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Sports

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) 2026 Board Meeting March 12

The SWCD will be holding its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

Long Gone Daddy at Geneva Bar and Grill Friday, March 13

Musician Jeremy Johannsen, aka "Long Gone Daddy" will perform at Geneva Bar and Grill 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, March 13.

Ellendale Fire Department Fish Fry Friday, March 13

The Ellendale Fire Department is offering a fish fry the evening of Friday, March 13 from 5 p.m. until the food is gone. The event will be at the Ellendale Community Center. Free will donations will be accepted at the door.

Waseca County Farm & City Luncheon on March 19

The county farm and city luncheon at Farmamerica will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 19 to acknowledge the hardworking individuals who continue to move our ag industry forward. Tickets are \$20 per person and must be purchased in advance at the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism. The deadline to purchase tickets is March 9. Must have a ticket to attend.

Albert Lea Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Luncheon Tuesday, March 24

Albert Lea Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Luncheon will be at noon on Tuesday, March 24 at the Freeborn County Fairgrounds in the Fairlane Building. As part of the luncheon, the Chamber will recognize the 47th Freeborn County Farm Family of the Year.

Ellendale Fire Department Fish Fry Friday, March 27

The Ellendale Fire Department is offering a fish fry the evening of Friday, March 27 from 5 p.m. until the food is gone. The event will be at the Ellendale Community Center. Free will donations will be accepted at the door.

Annual Farmamerica Meeting March 27

Farmamerica will hold their annual members meeting at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 27. The public is welcome to attend to reflect on the past year and share updates on what Farmamerica has been up to. Voting members are encouraged to attend and participate in the election of new board members. Please RSVP by calling 507-835-2052 or email hilary@farmamerica.org.

A word from
The Word

What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived, the things God has prepared for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

Section 1A Champions

STATE TOURNAMENT BOUND - The NRHEG Girls' Basketball team won its second consecutive and its seventh section championship in school history Thursday night at the Mayo Civic Center arena in Rochester after a come-from-behind 64-62 victory over Hayfield. The girls, seeded 5th (27-3), played Thursday afternoon against 4th seed Hillcrest Academy (28-2) in the opening round of the Class A state tournament at Maturi Pavilion in Minneapolis. The winner plays Friday at noon at Williams Arena, the loser Friday, at 10 a.m. or noon, at the Gangelhoff Center of Concordia University. Full story on Page 8, congratulations on Page 10.

Garden Club planning for spring

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Though it's still far too early to start turning ground, the New Richland Town and Country Garden Club held its first meeting of 2026 the evening of March 2. It was clear members had been thinking about the coming growing season, as preliminary plans were offered for the design of the group's largest project, the flower garden located along Highway 30 across from the secondary school parking lot.

Club member Barb Finseth suggested that, since 2026 is the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, the garden could be planted in rows of red and white petunias, and accented at the corner with purple and white salvia, allowing the space to send a "flag-like" impression. Club members expressed enthusiasm for the plan.

A schedule distributed during the meeting revealed the club meets at 6:30 p.m. the first Monday of the



CELEBRATING WINS -Members of the Town and Country Garden Club were grateful for the assistance of NRHEG Secondary students and supervising staff during the school's "Community Service Day" last June. Club members reviewed the summer's accomplishments during their Oct. 6 meeting.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

month in March, April, May, June, September, October and November. It states anyone who loves flowers and gardening is invited to join; enthusiasts may also attend meetings or work alongside club members in completing gardening tasks when they have an opportunity.

Special events scheduled in 2026 include the club's plant sale

on May 16 at the New Richland Community Center; club tours in July and August, and a Christmas party scheduled for Dec. 9.

While the garden club has taken on the task of planting and maintaining the flower garden along Highway 13 and the flower beds on the grounds of the community center, it does not take care of the large planters which decorate the

sidewalk along Broadway Avenue. During the March 2 meeting, club members expressed gratitude to Eleanor, Loren and Chris Schlaak and Bob Battenfeld for consenting to take on that task in 2026.

Beginning in April, the club will be taking "pre-orders" for popular plants offered during the May 16 plant sale.

Proposed park plan assesses needs, hopes

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

As part of a process meant to establish a five-year maintenance and improvement plan for county parks, facilities director Brian Tomford offered information during the March 3 meeting of the county board about each of 9 spaces owned by the county, summarizing how the public tends to use them, and what repairs or improvements will likely be called for over the next few years.

Tomford identified the main focus of the proposed plan to be "developing and improving" rather than expanding the size or number of parks.

Putting together a maintenance plan, he told board members, will be useful for establishing budgets and applying for outside sources of funding—including money assigned through state programs as well as grants offered by various agencies. A regular pattern of maintenance, he said, should also reduce the need for "reactive" repairs and simultaneously increase public engagement with the various facilities.

His summary began with Courthouse Park, located south of Waseca mostly in Wilton Township. Courthouse is the county's largest park, more than 170 acres in size. Located on its grounds are cabins, "primi-



UPGRADES - Ray Eustice Park near Waldorf is just one of the parks included in the proposed Waseca County Parks and Recreation five year plan. Upgrades include playground safety, a possible new pavillion, fire pit, blacktop road and more.

and playground. The pavilion is

Parks continued on 7

Council looks at internet issues, water

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff Writer

During the New Richland city council meeting the evening of Feb. 9, Nick Sorenson, energy manager for Fidium Fiber Internet (formerly Consolidated) requested permission to complete the installation process in New Richland to provide fiber internet. Said Sorenson, "All underground, nothing aerial. We'll be replacing the plastic, but everything else should be the same. Should take about a year."

RadioLink internet has asked to negotiate a continuing arrangement to keep company equipment on the city water tower. The previous contract expired and the equipment has been there rent free for almost five years. A water tower inspection last summer found a violation with improper wiring and improper grounding regarding the RadioLink equipment. The council took the contract into consideration.

The city has arranged for J&R Water Utility Service to "exercise" valves and place GPS marking on main shut-offs. The price for the service, which is expected to require about three days, will be \$150 an hour or \$1,200 a day.

The city will be spending nearly \$1,000 to purchase paint for restriping on some city streets. The cost for 25 gallons of white paint is \$650; 15 gallons of yellow paint will be \$345.

The Steeple Event Center applied for a license to serve alcohol during events on its property. The owner of 213 N Broadway requested that the lot, as well as the city-owned property behind it, be rezoned. The owner's goal is to be able to build a fence at the property line to maximize storage space available for an HVAC business.

Ambulance staff reported having completed a Feb. 21 training session for the agency's new monitor. The fire department reported its members had completed a required safety training; the department responded to one medical call for the month.

Bob Johannsen, Care Center Administrator, informed council members new carpet will soon be installed in the facility's common area, entryway and chapel. The staff break room will also be remodeled. Johannsen stated, "Our new team is really working out well. I'm feeling good about who we're hiring."

Regarding the city water supply, Shell Johnson reported chloride numbers are temporarily elevated because of salt entering the water system from roadways. She mentioned repairs to the electrical and heating systems at the water treatment plant are proceeding well.



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Caught in the rain

The scurs and Weather Eye delivered a kinder, gentler forecast last week. Is Old Man Winter waiting in the wings this week or has he left for spring training? Starting Thursday, mostly cloudy with a fair chance of evening rain and snow. Highs in the upper 40's with lows in the upper 20's. Partly sunny Friday with a fair chance of evening snow.

Highs in the low 40's with lows in the upper 20's. Mostly cloudy on Saturday with a good chance of snow. Highs in the low 40's with lows in the mid-20's. Sunday, mostly cloudy with a good chance of forenoon snow. Highs in the mid-30's with lows around 10 above. Mostly sunny on Monday with highs in the low 20's and lows around 10. St. Patrick's Day, mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the low 30's with lows in the mid-20's. Mostly cloudy on Wednesday with highs in the mid-30's and lows in the low 20's. On the 13th we'll see sunrise at 7:30 CDT. Our daily gain in daylight increases to three minutes and two seconds on the 12th and by the 15th, we've picked up 3 hours of daylight since the winter solstice. On St. Patrick's Day we'll see 12 hours of daylight. The normal high for St. Patrick's Day is 40 and the normal low is 23. The scurs are ready for March doing March things.

We got back to more spring-like temperatures this past week and were treated to an old-fashioned springtime thunderstorm last Friday night. Amounts varied anywhere from .4" - 1.45" in the Bugtussle gauge. Watching the mud around the yard was starting to get old, but on Monday morning, the frost was out at the SROC where it's measured there on bare soil. I'd noticed on Sunday that it was largely out at the ranch, except in areas that had been shaded or under heavy cover in the grassland. The pasture had a tinge of green to it as well. The sheep wasted no time capitalizing on that, not unlike a kid finding their first puddle of the spring. On Monday the dooryard had gone from slimy and slippery to tacky but firm underneath. Progress.

