to be a construction contractor. He moved to Waseca in the 1990s to serve as director of the regional art center; he met Mary Jo, decided he liked the atmosphere and cooperative spirit of the community, and elected to stay—mostly.

“I love to travel and expand my skill as an artist,” he mentions.

Steve met New Richland’s Bernie Anderson in the 1980s. The two have traveled together to numerous locations around the country where they have gleaned artistic inspiration from the landscape around them.

Steve has set up his easel all around the planet, having been to Napa Valley in California, Alaska, and the American Southwest, as well as Norway, Australia, Italy, China, the Great Barrier Reef, and more. He says the majority of his paintings are landscapes, ranging from closeups of details to mountain ranges and cityscapes. He works in various media, including watercolor, oils, and—specifically when painting murals—exterior house paint. He also enjoys sketching both in black and white and in color.

Whatever his subject or media, he says a main objective of his art is to inspire people “to look inward by looking outward.”

Since 2003, Steve has kept a studio in a classic brick building along New Richland’s Broadway Avenue. Built in 1917, a time when the chief need for electricity was to power electric lights, it was referred to as a “light plant” rather than a “power plant.” He says he admires the classic elements of the building’s construction, and especially enjoys the many large windows. He points out that, with a coal-fired generator burning night and day, the windows helped keep the space cool. Now they offer him plentiful natural light. Steve continues working on improvements to make his studio a comfortable place to work; he can frequently be found there creating artwork throughout the week.



MAKING A CHANGE - Left, Keith Hagen holds a pan of Phyllis Hagen’s cinnamon rolls along with a pound of HOPE butter. Right, Haley and Gracie Luna following their haircuts that took place during the auction. A tray of money was taken around the bar, and people placed money on it as a donation for the Cancer auction.



First weekend success at Geneva Cancer Auction

DeWayne Hagen, or “Whitey” as he is commonly known, has welcomed a great number of people to the Geneva Cancer Auction over the years. This year he asked one of his sons to take the lead getting the 2026 Geneva Cancer Auction off to a start.

Jamie Hagen shared his father’s well wishes for the success for the 42nd Geneva Cancer Auction. Jamie greeted and thanked everyone for their attendance. Everyone was then asked to stand while Kate Cammerer sang the National Anthem.

Jamie then announce that the first item up for bid this year was one of the ever famous ‘Stew Packages,’ which includes a bag of potatoes, a bag of onions and a pound of Hope Butter that was followed by a quart of Sue Hills famous dill pickles, which is how the auction has been starting now for ‘Oh, so many years.’

Jamie then refreshed everyone’s

memories on how the first auction had begun back in 1985 when Hank and Judy Thompson and Whitey and LaJune Hagen had decided to hold a Cancer Auction in Geneva, as they wanted to see if they could raise money for cancer research in their hometown, like they had been helping do when they attended the cancer auctions at the Eagles Club in Albert Lea.

Jamie also reminded those in attendance about the ‘Chicken Story’ and how Whitey Hagen had seen a chicken on the street in Albert Lea before he went into the cancer auction at Eddie’s Bar in Albert Lea. Whitey later decided to go outside and somehow he was able to catch the chicken and brought it into the bar and it was auctioned off. And with that said, I guess we can say, “That’s history” in regards to the cancer auction.

A great number of items were then put up for bid on Friday night, as well as on Saturday, and Jamie

expressed his thanks for the great number of people who turn out to support the auction which helps raise money for cancer research.

Speaking of the Hagens, it was interesting to note that another generation of Whitey and LaJune Hagen’s family is now following in their footprints, so to speak, as Kyler Hagen, who is one of their great grandchildren, has now gotten involved. Kyler walked around the cancer auction this weekend with different items that were put up for bid, so those who were in attendance for the auction could get a closer look, and many of them bid on the items and took some home with them.

Steve Pence, who grew up in Geneva many years ago, continues to support the auction from Florida every year. This year a couple more autographed baseballs that Steve had donated were put up for bid. The first baseball on the auction block was signed by Hunter Pence,

who is one of Steve’s cousins. The auction also included a baseball signed by Chuck Knoblauch, as well as several hard covered books that Steve had donated to the cancer auction this past weekend.

The first weekend of the 2026 auction had a great variety of items this year as it always does, and it was great to see how people had put groups of items in baskets with a variety of different themes for the bidders.

Decorative type items up for bid included a shepherd hook, a metal basket wall hanging, an iron Welcome sign, This is Life and Gather Be Grateful pictures to name a few. The auction also had a homemade stained glass window, assorted decorative bird houses, a ceramic pumpkin that was able to be lit up, several different metal cutout signs, including one of a pumpkin and

Geneva continued on 10

Council finds no CERT certified residents, officials

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During the year’s first meeting of the Ellendale city council on Thursday, Jan. 8., Jerry Ibberson spoke of emergency management and the city blizzard shelter; he requested new containers for storing emergency blankets. The council approved \$281.48 for new totes. It was also announced that Steele County is holding free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes from Feb. 24 to March 7 at the Owatonna Fire Department building, 107 W. Main. Classes will meet from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday evenings or from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays. As of 2026, there are no CERT certified residents in Ellendale.

