

Recycling push

The Henderson Lions and Ladies Tourist Club are 120 pounds away from their goal, with six weeks to go. P. 6

Vaccine mandate

The United States Supreme Court struck down the "Vaccine or Test" mandate last Thursday. P. 7



Boys basketball

The Giants had an amazing week, winning 3 of 4 games and setting a new school record. P. 10



The Henderson Independent

Serving
Henderson and the
Minnesota River area
since 1856!

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LS-H One Act Play



PHOTO BY RACHEL MILLER

The Le Sueur-Henderson One Act play achieved a rare feat on Saturday, Jan. 15, when they were awarded a Star rating for their production, "The 146 Point Flame." This year's cast includes (front row) Director Mikhayla Clausen, Gavin Schwarz, Kaylee Smykalski, Gabby Davidson, Aerial Ingles, Janorra Childress, Assistant Director Colin Schultz, (back row) Austin Kleinschmidt, Sami Pollack, Alexa Olson, Sophia Davig and Johnna Maxwell.

"The 146 Point Flame" earns Star performance

By Rachel Miller
Editor

The Le Sueur-Henderson One Act Play received a rare honor on Saturday, when they were one of three casts to receive a Star rating in the Minnesota River Conference One Act Play Festival. Belle

Plaine and Tri-City United also received Star performances.

LS-H also received a second honor as Gabby Davidson and Aerial Ingles both received MRC All-Conference recognition for their depiction of Russian immigrant sisters Yetta and Lena.

Achieving a Star perfor-

mance is no easy feat. Judges rate the shows for physical characterization, overall effectiveness of ensembles, the educational value and technical elements, and both judges need to agree a show is worthy

ONE ACT PLAY

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Henderson garage goes up in flames

By Beth Cornish
Independent staff

An early morning garage fire has left one Henderson resident heartbroken.

"It was horrific," Denise Hogan Thostenson said after the fire was extinguished. "My chest hurts so bad and my eyes hurt from crying. I truly am grateful for it not being our house, but I lost everything in there."

She and partner Kent Thostenson were watching television shortly before midnight on Monday, Jan. 17 when they heard sirens. They weren't concerned until they realized there were lights flashing through their bedroom curtains, so they looked outside and realized that one of their garages was on fire.

When they rushed out to the alley, the building was almost completely engulfed in flames and the Henderson Fire Department was on scene. Apparently there was a minor technical difficulty in getting enough water pressure, but the garage was already a complete loss when the Henderson Fire Department arrived.

Flames were licking at

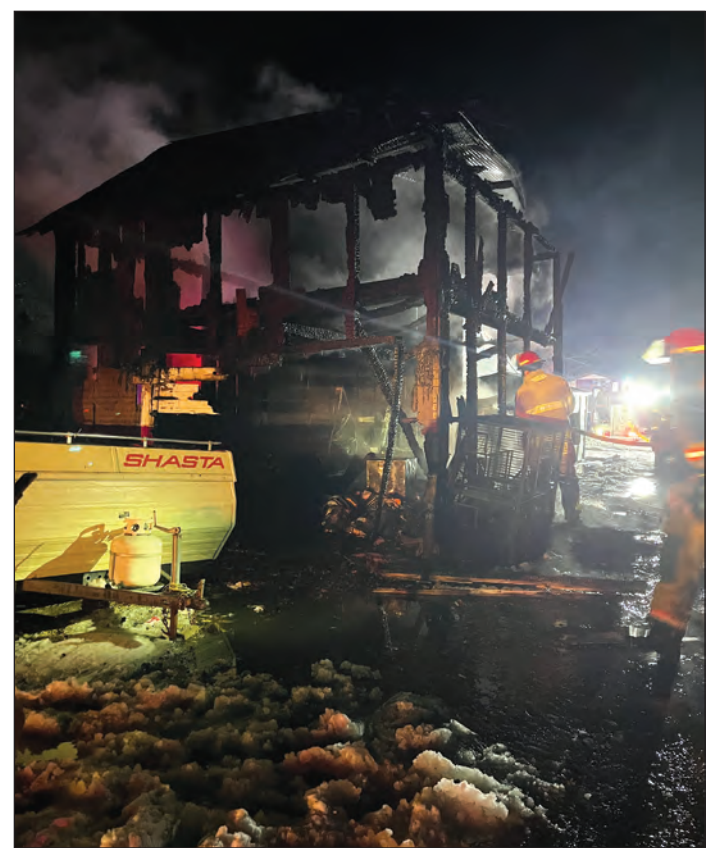


PHOTO BY DENISE HOGAN

The fire is out and the Henderson Fire Department is testing the building for stability.

the shed behind the garage, the neighbor's garage, and melting the insulation off the overhead powerlines by the time water started to spray, but the shed and other surrounding buildings were saved, scorched, but still standing.

No one knows yet what

caused the fire. The fire marshal will be investigating and trying to determine a cause. The old wooden garage was not connected to electricity and the family did not have any

FIRE

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Henderson Independent Year in Review, Part 3

By Beth Cornish
Independent staff

The following were among the top stories printed in the Independent between

September-December 2021.

SEPTEMBER

Agnes Milam, a 15-year volunteer at Treasures In Town in Le Sueur was the honoree for a special surprise birthday party to celebrate her 100th birth-

day on Aug. 26. She was the recipient of numerous goodies including a piggy bank stuffed with Susan B. Anthony coins, a pink tiara and a sash that read "100 and Fabulous!"

True Realty hosted a custom-

er appreciation event at Bender Park with a cookout meal, beverages, live music and a dunk tank.

The Henderson Community Foundation chose to donate \$1,000 to the Henderson Police Department in their drive to place security cameras on Main Street and \$1,200 to Henderson Pride to repair the fountain and replace bushes near the Community Building.

Taryn Rice opened a new Montessori school in Henderson. Located in the old boardroom building on North 5th Street, the Northern Oaks Children's House started the new school year with 13 children age 6 and younger. Rice, the daughter of Tom and LaDonna Bender, always thought she would follow in both her grandmothers' footsteps and become an elementary school teacher, but she learned about Montessori methods during a trip to Italy. She finished specialized training and got her Master's in Education prior to opening the school.

A new project brought together volunteers from the Lions Club, Ladies Tourist Club,

GFWC and the Friends of the Henderson Public Library. The project plans to collect 500 pounds of plastics of types that are not recycled under conventional methods in order to earn a bench for downtown. Wendy Beck, Beth Cornish and Judy Loewe got everything up and running in early Sept.

Darrell Kolden of Le Sueur was recognized for 50 years of service at the Minnesota Funeral Directors Convention. The awards ceremony was delayed a year due to COVID. Even though he sold his business to his son and daughter-in-law, he continues to work full-time.

The Le Sueur-Henderson Middle/High School was evacuated due to a gas smell. After investigation, authorities learned that the odor originated outside the building and was pulled inside by the ventilation system.

The Belle Plaine Herald announced they were closing up shop as of the first of the month and negotiations commenced for Rachel Miller, current editor, to acquire the Indy.

The TCU/LS-H Titans Swim and Dive team crushed it at a

home pool dual meet, beating both Mounds Park Academy and Lakes International Language Academy.

The Straubs showed off a couple of giant puffball mushrooms they found in their wanderings and even provided cooking instructions and a report on the finished product.

The Henderson City Council hosted a public meeting on Sept. 15 to listen to complaints from Maple Ridge residents about the quality, color and smell of their water. The city engineering consultants, Short Elliott Hendrickson, had a representative on hand to explain that there is a mobile lab already in place trying to determine what, if anything, is wrong with Hen-

YEAR IN REVIEW
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



PHOTO BY RACHEL MILLER

Birthday girl Agnes Milam was treated to a surprise 100th birthday party at Treasures in Town in Le Sueur on Thursday, Aug. 26. Her actual birthday is Aug. 24. Pictured from left to right is the Treasures Thursday volunteer crew, Joan Wacker, Joan Culbert, Eunice Lueck, Milam, Marcie Allen and Joyce Gisvold.



Republican precinct caucuses set for Tuesday, Feb. 1

On Tuesday, Feb. 1 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Republicans across Minnesota will be gathering for precinct caucuses. Those eligible to vote in the 2022 election will have the opportunity to cast a vote in the gubernatorial Preference Ballot, which is the first step in choosing the Republican candidate for Minnesota's

governor.

Attendees will also be discussing issues and platform resolutions, and electing delegates to the Sibley County Republican Convention which will be held on Saturday, March 12 in Gaylord.

Sibley County Caucuses will meet at the following locations:

Henderson Community Center,

600 Main Street, Henderson: Hosting the City of Henderson, and the townships of Henderson, Kelso, Jessenland and Faxon.

Sibley County Courthouse Annex basement, 400 Court Avenue, Gaylord: Hosting the cities of Gaylord and New Auburn, and townships of New Auburn, Sibley and Dryden.

GFW High School Cafeteria,

North Cottonwood Street, Winthrop: Hosting the City of Winthrop and townships of Bismarck, Cornish, Transit and Alfsborg.

Gibbon Elementary School Cafeteria, 323 E. 11th Street, Gibbon: Hosting the City of Gibbon and the townships of Moltke, Severance and Grafton.

Sibley East High School Choir

Room, 202 3rd Avenue NW, Arlington: Hosting the cities of Arlington and Green Isle and the townships of Arlington, Green Isle and Washington Lake.

For more information you can go to www.mngop.com or call Emily Gruenhagen at 320-864-3911.

Guests and observers are also welcome to attend.

FROM OUR FILES

130 YEARS AGO JAN. 22, 1892

The ice harvesters have begun to cut and garner their crop. The quality of the ice is fine, two feet thick and clear as crystal.

The coldest weather known here this winter was felt Monday night of this week, the thermometer registering 33 below. It kept growing milder with a south wind until Wednesday, when it was comfortable enough to be out without an overcoat.

The case of Michael Dwyer of Green Isle was opened in Judge Kirby's court last Saturday. Dwyer's attorney moved for dismissal of the case on account of a flaw in the papers authorizing Dwyer's arrest. The motion was granted but later that day he was re-arrested on another warrant for the original charge of assault and battery on Peter Cairncross.

There is a good-sized squabble on betwixt the printers of Le Sueur County. The county printing was awarded to Editor Kelley of Montgomery and the other printers applied to the district court for an injunction restraining the county auditor from delivering the county printing to Keeley, upon the grounds that the Montgomery paper was not issued every week last year and thus had lost its title to legal publications. The injunction was granted by Judge Cadwell and the matter will be tried in the district court next week.