Progress on many fronts at the ranch over the weekend. We finished sharing up shearing Saturday. Not that we had a lot of head to shear, but they were all split up into small groups which meant lots of jockeying animals around. Luckily we had great help; people who could see the next step and if someone needed a hand, they were right there.

We finished by noon and had plenty of food to gorge ourselves. Sunday I got the fence back in order after the winter and deer had ravaged it. When I plugged it in to check it, it blew four bars on the tester. Perfect. Probably as early as I can remember the fence being operational. The ewes yet to lamb have been lounging as though they're at some beach resort sipping piña coladas. Soon time for them to get to work and for the ewes with lambs to occupy the lot by the road. It's fun to watch the lambs run with fewer chores. America wins.

It's been an exceptional spring so far to be outside watching and listening to the migrating waterfowl. Sunday we were treated to several large skeins of white-fronted geese, also known as speckle bellies or

specks. They were up high where it'd take a surface to air missile to bring them down during hunting season. Canada geese are numerous, although they've been flying at lower altitudes. One small flock of snow geese made its way north of the ranch during Monday morning chores. What's probably the most interesting though is checking the barns before bedtime.

Sunday night I was amazed by the honks, squeaks, squawks and quacks as I made my way across the dooryard. I could only imagine what might be flying overhead.

St. Patrick's Day marks a sad day in automotive history 60 years ago. On March 4, 1966, operations would be shutting down; the last Studebaker rolled off the assembly line on March 17 in Hamilton, Ontario. They had produced fewer than 9,000 cars for that model year. Studebaker's 114-year history as a transportation company was over. From its humble beginnings as a wagon and carriage manufacturer in 1852, it began automobile manufacturing in 1902. Struggling through the Great Depression, it emerged to be a major contributor to the WWII effort.

Studebaker built over 63,000 engines for B-17 bombers and several hundred thousand trucks, most of which were sent to the Soviet Union. After the war, Studebaker built some of the most beautiful cars on the road, often ahead of their time. Some were also extremely fast, ushering in the muscle car era with the '56 Golden Hawk and later setting production auto speed records at the Bonneville Salt Flats with the Avanti. That part of the company's history ended.

However, Studebaker was not done yet. It continued on in 1967 as part of a merger involving Studebaker Corporation, Wagner Electric and Worthington Corporation. Studebaker had amassed a portfolio containing other companies over the years. When automobile production ceased, they still owned Onan, Gravely lawn tractors, Clarke Floor Machines and Schaefer Chemical Compounds, the company making STP. Jettisoning the automobile division, they were actually more profitable in 1966 than 1965. The Studebaker corporate name totally disappeared in 1979 when McGraw Edison acquired Studebaker-Worthington Corporation. It still left an indelible imprint on automobile and American history, something to think about when driving the Silver Hawk.

Poppy has enjoyed having her yard dry up enough so she's not getting all mud every time out. Actually, it's probably just avoiding getting her feet wiped off that makes her day. It's nice to have her outside with us though. That way she can get as much Corgi dawdling in as she wants. When she stays where we can see her, it's all good. The traffic moves at a ridiculous pace on our blacktop as one poor whitetail had the misfortune of discovering. An eagle spotted the roadkill and was perching in the tree behind the house waiting for the coast to clear. Probably a good idea for Poppy to stay in the house when that happens. Plenty of time to chase bunnies and squirrels when the eagle isn't around.

See you next week...real good then.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

The flowers have broken ground

I happened to look down, and there they were.

The daffodils, tulips and hyacinths along the front wall of my house have broken ground and are declaring to the world that life goes on.

They're only about an inch tall, but they have shown year after year that, once they're above ground, there's no stopping them. The leaves have seen sunlight and are using chlorophyll to change solar rays into food, so as certainly as winter will become spring, they will continue to grow. A hard frost may freeze their tops, but the stored energy that allowed them to send up the leaves will allow them to keep coming. A blanket of snow is only a few hours of muted sunlight to them. Soon the new leaves will be reminding the grass what a rich and beautiful color green is, and all the other flora will be following their example.

I cannot call myself a gardener, but I am someone who appreciates the message of abundance and resilience wrapped inside a seed.

I recognize that science can list the processes which allow a tiny, inert piece of matter to transform into a seedling and then a plant. But in the deepest sense, science cannot explain it. I do not understand how anyone who has experienced the renewal and revival of spring could believe this long-sustained wonder came about by chance.

Before you begin to worry for me, I know it's only the second week in March. I know March is classified as the "snowiest" month, and I know the freezing temperatures are not all behind us.

But a small gathering of robins hopped across my yard recently, and I heard the song of a red-winged blackbird this morning.

As my emerging tulips, daffo-



The emergence of this hyacinth and many other plants along the south wall of her house has Deb Bently soliloquizing about spring.

This particular leaflet is less than an inch tall, but already has a shape similar to an opening flower bud.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

dils and hyacinths proclaim, the basement of winter is behind us and we are climbing the stairs into spring. The frost is coming out of the ground, the shallow edges of the lakes are thawing, the temperatures across time are trending upward.

No wonder cultures from earlier times crafted myths to explain the seasons and their differing features—all these

changes really do feel like an awakening, or a reunion, or like finding something valuable that had been misplaced.

For me, the message sent by my emerging spring bulbs is, "See? We came back."

And even though my answer is, "I always knew you would," I can't help also thinking, "I'm glad you reminded me."

Project announced to bring ammonia to Minnesota

Central Farm Service (CFS), TalusAg, and CleanCounts today announced a collaborative project to build Talus10 local ammonia production facilities in Minnesota, marking the first time locally produced ammonia fertilizer will be commercially available. Pending support from the Renewable Development Account (RDA) which will be decided in Minnesota's 2026 Legislative Session, the project will deliver a first-of-its-kind regional supply of ammonia fertilizer directly to CFS members, helping shield farmers from the price volatility seen in ammonia fertilizer markets.

Using electricity from Blue Earth Light & Water, the two Talus10 systems will each convert air, water, and power into up to 20 tons per day of locally produced ammonia, enabling reliable, local production of a fertilizer essential to crop production across the region and a fuel for power generation.

For Minnesota farmers—who have endured years of price shocks driven by international gas markets and geopolitical instability—this project offers a new model of price stability, supply certainty, and independence. The project will provide supply of ammonia to cover more than two-thirds of CFS' annual ammonia sales and field applications to more than 100,000 total acres.

"Ammonia prices have swung by more than 300% in recent years," said KC Graner, CEO of Central Farm Service, a farmer-owned cooperative serving nearly 4,500 members across southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. "Local production gives our member-owners a level of control and predictability they've never had before—and it strengthens the economic resilience of every farm we serve."

"This is a great example of co-operatives looking to the future to ensure our members have certainty of supply and price for the products they need to produce a quality crop," said Kurt Koehler, Board Chair, Central Farm Service.

TalusAg, which completed a one-ton-per-day local ammonia production project in early 2025 in collaboration with Landus, an Iowa-based agriculture cooper-

ative, will bring its modular, rapidly deployable Talus10 technology to Minnesota.

"Local ammonia production is the future of agricultural fertilizer," said Hiro Iwanaga, co-founder & CEO of TalusAg. "By producing ammonia where it's used, we ensure reliable supply, reduce transportation costs, and provide price stability to one of American farmers' biggest variable costs."

Minnesota Renewable Development Account: Catalyzing Innovation

Funding from Minnesota's Renewable Development Account—established under Minn. Stat. § 116C.779 to support innovative energy technologies—is being sought by the partners to cover necessary infrastructure for the project. The RDA's mission is to accelerate solutions that benefit Minnesota ratepayers, reduce emissions, and spur rural economic development.

Ensuring Credible Clean Fuel Markets Through CleanCounts

As part of the project, CleanCounts—the largest registry and source of truth for compliance and voluntary clean energy markets within North America—will enhance its existing capabilities for issuance, retirement, and transacting Energy Attribute Certificates (EACs) for ammonia. While known for its best-in-class services focused on supporting electricity and clean fuels markets across North America, CleanCounts is expanding into tracking ammonia.

CleanCounts supports more U.S. state and Canadian province regulatory programs than any other single registry and brings the same level of rigor, transparency, and verification to voluntary buyers as is required by state regulators nationally. The process is similar to how the organization tracks renewable energy and issues Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and Renewable Thermal Certificates (RTCs) for clean fuels like biomethane and green hydrogen.

EACs for ammonia produced using renewable energy, and other low-emissions methods, will verify the production of ammonia and attach a carbon intensity measurement to ammonia quan-

ties, enabling downstream buyers, co-ops, and supply chain partners to make clear, auditable claims about ammonia-related emissions.

"As one of the world's largest clean energy registries, CleanCounts has spent nearly 20 years serving our nonprofit mission focused on trust, transparency, and market integrity," said CleanCounts CEO Ben Gerber. "Certificates for clean ammonia will give all market participants confidence that a verified amount of ammonia has been produced using zero or other low-emissions methods."

