

## Mt. Lake FFA fifth at Nationals

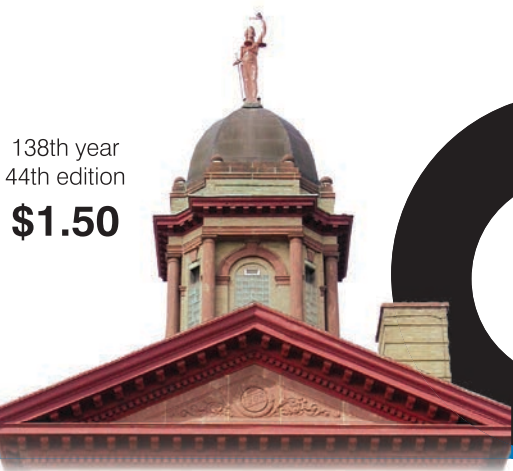
Mt. Lake agronomy team shines in difficult CDE at national convention

■ Page 6



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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021

## WHAT'S INSIDE

### Sen. Weber has heart surgery

Luverne senator recently had successful open heart in Sioux Falls

■ Page 2

### United Drive now underway

Windom's annual United Drive cards in mailboxes this weekend

■ Page 4

## ONLINE POLL

### Last Week's Results

Do you plan to have your 5-11 year-old vaccinated for COVID?

No ..... **62%**  
 Yes ..... **38%**

### Next Week

Do you think Minneapolis voters made the right decision by passing/defeating Measure 2 to eliminate the Minneapolis Police Department?

Vote at [www.windomnews.com](http://www.windomnews.com)

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Typical October weather



It was a pretty typical October, weather-wise, in 2021.

The high temperature for the month was 82 degrees on Oct. 8; the low was 29, recorded on the last day of the month.

The lowest high temperature was 47 degrees, recorded on Oct. 24; while the highest low temperature was 63, recorded on the first day of the month.

Total rainfall for the month was 2.51 inches, which fell on eight days, with 1.43 falling on Oct. 27-28.

## WEATHER

### A look back...

	H	L	P
Tues.	57	41	—
Wed.	49	47	1.38
Thurs.	52	42	.05
Fri.	56	33	—
Sat.	64	34	—
Sun.	48	29	—
Mon.	46	25	—

**KAISEN PRIBYL, 6, of Windom and McKenna McLaughlin, 7, of Bingham Lake pet "George" at Reinbows' "Trick or Treat Walk-Thru" in the hoop barn in South Windom. The horses were dressed in costumes from The Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band and renamed for Halloween as "John," "Paul," "George" and "Ringo" for the two-hour event. Behind the girls is McKenna's mom, Tammy.**



DAVE FJELD 11/3 Reinbows 28

## Halloween horsin' around

The streets and sidewalks were mostly quiet during Halloween in Windom Sunday afternoon and evening.

But that wasn't the case at Reinbows, Inc., in South Windom, where Reinbows' four Norwegian Fjord horses were the star attraction in the nonprofit organization's hoop barn. The horses were dressed in The Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band costumes and aptly renamed for the event "John," "Paul," "Goerge" and "Ringo."

In fact, "John" even donned the wire-rimmed circle glasses. Reinbows' Administrative Director Damon Weinandt said

that in the first 45 minutes of Sunday's Trick-or-Treat Walk-Thru at Reinbows, they counted 310 visitors.

It was much the same festive atmosphere in Bingham Lake where Gathering Church hosted a Trunk-or-Treat event. Many costumed youngsters took advantage of the warm day to not only add more candy to their collection bags, but also play games, roast marshmallows for making s'mores or paint a pumpkin to take home.

Like Reinbows' event, the Trunk-or-Treat in Bingham Lake drew a big following.



DAVE FJELD 11/3 Reinbows 28

**AVA BARFKNECHT, 8, of Windom paints a pumpkin at Gathering Church's Trunk-or-Treat party Saturday afternoon in Bingham Lake. Trunk-or-treaters had a variety of activities in which they could choose to participate.**

## Crowell faces jail, restitution in monument case

■ The monument case is related to more than 40 different reports of gravestone and vault sales that were paid for, but never delivered.

A local theft-by-swindle case involving gravestone and vault sales has landed a former Windom businesswoman in jail.

Sentencing came down, recently for Jodie Crowell formerly of Windom (now

of Wabasha), following her guilty plea to charges of theft by swindle.

Crowell operated a monument business in Windom for a few years.

The case is related to more than 40 different reports of gravestone and vault sales that were paid for, but never delivered. Many of those cases involved Windom and Mt. Lake area residents. However, some were purchased

by people living hundreds of miles away.

The oldest item on the list is dated Jan. 15, 2015.

Following sentencing guidelines, District Court Judge Christina Wietzema sentenced Crowell to 21 months in prison. The bulk of the sentence was stayed as Crowell remains on probation for 20 years.

Under terms of the sentence, Crowell will serve 90 days in the Cottonwood

County Jail with work release. She must also pay restitution of \$88,331.