120 YEARS AGO JAN. 24, 1902

Fred Hermann had one of his eyes injured last Saturday by a particle of steel and was compelled to go to Minneapolis Tuesday, to consult a specialist. The piece of steel was successfully removed.

The masquerade ball given by the Henderson orchestra Saturday evening was the most successful one in years. The hall was crowded, standing room being at a premium, with an estimated 300 people in attendance. The maskers were well represented and many handsome and original costumes were in evidence. Prizes were awarded to: Miss Annie

Radford, John Enkhaus, Miss Sophia Wegge and Charles Botts. The music was satisfactory and dancing went until 4 a.m.

The laying of the trans-Pacific cable is now assured. It will complete the telegraphic circuit of the globe. The cable is being manufactured in this country and will be laid by skilled American electricians and engineers. It will be the longest submarine cable in the world, extending 8,000 miles from San Francisco to Manila, touching at Honolulu and Guam.

The senate committee on pensions Monday ordered a favorable report from Senator Hanna's bill to grant a pension of \$5,000 a year to Mrs. Ida McKinley, widow of the late President.

70 YEARS AGO JAN. 18, 1952

What promises to be one of the most enjoyable events on the winter calendar will be staged on Sunday evening at the Henderson High School auditorium. The committee has decided to call the event "The Gay Ninety Revue" and will consist of characters from all parts of Sibley County modeling costumes characteristic of historical periods dating back to 1800. Costumes will include dresses worn for Sunday best and domestic life featuring hoop skirts, bustles, laces and fer-be-lows, loaned from the State Historical Society. All profits from ticket sales will go to the Sibley County Historical Society.

On Jan. 8 the Henderson Tigers roared on to a victory over the Le Sueur Giants. The Giants took the early lead but by the end of the first quarter the Tigers had taken a 12-11 lead that became a 27-23 lead at the half. The Tigers held on to win 57-47. Big Wayne Doheny and Bob Schrupp controlled the backboards with the latter being the high scorer with 15 points. The high scorer for Le Sueur was center Doug Nelson, who made the nets sing loudly with 18 points.

60 YEARS AGO JAN. 18, 1962

Brake failure on the west Henderson hill was responsible for a semi-truck mishap last Friday that brought three Minnesota Highway Patrol cars and Henderson Chief of Police Schriever to the scene. The truck transporting 104 cases of eggs crashed through a guardrail and 100 feet down an embankment without breaking a single egg. The driver debated on his course of action when he realized his brakes were out as he was going down a steep hill, but before he had decided whether to jump from the cab or try to bring the truck to a stop at the bottom of the hill, the truck hit an icy patch and broke through the guardrail.

He made a desperate grab for control as the truck was heading into the trees and ended up parked between two trees, one of which had bark scraped off by the wheel nut of the left front wheel of the tractor as it went by. It took Roger Graham with his caterpillar tractor and



From the Jan. 18, 2012 edition of the *Henderson Independent*: Jarek Connolly shows his excitement after pinning his Watertown-Mayer opponent at a home triangular on Thursday. (Compiled by Beth Cornish)

Lloyd Beseke with a county grader nearly two hours before they managed to pull the rig back up the embankment. On Thursday evening a trucker hauling a semi-load of livestock to South St. Paul lost a rear left tandem wheel while descending the same hill.

A low of minus 22 was recorded here Wednesday morning and many motorists found it impossible to start their cars. This marked the tenth time in the 16 January days so far that the mercury has skidded into sub-zero depths. Bemidji reported minus 40 and Saw Mill Lodge (wherever that is) had minus 42.

According to Dr. Schoenbeider, president of the Minnesota Chiropractic Association, "The twist is tough on the sacroiliac and lumbar spinal vertebrae, the limbo often induces lumbago, while the cha cha, mambo and samba irritate the lower spine to the point where sciatic nerve involvements often result." He predicts these dances and others coming from the Amazon will result in increased loads for orthopedists and chiropractors, and he recommends that anyone over 40 seek milder forms of exercise.

50 YEARS AGO JAN. 20, 1972

Little did Fireman LeRoy Wieland think the first run of the new Henderson Fire Department truck would be to his home, but about 5:30 a.m. Monday the department was called to the Wieland residence on North Sixth Street to fight a stubborn fire which caused an estimated \$3,500 to \$5,000 in damage. Luckily the dog barking in the basement woke Mrs. Wieland who smelled smoke and awakened her family, all of whom escaped the smoke-filled house. Not so fortunate were the family dog and cat in the basement. The cause of the fire is believed to be the wood burning fireplace that had been used the previous evening. The smoke damage is so extensive it will probably be a couple of months before the family can return home.

Mr. and Mrs. Myron Nelson of Gaylord are the proud par-

ents of triplets born Jan. 12 at the Gaylord Community Hospital. The infants are: Amy Jo, 5 lbs. 1 oz.; Jodi Lynn, 5 lbs. 8 oz.; and Barbara Sue, 4 lbs. 12.5 oz. Mrs. Nelson didn't have to travel far as they live in a mobile home across the street from the hospital. After more than doubling the size of their family, the couple are looking for new housing.

40 YEARS AGO JAN. 21, 1982

Henderson's 1,000-pound celebrity pig, "Big Ed" continues to promote his new pork cookbook, Superpork. Ed and his co-author Ron Lieske will be at the Cobblestone Court in Burnsville on Saturday with books for sale. Roger Erickson of WCCO Radio will also be on hand broadcasting live.

Alison Jones of Le Sueur has joined the law practice of Lawrence Bruender, who maintains offices in Le Sueur and Belle Plaine. She is married to attorney Doug Nelson who is associated with Theodore Melby & Associates, P.A. in Henderson. Jones graduated in June of 1980 from the University of Minnesota Law School and passed the bar in Feb. 1981.

30 YEARS AGO JAN. 23, 1992

The developers or property owners would pay for public improvement costs associated with the development of 32 residential units on the southwest edge of the city. That was the message shared with more than 40 people who attended the public meeting on Jan. 14 that highlighted the Westridge/Maple Ridge project. The developers are Mark and Debbie Schaefer and Robert "Orangy" Lawrence (Westridge) and Steve and Glenna Fries (Maple Ridge). As of that meeting the city was asking the developers to pay \$30,000 to the city upon signing the agreement and the remaining, water, sanitary sewer, street base and engineering costs would be assessed equally over the 32 available lots. Assessed costs are estimated between \$130,000 to \$140,000 total or \$4,000 to \$5,000 per lot.

Another concern raised was

whether there would be a water pressure problem with the new addition. City Administrator Lon Berberich explained that six lots in Maple Ridge and 19 lots in Westridge would not be accessible without a booster pump and provisions would be made for such in the developer's agreement. Other information presented showed that the city would receive about \$700 from taxes on a \$100,000 value property and about \$150 from a building permit for said home. In a side note, Fries said there have been 17 homes built in Henderson in the last 10 years. The hearing concluded with citizen Dennis Graham commending the developers for pursuing the project despite the obstacles. He said the project could be a benefit to the city and the school system. The audience applauded after Graham spoke.

While visiting in Gaylord enroute to the John Bear Grease sled dog race in Grand Marais, Bill and Cindy Gallea of Seely Lake, MT gave their teams a surprising workout. Twenty powerful, lean and excited Alaskan Huskies pulled a pickup truck down a graveled Sibley Township road. The 25-mile route was a routine workout for the dogs. The road was used because snow conditions along a snowmobile trail were not good enough for the sleds. Both Dr. and Mrs. Gallea will run 10-dog teams in the 130-mile portion of the event, where the dogs will pull a 40-pound sled loaded with water, food, dog food and emergency equipment for a total of about 100 pounds.

20 YEARS AGO JAN. 17, 2002

An official announcement on Jan. 11 revealed that Henderson's Community Capital Inc. and the New Country School are looking for a quarter of a million dollars, locally, regionally and nationally, to fund the construction of a new technology wing for the public charter school building. Community Capital is a non-profit that was founded to take over the building's ownership as public

money to purchase buildings so every charter school should have a holding firm for property ownership.

10 YEARS AGO JAN. 18, 2012

Monday night was training night at the Henderson Fire Department. Former Henderson resident and Coon Rapids Fire Captain Ken Boelter was the presenter with a talk about situation awareness. Local Chief Brandon Phillips said this provides a good lesson for members of the HFD as they are a young, aggressive department and they need someone to say "whoa, we can't rush into this." The guest speaker is related to Cody Boelter, who recently replaced Dan Lansing as the training coordinator. In the next few months, the HFD will bid adieu to 44-years of combined experience as 24-year veteran Irene Doerr and 20-year veteran Lansing will close their chapters as fire and rescue volunteers.

Micahya Samora, a student at Hilltop Elementary, recently had a piece selected for My Little Red Balloon, an annual anthology featuring some of the best student writing from the statewide COMPAS Arts Education Residency program. The fourth-grader's submission is a short story entitled The Lost Friends.

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Beth Cornish, Office Manager

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OBITUARIES

John E. Seaver - 76

John Edmund Seaver, loving husband, father and grandfather, passed on to the Lord at the age of 76 on Sunday, January 9, 2022 with his family by his side at Ridgeview Hospital in Waconia, MN. Memorial services will be determined at a later time.

John (Jack) was born on November 23, 1945 in Minneapolis to Herbert and Eileen (Efta) Seaver. He grew up in the St. Patrick/Jordan area.

He married Kathleen Liebhard on April 24, 1965, at Assumption Church in Assumption. They were married for 56 happy years raising five children in rural Belle Plaine and moved to Henderson about 12 years ago.

He began working at a young age on his Grandpa Efta's farm and also worked at a service station in Savage. He then transitioned into 50 years of truck driving, including driving a milk truck, gravel truck and later independent truck driving, having his own trucking company. He absolutely loved Peterbilt Semi Trucks. He was a very hard worker and together John and Kathy worked hard to provide for their family.



John had a passion for old cars and enjoyed watching old car shows on television. He also had a passion for coming up with many new projects around the house. He very much enjoyed going to auctions, garage sales and antiquing with Kathy. John loved spending time with his family and sitting around together talking about everything under the sun. John's family loved to listen to all of his stories and his advice. He loved his wife and kids and family very much. He absolutely adored having his grandchildren around. He was always there for his family whenever they needed him. Words cannot

express how much he is loved and will be dearly missed.