"As ammonia begins to play a larger role in both agriculture and energy systems, market confidence is essential. Our role at CleanCounts is to ensure that every clean ammonia certificate represents real, verified production with transparent emissions data so buyers and supply-chain partners can make credible, auditable claims," said James Critchfield, head of registry and market integrity for CleanCounts.

Research Expands on World-

Leading Model

The West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) at University of Minnesota, Morris built the world's first wind power to local ammonia production facility in 2013 and expanded it substantially over the following years. Today, the facility at WCROC generates more than one ton of ammonia per day and includes leading research and production partners.

As part of the TalusAg/CFS project, Great Plains Institute will receive funding and work with WCROC on grid data to advance wind power to ammonia, and ammonia production to prevent wind power curtailment.

"Local production of nitrogen fertilizer makes sense for many reasons," said Mike Reese, Green Ammonia Research Lead and Director of Operations at WCROC. "Primarily, farmers are able to lock in the cost of a key crop input and, the dollars that typically go elsewhere to purchase this fertilizer remain in our communities helping support rural economies."

NRHEG
Star Eagle

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Got news? • 463-8112

Compostings

by Al Batt

Smelling salts for the ears

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I got new eyeglasses at Costco. They look good. How do you like them?
I like them. Now I see everything in bulk.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. He was a familiar stranger while I was in college. I'd seen him around. He was from New Jersey and was a friend of a friend. A group of us was lounging around. We were in a lounge area of the college, so we had to lounge around to keep from being expelled.

"Hey, any of youse guys want to drive me to my bar?"
It turned out that his name was Louie, and he wore the countenance of a guy who could be happy if he wasn't careful.

He didn't own a bar. The bar he wanted a ride to was a place where he went to shoot pool. He'd much rather shoot pool than attend classes—the hours were better and so was the pay.

He explained that the bar was in a rough neighborhood and he needed someone to drive him there in his car and then pick him up later because he didn't want to park his Cadillac at that location. He feared it would be vandalized or stolen.

My ears perked up when I heard "Cadillac."

I was one of the "youse guys" and volunteered.

I drove a land barge to and from a pool hall.

When my mother called and asked me how I was doing in college—that's what she asked, "How are you doing in college?"—I proudly answered, "I'm driving a Cadillac."

I'VE LEARNED
Blueberries lower blood pressure unless you look at the price of the blueberries.

I can communicate with fish because I have mental tilapia.

It takes a nurse longer to find a vein than it does a mosquito.

Why is "dark" spelled with a K, and not a C? Because you can't C in the dark.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
The unknown baker was named John Dough.

Dear Optimist, Pessimist and Realist. While you were all arguing about that glass of water, I drank it. Thank you. Signed, The Opportunist.

Face the facts, aliens never visit Earth. They've read the Yelp reviews. Only 1 star.

IN LOCAL NEWS
I paid my respects to Whitey Hagen at Community Lutheran Church. My mother told me that

we should leave the world a better place than it was when we got here. When his brother Dick died from cancer, Whitey, with the help of Hank Thompson, started the Geneva Cancer Auction in 1985, which has raised major funds for cancer research. Whitey left the world a better place.

The Steele County Historical Society's "Land, Air, Water: Celebrating Conservation and Preservation in Steele County" exhibit is open. The Owatonna Izaak Walton League is celebrating 100 years of service, the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District is celebrating 80 years of operation, and there is a display of the Wahpeto Dakota history in the area.

NATURE NOTES
There was a lot of whining in the yard. No, it wasn't all from me. It was the oft-repeated chi-call of a red-bellied woodpecker, which sounds whiny. It's a call to stop, look and listen. Woodpeckers drummed. They banged out love notes in Morse code or woodpecker code on resonant limbs.

Downy and hairy woodpeckers can be hard to tell apart. Downies are smaller and have short bills. Hairy woodpeckers have bills more like chisels. Nuthatches went around a tree trunk searching for food, as if they were stripes on a barber pole. A cardinal cranked up his spring song, a loud, whistled series of notes sounding like "cheer, cheer, cheer" or "birdie, birdie, birdie." That's smelling salts for the ears.

Chipmunks scurried about as if they had misplaced their lists of things to do today.

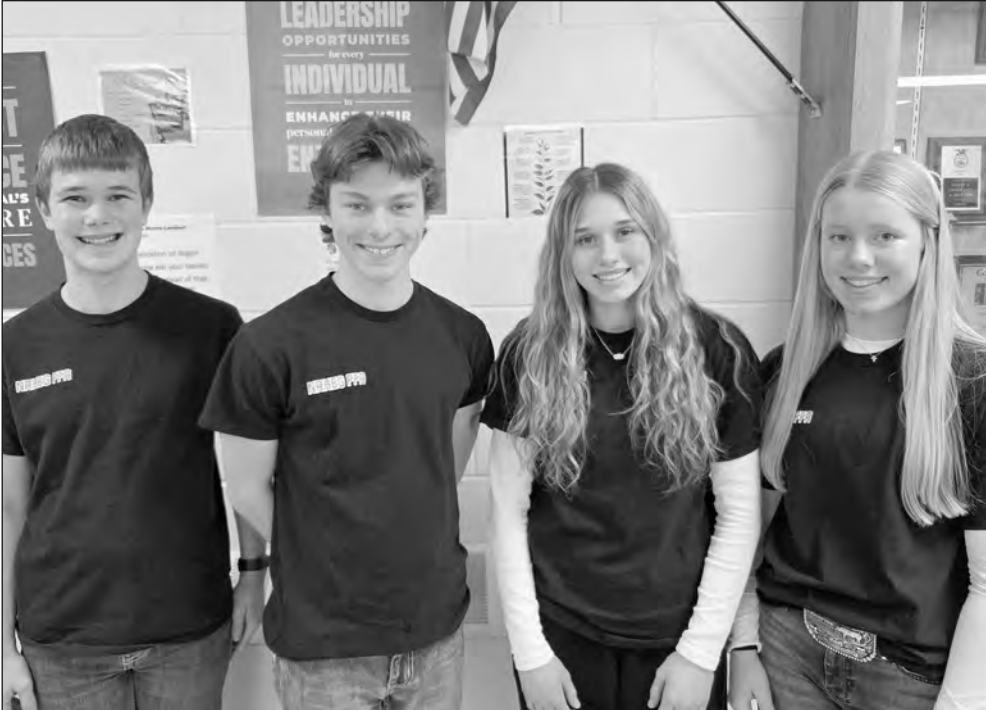
White-tailed deer can run 30 to 40 mph, never once qualifying for a NASCAR event. They can leap up to 8 feet high. Wild strawberry leaves are lovely to see. The leaves stay green over the winter.

For most of Minnesota and much of Iowa, December is typically the snowiest month of the year. January is second, February third and March is the fourth snowiest month, but you never know.

Acrobatic squirrels engaged in a merry chase of tag. Squirrel and rabbit chases take place as part of the courting process. Gray squirrels mate twice a year, typically from December to February and June through August. Fox squirrels mate twice a year, generally from December to February and June through July. The eastern cottontail rabbit breeding season runs from March to September.

Male goldfinches begin molting from their muted, drab plumage into vibrant mating colors in mid-March. Watch the state bird of Iowa, and you'll see some splochy feathers on goldfinches during the in-between stages of a molt.

MEETING ADJOURNED
Every person you meet is in need of a kind word.



TEAM VICTORIES - The NRHEG Vet Science team consists of Gus Bethke, Brooklyn Sommer, Colton Leron and Ezra Boerner. Competing in JV was Kinley Adams, Alexa Viktora and Jacob Lewer.

NRHEG FFA Vet Science team qualifies for state

The NRHEG Vet Science team, consisting of Gus Bethke, Brooklyn Sommer, Colton Leron and Ezra Boerner, finished second in the region on March 6. All four finished in the top third with Gus third individually, Colton seventh, Brooklyn 12th, and Ezra finished 20th. Also compet-

ing in JV was Kinley Adams, first overall, and Alexa Viktora. Jacob Lewer also competed in the Meats Evaluation contest and finished very well for his first contest. The exciting part of the day was Kinley buying chicks at Baumgaars.



County addresses justice center, road construction

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their March 3 meeting, members of the Waseca County Board followed the recommendation of Adolfsen and Peterson (A & P) Construction to approve releasing specifications for a \$28.6 million justice center to contractors, so that bids can be submitted and a contractor selected in time for the first elements of construction to begin this year.

A & P representatives explained that, with the March 3 approval of the design schedule, the first bid package would be released within a few days. Contractors in this round would be asked to submit bids on shaping the site, laying site utilities, and placing the footing and foundations. A second round of bids would be released for work to begin in mid-August and continue through the winter. The second round would in-

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

clude installation of pre-cast concrete.