The first walk-through of the city’s new fire building took place recently, so that fire department members could give input; about 20 different elements were discovered which need to be fixed before the fire department can occupy and use the building. De-

spite the number, it’s possible the fixes could be taken care of and the fire department might be able to move in around Jan. 10. During the conversation, the council approved the purchase of new lockers for up to \$10,000; lockers from the former site cannot be transferred to the new one. The old lockers will be put up for sale.

The fire department also requested \$300 for a carbon dioxide monitor and calibrator. A box of furnace filters was also requested. The department also requested permission to sell a side-by-side 4-wheeler, once provided by the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is kept in the department’s building, but is no longer being used. Before the sale can occur, the fire board must also grant its permission.

Mayor Scott Groth expressed gratitude to everyone who helped out during the December snow emergency: “Jerry, fire depart-

ment and ambulance, and to community members that helped out, just a big thank you for that.” There will also be a community meeting for all the businesses at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 2 at the community hall.

City attorney Mark Rahrlick reported he had filed a complaint with the property owners for an address on Eighth Avenue. He also said a court date of Jan. 7 had been set regarding a codification violation at an address on Seventh Avenue.

The clerk’s office project is currently waiting on the electrician, who should begin on the east side by next week.

Since it was the first meeting of the year, legally required appointments were made. For 2026, the city’s official depository is Keen Bank. The official newspaper is the NRHEG Star Eagle. Acting mayor will be Scott Swanson. Membership for various committees was also assigned. Fire department commissioners will be Jon Asplund and Charlie Berg; All city council members will serve as commissioners regarding

water and sewer. Street commissioners are Jon Asplund and Joel Meyer. Maintenance, Jon Asplund and Scott Swanson; Building and grounds, Scott Groth and Joel Meyer; Economic Development Authority (EDA Board), Scott Groth and Scott Swanson; joint powers ambulance board member is Scott Groth. The city’s Clerk Treasurer is Steve Engel. Data practice compliance officer is Steve Engel. Deputy Clerk Treasurer is Kim Zimprich. The city attorney will be Mark Rahrlick. The animal officer will be Josh Otto. The city’s emergency management official is Jerry Ibberson. The fire chief is Logan Busho; Fire Relief Association Trustees are Scott Groth and Jon Asplund. The weed inspector is Josh Otto. Serving as the city parks and trails committee are Joel Meyer and Charlie Berg.

A resolution authorizing donation of money from the Ellendale Fire Relief Association was passed, as was a resolution accepting a donation of money from Badger, Inc.

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STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball		
Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
St. Peter	5-1	9-3
Belle Plaine	4-1	91
Marshall	4-2	6-4
Waseca	3-3	7-4
New Ulm	2-3	5-5
Worthington	1-4	2-11
Tri-City United	0-5	0-10

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	7-1	9-2
Luverne	6-1	10-2
Jackson County Cent.	5-2	8-4
Blue Earth Area	4-3	8-3
St. James Area	3-4	5-4
Pipestone Area	2-5	4-8
Redwood Valley	1-6	2-9
Windom Area	0-6	6-7

Gopher Conference - West		
	Div.	Ov.
Janesville-WP	3-0	13-0
New Richland-HEG	2-1	4-8
United South Central	2-1	3-7
Waterville-EM	1-2	4-7
Medford	0-4	2-9

Gopher Conference East		
	Div.	Ov.
Triton	4-0	9-3
Blooming Prairie	3-1	11-1
Bethlehem Academy	2-1	3-11
Hayfield	1-2	6-5
Randolph	1-3	3-11
Kenyon-Wanamingo	0-4	4-9

Girls' Basketball		
Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Marshall	5-1	9-3
New Ulm	4-1	8-3
St. Peter	4-2	8-3
Tri-City United	3-2	6-7
Belle Plaine	2-3	5-5
Waseca	1-5	2-11
Worthington	0-5	2-11

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	7-0	11-1
Pipestone Area	6-1	11-1
St. James Area	4-2	7-4
Windom Area	4-3	12-3
Luverne	3-3	7-4
Jackson County Cent.	2-5	5-9
Blue Earth Area	1-6	3-10
Redwood Valley	0-7	0-13

Gopher Conference - West		
	Div.	Ov.
New Richland-HEG	3-0	12-2
Janesville-WP	2-1	8-5
Waterville-EM	2-3	5-9
United South Central	1-4	7-5
Medford	0-0	0-0

Gopher Conference - East		
	Div.	Ov.
Hayfield/Schaeffer Ac.	4-0	13-2
Triton	4-1	7-5
Blooming Prairie	3-2	7-5
Bethlehem Academy	1-4	5-7
Kenyon-Wanamingo	1-5	5-9
Randolph	1-4	4-9

Boys' Hockey		
Big South Conference - Black		
	Div.	Ov.
Waseca	4-0	8-5-1
Minnesota River	3-2	7-6
New Ulm	1-3	6-6
Marshall	0-3	2-10

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Div.	Ov.
Luverne	4-0	13-2
Fairmont	3-1	4-5
Windom Area	2-3	4-8
Worthington	1-3	2-12
Redwood Valley	1-4	2-9