John is survived by his wife Kathleen of Henderson; children Curtis (Sima) Seaver of Bloomington, James Seaver of Henderson, Michelle (Michael) Thackrey of Plato, Russell "Rusty" (Sandi) Seaver of Henderson and Heidi (Noah) Schwalbe of Waconia; grandchildren Corey (Leah) Schaaf, Darya, Ryan and Kara Seaver, Tasha and Derek Seaver, Vaughn (Jackie) Phillips, Valerie Seaver, Amber (Brandon) Roberts, Brittany Thackrey, Collin Thackrey, Traugott, Odin and Castle Schwalbe as well as many great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews; siblings Danny (Penny) Seaver, Dale Kohler, Tim (Janette) Kohler, and Susan (Bob) Fahey; sisters-in-law Linda (Brian) Trost, Janet (Vlad) Martz, Lynette (Larry) Johnson, and Layna Liebhard; and brothers-in-law Robert (Carol) Liebhard, Leroy (Doreen) Liebhard, Brian (Shiela) Liebhard, and Wayne (Joy) Liebhard.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother-in-law Gene Liebhard and sister Christie Kohler.

Fire fundraiser deemed a success

By Rachel Miller
Editor

A good crowd gathered at Neisen's Riverside Sports Bar in St. Peter on Saturday to raise money for Neisen's employees Jeff Terp-

stra and Joe Mueller, who lost everything in an apartment fire a week before Christmas.

Both Terpstra and Mueller were touched by everyone who came out. Terpstra said he saw people he knew from when he worked at St. Peter's Oodles Cafe 15 years ago.

Mueller was touched by the generosity of everyone who came down to support them, and Missy Leighton, who helped coordinate the event with Henderson's Katie Straub, deemed the benefit a success.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL MILLER

Lots of people turned out to support Le Sueur native Joe Mueller and St. Peter's Jeff Terpstra. Above, Missy Leighton (left) and Henderson's Katie Straub (right) helped plan the fundraiser to benefit Terpstra (middle, left) and Mueller (middle, right).



Dozens and dozens of items were donated for the silent auction, and some items, like a stained glass hanging, drew quite a bidding war. Items included sports apparel, certificates, candy bouquets, bedding, hardware supplies and more.

HENDERSON SENIOR DINING MENU

Thursday, Jan. 20: Chicken fried steak with gravy, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, bread with margarine, dessert, low fat milk

Friday, Jan. 21: Fish patty with tartar sauce on a bun, cheesy hashbrowns, baked beans, peaches, low fat milk

Monday, Jan. 24: Chicken ala king over a biscuit, carrots, warm apple slices, dessert, low fat milk

Tuesday, Jan. 25: Ham with pineapple sauce, au gratin potatoes, peas, dinner roll with margarine, dessert, low fat milk

Wednesday, Jan. 26: Beef patty with gravy, mashed potatoes with gravy, California normandy vegetables, bread with margarine, dessert, low fat milk

Phone number: 1-866-985-8514 (10 a.m. to noon, best time to call)

WORSHIP SERVICES

Centennial Lutheran Church
701 Locust St., Henderson
Pastor Dennis McManus, vacancy pastor;
Cell: (320) 808-0624
Sundays - 9 a.m. Worship

Church of St. Joseph
213 S. 6th St., Henderson
Msgr. Eugene Lozinski •
507-248-3550
Sunday Mass - 9 a.m.
Tuesday morning service, 8:30 a.m.

St. John - Assumption Parish
26523 - 200th St. Belle Plaine
Msgr. Eugene Lozinski •
507-248-3550
Saturday Evening Service, 5 p.m.
Wednesday morning - 8:30 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church
32234 431st Ave. Gaylord
Pastor Scott Richards
507-248-3550
Sundays: 9:30 - Faith Formation
10:30 - Worship

Creekside Community Church
Christian & Missionary Alliance
114 Shamrock Dr., Arlington
Pastor Tom McCracken
(507) 964-2872
Email: creeksidecma@gmail.com
Video worship at www.creeksidechurchcma.org

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)
229 S. 6th St., Le Sueur,
Church 507-665-3477
Rev. Patrick Feldus
920-918-9949
Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
38597 State Highway 19, Arlington
Pastor Gary Ruckman (507) 964-2400
stjohnsarlingtonmn.org
9 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study
10 a.m. Sunday Service

New Hope Baptist Church
2020 Marshall Road, Shakopee
Pastor Tim Douglas (952) 403-5146
Visit www.newhopebaptistchurchmn.com for links
to online services

Word of Life Church
890 Kingsway Drive, Le Sueur
Pastor Jason Lang
10 a.m. Sunday in person worship
Online services still available live Sunday at 10 a.m.
on Facebook or Instagram;
www.wordoflifemn.com

Sunrise Church
722 Sunrise Dr., St. Peter
Pastor Mark Thompson
10 a.m. Sunday service live streaming

St. Anne's Church
217 N. 3rd St., Le Sueur
Fr. Chris Shofner
Parish Office: (507) 665-3811
www.stanneschurchlesueur.org
See archspm.org/covid19 for mass and prayer
resources

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
111 S. 6th St., Henderson
Rev. Deb Meyer - (507) 248-3594
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Gaylord Assembly of God
26958 MN-5, Gaylord • (507)237-5341
Pastor Bob Holmbeck
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship Service 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening
supper, Bible classes and Youth Focused
Need a ride? Call (507) 237-5117

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
14226 W. 280th St., Henderson
(507) 665-2932
Pr. Foy Christopherson
9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship service
Also on Facebook Live

United Methodist Church
730 South 6th St., Le Sueur
Pastor Terri Horn
1:30 & 7:30 p.m. broadcast CATV #7
lesueurumc.org

All services will be livestreamed on Facebook and later available for viewing on www.lesueurumc.org

Jehovah's Witness
Kingdom Hall, South 9th St., Henderson
Go to www.jw.org/en for video to download, or
watch online

River Rock Church
PO Box 184, Belle Plaine (952) 873-5453
Chris Teien-Senior Pastor
Dan Jetto-Worship Pastor
330 S. Market St. in Belle Plaine.
www.riverrockchurch.com
Watch services online at www.riverrockchurch.com/
watch

First Lutheran Church
116 Inner Dr., Le Sueur
(507) 665-2615
9 a.m. In-person worship
Communion first & third Sunday
Visit www.firstlutheranlesueur.org for links to our
live broadcast on our YouTube page

Zion United Church of Christ
240 South Elmwood St., Le Sueur
Rev. Kent Meyer, Sr. Pastor,
Rev. Rosemary Rocha, Visitation
Listen to a radio broadcast, 10 a.m., on KCHK 1350
AM or 95.5 FM.
In person worship has resumed at 9 a.m. Sunday.

Celebrate Your Love this Valentine's Day!

Let the Henderson Independent be part of your love story! Show your love how much you care with a heart-shaped Valentine gram in our Feb. 10 edition!



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participate
is Friday,
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507-248-3223 to reserve your space now!



PHOTOS BY RACHEL MILLER

Henderson's Ron Lieske has grown pumpkins for years, but this past fall was the first time he grew a half-ton whopper of a pumpkin. Named "Nick" after the owner of the giant pumpkin whose seeds the pumpkin came from, Lieske's pumpkin weighed 1,186 pounds. The weight was a personal record, and Lieske is already hoping to break it next season.



Le Sueur Mayor Shawn Kirby cuts the ribbon to officially welcome vehicle traffic to the newly reconnected Main Street on Monday, Nov. 1. In attendance for the Main Street reconnection ribbon cutting on Monday morning were (from left) Planning Commission members Dan Ryerson, Melissa Huntington and Jack Roberts, council member Scott Schlueter, former council member Dave Johnson, Mayor Shawn Kirby, former council member John Favolise and council members Newell Krogmann and Mark Huntington.

YEAR IN REVIEW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

derson's water and how it can be improved.

Storms ripped through the area on Sept. 16, resulting in high winds, damaged trees and tornados. A family in Henderson Township discovered a tornado had cut a path through their corn field and even rested in place to leave a "crop circle" in their field. Xcel Energy reported 51,000 customers were without power, and a number of trees in Henderson lost sizeable branches and one tree on North 6th Street was broken off right at ground level.

The Giants tennis team picked up victories against TCU, United South Central and Maple River to add to their winning record. Quarterfinals start in early October.

The annual Henderson community worship the final Sunday in September included the always popular music of the Jolly Ramblers Band, scripture readings from Kitty Collins and Lydia Rose, and the personal testimony of Brandon Mueller. When Mueller was finished, there were very few dry eyes in the house after learning of his struggles to find God. In a shout-out to the old time "gatherings at the river" part of the congregation walked across the levee to witness baptisms.

The upcoming referendum is the topic for discussion at community meetings and in newspaper contributions from the school board.

OCTOBER

Ron Lieske, an experienced pumpkin grower, really outdid himself this year when he nurtured a 1,186-pound whopper named "Nick" and loaded him up in the back of his pickup to show him off around town at the Sunday roll-in. He knows that Nick is less than half the size of the world record holder (2,624 pounds) but it's a new record for him as his previous record was 480 pounds.

Hilltop Elementary School got a new assistant principal this year who brought a wealth of experience as an educator and an administrator. Jody Rittmiller had visited Henderson a number of times and

was excited to have the chance to work here, especially once she learned Hilltop is a STEM school.

The Minnesota Department of Education issued a positive review and comment of the upcoming school construction project for LS-H that will be on the Nov. 2 ballot in Le Sueur and Henderson.

Sibley County bid a fond farewell to David Schauer who retired after 38 years as the county attorney, the second longest serving in state history.

The county was also in the news when they were visited by State Auditor Julie Blaha on Oct. 6. Blaha is touring the state to discuss implementation of President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan.

Oktoberfest was a hit for a rocking evening at the RoadHaus on Oct. 16. Sponsored as always by the American Legion, attendees enjoyed a tasty meal and lots of polka music from the Elk River German Band.

A group of two chaperones and 11 students from Kato Public Charter School in Mankato were canoeing on the Minnesota River outside Henderson when they ran into fast moving water that, in conjunction with trees and other obstacles, caused part of the boats to capsize and left some of the paddlers clinging to an overturned canoe and others huddled on a sand bar. Local agencies including the Henderson Police and Fire Departments, gathered for the rescue.