The construction plan calls for staff to be able to occupy the building beginning in February of 2028, with all work, including pavement, landscaping, and the demolition of the current law enforcement center complete by September of 2028.

In response to a question from commissioner Brad Milbrath, who stated he has heard from constituents asking whether efforts to reduce the cost of construction will lead to the need to expand the facility "in a few years," county facilities management director Brian Tomford stated he has met with all department heads, and has been told they can work with the planned spaces.

The new justice center structure will be about 125 feet on a side, three stories in height, and will house the county's courtroom and court offices as well as the county corrections, county attorney, sheriff's and emergency management departments. The facility will include a "class one" jail—one authorized by the Department of Corrections to house prisoners for no more than 72 consecutive hours.

Though a general layout for the interior spaces of the new structure has received preliminary approval, A & P staff stated final approval of square footages and smaller details is likely to be an "ongoing process" as construction begins and continues.

Also in advance of the 2026 construction season, board members approved the recommendations of county engineer Jim Kollar in letting bids for a number of road improvement projects.

County Road 60 (390th Avenue) between the west county line and the U.S. Hwy 14 interchange will be rehabilitated to a 10-ton standard. The road will be brought up to a 10 ton standard at a cost of \$220,000. Crane Creek Construction was the successful bidder.

A one-mile segment of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 6, between 240th and 250th Avenues west of New Richland and 2.6 miles of CSAH 15 (portions of which are named 288th Avenue, 120th Street and 290th Avenue) through Otisco between CSAH 23 (W. Wilton River Road) and Minnesota Highway 13, will also be rehabilitated to the 10-ton level. The two projects will be completed by Ulland Brothers, Inc. at a cost of \$1.725 million.

Sir Lines-a-Lot was the successful bidder to restripe 82 miles of county roads this summer at a cost of \$100,000.



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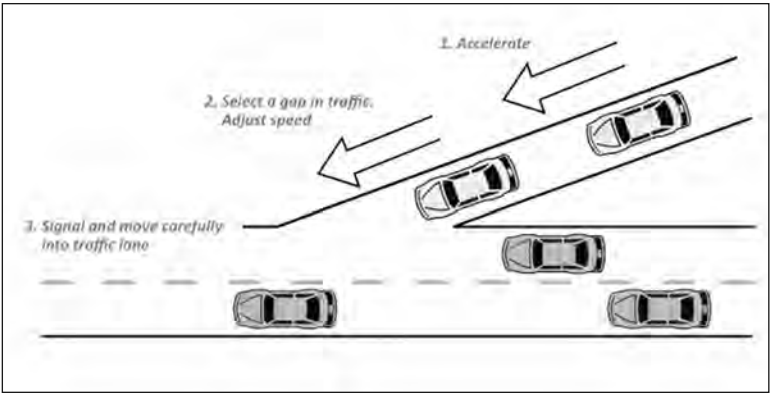
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Freeborn County invites public to free educational presentation

Age Friendly Freeborn County invites the public to hear a free educational presentation on Thursday, March 19, 2026. Frauds and scams are on the rise, with some targeting older adults. There are ways to protect yourself and your personal information. Come and learn how to detect, prevent and report fraud and what to do if you are scammed. Learn about the numerous types of fraud, including dating, IRS, jury duty, warrant for arrest, computer, mail, check, credit card, abuse and Medicare fraud. Age Friendly Freeborn County is partnering with Minne-

sota Aging Pathways and the Albert Lea Police Department for the two presentations, one at 9 a.m. and one at 11 a.m. Nicole Cummings, from Minnesota Aging Pathways and Lieutenant Jeff Strom and Detective Luke Tuzinski from the Albert Lea Police Department will be the presenters. No registration is required for this event. The presentation will be live streamed and posted on Albert Lea Healthcare Coalition and Age Friendly Freeborn County’s Facebook pages. Come to 417 South Newton Ave. for the two presentations to learn more.

IN BRIEF

Winter Farmers Market at Farmamerica on Saturday, March 28
A winter farmers market will be at Farmamerica from 8 a.m. till noon Saturday, March 28. Find locally grown, baked and made while supporting our local producers. Farmamerica is located at 7367 360th Ave., Waseca.

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting Thursday, April 9
The SWCD will be holding its monthly board meeting at

6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 9. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

Pancake Breakfast at Waldorf Community Center Sunday, April 12
The Waldorf Peppy Peppers 4-H Club is having their second annual pancake breakfast from 7 a.m. through noon on Sunday, April 12. This is open to the public with free-will donations accepted. Serving pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee.

Waseca County 4-H opens registration for free tree project

Waseca County 4-H is inviting local youth to grow their future - literally - by signing up for the 2026 Free Tree Project. In partnership with Neighborhood Forest, 4-H is providing free tree saplings to children ages 5–18 to plant in honor of Earth Week.

The deadline to reserve a free tree is Friday, March 13. Parents and guardians can register their children online at z.umn.edu/FreeTree-Waseca26.

“Our goal is to instill a sense of magic and wonder for the planet in our youngest community members,” says Amy Nelson, 4-H Extension Educator. “By giving a child their own tree to plant and care for, we are giving them a hands-on lesson in stewardship that lasts a lifetime.”

To ensure the project’s success, 4-H asks families to “check their space” for sunlight and “check their tools” to ensure they can plant and water the sapling upon arrival. Specific tree species will be announced by Neighborhood Forest closer to the event.

Earth Day Celebration: April 22: The trees will be distributed during a community-wide Earth Day Celebration on Wednesday, April 22, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Waseca County East Annex (Door #1).

The celebration is open to the entire public, regardless of whether

they reserved a tree. The event will feature:

- Youth Activities: Fun games, crafts, and educational stations.
- Community Partners: Local organizations will be on hand to provide activities and environmental information.
- Volunteer Opportunities: Youth (6th grade+) and adults are needed to help staff the event.

Call for Community Organizations: Waseca County 4-H is currently seeking local organizations to host a table at the celebration. There is no cost to participate, and it is a fantastic opportunity to reach an anticipated crowd of 150–200 residents. Interested groups can sign up at z.umn.edu/EarthDay26Participation.

For more information on the Free Tree Project or to volunteer, please contact Amy Nelson at dobbe007@umn.edu or call the Waseca County Extension Office at 507-835-0600.

The 4-H program is funded through a partnership of federal, state, county and private resources and is part of the University of Minnesota Extension.

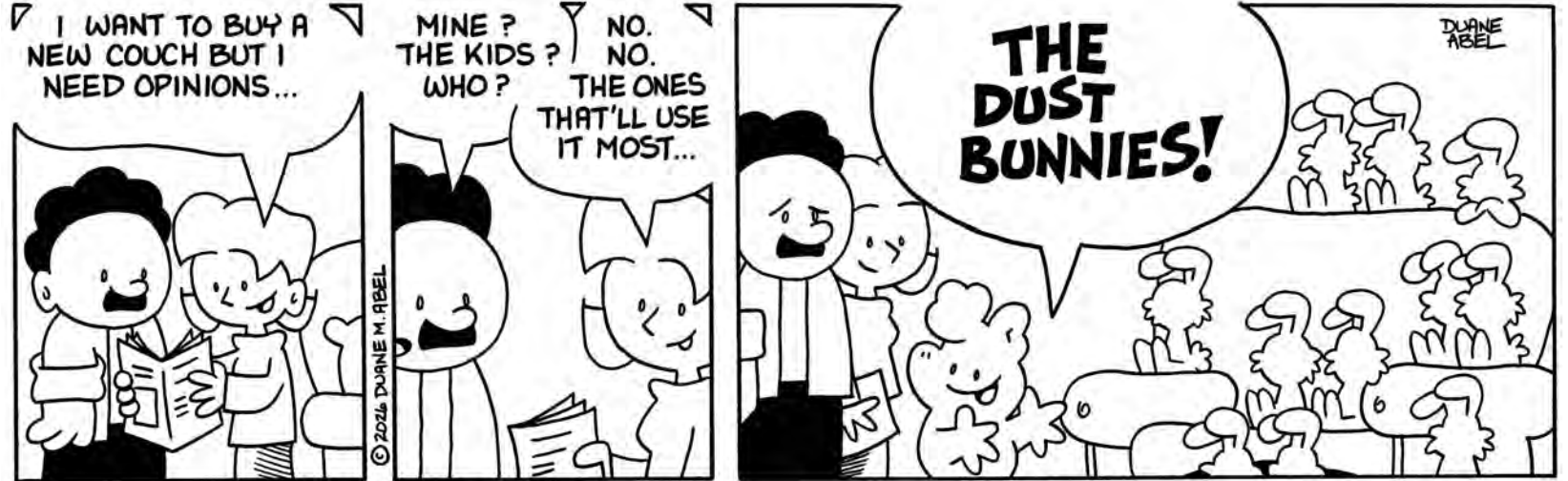
About Neighborhood Forest: Neighborhood Forest began with a simple mission: to give every child the joy of planting and watching their very own tree grow. What started



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION - Rhett W. poses with his free tree he received in 2025 through Waseca County 4-H’s project where they partner with Neighborhood Forest to give youth free trees to plant in honor of Earth Day. Sign up for the 2026 program is now taking place.

with four schools in Minneapolis in 2010, has grown to over 3,500 schools, libraries, and youth groups spanning all 50 states and seven Canadian provinces. We have also successfully conducted pilots in Mexico, Ghana, Haiti, and Uganda. Today, Neighborhood Forest continues to inspire children to plant trees, care for nature, and help create greener, healthier neighborhoods. Learn more at <https://www.neighborhoodforest.org/>

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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MNPrairie separation is complex, time consuming

By DEB BENTLY Staff Writer

Tara Reich, executive director of the collaborative human services agency referred to as MNPrairie, reported to the Waseca County Board of Commissioners during their March 3 meeting regarding steps currently underway to reconfigure the organization.

