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# Star-Observer

Thursday, February 17, 2022 | [hudsonstarobserver.com](http://hudsonstarobserver.com) • [riverfallsjournal.com](http://riverfallsjournal.com) • Serving Hudson, River Falls and New Richmond \$2.00

## INSIDE



Six River Falls individuals won regional titles to lead the Wildcats to a first place team finish at the WIAA Division 1 wrestling regional in New Richmond Saturday. **Page B1**

A pair of candidates are facing off to be mayor of Hudson. Hear from them and the candidates running for Common Council at a forum hosted by the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau. **Page A7.**



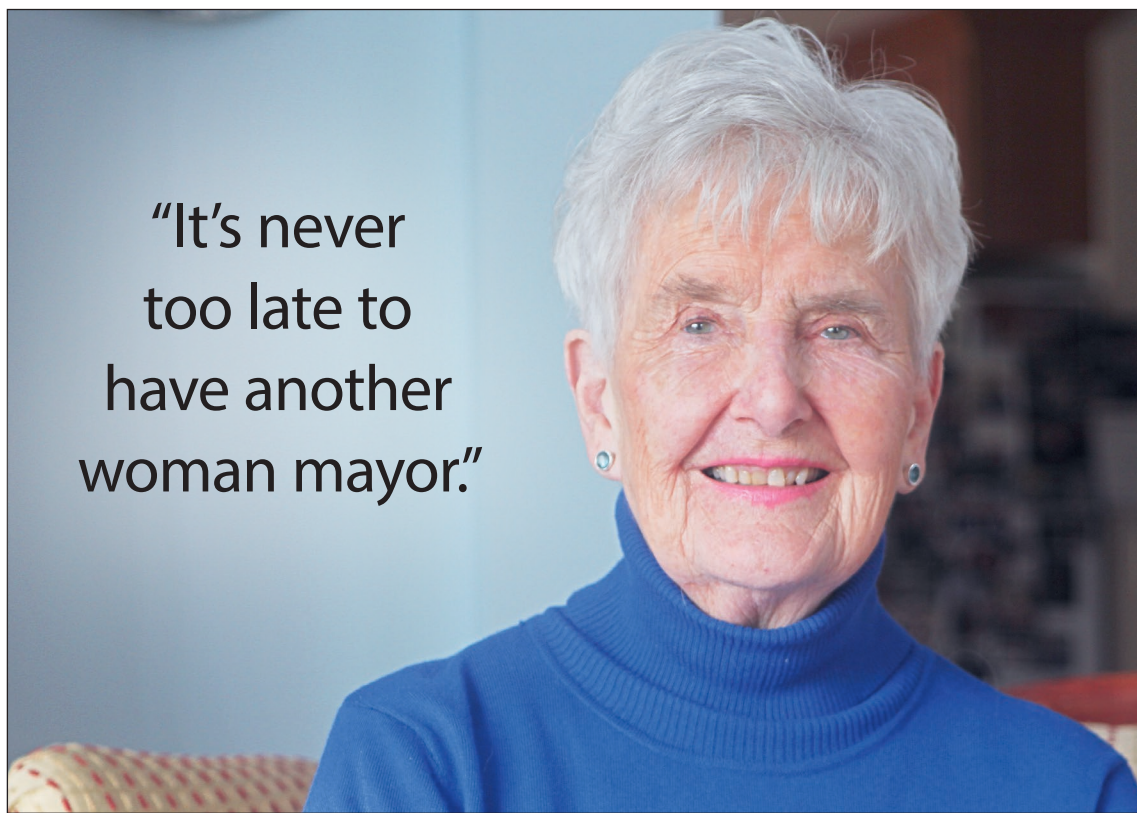
Customers of Whole Earth Market Co-op n River Falls rounded up their purchases and donated \$3,505 to The Forward Education Foundation. **Page A8.**

## OBITUARIES PAGE B6

Mary E. Aspenes  
Glen E. Beestman  
Nancy Bernard  
Sheila K. Charlson  
Virginia G. Malvey  
Virginia Nestrud  
Shirley Elizabeth DeBaun Storrer



## HUDSON POLITICS



Mary Ellefson was born and raised in Hudson. She now resides in the home that has been in her family for about 100 years.

"It's never too late to have another woman mayor."

# 'I didn't want to run for mayor'

## But Mary Ellefson ran and became Hudson's first and only woman mayor

BY HANNAH COYLE  
Staff Writer

Just days before a reporter sat down at the kitchen table of Mary Ellefson in her family home, Liz Malanaphy, candidate for mayor, did the same.

Ellefson has much advice for women candidates. She was the first female council member, the first female county supervisor and the first female male.

Overlooking the St. Croix River, Ellefson recounted her story of running for office, blazing a trail for women in

Hudson and St. Croix County. Ellefson raised her young children in Hudson. Her political career began with those children. From where they lived, the children had to cross Vine Street on their walk to school.

At the time, this was a popular shortcut for semi truck drivers. It was frightening for Ellefson and the neighboring parents to send their children to school on a route that endangered the young ones' safety.

The Hudson Common Council wasn't prioritizing

the issue.

So Ellefson decided she would.

With support from other worried parents, Ellefson – Mary Hallen at the time – decided to run for council in 1970. Her biography in the April 2, 1970, edition of the Star Observer noted she was a 33-year-old housewife, previous member of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls student senate and had studied social sciences.

See Ellefson Page A5

## COVID-19

# St. Croix County extends health advisory

## Cases drop, transmission rate high

ST. CROIX COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

St. Croix County Public Health has extended the Health Advisory until April 5.

Although the number of reported cases are dropping, St. Croix County Public Health is asking for everyone's help to protect the community.

As of Feb. 6, St. Croix County was experiencing an average of 59 reported COVID-19 cases a day.

Transmission remains high for the county at a case rate of 651 cases per 100,000 population in a seven-day period for Jan. 30-Feb. 5. Community transmission is considered high when the COVID-19 case rate is at least 100 cases per 100,000 population in a 7-day period.

Help lower the spread by following these simple steps:

- ▶ Get your COVID-19 vaccine or booster if eligible
- ▶ Wear a well-fitting N95 or KN95 mask
- ▶ Practice physical distancing
- ▶ Stay home when you are sick
- ▶ Get tested if you have symptoms or are a close contact

See Covid-19 Page A7

## BALD EAGLE

# Midwinter count monitors eagle population

## Counts evaluate stewardship efforts

BY TOM LINDFORS  
Contributor

NEW RICHMOND – I did not have a lot of time. I was due at 45th Parallel to cover the second day of fat bike racing by 10 a.m. so I decided to focus my count on stretches of open water on the Apple River and the three eagle nests closest to where I live.

It was the second day of the 2022 Midwinter Bald Eagle Count

scheduled this year to take place on Jan. 29 and 30.

My wife and I have participated in numerous counts and surveys since we moved to Star Prairie in 2006. We have tracked wolves for the DNR but mostly we count birds, the annual sandhill crane count for the International Crane Foundation, various spring waterfowl surveys for the USFWS, the Christmas Bird Count for Audubon and the Eagle Count for the Eagle Nature Foundation (ENF).

See Population Page A8



TOM LINDFORS

"The first eagle was sitting toward the end of a limb coming off a large pine just on the other side of the open water. I did a double take, it looked like a large dark hump, but it was too large to be a natural part of the tree."

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