The resignation of Park Elementary Principal Christine McDonald was accepted by the LS-H School Board on Oct. 18, and Darren Kern was appointed as the interim principal. Kern has been the superintendent and K-6 principal at Battle Lake and was looking to step down from superintendent duties. He was one of 12 applicants, four of whom were interviewed. His status will be evaluated at the end of the school year.

Darrell and Jessica Eckblad took over ownership of the Henderson RoadHaus and Event Center, fulfilling a life-long dream of his to own a restaurant. The couple also owns Eckblad Trucking, located on

the western edge of town. There will be some menu changes and the addition of pizza by the slice as a lunch special is a hit so far.

NOVEMBER

LS-H voters shot down the \$50 million building referendum with only 31 percent of eligible voters showing up in Henderson, where the referendum passed 216 to 199. Of the 1,106 ballots cast in Le Sueur, 391 were pro and 715 against. The future of the school buildings now goes back to the drawing board to design a new plan for a future vote.

Students in the Emergency Medical Responder class received a special in-person visit from a North Air Care medical helicopter that landed on the high school football field. The 15 students had a chance to tour the chopper while medics explained some of their on-board gear.

Season ending stats for LS-H athletes included Hailey Juarez, who qualified for the state cross country meet, was 2nd in the Minnesota River Conference and received MRC All-Conference honors for the second year in a row. Chloe Brandt went 1-2 in the Class A State Tennis Tournament, but she won the Section 5A singles championship, had a 9-1 conference record and received MRC All-Conference honors for the third year in a row.

The school board decided to put the one district, one school plan to the vote. This would leave Hilltop empty after construction is complete and Henderson students of all ages being bussed to Le Sueur. The vacant school could have a number of other uses, including an alternative learning center.

The members of the Sibley American Legion Post 74 joined forces with the Le Sueur American Legion Post 55 and the Le Sueur VFW Post 4297 on Veteran's Day for programs at each of the local schools, with the program tailored for each audience. Two-tour veteran Sam Gore spoke to the Middle School and High School aged kids at both LS-H and MNCS. He shared details about his combat experience and the life choices that resulted in his en-

listment.

Very few residents attended the special city council meeting on Nov. 15 to hear the results of the water pilot study program. The testing process was explained and the results were mixed. The good news is there are no contaminants such as radon or E. coli in the city's water. Unfortunately, the levels of iron and manganese are high, which is causing the poor taste, bad smell and discoloration of the water. The council will have to decide how to move forward with the SEH recommendation of a water filtration plant.

The High School drama department staged "Shrek The Musical" over the weekend to rave reviews. It was described as "a laugh riot from start to finish" by many attendees.

The new configuration for the Highway 93 entrance to Henderson was a main focus during the meeting on Nov. 17. The council learned of the different designs and threw their support behind the Highway 6 regional trail, as well as supporting new plans from the park board for trails and landscaping in numerous public areas.

DECEMBER

The newest AirBNB in Henderson is one of the oldest dwellings — J.R. Brown's residence on South Fifth Street. Local company Anderson Brothers Construction renovated the property inside and out to make a lovely destination for people visiting town.

Sibley County shared information about a new program that will provide assistance to low-income, first-time mothers. Supporting Hands Nurse-Family Partnership is a non-profit that provides evidence-based service to new moms.

The Bulldogs boys hockey team skated to an overtime win in their season opener, 5-4 over Faribault. The girls team had a shutout victory over Fairmont. Even though the Bulldogs were outshot 38-22, Amilia Messer had a flawless night and blocked every shot.

The holidays kicked off with a new look for Christmas in the Valley as Le Sueur turned out for the annual parade and Santa house. This year was special as the parade continued straight down the newly-reconnected Main Street.

The LS-H School Board approved the 2022 levy, which shows an increase, but the board learned the local is \$552 on a \$175,000 home, significantly lower than the state average of \$703.

Henderson celebrations kicked off with Santa riding around town with the assistance of the Henderson Fire Department during a snowstorm on Friday, Dec. 10. Later that weekend, the Sibley County Choral Society shared seasonal music from their 40-year history at St. Paul's UCC. The group had to reschedule their Friday night Gaylord performance due to the same snow that made it tough for Santa, but were able to perform as planned Saturday evening in Arlington and Sunday afternoon in Henderson.

The Bulldogs girls hockey team recorded two more shutout victories over Worthington and Waseca. On Bulldogs Day the boys lost 5-2 to Worthington.

The Independent announced the Coloring Contest winners as Amerie Traxler and Ava

Wetzel. Their winning designs made the front page of the paper just in time for Christmas.

Members of many local communities banded together to try to add some joy to Christmas for the family of a Montgomery police officer who passed away unexpectedly last summer. The two main organizers were Missy Tousley and Dana Schaefer, both of whom have been recipients of organized surprise blessings in recent years.

It's official: Rachel Miller is now not only the editor, but also the owner and publisher of the Henderson Independent.

The combined efforts of Liz High and Karl Lieske took home first prize in the Henderson Holiday Lights contest with an imaginative display that lit up the yard with not only Santa and his sleigh but sleeping quarters for his elves. Milissa Brelje was the runner up with her extravagant display on North Seventh Street. Brian Sorenson claimed the fan favorite with the candy cane lined walkway and the penguins on parade.



The Le Sueur-Henderson High School Theater Department brought "Shrek The Musical" to life on Nov. 19-20. Above, Lord Farquaad (Joe Fixsen), aided by two guards (Adrianna Ramirez, Kaylee Smykalski) wasn't above breaking Gingy's (Brandy Wolf) legs and tearing off his buttons to get information on Princess Fiona.



EMR students Caroline Tuck and Keegan Straub see what it is like riding inside the medical helicopter, while flight paramedic Keith Witte shows students the stretcher that just fits in the middle of the 'copter. Taller patients may have to bend their knees to fit, because as White put it, "we are built for speed, not comfort."



Eleanor Cameron, 3 years old, of Le Sueur waves to Santa as he rode through Henderson on Dec. 10. Not even a bad December snowstorm could keep Santa from his appointed rounds!

INDEPENDENT

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Application and Job Descriptions found at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/sibleycountymn>.

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Workers needed for part-time light custodial work at the Minnesota Valley Rest Area.
Contact Green View 651-639-1913

HENDERSON HAPPENINGS

The Henderson Chamber is having its annual meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 6 p.m. in the library meeting room.

The Friends of the Henderson Public Library meets the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the library lower level.

Henderson Public Library Hours are: Monday, Tuesday and Friday: 9 a.m. to noon, 2 to 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 2 to 7 p.m.; Thursday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon

Henderson City Council meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Community Building, 600 Main Street, Henderson.

For more information call 507-248-3234.

Henderson Lions Club meets twice a month from September to April on the first and third Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at the Henderson RoadHaus Event Center.

Need a message on the Lions Club community message board? Call Judy Loewe at 507-248-3345.

The Sibley County Historical Museum will be open on Sundays 2 to 5 p.m. through October.

Please call 507-248-3434 and leave a message if you need information or research.

Henderson Area Chamber meets the last Wednesday of each month at noon.

Henderson Township meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Henderson Public Library.

The Ladies Tourist Club, GFWC meets at 5 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in various locations from September through May.

For more information call Judy Loewe at 507-248-3345.

AA meetings 7 p.m. every Thursday at St. Joseph's Parish Center.

Jessenland Township Planning and Zoning Commission meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Jessenland Town Hall located on Sibley City Hwy 6. If the third Monday of the month falls on a national holiday then the alternate meeting date of the fourth Monday of the month will be used.

The Sibley Post #74 American Legion meets 6:30 p.m. every third Monday of the month at Henderson RoadHaus. For questions contact Dean Lind at 507-665-2053.

**If you want to list your meeting or event with the *Henderson Independent* call 248-3223 or e-mail us at hendersonmnnews@gmail.com.

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HENDEKSON INDEPENDENT

Published in the *Henderson Independent* on Thursday, January 20, 2022.



PHOTO BY BETH CORNISH

The green shed is charred but intact. The skeletal frame of the garage shelters the burned out contents with almost everything completely reduced to ash.

FIRE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

open flames or combustibles in the area.

Looking at the damage in the light of day, it is amazing the structure is still standing, as it is a burned-out skeleton with portions of the metal roof still intact. An old refrigerator that was in the alley is an empty

shell, the shed is charred, the pop-up camper parked nearby is partially melted, the neighbor's garage is charred and the garage across the alley has warped siding.

Many pieces of family memorabilia, including special items from Hogan's grandmother, all her photo albums, pieces of furniture and most of her Christmas decorations were stored in

the garage. She counts herself fortunate that she has insurance and that the whole family, including the furry and feathered members, were not harmed.

An unknown caller in the area of 4th and Market Streets reported the fire. The family would like to hear from that person to learn more and express their gratitude.



PHOTO COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The real Shirtwaist workers, who went on a strike in 1909 for safer working conditions, shorter hours and better pay. Although many factories gave in to their demands, the Triangle Factory did not, and two years later, its unsafe working conditions resulted in the deaths of 146 workers, primarily young immigrant women ages 13-26.

ONE ACT PLAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of a Star rating.

This year, the One Act Play is under the direction of Mikhayla Clausen, a Belle Plaine High School alumna. Clausen was also part of Belle Plaine's One Act team for years, and the program has a long history of excellence and receiving Star ratings.

Clausen holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in musical theater from MSU-Mankato, and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic was touring with the Prairie Fire Children's Theatre, the National Theatre for Children in Minneapolis, and the Polar Express Train Ride in New Orleans. She happened to be teaching at MSU when Belle Plaine One Act Play Director Tony Hartmann reached out and informed her that LS-H needed a new One Act Play director.

Clausen jumped at the opportunity to get back into theater, and selected "The 146 Point Flame" as this year's production. "The 146 Point Flame" is a historical drama about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire that occurred in New York on March 25, 1911.

Two years prior to the fire, more than 20,000 shirtwaist workers in New York joined together and went on strike in protest of longer working hours and less pay. They were concerned about locked factory doors and demanded a 20 percent pay raise and 52 hour workweek with extra overtime pay.

Many smaller factories agreed to the terms, but Triangle Factory owners fought against the measures, and even used underhanded tactics like bribing police officers to arrest striking workers. They also refused to address concerns about the locked doors and condemned fire escapes.

Their refusal had fatal consequences as the factory caught on fire on March 25, 1911; a discarded cigarette is believed to be the cause. Many workers were trapped inside, and the building's fire escape ultimately collapsed under the weight of the women trying to escape.