Girls' Hockey		
Big South Conference - Black		
	Div.	Ov.
Minnesota River	4-1	13-4
Marshall	2-1	17-4
New Ulm	1-2	4-11
South Central	0-3	0-13

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Div.	Ov.
Fairmont	3-0	8-6
Luverne	2-1	9-7
Worthington/Fulda	1-2	7-10
Windom Area	0-3	4-12

Wrestling		
Big South Conference - Black		
	Div.	Ov.
Marshall/Lakeview	2-0	10-2
Worthington	2-0	3-2
New Ulm	1-0	6-0
Tri-City United	1-1	4-3
Waseca	1-1	3-3
St. Peter	0-2	2-5
Martin County	0-3	3-6

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Div.	Ov.
Jackson County Central	2-0	2-0
Pipestone Area	1-0	7-1
Windom/Mt. Lake	1-0	8-6
St. James-Madelia	1-1	6-4
Redwood Valley	1-1	4-5
Luverne	0-2	4-4
Blue Earth Area	0-2	3-10

Slow-starting NRHEG girls pull away from Triton, 81-58

Buendorf hits five first-half threes, Panthers improve to 12-2

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School girls' basketball team hadn't defeated Triton in three years, and the Panthers found themselves in a 17-17 deadlock with the upstart Cobras last Friday.

Was it time to panic?

No. It was time to lean on Clara Buendorf.

Buendorf, a 5-foot-9-inch junior, sank five three-point baskets in the first half, helping the Panthers to a 44-22 halftime lead they parlayed into an 81-58 victory in New Richland.

"Triton is a physically tough, well-coached team, and we haven't beaten them the past couple of years, so it was great to pick up a win against them tonight," said Panthers coach Onika Peterson.

"The girls went on a strong run in the first half, knocking down some big three-pointers over a 10-minute stretch. Clara had a terrific shooting night."

Buendorf finished with a season-high 24 points, adding 4 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals.

"Our girls stayed composed and never fell apart."

— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

Camryn VanMaldeghem had another big night with 27 points, 6 rebounds and 2 steals.

Others: Gabby Schlaak 10P, 6R, 3A, 1S; Ezra Boerner 2R, 3A, 1S, 1 block; Quinn VanMaldeghem 12P, 17R, 5A, 6S; Savannah Farr 2P, 2R; Chloe Stork 4P, 5R; 2A, 2A, 1B; Emilia Stadheim 2P; Aubrey Hendrickson 1S; Joey Rossing 1R.

"I was extremely impressed with how the girls handled Triton's pressure defense," said Peterson. "Triton came out aggressive in the second half and hit some big threes of their own, but our girls stayed composed and never fell apart. We turn right around with a back-to-back next week—Monday at home vs. St. Peter and Tuesday on the road at WEM."

Last Tuesday, Camryn VanMaldeghem poured in 42 points

as the Panthers claimed a 72-36 victory over United South Central in Wells. It was 30-19 at halftime.

"Tonight wasn't the prettiest game, but a win is a win," said Peterson. "We struggled to buy a basket in the first half and, with 11 minutes remaining, held a slim 2-0 lead. We created plenty of shot opportunities, but nothing seemed to fall early. Once a few shots finally went down, things began to open up—especially in the second half."

Individually: C.VanMaldeghem 42P, 9R, 3S, 2A, 1B; Schlaak 14P, 5R, 2S; Boerner 1P, 2R, 2S, 1A; Q.VanMaldeghem 8P, 6R, 5S, 4A, 1B; Buendorf 7P, 3R, 2S, B; Stork 3R, 3S, 1A; Alayna Groskreutz 1R.

"We have a tough stretch of games coming up over the next couple of weeks, and it will be exciting to see how the girls continue to bat-



ONE OF FIVE — NRHEG junior Clara Buendorf sets up for one of her five first-half three-pointers during the Panthers' 81-58 victory over Triton last Friday. Photo by Jim Lutgens

tle and rally through the challenging stretch of January," said Peterson.

The Panthers, who improved to 12-2 overall and 6-0 in the Gopher Conference, play Jan. 20 at Grand Meadow, host Randolph Jan. 23 and entertain Houston Jan. 24. They have a big home game against JWP Jan. 26.



PIN TO WIN — NRHEG senior Wyatt Larson, tops, works on a pin against Triton's Wylie Deml to clinch last week's 42-32 dual-meet victory in New Richland. Photos by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG matmen top Triton

The NRHEG High School wrestling team was a big shorthanded last Thursday against Triton.

The Panthers made up for it with pins.

NRHEG won four bouts by fall and got three forfeits while defeating the Cobras 42-32 in a dual meet in New Richland.

"It was a great opportunity for some of our younger and less experienced wrestlers to get a chance to compete on the varsity level," said Panthers head coach Krey Cory, who said each of his wrestlers came out aggressively.

"All of the wrestlers continue to go out and wrestle

fearlessly and try to score from every position," said Cory.