Crowell is also required to send a hand-written letter of apology to each of the victims in the case.

The case dates back to an investigation that occurred in 2019. After multiple pandemic-related delays in 2020, the case reached a plea agreement in August.

## Senators study Wilder project

■ Wilder community leaders are seeking \$4.2 million to help solve the community's sewer problems.

A sewer issue that has mostly slipped under the radar bubbled to the surface last week as a group of Minnesota state senators visited Wilder City Hall last week.

Senators from the Senate Capital Investment Committee arrived on a coach bus shortly after 8 a.m., on Wednesday (Oct. 27). The group wanted to hear more about the city's request for \$4.2 million in state bonding to design and construct a wastewater collection and treatment system.

"This is the first time many of you have been to Wilder and probably the last time," said Micky Masters.

Masters, who was filling in for Wilder Mayor Tom Myrvold at the event, added, "Thanks for coming. We usually have to go to another town to speak with senators."

For roughly 45 minutes, between sips of coffee, senators peppered council members and officials from the engineering firm Bolten & Menk about the project. A few of them hinted that it's a big price tag for a city that has 60 residents and 26 homes.

When one senator asked Masters about the home values, he acknowledged that it would raise the value of homes that are currently in the \$60,000 to \$100,000 range. However, he was quick to remind senators that it is impossible to get a bank loan for a home without some sort of sewer system.

### The need

Officials from Bolten & Menk explained that many of the community's private septic systems are aged, deficient and need to be replaced.

Failing systems and drain fields pose health and safety concerns for residents during backups into homes. There are also leaking tanks and discharge into tile systems.

These problems lead to

SEE **WILDER** • PAGE 7

## Windom Lions, HyLife among four earning awards at Chamber's Gala

■ More than 200 guests filled the Community Center for the 2021 Gala, hosted by the Windom Area Chamber of Commerce.

Smiles were abundant, Thursday night, at the annual Gala at the Windom Community Center.

The event is designed to celebrate the year and also the people and businesses who made a difference for the community. The evening featured social time, dinner, recognition of award winners and outgoing Chamber officers and also a few words by guest speaker John Kriesel, a Minnesota native, motivational speaker and author of "Still Standing."

This year's award winners include:

• Windom Lions Club, Commu-

nity Champion.

• HyLife, Exceptional Achievement.

• Mary Klosterbuer, Lifetime Achievement.

• Wellness & Vitality Chiropractic, Rookie of the Year.

The annual Gala, which is sponsored by the Windom Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau and hosted by the Windom Area Chamber of Commerce, was attended by 220 guests.

### Year-end comments

Tyann Marcy, executive director of the Windom Area Chamber of Commerce, was upbeat about the event.

She pointed out that a number of business people and other Chamber members stepped up

to make this year's Gala a great event. She added that the Windom girls softball team donated their time to assist the Chamber and also the Community Center staff during the event.

Meanwhile, she pointed out that the Gala served as a celebration of the past year.

"I would like to say, I am proud for all that the Chamber and CVB has accomplished over this last year," Marcy said. "The groundwork is being laid for the year ahead and it is exciting for all of us. Many of our members, our community members and our board members know that I am promoting and pulling for our community to come together.



**JOHN KRIESEL, WHO LOST, both of his legs while serving in Iraq, told the crowd at last week's Chamber Gala: "I'm happier today than I've ever been in my life."**

SEE **CHAMBER** • PAGE 8

RAHN LARSON 11/3 chamber 28

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**CHAMBER/**  
Kriesel gets ovation for his inspirational story FROM PAGE 1

"I think often what we could accomplish if we would all work together and it is the driving force behind us right now."

**Speech strikes a chord**

Following the Gala, several people commented positively about Kriesel's keynote address.

Kriesel served in Iraq as a member of the Minnesota National Guard and in 2006 lost both of his legs when the military vehicle he was riding in struck a 200 lb. improvised explosive device.

His inspirational story, told in an award-winning book "Still Standing: The story of SSG John Kriesel."

During his speech, Kriesel, who walks with the aid of artificial legs, told the crowd: "I am happier today than I've ever been in my life, because I appreciate life."

At the end of his speech, Kriesel received a standing ovation.

"I think coming off this last year and still going through 'change' in the world, our state and our small community, a message like John's is what we needed to hear," Marcy said. "We need to be reminded on how today a gift is, we are never guaranteed time and that instead of focusing on the things that maybe we would like to have we need to be focusing on utilizing all the gifts we currently have."



11/3 chamber 15  
**KYLIE NORELL** of Wellness & Vitality Chiropractic was recognized as the 2021 Rookie of the Year.



11/3 chamber 17  
**MARY KLOSTERBUHER**, who has served the community in multiple ways, received the Lifetime Achievement award.