Fire ladders only reached the sixth floor of the 10-story building, and hoses could not reach beyond the seventh



PHOTO BY RACHEL MILLER

In addition to a Star performance, Gabby Davidson and Aerial Ingles both received MRC All-Conference honors for their portrayal of Russian immigrants Yetta (Davidson) and Lena (Ingles), two Triangle Factory workers who perished in a factory fire in 1911. Although the characters are believed to be fictional, a total of 146 factory workers, primarily young women, were killed in the fire.

floor. Many workers jumped from the building to fire nets below, but the force from falling bodies eventually snapped the nets.

In just 15 minutes, 146 people died, primarily immigrant women ages 13-26, and 120 of the casualties were ninth floor workers.

The fire was a force for change and stronger workers rights. Within two years, New York's labor laws were entirely rewritten, and the State Department of Labor was created to enforce those laws. Thousands of factories were inspected, and unions had a much stronger foothold.

Not much is known about the victims, so Clausen believes the characters in "The 146 Point Flame" are fictional, but the events surrounding the day are historically accurate.

Clausen said the play is also relatable to her actors and actresses, as they are the same age as many of the victims who perished in the fire.

Clausen said this year's cast is very strong, especially Davidson, who plays Yetta, a Russian immigrant working at the factory with her sister Lena. Clausen said Davidson has really dived into her role, and quickly adjusts to direction.

"She really dove in and

The Cast

Director: Mikhayla Clausen
Assistant Director: Colin Schultz
Gabby Davidson: Yetta
Sami Pollack: Tessa
Alexa Olson: Vincenza
Aerial Ingles: Lena
Austin Kleinschmidt: Foreman, Garcelanco, Father, Elevator Operator
Gavin Schwarz: Foreman, Brother, Fireman, Mysterious Man
Kaylee Smykalski: Ensemble
Johnna Maxwell: Ensemble
Sophia Davig: Ensemble
Janorra Childress: Ensemble

worked hard, and I am very, very proud to be able to work with her given it is her senior year," Clausen said.

Clausen is also hopeful her cast will be able to compete with her alma mater, Belle Plaine, who has continued to be a dominating force and regularly advances to the State One Act Play competition.

The festival performance is a great start, and next up is the Sub-section competition on Saturday, Jan. 29. But prior to that competition, LS-H will be putting on a public performance on Thursday, Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Final push for recycling project

The Lions/Ladies Tourist Club recycling project is almost at an end. With less than six weeks to go, the clubs are short about 120 pounds of their goal. The local populace has been incredibly responsive and have collected more than 380 pounds of plastic bags and films.

Unfortunately, some of the items contributed were not only not on the list, but downright disgusting. Bear in mind that local volunteers are sorting everything dropped in the bins, so when used marinating bags and other films with meat juice on them are deposited, there is a good chance that the person dealing with that nastiness is someone you know.

If the goal is met, the end product will be another bench for people to relax upon while enjoying the beauty that is Henderson, so please keep acceptable donations coming.

Collection sites are at Wagars by the ice machine, the

Acceptable Items

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic grocery or retail bags Pallet wrap or case over-wrap Product wrap like toilet tissue or paper towels Dry cleaning bags Newspaper sleeves Bread bags Stretch films 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ziplock food storage bags Produce bags Ice Bags Wood pellet bags Salt bags Air pillows Bubble wrap Plastic shipping envelopes
---	--

NOT Acceptable

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic bottles or jars Frozen food bags Mulch or soil bags Chip bags Candy wrappers Net or mesh produce bags Pet food bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-mix salad bags Hot dog packaging Six-pack rings Vinyl shower curtains or tablecloths Shiny, crinkly film like floral wrap
---	---

Henderson Library under the belltower and by the west entrance at MNCS.

If you are unable to deliver your plastic to a drop off site, please call the Henderson In-

dependent at 507-248-3223 and leave a message for Beth.

A quick reminder, all plastic must be clean and free of food residue.

Le Sueur City Council

Brief organizational meeting covers lots of ground

By Beth Cornish
Independent staff

With President Pro Tem Newell Krogmann in charge in the absence of Mayor Shawn Kirby, the Le Sueur City Council Organizational Meeting on Monday, Jan. 3 was opened and adjourned quickly. All items were on the consent agenda, which was approved as a whole with no separate discussion. This meeting is required under Public Meeting laws.

The council will continue to meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

The council also appointed the following council members to boards and commissions:

Newell Krogmann: President Pro Tem, Airport Commission, Planning Commission, Personnel and Budget Committee, and MMPA.

Marvin Sullivan: EDA, Fire Commission, MRVT, and Personnel and Budget Committee.

Dave Swanberg: EDA, MRVT Alternate, Region 9 Development Commission Alternate and Charter Commission

Council Representative.

Mark Huntington: MRVT, RPAC, CGMC Alternate, and Le Sueur County Officials Alternate.

Shawn Kirby: Personnel and Budget Committee and Ridgeview Le Sueur Medical Board.

Nick Loose: RPAC ex-officio, Community Education Advisory Council and Highway 169 Alternate.

Scott Schlueter: CGMC, Highway 169, Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Regional 9 Development Commission and Le Sueur County Officials.

To fill current vacancies, the council voted to accept the following applicants:

Planning Commission – Colleen Johnson – Term Ending 12/31/2023

Charter Commission – Julie Boyland – Term Ending 12/31/2025

Housing and Redevelopment Authority – Lawrence Lyng – Term Ending 12/31/2026

On Jan. 10, the council voted to accept Nick Williams to the EDA – Term Ending 12/31/2025

There are remaining vacancies of three seats on the EDA and one seat on each of the HRA, RPAC, and Planning Commission. City staff will continue to market these positions.

Annually, the City of Le Sueur must designate official depositories. For 2022 they are:

HomeTown Bank, Cornerstone Bank, First Farmers and Merchants Bank, and the Minnesota Municipal Market Fund.

The Le Sueur County News was designated the official newspaper.

At the end of the Dec. 13 council meeting, City Administrator Jasper Kruggel received his performance evaluation. The public summary is that he rated a 4.04 out of five.

Staff is arranging a CSAH 36 South Main public open house. Adjacent properties should receive postcards with details and it will be promoted on social media as other members of the public are invited to attend. As always, check the city website at cityoflesueur.com or call 507-665-6401.

Keep a careful eye on the skies this winter

Topping Boffo's wish list was the ability to fly. Sure, he could outrun every squirrel in his habitat, jumping from tree limb to tree limb with ease. He was master of the poplar and giant oaks. Yet each time a small plane flew overhead, a sense of yearning crept over him. "I want to fly, high in the sky, why can't I?"

His younger sister, Bliss, felt safer on the ground, racing through green leaves all summer, having no desire to travel beyond her home turf. The two black squirrels were among five born on a warm March day in 2021.

A hungry little red squirrel invaded the oakhole home of the newborns early on, snatching little sister Fyllis. Brothers Mucho and Lunker met their fate as breakfast for two rascally crows shortly after the squirrels' discovery of bird food scattered upon the earth. Thus Boffo and Bliss became close pals as they often munched on acorns stolen from scampering chipmunks 'hoards.

The two were strangers among gray, fox, and flying squirrels, the latter having no acquaintance with their black cousins, as they glided at night. Little did Boffo and Bliss realize they were rarities, just one in 10,000 squirrels of their kind found in forests. They were actually 'morphed' gray squirrels, Eastern gray squirrels with a special genetic mutation, according to Wikipedia.

Normally black squirrels are aggressive and territorial, running other squirrels out of the area. From the observations of the writers of this column, Boffo and Bliss lived in peace, as photos show them in the company of deer, mice, turkeys, all manner of forest floor-birds, even occasional mourning doves. A flock of wild turkeys might intimidate the two, but when the bulky large birds gobbled their fill of forest fodder, Boffo and Bliss would invite themselves to the remaining chow.

Yet Boffo wasn't satisfied, his purpose in life was to fly like the Canada geese, crows, and trumpeter and tundra swans bugling overhead. Then, on Jan. 15 at 3:00 p.m., Boffo got his wish. HE FLEW!!!

Unfortunately, the trail camera captured a red-tailed hawk, talons firmly imbedded in Boffo's body, bushy black squirrel tail drooping in the breeze, taking flight across the tree tops. Shortly thereafter, Boffo's energy would become that of a red-tailed hawk's musculature. One must be careful as to what one wishes for.

Boffo was not the only small mammal sought by hawks and other raptors since the onset of 2022. Sightings of numerous species of hawks between St.



Mantling (covering its prey from other raptors) is a common action of a red-tailed hawk.



A barred owl scans the forest floor for its next repast.

Peter and Henderson in trees off Highway 169 were beyond plentiful. One honest party spotted 23 such feathered creatures; two hawks suffered auto collisions near Le Sueur, and a party swore a golden eagle was plucked from the 169 corridor ditch by the Minnesota Highway Patrol on Jan. 10. It's a matter of having one's passenger's eyes glued on the stark leafless trees along the busy byway.

Other hungry hunters were abroad mid-January. The 'shack' trail cameras show a tiny mouse crawling up the steel feeding station pole to the food stored therein. When it reaches the food box, it crawls within. A great-horned owl spots its plump prey, and when the mouse exits, the raptor comes swooping down in owl fashion, but misses until next time around. An hour later, same pole, same feeder, a broad-tailed, bright-eyed, northern flying squirrel creeps upward and perches under the overhang of said feeder. Blur of feathers, squirrel is protected by overhang, score one for squirrel.

Meanwhile, tiny eyes shine brilliantly in the camera's sudden flash, another mouse

searching for spilled millet. Perched atop a stump, a barred owl spots its prey of choice, swoops over with its feathery silent wings, misses... will try again. Better luck next time! Later on, during the dark night, a fox will make its appearance, soon followed by a six-point buck deer. The buck appears only on the murkiest of nights, then but for a short time. He never robs the bird feeders, but



Buffo, the rare black squirrel, poses for his final photo.

PHOTOS BY BARB/ART STRAUB



Search for winter forage makes white-tailed deer less wary than usual.

his friends, the white-tailed does, leave nothing in the low feeders for breakfast for the forest birds. Early on, hen turkeys will appear, scratch their way to the forest floor, opening the crust allowing juncos, cardinals, and others a repast. Cooperation means food, vit-

bles mean energy.

Exciting news from inside the wood's shack where our photographer whiles her time away in the cold! Pine siskins and purple finches arrived from the north on Jan. 16, the high holy coincidence being; they showed up at the country

feeders and at the Le Sueur feeders at same time of day.