The Panthers got falls from Graham Jacobson, Charles Tufte, Noah Weller and Wyatt Larson, while Owen Schlaak, Chase Johannsen and Ryan Schlaak received forfeits. It was the 100th career victory for Ryan Schlaak.

The Panthers, 5-7 overall and 2-1 in the Gopher Conference, host WEM/JWP tonight in a conference dual meet in New Richland, with the junior varsity starting at 6 p.m. and the varsity at 7. They wrestle Saturday in the Hayfield Invitational and Jan. 22 at Waseca.



BACK POINTS — Above, the Panthers' Noah Weller pins Andrew Swenson of Triton. Below, NRHEG's Bo Holland tries to fight off a fall in the 133-pound bout.



NRHEG boys snap three-game losing skid

Loss to tough Triton team leaves Panthers 2-1 in Gopher Conference, 4-8 overall

The NRHEG High School boys' basketball team hosted United South Central last week looking for improvement after a rough Christmas break.

The Panthers got it.

The NRHEG boys snapped a three-game skid, defeating USC 74-63 in a Gopher Conference West clash in New Richland.

"After some intense soul searching at practice yesterday, the boys came out with a lot of energy," said NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt.

It resulted on an 8-0 run to open the game and the Panthers never looked back, building a 15-point lead before allowing the Rebels to finish the first half on a 7-0 run to pull within 39-30 at halftime.

A sluggish start to the second half saw USC fluster the Panthers a bit

and chip away at the lead, but NRHEG continued to battle and built at least a 10-point margin the rest of the way.

"We did a great job of playing with the pace we wanted, and recognizing when to run," said Schmidt.

"We had some great balance tonight, as well, on the scoring end, and it was truly an awesome team win."

Mack Gilliland led the Panthers with 17 points, while Dom Olson scored 16 and A.J. Deen 15.

"Dom had a great game off the bench, including four timely three-pointers," said Schmidt.

"Deen shot well, and Brock Holland continues to be a steady player for us."

Fynn Baumann also had a good game off the bench, according to Coach Schmidt, while Calvin Nissen did a stalwart job distribut-

ing the basketball.

Full individual statistics for NRHEG: Deen 15 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 1 block; Olson 16P, 3R, 3A, 1S; Nissen 2P, 3R, 4A, 3S; Brooks Gilliland 6P, 5R, 2S; Baumann 3P, 3R, 1A; BrendanSchmidt 7P, 5R, 3A, 3S; M.Gilliland 17P, 3R, 1A, 6S; Holland 8P, 6R, 3A, 1S.

The Panthers lost 98-71 Friday on Teacher Appreciation Night for the second game of a girl-boy double-header in New Richland.

"We knew this was going to be a big uphill battle," said Coach Schmidt. "Triton plays such a fast, aggressive style, and has great athletes and shooters all over the court."

The Panthers tried some new offensive tactics to try and compete

but trailed 63-29 at halftime.

"It was a good base going forward, and I was really proud of the way the boys played," said Schmidt.

"We came out in the second half and never hung our heads, keeping the energy high. I thought we moved the ball well. Obviously, there are some defensive things we need to keep working on, but Triton averages 80 points a game, and it truly feels like a track meet when they take the court. I couldn't be prouder of the way we battled all night, and the mood of the boys played a big part in that. No one got down, and I felt they played loose and free."

The Panthers again had good scoring balance, with everyone reaching the scoring column.

Holland led with 16 points, including a couple threes. Brooks

Gilliland scored 11, Mack Gilliland and Olson nine each, Deen eight.

Baumann had another nice game, according to Schmidt, especially defensively against Virginia Tech-bound Pierce Petersohn.

Individual totals for the Panthers: Deen 8P, 4R; Olson 9P; Nissen 4P, 1R, 1A, 1S; B.Gilliland 11P, 2R, 4A, 2S; Baumann 6P, 1R, 2A, 1S; B.Schmidt 3P, 6R, 2A, 1S; M.Gilliland 9P; Holland 16P, 2R, 2A, 1S; Seah Lassahn 3P, 1R, 1A; Levi Whiteside 2P, 1R, 4A, 1S.

The Panthers ran their record to 4-8 overall and 2-1 in the Gopher Conference West while Triton improved to 9-3 and 4-0.

After a Tuesday game against WEM, the Panthers play tonight at GHCT in Granada and Jan. 20 at home against Medford.

Compostings

by Al Batt

How many husbands
to change a lightbulb?

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

My expensive watch with a lifetime guarantee stopped working.

Is the company going to replace it?

No, but one of their representatives is going to call me every hour on the hour and tell me what time it is.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It was foggy. That gave me a good excuse for having a foggy mind. The fog was so thick... How thick was it? It was so thick, I had to go indoors to see my shoes. Fog, ice and January. That's piling on. There should be a penalty.

I exercise every day. I get a good cardio workout by putting on my socks. My goal is to stand up without becoming a one-man band.

A SCENE FROM A MARRIAGE

My friends Ward and June are happily married, but they try to keep that fact a secret.

"We've been married for 47 years, and we've never agreed on a single thing," declared Ward.

"We've been married 48 years," interjected June.