RAHN LARSON 11/3 chamber 7  
**THE WINDOM LIONS CLUB** received the Community Champion award. Those on hand from the Lions Club included (from left) front: John Holt, President Al Saffert and Dana Anderson. Back: Zach Holt, Ben Petersen, Shelli Legler, Jeff Evers, Steph Evers, Carol Wagner, Jerry Wagner and Jim Krueger.



11/3 chamber 12  
**HYLIFE** RECEIVED THE Exceptional Achievement award. This Hylife group includes (from left): Len Bakken, Scott Dougherty, Jordan Roberts, Nick Magelee, Thor Eiriksson, Tom Siegfried and Alan Pickard.

"He did such an amazing job captivating that room, his message was strongly delivered. There were people in that room that became emotional from his words,

some were enjoying his humor through his delivery but the one thing everyone in that room defiantly was moved by his words."

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**CITY OF WINDOM**

**Did you Know?**

**Police Department**

Despite COVID challenges, the Windom Police Department was busy in 2020. Their work in the community involved:

- 4,022 Calls for service
- 213 Adult arrests
- 146 Traffic moving tickets
- 875 Warnings (verbal & written)
- 472 Criminal cases
- 22 Juvenile arrests
- 33 Non-moving traffic tickets

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# WINDOM CHAMBER

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## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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### MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### Annual Gala



Thursday, October 28 the Windom Chamber hosted its 7th Annual Gala at the Windom Community Center. Our guest speaker, John Kriesel, delivered a wonderful speech full of hope and positivity.

A huge congratulations to all the winners of the community awards. The Windom Lions Club accepted the Community Champion award, HyLife won the Exceptional Achievement award, Wellness & Vitality Chiropractic took home the award for Rookie of the Year and Mary Klosterbuer was given the Lifetime Achievement award.

The chamber would also like to give a shout out to the three individuals who completed the 2020-2021 young professionals Rising Stars program. The recipients of the award included Matraca Hanson of POET, Dia LeFebvre of Windom Area Health, and Daniel Penaredondo also of Windom Area Health.

Thank you to all who attended and for your support of the Chamber and the community of Windom. A great time was had by all and we look forward to bringing you more events, more connection and more value.

#### Christmas Light Contest

The Windom Chamber and the Convention & Visitor Bureau will once again be hosting a Christmas Light Contest. Light up Windom for a chance to win Chamber Bucks! Individuals and businesses alike are encouraged to participate. Registration is open now until Friday, November 19. To register contact the Windom Chamber at office@windomchamber.com or stop by the office Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Voting will be between Monday, December 6 and Thursday, December 16.



#### Shannon Lynn's Boutique Ribbon Cutting

Congratulations to Shannon Lynn's Boutique. A ribbon cutting took place Thursday, October 14. We wish you nothing but the best!

#### Member Renewal/Recruitment

I will be going around town this month to speak with businesses who have been members in the past and those who have yet to join. I look forward to meeting with you and letting you know what we are all about.

#### Chamber E-Blast

If you would like to keep up with Chamber & community happenings, sign up for our weekly Monday E-Blast and get the latest updates straight to your inbox! Sign up via our website at windomchamber.com, or contact new Assistant Director Katie at katieg@windomchamber.com.

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- Windom Area Foundation is backed by the highly-respected Southwest Initiative Foundation, which has 501(c)(3) status and serves 30 cities in the region.
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# Congratulations on FFA Nationals!



SUBMITTED  
RED ROCK CENTRAL FFA'S state champion soils team includes, from left: Ryon Zimmerman, Kennedy Vold, Quintyn Vold and soils coach Ron Kelsey.



SUBMITTED  
MT. LAKE FFA'S crops team competing at this week's National FFA Convention & Expo include, from left: Coach Larry Christopher, Kody Wassman, Kade Wassman, Ian Penner and Sam Stade.



Mt. Lake FFA Adviser Darcy Dahna

Mt. Lake had one team competing in a Career Development Event at the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., Wednesday through Saturday. Mt. Lake FFA's agronomy team (the team competed in the "crops" CDE at the Minnesota FFA Convention last spring) brought home a fifth-place finish. Mt. Lake was one of 17 teams to qualify to compete in Indianapolis in-person after a preliminary virtual event Aug. 31-Sept. 1. Individually, Kade Wassman

finished third overall and he and Ian Penner and Kody Wassman were named Gold Emblem Individuals, while Sam Stade was a Silver Emblem individual.

Mt. Lake FFA Adviser Darcy Dahna, meanwhile, was honored at the National FFA Convention with the Honorary American FFA Degree, FFA's highest honor. She was one of 32 teachers to receive the recognition. The award is given to those who advance agricultural education and FFA through

outstanding personal commitment.

Red Rock Central's soils team did not compete at the National FFA Convention because the soils Career Development Event is specific to Minnesota and not a CDE at the National FFA Convention. Nevertheless, the trio of Ryon Zimmerman, Kennedy Vold and Quintyn Vold, as well as their coach Ron Kelsey, deserve recognition for having won the CDE at the Minnesota FFA Convention last spring.

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