HOW could that happen? This year was supposed to be a huge finch invasion! Are there other watchers who are experiencing a similar coincidence? Let us know with a ring to 507-665-2658.

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U.S. Supreme Court strikes down vaccine mandate

By Rachel Miller
Editor

The United States Supreme Court on Thursday, Jan. 13 struck down President Joe Biden and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's "vaccine or test" mandate.

The mandate required businesses with at least 100 employees to enforce a vaccine, or get a weekly test at the em-

ployee's expenses and wear a mask each workday. The mandate affected roughly 84 million people.

The Court ruled 6-3 on the matter, with Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan dissenting.

The majority opinion, which was written by Justice Neil Gorsuch, with support from Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, stated that OSHA's rules address dangers "uniquely prevalent inside the

workplace, like asbestos and rare chemicals." They did not feel it was within their scope to "induce individuals to undertake a medical procedure that affects their lives outside the workplace." That power, Gorsuch, Thomas and Alito felt, should be regulated at the state level.

Judge Gorsuch closed his opinion by stating that under existing law, States and Congress, not OSHA, hold the power when it comes to the

pandemic's response.

"In saying this much, we do not impugn the intentions behind the agency's mandate. Instead, we only discharge our duty to enforce the law's demands when it comes to the question who may govern the lives of 84 million Americans. Respecting those demands may be trying in times of stress," Gorsuch wrote. "But if this Court were to abide them only in more tranquil conditions, declarations of emer-

gencies would never end and the liberties our Constitution's separation of powers seeks to preserve would amount to little."

The Le Sueur-Henderson School District on Monday, Jan. 3 approved a "vaccine or test" policy in the event the Supreme Court upheld the mandate. However, it included the caveat that if the mandate was struck down, the policy would not go into effect. Superintendent Jim Wagner on

Monday afternoon confirmed that the school district will not be requiring vaccinations or weekly testing for employees.

The Supreme Court did rule 5-4 to uphold the Secretary of Health and Human Services mandate that requires facilities that receive Medicare and Medicaid funding to vaccinate all staff, unless a staff member has a medical or religious exemption.

COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 reaches new heights with 73,860 new cases

By Rachel Miller
Editor

Editor's Note: Due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the Minnesota Department of Health did not update on Monday, Jan. 17. As of Tuesday, Jan. 18, information available was through Friday, Jan. 14.

COVID-19 cases have reached a new peak with new cases far surpassing anything the state has seen since the pandemic began almost two years ago.

Minnesota reported a whopping 73,860 new cases between Monday, Jan. 10 and Friday, Jan. 17—an increase of 27,818, or 60 percent from the previous week. To date, Minnesota has reported 1,148,888 COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began, including 197,156 breakthrough cases.

Current vaccinations do not appear to be effective against the current strain, as 34,325 cases, or 46.4 percent, occurred in fully vaccinated people.

Although vaccinations do not appear effective against the spread of COVID-19, they are effective at lessening the severity in regards to hospitalizations. While almost half of new cases are in vaccinated individuals, just 31.8 percent, or 533 fully vaccinated people, required hospitalization.

Overall, an additional 1,674 people were hospitalized, which is an increase of 536 cases. To date, 53,836 people have been hospitalized due to COVID-19, including 6,312 (increase of 533) fully vaccinated people. The state also reported 172 (an increase of 10) more patients needing ICU hospitalization. To date, 10,335

people have needed ICU care due to COVID-19.

Sibley County reported 68 new cases (an increase of 30) to bring its total to 2,650 cases. Sibley County also reported one new death in the past week, bringing its total to 23.

Le Sueur County added 171 new cases (an increase of 76, or 80 percent) to total 5,038 cases. The county also had two new deaths, bringing its total to 45.

Scott County added 1,597 (an increase of 657) cases in the past week, bringing its total to 26,427. Scott County also reported four new fatalities, bringing its total to 222.

VACCINE STATUS

On the vaccine front, 3,563,082 Minnesotans have received a full vaccine schedule (an increase of 21,681), which is 62.5 percent of the state's total population. The number of Minnesotans who have received at least one vaccine is roughly 3.8 million, or roughly 66.6 percent of the state population. In addition, 96.8 percent of people age 65+ in the state have received at least one vaccine dose and 93.1 percent have a completed series. The state is also reporting 72.9 percent of people 5 and older have had at least one dose, and 68.4 percent have a completed series.

Right now, 7,980 (an increase of 69) Sibley County residents have received at least one vaccine dose, and 7,548 (an increase of 35) are completely vaccinated. Among residents 65+, 83.4 percent are completely vaccinated, and 53.7 percent of people 5 years and older.

In neighboring Le Sueur County, 17,122 (an increase of 115) people have received at

least one vaccine dose, while 16,140 (an increase of 84) people are completely vaccinated. The county reports 90.4 percent of people 65 and older are fully vaccinated, and 60.9 percent of people 5 and older.

In neighboring Scott County, which is part of the greater metro area, 103,596 (an increase of 635) people have one vaccine dose, while 97,335 (an increase of 510) have a completed vaccine series. The county has reported an impressive 99 percent completed vaccine rate among those 65+, and 72 percent among those 5 and older.

SCHOOL IMPACT

Although cases are rising, affected schools held steady, with no new additions in the past week. Schools are included on the state outbreak list if they report five or more cases among students and staff who were in the building while infectious in the past two weeks.

Sibley County reported no changes, and Sibley East Elementary School in Gaylord remains as the only affected school.

Le Sueur County reported no changes in the past week. Affected schools include Cleveland Elementary, Montgomery PreK-8, Park Elementary School in Le Sueur, Le Sueur-Henderson Middle/High School and Tri-City United High School in Montgomery.

Scott County reported no changes. Sorted by city, they include:

- Belle Plaine: Belle Plaine High School, Chatfield Elementary, and Oak Crest Elementary;
- Eagle View in Elko New Market;

- Jordan Elementary School and Jordan Middle School;

- New Prague: Falcon Ridge, New Prague Senior High and Raven Stream Elementary;

- Prior Lake: Hidden Oaks Middle School, La Ola Del Lago at Grainwood, Prior Lake High School and Twin Oaks Middle School;

- Savage: Aspen Academy, Glendale Elementary and Red-tail Ridge Elementary School; and

- Shakopee: Eagle Creek Elementary School, Jackson Elementary, Shakopee Area Catholic School, Shakopee East Middle School, Shakopee West Middle School, Shakopee High School and Sweeney Elementary

STATE OVERVIEW

The state conducted 441,686 tests in the past week, bringing its total to 17,112,898 tests.

Although cases are rising steeply, deaths declined. Minnesota reported 190 more deaths in the past week, a decrease of 56 compared to the previous week. So far, 11,000 people have died from COVID-19, including 1,216 (an increase of 39) deaths in fully vaccinated people. To date, 5,234 (an increase of 33) of the state's 11,000 deaths, or 47.5 percent, have been in assisted living facilities.

Of Minnesota's 1,148,888 total cases, 1,073,545 (93.4 percent) no longer need isolation.

Exposure in congregate care facilities continues to rise, with 98 affected facilities statewide (an increase of 26), however

only one is in the tri-county area: All Saints Senior Living in Scott County.

Demographics for deaths compared to total number of cases is as follows:

- Age 100+: 133 deaths (no increase); 459 total cases (an increase of 7)

- Ages 90-99: 2,183 deaths (an increase of 20); 8,996 cases (increase of 290)

- Ages 80-89: 3,385 deaths (an increase of 35); 25,586 cases (increase of 916)

- Ages 70-79: 2,520 deaths (an increase of 40); 50,199 cases (increase of 2,198)

- Ages 60-69: 1,588 deaths (an increase of 40); 102,984 cases (increase of 4,953)

- Ages 50-59: 743 deaths (an increase of 30); 148,259 cases (increase of 8,341)

- Ages 40-49: 276 deaths (an increase of 16); 162,448 cases (increase of 10,267)

- Ages 30-39: 129 deaths (an increase of 8); 196,252 cases (increase of 13,600)

- Ages 20-29: 36 deaths (an increase of 1); 203,255 cases (increase 15,841)

- Ages 5-19: 6 deaths (no increase); 209,566 cases (increase of 13,286)

- Ages 0-4: 1 death (no increase); 40,837 cases (increase of 4,157)

As it stands, the top 10 counties in Minnesota for cases are:

1. Hennepin: 208,754 (+16,203)
2. Ramsey: 86,144 (+6,400)
3. Dakota: 72,009 (+4,786)
4. Anoka: 65,420 (+3,898)
5. Washington: 43,799 (+2,596)
6. Stearns: 39,102 (+2,550)
7. St. Louis: 31,134 (+1,513)
8. Olmsted: 29,341 (+3,129)
9. Scott: 26,427 (+1,597)
10. Wright: 25,068 (+979)

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Everyone should have been notified and if you didn't get your prize yet, they are available at the Roadhaus.

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SPORTS & OUTDOORS

GIRLS HOCKEY

Luverne snaps Bulldogs' three game win streak

By Rachel Miller
Editor

The Minnesota River Bulldogs girls hockey team built up a bit of a win streak last week, before falling to a tough Luverne team 8-1 on Monday night.

The Bulldogs were 8-9 with a three-game win streak heading into the matchup with Luverne. There was no denying it was going to be an uphill battle. After all, not only did Luverne qualify for the Class A State Tournament last year, but they were 18-1 heading into the game with the Bulldogs, and their lone loss was to powerhouse New Ulm, who is 14-3.

Luverne wasted no time in proving their dominance, as they scored twice in the first period, skated away with a five-goal second period, and tacked on a final goal in the third period. Luverne's Kamryn Van Batavia led the charge and scored four of the team's goals.

The Bulldogs finally had cause to celebrate late in the

third, when Makenna Mueller, assisted by Anna Pavlo and Adrianna Bixby, scored on Luverne goalie Cheyenne Schutz.

The Bulldogs were outshot 34-17 in the loss, and goalie Amilia Messer made 26 saves.

BULLDOGS BLOW PAST WORTHINGTON

Prior to Monday's loss, the Bulldogs extended its win streak to three with a big 8-1 victory over Worthington on Saturday.

Seven players combined to score those eight goals, starting with Sophia Doherty a mere 27 seconds into the game.

Doherty's goal was the only one scored in the first period, but the goal siren kept blaring in the last two periods.