FROM THE MAILBAG

Mark Christenson of Columbia Heights wrote, "Your mention of blizzards reminded me of an old Laurel and Hardy movie, 'Pardon Us.'" Stan Laurel was asked to define the word "blizzard." Stan answered, "A blizzard is the inside of a buzzard."

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

I've visited The Wall in Washington, D.C. several times. Columns of over 58,000 names that weren't all strangers to me. The granite held the engraved names of kin. The most common surname was Smith, with 663; 15 of them named Michael Smith. Philadelphia's Thomas Edison High School had 64 of its students killed in the conflict in Vietnam.

I looked at the rows of names. Memories have thinned; the sounds of voices have faded. The living mark the departures. I took rubbings and photos for relatives. Looking back at me, my reflection in some photos reminded me to remember those on The Wall. Tears were all I had to offer. We aren't diminished by tears. We are made more by shedding them.

I'VE LEARNED

A car key travels more than the car.

The protective case for my

landline phone is my house.

To dance like everyone is looking at their phones.

Leftovers pair well with instant replays.

My sister was lucky. She had two brothers. I had only one.

How many husbands does it take to change a light bulb? Just one, but I don't need to be reminded of it every three months.

NATURE NOTES

I saw an old movie where a bald eagle produced the call of a red-tailed hawk. The hawk's call was used because it sounded fiercer than an eagle's, was easy to dance to, and was more recognizable than the giggles and screams of a bald eagle.

A legend says that back when the world was new, the bald eagle had the voice of a symphony, an aria and a rock concert rolled into one song. When the eagle sang, the world stopped to listen—mesmerized by the beauty of its song. But when the eagle was quiet, the world became too quiet. The gods formed a committee, and after 173 meetings, the gods decided the eagle's voice should be shared with the other birds. Because lawyers had yet to be invented, the eagle had no choice but to comply. Every bird got a voice, eliminating the world's awkward silences. The bald eagle was left with its current vocals that sound as if it's lamenting the loss of its enthralling song.

"My uncle told me opossums came to Minnesota in giant hay bales. Is he correct?" Uncles are seldom correct about anything. I know because I am one. A giant hay bale is no place for anyone with hay fever, and there's no first-class section. They don't even offer tiny bags of pretzels. I've heard tales of opossums hitchhiking in hay bales. It might have happened occasionally, but it wasn't a dependable means of travel. They allegedly caught rides on trucks hauling hay bales northward to the Gopher State, where they'd be served in school lunch programs. Few opossums drove trucks, as arcane laws made it difficult for opossums to obtain driver's licenses. What's a plodding mammal that's slow in processing information and not dressed for winter doing here? They're ardent Minnesota Gopher fans. They don't stock-pile food, hibernate or accumulate body fat reserves. Farms and cities along the roads and rivers offered paths for travel and food. Cities provided a welcome heat island effect.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine."—Anthony J. D'Angelo.

Reflecting on the unusual winter, snow



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

watching the blowing snow fall were different than a usual Sunday morning church service in person.

We thank 1st Lutheran Church for providing the TV service on Sunday morning from channel 6.

This winter has been very unusual temperature-wise. Many times the temperature has warmed up during the night. Many times the temperature has varied 20 degrees in 24 hours.

At one time this winter, people were fishing through the ice on Fountain Lake. (I counted 19 fish houses one day and now there are none on Monday, December 29, 2025 on Fountain Lake in Albert Lea.)

The next full moon is January 18, 2026. Maybe the weather will get back to normal at that time!!

As of now the usual winter prediction of when all the snow will be gone from the parking lot at Central Freeborn Lutheran Church is on hold.

An interesting winter of snowfall so far is more snow of 9.5 inches in one storm this winter than all the last winter, and now 9.5 inches were all gone prior to Christmas 2025.

Speaking of winter: What did the battery say to his blind date? I have a lot of energy and I am a pretty positive guy, but I do have a negative

side!!