MNPrairie was established in 2014 when Dodge, Steele and Waseca counties put together an agreement to form a collaborative and consolidate the funds that support it, including funds from the three counties and money the state usually provides individual counties to support human services.

In March of 2025, Steele County commissioners voted to withdraw

from the collaborative, even though the joint powers agreement all three counties had signed did not give them the authority to dissolve the organization. Dodge and Waseca counties communicated regarding the circumstances and, in December of 2025, voted to allow Steele County to withdraw. A timeline of one year was set for the full separation, at the end of which Steele County would again be in charge of its own human services programs and funding while Dodge and Waseca would continue forward as a collaborative.

Reich summarized the steps that are underway to meet the Jan. 1, 2027 target. The process has many facets. For one, the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services

must separate records, funding, and much more—Reich mentioned there are more than 20 sets of records which must be extricated from one another at the state level.

She reported the state office has not committed to being able to complete all the steps by January.

She also mentioned that Steele County has not yet hired a director of human services, which slows down communication and the decision-making process.

An important factor is dividing the 180 current staff members between the two future agencies. Some employees were with Steele County before the 2014 consolidation, or have been working mostly with Steele County clients. Reich stated she is doing what she can to assure agency

workers their positions are secure, but says it is logical that employees are “doing the math,” and taking steps to avoid any chance of becoming unemployed.

“It’s a big loss,” Reich observed of each staff member who leaves, mentioning that it often takes one to two years before any new employee is comfortable with and skilled in all the elements of a position.

She told the board she is meeting with representatives from Steele County at least once a month, and that she will be reporting to the commissioners of both Dodge and Waseca counties every quarter.

“It’s going as well as it can,” she said of the complex process, mentioning that Steele County leaders are being cooperative and responsive.



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Local students earn academic accolades

Minnesota State Mankato Announces 2025 Fall Semester Dean's List:

New Richland, MN
Julia Churchill, Honor List
Severin Eads, Honor List
Brenlee Knudson, Honor List
Addison Loken, High Honor List
Jamie McShane, High Honor List

Geneva, MN
Shelby Johnston, High Honor List

Hartland, MN
Faith Nielsen, Honor List

Waldorf, MN
Faith Miller, High Honor List

The following student received a degree from University of Wisconsin-River Falls:
Lacey Nelson, Ellendale, MN. BS, Crop & Soil Science with Senior Merit

University of Minnesota Duluth Fall 2025 graduates include:
Abby Smith, Ellendale, MN, Cognitive Science B A; Psychology B A Sc

Kloe Wacek, Honor List
Kayden Warke, High Honor List
Katy Zimmerman, Honor List

Ellendale, MN
Anton Domeier, High Honor List
Levin Kitzer, High Honor List

Steele County releases request for proposals for non-profit community partner awards

Steele County Public Health is seeking proposals from local 501(c)(3) organizations that provide public health and human services to Steele County residents. Up to \$50,000 in funding is available for the 2026 award year.

The Steele County Non-Profit Community Partner Awards strengthen our community's ability to address priority health needs issues identified in the 2025-2029 Dodge-Steele Community Health Improvement Plan: Mental Health & Substance Use and Financial Stability. These awards invest in organizations that are better positioned than the county health department to address root causes of priority health issues, ultimately reducing the tax burden by leveraging non-profit partnerships and supporting community-led efforts to advance health in Steele County.

Eligible organizations may request between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to support programs or services aligned with these priorities. The application deadline is Sunday, April 5, 2026 at 11:59 p.m., and decisions for the 2026 award year will be announced in May, pending final approval from the Steele County Board of Commissioners. Selected programs will receive funding on a reimbursement basis for actual costs incurred between June 1 and November 30, 2026.

More information, as well as the full Request for Proposals and Application, are available on the Steele County Public Health website, under "Funding Opportunities." For questions about these awards, please contact us at SCPHN@SteeleCountyMN.gov or (507) 444-7650.

Sheriff Advocates



ADVOCATES - Steele, Freeborn and Waseca county sheriffs Lon Thiele, Ryan Shea, and Jay Dulas, respectively, were among sheriffs from across Minnesota at the State Capitol on March 4, talking to lawmakers about modifications and additions to Minnesota laws.

Keith Van Beek announces campaign for Minnesota House District 23A

Keith Van Beek announced today that he is running as a Republican candidate for the Minnesota House of Representatives in District 23A. The seat is currently held by Rep. Peggy Bennett, who has announced her campaign for governor. Van Beek said his campaign will focus on restoring accountability in state government, expanding opportunities for young people through strong rural schools, and ensuring local businesses can grow without unnecessary mandates from St. Paul. He also emphasized that his campaign will be grounded in core constitutional principles, including a firm commitment to protecting the Second Amendment. "Southern Minnesota deserves practical, common-sense representation that understands the needs of our communities," Van Beek said. "Families, farmers, and small business owners are working hard every day, and they deserve a state government that respects their tax

dollars and supports their success. I also believe strongly in defending our constitutional freedoms, including the right to keep and bear arms as clearly stated in the Second Amendment." Van Beek also expressed appreciation for Rep. Bennett's service to the district. "Representative Peggy Bennett has been a strong voice for southern Minnesota and has worked diligently to represent the values of our communities," Van Beek said. "I appreciate her service to District 23A and wish her the very best as she continues her campaign for governor." Van Beek currently serves on the Albert Lea City Council, where he was elected in 2024. In that role, he has emphasized transparency, fiscal responsibility, and open communication with residents while working to ensure local government remains responsive and accountable to the people it serves. House District 23A includes portions of Waseca, Steele, Faribault, and



Keith Van Beek

Freeborn counties. Van Beek said he looks forward to meeting with voters across the district and sharing his vision for leadership that prioritizes rural Minnesota.

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Child's History of Waseca County

Continuing CHAPTER VII, 1855. More settlers in March – Robbins brothers come with Chris Scott – “Bill” Robbins lost on the prairie, out two days and nights without food – A shooting affray

RECKLESS SHOOTING
A little matter occurred at this time that shows the recklessness of frontier life. Mr. Sutlief, while on his trip to Mankato in February, had sold on credit, a pair of young oxen to a man named Wentworth, and had taken as security a chattel mortgage on the team. He left the chattel mortgage with me and told me to keep an eye out for the cattle. When S. P. Child returned, he told me that Wentworth was sick of the country and would start for California as soon as the grass should grow. Wentworth lived about one and a half miles south of Mansfield and Callens. I went out to that place on foot, a few days after my brother's return, and stayed with Mansfield and Callens over night. They confirmed the report that Wentworth was selling off his personal effects and making arrangements to

leave as soon as possible, and that he was trying to sell the Sutlief oxen. So, the next morning, I went to see him, supposing that he would pay for the oxen or, at least, give them up, as he had not paid anything on them. He very coolly told me that he should not pay for them nor give them up. He said the note was not due till a year from date and he should not pay it till then. He admitted that he should leave as soon as he could and take the cattle with him. I told him then that the cattle would have to be taken on the mortgage, and tried to convince him that he had no right to hold the cattle, either in law or equity; but talk was of no avail. I then went to the yard, put the yoke on the oxen, and started to drive them out through the bars. Wentworth stood in the barway with a club and drove them back. I then tore down the yard fence on the other side and tried to drive them out there, but Wentworth met them there and drove them back. For some time we drove the cattle back and forth; finally we came to a clinch. During the struggle, the oxen went out of the yard, and as soon as Wentworth could get loose

and regain his feet he ran for the house; I ran for the oxen and started them east as fast as possible. I had not gone more than eight rods before Wentworth came out with a shot gun and ordered me to stop or he would shoot. Well, matters were getting serious. I had no shooting iron. I didn't believe, however, that Wentworth would shoot at me, so I said "Shoot and be d-d." And sure enough Wentworth did shoot. I was badly scared, but I was satisfied that if I could get hold of Wentworth before the gun could be reloaded, I could soon put an end to the shooting business; so I made a run for the angry man, who ran into his shanty and barred the door before I reached it. Then I knew it was time for me to leave if I expected to leave at all, and I accordingly left as fast as my legs could carry me. Fortunately for me, the cattle had kept on in the track leading to the Sutlief settlement, and I soon overtook them and put them into a trot which was kept up for some distance. I saw Wentworth come out of his shanty with his gun and walk towards me a short distance, then turn back and disappear into his

cabin. I kept a "weather eye" out for my contestant all that day, and for some days after my return, but I never again saw the man, who soon after left the Territory.