Worthington's lone goal was scored early in the second, but the Bulldogs responded with two goals by Mueller and one by Darbi Dunning.

The third period was all Bulldogs. Bixby took advantage of a power play and started the scoring 2:46 into the period. A little more than two minutes later, Anna Pavlo netted a goal, and 1:39 later Lucy Kleschult scored. The Bulldogs' final



PHOTO BY RACHEL MILLER

Makenna Mueller scored the Bulldogs' lone goal against Luverne on Monday night. Although the above breakaway shot missed, Mueller scored in the final three minutes of play off an assist from Anna Pavlo and Adrianna Bixby.

goal came off the stick of Calie Voeltz midway through the final period.

The Bulldogs outshot Worthington 28-11, and Messer

saved 10 shots.

BULLDOGS SHUT DOWN MANKATO WEST

Back-to-back games did not seem to hamper the Bulldogs

too much, as a day after beating Fairmont 2-1, the Bulldogs outskated and outscored Mankato West, 5-2.

The Bulldogs limited

Mankato West to single goals in the first and second period, and split up their five goals between the same two periods.

Roughly two minutes after Mankato West's first period goal, Grace Bishop evened the score with assists from Christina Cruz and Zetta Haugen. Not even a minute later, Bixby used a Pavlo assist to give the Bulldogs the lead. Forty seconds into the second period, the duo switched things up, and Bixby assisted Pavlo with the team's third goal.

After another Mankato West goal narrowed the lead to 3-2, the Bulldogs pulled away with goals from Macie Portner (assists by Claire Hathaway, Doherty) and Doherty (Dunning assist).

The Bulldogs outshot Mankato West 40-24, with Messer earning the win in the net with 22 saves.

The Bulldogs have just six games left in the regular season, half at home and half on the road. The Bulldogs will host Litchfield/Dassel-Cokato this Thursday at 7 p.m., and then will welcome Marshall next Tuesday, also at 7 p.m.

BOYS HOCKEY

Bulldogs lose two, tie Windom

By Rachel Miller
Editor

The Minnesota River Bulldogs boys hockey team dropped to 3-1-10 on the season after a tough week that saw them sandwich a tie game in between two losses.

The Bulldogs started the week off with a close 3-2 loss to the Fairmont Cardinals on Tuesday, Jan. 11.

Although there were three periods of play, the game was determined in the second period. After a scoreless first period, Fairmont netted two goals in the first six minutes of the second period to take a 2-0 lead.

The Bulldogs then evened it up with goals by Kellen O'Keefe (Dylan Hunt, Isaac Schaffer assist) and Drew Simonette, scored a mere 1:07

apart.

Fairmont then scored its third and final goal with 2:04 left in the period, and held off the Bulldogs in the third for the win.

The Bulldogs outshot Fairmont, 31-30, and goalie Mitch Kotek took the loss in the net with 27 saves.

OUTSHOT BUT NOT BEATEN

Following that game, the Bulldogs tied with Windom, 1-1, on Thursday, Jan. 13.

After a scoreless first period, Windom got on the board 96 seconds into the second period, and held onto the lead until the latter part of the third period, when Simonette evened the score off an assist from Travis Kotek.

The game went into overtime, and ended in a tie when neither team could score.

Still, finishing in a tie was impressive, considering the lopsided offense. The Bulldogs took a mere nine shots on goal across the four periods, while Windom fired 48 shots on goalie Sam Gibson — roughly a shot every 73 seconds.

SHUTOUT LOSS

The Bulldogs concluded the week with a 3-0 loss to Worthington on Saturday. Worthington spaced out the damage, with a goal in each period.

The Bulldogs were outshot 33-21 in the loss, with Kotek taking the loss in net with 30 saves.

The Bulldogs hosted New Ulm on Tuesday, and will be on the road for most of the rest of the month. They will be traveling to Redwood Valley on Friday and then heading to Litchfield/Dassel-Cokato on Saturday.

WRESTLING

Two Giants pull out wins at weekend HLWW Invite

By Rachel Miller
Editor

The Giants wrestling team had a shortened week last week, as the Norwood-Young America Invite scheduled for Friday, Jan. 14 was cancelled due to the snowstorm that blew through the area.

The Giants did send three wrestlers to the Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted Invite on Saturday, and earned five points to place 16th.

Jordan Grinde went 1-2 at 138 pounds. Grinde used an arm bar pin to defeat St. Agnes' David Lopez, and then lost by fall to both Holdingford's Drew Lange and Zimmerman's Jon Weiser.

Eighth-grader George Doherty also went 1-2 at 170 pounds. He earned a 12-3 major

decision over Holdingford's Evan Lichy, and then lost by fall to both Zimmerman's Joe Gardas and Buffalo's Jacob Cremers.

"George proved that you can never count him out and is a head hunter for only being an eighth-grader," Coach Luke Wilson said. "He is in each match but has to refine just small details, and once he does that he will be very difficult to beat."

The Giants' third competitor was Andy Genelin at 152 pounds. Genelin lost both of his matches by fall.

The Giants have a busy week at home this week. They hosted Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial and New Century Academy on Tuesday, and will be hosting the Minnesota River Conference Tournament this Friday at 5 p.m. They will then travel to Sibley East next Tuesday for a 5 p.m. start.

Le Sueur-Henderson Winter Sports Schedule

Girls Basketball

Tues., Nov. 30 LS-H @ Medford.....Loss, 33-59
Fri., Dec. 3 Belle Plaine @ LS-H.....Loss, 30-70
Mon., Dec. 6 LS-H @ GSL.....Loss, 26-58
Tues., Dec. 7 LS-H @ Lester Prairie.....Loss, 52-68
Tues., Dec. 14 LS-H @ NRHEG.....Loss, 48-78
Thur., Dec. 16 LS-H @ TCU.....Win, 47-38
Mon., Dec. 27 LS-H vs. Houston.....Loss, 72-38
Tues., Dec. 28 LS-H vs. Luverne.....Loss, 87-26
Tues., Jan. 4 LS-H @ Sibley East.....Loss, 37-30
Thur., Jan. 6 Maple River @ LS-H.....Loss, 61-31
Fri., Jan. 7 MVL @ LS-H.....Loss, 76-35
Thur., Jan. 13 LS-H @ NYA.....Loss, 60-21
Sat., Jan. 15 LS-H @ New Ulm.....Loss, 58-55
Tue., Jan. 18 Mayer Lutheran @ LS-H.....7:15 p.m.
Thur., Jan. 20 Lester Prairie @ LS-H.....7:15 p.m.
Thur., Jan. 27 LS-H @ Belle Plaine.....7:15 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 28 St. Clair @ LS-H.....7:15 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 31 TCU @ LS-H.....7:15 p.m.
Thur., Feb. 3 GFW @ LS-H.....7:15 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 4 Sibley East @ LS-H.....7:15 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 5 LS-H @ Nicolle.....2:30 p.m.
Thur., Feb. 10 LS-H @ Cleveland.....7:15 p.m.
Mon., Feb. 14 LS-H @ LCWM.....7:15 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 15 NYA @ LS-H.....7:15 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 18 LS-H @ Mayer Lutheran.....7:15 p.m.
Mon., Feb. 21 Hope Academy @ LS-H.....7 p.m.
March 1-11 Section Playoffs

Boys Basketball

Sat., Dec. 4 WEM @ LS-H.....Loss, 36-75
Mon., Dec. 6 LS-H @ GSL.....Loss, 46-80
Tues., Dec. 7 St. James @ LS-H.....Loss, 35-71
Sat., Dec. 11 LS-H @ Watertown.....Loss, 32-79

Tue., Dec. 14 Lester Prairie @ LS-H.....Loss, 47-65
Mon., Dec. 27 LS-H vs. Houston.....Win, 73-38
Tues., Dec. 28 LS-H vs. Kenyon-W.....Loss, 71-57
Thur., Jan. 6 LS-H @ TCU.....Win, 58-43
Tues., Jan. 11 LS-H @ Sibley East.....Win, 65-50
Thur., Jan. 13 Medford @ LS-H.....Win, 87-69
Sat., Jan. 15 LS-H @ New Ulm.....Loss, 95-38
Mon., Jan. 17 LS-H @ Cleveland.....Win, 72-52
Thur., Jan. 20 LS-H @ NYA.....7:15 p.m.
Tue., Jan. 25 LS-H @ Mayer Lutheran.....7:15 p.m.
Thur., Jan. 27 Belle Plaine @ LS-H.....7:15 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 28 LS-H @ Lester Prairie.....7:15 p.m.
Thur., Feb. 3 LS-H @ Belle Plaine.....7:15 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 4 LS-H @ Hope Academy.....7 p.m.
Mon., Feb. 7 MVL @ LS-H.....7:15 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 11 Sibley East @ LS-H.....7:15 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 18 LS-H @ GFW.....7:15 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 19 LS-H @ Nicolle.....4 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 22 NYA @ LS-H.....7:15 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 25 LS-H @ Mayer Lutheran.....7:15 p.m.
Tues., March 1 NRHEG @ LS-H.....7:15 p.m.
Thur., March 3 TCU @ LS-H.....7:15 p.m.
March 8-18 Section Playoffs

Girls Hockey

Thur., Nov. 11 Bulldogs @ Litchfield.....Loss, 2-0
Fri., Nov. 12 Mankato East @ Bulldogs.....Loss, 4-1
Mon., Nov. 15 Bulldogs @ Windom.....Win, 4-1
Thur., Nov. 18 New Ulm @ Bulldogs.....Loss, 3-0
Sat., Nov. 20 Bulldogs @ Luverne.....Loss, 7-3
Sat., Nov. 27 Delano @ Bulldogs.....Loss, 3-0
Tues., Nov. 30 Bulldogs @ Fairmont.....Win, 2-0
Tues., Dec. 7 Bulldogs @ Albert Lea.....Loss, 5-4
Thur., Dec. 9 Bulldogs @ Waseca.....Win, 5-0

Sat., Dec. 11 Worthington @ Bulldogs.....Win, 4-0
Tues., Dec. 14 Austin @ Bulldogs.....Loss, 5-0
Fri., Dec. 17 Morris @ Bulldogs.....Win, 11-6
Fri., Jan. 7 Windom @ Bulldogs.....Loss, 1-0
Sat., Jan. 8 Bulldogs @ New Ulm.....Loss, 3-0
Mon., Jan. 10 Fairmont @ Bulldogs.....Win, 2-1
Tues., Jan. 11 Mankato W. @ Bulldogs.....Win, 5-2
Sat., Jan. 15 Bulldogs @ Worthington.....Win, 8-1
Mon., Jan. 17 Luverne @ Bulldogs.....Loss, 8-1
Thur., Jan. 20 Litchfield @ Bulldogs.....7 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 25 Marshall @ Bulldogs.....7 p.m.
Thur., Jan. 27 Bulldogs @ Hutchinson.....7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 29 Bulldogs @ Marshall.....11 a.m.
Thur., Feb. 3 Waseca @ Bulldogs.....7 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 4 Bulldogs @ Minnehaha.....7 p.m.