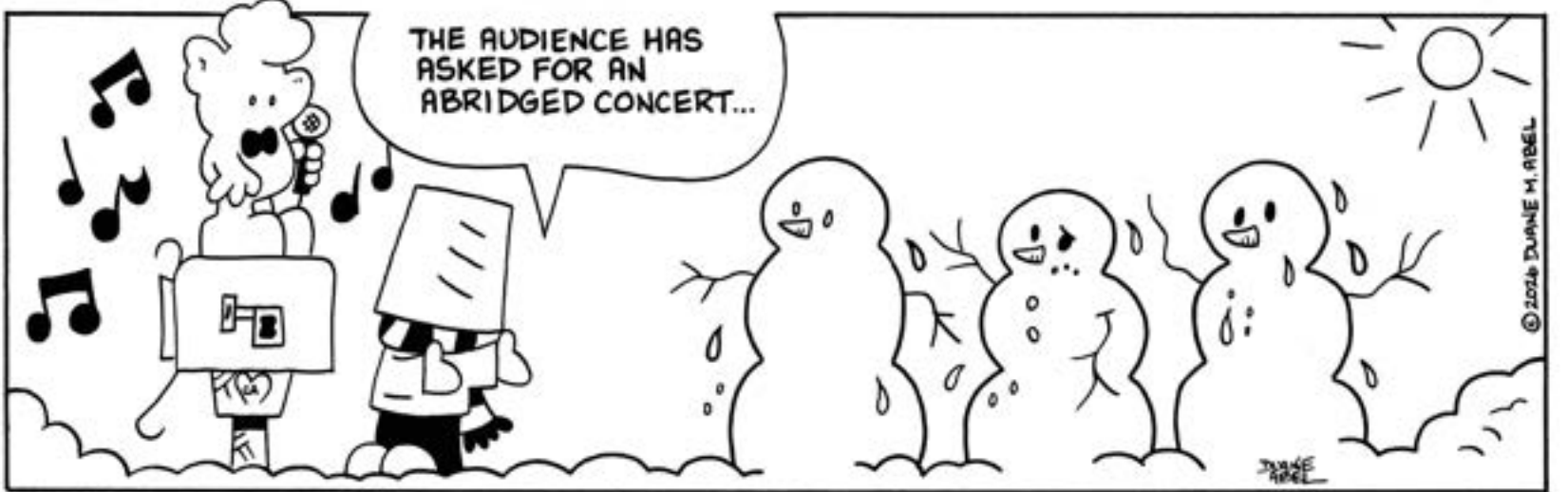
A thought as you're driving a vehicle on a lake: It's bad enough to drop your vehicle in the lake through the ice, let alone 30 days to get the vehicle out of the lake (by Minnesota law).

The male mountain lion seen by Duluth, Minnesota has been seen in the upper peninsula of Michigan. Per the department of natural resources, the only difference is it now is a female with two youngsters!!

A fish house with all the amenities can be rented on Lake of the Woods Zippel Bay for \$125.00 per person per night with access to the Ice Igloo Restaurant on the Lake of the Woods. (The shrimp dinner is excellent.) You can fish and eat at the same time.

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.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County board gets set for coming year

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their Jan. 6 meeting, Waseca County commissioners elected De Malterer as this year's chair, with Brad Krause as vice chair.

At the recommendation of property and election services director Tammy Spooner, the Waseca County Pioneer was named as the official county publication for 2026, meaning that important county notices will be published there. This will be the second year the Pioneer has served in the role; Spooner commented she has been very satisfied with the promptness and thoroughness of the service the Pioneer provides. Official notices and requests for bids from the county highway department will be issued using the highway department website.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, commissioners heard from Audra Veroeven, site manager for the Waseca operations of Palmer Bus Service. Veroeven informed board members that her drivers had been experiencing slippery conditions on numerous roads within the



After the Jan. 6 organizational session, De Malterer, front left, is the chair of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners; vice chair is Brad Krause, center. Remaining board members are Brad Milbrath (far right), Doug Christopherson, in gray, and Brian Harguth (far left).

county, with a number of buses having recently gone into the ditch and needing the services of a tow truck "at \$500 a crack." Veroeven mentioned other types of vehicles had also been encountering difficulties in certain locations, but that the "cargo" carried in school buses is infinitely more precious than that in a farm or gravel truck.

She said her drivers now refer to a section of 140th street as the "valley of doom," claiming that five vehicles had once been in the ditch along a single 500-foot stretch of the road. She also named 440th and 135th avenues as being persistently slippery, and expressed a request that maintenance in those places be upgraded.

Land and Water Resources director Chris Howard requested board members' attention to another legally required start-of-year matter, setting the rate of reimbursement to farmers whose crops are damaged by work performed on a county drainage ditch. After discussion regarding possible mitigating circumstances, commissioners approved Howard's recommendations: \$795 an acre for corn, \$557 an acre for beans, and \$525 an acre when a farmer is pre-

vented from planting crop. During the conversation, Howard acknowledged the rates might be modified if unusual circumstances occurred.

Property and election services director Spooner recommended that the county follow the newly increased IRS recommended rate of 72.5 cents per mile for individuals using personal vehicles on county business. Conversation surrounding the topic revealed that county employees must receive approval in advance if they hope to be reimbursed for mileage.

It was mentioned that commissioners Brian Harguth and Doug Christopherson were marking their ninth anniversaries on the county board.

Also mentioned was an upcoming training for area residents who wish to earn qualifications to join the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Team members learn the processes and channels to be followed when the area experiences a devastating emergency; examples include tornadoes, large-scale flooding, or catastrophic accidents. Any county resident is eligible to take part in the free course. Class sessions will take place across three days: April 17 from 5:30 to 9 p.m.; April 18 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and April 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone wishing to earn certification must attend all three sessions.

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☐ \$67 (rest of Minnesota)

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

You can observe wildlife from home

I can't believe the weather that we have been having lately. It has been more like in March, so as a true Minnesotan I know that we will pay for this eventually.

The light sprinkling of fresh snow that we received the other day gave the ground a fresh look, if only for a few hours. As I walked out of the house, I saw tracks of little birds in the snow along with squirrel and rabbit tracks. We have a very large cat that roams the neighborhood from time to time. The first time I spotted its tracks, I thought of a bobcat or lynx. My fantasy vanished in a second when I observed said cat in the neighbor's yard. It did indeed resemble a bobcat, but the collar around its neck told me that it must be someone's pet.