Editorial Note - Upon rummaging through the vast library of contents here at the Star Eagle, I stumbled across a very old blue book titled, "Child's History of Waseca County Minnesota for Fifty Years, 1854-1904."

After thumbing through the first several pages it was determined this book was too interesting to go back on the shelf. So, it was used as a stand for a computer monitor. Several months later, after finding a more suitable stand, I opened the book to show a reader who stopped into the office. After reading about the Horse Thief Detective Association, I made the decision that this piece of history should not be lost to time. Since then the Star Eagle has included, "a little bit of this and a little bit of that," from the book.

Eli Lutgens

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State, but at what cost?

Panthers win section title while losing VanMaldeghem to injury

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Things could not have started much worse for the NRHEG girls' basketball team.

Standout senior Camryn VanMaldeghem, recently announced as a Miss Basketball Minnesota finalist, was called for a foul about 3 seconds in, resulting in three Hayfield/Schaeffer Academy free throws.

But things got worse.

About a minute later, VanMaldeghem was whistled for another violation, putting her on the bench for most of the first half.

How could things get worse? Don't ask.

Soon after returning to the court, VanMaldeghem - who was averaging 30.2 points per game - went down with what turned out to be a very serious, season-ending knee injury.

Talk about overcoming adversity. The Panthers - thanks to the collective efforts of several players who picked up the slack - stayed with Hayfield/Schaeffer Academy and held on for a memorable 64-62 victory Thursday in the Section 1A championship game at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center.

The top-seeded Panthers, who improved to 27-4, advanced to their second consecutive and seventh overall berth in the state tournament. The Vikings, seeded second, finished the season 22-8, four of the losses coming to NRHEG.

"We said it's not going to be easy," said Panthers coach Onika Peterson. "Hayfield is very well coached, they do a lot of things well. We knew it was going to be a dogfight. Did we expect this kind of a dogfight? No. But, again, it's just one play at a time. With Camryn going down, we had a lot of kids step up. It was nice to see the kids say we still got this, we can still do this. I'm just impressed with their resiliency all year long. I'm so proud of them. This is a real special group. I've never had a group like this. They care about each other."

Most of the first half was touch-and-go for the Panthers, who gave up too many free throws and easy baskets while not finding a rhythm on offense.

Ezra Boerner and Clara Buendorf hit key threes for the Panthers, who trailed 14-13 after 10 minutes of play. The rest of the first half was back-and-forth, with the Vikings pulling ahead by as many as nine points. But it wouldn't stand. Threes by Buendorf, Boerner and Gabby Schlaak helped pull the Panthers within 37-32 at halftime.

The second-half was a nonstop battle, the biggest lead 45-40 by the Vikings with 13:10 left to play. Again the Panthers refused to fold, and it was 45-45 with about eight minutes remaining and 50-50 after pair of Quinn VanMaldeghem free throws with 5:54 left. Schlaak and Buendorf picked up their fourth foul along the way but they also hit some big baskets, and the Panthers had a chance to go up by three from the free-throw line - but missed both attempts.

"We said it's not going to be easy."
— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

Boerner sank a free throw with 4.2 seconds left, and a late, long three-point shot by the Vikings was off the mark - and finally the Panther faithful could breathe easily.

"I am unbelievably proud," said Peterson. "I can't say enough positive things about these girls. They fight for each other, their resiliency, their effort and their grit is second to none. Tonight was a whirlwind of highs and lows, emotions, and frustrations. The girls never quit. They didn't quit on each other, and they didn't quit fighting."

Quinn VanMaldghem, Camryn's twin sister, wound up leading the Panthers in scoring with 18 points. Buendorf scored 16, Boerner 15, Schlaak six, Camryn VanMaldeghem four, Emelia Stadheim three and Chloe Stork two.

Peterson said she was pleased with the supports shown for the Panthers.

"NRHEG travels so well," she said. "Community is everything. Being from a small town, it's amazing to see so many people show up and want them to succeed. Anytime you have a team get to state, it's a huge accomplishment."

Camryn VanMaldeghem said it was great to see the team rally after her injury.

"I had so many mixed emotions, but I'm happy," she said. "I'm so proud of my teammates."

The good news?

"There are no broken bones," said VanMaldeghem. "I've done it before."

What did Quinn VanMaldeghem have to say.

"It's awesome," she stated. "But with Camryn out right now, that's what I'm worried about."

She wasn't as worried about the Vikings.

"We weren't very far away from them, and we knew we could do it," said Quinn.

And Quinn's message to her sister?

"Stat strong."

The Panthers, seeded fifth in the state tournament, will face fourth-seeded Hillcrest Lutheran Academy in the state quarterfinals Thursday, March 12 at Maturi Pavilion. The winner advances to the semifinals Friday at Williams Arena while the losers drop to the consolation round Friday at Gangelhoff Center on the campus of Concordia University in St. Paul.

The championship semifinals are Friday at noon and 2 p.m. at Williams Arena, with the title game Saturday at noon at Williams Arena.

The consolation semifinals are Friday at Concordia and the third-place game Saturday at 10 a.m. at Concordia.



ON TO STATE — Above left, members of the NRHEG High School girls' basketball team celebrate with the championship trophy after defeating Hayfield/Schaeffer Academy for the Section 1A championship last Thursday at Rochester. Above right, Camryn VanMaldeghem goes up for two during her brief stint in the game. Photos by Eli Lutgens



SCENES FROM SECTION — Above left, the Panthers' Ezra Boerner (2) puts up a shot in the lane during the NRHEG girls' basketball team's section championship game at Rochester last Thursday. Above right, the Panthers' Sophie Stork (15) splits the defense. NRHEG won 64-62, advancing to state for a second straight year and seventh time overall



PLAY IN THE PAINT — From left, the Panthers' Gabby Schlaak (1), Quinn VanMaldeghem (4) and Clara Buendorf (10) take the basketball to the hoop during crunch time of last week's Section 2A girls' basketball championship at Rochester last Thursday. Several players upped their intensity after top scorer Camryn VanMaldeghem went down with an injury in the first half.

NRHEG boys' basketball season ends at Nicollet

Having faced a strong Nicollet squad a couple weeks earlier, the NRHEG High School boys' basketball team was looking to narrow the gap this time around.

The Panthers did. Sort of.

The NRHEG boys, who lost 95-50 to Nicollet two weeks prior, narrowed the gap considerably, but not enough to make a difference in the outcome as the Raiders claimed an 84-69 decision in a Section 2A tournament game at Nicollet last Tuesday.

The fifth-seeded Raiders improved their record to 23-6 and advanced to face No. 4 Mayer Lutheran in the section quarterfinals. The Panthers, seeded 12th, finished 10-17.

"We were looking to bounce back from the first time we played them," said NRHEG head coach Dan Schmidt. "We had a couple of very tough practices preparing for this

Panthers to graduate no seniors after posting 10-victory 2025-26 campaign

game and how we wanted to defend them, based on how the previous game went, and saw some things on film."

While pleased with the Panthers' defensive efforts, Schmidt's squad struggled offensively in the first half, with turnovers leading to a 31-22 halftime deficit.

That continued in to the early stages of the second half, as it took us nearly 6 minutes to get the Panthers' first points of the half. In that time, Nicollet went on a 14-point run to open up a 23-point lead.

"At that point, the lid came off the basket, and we started creating open shots for each other, and knocking them down," said Schmidt. "I think we definitely had a case of

nerves tonight, with the way we played on the offensive end, but we never quit, and I couldn't be happier with the effort they played with tonight. For a young team to go out and battle the way they did this year, they should all hold their heads up proudly. While we finished the year 10-17, we accomplished quite a bit."

The Panthers hosted their first home play-off game in eight years and picked up their first playoff win in seven years, scoring 15 to 20 points more per game, despite losing 34 points per game from the previous year's squad.

"We're set to return our entire team next year," said Schmidt. "And most importantly,

this is a group of players that really enjoys being on the court together. We've talked a lot about the bond that you make playing sports, and how that lasts, and you can see it with this group. The future is bright for Panther sports with this group leading the charge!"

Mack Gilliland, in his first game back from a broken thumb, led the Panthers in scoring at Nicollet with 16 points. Dom Olson and Calvin Nissen scored 15 each, Brendan Schmidt and Brooks Gilliland six apiece.

