

# The Record-Review

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## Stratford ponders recurring money

By Casey Krautkramer

The Stratford Board of Education on December 21, 2022, met in closed session and it decided to create a question on the spring election ballot focusing on a \$990,000 recurring operational referendum.

School board members will vote on whether or not to go forward with a \$990,000 recurring operational referendum at its meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m. in the Stratford middle/high school band room.



Dr. Nathan Lehman

The deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 25, for public school districts in the state to file a referendum question to be placed on the Tuesday, April 4, election ballot.

Voters passing a recurring operational referendum would give Stratford School District an additional \$990,000 of taxpayer money past its state revenue cap each school year forever with no end. The school board said in closed session it wants to make things easy for the public by having only one number, because it felt school district voters were confused on the tax impact during its previous two failed attempts at passing an operational referendum.

The school board suggested in closed session it needs to find a group of people who have a strong presence in the community to help spread correct infor-

See **REFERENDUM** page 2

## New Year's fire

### Ladder truck helps extinguish Stratford house blaze

By Casey Krautkramer

Chad Willemsen, Stratford Area Fire Department (SAFD) assistant chief, just happened to be driving into the village of Stratford on Sunday when he received an emergency call shortly after 6 p.m. for a house fire at 213330 Legacy Street.

At that moment he saw four- to five-foot tall flames coming through the roof of the rental home, which is located across the street and to the west of Stratford Elementary School.

SAFD's fire call automatically also paged the Edgar, Hewitt, McMillan and Spencer fire departments to respond. The renter was not home at the time of the fire but police were able to evacuate people out of their homes on each side of the house on fire.

Willemsen was pleased firefighters were able to prevent the fire from spreading to neighboring homes that are located very close to the

See **STRATFORD FIRE**/ page 16



**DOUSING THE FIRE**-A firefighter on the McMillan Fire Department's ladder truck sprays water on the village of Stratford house roof on Sunday night, while another firefighter climbs up a ladder to gain access to a second story window on the backside of the home to check for fire hot spots.

STAFF PHOTO/CASEY KRAUTKRAMER

## Billeb takes reigns as new county sheriff

By Hannah Alden

During his 30-year law enforcement career, Chad Billeb has seen the area grow and change, serving in various roles within nearby local and county departments. On Tuesday he was sworn in as the new Marathon County sheriff.

Billeb, who grew up in Brookfield, near Milwaukee, moved to Medford when he was a junior in high school. At that point, he didn't know what path he would be taking after finishing school. It wasn't until he got a chance to interact with the Taylor County



**SHERIFF IS SWORN IN**-New Marathon County Sheriff Chad Billeb shares a laugh with his wife and two daughters during his swearing-in ceremony on Tuesday. The crowd, made up of Billeb's family, retired officers, current deputies, county officials and others, filled the courtroom.

STAFF PHOTO/HANNAH ALDEN

See **NEW SHERIFF**/ page 3



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