In looking back a few years, I am recalling all of the wildlife that I have seen around the neighborhood. When I was still working at the City Arena, I came home one night and spotted a coyote walking in front of my garage heading towards the back yard. Another day my wife called to me to come to the porch where we watched two deer walking down the middle of our street. That same day, I spotted a hen turkey walking on top of the fence between our house and the neighbor's. A short time later, my

wife called me to the porch as we observed the hen turkey leading some little ones across the street. These things happened in the middle of our block in broad daylight. I wonder if there was a full moon that night?

I love spending time at our cabin up north because you can see so much wildlife in its natural environment. When you don't have to leave the house to observe that, it really is a unique experience. When I was doing a lot of walking around the neighborhood, I had two deer run in front of me down by the pool. Another time as I was walking down Newton Avenue by the old Ramsey School, I noticed something walking down the middle of the street parallel to me. It was a red fox just prancing along without a care in the world.

These things that happen in your own neighborhood tell me that we are closer to nature than we think. As a young kid, seeing these things would make me wonder how to capture them. As I grew older, I got satisfaction just watching the critters in their own environment.

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.



WILDLIFE - Shown here is a picture of a hen turkey leading her young ones across the street. The other is of two deer cruising down the street across from our house.

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 newsletter for dates.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN
Geneva, Minnesota
Pastor Leandra Anderson
Sunday - 10 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 Gena Parker
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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www.stsidoreschool.webs.com

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

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

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Interim Pastor
Sunday - 9:15 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
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship

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

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President
Waseca, Minnesota
www.lds.org

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

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

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago



- Two dedicated women were recognized for 25 years of employment at the New Richland Care Center at the employee Christmas party on Friday, December 8. Lynda Fleming LPN in the upper photo, is checking through her medications cart for a bandaid requested by an aide. Avis Rugroden, dietary aide, is serving coffee in the dining room to resident Carol Christensen.



- Assisting Shirley Groskreutz with the Christmas music during the part at the Care Center Thursday were Amanda Groskreutz, six years old, Karina Nelson, and the Groskreutz grandson, two and a half year old Ben.

50 years ago

- Mike Suppalla, chairman of the board of the Sno-birds Snowmobile club here at New Richland, presents Kris Hagen with a check for taking first in a club badge design contest run by the club for young artists in the community. Kris badge was chosen over other entries and will appear on members' snowmobile suits.

- Waldorf-Pemberton defeated the Minnesota Lake Grapplers 43-21, Friday evening, to remain in first place of the Valley Conference.

- Ronda M. Borchert, Maryle J. Scott and Cindra J. Jensen, all of New Richland, were named to the fall quarter Dean's List at Austin Community College. Ronda and Maryle received 4.0 averages.

75 years ago

- A daughter weighing eight pounds, five and a half ounces was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Haugs of Owatonna, at the Owatonna hospital, Wednesday January 31. The Haug have a little daughter, Constance.

- Waseca county has a new county nurse, Mrs. Eva Quiram of Waterville has been appointed to that office by the board of county commissioners. Mrs. Quiram will take charge April 1.



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LEGAL NOTICE

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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■ Geneva from Page 5

another of a squirrel. There was also a HOPE sign, which had been made using horse shoes.

Also up for bid was a decorative two-handled painted saw that had Live Well, Laugh Often, Love Much on one side and All Hearts Come Home for Christmas on the other. And Gwen Reese donated a collection of items from the Turtle Dove Boutique in Ellendale.

A good collection of t-shirts, ball caps, and stocking hats from many of the local businesses and organizations as well as Geneva Cancer Auction items were put for bid, including a number of Fighting the Fight, which has become one of the cancer fighting themes and another We Are Stronger Together.

A number of homemade cutting boards, as well as a decorative child's chair, a rocking chair, a great wood music stand and an end table, were all put up for bid, along with a collection of homemade fishing poles. It also had a few Christmas items too, including a ceramic Christmas tree, a felt snowman, and a collection of small crystal Christmas trees.

There were also a couple of pigs at the auction too. The first pink pig was taken around the bar and people proceeded to fill its belly with cash money. Once the pig was stuffed full, it was auctioned off. The lucky bidder took the cash out and donated the pig back, and once again it was filled with money. Later in the auction, another pig was also filled with cash.

The auction included a variety of quilts and assorted blankets, including some with a variety of different scenes, deer or John Deere Tractors to name a few. Some of the blankets were crocheted or knitted, and there even were a couple of pillows too.

And what would a Geneva Cancer Auction be without food, including many trays of deviled eggs that many people were able to enjoy right away. There were also many cartons of farm fresh eggs in cartons on the auction block too, including some brown eggs.

As stated earlier, one of the first items up for bid was a quart of Sue Hills' pickles, but there were many more quarts later put up for bid, including some hot pickles, as well as canned asparagus and sauerkraut.