Full NRHEG individual statistics: A.J. Deen 2P, 3 rebounds, 1 steal; Olson 15P, 3R, 1 assist, 1S; Nissen 15P, 3R, 6A, 1S; Brooks

Gilliland 6P, 3R, 2A, 2S; Fynn Baumann 3P; B.Schmidt 6P, 3R, 1S; M.Gilliland 16P, 2R, 2A, 3S; Brock Holland 1P, 6R; Sean Lassahn 2P, 1R, 1A; Zander Hanna 2P, 1R, 1A.

The 2025-26 Panthers included juniors A.D. Deen, Olson. Brooks Gilliland, Baumann and Schmidt, sophomores Nissen, Jackson McGannon, David Deen, Lassahn, Hanna and Levi Whiteside, and freshmen Mack Gilliland, Holland, Alec Wyrum, Memphis Schlaak, Kasey Jewison and Andy Nelson.

■ Parks

from Page 1

frequently used for weddings and family gatherings; music performances have occurred on the grounds and school or education functions take place there.

Possible improvements for Courthouse Park, Tomford suggested, include widening the road leading into the park, developing a second entrance from the south, replacing or improving the playground equipment located there, improving signage and possibly adding a pickleball court. He also suggested the level of usage the park receives might merit constructing an enclosed interpretive center where educational information could be posted and shared and indoor events could take place.

Blowers Park is just over 80 acres in size; it is located northeast of Waseca on the line between Woodville and Blooming Grove townships. Tomford listed features there including a pavilion, playground, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, walking trails, a bathroom and access to waterfowl hunting and fishing. His summary mentioned that a permanent “cornhole” bean bag game is also due to be installed there.

Blowers Park, he suggested, would benefit from a new pavilion with light and electric outlets, the planting of some maple trees, improved playground equipment and a trail that meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

Eustice Park is just over 50 acres in size and spans the Little Cobb River west of Waldorf in Freedom Township. The park currently offers a pavilion, playground, hiking trail, access to wildlife viewing and a bathroom. Among the improvements Tomford suggested are a pavilion—which would require the addition of electricity—upgrades to the playground, a permanent “corn hole” bean bag game, an ADA pathway, and ongoing improvements to the trails.

Goose Lake Park is about 50 acres of forested land adjacent to Goose Lake west of Waseca in Woodville Township. The park has a boat launch which allows access to Goose Lake. Tomford commented that the most common uses for the park are walking the trails and viewing wildlife. Hunting is allowed in the park. Under an agreement with an organization named Great River Greening, the woods on the land are part of a five-year “forest improvement” program.

Tomford’s suggestions for Goose Lake Park were to improve the road and trails and upgrade the boat launch.

Okaman Park is a narrow 11-acre strip of land along the shore of Lake Elysian at the county’s



Brian Tomford

northern edge in Janesville Township. The park currently offers a boat launch and access to the lake shore, a pavilion, bathroom and some trails for wildlife viewing.

The proposed county parks plan suggests adding lighting and power to the pavilion, and installing a family fire pit with an ADA compliant pathway.

Loon Lake Island is public land owned by the county. About three-fourths of an acre in size, it is accessible only by non-motorized watercraft. The island has some large, well-established trees which have been threatened in recent years by nesting cormorants; the birds’ droppings are particularly acidic. When the materials seep into the soil, they kill the trees’ roots. The county has received permission from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to continue efforts to control the number of cormorants both by removing what nests can be reached and by eliminating the birds prior to their nesting season.

Tomford noted during his presentation that county staff has devoted time over the past year to clearing buckthorn from the island’s undergrowth. He mentioned he and his staff have looked into the possibility of primitive campsites on the island, but have been informed the island is not eligible for them because it does not have a bathroom. He noted, however, that there are signs members of the public visit the island. His only proposal for improving the island is to continue controlling the birds as long as necessary, and to plant new vegetation.

Mittelstaedt Park is about 40 acres in size and is located west of Janesville off County Road 19. Tomford describes it as a “large native grassy area” and summarizes public usage of it as viewing wildlife and hunting.

The proposed parks plan suggests the park should simply be maintained in its natural state.

Two other properties the plan suggests should be left as they are are Toners Lake and Gekeler parks. Toners Lake includes 11 acres of land and is accessible only because the county has an easement agreement with a private property owner. The county has located a small picnic area there for public use; otherwise the park is used mostly for wildlife viewing and hunting. Tomford reports there are no county maintained facilities at Gekeler Park, which is almost 24 acres in size and is located east of Highway 13 just south of the county recycling center in Otisco Township. He explains the acreage is completely surrounded by privately owned property, and so is not a good candidate for any sort of development at this time.



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APPRECIATION BREAKFAST- An appreciation breakfast for NRHEG staff hosted by the NRHEG FFA and FCCLA was held the morning of March 8.

Transparency, accountability lead to affordability

By SEN. GENE DORNINK

Friends and neighbors,

Minnesotans are careful with their budgets. They set priorities, plan for the future, and live within their means. Unfortunately, Minnesota state government is failing to show the same responsibility.

Twice a year, Minnesota Management and Budget outlines the state’s financial outlook. The latest forecast projects an initial \$3.7 billion surplus for the current two-year budget cycle. However, it also shows Minnesota continues to spend more than it takes in, a warning sign that significant budget deficits could be ahead.

It is important to remember that government does not create a surplus on its own. This surplus, like all surpluses, is built on the hard work of Minnesota’s businesses, farmers, and working families. It also reflects years of over-taxation by state government.

During 2023 and 2024, under one-party control, Governor Walz and Democratic legislative leaders spent the entire \$19 billion surplus and expanded government by nearly 40%. The state budget grew from \$52 billion in the 2022–2023 biennium to \$72 billion in the 2024–2025 biennium. Lawmakers also approved roughly \$10 billion in new taxes and fees that drive up costs for Minnesotans. Today, the Tax Foundation ranks Minnesota 44th out of 50 states for tax competitiveness.

At the same time government spending surged, Minnesotans were promised broad tax relief. Instead, the relief delivered was modest compared to the scale of new spending and tax increases. Families across the state are still dealing with rising costs for housing, groceries, childcare, and everyday necessities while government continues to grow.

Even more concerning is the fraud crisis that has placed Minnesota on the national stage. Billions of taxpayer dollars meant to help seniors, the disabled, and vulnerable Minnesotans have been lost through fraud and mismanagement. Minnesotans deserve answers and accountability, and Senate Republicans have an action plan to stop the fraud. The plan focuses on three key objectives: stricter legislative oversight, smarter use of technology to verify services, and stronger accountability for taxpayer dollars.

Several programs have seen dramatic spending increases in recent years. Minnesota’s autism services program saw total payments to providers increase roughly 3,000% from about \$6 million in 2018 to nearly \$192 million in 2023. The Housing Stabilization Services program was initially projected to cost about \$2.6 million annually, but payments grew to over \$107 million by 2024. These are just a few examples that raise serious questions about oversight and accountability.

In some cases, whistleblowers raised concerns about fraud and abuse early on, yet their warnings were ignored. When taxpayer dollars are involved, transparency and accountability must be the rule, not the exception.

The latest budget forecast is also a reminder that while the national economy remains strong, Minnesota is lagging behind. According to the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce’s 2026 Business Benchmarks Report, from 2019 to 2024 the state ranked 38th in annual GDP per capita growth at just 1%. During that same period, Minnesota ranked 40th in labor force growth. The state also ranks 41st in net domestic migration, meaning more people are leaving Minnesota than moving here.

Minnesota’s growing tax burden, expanding regulations, and unfunded mandates are contributing to these trends. Schools, cities, counties, farmers, businesses, and families are all being asked to do more with less while new state requirements continue to pile up.

Senate Republicans have introduced proposals aimed at providing targeted tax relief and restoring balance. These include efforts to limit sharp increases in property taxes, reduce vehicle tab fees that have risen in recent years, and align Minnesota’s tax code with federal changes, eliminating taxes on tips and overtime pay, so workers can keep more of what they earn.

Minnesotans understand something that government too often forgets: every dollar spent by government first comes from a taxpayer who worked to earn it.

Former President Ronald Reagan once joked that the nine most terrifying words in the English language are “I’m from the government, and I’m here to help.” While meant in humor, it reflects a real concern when government grows too large and loses accountability.

It is time to change course. State government should make life easier, not harder. That means addressing fraud and mismanagement, respecting taxpayers, and focusing on policies that make Minnesota more affordable.

Instead of asking more from Minnesotans, government should do more to support them and the challenges they face every day.

Sincerely,
Gene

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WASECA - Casey's Kwik Trip Kwik Trip North

HOPE - Krause Feeds & Supplies

And At The Star Eagle Office

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Shown here is a picture of Dick on his pony and his neighborhood friends, Roger Rupp and Kim Dilling waiting for their turn.