Boys Hockey

Sat., Nov. 27 Bulldogs @ Faribault.....Win, 5-4
Tues., Nov. 30 Fairmont @ Bulldogs.....Loss, 8-6
Thur., Dec. 2 Bulldogs @ Mankato W.....Win, 3-1
Tues., Dec. 7 Hutchinson @ Bulldogs.....Loss, 6-4
Sat., Dec. 11 Worthington @ Bulldogs.....Loss, 5-2
Tue., Dec. 14 Bulldogs @ RW Valley.....Win, 8-1
Fri., Dec. 17 Bulldogs @ Dodge Cty.....Loss, 13-1
Tues., Dec. 21 Mankato E. @ Bulldogs.....Loss, 3-0
Tues., Jan. 4 Bulldogs @ La Crescent.....Loss, 8-4
Thur., Jan. 6 Bulldogs @ Waseca.....Loss, 4-2
Sat., Jan. 8 Bulldogs @ New Ulm.....Loss, 3-1
Tues., Jan. 11 Bulldogs @ Fairmont.....Loss, 3-2
Thur., Jan. 13 Bulldogs @ Windom.....Tie, 1-1
Sat., Jan. 15 Bulldogs @ Worthington.....Loss, 3-0
Tues., Jan. 18 New Ulm @ Bulldogs.....7 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 21 Redwood Valley @ Bulldogs.....7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 22 Bulldogs @ Litchfield.....1 p.m.

Thur., Jan. 27 Bulldogs @ Rochester.....7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 29 Bulldogs @ Marshall.....12:45 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 31 Waseca @ Bulldogs.....7 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 5 Marshall @ Bulldogs.....4 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 11 Bulldogs @ Luverne.....6 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 12 Luverne @ Bulldogs.....6 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 15 Windom @ Bulldogs.....7 p.m.
Thur., Feb. 17 New Prague @ Bulldogs.....7 p.m.
Feb. 21-March 5 Sections Playoffs

Wrestling

Thur., Dec. 2 LS-H @ WEM.....Losses
Sat., Dec. 4 LS-H @ GSL Invite.....Novak 2nd
Tue., Dec. 7 Tri Meet @ LS-H.....Losses
Fri., Dec. 10 LSH @ St. Peter.....Cancelled
Fri., Dec. 17 LS-H @ RWV Tourney.....33rd place
Sat., Dec. 18 LSH @ RWV Tourney.....33rd place
Tue., Jan. 4 Home Quad Meet.....vs. Windom, 48-28 Loss; vs. Springfield, 48-36 Loss; vs. Minneapolis North, 48-28 Win
Sat., Jan. 8 LSH @ TCU Tourney.....6th place
Fri., Jan. 14 LSH @ NYA.....Cancelled
Sat., Jan. 15 LSH @ HLWW Tourney.....16th
Tues., Jan. 18 LCWM, NCA @ LS-H.....5 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 21 MRC Tourney @ LS-H.....5 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 25 LS-H @ Sibley East.....5 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 28 LS-H @ RRC Tourney.....2:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 19 LS-H @ Wabasso.....9 a.m.
Fri., Feb. 4 LSH @ St. Clair Tri.....5 p.m.
Thur., Feb. 10 LS-H @ Maple River.....5 p.m.
Feb. 17-25 Section Playoffs



BOYS BASKETBALL

Giants heat up the court with three wins

Sophomore Grant Adams sets new three-point game school record

By Rachel Miller
Editor

The Giants boys basketball team had a thrilling week, as they won three of four games and sophomore Grant Adams set a new school record for most three-pointers scored in a single game.

The Giants waged a thrilling victory over Medford last Thursday in the home gym. It was a tale of two halves, as the Giants went on a first half rampage, amassing a 50-26 lead by half's end.

Unfortunately the Giants struggled in the second half, and Medford outscored them 43-37. However, the Giants' first half lead allowed them to hang on for an 87-69 victory.

Adams was lethal from the three-point zone, as he sunk a dozen three-pointers for 36 points, setting a new school record in the process. Prior to last Thursday's game, the record for most three-pointers in a single game was 10, set by Matt McPartland in 2008.

The 36 points was also a personal best for Adams, although he said he needs to work on finding other ways to score as well.

Although Coach Ryan Graff was happy to get a win, he wants to see his team bring it together to play two good halves.

After Adams' 36 points, Gage Bishop scored 20, Dylan Kahlow netted 12, Nathan Gregersen scored 10, Dylan Graff scored four, David Gupton had three and Cayden Luna scored two.

The Giants also won the rebound battle, 41-31. Bishop, 6'5", and Kahlow, 6'7", took full advantage of their tall frames to grab double-digit rebounds. Bishop picked up 13 rebounds while Kahlow grabbed 12.

SIBLEY EAST WIN

Prior to last Thursday's game, the Giants earned a 65-50 victory over conference rival Sibley East. The Giants got off to a slow start but quickly gained momentum as they took a 31-20 lead at the end of the first half.

The Wolverines managed to whittle the lead to seven by the midway mark of the second half, but Gupton made some big defensive plays — stealing the ball and then running it down for a layup — to solidify the lead.

"It's a good example for the boys that if we always bring it on the defensive end, we will find ourselves in most games," Coach Graff said.

Graff said the team's defense is what really won the game, and they could have done better on offense.

"We just need to recognize situations better, where we have advantages and who we need to get the ball to," he said.

Bishop led the team on scoring with 19 points, followed closely by Gregersen with 17 points. Adams scored 11, Luna netted nine, Gupton had four, Graff scored three and Kahlow scored two free throws.

CRUSHING CLEVELAND

The Giants' third win occurred on Monday night, when they defeated Cleveland 72-52.

The Giants were tied 8-8 after the first six minutes of the game, and then went on a 16-4 run to earn a 12-point lead. The Giants held a stable lead and were up 35-21 by the time the first half ended.

The team pulled away early in the second half and amassed a 20-point lead, but Cleveland fought hard and narrowed the lead to 12 at one point.

The Giants responded and once again pulled away and won by 20.

The Giants had three players score big points in the win. Bishop and Kahlow both scored 16 points, while Gregersen netted 15. Rounding out the scoring was Luna with seven points, Graff with six, and Adams, Gupton and Brody Berndt all scored four points.

NEW ULM SNAPS WIN STREAK

The New Ulm Eagles snapped a three-game win streak on Saturday as they defeated the Giants 95-38.

"We ran into a really good team who was very hot from the field," Coach Graff said.

The Giants hung with the



Gage Bishop goes up for a basket against Medford. Bishop scored 20 points in the victory.



Dylan Kahlow nets a basket for the Giants. He was the third highest scorer against Medford, with 12 points.

Eagles early on, trailing 7-6, but then New Ulm went on a huge 18-0 run, and the Giants were never able to recover. The Giants suffered 27 turnovers in the loss, which the Eagles took advantage of to score 41 points.

"New Ulm was the best defensive team we have faced this season and they were able to put pressure on us full court after made shots. And they made a lot of shots so we were facing that pressure most of the game," Coach Graff said.

Bishop scored 12 points in the loss, Kahlow had 10, Gregersen scored eight, and Gupton and Adams both scored four.

Coming up, the Giants have a tough schedule. They will be traveling to play Norwood-Young America on Thursday, then face Mayer Lutheran next Tuesday; both games are at 7:15 p.m.



Grant Adams scored a personal best 36 points and set a new school record for most 3-pointers scored in a single game in last Thursday's 87-69 win over Medford.

PHOTOS BY RACHEL MILLER

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Giants drop three-point heartbreaker to Norwood-Young America

By Rachel Miller
Editor

The Le Sueur-Henderson Giants girls basketball team suffered a heartbreaking 3-points loss to New Ulm on Saturday.

Despite the loss, Coach Sherri Fritz was pleased with her team's performance, as they demonstrated a competitive spirit and had more confidence going to the basket.

"Our defense was tough and we forced a lot of turnovers that we ended up converting

into points," Fritz said. "The girls really worked together and fought hard until the very end of the game. We put them on the foul line, which ended up hurting us a bit in the end, but we kept it close and had some opportunities at the end of the game to score."

The Giants were trailing 34-30 by halftime, and although they were able to limit the Eagles in the second half, just couldn't surpass them, as they went on to lose 58-55.

Samantha Wilbright led the Giants on scoring with 24 points, followed by Drea

Terwedo with nine, Brynn Biedscheid and Lexi Terwedo with six each, Madi Wilbright scored four and Kelsey Wetzed contributed two.

Biedscheid led the team on defense with 10 rebounds, Morgan Gregersen picked up eight and Lexi Terwedo had five. Samantha Wilbright also had 10 steals.

TOUGH LOSS TO NORWOOD

Prior to Saturday's game, the Giants were dealt a tough 60-21 loss to Norwood-Young America last Thursday.

The Giants struggled with

Norwood's man-to-man defense, and Norwood capitalized on turnovers.

"We are still working on reading the defense to see what they are giving us," Coach Fritz said. "We need to continue to gain confidence in shooting and driving to the basket. The girls continue to work hard and our defense has been great the last few games. We just need to figure out how to score."

Samantha Wilbright scored eight points, Rhyann Fritz had six and Biedscheid scored the final five.

Fritz and Biedscheid both had seven rebounds, Gregersen had five, and Fritz had five steals.

The Giants played Mayer Lutheran on Tuesday night

(results unavailable by press time), and will be hosting Lester Prairie on Thursday at 7:15 p.m. After that, they are off until next Thursday, Jan. 27.

Le Sueur - Henderson Athlete of the Week

Grant Adams

15-H sophomore Grant Adams led the Giants boys basketball team in scoring in the team's 87-69 victory over Medford last Thursday. Adams scored 36 points, all from the three-point zone, setting a new school record for most three-pointers in a single game in the process.

Athlete of the Week Sponsored By:

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