Georges of Geneva sent over a collection of dinners, including prime rib, barbecued



ribs, a t-bone steak and chicken alfredo. The Pizza Cellar contributed several flavors of pizzas, along with a pizza box of cheese break and the 3 in 1 Bar in Hollandale brought over a couple of chicken dinners too.

Of course there were several sets of homemade cinnamon rolls, banana bread, apple zucchini bread, along with loaves of homemade bread, doughnuts, pecan pie, assorted cheesecakes, blueberry and lemon poppyseed muffins, cupcakes, peanut cluster, scotcheroos, yummy bars, and assorted cookies, including chocolate chip, M&M and sugar, and we can't forget the lefse.

Several of the local businesses, Geneva Meats, Steve's and Neighborhood Meats donated a number of meat and cheese trays, along with crackers. There was also an assortment of jerky's up for bid, as was a large crockpot filled with meatballs and another with chicken soup.

Superior Foods donated containers of salads and there were a couple of quart jars of apple pie filling as well as smoked salmon.

And for those looking for something sweet or crunchy, there was Karen Osmundson's caramels, peanut and peanut cashew brittle, peanut clusters, turtle pecan candy, a gallon size bag of almond bark popcorn and jars of Chex Mix, etc.

Of course, once again there was a great collection of wines, several flavors of homemade moonshine, apple pie snoops, Rum Chada and Jell-o shots.

Also put up for bid was a screwdriver set, a pliers set, a wrench set, battery charger, a self-sharpening chain saw, a NAPA jump

starter, a cordless inflator, a large Lily Pad, Smokey Joe grill and tools and 100 feet of air hose. And the cancer donor didn't forget the dogs, and gave a couple of dog pads for them to lie on.

And what would a Geneva Cancer auction be without a number of oil changes from area merchants. The 2026 auction also contained a great deal of gift cards from many of the area businesses, including Lerberg's, Wagner Foods, Krauses and the Wil-lows to name a few, as well as subscriptions to the Star Eagle.

This year's auction also had a number of jewelry items up for bid too, including a bracelet that had been made by Barb Kuchenebecker's grandchildren, in memory of Barb's brighter Roger. Stadheim Jewelry in Albert Lea donated a gold plated necklace and earrings, a sterling silver Infinity bracelet and a drop leaf necklace pendant.

Once again this year the Geneva Cancer auction included a mini 'Farm Auction' at 3 p.m on Saturday that contained a number of farm related items, including a variety of seed, and half a hog with processing. Ulland Brothers donated a couple of shovels, along with loads of crushed rock.

Also on Saturday afternoon, two young ladies, Haley and Gracie Luna, had their hair cut during the auction. Haley's mother Roxie Habana passed away this past year from uterine cancer and she wanted to honor and remember her during the auction and do what she could to help in the fight. While the girls were getting their haircuts, a large tray was taken around the Geneva Bar and people placed donations as part of the haircutting event. Later it was learned that a total of \$3,480 had been raised in



MAKING A CHANGE - Left, Wild Game Feed donated \$29,000 from their yearly fundraiser. Making the presentation on Saturday was David Thompson, Brenda Misgen, Al Beenken, Fred Vokoun, Steve Bailey, and Troy Hagen. Barb Kuck-enbecker is in the corner of the picture, she was "Clerking" at the time. There was also a metal sign, right, that sold during the auction. The sign says "41 Years Proud-Wild Game Feed."

honor of the girls' good deed.

This year a great collection of items were put in a basket and brought to the cancer auction in remembrance of "Finley." Finley passed away several years ago when she was only 7 years old. Her family and friends have a special remembrance of her during the cancer auction each year.

On Saturday, December 4, an annual Wild Game Feed was held, and a group of representatives from the feed, Mayor Steve Bailey, Brenda Misgen, David Thompson, Al Beenken, Fred Vokoun, Brian Muri and Troy Hagen, made their yearly presentation on Saturday, Jan. 10, and announced that \$29,000 had been raised in December this past year.

A large metal sign, "41 Years Proud-Geneva Wild Game Feed" was also put up for auction.

Many of the items that are donated for the auction are given in memory of people from our area who are no longer with us and they were also remembered over the course of the weekend auction.

I wish that I was able to include all of the many items that were put up for bid, but this head of mine isn't able to keep up with things at times and I hope that you will forgive me. Please know that any and all donations, along with all the great support that

is given, are very much appreciated. I would also like to offer a special thank you to the many people who give of their time and talents during the auction each year too. The auction would not be possible if it weren't for these people donating their time and talents. An auction is not possible without auctioneers or auctioneer assistants, as well as the people who walk the different items around the bar, so people can get a closer look. It also needs clerks who keep track of the many different items donated and then auctioned, so people are able to pay for the many items that they were the highest bidder on. Cancer auctions also need to have great set up and clean up crews, along with a great group of Geneva Bar and Grill employees to make it successful.

The 2026 Geneva Cancer Auction will resume on Friday night of this week at 7 p.m. as well as again at 2 p.m Saturday, Jan. 17.

The annual Eagles Cancer Telethon will take place in Rochester this upcoming weekend, representing the many great people from our area who donated their talents in organizing many different fundraising events over the past year, as well as those who donated items, raising money in Geneva over the past year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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