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

Memories of growing up north of town

Looking back at the many memories that I have of growing up in the north of town I recall many things. Like anxiously awaiting the first real melt of the spring. I am not talking about the teasers that we would get in mid-winter, but when the water began flowing in the ditch in front of our house.

We actually did have ditches along both sides of Bridge Avenue before the

curb and gutter thing came into being. This was when us kids would make makeshift boats to send sailing down to “the bridge” and into the slough, which was flooded each spring. Many of those vessels never made it to their destination. They would get hung up in the slough grass and the only way to get them going again was to walk into the water.

One year my neighbor, Roger, who

was older than me, decided to take an old duck boat and explore the slough during the highwater season. Roger must have been bored that day, so he asked me if I wanted to go with him on an adventure. I jumped at the chance and as we ventured down the “crick” and out into the slough, Roger handed me a coffee can and told me to start bailing the water out of the leaking boat. It didn’t take me long to realize that he didn’t take me along because we were friends, but because he needed someone to keep the boat from sinking.

I didn’t mind that, because I was having an adventure that I had never experienced before. I kept bailing the water out of the boat and Roger kept paddling. There came a time when we realized that the hole in the boat was larger than I was fast at bailing. We finally decided that we needed to head for dry land before we ended up dragging a boat full of water through the slough. It was a good time spent sharing an adventure with Roger exploring the slough.

I believe that Roger passed away

way too young, in his early 50’s, I believe. I remember that his mother, Florence, would bake buns and bread and if I was over at their house she would treat us to hot buns with peanut butter and a glass of Kool-Aid. His mother made the best buns and to this day I don’t think that there is a better treat to be had.

Until next time: I have heard a lot of talk from folks about the “Jumbo” perch being caught in Pickerel Lake. As the weather warms and the lakes open up, I am getting excited to do a little open water fishing.

My Uncle Harvey Christensen would take me fishing at Pickerel in the spring. We would fish bullheads from shore along the highway. Fishing was good and there would be cars lined up all along the highway with people fishing for those whiskered fish. Those were good times, when it was good to be a kid.

Please take the time to remember our troops that are serving now and those that have served before them. They are the reason that we have all of the freedoms that we enjoy today.

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago

- The New Richland-Hartland Elementary students gathered pennies for patients during the month of February. They collected 63,486 pennies (\$634.86) for the drive which will help fund research to find a cure for Leukemia and Lymphoma. The students in Cathy Stringfield's second grade classroom collected \$95 worth of pennies, which proved to be the most collected by any class.

- Matt and Roxanne Brey of Watertown, South Dakota, are the parents of a daughter born Wednesday, February 21, 2001. Amber Marie, as she has been named, weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. She has a brother, Jeremy, 2 years old.

50 years ago



- Mrs. Orville Boettcher of New Richland is pictured here with four of the hundreds of quilts she has made since she was 15 years old. She demonstrated the colonial art of quilting to the New Richland-Hartland FHA members recently.

- Thirty women gathered at the New Richland Care Center Monday afternoon to discuss forming a New Richland Care Center Auxiliary. Everyone was enthusiastic and election of officers was held under the direction of Mrs. Myrna Raymo, temporary chairwoman. Officers elected were Mrs. Milford Rugroden, president; Mrs. Harry Anderson, first vice president; Mrs. Art Stensrud, second vice president and Mrs. Lil Anderson, third vice president.

75 years ago

- Mrs. J. P. Mortensen now has 14 great grandchildren. The two most recent arrived at Blackduck; a little girl, Pamela Ann, at the Leonard Miller home and a boy at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Krueger. Mrs. Miller is the former Marcella Krueger, daughter of the Edward Kruegers of New Richland, and they have two boys besides the new daughter. Donald Krueger is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Krueger (Ruth Mortensen) of Blackduck. Their family consists of two boys and one girl.

- At the completion of the latest semester at St. Olaf college, Northfield, where they are students, the names of Paul Martinson and Lowell Johnson appeared on the honor roll. Paul, a senior, received a B rating and Lowell, a junior, received an A, for that semester. Lowell has been on the honor roll since his entry into college.

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Otisco, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Mary Iverson
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee
Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting (first Wednesday)

LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting

(First Tuesday) * * *
WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Monday - Council meeting (First Monday of the month)
Friday - Quilting meets 9:00 a.m. twice a month, see news-letter for dates.

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

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

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

* * *
COMMUNITY LUTHERAN
Geneva, Minnesota
Pastor Leandra Anderson
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship (times very for holidays)
Monday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

* * *
SIMPLY CHURCH
105 Second Street North East
Geneva, Minnesota
Todd Lundgren, Pastor
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship

* * *
VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor David Modder
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids church
Check the website for additional updates
www.vibrantlifeag.com

* * *
FIRST LUTHERAN, AFLC
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor Kyle Smith
Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Monday - 7 p.m. Call to prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 6 p.m. Confirmation; 7-9 p.m. Youth Group (No confirmation during summer)

* * *
ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
Ellendale, Minnesota
Randy Cirksema, Pastor
Sunday - Summer Service time is 9:30 a.m. Worship; 9:15 a.m. Sunday school. (No summer Sunday school)
Worship is at 10:30 a.m. beginning after Sept. 3. Sunday School from Oct through May from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Food shelf is open every Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

* * *
CENTRAL FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Matt Griggs
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 90.7

* * *
EAST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Pastor Matt Griggs
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 89.3

* * *
FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
Hollandale, Minnesota
Rev. Neal Ooms
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; 9:20 Worship and kids church (now an eagle brook viewing church)

* * *
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS
Hollandale, Minnesota
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

* * *
FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
Rev. Neal Ooms
101 East Park Avenue
Hollandale, Minnesota
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

* * *
ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA
Rural Ellendale
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship

* * *
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN, ELCA
Meriden, Minnesota
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

* * *
PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN
Lemond Township
Pastor Gena Parker
Sunday - 10:15 a.m. Worship

* * *
FIRST LUTHERAN, LCMC
Hope, Minnesota
Pastor Sandy Miller
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Youth/Adult Study

* * *
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Clarks Grove, Minnesota
Pastor James Cameron
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship

* * *
HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
Father Peter Schuster
Sunday - 8 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation; 8:30 a.m. Mass with Children's Church; Pre-school Sunday School during Mass
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-Confirmation
www.litomysl.webs.com
www.stsidoreschool.webs.com

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

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

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

* * *
PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Interim Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

* * *
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Rev. Larry Sipe
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship

* * *
ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

* * *
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship

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

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

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

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

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NOTICE OF MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 14, 2022

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$205,623.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Colton C. Eustice, a married man

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for American Portfolio Mortgage Corporation

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on February 8, 2023 as Document Number A332886 in the Office of the County Recorder of

Waseca County, Minnesota. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Amerihome Mortgage Company, LLC by assignment recorded on April 25, 2024 as Document Number A336738 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North One Half of Lots (11) and Twelve (12), Block Nine (9), First Addition to the Village, now City of Waseca, Minnesota, according to the map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Register of Deeds in and for Waseca County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 201 6TH ST SE, WASECA, MN 56093

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Waseca County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$233,270.73

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: American Portfolio Mortgage Corporation

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Amerihome Mortgage Company, LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.276.1140

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1003336-0000078258-4

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 23, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Waseca County Sheriff's Office, 122 3rd Ave. NW, Waseca, MN 56093.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on October 23, 2026.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES,

SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: February 12, 2026

AMERIHOME MORTGAGE COMPANY, LLC Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
By: /s/ *N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.* Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Alexa Marsh, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (25-1337-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. Published in the NRHEG Star Eagle on Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No. 81-PR-25-922

Estate of Gerald C. Roemhildt aka Jerry Roemhildt Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NO-

TICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on April 8, 2026, at 10:00 A.M., a hearing will be held, via Zoom, in this Court at 307 North State Street Waseca, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, September 25, 2024, ("Will"), and for the appointment of **Mark Engel, 28654 655th Avenue Hartland, Minnesota 56042** as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED SUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at

the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. Please see Notice of Remote Hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims

will be barred.

BY THE COURT Dated: 02/17/26, 11:04:06 a.m. /s/Carol M. Hanks Judge of District Court Shannon Asselin Court Administrator Byron Law Office, PLLC Molly Byron MN# 0163843 122 North State St. Waseca, MN 56093 Telephone:507-835-3355 Fax:507-835-3303 Published in the Star Eagle March 12 and 19, 2026

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CELEBRATION - NRHEG girl's basketball players rejoice after winning 64-62 over Hayfield, Thursday night at the Mayo Civic Center in Mankato.



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SENIOR - NRHEG Head Coach Onika Peterson embraces senior Quinn VanMaldeghem.



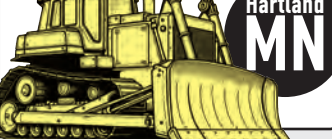
CHAMPIONS - Senior Chloe Stork holds the Section 1A Championship trophy.

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